

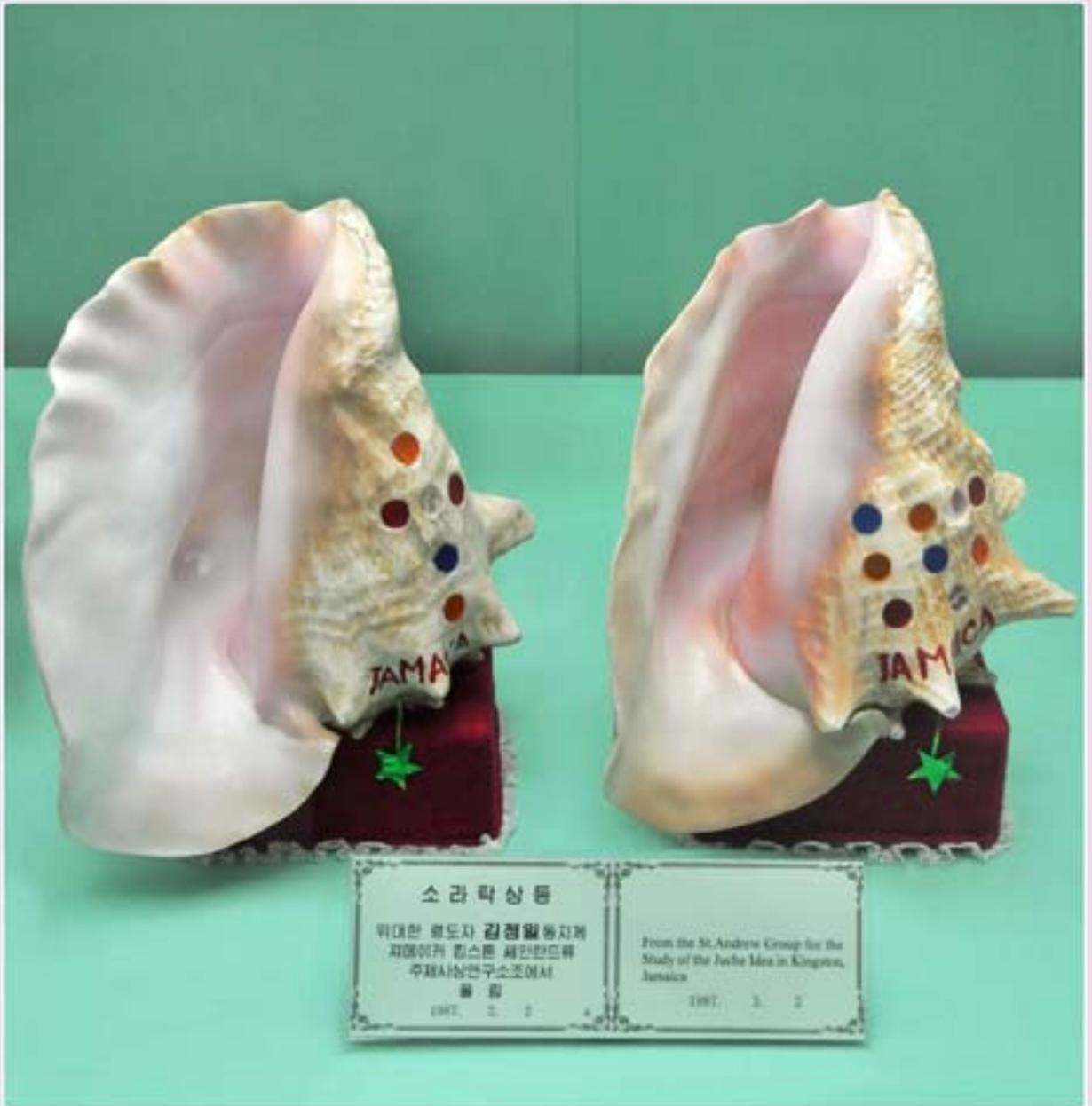


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Juche 102

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Turbo Lamps

A gift from the St. Andrew Group for the Study of the Juche Idea in Kingston, Jamaica, to Chairman Kim Jong Il on March 2, 1987.

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Front Cover: The Ryongsong Machine Complex directs its efforts to production of ordered equipment

Photo by Ri Song Ik



Back Cover: Mt. Myohyang in Autumn

Photo by Ra Phyang Ryol

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Land of Single-hearted Unity

THE AMERICAN CNN TV ONCE BROADCAST an interview with its correspondent in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, who said, "Since President Kim Il Sung established the country in 1948, North Korea has traversed a rough and difficult road due to a war, postwar rehabilitation and reconstruction, and recent sanctions applied by the Western bloc, economic upsets caused by natural calamities and the continuous political and military tension with the United States and south Korea. All those difficulties, however, have not been so strong as to topple North Korea. The unique political system in which the leadership and the masses of the people are united as one is the greatest power of

North Korea. This power is the source of the Western fear of the country and is the curb on the nuclear-equipped Western bloc's scheme to fight with the country."

Last September the Korean people celebrated the 65th founding anniversary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Looking back on the history of their country they felt proud of the fact that they have carried on with the revolution and construction with the power of the entire nation sharing a single ideology and a single revolutionary faith and sense of obligation under a single leadership.

Korea was liberated from the Japanese imperialist military occupation on August 15, 1945. On Octo- ▶

The 65th founding anniversary of the DPRK is celebrated.





Scenes from the Worker-Peasant Red Guards parade and Pyongyang mass demonstration held in celebration of the 65th founding anniversary of the DPRK.

▶ ber 14, two months later, the national leader Kim Il Sung, addressing the Pyongyang mass rally held to welcome his triumphal return home, stated that the time had come when the Korean people had to unite their strength to build a new, democratic Korea and that people from all strata should display patriotic enthusiasm and turn out to build a new Korea. He called, **“To contribute positively to the work of building the state, let those with strength give strength; let those with knowledge give knowledge; let those with money give money; and all the people who truly love their country, their nation and democracy must**



unite closely and build an independent and sovereign democratic state.” And when the matter of the offi- ▶

► cial name, emblem, flag and anthem of the state was debated, he made sure that it was firmly based on the idea of great national unity in which all the people who loved their country and nation should be rallied under the banner of patriotism.

When the Korean war—started by the US imperialists—left the whole land in the ravages, Kim Il Sung called upon the people to join hands to break through the hard time by building on firm mutual trust. In hearty response to his call all the people turned out as one and finished the postwar rehabilitation and reconstruction in a short span of time, thus refuting the absurd sophistry of the imperialists that Korea would not be able to rise up again even in 100 years.

The chronicles of the DPRK in which the national leader drew up the blueprint of the national prosperity by taking the people's desire and interest into consideration while the people gave absolute support to the leader's decision and implemented it to the letter, include the successful establishment of the people-centred socialist system, the building of a powerful socialist state which is independent in politics, self-sufficient in the economy and self-reliant in national defence.

Now the phrase of "mutual trust between the national leader and the people" may be called an epitome of the history of the DPRK based on the single-hearted unity. In conducting the revolution and construction the country has adhered in all state building and activity to the Juche idea and the Songun idea which were founded by President Kim Il Sung and developed in depth by Chairman Kim Jong Il. The building of a new, democratic Korea, the brilliant victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, the successful completion of the post-war reconstruction and the socialist industrialization, the launching into the cause of building a thriving nation even in the rigorous time of the "Arduous March" in the 1990s—all these represent a historic victory the Korean people have won by adopting the Juche idea and the Songun idea as their faith and making devoted efforts for the sake of the nation's prosperity and development while casting their lot with their country and system.

The DPRK puts forward the popular masses, instead of a certain class or stratum, as the master of the country, and looks after them in a responsible manner in terms of both their destiny and future. In the country everyone takes participation in the exercise of the state power and the management of the state affairs with equal political rights as master of society, and is engaged in free social and political activities. The free medical service which was adopted during the fierce war has continued invariably and state policies including the universal free



Pyongyangites give warm welcome to the participants in the parade.

compulsory education have been introduced in large numbers. Such being the situation, the Korean people regard their country as their dear home full of loving care for and devotion to them.

The national leader Kim Jong Un conducts all his activities the way President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il did. He made a classic definition that Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is intrinsically the idea of giving primary consideration to the people; he is creating a laudable time of holding the people in respect and giving importance to the interest of the people while taking good care of them. He put forward the slogan of "Everything for the people and everything by relying on them!" and makes sure that all affairs are addressed on the principle of giving importance to the people's opinion and strictly following their opinion. Whatever project they plan, all officials are required to listen to the people's voice, give the top and absolute priority to the people's interest and comfort and work hard and strenuously for the sake of the people. Kim Jong Un's idea and leadership are the governing guideline in state building and administration.

At present all the members of the nation, including children and war veterans, follow their national leader with true loyalty and raise strong voices of their will to follow the Workers' Party of Korea and support their socialist system faithfully whether they are in a happy or hard time. The roaring cheers the Korean people raised at the parade of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and the Pyongyang mass demonstration in celebration of the 65th anniversary of the DPRK were expressive of their infinite admiration for and confidence in their national leader.

The people underlie the state and the state rests upon their opinion. Rosy and bright is the future of the DPRK possessed of the treasure of the single-hearted unity.

An Song Duk

Building of Civilized Socialist Nation and Masikryong Speed

“THE THRIVING SOCIALIST COUNTRY WE are building is a civilized socialist one where all its people are possessed of profound cultural knowledge, sturdy physique and noble moral virtues, enjoying a socialist life to their heart’s content under the most cultured conditions and environment, and a beautiful and sound lifestyle pervades the whole society.” This is a paragraph from the New Year Address delivered by the national leader Kim Jong Un this year.

It was the lifelong desire and behest of Chairman Kim Jong Il to build a thriving socialist nation whose national power is enormous and where everything thrives and the people live as happily as anyone else in the world.

Keeping to the idea and will of the Chairman, Kim Jong Un is giving wise leadership to the effort to build such a prosperous nation. It is a proud tradition of the Korean people to make a turning point in the revolution and construction by creating a revolutionary upsurge. The chronicles of their nation building, spanning nearly 70 years, have a number of descriptions of the Chollima Speed, the Vinalon Speed, the 1980s Speed, the Huichon Speed and other speed-creating campaigns which brought about miraculous progresses in the nation building. Thanks to the historic upsurges Korea turned into a powerful socialist state in a matter of dozens of years, which is independent in politics, self-sufficient in the economy and self-reliant in national defence,

Parts of the Rungna People’s Sports Park on Rungna Islet, Pyongyang.

and has risen up as a space nation despite the imperialists’ perverse moves of encirclement and sanctions against the country.

On June 4 this year Kim Jong Un released a historic appeal entitled *Let Us Usher in a Fresh Heyday on All the Fronts of Socialist Construction by Creating the Masikryong Speed*, encouraging all the people to turn out in the struggle to build a civilized socialist nation. In the appeal he said, **“Construction of the ski resort is a gigantic, patriotic undertaking our Party has initiated to provide the people with better conditions for cultural life by translating into practice the noble wishes of the great President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il who bestowed affection on them. The ski resort on Masik Pass is a monumental edifice of lasting value whose benefits our people will enjoy even in the distant future and at which they will enjoy the advantages of socialism; it is also a symbol of a cultured nation. It is the proud tradition and fighting traits of our service personnel and people to turn out as one and unhesitatingly go through fire and water to carry out the orders and**





The Pyongyang Condiment Factory.

► **instructions of the Party. Our Party has never failed to do what it is determined to do by placing trust on the service personnel and people, and at present a brighter future is in sight. I firmly believe that our service personnel and people, who have always been boundlessly faithful to the Party's leadership, will finish the construction of the ski resort on Masik Pass without fail and usher in a fresh heyday on all the fronts of the building of a thriving nation in this significant year which marks the 65th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the 60th anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, by giving full play to mass heroism and the courageous charging spirit."**

All the people turned out as one in response to his historic call. In order to carry out the task given by the Workers' Party of Korea to lay a ski resort in the Masik Pass area, the soldier builders removed rocks and cliffs and cut rough mountain ridges and slopes, thus laying skiing routes, which occupy hundreds of thousands of square metres of area and span over a hundred of thousands of metres in total length, in less than one year. (This is no less than a miracle.)

One day in late May this year the supreme national leader Kim Jong Un visited the construction site of the ski resort. He spoke highly of the feats of the soldier builders for their successful laying of ski courses along the slopes and ridges of Masik Pass whose name literally connotes that even horses have to take a rest climbing the pass. He asked them to hasten the project at a faster speed so as to finish it within this year without fail.

Upholding the slogan of "Let us finish construction of the ski resort on Masik Pass unconditionally within this year by waging an all-out onward campaign, an all-out death-defying campaign!" the soldiers have been making innovations in the construction.

The spirit they display while creating the Masikryong Speed is enthusiastically emulated by the entire nation, giving rise to great innovations and upsurges. Those soldiers and civilians who are engaged in reclaiming the Sepho Plateau made fury pledges to make a second Masikryong Speed or the Sepho Plateau Speed and sent a letter to all the people in the country; provinces, cities and counties had mass rallies displaying their determinations to work hard to create a speed of a new era shoulder to shoulder with the creators of the Masikryong Speed. The whole

country rose up with a new ambition and resolution and in a new spirit and courage.

Pyongyang witnessed a forceful campaign to develop the city into the cultural centre in the Songun era where the people are blissfully happy. The Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum went up in a short period of time and parks were laid out in different parts of the city. Factories and enterprises, including the Pyongyang Condiment Factory, have undergone facelift.

The campaign to emulate the Masikryong Speed has been on all across the country. An expansive fruit farm has appeared in Kosan, and the Majon Pleasure Ground and the Songdowon International Children's Camp are now under reconstruction along modern lines. These projects are all being expedited on the principle of providing the people with the highest civilization as soon as possible.

Efforts are directed to the work of improving the level of health service. With a better system of telemedicine established across the country, a prompt and exact medical service has become possible whether the patients are in town or in the countryside.

The nation's concern for physical training and sports has rocketed, which must have been the nourishment for the winning of many gold medals at international competitions, including the 2013 East Asian Cup Women's Football Tournament, the 2013 Asian Wrestling Debut, and the 2013 Asian Weightlifting Championships. All the people were enraptured by the wins.

Supported by the fiery enthusiasm of the Korean people who are determined to crown this year's general forward march with glory by emulating the fighting spirit of the soldier builders on Masik Pass, the Workers' Party of Korea's plan of building a cultured socialist nation will come true without fail.

An Nam Hui

Relying on Resources of Its Own

THE RYONGSONG Machine Complex is one of the biggest producers of latest and large-sized machinery and equipment in Korea. It supplies a big share of the national economy's needs. In the past it manufactured an 8 m turning lathe, a 3 000 ton press, a 6 000 ton press, a 20 m lathe, an 18 m turning lathe, a 5 000 m boring machine, a 3 000 kw high-pressure gas compressor, a 70 m gantry planer, a 10 000 ton press and other machines and equipment. In the current century it laid a solid material and technical foundation by pushing ahead with the work for modernization of its facilities and production processes, while producing many facilities for different sectors of the national economy. For this merit it re-

ceived the title of the DPRK Labour Hero.

The workers of the complex created a brilliant history in the spirit of self-reliance and an aggressive manner of work.

In recent years they manufactured gas adsorption facilities and a hydrogen refining tower—supplied to the gasification project of the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex—with their own efforts and wisdom.

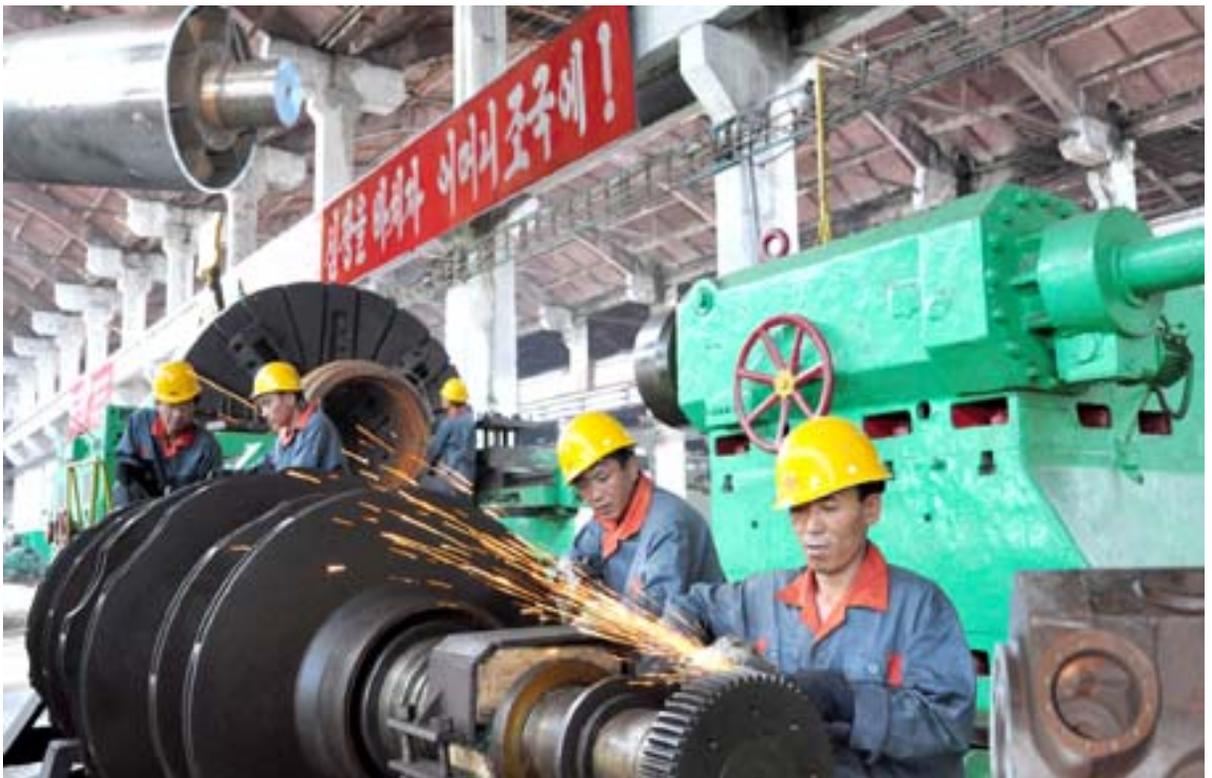
That was not all. Two years ago the complex was given a task to develop a geothermal pump. Though studies were being made to tap geothermal sources widely around the world, the transfer of technology of the geothermal pump was held in check. Some people argued that the geothermal pump development was still

premature in their country.

Section chief Ra Kum Chol of the designing institute of the complex claimed, “The countries that have developed geothermal facilities began the making from scratch. When we set to, relying on our own efforts, we’ll be able to develop the pump. Moreover, we are working at the hero complex widely known across the country. Why don’t we do it by our own efforts?”

Of the geothermal pump they were rather uninformed than informed. They got necessary data and referred to technical books first, and on this basis finished in a short span of time all the designs of the facility, which had been expected to take several months, and the workers completed the manufacture of the

Efforts are put in production of ordered equipment.





Geothermal pumps.



► pump soon.

The geothermal pump they developed turned out to be successful in the test of the cooling and heating system in a hydroponic greenhouse at the Pyongyang Vegetable Research Institute in August last.

*Article by Sim Yong Jin
Photos by Ri Song Ik*

Manufacturer of Effective Koryo Medicines



Diplomas from international exhibitions.





A Koryo medicine production process.

SOME OF THE HIGHLY interesting things at the recent Pyongyang Autumn International Trade Fair were Koryo medicines manufactured by the Thosong Koryo Medicine Factory. They drew the attention of the visitors for their outstanding techniques of manufacture and high effectiveness. General manager Kim Myong Gwon says, "Korean people have long resorted to Koryo medicines, which are wonderful treatments while producing no side effects even when they are used for a long time. For these merits Koryo medicines are in growing demand around the world these days. Considering the demand, we have concentrated on raising the credit in our medicines by improving the manufacturing techniques."

The factory's unique and inherent image was spotlighted at the first round of the Rason International Trade Fair in August 2011. Koryo insam decoction, Kaesong Koryo insam essence and other things presented on display were highly praised as they are effective against almost all troubles and diseases like mental and physical fatigues, cardiac functional disorders, diabetes, gastritis, and prostration after a period of suffering from illness. In addition, *Kyongokko*, *Kasiogalphi* Tea and other Koryo medicines and health foods were highly com-

mented upon for their great effects in preventing and treating weak physical and mental functions. All those things they presented were based on combination of latest science and technology with the traditional manufacturing methods that have gone through historical examinations and confirmation for ages.

When they were developing *Thosong Chonghyolhwan* which helps purifying the blood by bringing down the pathologically high content of cholesterol and neutral fat, some people were apprehensive of the project as they were strangers to many problems relating to the plan. Moreover, they knew that it was no easy to obtain materials and funds necessary for the development while providing for the ongoing production. But all the employees of the factory turned out to get necessary equipment. And they obtained materials for production and laid conditions for the storage of the obtained materials. Numerous experiments took place, followed by numerous failures. Nevertheless, the workers were undaunted and braced themselves up with a determination to make contribution to the improvement of the people's health by further increasing the effectiveness of Koryo medicines. By establishing a new process of organic solvent extraction and

making hundreds of experiments, they finally knew the ideal temperature and period of time of production and succeeded in fixing the most rational rate of material mixture. *Thosong Chonghyolhwan* was thus successfully developed and became popular for its manifest efficacy.

Old man Kim Myong Sok, resident at Neighbourhood Unit No. 71, Inhung-dong No. 1, Moranbong District, Pyongyang, says, "Fifteen days after I began to take this medicine, I felt I was getting well from my troubles— heavy head due to terrestrial magnetism, stiff neck, stuffy heart, numb limbs, and languidness and other symptoms. Earlier I had thought Koryo medicines required a high dosage and that for a good period of time, until I got well. But I found the new medicine wonderful."

Known widely, the medicine received gold awards and top prizes at a number of international exhibitions and expos, and won a DPRK patent.

The factory is now in its heyday thanks to its good combination of the traditional with the modern, and production with science and technology. Its products are in great demand in Northeast Asia and other regions of the world.

Article by Chae Kwang Myong
Photos by Ra Phyoung Ryol

“We Are Doing Our Bit”

IN RYONGSONG DISTRICT, Pyongyang, is found a popular manufacturer whose total floor space is no more than 5 000 square metres. The Ryongsong Disabled Soldiers’ Injection-moulded Boot Factory is engaged in making different kinds of boots which are quite popular with the public for their high quality and various beautiful colours.

When I visited the factory days ago Kim Yun Hwan, general manager, said, “In the past my factory used to produce boots of only a few shapes and colours because it was small in size and short of its own technical force. The quality was also poor. But now we make many kinds of boots flawlessly which are attractive all alike in colour and shape and quality. I should say we ought to do our bit to implement the policy of the Workers’ Party of Korea on improving the people’s living standards even if we are a small factory.”

The factory pushes ahead with technical innovation to increase the quality of products. Senior engineer Han Jong Su and other technicians of the factory con-

ducted researches into the work of recycling waste materials to make things as good as those made from new materials. They improved the rate of feeding waste materials by making a better filter sheet of the moulding machine. This led to saving materials while producing better boots. The technicians have also made a tension testing machine—by their own efforts—which is used to measure the pulling strength of products required in the standard process. The researchers in the laboratory made studies of the colour of boots so as to make beautiful boots of various colours. By developing far better pigments from materials which are easily obtainable in the country, they dynamically pushed ahead with the project to prevent change in colour of products. In particular, they succeeded in checking the loss of the red colour which is most susceptible to natural change, thus ensuring safe packing and storage of the products.

The boots from the factory have been highly appreciated at Pyongyang Department Store No. 1 goods shows and light industrial

goods shows, and registered on the list of the February 2 Goods, which is the national list of goods of standard quality.

Without resting on their laurels, the workers have steadily improved their technical skills and qualifications to boost the production. Han Pyong Su and his workteam members, who work in the men’s boot injection process, formed groups by shifts and learned technical matters relating to operation of machines and mastered the operating methods. Then they had discussions about the experience of each group and swapped opinions for better operation. This led to remarkable improvement of the technical skills of the workers in handling the injection moulder; now they can repair the machine by themselves when it is broken down or is not working properly. The factory management makes sure that the achievement and experience of the workteam are learned after by all other workers of the factory. In this way workers in the injection, preparation and finishing processes have attained a higher level of skills. In due course the amount of boot production increased by 10 000 pairs compared with the same month last year.

Kil Myong Gil, a worker, says, “We are very happy to see our products in growing demand and quite popular with the people. We workers are all pleased we are doing our bit in producing consumer goods to improve the living standards of the people. We’ll go ahead with technical renovation and improve our technical skills and levels. You’ll see the production of boots will go up at my factory.”

Arirang boots from the factory are a great favourite of many people, and enjoy special popularity among the women.

Kim Yong Sun

A technical consultation goes on the spot.



Designers of the Future

THE PYONGYANG CITY Planning Research Institute has played a big part in developing Pyongyang since its inauguration in 1947. It produced successful designs of important edifices in the city in the field of science, education, public health and sports, including the Korean Revolution Museum, the Grand People's Study House, Kim Il Sung Stadium and the May Day Stadium, and the Mausoleum of King Tongmyong and the Mausoleum of King Tangun.

The capital city has been spruced up as required by the new century thanks to the institute. More recently, many structures featuring the socialist civilization sprang up in the city, for example, Children's Department Store, ubiquitous roller rinks, Pyongyang Folk Park, Kaeson Youth Park, Haedanghwa Service Complex, Kyongsang Kindergarten, Changjon and Mansudae streets and apartments at the foot of



Haebangsan Hill. The designers of the institute hold fast to the principle of giving priority to the comfort rather than the aesthetic needs in designing modern and magnificent buildings of the Korean style suited to the demand of the developing reality. The Haedanghwa Service Complex which boasts of its modern architectural appeal is associated with their strenuous efforts. It is usually

difficult to set a new building between other buildings, unlike the designing of a new street. The designing team in charge of the complex pooled their wisdom to lay out a good plan of the complex.

It was almost a stereotyped practice that in designing a comprehensive and multifunctional service centre, a wading pool or a swimming pool was placed under

Apartments in Changjon Street.



Meticulous Care

The Ill-placed History Room

LATE LAST MAY THE National leader Kim Jong Un visited the Songdowon Open-air Youth Theatre. An official of the theatre asked him to look in at the room of the theatre's history which was within its site and led the way to it. At first sight, the leader perceived that the room was ill-placed. He pointed out it was wrong to set up the room inside the theatre. He said that it should be placed outside for all people to drop in and see because it was not intended only for the staff of the theatre.

The Gate Falling Short of the Standard

His love for the people was vividly displayed in regard to the gate of the theatre. Leaving the theatre after making the round of it, he made a humorous reference to its gate. This elicited mild laughter from the officials present. But the next moment, they felt pricks inside as they sensed the implications of the hint contained in his words. His jest meant a criticism that the gate was out of keeping with the character of the theatre, a cultural and entertainment centre for the popular masses, and fell short of the standard to serve the convenience of the people.

The Promise

While looking around the theatre the leader said in a choked voice that Chairman Kim Jong Il had promised to see a performance of the State Merited Chorus together with the citizens of Wonsan when the theatre's seating capacity increased to 5 000, but failed to keep his promise. After a while, as if answering the unfulfilled wish of the people, he kindly promised the officials of the theatre that soon he would come and see an artistic performance with Wonsan citizens at the theatre. The officials were deeply moved. The gentle image of the leader that day was identical to that of Chairman Kim Jong Il. □

► ground or on the ground floor while other service facilities were set on upper floors because of the difficulty in waterproof and structural needs. This means priority is given to the convenience of construction rather than to the guests. Riding over the practice the designers set a parking place underground, dining rooms and a shop around the central hall on the ground floor, a banquet hall and party rooms on the first floor and bathrooms and a wading pool on the second floor in consideration of the convenience of the visitors. As it was planned to place service and catering facilities and even an educational centre for training cooks and developing the cookery of the country in a six-storey building (which is not so large), and yet to give open and spacious signs, the design was praised highly. In this way the complex was completed which goes in harmony with the

neighbouring buildings and contains all necessary components in the limited space.

Meanwhile, the designers are making efforts to ensure the quality of buildings by actively introducing advanced methods of construction in order to improve the formative and artistic value and economic effectiveness in construction. The external finishing of apartments built in the past is based on various kinds of prefabricated parts. The ornamental effects of these apartments are seen on walls that are purposely protruding or are combined with partition walls in a diversified way to stress the vertical and horizontal specifications of the apartments.

Recently formative and artistic modes are actively applied into the external finishing of apartments. Unlike past modes attention is paid to adaptation of rather curved line and curved surface

than straight line or right angle and to oblique line and avoiding of simple surface of walls. Besides, the dry method of construction instead of the wet method is applied into construction so as to improve the industrialization and modernization of the construction. The dry method is advantageous in that it makes it possible to assemble all components of the building and building equipment by a dry method and arrange technical equipment in the outer walls, thus forming plenty of interior space, protecting ecological environment and using a smaller building area.

The achievements of the designers were respectfully appreciated at the 12th May 21 Architectural Festival. Now they are working hard with a pride in their responsibility for the future of Pyongyang.

Kim Pong Il

Foundation of Socialism

THE SOCIALIST SOCIETY IS ONE IN WHICH all the people are finally freed from all their fetters and they become masters of nature, society and themselves. In the society all the members of the society become social beings who are comprehensively equipped with an independent ideological consciousness and the creativity to suit the social character of them. Productivity reaches a high level, sufficient to ensure man's independent and creative activities materially in all fields of social life. Accordingly, social relations become collective social relations whereby the whole of society forms a socio-political organism and both the individual and the community are guaranteed their independence.

In his classic work *The Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party* Chairman Kim Jong Il clarified the decisive factor, which promotes the development of the socialist society and dominates its destiny, in consideration of the relations of man with social conditions. He wrote that the people with the socialist idea, masters of the socialist society, and a socialist government and a socialist economy, the social-political and economic conditions of the socialist society, are tied closely together. He also made it clear that the people with the socialist idea—the popular masses—are the decisive factor in promoting the development of the socialist society and determining its destiny, instead of objective conditions.

The foundation of socialism is the people because the people are placed above all else and their interests become the starting point of all considerations in the socialist society. In a nutshell, the people are the fundamental factor deciding the existence and development of socialism. The existence of socialism is inconceivable apart from the people. Socialism is the society where people become the masters of society and which embodies their demand and interests. In the socialist society the people are the most valuable beings, and it is the fundamental principle in socialist construction that the interests of the people are placed above all things and their demand and interests are the starting point of all considerations and thoroughly safeguarded and embodied. The Workers' Party of Korea has carried out all its activities in accordance with the aspiration and

requirement of the people while leading the socialist cause.

The people are masters of everything in society. Because the popular masses create everything in society. If there is an almighty being in the world, it is none other than the popular masses. Thanks to the inexhaustible strength and wisdom of the popular masses everything in society comes into existence, and the revolution advances forward. Therefore, when a party builds socialism it must always map out lines and policies proceeding from the independent requirement and the interests of the popular masses who are responsible for the building of socialism, and implement them by relying on their exertions.

The WPK, regarding the people as the most valuable beings, is conducting all its activities to meet the interests of the people, thus leading the socialist cause towards victory amidst their absolute support. It is far from socialism when the interests of the people are neglected and violated and their existence is slighted and betrayed. Everything in the socialist society must be considered from the point of the people and put in their service. Herein lies the intrinsic character of the socialist society which is fundamentally distinctive from that of the society ruled by the exploiting classes.

Another reason why the people become the foundation of socialism is that socialism is founded, defended and developed by the people. The popular masses are the motive force of the establishment and development of the socialist society. The process of the establishment of the socialist system shows that first the socialist idea comes into being to represent the popular masses' demand and aspiration against exploitation and oppression, and the socialist system is established by the organized struggle of the masses who are awakened to this idea. In this respect, the people are the foundation of the establishment of the socialist system.

Socialism is defended and developed by the people. The main force in defending and developing socialism is the high revolutionary zeal and creative activity of the popular masses who are equipped with the socialist idea and united behind their political party. Of course, the material factor plays an important part in developing the socialist society, and an

Korea—One Big Family

*Kim Hyon Hwan, head of the
Independent Idea Institute in the United States*

FROM LONG AGO PEOPLE USED TO CALL A happy comfortable country an earthly paradise, and wished to live in such a country. But people consider it an unfeasible dream. Are they right? Living abroad, I write this essay in answer to this question from an impulse to evaluate fairly the social systems in the north and south of Korea.

Why a Land of Fantasy?

The Korean war started on June 25, 1950 and over 60-year-long national division have made south Korean people have a narrow-minded view of the north even to this day. When such prejudice is being exaggerated by the conservative south Korean press

still now, it is significant that a Korean woman writer in Japan highlighted the north Korean people's sense of value in view of the intrinsic nature of human being, free from her own ideological bent. The entire society of the north came to her eyes as one family. The population of the north calls their country *our socialist home*. When you focus on the distinctive features peculiar to the society and system of the north, putting aside the philosophical and epistemological approach based on the Juche view of history for a while, you will easily understand why they call their country "one big family." To be frank, they now lack in and want for many things. Needless to say, this concerns mostly material welfare. For them, however, there is a thing loftier than that, ►

► advanced social system is a significant factor in opening up a broad avenue for the development of the socialist society. But the decisive factor after all lies in the people. If the people fail to equip themselves with the socialist idea and rally around their party, socialism will lose the powerful driving force for its development and fall into stagnation. Worse still, it will inevitably collapse in the face of the anti-socialist offensive of the imperialists and reactionaries despite its enormous economic potential and strong military power.

When the people unite behind their party and their leader single-heartedly, the driving force of the revolution will be powerful in every way and its role be greater, thus dynamically advancing socialism in all fields including politics, defence, the economy and culture while demonstrating its invincible might. The practical experience of the Korean revolution clearly shows that when the people are awakened ideologically and firmly united around their party, they will steadily adhere to socialism and achieve rapid development in all fields in defiance of unfavourable material and economic conditions and vicious moves of the imperialists and the class enemy.

The DPRK waged the struggle for building of socialism by adhering to the socialist ideology and

theory of Juche and by applying the idea of "The people are my God" under the wise leadership of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il. In the course of this, the people-centred socialist system, a genuine people's society, was established in Korea. The popular masses are regarded as the most valuable beings in the country, and all lines and policies of the Workers' Party of Korea and the state are mapped out in accordance with the desire and demand of the people, and are successfully implemented by the voluntary zeal and struggle of the masses. The Party and the state seek the promotion of the people's well-being as the supreme principle in their activities while holding high the slogan "We serve for people!" And they do not tolerate it in any case when someone violates the people's interests and misuses his authority and behaves himself bureaucratically while lording it over the people.

Socialism in the DPRK is advancing amidst the absolute support and trust of the popular masses, winning victory after victory in the face of all sorts of perverse moves of the US imperialists. The secret is that socialism is deeply embedded in the mind of the Korean people.

Pak Chol

► namely, the beautiful minds of people in social relationship, which rise far above those in capitalist society.

It is said there is a black and a white lie in the world. “We’ve had our fill, so help yourself” is a white lie told to a child by its hungry parents who care for their child still more dearly in hard times. The black lie is told by a crook to swindle others, and this is a sort of mental injury on them. The society where black lies prevail is a society dominated by the law of jungle, and the society where white lies are of frequent occurrence is a harmonious society. When members of society share their minds from love and tender feeling for others helping one another in a self-sacrificing spirit, they will not feel cold in winter or hungry even when they go without eating. On the contrary, in a society where vice triumphs over virtue in spite of foods and clothes in plenty, which is a land of spiritual wickedness, human life is more painful than death. So, the moral beauty of man never yields to the glittering material wealth. Hence, north Korea is aglow with greater pride, is more triumphant, and boasts greater riches than others.

In the north the slogan “One for all and all for one!” has long permeated through the depths of life of all the people. There are girls and mothers who take on and bring up orphaned children of their own accord; there are young men and women marrying disabled male or female soldiers who have lost their eyes or limbs during military service. Young people take it upon themselves to look after and support childless aged persons just as they would do their parents, and yet other young men jump into deep water to save drowning children or rush into burning houses to rescue children and adults from amid the roaring flames at the risk of their lives. All these praiseworthy deeds are of common occurrence in this country. Sacrificing his or her life for the sake of others is the highest manifestation of human love and harmony.

There is no need to explain that this virtue-guided society is incomparably nobler and greater than the individualism-infected society where the sense of value “you or me” is rampant. Once it was reported in the north that coal miners trapped in a

collapsed stall had drilled blast holes for five days until they were utterly exhausted. In such a desperate situation they didn’t struggle to survive, but rather, they worked to fulfil the plan of the work-team. This is something inconceivable in capitalist society. But it was a stark fact. They believed their fellow workers would rescue them in any case. So they thought it absurd to sit idle until they were delivered. This episode which surpasses all imagination is only possible in the north where absolute trust in one’s colleagues is deeply embedded in the hearts of the people.

Last year I met a young man from the north in Germany. He told me that he would have to marry when he returned home. I asked him how he would furnish his home after marriage. His answer was impressive. He said the items of household stuff he would like to have were the love in the first place, and smile secondly and harmony thirdly, and that if so, he would not envy a billionaire and his parents and neighbours would be very much pleased. Like this the birth of a new home is a happy occasion for the neighbourhood in the north and such families strengthen and promote their bonds through love and mutual aid to develop into a big harmonious family.

A simple disposition, clear conscience, honesty, sincere attitude to their duty, and a firm faith in and will for their cause are the mental property and character of its people. I think this is the right outlook on the north and the basis for correct appreciation of north Korean society. But the political system of the north is not well known due to the prejudiced reports of the Western press. How can we call such a country and people a “victim of totalitarianism” as is advertised by the West? If the conservative political critics insist on having it called like that, I would tell them:

“If that is totalitarianism, it is welcome as a model of human life. The collective society in the north which is the hope of everybody but not realized elsewhere is an ideal society of human beings and a paradise everybody has been longing for century after century.”

(To be continued)

Six Years Later

ONE DAY LAST AUGUST I visited the tenth round of the Sci-tech Exhibition in the Nanotechnology Sphere. While looking round the displays I stopped at a place, hearing a voice explaining, "Nano Kumsul is a health- tonic drink which improves the immunity of the human body and prevents senility. As a prophylactic and remedy of different sorts of inflammation and a good fighter against cancers, this liquor is based on improved effects of the pharmacological action of silver." Hearing the guide, people looked interested. I felt an urge to go to see the person who had developed the drink.

When I saw him, I found him familiar, for I had met him six years before to introduce him to my journal. At the time he was a 41-year-old Doctor, Merited Scientist and winner of the February 16 Science and Technology Prize, working as chief of the functional material development team of the then basic science centre of Kim Il Sung University.

I was happy to see my old acquaintance, Jo Song Chol, head of the Nanotechnology Research Institute of Kim Il Sung University. I was told he had become a DPRK Labour Hero. The Hero

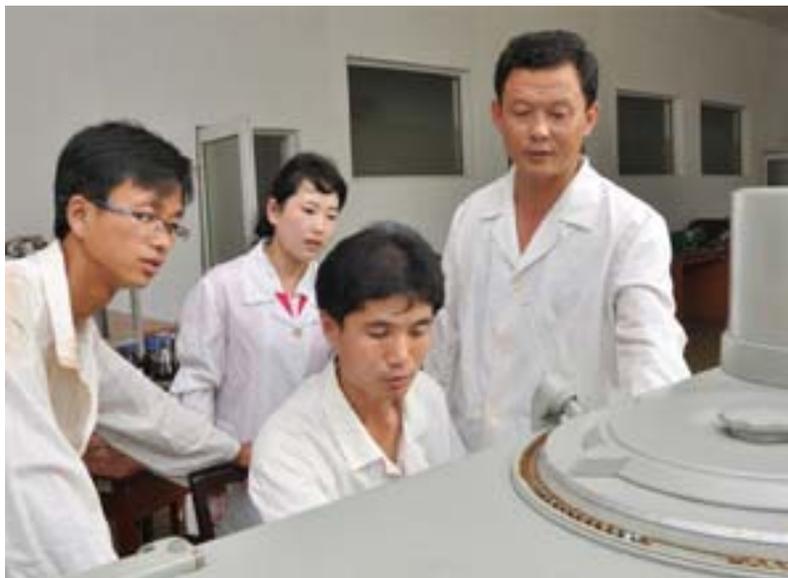
scientist told me the following story.

The day he was given the title of Merited Scientist, his father, a military officer, admonished him, "The weight of the perspiration shed by the soldiers determines their win or defeat in battles. You'd better not feel content but set to your work with firmer resolution."

His wife, who had been a fellow student of his at university, said, "Please be more energetic. You've got more things to do than what you've done. I'll be your assistant."

Encouraged by their words, Jo left for an on-site research work immediately, and his travel continued to many places of the country, typically the Chollima Steel Complex, the construction site of the Huichon Power Station, and the Songchongang Aquaculture Company. Wherever he went he produced valuable research results which were introduced in actual production, bringing colossal profit to the country. Among them were nanotechnology-based products like a liquid compound which is made by combining nano materials and chitosan and is used for preserving foodstuff in a fresh condition.

Developers of nanoproducts.



Jo Song Chol, director of the institute.

The day Jo was appointed as chief of the Nanotechnology Research Institute of Kim Il Sung University, he said to his fellows, "A year's successful work brings a ten or a hundred years' advance of the nation. We have to develop more and more advanced nanotechnology-based materials by using domestic resources. By this we will be able to help develop new products and other subsidiary products for the sake of our nation."

This year he won another prize at the 28th round of the national scientific and technological festival by presenting a nano product which is expected to make tangible contribution to the improvement of the people's living standards.

Paek Hyong Nam, a researcher, says, "Jo claims that we have to pick a proper seed if we are to conduct a successful research. He often says a good seed is to be found in our everyday life. You know, success in a scientific research will come only when you make a daring effort with a firm confidence in your work."

Jo is continuing with his research work with enthusiasm, and I try to picture in my mind what kind of image he will be when I meet him again.

Rim Ok

Nursery of Football Players



IN LATE MAY LAST THERE TOOK PLACE a ceremony to inaugurate the Pyongyang International Football School. Located on the picturesque Rungna Islet the school has a total floor space of 12 000 square metres. The location was designated by the national leader Kim Jong Un. The school has training grounds, a scientific and technological information dissemination room, teaching rooms, a dormitory and other welfare facilities, ▶





► providing the trainees with satisfactory conditions for developing their talent to their heart's content. The children here have been selected among the members of football circles at juvenile sports schools and football classes at ordinary schools around the country according to strict standards like the level of basic football techniques and physical builds.

At present the school gives football instruction to children under 11. The teaching programme consists of the five-year primary school course, the three-year junior middle school course and the three-year senior middle school course. The teaching staff is made up of young instructors and professional coaches, who used to be football players before they were assigned to work at the school. (Ri Yu Il and Pak Kyong Bong among the teachers have qualified as FIFA class A coach.)

The students learn the mother tongue, maths, computer, foreign languages and other elementary subjects as well as theories on football; the children in the primary school course are taught music, drawing and other artistic subjects as well.

In the basic instruction stage, that is, in the primary school course, the children are put to drills of developing sensitivity most of the time, while those in the junior middle school course have lessons on high-level ball-treating techniques, cooperative operations, high-level ball-passing techniques, movements of proper response, supporting actions and movements at different positions. And the senior-middle school course is intended to develop a good competitive spirit through practical matches.

The school is putting efforts in the work of arranging the elementary instruction stage in such a way as to help the trainees overcome the shortcomings shown in the practices of the active footballers. To this end various basic technical movements are taught intensively. There are a lot of videos showing basic technical instructions and training methods practiced by football schools in different countries, and information on football.

Children review their attainments.



The students go through examinations for a variety of indices every quarter, and a nationwide scrutiny is made to pick up football prodigies to be enrolled at the school. The government pays deep attention to matters related to the management of the school, ranging from the staffing of the school and the selecting of students to the arranging of the curriculum, supply of textbooks and other things needed for learning, uniforms, consumer goods, teaching aids, furnishings and welfare services. Along with this, programmes for invitation of good football experts and coaches for instruction at the school and admitting foreign children who wish to learn football are under consideration.

A British reporter, present at the opening ceremony of the school, said, "I hope the mystery miracle wrought by the Korean players in the Wembley Stadium in Britain over 40 years ago will present itself again before long. I look forward to the day."

Article by Sim Yong Jin

Photos by Ri Song Bom



After the day's training.

The Profiles of the Winners

THERE WAS HELD A code programming contest online from June 7 to 17 this year. More than 3 400 teams from over a hundred countries entered it, and the Korean team from the Kim Chaek University of Technology won the prize. Professor Cha Myong Su says, "Our four students who participated in the contest are different in their nature and aspiration. But they are all of one mind to be men capable of shouldering the destiny of their country in the age of the knowledge-based economy."

His Determination

The father of Ri Ju Song, 21, is an ordinary worker. Ju Song was clever from his childhood. When he entered Moranbong Secondary School No. 1 and won a national contest, his father was very glad of having a clever son in his worker's family. After that, when he entered the Kim Chaek University of Technology, a comprehensive centre for training scientific and technical talent, all his neighbours congratulated him. Looking around the university for the first time as a new student, he was impressed most at the e-library. He learned that the state had

spent an enormous sum of money to build the e-library in the university so that the stu-



dents could look out over the world and break through the scientific frontiers. Looking at the students before computers engrossed in programming or reading the latest science and technology, he envied them wondering when he could be like them. He made up his mind to catch up with them soon without fail. Recollecting those days, Ri says, "When I look back on that time, I think I was already conscious of my duty's call and was determined to live up to my obligations to bring joy to the people of my country by outstripping other nations in the intelligence race. Now whenever I enter the campus, I renew my determination by conscience

rather than by the sense of duty."

Master Enthusiast

Ryu Chang Jin, 20 years old, has the nickname of "Master Enthusiast." He was dubbed Enthusiast in the days of Moranbong Secondary School No. 1, but now, at the university, "Master" has been added to it. Practically, he has acquired a lot of IT knowledge unknown to other students. Moreover, he is willing to impart this knowledge to his classmates. Hence the appellation "Master" prefixed to Enthusiast. Anybody who hears his nickname for the first time will think it is improper and



awkward because he is still a mere student. However, Ryu is proud of the prefix "Master." He says, "When I entered the uni- ▶

► versity, Chairman Kim Jong Il trustingly called its teachers and students pioneers breaking new ground in the IT industry of the country. So I'm asking myself now, 'How can I be a pioneer leading the way in the IT industry of my country if I fail to distinguish myself even within university bounds?'

His Choice

Kim Song Guk, 20 years old, hopes to be a teacher at the university. Some people think that he is going to be a teacher after his father. But his hope was fostered from the model of his teacher at Moranbong Secondary School No. 1. One day when the students of the school were making double-time efforts in preparation for an International Maths Olympic, some of



them dozed off from fatigue. Then, suddenly, their teacher proposed to them to talk about their hopes. With this, he said

that his hope was to be a rich man. This quite surprised them; it was an unexpected remark from the usually serious teacher. To them who were wondering how to take it, he explained with a smile that he meant he wanted to be rich in talented pupils.

Once when the teacher was lying in bed, unwell from overwork, Song Guk went to see him and, there, at his bedside, he happened to get a peep into his diary. There was a passage in it about a professor of the Kim Chaek University of Technology who had taught him before his graduation with honours. As he found his teacher had taken over the dream of the professor, he was deeply moved. Song Guk said, "My teacher and the professor were both capable of winning great fame if they had gone into the academic world. But they had chosen the teaching career, thinking of the future of the country more than of their own honour. So, I have great respect for them. I shall graduate from the university in a year. I hope I will stay on at the university to teach so that I can bring their dreams into reality."

Yesterday Is Not Today

Kim Hyon Il, 21, is loath to talk about himself. So he is known as a secretive man among

his friends. As a student of Pyongyang Secondary School No. 1, he won the top prize more than once in national contests, and was always the top boy in the school. In the recent contest, he played the central role for his team, but when asked how they came out first in it, he would simply answer it was not a matter of great interest that they won it. To anybody who cautions him against excessive modesty that might cause misunderstanding, he says, "After entering the university, I



found myself having been carried away by the small success in my secondary school days. In the recent programming contest, I saw the fast-developing programming standards of the world. Programs are innovated every moment. Yesterday is not today, and today is not tomorrow. My only thought now is that I have to bestir myself in my prosecution of studies."

Ri Kum Chol

Interferon Developers

INTERFERON IS A BROAD-spectrum anti-virus, anti-cancer and immunity-controlling preparation that is acknowledged worldwide. The researchers of the Genetic Medicine Research Institute of the Pyongyang Medical College of Kim Il Sung University developed an interferon medicine by a bioengineering method and put its production on an industrial basis.

It is more than 20 years ago that they started to study interferon. Their strenuous efforts

quite effective in treating: virus-caused diseases like hepatitis B and C (positive-antigen cases included), influenzas, tonsillitis, hydrocephalus and parotitis; eczema; allergic diseases like urticaria; chronic myeloid leukemia; and other diseases such as leukemia, non-Hodgkin's lymphadenomatosis, Kaposi's sarcoma, renal cell carcinoma, malignant melanoma, malignant stomatitis, sub-acute sclerosing cephalitis and spontaneous sclerosis. Some 40 to 80 per cent of the cases of virus-

fully. When administered to cases of cancers, the medicine was found effective in preventing multiplication of the cancer and enhancing the rate of survival; it was also more than 70 per cent successful in cases of malignant melanoma and non-Hodgkin's lymphadenomatosis. In particular, it showed immediate and stark effects when applied to cases of slight fever, enteritis, colitis and dermatitis whose causes are usually unknown. Even two years' administration of the medicine was of no side effect.

The seven researchers involved in the project were all awarded the February 16 Science and Technology Prize for the success. Pak Yong Ju, section chief of the institute, says, "It is a human wish to live a long life in good health. As a medical researcher, I am happy that I am engaged in helping to bring the wish into reality. Interferon we developed is the first anti-virus remedy in our country. We are far from satisfied with the success. We always seek to prevent the outbreak of illnesses."

Rim Sang Jun



Interferon drugs.

spanning ten years brought about a success in the making of interferon using a bioengineering method. But the rate of manifestation was too poor to produce any profit in reality. Through repeated studies, they developed a new system of genetic manifestation, which was the breakthrough in the research project. The interferon they developed newly saves 85 per cent of the earlier cost of production while boosting the amount of production 1 000 times.

The interferon-based clinical treatment proved that the medicine is much superior to similar preparations used earlier. It turned out to be

caused hepatitis, chronic myeloid leukemia, malignant stomatitis, eczema and sub-acute sclerosing cephalitis were cured success-



A profound study is made.

Three Straight Wins

IN THE 2013 TAIWAN INTERNATIONAL Track and Field Championships held in Taipei, China, in May this year, Pak Kum Hyang from the sports team of the Pyongyang Jang Chol Gu University of Commerce won two gold medals by breasting the tape in the women's 3 000 m hurdles and 5 000 m race. So she won three consecutive victories in the women's 3 000 m hurdle race at the championships.

She spent her dreamy romantic childhood in a farm village of Kusong, North Phyongan Province. When she was praised by people who saw her dancing beautifully after a TV dancing scene, she wanted to be a famous dancer. Sometimes she thought she would become a Doctor of Biology to help propagate useful animals and would often run after dragonflies and frogs in the fields. She was physically fit and strong. One day Kang Il Gwan, coach of the Kusong City Juvenile Sports School, visited her village and saw her. He said to the hesitant girl, "Running is not an extraordinary thing. You are doing it everyday. But the difference is that from now on, you should run not only for your own sake but for the sake of the nation's honour. Keep this in your mind, and you will make a success for sure as a racer."

In 2000 when she was 15, she was enrolled in the sports school. Soon she came into the limelight distinguishing herself in national athletic meets including the national contests of juvenile sports schools. In 2002 she began her athletic career in the sports team of the Pyongyang Jang Chol Gu University of Commerce, but it took her nearly ten years to take part in international games. She was rather slow in improving her running records. Whenever she failed to clear the hurdle and fell to the ground, she would think of giving up training as an athlete and taking up studies in the university course to become a commercial worker.

One day she happened to read her coach Ri Jae Yong's training record book. It was an autobiography rather than a training record book. It contained records about his boyhood spent in a mountainous village of Anbyon County, Kangwon Province, the process of his growth into an athlete of the Kig-

wancha Sports Team, and about his life as an athletic coach dedicated to the development of the country's sports. Although there were no brilliant achievements as an athlete recorded in it, Kum Hyang received a deep



impression from her coach's past life who had got over all difficulties standing in his way. This served as an occasion to rouse her to fresh endeavours to renew her records. Now she put a motto "My Country Is Watching Me!" in the top margin of every page of her training record book.

In 2011 when she participated in the Taiwan International Track and Field Championships for the first time, she carried off the gold medal in the women's 3 000 m hurdles beyond all expectations of experts. Even after that, her motto remained unchanged. Regarding the outcome of the contest, there appeared a comment in an Internet site of Taipei, which says, "Pak Kum Hyang has beaten her rivals with untiring fortitude. She breasted the tape by light and rhythmic running like a machine humming away smoothly from beginning to end." The vice-chairman of the Asian Athletics Association who had watched the race expressed his feelings in these words, "The Korean athletes are on a very high level. They are well prepared and full of resources. Korea surprises the world by working miracle after miracle, and this time it has achieved another miracle."

Kum Hyang who returned home with the joy of three consecutive victories simply made an entry in her diary, "The athlete who keeps the honour of his country in his mind will win always."

Ri Kum Chol

Development of Archery and Its Prospect

ONE OF THESE DAYS A *KOREA TODAY* reporter talked to Jong Yong Jun, secretary of the Korea Archery Association about the development of the archery in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and its prospect. Excerpts:

I know archery is a long-standing sport in Korea. What do you have to say about the origin of the event and its history of development?

Archery came into being a long time ago as a popular folk game among the Korean people. During the Koguryo dynasty they usually had games of shooting arrows at beasts on horseback and hitting the target fixed on the top of the pillar. As a nation with a strong militaristic spirit, the Koguryo people, whether they were soldiers or civilians, trained themselves in archery at Kyongdang, which was a kind of private school that usually taught martial arts as well as the three R's. Through frequent archery games they trained themselves both physically and spiritually. From around the late 14th century archery developed into a formal competition, and the winner was decided by how many of the fixed number of arrows shot by archers hit the target from a certain distance. Archery competitions began to make rapid progress in late 18th-early 19th century around the world. Relevant organizations were formed in a number of countries and matches between countries took place. As archery spread swiftly worldwide the number of competing events grew, too. The Korean Archery Association was organized on March 1, 1953 and joined the International Archery Federation on July 10, 1961.

Since the organization of the Archery Association you have achieved good results at international competitions, I should say.

We have directed a lot of efforts to the development of the archery, which have produced good things. We went to the 28th World Archery Championships in June 1975, when we took second place in the women's team event and third place in the women's individual event. Then in December 1978 we came third in the women's team event of archery at the 8th Asian Games in Thailand, and ranked the top in the women's individual event and runner-up in the women's team event of archery at the 9th Asian Games in India in November 1982. Later in October 2008 we won two gold medals and one silver at the Asian Grand Prix Archery Tournament held in the Philippines, and most recently in July 2013 were among the top three winners at the Asian Grand Prix Archery Tournament.



These days Korea is paying close attention to the development of physical culture and sport. Archery is no exception, I say.

Sure. My country is putting efforts into the development of archery, which is a sports event that suits the physical constitution of the Korean people. All things needed for training of the archers are provided under the state concern, including the supply of the best instruments in the world. This is exciting greater enthusiasm to win a world championship in the archery event. Efforts are being made worldwide to boost the public interest in archery. New rules of competition have been established with a view to making the archers adopt a more serious and sincere manner in competition. In the past the ranking was dependent on the total account of hits at the targets fixed at 90, 70, 50 and 30 metres respectively. But now you have to shoot three arrows in a round at 70 metres, and you have two minutes for the first shooting of three arrows and four minutes for shooting of the six arrows. To adapt to the new rules, my association makes sure that the main emphasis of training is put on speedy shooting. While improving physical exercises to develop a good power enough to handle the bow with ease, they are working hard to adopt the world's advanced methods of shooting. Matches between sports teams are often arranged which is helpful in improving the capabilities. Our national leader Kim Jong Un saw two archery competitions this year alone, giving great encouragement to the players. All the archery players are now afire with a determination to exalt the honour of the nation by winning gold medals. □

Mother's Image

CHOE JONG SUK, LIVING in Rangnang-dong No. 3, Rangnang District, Pyongyang, is 69 years old this year, but she is still giving a helping hand to the effort to rear weightlifting athletes. Having retired a long time ago, she is often asked by her children and friends to spend the rest of her life having a pleasant time with her grandchildren, but she goes to the Central District Juvenile Sports School to help train children with all her wisdom and enthusiasm.

A girl with many mothers

Choe lost her mother over 60 years ago. She recollects the

forming her of what had happened the night before. (Choe's classmate brought the note to the teacher.) To his surprise, there appeared a doctor of the local clinic at his home. He had heard of Choe's illness from her teacher. The doctor looked after the girl for several hours and in the afternoon her teacher came to see her at home carrying some fruits and drinks with her and taught her the day's lessons. Choe was without her own mother, but the motherly care for her was always there beside her.

Mother's image engraved again

As a young girl, Choe thought

triculated in the then Pyongyang University of Music and Dance, Korean University of Physical Education, Pyongyang University of Foreign Studies and the then Pyongyang University of Medicine. Choe was honoured to attend the fourth national conference of mothers which took place on the occasion of Mother's Day (November 16) last year, and returning home from the meeting, she said to her children, "The Workers' Party of Korea and the state have given you university education and brought you up as proud officials. Your genuine mother is your country."

Sense of indebtedness

Choe retired, but has not left her hands idle. She has done her all she could to give a helping hand to the country even a bit; she has sent aid goods she had prepared to socialist construction sites. Building on her long-time engagement in the sports field, she has worked with the Central District Juvenile Sports School for over ten years to rear reserve weightlifters. Assisted by her second son So Un Hak who is working at the April 25 Sports Team as a weightlifting coach she often raises opinions at discussions held by the school's instructors on the training schedule suited to the ages and constitutions of the students. And sometimes she prepares tonics and health foods for the trainees. O Jong Ae who received a bronze medal at the women's weightlifting event of the 29th Olympics in 2008 and other students of the school who won international and domestic matches and particularly those who took first and second places in the weightlifting events of the DPRK juvenile championships this year call Choe "weightlifting grandma" referring to her sincere efforts for their development.

Song Yong Sok



Choe Jong Suk (centre) is engrossed in instruction.

time, saying, "I lost my mother all of a sudden in an air raid by the US imperialists during the Korean war. Though I was an innocent young girl, I was at a loss what to do for my living."

Though orphaned, she went to school and was looked after by doctors when she was ill, just like the children with their mothers did. Once she fell seriously ill with a high fever late into the night—she didn't know why. When she took medicine and fell asleep at daybreak, her father left her sleep in bed and wrote a note to her teacher, in-

that she was enjoying special care because she didn't have mother. Gradually she knew it is a state policy to look after all the children well in a responsible manner. After finishing university she worked as a sports official while her husband served in the Korean People's Army as an officer. The parents had little time to look after their children. Yet their children developed into fine people having systematic education according to their aptitudes and hopes. The four children went through primary and secondary schoolings and ma-

Their Beautiful Hearts

IN PYONGYANG FULL-blown beautiful flowers decorate the streets lined with green foliage and grass plots. Ponghwa, Kyonghung and Pulgun streets are fragrant with various flowers pleasing the passersby. The Pot-honggang Floricultural Station staffed with high-skilled horticulturists takes care of the flowers.

Ri Sol Hyang, one of them, graduated from a secondary school and volunteered to work at the station with some 20 of her alumnae two years ago. From her childhood she loved flowers and had a liking for their cultivation. So she made up her mind to be a horticulturist. She says, "Once in it, I found the job quite different from potted-flower cultivation which I had done before. I had many things to learn, including soil conditions, growing periods and nutrition control of flowers in their blooming time. Seeing flowers fall in the rainy

season, I would shed tears. But when the streets were planted with the flowers I had cultivated for the first time, I could not contain my joy. On Mother's Day last year I presented my mother with a carnation I had cultivated and she was beside herself with joy. The more I devote myself to cultivating flowers, the more beautiful our streets will turn, I presume."

Sim Sun Ok, another horticultural expert, thinks likewise. It is 17 years since she began to grow flowers at the station. Her flowers, exceptionally big and beautiful, were highly appreciated at the flower show last year. Asked about her secret, she says, "I learned the scientific knowledge of flower cultivation in a study-while-you-work education institution. I think the combination of theory and practice is indispensable for success in all undertakings."

To grow flowers in all seasons

the station has laid the solid material foundations for it. It has an unheated greenhouse with a floor space of 2 000 square metres and an outdoor flower garden 6 000 square metres wide.

In close contact with the Floricultural Research Institute, the managing staff and employees of the station are exerting themselves to increase the variety and quantity of flowers to cater to the rising demand of people for enjoyments. The station supplies flowers to the Kyonghung Flower Shop and Sinwon Flower and Goldfish Shop and also to flower stalls. The most popular flowers are lily, chrysanthemum, caladium, carnation and rose.

People say that while flowers are beautiful, their growers' beautiful hearts help to decorate the lives of the citizens more colourfully.

Kim Son Ae



Devoted Efforts for Green Environment

THE GREEN BELTS ALONG THE STREET look just like green carpets. Ginkgos, zelkovas, willows and other kinds of trees stand harmoniously along both sides of the street. What is more spectacular is the rhythmic movements of the street tenders trimming the trees and looking after the flowering plants with joy. The scene gives people a pleasant sentiment, relieving them of the day's fatigue. But they could hardly imagine the tenders have a lot of worries themselves—workers of the Phyongchon District Landscaping Company, Pyongyang.

One spring day last year the workers of the company became somewhat nervous to see the company's chief engineer Kim Ik Su making a serious face at a meeting of the company. He had been working there as chief engineer for more than 20 years, so workers easily knew from his face that he had noticed something unsatisfactory. At the moment the company was leading the whole city of Pyongyang in planting new species of grasses according to a new national greenery plan, so the workers could not pinpoint what the chief engineer was worrying about.

Now he began to speak. He mentioned about some blank spaces in the green area along the Kangan Street, which had been caused by irregular sowing of the seeds. Some people argued it was no problem as the grass would spread quickly to make up the bare spaces. Refuting their argument, he retorted, "Do you think you could redress the bad impression from the grass until it is in verdure?"

In response to his call, all the workers turned out as one, and went as far as to make a machine which is used to spread the grass seeds evenly. Meanwhile,

they supplemented the green belts all over again, rising above the charge. They often worked through the night those days. In this way the problem of empty spaces was solved, but the workers' worry grew bigger than before. Because they found the grass was growing somehow less fast than they had expected. They groped for a method to improve cultivation, attending the grass almost all day long. Finally they learned the poor growth was thanks to the soil which was less fertile than that in other districts. Now they developed a new bio-active fertilizer and laid a base for mass-production of it. They were so devoted to the growth of the grass that they earned the nicknames of "grass researchers" and "fertilizer researchers."

Rim Sun Ae, head of the Jongphyong Workteam, who has been working at the company for a dozen years, says, "We have quite a lot of stories. And we have a lot of worries. When it is unusually sultry we are worried whether the young trees we have planted would dry; when the weather forecast says there will be a heavy rain, we are worried about weak flowering plants, so we make rounds of the flower beds to make sure they are okay. This has become a routine of our work. Whenever we are exhausted, we turn to the pedestrians walking along the street with a bright smile while enjoying the clean environment. This gives us strength."

Thanks to their hard work the district got a higher level of greenery in a year, becoming an exemplary company in the landscaping effort throughout the city of Pyongyang.

Kim Ik Su says, "People say my district has smart ►

► greenery because I tend it as an old engineer. But I have no know-how about landscaping. I only have worries—which obsess me day in, day out. I think the more worried and enthusiastic I am about my work,

the happier people will be going up and down the streets in my charge.”

Article by Kim Chol Ung

Photos by Ri Chol





Haedanghwa Service Complex

IN MAY LAST HAEDanghwa Service Complex, a modern multi-functional service base, was inaugurated. Standing on the picturesque bank of the Taedong River, it has one basement and six floors and is equipped with all facilities necessary for public catering, welfare service and cooking instruction, including a dozen dining rooms, a grill room, a round cafe, a shop, a bathhouse, a wading

pool, a barber's shop, a beauty salon, a billiard room, a table tennis hall, a fitness hall, an e-book reading room, a cooking practice room and a lecture room.

Mixed tastes—classical and modern

The architectural form retains an organic combination of classical and modern beauties. New and unique features were given to the exterior of the build-

ing by fixing big plates of glass to the walls and attaching vertical and horizontal strips of well-trimmed granite along the building's edges. The classical beauty comes from blue tiles set along the eaves of the roof.

The interior of the building gives you a sense of grace and sentimentality for a hall finished with well-trimmed marble, an ornamental stone pillar in the centre of the hall, the ceiling ▶

Griddle dishes.



A shop.





A fitness hall.

▶ with patterns of small and big petals (the big one is decoratively illuminated) and a flower, the floor that looks like a sandy beach with full-blown sweet brier, the walls that resemble flying fairies casting sweet brier flowers.

Corridors and dining rooms show classical beauty. In the corridors the ceiling is shaped like the ridge and rafters, and the walls are made up of ornamental plywood looking like traditional Korean paper-covered sliding doors and the panels like a picture screen. So, people feel as if they were in a wooden corridor.

Some dining rooms give you the feeling of having a meal in a cottage as there are ornamental garlic, red pepper, peanut and corn hung on the walls. All the doors of the dining rooms and party halls are shaped like a castle gate.

Convenience first

The service establishment gives preference to convenience. In the past multifunctional buildings used to have the bathhouse or wading pools in the basement or on the ground floor while restaurants and shops are placed above them—in consideration of water proof. But the Haedanghwa building has restaurants and shops—more popular with people—on the ground and first floors and the bathhouse, wading pool, barber's shop, beauty salon and fitness hall on the second and third floors.

Therefore the visitors usually go downstairs to have meals

A wading pool.



after using the facilities on the upper floors. Hence no confusion in using ways and excellent convenience for people.

Centre of cooking development

The complex has a system of the training of cooks and dissemination of cooking techniques. Dividing graduates from colleges and schools in the cooking field, professional cooks of the catering field and people who want to be a cook into three groups, it gives them theoretical and practical instruction. They learn skills to make many kinds of nutritious dishes more quickly and deliciously using materials that abound in Korea, and processing

methods of general and local dishes. The practice and lecture rooms are equipped with cooking facilities and visual aids. In the basic practice room they learn how to use and sharpen the knife, how to use tools and how to make a dish fast and well. In the lecture room they learn cooking science, science of cooking materials and science of nutrition.

In addition, the material specimen room and rooms of warm, cool and sweet dishes make them acquire many kinds of cooking methods, and famous cooks at home and abroad are invited to give lectures on Korean and world cuisines.

Sim Hyon Jin



In a kitchen.

Fervent Writer Kim Sa Ryang

IN LATE JUNE THIS YEAR, the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) awarded the title of Hero of the DPRK to Kim Sa Ryang, who died in battle 62 years ago.

When the Korean war broke out on June 25, 1950, Kim voluntarily went to the front as a war writer, and created and made public lots of articles and stories on the war. During the period of the strategic temporary retreat, he took charge of the press and information work of the Jirisan People's Guerrilla Army fighting behind the enemy line. On June 23, 1951 he was surrounded by the enemy and died a heroic death blasting himself with a bundle of grenades. For his distinguished literary talent and unusual enthusiasm, he not only made a notable contribution to the Korean literature, but also glorified his 37-year-long life with ardent love for his country and people and firm conviction.

Kim was born in Pyongyang on March 3, 1914, when Korea was under the Japanese imperialists' military occupation. In his secondary school days he, a 15-year-old boy, wrote a short novel *Thosongnang* which showed the miserable life of Korean people living along the Pothong River, and another fiction *In the Light* in his Tokyo Imperial University days that shook the world of intellectuals in Japan.

But as he was immersed in the anti-Japanese spirit and wrote the "seditious" works he was expelled from the secondary school and put into detention twice.

As a result, his anti-Japanese spirit further strengthened and his wish to join the anti-Japanese armed struggle led by Kim Il Sung revered by the Korean people as the sun of the nation. In spite of his effort to contact the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, travelling here and there in China in 1944, he couldn't find them.

After that, he entered the

Yanan base in China in the spring of 1945 and met some Korean revolutionaries, which gave him the idea of writing about the guerrilla army led by General Kim Il Sung. The result was the full-length travel note *Nomamalli*. Though the situation of the base was so difficult due to the enemy's continuous attacks and the encirclement at that time, he wrote the novel day and night. As his paper's quality was so poor, he exchanged two pads of letter paper with his favourite pocket watch.

In his novel, he wrote, "If Kim Il Sung's unit is compared to the solar system which shines wherever you see in our country,



Kim Sa Ryang lies at rest at the Fatherland Liberation War Martyrs Cemetery.

the numerous guerrilla fighters of his unit can be called myriads of the satellites of the solar system."

After national liberation in August 1945, he gave a full play to his creative ability and engaged in the writing with high enthusiasm. He created and made public many works such as five pieces of many-act plays, a collection of fictions, over 10 pieces of dramas, essays and choral poems in a short period of less than five years, including the play *Thunder* that depicts

the victory of the Battle in Pochonbo which had taken place during the anti-Japanese armed struggle. (*Thunder* was written between May and August 1946.)

During the Fatherland Liberation War, he was attached to the then 105th Tank Division and wrote lots of works while advancing southward. Well known is his work *I See the Sea* that he wrote looking down the South Sea of Korea from the summit of a hill his unit had taken in an area near Masan, South Kyongsang Province.

However, his activities in the enemy-controlled area and his death remained in the dark for a long time. Referring to his disappearance, the conservative media in Japan spreaded a false rumour that he had been ostracized for his complicated career and family background in the "Korean internal circumstances," while the south Korean puppets were gabbling on about his "conversion and betrayal."

Anxious about his whereabouts, President Kim Il Sung said that Kim Sa Ryang had a strong sense of justice, conscience and faith, that such a man with a firm faith doesn't become a turncoat, and that he believed Sa Ryang must have fought bravely to the last moment of his life. The President made sure that the disappeared was sought by contacting people who came from south Korea and browsing various publications.

As a result, it was ascertained—by persons concerned—that Kim Sa Ryang had fought for the Jirisan Guerilla Army before. Later, facts about his death turned out true by materials on a round-table talk carried by a south Korean publication. The Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK government made sure that *Kim Sa Ryang's Works* were published and that he was awarded the title of Hero of the DPRK on the 60th anniversary of the Victory in the Fatherland Liberation War.

Jo Yong Il

My Memory



Merited Artist Kim Kyu Gwon.

I AM IN NO MORE THAN mid-twenties, and yet people affectionately call me Mr. Merited Artist. Whenever I hear such a calling, the images of my teachers associated with my growth flash across my mind.

My first teacher was Choe Jin Hwa, who looked after me at nursery. She was the very person who identified my talent. One day when I was three years old,

she happened to see me drawing azalea on the ground when other children were busying with play. Having valued such a bud of talent she taught me how to take pencil. Later, Choe took me to fine art experts to get advices from them. Soon I was absorbed in the world of drawing as well as the study of mother tongue and counting thanks to her effort.

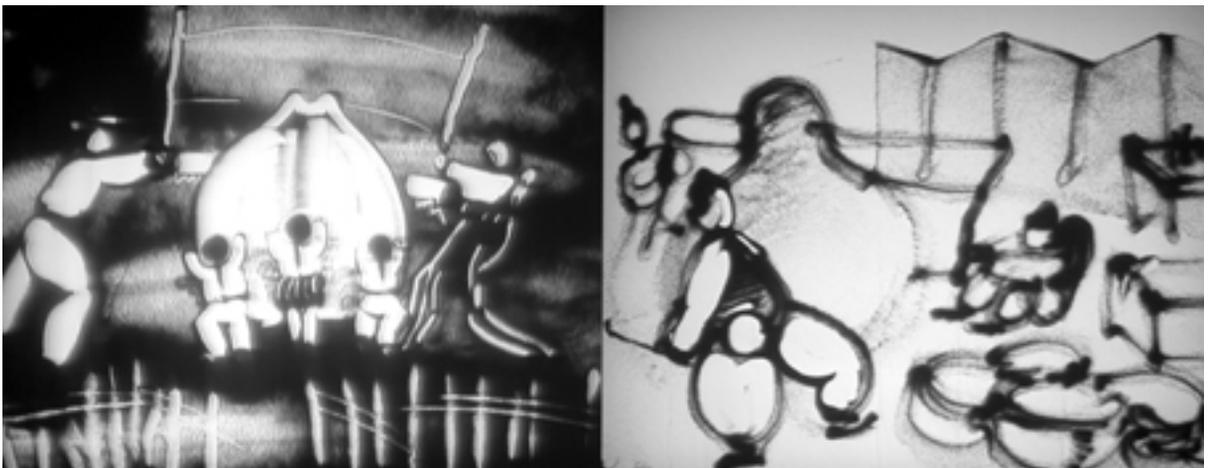
When I enrolled in kindergarten, I entered it under the patronage of my mother and nurse, unlike others who were with their mothers alone. That day Choe said to Kim Mi Yong, a kindergartener who would take charge of me, "I'm sure Kyu Gwon has an unusual aptitude for drawing. I hope you will take good care of him."

The most vivid memory of my childhood is the day when I went to the fine art circle of the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace with my kindergarten teacher. (That day I received many red stars at the kindergarten for my good drawing.) As I

went into the circle students with red ties on were busy with their work. My teacher met Ri Pong Hun, a teacher of the circle, and said earnestly, "Please help me. I couldn't teach this child any more. He is very good at drawing."

Ri asked me this and that before asking me to draw a picture. I did it in front of him. Scrutinizing it attentively he nodded and told me to come to the palace from the next day. In this way I became a member of the fine art circle at the age of five, which was unprecedented as the enrollment begins with the school age. Ri taught me concentration on and observation of things and Korean painting techniques like line drawing, sketching, single-stroke painting and scumbling. Sometimes I painted pictures in the presence of foreigners who visited the palace. Seeing my pictures of flowers and birds based on the single-stroke technique, they asked how old I was. I replied I ▶

Music and sand drawing *Hungbu and Nolbu*.



► was five, when they were gripped with admiration, saying it was unbelievable.

One day when I was a first-year pupil of primary school, doctors

came to my classroom after lessons to inoculate us. Chol Nam stood up courageously first, rolling up his sleeves. But when the needle pricked his skin he made a cry with a wry face. Seeing him Ok Hui and other girls pulled their face as if it pricked their skin, and stepped backward while Il Nam hid in fear. A doctor purposely had a stern look on his face and said that the country is worried that we might fall ill, and that we couldn't grow tall or become fine people if we were afraid of injection. Hearing his words I thought that I could make a picture of it, and sketched the scene on the spot. A serial form of the Korean painting *The Day of Inoculation* was highly praised at an international fine art exhibition in 1995. With each passing day I felt what I saw and heard quite impressive and often had an impulse to create works from it.

One evening I saw my next door neighbours high-spirited at the doorway to my apartment. There I was told that one of my neighbours had received his 100th birthday spread from Chairman Kim Jong Il. The old man, sitting at the birthday spread, said that the state had developed him as a faithful worker of the country and brought his children up well. He repeatedly said, "Thank you, Comrade Kim Jong Il." I was deeply moved by his appearance and made a picture of it. The pic-



Music and sand drawing *Swan Lake*.

ture *The Centenary Birthday Spread for a Grandpa* won first place at the fine art exhibition held on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the UN Children's Fund in 1996.

Afterwards, I studied at Pyongyang University of Fine Arts, and then became an artist of the Korean Painting Production Unit of the Mansudae Art Studio. There are many promising young artists of my age who have undergone instruction courses similar to mine. Here we put all our efforts in creation. Soon I was involved in sand drawing, which was the first of its kind in our country. By pooling our wisdom and strength we created the first sand drawing *Hungbu and Nolbu* in two months. In the following year, 2012, we produced sand drawing *Pyongyang Is Best* on the occasion of the 100th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung. The work received a big hand from the audience for its rich content and high artistic quality. So I and other producers of the sand drawing were awarded the title of the Merited Artist in May 2012.

It isn't simply thanks to my creative ability that I got the title in a mere two years of my career. The honour is inconceivable to me if it were not the benevolent socialist country and my teachers.

Kim Kyu Gwon,
the Mansudae Art Studio

THINGS WOULD HAVE been different if it hadn't been for the drizzle that started about the time he were to leave his office for home, or if his wife had seen the weather forecast the evening before and handed him an umbrella when he was leaving for work that morning. Ri Jun Bom would go to and come back from work on foot every day although there was a bus service along the way to his work place, a branch of the Academy of Agricultural Science. It was a two-bus stop distance, but he would usually walk it, for he knew it was a good daily exercise for people of his age (in the mid-50s) to walk that distance.

Yet Ri felt somehow out of sorts that evening. His knees that had ached often for some time now began to tingle and then stung terribly. This was an omen of bad weather. Sure enough, it got cloudy in the evening and soon a fog rain began to fall, the most hateful weather for Jun Bom. He decided to take a bus in order to keep out of rain. When he got to the bus stop dragging his hurting legs, he found a bus had just left. There was no help for it but to wait for the next bus in the drizzling rain.

After a while, an umbrella was quietly held over his head. He looked back and saw a tall young man with smart spectacles on. He was engrossed in reading a book holding the umbrella. Finding no chance to give him a nod of thanks, Ri stood under the umbrella. Before long a bus arrived. When the door opened, Ri looked back again at the young man and smiled his thanks at him before he got on the bus with difficulty. Fortunately, he saw a vacant seat, hobbled over to it, and sat down. The young man followed, stood ►

A Rainy Evening

By Kim Kyong Il

► in front of him and fell into reading again. Surely, it was not a story book, for he took out a ball pen and often jotted down something in the book while the bus was running. Gazing at the young man, Ri felt unawares he was attracted by the man.

A long time before when he had been a university student and then a researcher, he had burned with passion to rise over the world level of agricultural science and worked hard day and night, achieving notable successes in his research projects. Now he felt the young people of today were different from those days. His only daughter, for instance, who had finished a college of fisheries years before and was now working as a researcher at the college, avowed that she would take a doctorate without fail before marriage by developing a new fish-detecting method. Ri felt proud of her and yet thought she was quite naïve. The doctorate is not something you can get by simply working zealously at the computer for several months. As for Ri himself, he had launched on preparation for his doctoral paper in his mid-40s and presented it for deliberation the year before. Yet, the paper had to go through elementary calculations all over again because many faults were found at the first deliberation. So, it was not yet taken into full-dress deliberation. Nevertheless, his daughter Il Sim was bragging that she would be the first in her family to win a doctorate. The innocent girl, too proud of herself as she was pampered by her

parents, appeared to think nothing of slighting them. If, in reality, she took a doctorate ahead of her father, he would be laughed at by many people. Who would not split his sides when an authoritative agronomist fell behind his 27-year-old daughter in taking an academic degree? This was what Ri would often say in reference to his daughter who seemed to be quite indifferent to her marriage in spite of her parents getting old year by year. He wished she would rather get married and give him the joy of fondling with a grandchild than trying to win a doctorate. Anyhow, the young people nowadays were incomparably more innovative than his contemporaries. There were many young men of talent in his department at the Academy of Agricultural Science, who would seldom condescend to praise even fairly great scientific achievements. They were so young and hot-blooded, ready to go fire and water. Probably that was why they would often put forward most unique and fantastic ideas much to the surprise of Ri.

When he was following the train of his thought, the bus suddenly gave a jolt and the kind young man dropped his ball pen. Rising to his feet, Ri picked it up and handed it back to the youth.

"Take this seat and write, please," Ri said to him. "It looks like an urgent work you're doing."

"No, thank you," the youth beamed, revealing his snow-white teeth. "How can I, a green youth, take your seat?"

"Never mind, young man. I've to get down at the next stop," Ri said. But the next moment Ri realized with a start that he had one more section to go. But he thought to himself: *Oh, I don't care. I can walk a section. Go slow and the aching legs will excuse me. Anyway, I think it's a good thing I've offered my seat to him, the bright future of the nation. I hope this rare young man will sit down, read more and give himself to thinking comfortably.*

The young man, however, did not think to sit down but took a pregnant young woman willy-nilly from among the crowded passengers to the seat. "Please sit down here, miss," he let slip the word before he thought. "Oh! I'm sorry," he apologized. The people around laughed cheerfully.

The woman blushed for shame, hanging her head in the seat. A plump middle-aged woman by her said jokingly, "If so shy, how can you be a mother? Raise your head proudly and say 'Thank you' to the young gentleman."

When the bus stopped, Ri got down, smiling at the passengers around him. It was raining harder, pattering on the back of his coat. Suddenly a hand was stretched out of the bus window with an umbrella. "Hello, mister! Take this umbrella, please," a voice called. It was the young man again. Ri shook his head, making a gesture that his home was within a stone's throw. The bus left.

(To be continued)

Mass-based Artistic Activities Get Brisk

THE KIM JONG THAE Electric Locomotive Complex is widely known across the country for its mass-based artistic campaign. Last April it took first place at the April Spring People's Art Festival (itinerant artistic promotional groups' event) which happened in celebration of the Day of the Sun, the birthday of President Kim Il Sung.

A strong motivational campaign encourages increased production

When you pass the gate to the complex in the morning, you can see the complex's itinerant artistic promotional group carrying on a motivational programme. Their powerful singing and cheering to the tune of the wind music are a great encouragement to the workers. Rim Jong Rim, head of the group, is wont to say to the group, "The engine must have power if it is to run. Our itinerant artistic activities are the power of the engine for increased production. We have to put out better programmes to the liking of the workers, and thus give them courage and stamina."

The group's activities for workers at break are spectacular. As their performance is filled with emotions of all shades representing the working life, it becomes an attraction to the workers and meets with a great response. (Encouraged by the motivational activities, a worker smashed his yearly production norm in October.) Where there's a roaring sound of music, there is a loud whistle

of locomotives heard—this is a unanimous voice at the complex.

Our singing represents our life

None of the itinerant artistic promotional group has gone through professional artistic training courses. Not all of them are tall and stylish young people. Among them is an 18-year-old bob-haired girl, an elderly man who is well over 50, and even a couple with two children. And they have different kinds of jobs. O Chol and Kim Yong Su are a forger and a smelter respectively, who receive a big hand for their good singing of songs, such as *I Love My Workteam*, which sings of the workers' attachment to their jobs and their worth of labour and their sense of unity; Kim Un Hui and Jang Yong Gwon are a turner and a laboratory assistant respectively who are popular with the workers for their good performance, including *Twelve-letter Interpretation* and *Our Hands*. And a forger is good at musical arrangement. The group also includes an engi-

neer working at the computer office, a telephone operator, scientists, technicians, and management officials.

Seeing a performance staged by the complex's workers in November 2009, Chairman Kim Jong Il spoke highly of it, saying the mass-based cultural and artistic activities of the complex were a model of the working class's mass-based cultural and artistic campaign. Then he made sure that the complex's artistic promotional group staged performances at factories in Pyongyang and provinces. After seeing the performances which consisted of all kinds of programmes—vocal music, narrative, dancing, etc.—the audience admired them for their flawless art of representation based on a simple arrangement of instruments, costumes and hand props. They often asked which professional art group had helped the preparation of the programmes, when the worker artists replied, "We only represent our everyday work and life as they are."

Song Yong Sok



The Commander and His Mother

KIM SUK HUNG WAS A famous patriotic general in the period of the Koryo dynasty. His father who passed away before Kim was born left a will to his wife Ri. His last wish was: "I am leaving this world, but you say you're with child now. If the baby is a boy, you should bring him up well into a warrior to make up for my failure to perform a feat for the country as a soldier. You shouldn't hope to extend the farmland or want to become wealthy thanks to the son. Our ancestors were all military officers, and so if you rear him to be a good warrior and a pillar of the country, I'll close my eyes without regret."

Bearing his words in her mind, Ri pledged inwardly to bring up her son into a good soldier. But her little son never understood her feelings. The boy was physically feeble and weak-willed and never got interested in his study. One winter day, he felt very cold on his way home from the village school, so he cried loudly when he arrived at home. Ri took the child to the well and told him sternly to take off his clothes. He looked up at her mother's face, but she was not what she used to be, not the gentle and kind mother. To the wondering child the mother said, "Undress yourself. I'm going to make you warm," while drawing water

from the well with a bucket. Only then did the boy see what his mother was going to do and in surprise took her by the wrist and entreated her, crying loudly, "Mum, please forgive me this once, I'll never cry again when I'm cold." Ri said in a low but grave voice, "Then stop crying and listen to me, will you?" Suk Hung stopped crying and nodded his head. "On his deathbed your father asked me to raise you to be a respectable military commander for the country. But though a boy, you cry in this bit of cold. If your father saw you, how bitter he would feel against me! Now will you meekly obey me in future?" Ri put her child on his oath.

From that day on, Ri was strict with her son and the boy formed the habit of overcoming all the trials. While teaching him to read and write, she saw to it that he was trained in horse riding, archery and swordsmanship. She told him about the famous military commanders' lives and activities and made him read many books on tactics. She often told him, "Don't forget your father's last wish. Only when you get over all the trials will you be able to become brave commander."

At last, Suk Hung came out first in the military examination and was placed in command of the Kuju Fortress, a point of

strategic importance. Although he was now in charge of an important task of national defence and was busy with preparations for battle, he always missed his mother who was living alone back at home. So, he got a leave of absence for his mother's birthday and father's memorial service day and went back home. But his mother refused even to acknowledge his greeting. After a while, she said in tears, "You are still a long way off the mark to be a military commander defending the country. Seeing you care for your mother more than for your country, I think all my efforts to teach you have been for nothing." To her son who was sitting with his head drooping, repentant for his rash behaviour, the mother said quietly, "Be a good commander if you want to be my son. I want you to be a laudable military commander prizing the country before your home."

Deeply moved by his mother's admonition, he immediately returned to the Kuju Fortress and devoted all his wisdom and energy to making preparations for battle. He always remembered his mother's words, "Be a good commander if you want to be my son." Bearing his mother's patriotic counsel deep in his mind, he always fought bravely in battles against the foreign invaders. □

Mt. Jangsu, “Queen” of Beauty of Ravines

RISING OVER TWO COUNTIES, JAERYONG and Sinwon, of South Hwanghae Province, Mt. Jangsu is one of the most famous mountains in Korea, hence called Hwanghae Kungang. It ranges east and west, including Pojang, Kwanum and other peaks. It is thickly wooded with pine and oaks including oriental oak and evergreen oak, pine trees dominating the northern slopes and oak trees the mountain ridges. There are rare species of plants on the mountain such as *Forsythia densiflora Nakai*, *Celtis cordiflora Nakai*, *Fraxinus rhynchophylla var. angusticarpa Nakai ex Kawamoto* and *Euonymus sachalinensis Maxim*. The place is inhabited by animals like roe deer, badger, raccoon dog, fox, hare, oriole, owl, ringdove and pheasant.

It was originally called Mt. Chiak as it swarmed with pheasants. After that, however, its name changed to Mt. Jangsu (Longevity) because people who came to live there enjoyed a long life in good health for its fresh air, clear water and wholesome edible herbs.

The mountain also has four bynames as it varies in appearance in the four seasons—Hongak (Red Mountain) in spring as it is tinged with red because of azalea and royal azalea flowers, Chongak (Green Mountain) in summer because of its thick green foliage, Phungak (Maple Mountain) in autumn for its scarlet maple leaves, and Paegak (White Mountain) in winter as it is covered white with snow.

The most beautiful scenery of the mountain is the views of its ravines. Typical is the scene of the ravine with 12 bends in its west. It is associated with a legend that each bend was formed when a dragon living in the mountain struck the cliff with its tail. Crystal-

clear water flowing down the ravines, waterfalls, pools, pine and red-tinged maple trees are harmonious with the scenery to add to the beautiful views of the 12 bends. When you pass the first bend and come to the second you can see the Sesim Falls where it is said one who bathes in the water of the falls will have his heart washed clean, Usom (Smile) Rock, and Kobukson (Turtle Ship) Rock which tradition says is associated with the struggle of the patriotic volunteers.

Round each bend you come to see fantastic rocks and deep forests and mysterious, beautiful scenes of the famous mountain that continuously reveal scenic wonders like a kaleidoscopic change of landscape.

Go round the third bend and you will come to find Jara (Tortoise) Rock in the crack of the cliff there. The 4th and 5th bends will bring one to Khokkiri (Elephant) and Kunham (Warship) rocks and a precipice called Rojoksonjang that rises sheer into the sky. Past the 6th bend, the acme of the mountain's scenic beauty, are found Saja (Lion) Rock, the Sambaengnyon Jangsu Spring, a drink whose water is said to give one 300-year-long life, and many kinds of medicinal herbs like wild *insam* and *Salvia mileriorrhiza*.

Mt. Jangsu boasts dense forests, fantastic-shaped rocks including Surigae (Eagle), Sansam (Wild *Insam*) and Samhyongje (Three Brothers) rocks, Pyokpawi Ravine famous for its limpid stream, rock gates such as Kwanbongsok and Chaejinamsok gates formed with large rocks standing face to face like stone gates, and natural caves such as Kumun and Kwanum caves.

As if a magician were playing conjuring tricks to surprise people, Mt. Jangsu has another scenic wonder, Pojok Peak, in the area of the Myoum Temple, in addition to the 12 bends. Pojok Peak is the highest of all peaks of the mountain. More than 740 metres above sea level, its name derives from its shape resembling a pile of treasures.

From olden times the beautiful ravine with 12 bends, the beauty of fantastic-shaped rocks and the charm of the fine view from the mountain have been called three wonders of Mt. Jangsu. The top of Pojok Peak commands a panoramic view of mountains covered with thick forests of hundreds-year-old trees. To the south the West Sea of Korea comes into view beyond Mt. Suyang, and to the northwest the spectacular sight of the peaks of Mt. ▶

People on their mountaineering way.



► Kuwol, one of the noted mountains of Korea, catches the eyes. A typical spot of scenic beauty on the west coast of Korea, the area of the Myoum Temple is on the old record as a popular sightseeing resort in spring when flowers are in full bloom and in autumn when maple leaves are scarlet-tinged as its beautiful scenery varies from season to season.

The scenery of Mulhaeng Ravine with its rocks and cliffs of all shapes and that of Tolmun Ravine as a perfect copy of Myriad-shaped Peak of Mt. Kumgang

draw people's admiration.

The second highest peak of Mt. Jangsu affords a view of the ancient JangSusan Fort. The remains of the old fort include the site of the west gate of the inner walls which is said to have been used as a secret passage in time of emergency, the Paegundung Basin where legend has it that white clouds hung low in all seasons, the site of production of pig iron, something hardly to be found in other old mountain forts of Korea, temples like the Myoum Temple and the sites of ancient temples.

From olden times Mt. Jangsu has been widely known as the "queen" of beauty of ravines in the western plain area, whereas Mt. Kumgang has been described as the "king" of alpine beauty in the eastern mountain region. Now it is a great holiday resort of the working people.

Song Yong Sok

At a break of mountaineering.



Mountaineers enjoy sights.

A picturesque scene of Mt. Jangsu.



Korean Central History Museum (6)



A rain gauge.



A sundial.



Turtle Ship, the first iron-clad warship in the world.

The Last Feudal State of Korea

THE FEUDAL JOSON DYNASTY WAS THE last feudal state of Korea that existed for 519 years from 1392. Hearing the guide we looked round the remains and relics on display. First we saw pictures which show seasonal farming customs during the time of the dynasty. According to the pictures, the method of transplanting rice seedlings became popular in rice farming and the variety of crops grew considerably compared with the time of Koryo dynasty.

One of the attractive displays was *Chiljongsan*, an astronomical book on the calendar published in 1444. The guide explained that the book gives a systematic description of the theory on the calendar—established before the inauguration of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty—by dealing with how to determine constants and number table necessary for astronomical calculation, how to determine the number of months and days of the year and the 24 divisions of the year, how the sun and the moon move round, how to determine the time by means of the stars, how to decide the period of the day and the night, how to forecast the solar and lunar eclipses, how our planets move, how to judge the movement of the point of intersection of the lunar and solar orbits. From the book we could learn that the year was fixed to be of 365.2425 days at the time like it is at present.

There were also a sundial which denotes the time and division of the year, and a rain gauge. Until early in the time of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty the people in Korea measured the amount of the rainfall by fathoming the depth of the earth soaked with the rainwater. As the depth of the soaking is different from this to that place according to the makeup of the earth, the height of the earth, and the dryness of the earth before the rainfall, they could hardly tell the exact amount of the rainfall. Therefore, a cylindrical iron gauge was made in 1441 to be used in measuring the amount of rainfall. Later rain gauges were developed several times, typically in 1442 and 1770. The gauges were mostly vessels of a cylindrical shape placed on the platform to contain the rainwater and denote the amount of the rainfall. According to the guide, Korea was most advanced in inventing and using rain gauges, for it was some 200 years later that Italy began to use a device to know the amount of the rainfall in 1639.

Now we saw *Honilgangriryokdaegukdojido* (copy)

which is recognized as the oldest world map worldwide. Edited in 1406, it shows Korea, China, the whole region of Asia, part of Europe and Africa, and has a new addition of Japan, which is not to be found in earlier maps. The map depicts the central Asia centred on the Caspian Sea, Sri Lanka and the Arabian Peninsula rather exactly. On it rivers and seas are depicted in water green and residential districts like the capital city of a country in other colours so that they could be noticed with ease.

Presently we were attracted to Korea's renowned three compendiums on Koryo medicine—*Hyangyakjipsongbang* (Collection of Traditional Korean Treatments), *Uibangryuchwi* (Manual of Traditional Medicine of Korea), and *Tonguibogam* (Encyclopaedia of Traditional Medicine of Korea). As for *Tonguibogam*, it is a complete collection of the development of the traditional medicine of Korea up to the 16th century. It was edited by Ho Jun, a renowned medical scientist, from 1596 to 1610 and published in 1611. Later the book was reprinted several times, in 1814 and 1874, in particular, and published in China and Japan as well many times. Containing remedies and prescriptions developed to suit the Koreans' customs of living and physical constitutions, the compendium not only played a great role in developing Koryo medicine in the time but is also highly appreciated for its scientific content and practical and cultural significance.

In the next room we heard about the creation of *Hunminjongum*, the Korean nation's original alphabetical system, which is referred to as one of the greatest cultural achievements of Korea in the 15th century. At the time of its establishment in 1444, the system was made up of 28 letters, and now it consists of 40 letters, enriching the linguistic culture of the Korean nation, said the guide.

That room has also materials on the 7-year-long Imjin Patriotic War. Having made full preparations for war for a long time, Japan launched an aggression against Korea all of a sudden on April 13, 1592, by mobilizing 158 700 infantry men and tens of thousands of naval troops. At the moment Toyotomi Hideyoshi, who had put an end to the 100-odd-year-long feudal conflict and achieved unification of the whole Japan, wanted to conquer Korea and Ming China. The Korean people won the war by fighting in the self-sacrificing spirit, thus exalting the honour and prestige of the nation and making a great contribution to security and peace in Asia. The room has ►

Widely-known Koryo Paper

IN KOREA PAPER MADE FROM PAPER mulberry, yam and other vegetable fibres was widely used from ancient times. The murals of the tomb of King Kogukwon (Anak Tomb No. 3) known as dating back to the 4th century have some figures holding sheets of written paper in their hands. This shows that paper was widely used at that time.

Paper made during the Koguryo dynasty in about the 5th century was unearthed in Taesong District, Pyongyang, and high-quality paper was dug up together with a gilt-bronze ornament on the bank of the Taedong River at the foot of Moran Hill. According to the analysis these papers were made from yam and their fibres were uniform and fine. Their original white colour has been preserved to this day after 1 500 years. This proves that the paper making and bleaching skills of the Koguryo people were on a highest level. These skills were transmitted to Japan in 610 by monk Tamjing, a painter and scholar of Koguryo. That was the beginning of paper making in Japan, and it has developed into today's Japanese paper.

Koguryo's superior skills of paper making were handed down to the Koryo period and were further developed. In the 11th century high-quality paper made from mulberry was exported to other countries.

It is recorded in history that Koryo exported plenty of goods to Song China together with 2 000 sheets of *taephuk* paper and ink sticks in 1080, and that large amounts of paper and ink sticks were included in the items of exports to the merchants of Song. It is also on record that Yuan China imported 100 000 sheets of Koryo paper at one time to compile Buddhist scriptures. As the demand for paper increased in Koryo due to the publication and exportation of the complete collections of Buddhist scriptures, cultivation of mulberry trees and private paper making were encouraged from 1145 and a manual paper-making plant called *jiso* was established to mass-produce quality paper.

The paper produced through the processes of soaking hemp cloth in water, slicing, grinding, pressing and bleaching it in the sun was so white and of good quality that it was used in printing important books. Another fine paper called *kyonji*, or silky paper, was soft and durable and absorbed ink so well that it enjoyed high popularity. *Paekchuji*, yet another kind of good paper produced from the Koryo period, was white, fine and durable. A Japanese historian said, "This was a wonderful paper beyond comparison with any kinds of paper of other countries. So it was praised even in China as the best paper." □

► materials on the struggles of celebrated generals of the time including Ri Sun Sin, Kwak Jae U, Kim Ung So, Jong Mun Bu and Kwon Ryul and the rank and file, and combat equipment and technical hardware used in the war. A particular thing was the Turtle Ship, which was the earliest armoured warship in the world. Shaped like a turtle, the ship is 35 m long, 11.8 m wide and 5.2 m high. She has ten oars on each side and more than 70 loopholes. The sail can be erect or dropped as occasion demands. The ship is domed with large boards, looking like the back of a turtle. Except an aisle across the middle, the whole surface is covered with knives and drills all over so that the enemy could hardly set foot on it. The bow is shaped like the head of a turtle and there is a vent through which smoke of burning sulphur and niter come out to disturb the enemy's sight in battle. She is

so shaped as to be easy to look out from inside but hard to look in from outside. Firm and safe, fast and thoroughly-equipped with firearms, she was an incomparably powerful warship in the time. In July 1592 the Korean navy under Ri Sun Sin's command lured the enemy fleet to the sea off Hansan Island in the South Sea of Korea and annihilated them through encirclement operations. In the battle the Korean navy launched a fierce offensive against the enemy led by Turtle Ships, sinking 59 of the 73 enemy ships and removing thousands of enemy troops. This significant battle recorded in the Middle-Age history of naval engagements is called the Sweeping Victory Over the Japanese Armada off Hansan Island.

Article by Rim Ok
Photos by Ri Jong Su

Struggle to Achieve Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea (2)

Efforts to Replace Armistice with Durable Peace

LESS THAN A YEAR AFTER THE FOUNDING of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Front for the Reunification of Korea was formed in June 1949 involving the representatives of the political parties and social organizations from the north and south of Korea.

In June 1950 the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly made an epoch-making proposal to reunify the country by merging the SPA of the DPRK and the south Korean National Assembly into a single, all-Korea legislative body. But the US imperialists and the south Korean puppet clique, undesirous of Korea's reunification, did not accept the DPRK's proposals and took the road of unleashing a criminal, aggressive war on June 25, 1950. After the Korean war the US introduced new-type weapons into south Korea and moved the "UN Command" there, laying obstacles to Korea's reunification.

However, the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK government waged a dynamic struggle to turn the ceasefire into durable peace and realize the independent and peaceful reunification of the country. To this end, the WPK and the DPRK government made efforts to convene a political conference in accordance with the Korean Armistice Agreement. The main goal of the political conference was the complete withdrawal of the aggressive forces of the US and the troops of its vassal states from south Korea, settling of the Korean question by the concerted efforts of the Korean people themselves and preventing of the outside forces' interference in the internal affairs of Korea. Thanks to the positive efforts of the DPRK government, preliminary talks was held, but it came to a rupture.

After the failure of the Geneva conference the DPRK government, through the statement of its Foreign Ministry, proposed to hold a Far East conference involving Asian countries and a conference involving the belligerents in the Korean war, and urged the governments of countries concerned to take measures to withdraw their troops from Korea and achieve peaceful reunification of Korea. Along with this, it took on its own initiative measures for easing military confrontation between the north and the south and removing foreign troops from Korea. In the declarations of the SPA in March 1955 and of the Third Congress of the WPK in 1956 and the statements of the DPRK government on May 31, 1956 and in February 1958 the DPRK advanced proposals, where it suggested that the north and the south proclaim at home and abroad their will to settle their nation's question peacefully while refraining from the use of force against each other, reduce the troops of both sides below 100 000 each and remove all foreign troops from Korea at the earliest date. Actually,

the DPRK demobilized 80 000 of its troops by August 1956.

Meanwhile, the DPRK government made untiring efforts to realize many-sided collaboration and exchange between the north and the south with an aim to relink the national bonds and achieve unity. On several occasions including the 8th Session of the SPA in October 1954 and the Third Congress of the WPK, it repeatedly put forth compatriotic proposals for realizing extensive inter-Korean collaboration and exchange in all the political, economic, cultural, military and diplomatic fields and helping victims of disasters, the unemployed and orphans in the south.

The south Korean people's yearning for reunification ran high soon after the April Popular Uprising in 1960; young people, especially students, advocated for their country's reunification, shouting the slogan "Let us go north, come south, and let us meet at Panmunjom!"

On August 14, 1960, President Kim Il Sung, in his report at the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the country's liberation, put forward a proposal to realize a federation of the north and south of Korea as a transitional measure for hastening the country's independent and peaceful reunification if the south Korean authorities still could not agree to free north-south general elections. The proposal was for the realizing of federation by way of setting up a Supreme National Committee composed of the representatives of the government of the DPRK and the government of the "Republic of Korea" to settle the matters of common concern of the nation in a uniform way, while retaining the present social and political systems in the north and the south and maintaining the independent activities of the two governments. Encouraged by the proposal the south Korean people unfolded a patriotic struggle to put an end to national division and achieve the country's reunification. Fearful of this, the south Korean military fascist rulers cruelly oppressed and murdered the patriots and people who advocated for reunification. Those who had showed a slightest sign of discussing the matter of reunification and the reunification movement fell victim to the "Anti-Communist Law."

Nevertheless, the WPK and the DPRK government continuously took detailed and reasonable measures to achieve national reunification while launching a proactive struggle to implement the proposals for national reunification set forth by the President. But the US imperialists and the south Korean military junta answered to all those peace initiatives by escalating confrontation and pursuing war policies against the DPRK. For this reason the north and the south could not bring about even a slightest improvement in their relations, and the state of confrontation between both sides continued to exist.

Yom Song Hui

NIS Scandal Spawns Troubles in South Korea

THE SOUTH KOREAN AUTHORITIES ARE being plagued by the scandals involving the National Intelligence Service and the ruling Saenuri Party. In the run-up to the presidential election that took place on December 19 last year, Won Se Hun, then chief of the National Intelligence Service, directed his men to launch a propaganda campaign in favour of the election of the current president. Accordingly, NIS agents began to post articles on the Internet with different IP addresses—on a regular basis—to build up public opinion against candidates from opposition parties. But on December 11 a female agent was caught red-handed while trying to carry a malignant article on a website, followed by a series of shutdown of the controversial IP addresses. At the time many argued such a scandal might lead to the resignation of the president in other countries, and voices were raised calling for a thorough investigation into the affair. Police reluctantly got to a probe, but the investigation result incurred complaints that the probe rather covered up and played down the election rigging. After all, the case snowballed to cause a public furor. The embattled Saenuri Party and the NIS on June 24 this year chose to make public the full text of the minutes of the 2007 inter-Korean summit meeting.

However, this added fuel to the fire. Opposition parties and broad segments of people said that the revelation of the presidential records, which are not to be in the public domain in 15 years, was against both the law on presidential records and the NIS rules, adding that it is an “intolerable political conspiracy plotted by the Saenuri Party and the NIS to hush the latter’s intervention in the presidential election.” They observed that “inter-Korean relations were over for the five-year term of the Park Guen Hye regime” and she revealed “the true colours of confrontation-seeking process, not trust-building process.” *Wall Street Journal* reported that “an intelligence agency is a source of secret leaks in south Korea.” *Kyunghyang Sinmun* and other local media described the revelation as “an old trick to mislead public opinion to muffle criticism against the NIS’ rigging” and “another deception.”

Against this backdrop, a record was unveiled that suggests the Saenuri Party had already obtained a copy of the minutes with the help of the NIS before the presidential election and used it in favour of its candidate, which stirred up a hornet’s nest. Kim Mu Song, then chief of the Saenuri Party’s election camp, reportedly told a closed-door meeting of senior party officials that he had already got and read a copy of



South Korean people go on candlelit vigils urging for proper investigation into the National Intelligence Service’s involvement in the presidential election campaign held last year.

the minutes during the presidential race and went to great lengths about the details of the minutes in front of a crowd on a campaign trip to Pusan.

The NIS handed an excerpt from the minutes over to the Saenuri Party on two occasions before it made public the full text of the document, but the excerpt turned out to be a fake to the surprise of the general public. “The NIS’ excerpt of the minutes of the 2007 inter-Korean summit is literally a faultless ‘work of art,’” south Korean newspaper *Hangyore* commented in an article entitled “Excerpt of summit minutes played up.” “Words were added or removed to twist what they really mean. Contentious expressions were played up, context was illogic and unfavourable lines were cut. Such an excerpt became a ‘monster’ that is quite different from the original one,” the article read. The new revelation has thrown the south Korean authorities back into disarray and their political misconduct has been fully disclosed before the international community.

Anti-government protest actions are on the rise: declarations of the situation and candlelit vigils are taking place relentlessly and the opposition parties are decrying the authorities. On July 27 over 200 civil organizations got together in the plaza of the Seoul City Hall to hold pan-national candlelit vigils against the NIS’ political operation, which drew more than 25 000 people including activists, students, citizens and overseas compatriots. Analysts and media have likened the prevailing situation in south Korea to the eve of the popular uprising on April 19, 1960 that saw the downfall of the Syngman Rhee regime following the vote rigging during the election on March 15.

Kim Pong Chol

What Is Meant by Redeployment of Biochemical Unit?

THE 23RD CHEMICAL BATTALION OF THE US Army has been attached to the Second Division of the US armed forces in south Korea. Earlier this unit withdrew to the US mainland from a US military base in Chilgok, North Kyongsang Province, south Korea, where it belonged to the 19th theatre support command until 2004.

Dwelling on the redeployment of the biochemical unit in south Korea, the United States insists that this is “of a defensive nature and the basic object lies in the defense for the maintenance of stability of the Korean peninsula” and is “aimed at strengthening the deterrent of the US-south Korea alliance.”

The United States has already shipped various kinds of means of nuclear pre-emptive strike into the Korean peninsula. The situation is, therefore, so acute that a nuclear warfare might break out even after an accidental fire of a gun. Nevertheless, it went so far as to redeploy its own biochemical unit. This ridicules the American argument. The redeployment is far from “security” of the Korean peninsula.

Speaking of the 23rd Chemical Battalion it became notorious by participating in the Korean war in the 1950s. As soon as it suffered defeat after defeat in those days, confronted with the anti-US struggle of the Korean people, the United States tried to change the situation in its favour by the method of biochemical warfare.

From February 1951 to July 1953 the US troops used a large number of chemical weapons in 24 cities, counties and frontline areas in the northern half of the Korean peninsula, including Kangwon Province, the then Hwanghae Province, and South Phyongan Province. The United States started the mass use of noxious gas by carrying out an indiscriminate air strike against the city of Nampho on May 6, 1951, when 1 379 people were killed or wounded owing to US poison-gas bombs. The number of super napalm bombs alone showered by the United States during the Korean war amounts to upwards of 15 million. From February 27 to April 9, 1952, the US Air Force dropped poison-gas bombs as many as 33 times and almost in the same period the US ground troops showered suffocative and lachrymatory gas shells upon defence positions of the Korean People’s Army on 41 occasions. The United States sprayed various kinds of germs and poisonous gases over mountains, fields, rivers and lakes of Korea. And using the prisoners of war of the Korean People’s Army as “experimental” objects, it conducted varieties of experiments on their living bodies and on the basis of the data obtained in this process manufactured new chemical weapons to be used in the Korean war. In the use of chemical weapons by the United States there was no limit in the target of attack and the attack was delivered against every region and every target on the front and in the rear at any moment.

Now the United States is going to repeat such an

anti-ethical atrocity again. Biochemical warfare is one of the basic military operations of the US armed forces. The United States possessed of the largest amount of nuclear and biochemical weapons, makes use of chemical weapons in war of aggression against other countries as one of conventional weapons, thinking that it is the most effective weapon for wiping off the enemy.

The redeployment of the 23rd Chemical Battalion in south Korea is an open proclamation of biochemical warfare against the DPRK. The United States has reinforced the US armed forces stationed in south Korea without letup and has converted south Korea into the most dangerous nuclear advanced base. Together with the south Korean puppet troops, the US troops have kept on staging large-scale joint military exercises in south Korea and in its vicinity year after year and their frequency is on the increase and their scale becomes larger with every passing day. The number of these joint military exercises amounted to 34 occasions in 2008, 40 in 2009, 41 in 2010, 39 in 2011 and 43 in 2012. The numerical strength mobilized for the joint military exercise Ulji Freedom Guardian exceeded 400 000 in 2010 and 500 000 in 2012. This year the United States conducted joint military exercises codenamed Key Resolve, Foal Eagle and Ulji Freedom Guardian, the biggest in scale in history, brought into the sky over the Korean peninsula strategic bombers B-52 and B-2A and made nuclear-powered submarines and a fleet of battleships led by a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier openly move about the seas off the Korean peninsula, thus aggravating the situation as never before.

The United States considers the unprecedentedly strained situation in the Korean peninsula to be a chance for holding in check the great powers in the Asia-Pacific region and expanding the stifling offensive against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. The Korean peninsula is of key importance in the realization of the US’s new strategy for Asia-Pacific domination. The US maintains that “basic to the external policies of the United States in the 21st century is the policy toward Asia. And the focus in this respect is the Korean peninsula” and that “Without grasping the Korean peninsula we cannot guarantee the absolute interests of the United States in the Northeast Asian region nor can we guarantee the establishment of a new international order, and the leading position and role of the United States on a world scale.”

The redeployment of the chemical unit is aimed at completing the policy toward the DPRK even by using chemical weapons along with nuclear weapons. It is a long time since the line of distinction between peace and war got out of sight.

After all, the recent redeployment clearly shows the world community who is doing harm to the peace and security of the Korean peninsula. □

The “UN Command” Should Be Disbanded

IT IS 38 YEARS SINCE THE RESOLUTION ON disbanding of the “UN Command” in south Korea was adopted at the UN General Assembly. However, the resolution has not been executed to this day.

The Bogus “UN Command”

After the end of World War II the United States occupied south Korea militarily, and it started the Korean war on June 25, 1950 by instigating their south Korean puppets in an attempt to occupy the whole of Korea. On the same day it brought the Korean question to the United Nations Security Council and made it adopt a resolution labelling the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea as an “aggressor.” On July 7 the US had the UNSC illegally adopt Resolution No. 84 which stipulated that the UN member nations dispatch military forces to the Korean war to be placed under the Allied Forces Command led by the United States and that the Command use the flag of the UN. Malik, the then Soviet representative to the UN, said, “The only logical conclusion from all this is that the US government first committed the act of aggression and then labelled it as an action of the UN to hide their own act of aggression.” The Japanese historian Kamiya Fuji condemned that “the three UNSC resolutions dated June 25, June 27 and July 7 were, in reality, US resolutions.” Afterwards, the US, in its report to the UNSC on July 25, changed the name of the Allied Forces Command to “UN Command” at its discretion. This was how the “UN Command” in south Korea came into existence.

Therefore, former UN Secretary Generals said that the “UN Command” is not an apparatus under the UN but a war instrument of the United States, and the vice-spokesman for the UN Secretary General said on June 21 this year that the UN had no part to play in controlling the armed forces deployed in the Korean peninsula. Actually all the commanders of the “UN Forces,” Americans in nationality, have been appointed by the US Administration, and the UN does not foot the bill for it. In view of the circumstances of its establishment, its military system and the payment of its expenses, the “UN Command” is exactly the US Military Command.

The “UN Command” Coming Back

The 30th Session of the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on the dissolution of the “UN Command” in November 1975. After that, international pressure increased for disbanding the “UN Command” and withdrawing its forces from south Korea. This made the US set up the US-South Korea Combined Forces Command in 1978, and the US transferred to it the right of the “UN Command” to command control. This was to change the US troops in south Korea disguised as UN forces to the forces

dispatched in accordance with the US-south Korea “mutual defence treaty.”

As the anti-US sentiments for independence ran high in south Korea and the demand for taking back the right to command control, that is, the prerogative of supreme command, the United States became more clamorous. The latter handed over the peacetime command control to south Korea in 1994 and agreed to transfer its wartime command control in 2015. In that case, the US-South Korea Combined Forces Command under the US control in south Korea so far, will have to be broken up, and the US troops will have no justification for staying on further in south Korea. But the US, deeming south Korea a point of strategic importance in the Asia-Pacific region, is scheming to remain in south Korea and hold on its control of the south Korean army, while setting up a collective military organization. To do so, they think it necessary to revive the “UN Command.”

According to the resolution of the UNSC concocted by the US in June 1950, all military forces sent to south Korea come under the control of the “UN Command” (Allied Forces Command at the time) and the US is to have the right of command over them. The official letter on transferring the command control of the south Korean army, navy and air force, or the Taejon agreement, adopted in July 1950 between the US and south Korea gave over the command control of the south Korean three services to the “UN Command.” When the functions of the “UN Command” are restored, the command control of the south Korean armed forces will automatically return to the US. So the latter is reviving one by one the functions of the “UN Command” which remained only in name in recent years. The US is enlisting its vassal states that withdrew their forces from the “UN Forces” after the Korean war and creating a liaison delegation with their officers in active service. Along with this, the US is drawing those countries into the war exercises aiming at the DPRK. While escalating the scale and frequency of the joint war rehearsals in and around south Korea, the US is bringing the “UN Command’s” officers from those states into the war rehearsals to improve their combined operations capability. Further, it has established systems of sending troops and war materials to the front to rush the troops and war supplies from the vassal states to the Korean peninsula in case of contingency through the seven Japanese logistic bases under the “UN Command,” and is conducting relevant exercises.

Besides, the preparations for expanding the sphere of operations of the “UN Forces” to the whole of the Asia-Pacific region are going on. The US troops in south Korea which will be the main force of the “UN Forces” have been allowed “strategic flexibility” to give supports to other areas of East Asia in case of ▶

► crisis. Meanwhile, a plan of deploying troops of the US Marine Corps to be newly stationed in Australia to the Philippines and south Korea by turns is well under way.

The Asia-Pacific Strategy of the United States and the “UN Command”

The new defence strategy of the United States made public in January 2012 aims to encircle big nations in Asia and militarily restrain them to keep them from growing powerful to turn against it. To this end, the US is going to deploy 60 percent of its forces abroad in the Asia-Pacific region within ten years, and is making preparations to draw its allies in the area into a unified military pact. The “UN Command” will be the parent body of this collective military organization.

In order to avoid opposition from the countries concerned the United States is going to form the combined forces by means of reviving the functions of the “UN Command.” The US is intentionally aggravating the situation in the Korean peninsula to realize their defence strategy. For example, the US-south Korea joint war exercises carried out in March and April last deteriorated the situation in the Korean peninsula to the brink of war. With some member states of the “UN Command” taking part in them, those exercises closely resembled the circumstances of the Korean war in the 1950s.

The existence of the “UN Command” till now without justification and its revival as an organization of multi-national alliance with an operations sphere going beyond the bounds

of the Korean peninsula covering the Asia-Pacific region gravely endanger peace and stability in this region including Korea. If the move to establish a collective military organization is allowed in the Asia-Pacific region, the countries which fall within its range will inevitably oppose it in a concerted action. Then it is sure that the countries in this area will be split into sides as the countries elsewhere did in the past, bringing about another Cold War, and the danger of thermonuclear war will be increased in the extreme.

Having moved its military and strategic focus to the Asia-Pacific region, the US makes it its primary goal to seize the whole of the Korean peninsula. In this drive the “UN Command” is playing the role of a fuse to touch off a second Korean war.

Kim Il Bong



GIs in south Korea and south Korean puppet forces conduct reckless war exercises.

Japan Tries to Repeat Her History of Aggression

IN JAPAN A TENDENCY OF DEVIATION TO the right is becoming more pronounced from day to day. The whole of society is currently under an ultranationalistic drift and the extreme-right forces that have come to the fore are now active vigorously.

The Prime Minister personally insists on shouting “Long live the Emperor!” As a result, there floats a militaristic atmosphere of the imperial age and more and more Cabinet ministers and Diet members from the ruling and opposition parties pay homage to the Yasukuni Shrine. A radical tendency to more stoutly propel forward the Japanese ruler’s visit to the Yasukuni Shrine is being manifested strongly in Japan. At no time did Japanese political circles advance the national leader’s visit to the shrine as an important political issue and have a discussion about it. What comes in question is that a large majority of Japanese politicians come out in support of the ruler’s visit to the shrine and hold that his paying reverence at the Shrine is Japan’s independent political expression. As for the matter of the Prime Minister’s paying reverence at the shrine the Japanese reactionary ruling circles, including the ultraright forces, show a stubborn attitude, saying that this is a matter Japan herself should judge and dispose of without studying anyone’s face or mood.

The Japanese ruler’s stand and attitude related to visit to the shrine starkly show the ideological and political tendency of Japanese political circles that are turning to the right all the more. The matter of visiting the shrine by the Japanese ruling circles is not a simple one restricted only to Japan but is a keen international political one related to her neighbouring countries. Now many of Asian countries guard against the Japanese ruler’s visit to the shrine, regarding it not merely as a visit to the shrine itself but also as a denial of the Japanese criminal history and dangerous attempt for its revival.

Meanwhile, under the guise of “contribution to peace” military operations of the Self-Defense Forces of Japan are reaching areas of dispute. Against this background moves for constitutional amendment are becoming enthusiastic. The present ruling forces are going to completely get rid of the “pacifist Constitution” that remains only in appearance by making a revision of Article 96 of the constitution and then totally revising Article 9 for the worse so as to fully do away with the “pacifist Constitution.” Movements for providing a war state with a legal guarantee by revising the “pacifist Constitution” are a rash ultranationalistic act of those in authority aimed at making the history of aggression repeated again.

Dissatisfied with the constitution now in force all the time, the extreme-rightist forces in Japan have sought a chance, raising much fuss about “constitutional amendment” as often as the opportunity presents itself, in an attempt to constitutionally convert Japan some time or other into “a country capable of having armed forces” and “a country capable of giving rise to war” by means of its amendment.

Kept deep in their hearts is a desire to make the legal foundation for militarization and overseas expansion perfect without fail by changing the “pacifist Constitution” into a war constitution, which was adopted after World War II and has been in force so far. In keeping with the radical rightist atmosphere the Liberal Democratic Party drew up an “overture related to defence” for the mapping out of a new “guideline for defence programme.” The key point in this overture is the exercise of the right to collective self-defence based on “constitutional amendment,” the founding of the national defence forces and the possessing of offensive capability against missile launching bases. Also mentioned expressly in it is research into strategy pertaining to nuclear deterrent Japan is going to conduct on the plea of threat from a certain nation. The point in question now is that Japan is misleading public opinion at home and abroad at present, saying as if she had no choice but to exercise the right to collective self-defence for “defence,” found national defence forces and attack the enemy bases on account of the DPRK.

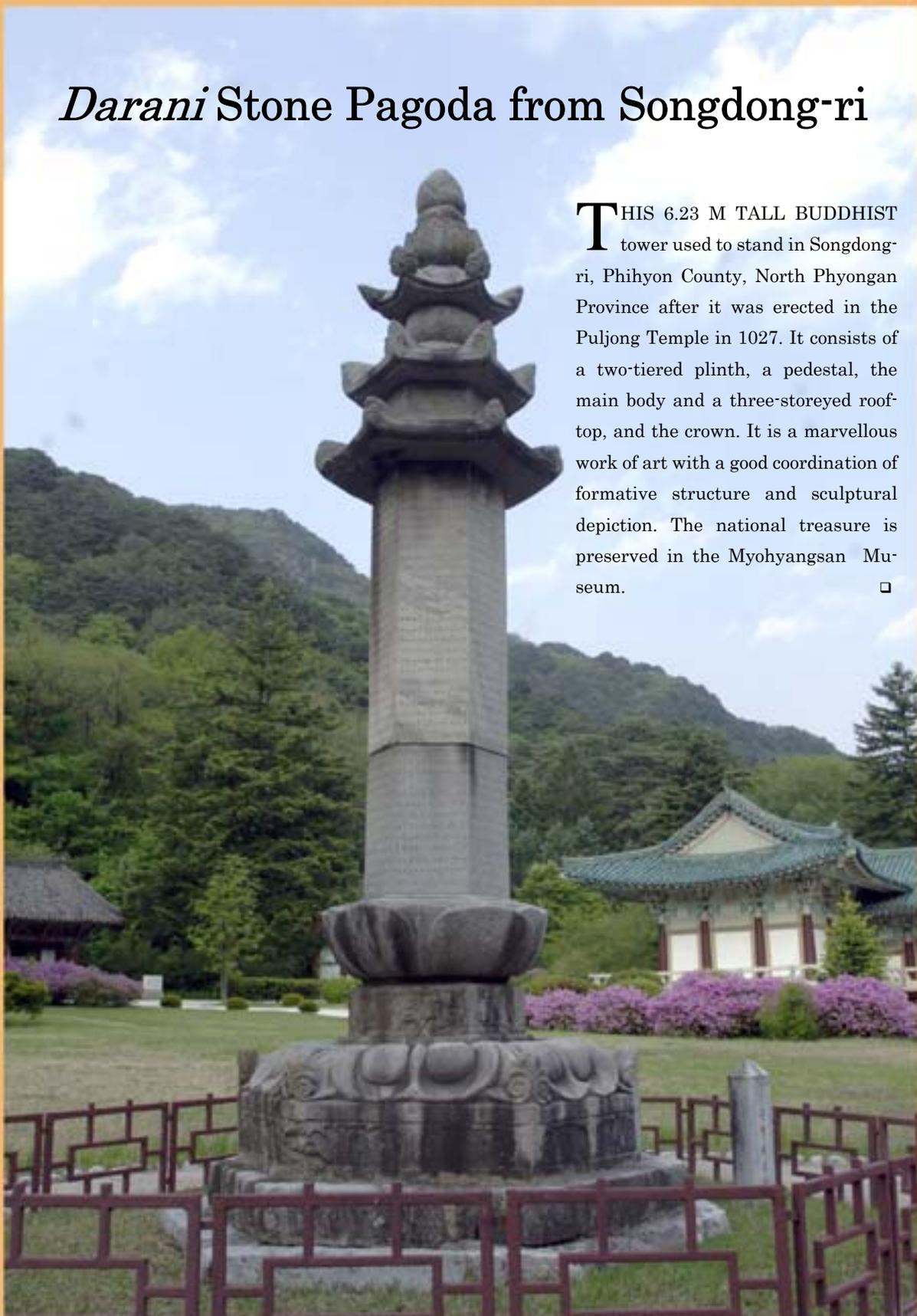
The exercise of the right to collective self-defence, the possession of national defence forces and the possession of offensive capability against enemy bases—all these matters have nothing to do with defence and are no more than a pretext to realize Japan’s avaricious desire for overseas aggression. The purpose pursued by the Japanese rightwing forces lies in converting the present-day Japan into a war state with the right to belligerence and the right to participation in war. A “normal state” mentioned by Japan is, in the long run, a “war state.” On the contrary, an attempt to legalize Japan’s militarization and overseas aggression is a criminal act that goes against international conventions that define her position as a war criminal state. Ultranationalists try their hardest to make the history of aggression repeated over again while denying their bloody past crimes.

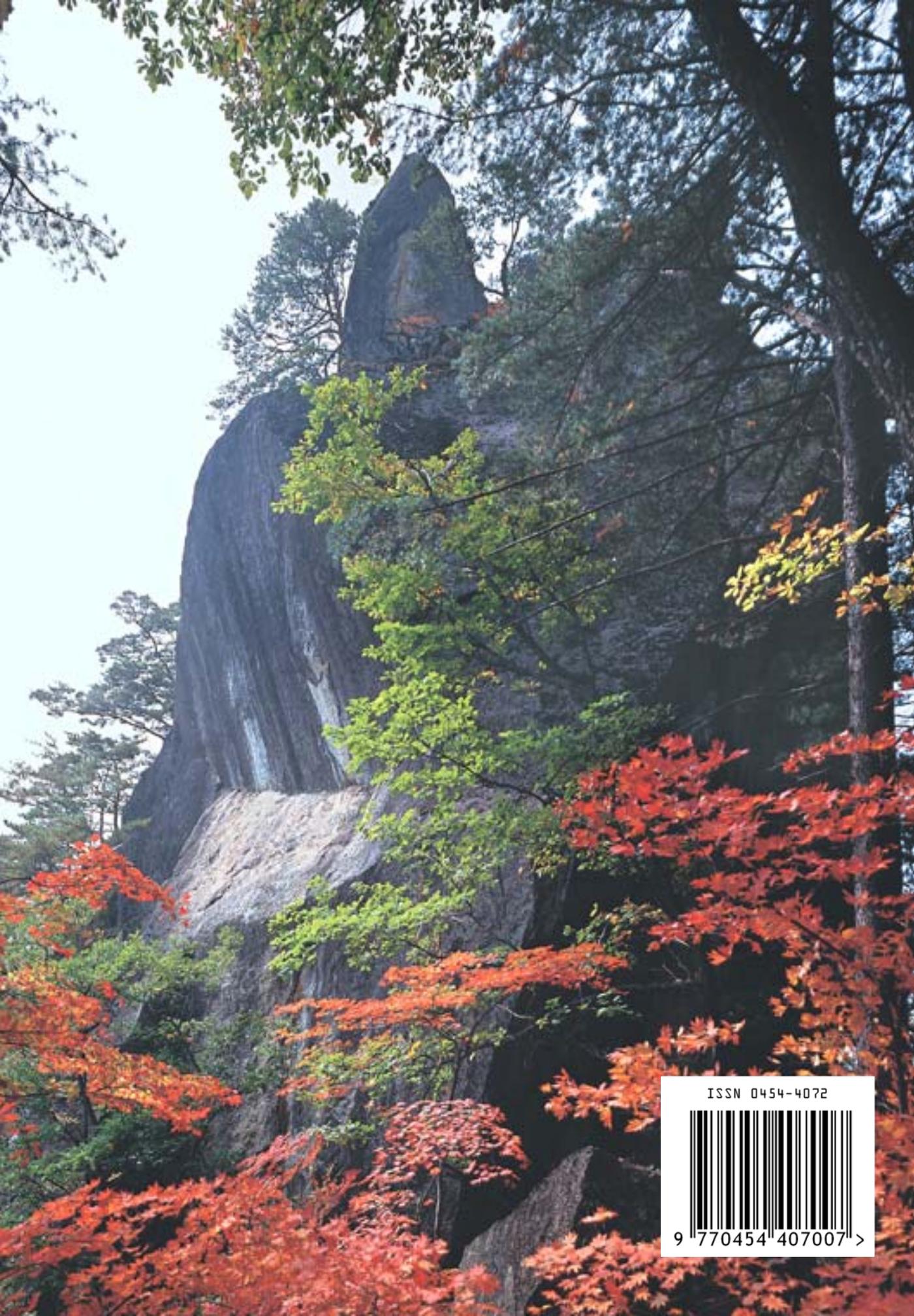
So long as there exist many people infected with this idea, Japan will not be able to wipe off such an eternal disgrace as a defeated nation.

Choe Kwang Guk

Darani Stone Pagoda from Songdong-ri

THIS 6.23 M TALL BUDDHIST tower used to stand in Songdong-ri, Pihyon County, North Phyongan Province after it was erected in the Puljong Temple in 1027. It consists of a two-tiered plinth, a pedestal, the main body and a three-storeyed roof-top, and the crown. It is a marvellous work of art with a good coordination of formative structure and sculptural depiction. The national treasure is preserved in the Myohyangsan Museum. □





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