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Golden Star of Peace

Chairman Kim Jong Il was awarded the Golden Star of Peace order by the Federation of Mongolian Peace and Friendship Organizations in February 2002.

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Front Cover: On a way to school

Photo by Jo Yong Nam



Back Cover: Sinyang Valley

Photo by Kim Jin Ho

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Power of Korea

YOU CAN BREAK A TWIG of the bush clover but not the trunk of a big tree—this was what the Korean people voiced early in last century when they were waging a holy struggle to defeat the Japanese imperialists who occupied their country by force of arms and win the historic cause of national liberation. By the strength of the rock-firm unity, they emerged victorious in the anti-Japanese armed struggle, won the great victory in the Fatherland Liberation War in the 1950s and established a people-centric socialist Korea.

The army-people unity which has been the basis and mainstay of the Korean revolution is still the powerful source of the firm conviction in the future in the

ongoing struggle to build a thriving socialist country. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the ethos of helping the people and assisting the army is always there all around the country, like the air you breathe in and out. The soldiers assist the people and vice versa.

The military personnel do their utmost to serve the people and protect the life and interest of the people, while assuming the mission of national defence. Regarding the people as their kinsfolk, they make sincere efforts to solve difficult problems in the living conditions of the residents in their localities. When they find dwellings in fire, they never hesitate to sacrifice themselves to save the lives and properties of

the people; when they see people and their ships in distress in the sea, they readily risk their lives to rescue them. They like to help farming jobs including rice transplanting, repair and maintain bridges, river banks and roads when they are damaged in natural calamities, and restore dwellings when they are destroyed in floods.

The people, thinking it a typical sign of patriotism to aid the army, always help the service personnel with all sincerity. There are very many families who have offered aids to the soldiers for scores of years. Sending children to posts of national defence is regarded as the supreme obligation of the citizens. Almost all families have stories about ►

Pyongyangites give enthusiastic cheers to participants in a military parade.



▶ their proud children who are honorably engaged in military service for the defence of the country.

The imperialist moves to strangle socialism are as desperate as ever, but the DPRK's cause of building a thriving socialist nation is making a fast pace. This is not simply attributable to the campaign of the military helping the civilians and the civilians aiding the military with sincerity. What's more important is that the army and the people share the same idea and manner of struggle based on the revolutionary soldier spirit—initiated by the Korean People's Army personnel— whose kernel is

guarding the national leader with one's very life, implementing the Workers' Party of Korea's policies at the risk of one's life and sacrificing oneself heroically. When the tree strikes sturdy roots deep into the ground it will grow to be a giant strong enough to stand any storm. Likewise, the unanimous idea and manner of struggle of the army and the people consist in the roots of the people-centric socialist community of Korea.

There is Sohung Army-People Bridge in Sohung County, North Hwanghae Province. At first, the county administration decided to erect the bridge with the county's own efforts and resources and designed a wonderful bridge with the help of the Pyongyang

Urban Planning and Designing Research Institute. Seeing the blueprint, however, they were somewhat gripped with worries, because they knew they had little experience in such a project. At the moment a KPA unit stationed in the county came out to undertake the construction. Then, by creating and introducing new methods, the soldiers completed the project in a much shorter period of time than the scheduled one year. Now the local inhabitants say unanimously that the project gave them a better idea of what kind of people the service personnel are who embody the revolutionary soldier spirit. Meanwhile, the soldiers say, "We did not build the bridge by ourselves. We could hardly have finished the construction so fast if we had not ▶



► had the people's sincere care and support.”

The crystallization of the joint efforts was named Sohung Army-People Bridge. The soldiers stationed in the county also gave active assistance to the county people in the construction of a mushroom farm, a fish farm and the expansive reconstruction of the County People's Hospital. This kind of episode is not to be found in the county alone.

There are lots of “army-people” named establishments and structures around the country, like an army-people power station, an army-people reservoir, and an army-people fish farm.

In June 1999 there occurred an incident in the West Sea of Korea: the enemy intentionally

ran against Korean People's Army Navy vessels on patrol. No sooner had the report been made than the ex-soldiers and war veterans in the shore nearby turned out to join the fight against the enemy. The local women wrote a letter to the soldiers, describing the minds of all the women in the country. Further encouraged by the letter, the sailors fought more valiantly against the invaders.

Amidst the forceful nationwide movement to adopt the revolutionary soldier spirit, there were created the Kanggye Spirit and the torches of Songgang and Ranam, and monumental edifices mushroomed up representing the era of Songun. In Pyongyang, parks, pleasure grounds, Pothong and Hapjang

rivers got facelifts while a lot of new structures went up, including the Munsu Water Park and the Mirim Riding Club. The people follow the example of the revolutionary culture of the soldiers in whatever they do, in doing occupational jobs, singing and developing living quarters and workplaces.

The national leader Kim Jong Un often inspects KPA units and asks to continue to do good things for the sake of the people and make close cooperation with the people to make a greater success in socialist construction. His wise guidance is the source of victory that further strengthens the army-people unity and brings out its advantages to the full.

An Song Duk

The Masikryong Ski Resort is a result of the concerted efforts of the army and the people.



The Root

The main thing in army-people unity

ON FEBRUARY 22, 1998, Chairman Kim Jong Il, sitting together with the commanding officers of the Korean People's Army, said that some people now thought the unity of army and people left nothing to be desired if the people provided the army with plenty of gifts, but that the army-people unity he meant was not a material matter like that. He added, "True, it is important in realizing army-people unity that the army helps people while the latter assist the former with all sincerity, but the main thing here is that both of them share the same idea and fighting spirit."

Later on March 29, he saw the light comedy *The Letter* produced by the artistes of the then Korean People's Army April 25 Film Studio. After seeing it, he spoke highly of it by saying that the comedy gave a profound philosophical elucidation that the idea of army-people unity is invincible, and that those who had a nihilistic idea about the Korean life and saw only its outward appearance rather than its essence would come to themselves with a start by seeing the comedy. Army-people unity means

oneness of the army and the people, and so long as their ideas and working manners differ from each other, they cannot achieve complete oneness no matter how they may help and support each other. He remained deep in thought for a while before he resumed, "Oneness of the army and the people in their idea and fighting spirit based on the revolutionary soldier spirit is the essence of the idea of army-people unity and the root of our society."

Helping the people comes first

"So this unit took part in the land rezoning project in Kangwon Province," Chairman Kim Jong Il said with pleasure while looking over the historical record of the KPA unit in its Soldiers' Hall on July 19, 2005. The Chairman learned that the unit had carried out the land rezoning project in Taebaek-ri, Changdo County, Kangwon Province, and helped the villagers in farming in the manner of the master, and that that year too, they aided the farm to finish rice-transplantation first and foremost in the county. After hearing their words, the Chairman said, "You've done well. The army should naturally

behave like that. Army-people unity is the root of our society, and I wish the People's Army support the people. Supporting the people comes first and helping the army next. The army should support the people."

That day the Chairman visited another army unit in spite of the sweltering weather of mid-summer. He asked the officers of the unit about the crop prospects of the county where the unit was stationed, and how they helped its people. Then he questioned:

"Do you help the county people well in farming?"

"Dear Chairman, we have helped them in farming with all devotion in the manner of the master that the people and officials of the county are very much delighted."

"It is very good to help the people in the area where you are stationed. Helping the people is the duty of the People's Army. To have good relations with the people is all important for winning the battles against the enemy."

His remarks contained another important and sacred mission of the People's Army which should be a model of society in all aspects as the main force and hard core of the Songun revolution.

Kim Un Jong

The Sound of the Watermill

UNDER THE SUBTITLE *The sound of the watermill of his reminiscences* **With the Century Vol. 5** *President Kim Il Sung recalled how the people in Changbai, northeast China, had aided the Korean People's Revolutionary Army in the years of the anti-Japanese war. Following are the excerpts:*

Ever since autumn 1936, the Changbai people pounded an immeasurable amount of grain with those watermills to support us. Nearly all the dozens of watermills, both big and small, installed in Changbai, were related to the support-the-guerrillas work. The watermills are inscribed in my memory as a symbol of the all-people, support-the-guerrillas campaign. Thanks to the active support and encouragement of the Changbai people, we could wage a protracted anti-Japanese war, with Mt. Paektu as a stronghold.

.....
The assistance of the Changbai people to the People's Revolutionary Army was a voluntary campaign initiated on the basis of their vital needs. Helping the revolutionary army was the only way to resurrect Korea—this was their belief. Consequently they were not afraid of death and did not flinch from the scorching sun in mid-summer and the blinding snow in mid-winter, when it came to support for the army.

Whenever I recall

the images of the Changbai people, who were out to assist the army, the upright and simple image of Ri Ul Sol's father, Ri Pyong Hon, who, as a member of our organization, was working as a village head in Yinghuadong, appears in my mind's eye.

At the end of 1936, when we were staying in the secret camp in Heixiazigou, Ri Pyong Hon and his party visited Headquarters, carrying supplies prepared by the revolutionary organization in Yinghuadong. I still recall vividly the Korean traditional socks they brought, padded with more cotton and twice as long as usual pairs. I picked a pair of the socks from the package and tried them on; they came up to my knees.

I admired the women in Yinghuadong for their assiduous workmanship and sincerity.

.....

While I looked carefully at

the socks in my hands, someone unpacking a knapsack of grain exclaimed, "Look here, General! Even the Japanese Emperor may never have seen such barley."

At that moment I could not believe my eyes. Fine barley as white as snow! Is this barley, not rice? They must have pounded it with great sincerity to make it so clean and tempting!

"You have taken so much trouble, sir. I see such barley for the first time. How did you hull it to make it as white as this?"

"We hulled it four times."

"Why? Barley can be boiled for eating after hulling only twice. Your sincerity is really beyond imagination."

.....

In Yinghuadong many households suffered from a dearth of food grain; one of them was Ri Ul Sol's. Although they had scanty meals of grass gruel, his family tried not to lag behind the others in supporting the revolutionary



Water mills in Changbai, China worked day and night hulling grains to be supplied to the guerrillas.



► army. So they picked wild berries in summer and wild grapes and rocambole in autumn to sell them at the market in Hyesan. Whenever the mother returned with wild fruits and assorted them, his younger brothers would sit round her with watery mouths. Even though she read their minds well, she did not readily give them even a single wild berry, for she considered this to mean less sincerity to the revolutionary army.

On returning from the secret camp, Ri Pyong Hon boasted to his children that he had seen me. Ri Ul Sol replied that he would go to the guerrillas right away and fight under my wings ...

Next summer [Ri Pyong Hon] sent his son and nephew to the guerrilla army. Sending beloved children to the army constituted the highest expression of the spirit of support for the army.

... ..

In those days a slash-and-burn peasant family, with four able-bodied persons, could harvest 20 or 30 *tan* (a *tan* equals 40 pecks—Tr.) of potato at most in a year. They had to grind a dozen *mal* of potato to get one *mal* of starch. One *mal* of starch cost 60 *fen* or so at that time. A *mal* of starch was not enough to buy a pair of workman's shoes. So they made toffee or wine and sold them for money. In those days it was difficult to buy goods even if you had money. Therefore the people had to rack their brains and make tireless efforts to purchase every supply sent to the guerrillas.

Even under such adverse conditions the people in Changbai County obtained various kinds of goods and sent them to the mountains.

Every Korean living in Changbai County helped the guerrillas. Even the elderly, who could only walk with the help of canes, climbed mountains and barked basswood trees; they burned the midnight candle to

make us shoes with the bark. The women ran the watermills, standing guard in turn, refraining from lighting fires in cold winter nights, in order to avoid the lackeys' surveillance.

... ..

The sincerity displayed by the Changbai people in their support for the revolution was indeed unique. They enthusiastically aided the revolutionary army, even selling their properties and laying down their lives when circumstances demanded.

In May 1937 a surprising incident happened; the dead bodies of a baby and a woman were discovered on the road to Erdaogang. She was a common rural woman, who had secretly nursed a wounded guerrilla in her house, before her arrest. A military police officer of the Japanese army pounced upon her and the wounded man under medical treatment and escorted them to his headquarters. She was a tough woman; she stealthily hid a dagger in her bosom, when leaving the house and on the road cut the officer's face with the dagger, then took out the pistol from his waist. Thanks to her efforts, the guerrilla escaped. She kept the watch of the officer with the pistol in her hand for nearly half an hour, until the guerrilla had run out of sight. Regaining his consciousness, the officer pounced upon the woman, snatched the pistol from her and stabbed her and her baby mercilessly to death.

... ..

One day I left two of my men under the care of old man Ji Pong Phal, a member of the underground organization in Zhujiadong; one was Kim Ryong Yon, who was suffering from an intestinal disorder, while the other wounded individual was a recruit, whose name escapes my memory. The old man took tender care of them for two months and was then killed during an enemy's "punitive" operation.

When the enemy attacked his village, he made sure that the soldiers of the revolutionary army took shelter on the mountain; he then stayed on his own in his house aware that if he also escaped leaving his house empty, the enemy would comb the mountain in search of the soldiers of the revolutionary army.

The enemy tortured him to expose the whereabouts of the revolutionary soldiers, but he curtly replied that he did not know. The enemy beat his face ruthlessly with a leather belt. Blood gushed from his face instantly. However, the more they beat him and swore, the firmer his closed mouth became.

They stood him in a grave, saying that they would bury him alive. They threatened at gunpoint that they would give him a cash reward, if he told them where the wounded had taken shelter or else they would bury him.

However he remained silent.

In despair they shot him standing in the grave. Before breathing his last, the old man left this simple request with his fellow village people, "Please help our army wholeheartedly. Only then will a new society emerge."

... ..

The traditions of support for the army and the unity of the army and the people established during the anti-Japanese armed struggle became more indestructible and was consolidated even more in the great Fatherland Liberation War. The victory of our young Republic in the fight against the "strongest power" on the globe should be attributed to the fact that we enlisted the entire people and relied on the unity of the army and the people, whereas the enemy imposed mostly pure military force.

These grand traditions are being advanced honourably today under the guidance of our Party. □

In the Days of the Songun Revolutionary Leadership

The Historic Inspection

ON AUGUST 25, 1960 Kim Jong Il visited the Korean People's Army Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105th Tank Division. That day he clarified the KPA's mission of hastening the final victory of the Korean revolution, holding high the slogan "Let us defend with our very lives the Party Central Committee headed by the respected Comrade Kim Il Sung!" Then he expressed his firm determination to make the country strong enough to check any enemy from touching it. His inspection of the division marked the start of his Songun-based leadership which was the faithful continuance of the Songun revolutionary leadership pioneered and maintained by President Kim Il Sung. It was also a historic event in strengthening and developing the revolutionary armed force and in the implementation of the revolutionary cause of Juche. Thanks to Kim Jong Il's Songun revolutionary leadership the KPA has grown up as a staunch armed force loyal to the national leader and the Workers' Party of Korea, guarding the nation's peace and the people's happiness in the country.

Unforgettable Dwarf Pine Post

On the morning of the 1995 New Year's Day Chairman Kim Jong Il inspected an AA

battery in luxuriant dwarf pine woods. He watched the firing practice of the soldiers standing on the emplacement, and then said confidently, "As there is the invincible People's Army that is faithful to our Party, it is definite that the revolutionary cause of Juche will be crowned with credit." His inspection of the post after seeing out 1994 in tears over the greatest national loss, the demise of the DPRK's eternal President Kim Il Sung, was a historic event announcing to the whole world—without any speech or solemn declaration—that his politics was the one of giving priority to military affairs and strengthening the People's Army first of all social groups. With his inspection, the post, which was unmarked on any map, has been known to the world, to say nothing of the country.

Staunch Men of Ideology and Faith

One January day several years ago Kim Jong Il gave a field inspection to a KPA unit. Making rounds of the unit he knew that the unit was conducting the political work in depth using well-arranged conditions for edification. When he saw a board in the corridor of the soldiers' hall written with "All Soldiers Are Trained as Staunch Men of Ideology and Faith," he said that the content of the board was good, especially the one

dealt with the task of making the soldiers strong in ideology and faith. Then he noted that much emphasis should be placed on cultivation of the soldiers' faith. Now the soldiers had a better idea of the philosophical principle that the might of the gun lies in the faith of the soldiers.

The Most Urgent Problem

One day in August 1999 Chairman Kim Jong Il taught how to solve the problem of producing condiment to be supplied to the military personnel, urging the KPA commanders to direct consistent efforts to providing better living conditions to the soldiers. Then he talked of the fact that high-quality salt and vinegar produced by a newly-built factory were supplied to the service personnel. He said that the problem of condiment for the soldiers could be solved substantially when the project of a dried soy sauce and paste workshop and a monosodium glutamate workshop was finished at a factory. He continued to say that it was very important to produce tasty soy sauce and paste and supply them to the soldiers, and that the dried soy sauce and paste workshop should be well furnished to improve the quality of the products remarkably as the bean paste soup was the most favourite thing with the Koreans from ancient times. □

Mother's Life

(Continued from the last issue)

IT IS NOT TOO MUCH TO say that the life of a man consists in choice at every moment. Indeed, life is a continuation of choice from setting the goal of one's life to choosing one's spouse or even trivial choices of food and clothes. A man can end his life in comedy or tragedy according to his choices in life. But this way of thinking belongs to the twilight of life. In those days when I was young and reckless, I simply left my home, pretending "suicide by drowning," only yearning towards the unknown mysterious future.

In my bundle there were only a few notebooks. I had neither a penny for my journey nor a ball of boiled kaoliang for food. However, I was merry and cheerful like a bird out of the cage. At dusk I arrived at the home of Jang Pong Jin, a cousin-in-law of my grandfather, in Sujin Sub-county, Uiju County. The old man listened to the story of my bravado and murmured, "What a wench!" with a wry smile. Days later I enrolled in the first-year class of the Uiju Yangsil School through the kind offices of Jang. My dream of learning came true at last. The Uiju Yangsil School had been founded by the influential persons of the county—who set up the Phyongbuk Secondary School Association in 1908—by merging the Yangsil School (founded in 1906), the parent, and Uisin Primary School, Paesin Girls' School and other schools. It stood on

Utbat Pass, which is to be found before the Uiju South Gate.

The main target of the patriotic cultural movement in the closing years of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty was the political and cultural enlightenment of the people. From the outset the movement showed a marked anti-Japanese tendency as the Japanese imperialists became still more naked in their attempts to invade Korea. In the early 20th century the patriotic intellectuals like Ri Jun, Pak Un Sik, Sin Chae Ho and Ju Si Gyong, encouraged by the anti-Japanese struggle of the people, took the lead in the mass enlightenment movement for restoration of Korea's sovereignty. The movement entered a new phase of uplift in the fierce flames of nationwide rejection of the "Ulsa Five-point Treaty" fabricated by the Japanese imperialists at the end of 1905. Now that the country was under the rule of the Japanese imperialists, the champions of the movement put up the restoration of national sovereignty as the first and foremost task and found the key to its solution in building up national power on one side and learning from the advanced nations on the other, and in self-buildup through the development of education and industry. For this reason they positively asserted the development of education and industry.

They formed various organizations and waged dynamic campaigns to enlighten the masses through different kinds of struggles such as the education move-

ment, press activity and the movement for using the Korean letters. While forming various organizations and carrying on organizational activities, they attached special importance to education, identifying it with the life-or-death question of the nation. Having keenly realized that the loss of national sovereignty resulted from the backwardness of the nation, the pioneers and patriots decided that education was the foundation and main factor of national prosperity and that without developing it, they could not achieve the independence and modernization of the country, and erected schools in all parts of the country. So private schools were established all over the country for educating youths and children in the patriotic spirit while some of conventional village schools were reorganized into modern educational institutes. The private schools founded by the adherents of the patriotic cultural movement in those days numbered several thousands. Some of them were well-known: the Taesong School of Pyongyang, Osan School of Jongju, Yangsan School of Anak and Pochang School of Kanghwa. In addition to this, countless evening schools were established in towns and rural communities.

The Uiju Yangsil School aspiring to the new trend of thoughts, gave education replete with anti-Japanese patriotic contents and, naturally, the school became a base fostering intellectuals and militants of the ►

► independence movement and a centre of the anti-Japanese national salvation campaign. Later, I heard from Messrs O Tong Jin and Hong Ha Sun that the school had conducted brisk anti-Japanese activities, giving lectures for national salvation and holding oratorical meetings, and that Kim Hyong Jik (father of President Kim Il Sung) visited the school several times to give lectures and guide the student movement, teaching songs implanting the spirit of independence in the minds of the students. The school's educational system comprised the three-year middle school course, the four-year primary school course, and the land survey class. At the school Korean language, history, geography, arithmetic, and singing were taught just as at other private schools. The pupils and students numbered over 300 and the teachers about 20.

In the summer of that year, a half year after I left home, I wrote to my father that I was alive and begged his pardon for having worried him. I said that there was no help for it at that time, and that now I was studying at the Yangsil School in Uiju, and asked for money for school expenses. Upon receipt of my letter, my father rushed to me instantly. He didn't scold me but only patted me on the head. He said he would not disturb me in my studies and would send all the things I needed. After that I could devote myself to studies for two years without worries about money. One day I received a letter from my father. He wrote that my younger brother Ri Kwan Hyon entered the Sakju Public Primary School and took up lodging in Sakju town. He mentioned that now he had to remit boarding and school ex-

penses to both of us, and that he could save some expenses if my brother and I studied and lodged in one and the same place. I replied I could go to the school of my brother. I moved to the Sakju Primary School and lodged at the house of Ri Hong Rin with my brother.

The Sakju Public Primary School established in 1911 had over 300 boys and about 50 girls on its register. It was a six-year school and the headmaster was a Japanese. Looking back on the days when I was at the school, I cannot forget the bad impression of the arrogant, swaggering Japanese headmaster who used to make a false show of the "superiority" of the Japanese race. Every time he delivered an address to the pupils, he mentioned the inferiority of the Korean people. When some students made trivial mistakes, he would ascribe them to the national inferiority. Furthermore, he would refer to the backwardness of our nation when some of the children stayed away from school for family reasons or failed to pay their monthly school fees in time, and I couldn't stand it. For the first time in my life I began to hate the Japanese for their brazen-faced nature and moral meanness.

When I recall those school days, I can never forget my class teacher Kim Chan Jong. He was a teacher of Chinese classics, and used to tell interesting old tales in class and taught the knack of easy learning of Chinese characters with the principle of the six calligraphic styles. A man of extensive knowledge with a strong sense of justice, he would write a Chinese phrase on the blackboard and tell the tale associated with its origin. Then he would abruptly change the sub-

ject of talk to the tragic fate of our nation and make a fiery speech. His words, alive with patriotic fervour, strongly touched our hearts.

As I had learned the primer of Chinese characters and Chinese poems from my father in my childhood, my school performance was rather good. The teachers called me top pupil, speaking highly of me. But I never thought I was cleverer than others. It was inconceivable apart from my strict yet gentle parents' lofty love and upbringing, in particular, their patriotic education that I had some knowledge and attainments. In my childhood, I ran many errands for my father. Each time he did not give me a note to be delivered, but strictly demanded that I learn by rote the message of the errand. It was necessary to keep secrets because my father was engaged in the anti-Japanese independence struggle in contact with Kim Hyong Jik and O Tong Jin.

In the spring of 1917 when I was sixth-year pupil of the Sakju School, I was recommended for a senior school and admitted to the practical arts department (three-year course) of the Pyongyang Public Girls' High School. Founded in 1914, the school was situated in Hasugu-ri in the heart of Pyongyang with a student enrollment of 300 in less than ten classes and a teaching staff of 20 (mostly Japanese). The department set up to train arts teachers of primary schools taught specialized knowledge of housekeeping, sewing, cooking, embroidery and music which was necessary for women's life. This was an aspect of the women's movement which emerged as a trend of the times together with the enlightenment ideas.

(To be continued)

Reliable Vanguard

A GIGANTIC STRUGGLE IS GOING ON IN the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to build a thriving socialist nation. Miracles and innovations are sweeping the whole land. This ethos is mainly spearheaded by the young people. In the past century the Korean youth created the Chollima Speed and the Pyongyang Speed in the most difficult and labour-consuming fields in every period and stage of the Korean revolution—the building of a new country, the Fatherland Liberation War, the postwar rehabilitation and the socialist construction—bringing policies of the Workers' Party of Korea into practice. Inheriting such a spirit, young people at present are creating the Korean Speed in the new century of the Juche era. The soldier builders of the Korean People's Army are making innovations in all sites of socialist construction as the main force of the revolution, holding high the slogan "Let us take upon ourselves both national defence and socialist construction!"

Last year they built the Rungna People's Pleasure Ground, the Munsu Water Park, the Mirim Riding Club, the Unha Scientists Street, the Okryu Children's Hospital, the Ryugyong Dental Hospital and the Masikryong Ski Resort in less than or a little over a year. Parks, pleasure grounds, vegetable greenhouses and mushroom-production bases were wonderfully erected to the delight of the people. After the completion of the ski resort the soldier builders, the creators of the Masikryong Speed, participated in the renovation of the Songdowon International Children's Camp in November last year and created the Korean Speed in the revolutionary soldier spirit in the most adverse condition of winter. In May last they finished the project with credit. All the buildings and facilities befit a civilized socialist state in terms of their style and content while being consistent with the principle of giving top priority to convenience and aesthetic beauty as required by the Juche-based idea of architectural beauty.

The soldier builders charged with the task of building a hostel for the workers of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill erected a wonderful structure in a short period of some 180 days, to be worthy of a project in the era of the WPK. Those who were ordered to build the January 8 Fishing Station

that would work exclusively for baby homes, orphanages, orphans' primary and secondary schools and elderly folks' homes across the country, set up all the production buildings, living facilities and the dwelling district as good as to be worth mentioning even in the distant future—in a matter of a little over two months. "Let us take responsibility for the safety of the project and guarantee its absolute quality for all eternity!" was the slogan they upheld.

By making the flames of the industrial revolution in the new century flare up more fiercely, the young scientists of Korea, with the same spirit and mettle as were displayed in conquering space, are waging a dynamic campaign to break through the cutting edge of science and technology. They are making positive efforts to help build a knowledge-based economic giant and a civilized socialist nation by dint of science and technology. Young researchers of Kim Il Sung University and Kim Chaek University of Technology and many other universities and colleges are producing valuable inventions and new technological innovations. Those of the State Academy of Sciences and similar organs and enterprises have developed numbers of inventions and programs. The scientists of the February 8 Vinalon Complex have introduced such research successes as the establishment of IT-based control system in the acetylene production process and the feeding monitoring system in the air-tight carbide kiln. In March last there was an exhibition of sci-tech achievements of the young scientists dispatched to factories and enterprises in different fields of the national economy across the country. Over 3 200 items of technological innovation of as many as 2 000 sorts were put on display. The visitors were particularly attracted to the presentations from South Phyongan, South Hwanghae, North Hwanghae, Ryanggang, North Hamgyong and South Hamgyong provinces, and the Ryongsong Machine Complex, the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex and the February 8 Vinalon Complex.

Noble traits are flourishing among youth and students as befit the Songun era. In April last some graduates of the teacher training college and the college of education in South Hwanghae Province volunteered to work at schools in far-off, solitary islets in the West Sea of Korea. Having understood that the ►

► hope and ambition of youths in the Songun era should consist in a worthy life at difficult and hard places that the Workers' Party of Korea is concerned about, they resolved to be teachers of local small schools on the islets. Over 20 of the graduates of the teachers' department of the Hamhung Choe Hui Suk Teacher Training College No. 1 volunteered to teach at schools in islets, mines and mountainous areas in the province.

Amid the mounting zeal of the nation for sports the sportspersons have recorded good results in international contests. In February last DPRK wrestler Jong Hak Jin took first place in the 57-kg event of the Takhti Cup international senior freestyle wrestling tournament. Last March Rim Un Sim snatched three gold medals in the 2014 Asian youth and junior weightlifting championships held in Thailand when Ri Song Gum renewed the world record in her category and bagged three gold medals. Kim Ji Hyang breasted the tape at the Chinese Taipei International Marathon, and Jong In Sun won a gold medal at the women's 55-kg category in the 2014 Asian Wrestling Championships in Kazakhstan in April. The DPRK team obtained five trophies and 25 golds, thereby coming to the top of the national rankings in the Asian Taekwon-Do Championships held in Nepal. Kang Yong Mi won a gold medal at the 2014 FIG ART Challenge Cup tournament by performing difficult movements smartly.

The Korean young people are well aware that they can honour their youth only when they take the lead in translating the WPK's policies of building an economic giant into reality. Their strength, wisdom and resources are all channelled to the demonstration of their honour and pride.

Sim Chol Yong



A college graduate volunteers to work at a school on an islet.



The young people make innovations at major construction sites.



The venue of the exhibition of sci-tech achievements of young scientists.

Kim Jong Il and CNC (9)

Nine-axis turning centre

IN 2010 THE RYONHA machine development group succeeded in developing a new 9-axis turning centre representing the most advanced stage in the CNC machine-tool technology at that time. It is a high performance machine tool with nine axes including two turning axes and one multifunctional milling axis. The machining centre is over 40 tons heavy and can process any shapes of materials with high precision, and so is called the “mother machine” capable of playing a very important role in producing latest goods to meet the demands of many fields of the auto, ship-building and space and aeronautical industries. The Ryonha machine developers designed and manufactured this machine with their own techniques and efforts. As soon as the news about it was reported, it became the most important topic across the country.

At the time Chairman Kim Jong Il was reading a press report, which went: “In recent years, new terms including ultra-modern, a breakthrough of the frontier science and even the idea of breaking through the frontiers of science and technology are in use in Korea. In addition, the song *Break Through the Frontiers of Science and Technology* has been created. All this shows how important the breakthrough of the frontier science is regarded in Korea. The struggle to break through the frontiers of science and technology is regarded as the most powerful means to build up an economic power.

“During the Arduous March, Chairman Kim Jong Il made a

plan to break through the frontiers of science and technology and kindled the flames of the battle for it by concentrating the best technical forces and funds on it. On the morning of the New Year’s Day of 1995, he addressed a letter to all the people calling upon them to work energetically and single-heartedly to make the country ever more prosperous just as befits soldiers and devoted followers of President Kim Il Sung, and on April 29 that year, he gave a field guidance to the Ryonha Machine Factory, where he stayed long in front of the machine which the President had personally come to see before.

... ..

“At first the Ryonha factory made some standard-type machine tools with 2-4 axes. Afterwards, it developed a 5-axis machining centre, followed by an 8-axis machining centre with high performance, and then developed the 9-axis turning centre which only a few countries are capable of. So, it was declared that the DPRK reached the world’s highest level in the CNC technology.

... ..

“The flames the Chairman kindled in the Ryonha factory have spread to the defence industry, and then to all the industrial fields like the machine-building, metallurgical, chemical and light industries.

“Another great achievement in breaking through the frontiers of science and technology in Korea is the successful production of Juche iron that is as highly estimated as the CNC technology. Since the early days of national liberation in August 1945, President Kim Il Sung had paid great attention to developing a

new iron-making method using anthracite rich in the country instead of imported coke. In February 1999 the new method was finally developed. The Korean people regard the establishment of the Juche iron production system as a new chapter in the world history of the metallurgical industry and call it to be a greater victory than the success in the third nuclear test.

“In Korea the struggle to break through the frontiers of science is an eternal beacon to be kept burning at all times of the revolution and construction.

... ..

“The battle to break through the science frontiers is a fruit of Chairman Kim Jong Il’s idea and wise leadership of cutting-edge science and technology. According to the data, the battle in Korea resulted from the Chairman’s idea of cutting-edge science and technology. Calling itself an ideological, political and military power, Korea holds that its last goal is to build an economic power. The experts estimate in unison that in view of the fact that it has devised this new machine—the 9-axis turning centre—by itself without any help from outside under the circumstances of scores of years of political and economic blockade and sanctions by the United States and is going to develop a new 12-axis machine in the near future, it is quite possible that Korea will work a miracle before long.”

The reports of mass media praising the reality of Korea’s battle for breakthrough of the science frontiers show very clearly that the victory of Korea is encouraging and inspiring the progressive people of the world with great hopes. □

New Masters of the Silk Mill

THE GIRL SILK REELERS of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill are making innovations in their work.

Inheriting the tradition of the forerunners

Jo Un Mi, 20, has worked at the mill for three years, but she is counted among the innovators. Her mother too is a reeler of the mill. When Un Mi in her primary and middle school days watched TV or listened to the radio introducing the mill having overfulfilled its national economic plan and its innovators including her mother, her heart was full of pride in her mother. One day she asked her mother how she had become an innovator. To this, her mother, Yang Yong Hui, replied, "In the days of the great advance of Chollima in the 1960s your grandpa and grandma were renowned innovators of our mill. Before the country's liberation on August 15, 1945, they had been treated like beasts, but the state put them forward as masters of the mill and the country. They thought that spinning more silk yarn was the only way to repay

Jo Un Mi, a silk reeler.



their indebtedness to the country and worked so hard that they became labour innovators. Seeing them, I wondered if I could be an innovator like them."

Her words made Un Mi take a resolve to work at the mill following the example of her grandparents and mother. Last year she overfulfilled her production plan for two years, and this year she fulfilled her first half-year quota by March 18.

The yard lane of the mill

Hong Hyang Mi, 20, is cheerful with an affable smile on her lips all the time. The yard of the mill has been familiar to her since she had been a kindergartener at the mill. That was why she, when a schoolgirl, would go to the mill after school to go back home together with her parents past this yard lane. She was wont to boast of her parents to her classmates that those who operate the machines in her father's charge would become innovators, and that her mother reels white silk thread from cocoons, adding that in the future she would be a woman who makes pretty silk clothes with the silk yarn produced by her parents.

Before graduation from the middle school she was preparing for an entrance examination for a university. One night her mother came back from work but somehow kept silent. She asked her what the matter was with her. But she only shook her head. The next day she learned that her mother was shifted to work at the mill's rest home for reasons of health. She knew her mother



Hong Hyang Mi, a silk reeler.

loved her job of reeler from her maidenhood. That night she reflected deeply upon why her mother was so attached to her job, the hardest one in the mill.

...

Some time later Hyang Mi's friends saw her going to work at the silk mill, instead of going to a university. They asked her the reason. To them she replied, "I've resolved to continue with my mother's job which she had loved best. It was my mother's pride to work for the improvement of the people's living standards. Making beautiful clothes is a good job but I'll follow my mother's career as a foundation stone. I'll resort to the study-while-working system to go through the university course." It is only two years since she started work at the mill, but she is already a skilled reeler.

Besides, girl innovators, the new masters of the silk mill, are innumerable. Among them are Pang Yong Hwa, Kim Yong Ok, Yun Hyang, Kim Il Sim and Choe Jong A, who are walking in their parents' footsteps. □

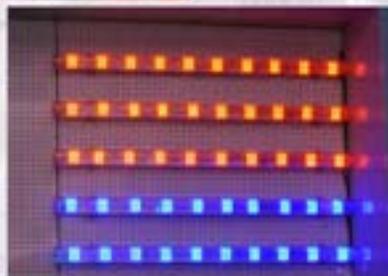
LED Light Makers



IN APRIL LAST YEAR THE NEWS WAS broadcasted on TV on the delivery of the Government's presents to all the children in the country on the occasion of the Day of the Sun, even to the children on small lighthouse islets by helicopters. The news left Choe Tae Song, head of the Research Institute of the Electronic Technology and Appliances, in deep thought. *Keeping close concern about the people's living standards all the time the state is taking care of the isolated lighthouse islets. But we are not keeping step. We are simply satisfied with increased production of high-powered LED and manufacture of several kinds of LED lights. To make our products play a big part in reality we should continuously develop them to suit the actual conditions and the peculiarity of the objects concerned as early as possible. In case of lighthouses, we can help save a large amount of fuel and realize the unmanned control of lighthouses.*

His idea won unanimous support in the conference of officials and researchers of the institute. Later, a research team headed by Ri Myong Chol, head of a department, was organized for developing solar cell-based LED light source and uninterruptible power supply system for lighthouses. But as the project was unfamiliar to them, many difficulties cropped up in their work. They couldn't tell for sure if the power of luminous source would surpass the power of incandescent light when the filament of the incandescent light was changed with LED. To make a proper range of

light was also a problem. Through the study of recent technological data and repeated experiments they succeeded in developing LED module which can ensure minimum area needed for focal distance of light source. Now they tested a ►





► model of 12-W light source. The source, however, failed to provide proper distance of light and angle. The researchers moved to a lighthouse islet in the West Sea of Korea to intensify their research. And Choe Tae Song and other officials made efforts to provide necessary conditions. The researchers made various experiments and calculations on the spot and found out a method which can raise the light output and decrease the loss of light at the curved surface under 10%. The LED light source for lighthouse ensures the light distance of 18-20 n. m. while decreasing the power consumption to one quarter of the previous one. They also developed a controller which receives maximum generating capacity of solar cell, an intelligent high-speed charger, an inverse converter whose converting rate is 96%, a timer and other devices. Building on those successes they developed solar cell-based LED light source and uninterruptible power supply system for lighthouse. Now the lighthouse equipped with newly-developed LED and the system

is gleaming on Jamae Islet in the West Sea of Korea. Using this success they buckled down to the research work of changing the lights of the electric locomotive with LED light source. The work had begun earlier but had been stuck in a fix as it cost a lot to ensure the light distance of 700-800 m. The researchers put emphasis on this problem and developed a new kind of lens and module quite different from the previous ones. The result of trial running indicated that it saves power consumption and cost by 50%. Besides, the institute recently provided thousands of LED lights to Pyongyang Middle School No. 1 and many other establishments according to their properties and conditions. The researchers are currently putting efforts in developing other kinds of LED conducive to saving power and contributing to the people's livelihood, including the light source for lighthouse which could send light for a long distance in fog.

Kim Yong Sun

Favourable Environment for Investment Created

SOME TIME AGO A KOREA TODAY REPORTER had an interview with Kim Jong Sik, a department head of the State General Bureau for Economic Development under the Ministry of External Economic Relations.

In order to have wide-ranging contact, cooperation and economic exchange with the world, economic development zone projects are making headway in the DPRK. Tell me about it.

The State General Bureau for Economic Development is working hard to provide more diversified and favourable conditions for investment to foreign investors who are interested in the special economic zones in the DPRK. In November last year 13 SEZs were established in eight provinces. A lot of efforts have been made to create legal and institutional environment for investors from many countries to conduct free investment and business activities in several forms and modes in conformity with their wish and international practice. As of now the Law of the DPRK on Economic Development Zone, which is the main legislation on the economic development zone, and regulations for its enforcement—the Regulations for Establishment of Economic Development Zones, the Regulations for Establishing and Operating Enterprises in Economic Development Zones, the Regulations for Labour in Economic Development Zones, the Regulations for Operation of Management Board of Economic Development Zones and the Regulations for Environmental Protection of Economic Development Zones—were adopted.

I think stability of investment should be guaranteed as well as the favourable investment conditions.

Of course. The political stability and peaceful environment are very important in setting up investment zones. Since the beginning of the current century the political upheavals in several countries in Europe and Middle East greatly hindered economic development of those countries. But in Korea the popular masses are master of the country, and everything in the country serves for the people; popular policies have been enforced in numbers. So the Korean people trust their national leader Kim Jong Un and are united firmly behind him.

Also peaceful environment is well maintained in the country. People are mistaken when they think Korea

is exposed to a possible war. Peace can be guaranteed by powerful defence capabilities and war deterrent, and Korea has both of them. Though the US wages fire-reeking war exercises by mobilizing huge war equipment in and around the Korean peninsula, the Korean people live a normal life of creation and construction. Last year alone, gigantic facilities were constructed for the people's cultural recreation and foreigners' tourism—including the Munsu Water Park, Mirim Riding Club and Masikryong Ski Resort. They are tangible proof that peace reigns in Korea.

I say Korea is an investment-friendly land for its well-arranged foundations for independent national economy.

My country recovered from the wounds of the Korean war (June 1950-July 1953) in a short span of time and completed the socialist industrialization in 14 years. Building on the success, we laid firm foundations for an independent national economy. In the 1990s we successfully overcame the Arduous March and forced march, and recently manufactured and launched earth satellites and developed the top-notch CNC technology with our own technology and materials. Such astonishing economic achievements we've got without any foreign aid and loan and in the face of uninterrupted economic sanctions from the US are attributable to the foundations of the independent national economy. This kind of economic foundations is quite an advantageous condition for investment. Another attraction to the investors is our labour force who is all possessed of intellectual faculties above the secondary-school level thanks to the universal free compulsory education.

I wish you will soon complete a master plan of development suited to the world's advanced level and put it forward to the investors around the world. □

Experts in economic development zone studies meet in Pyongyang in May 2014.





Space Development for Peaceful Purposes

THE HISTORY OF SPACE development is not so long in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

After the successful launching of Kwangmyongsong 1, the first artificial earth satellite of the country, in August 1998, Kwangmyongsong 3-2 went into orbit, 9 minutes 27 seconds after the blast-off, in December 2012. The satellite project is based on the DPRK's home resources, ranging from their design to manufacture, assembly, launch and post-launch observation. Now the Korean people are the master of an independent country working for space development.

In April last year the Seventh Session of the 12th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK passed the DPRK Law on Space Development and adopted an ordinance and a resolution on organizing the National Aerospace Development Administration of the DPRK. The law stipulates the aim and principle of space development, and the position and duty of the NADA. The DPRK's aim of space development is to protect the interest of the state and solve necessary sci-tech problems arising in the economic construction and the life of the people by using space science

and technology. The principle is to develop space for out-and-out peaceful purposes while thoroughly maintaining the Juche-oriented and independent stand. The law specifies that the NADA organizes a unified guidance on space development, represents the state in the field of space development, draws up the country's general space development and activity programme, supervises and controls the implementation while cooperating and exchanging with international organizations and space institutions of other countries. It also clarifies that the success gained from space development technology and space activity should be used for no other purposes than the country's interest and economic development and the improvement of the people's living standards, and legally guarantees all the principled matters in space activity ranging from notification of objects to be launched into space and responsibility for its safety to the investigation of accident and rescue and compensation for damages. Along with this, it legally affirms the DPRK's external standpoint that it cooperates with international organizations and other countries in the field of space development on the principle of equality, mutual benefit and mutual security, respects relevant international laws and regulations on development and use of space and opposes the selection and

application of double standards in space activity and military activity in space. With the proclamation of the legal measures on organizing the NADA and adopting space development as a state programme, the DPRK can exercise the legitimate right of space power.

On the initiative of and detailed instructions of the supreme leader Kim Jong Un the emblem of the DPRK NADA was instituted. It reflects the character, mission, position and the prospect of the organization. The "DPRK" and "NADA" in the centre of the emblem symbolize the position of the NADA which administers the country's space development in a unified way. The dark blue background mirrors the DPRK's peaceful character of space development. The light blue belts of satellite trajectories representing polar and equatorial orbits show the country's ambition to put satellites into all orbits. As a whole, the emblem reflects the Korean people's aspiration and the DPRK's standpoint to vigorously push ahead with the building of an economic power and the improvement of the people's living standards by rapidly developing the country's space science and technology as required by the time when space development is one of the global trends with its competitive power growing ever higher.

An Nam Hui

For Over 50 Years

CANDIDATE ACADEMICIAN and Professor Pak Tong Ho is a researcher at the Veterinary Research Institute under the Academy of Agricultural Science. The veteran scientist has achieved a lot in the field of veterinary science for over 50 years. His successful research works were introduced to the poultry and stockbreeding farms across the country preventing damages from animal diseases and germs and increasing the growing rate. He wrote almost ten books and encyclopedia on animal husbandry and veterinary work, including *Diagnosis of Animal Diseases* and *Kwangmyong Encyclopedia* (Vol. 18). He presented one hundred and scores of papers and brought up more than 40 people with academic degrees or titles.

What underlies his successes?

A barefoot boy becomes a world famous scientist

Born into a poor peasant family in Songchon County,

South Phyongan Province before national liberation, he spent his childhood in severe poverty. He was always barefoot. Only after national liberation on August 15, 1945, he began to wear rubber shoes and go to school. The five dreamlike years following liberation and the three years of Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950-July 1953) taught him a lot. He worked hard hoping to contribute the nation's development one way or another. After secondary school he entered the then Kanggye Veterinary College, and then after graduation became a researcher as he hoped.

He began his career in the 1960s when the country attached great importance to the veterinary work while pushing the industrialization of the stockbreeding. Pak was busy working hard to make a successful research for the stockbreeding development.

One day he was informed that several pigs died in a farm. He rushed there and buckled down the job of finding out the cause of death in cooperation with other

technicians in the relevant sector. After a long investigation, they made a conclusion that the pigs had died from erysipelococcus in their tonsils. At that time in the field of the veterinary

science, it was established that this disease occurred in case the pig's resistance was weak thanks to various factors. Most of the veterinarians had the opinion that once taken, most of the pigs could die. They thought nothing could help it, but Pak could not let it go that way. He investigated the breeding in the farm to the last detail, and found out that there was something wrong with the fodder. Now he made a deeper study. Through repeated experiments, he formed a new definition that the pig erysipelococcus comes not from low resistance but from the putrefactive bacteria that infiltrate the organism and grow along with erysipelococcus with no pathogen. Now Pak took practical scientific measures to prevent this disease.

His success shook the veterinary circle. Some foreign mass media once gave a report that he was a person with a high academic degree and title while highlighting his success. But at the time Pak was 26-year-old researcher with no more than one year of career.

With patriotism

There is no terminal in scientific studies—this is a statement written on the first page of the pocketbook which Pak regards as treasure.

In the mid-1990s when the country was undergoing the Arduous March and the forced march, his family, too, suffered ►



Class of Student Inventors



THE FACULTY OF CLINICAL Medicine No. 1 of Kim Il Sung University Pyongyang Medical College has a class of inventors. In the classroom you can find a small book that records the achievements of the students. The first page carries a statement reading, “The closer you approach books, the

faster the nation’s progress gets.” This hints at the enthusiasm of the students who are known as top-ranking in academic attainments in the college.

The Ex-soldier Student

Ri Ui Jong, who is the only ex-soldier in the class, is the monitor of the class. His class-

mates call him “Doctor of All Knowledge.” He gives a ready answer to whatever he is asked, since he is informed of wide-ranging knowledge and common sense as well as that of his professional field. Some people ascribe his large stock of knowledge to his clear head, but they’re wrong. It is entirely attributable ▶

▶ difficulties. Some people were yielding to economic hardships, but Pak kept working enthusiastically for the sake of the country alone. He made up his mind to facilitate the development of stockbreeding by reinforcing independence in the field. He engrossed himself in culturing bacilli and finding out a locally available raw material to substitute expensive foreign materials. The repeated failures in experiment could not disappoint him. At

last he made something successful which was of great economic significance in the actual condition. It made it possible to increase stockbreeding production 20% higher than before on the basis of a new technique of producing vaccine in large quantities by using a small amount of bean curds’ decomposer, not using expensive foreign material, while culturing germs for vaccine by the method of selecting germ groups.

On this basis, he developed

more than ten kinds of veterinary vaccines to prevent diseases effectively.

“Scientists must keep patriotism deep in their mind. Never waste time.” These are the words Pak often says as chairman of the committee for deliberation of papers on veterinary and stockbreeding science. The 76-year-old veteran is devoting his energy to the veterinary science.

Rim Hye Gyong

► to his reading. His daily life begins with reading and ends with reading. There is a story about how he became an avid reader. One day when he was in the second year at college he saw on TV one of his secondary school mates win a national quiz contest of university students. Seeing him solve whatever the question was, he marvelled at him, and made up his mind to read lots of books and acquire multifarious knowledge. His enthusiasm for reading caused an environment of reading involving all the students. His example has a huge effect on the class' rise to the present level of academic attainments.

The Single Target

The class say unanimously, "We have a single target." It's to become helpful talent of the country. Most of them are in their early 20s, and, when they get a questionable point they never fail to get the answer. One day, attending a lecture on electromyogram in the biophysics subject, Ri Chung Song conceived an idea of developing a simulation program for the relevant machine which was in much use in treatment. Then, they would be able to have practice for electromyogram any time and anywhere. The teacher in charge of the subject gave an active support to his idea and provided him with lots of assistance. Thus the student succeeded in making a simulation program, which brought him a patent of invention. The program turned out to be a tangible help in lectures as well. This is a simple example of the achievements of the students.

Winners of Kim Il Sung Scholarship

The class has got two winners of Kim Il Sung Scholarship—Kim Ji Hye and Han Se Ryong. Like other students they are top-honour students in all subjects and are possessed of patents of invention.

One day in October 2013 the class had a practice for general surgery, when Kim Ji Hye saw more traumatic cases were rushed into the emergency department than she had expected. She knew they would be exposed to blood poisoning if they were not attended to immediately. She thought it necessary to find an easier treatment, and what she conceived to the end was the falling-pressure-based traumatic treatment machine and the

and preventing various kinds of complications. One of the causes retarding the healing of the cuts is the rising of the pressure in the affected place. So I produced the idea of elevating the remedial effect by dropping the pressure in the hurt place by means of decreasing pressure instead of uplifting pressure, and then developed a relevant machine. My device helps decrease the pains from traumatic inflammation and recurrence considerably and cut the frequency of occurrence of complications."

Her machine has been in wide use both in instruction and treatment.

Han Se Ryong made a successful study of a medicine to be used in treatment of cancerous diseases. (His achievement was



Students on a skiing tour at Masikryong.

methodology of its application. Referring to the machine, Ji Hye says, "To quickly heal traumatic wounds due to different causes and surgical cuts is an important matter in cutting the mortality

an astounding event to the academic world.)

The members of the class are redoubling their efforts to attain their targets.

Sim Yon Ok

Kwangbok Primary School

THE KWANGBOK PRIMARY School in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, is one of the leading schools in both pupils' attainment and teachers' competency. The school sees the way to improve teachers' ability in frequent holding of demonstrations such as those of drawing up intelligence-improving teaching plans and the heuristic method of teaching. This has helped make a great stride in establishing a good teaching system.

On one occasion they decided to give a demonstration of a class based on information. The information-based teaching had been dynamically pushed in the field of education. According to it the school invited teaching instructors of the Pyongyang Municipal Centre for Teachers' Refresher Courses first to give a short-term course on information-based les-

sons. The course on an education-support program of a Korean style bolstered up the teachers' enthusiasm. The information-based education requires building of huge database, framing of e-teaching plan and developing of multimedia. The teachers of the school launched such a big project. After classes they buckled down to the preparation of multimedia and e-teaching plans. Pooling their efforts and wisdom they worked day in and day out. At last they established a computer-based teaching system and gave a municipal demonstration lesson. The attendants expressed their admiration for the database which contains all necessary data needed for primary school education, e-teaching plan, education management system which pro-

vides real-time monitoring of lessons in every classroom and two-way question-and-answer system.

After all, the school made a big step in establishing an IT process while the teachers improved their qualifications remarkably. The pupils got more interested in lessons and their cognition rose much higher. In December last year the school came first again in the municipal survey of performance of leading schools in Pyongyang. All the teachers who have a career of over three years retain the certificate of the October 8 Model Teacher. Hong Chung Song, graduate of the school, won three gold medals in succession in an international maths Olympiad in 2011, 2012 and 2013. This year all the pupils passed entrance examinations at central and municipal middle schools like Pyongyang Middle School No. 1, Pyongyang Foreign Languages School, Kumsong School and the computer prodigy training course of Kumsong Middle School No. 1.

The Kwangbok Primary School is exalting its honour of the Thrice Honoured Red-Flag School, training wonderful future pillars of the country in numbers.

Song Yong Sok

Hong Chung Song, a graduate of the school, is a thrice gold medalist at the international maths Olympiad.



People Who Give Sight

NEARLY TEN YEARS HAVE passed since the Pyongyang Ophthalmic Hospital was established. Over the time the workers of the hospital have brought sight to lots of people who were born blind or became blind, by working hard to develop top-notch medical technology and introduce their achievements into treatment and prophylactic services. In particular, they applied a hyaline membrane operation which is a cutting-edge technology, a laser-based treatment and the stem cell technology, thus making a big step in treatment of ophthalmic diseases including cataract and glaucoma.

Recently they made a successful research into a new cornea transplanting method and a method of operation on the vitreous membrane. The methods assure a high rate of success. This is a great progress in the treatment.

One day in mid-January this year a pupil with his left eye seriously hurt was rushed into the children's department of the hospital. The 13-year-old from Yangsan-dong, Tanchon City, South Hamgyong Province, could no more than discern light, to say nothing of distinguishing things. It was found out that the vitreous body was in opacity. It was impossible to make out the fundus. This meant the child nearly lost his eyesight. The bruise-caused cases of such a kind needed a high level of surgical technique.

The hospital took emergency measures and then called a consultation. The condition of the case was examined closely and a group was formed to treat the patient. Preparations were made



An operation is performed on a child for cataract.

for an operation. The boy's condition went through a demanding examination. A number of consultations were taken about the simulation of the scheduled operation, which produced hopeful methods.

In the first-round operation the method of detaching the membrane was introduced. It was completed in six hours by Kim Hyok Man, department chief who had long-standing experience in clinical treatment. The result was better than expected, and yet it was only the beginning. The group in charge of the treatment spent days of hard work preparing the second-round surgery. The whole staff of the hospital turned out to give a helping hand. The researchers of the stem cell research section offered their experience and achievements in their studies.

The second operation took place in a fortnight and it was literally a struggle. The intensive struggle of critical importance took more than four hours. Thanks to the newly developed method of operation on the vitre-

ous membrane the result was propitious. Yet no one could tell it for sure until the bandage on the child's eye was removed. Nervousness was what the doctors grappled with for days.

At last one morning the bandage was unwound from the eye along with the patch over it. All the people around were looking at the face of the boy, when Kim Hyok Man asked, "Do you see me?" Second after second passed.

"I see you, Doctor," the boy exclaimed. "I see you, too, mum."

His mother hugged her son in her arms, bursting into sobs for gratitude.

The devoted services of the doctors were announced on TV and newspapers. This is a typical success they have made in their work of scientific research to bring sight to the blind. Without feeling content about their achievements, they keep working hard in curative and preventive treatment and scientific researches, conscious of their responsibility for the care of the people.

Song Yong Sok

The Ambition of Youngsters

THE SONGYO JUVENILE Sports School is a rallying point for many schoolchildren and students with a dream to be sports stars. The table tennis team alone has dozens of boys and girls from primary schools and junior and senior middle schools. They are training hard to become world-famous players.

Table tennis coach Rim Jong Gi says, "All of them can't be celebrated table tennis players just because they attend this school. But we coaches are doing everything we can do for them to realize their dream."

Four years ago, a 6-year-old kindergartner Ri Tae Song came to see Jong Gi. The boy who looked unusually clever boldly asked him to let him join the table tennis team. Upon an aptitude test, he found the boy faster in movement, more agile in action, and more precise in judg-

won over the coach.

His training began immediately. Now a proud member of the table tennis team, Tae Song got regular training under the coach's strict guidance. He was more tenacious in training than other boys, and made his debut in contests at the age of eight. He won second places in the national technical innovation games of the juvenile sports schools in October 2012 and the Pyongyang juvenile sports school games in March 2013 respectively. Encouraged by these successes, he did his best in training. Under the coach's correct guidance and by his strenuous efforts, he became adept in forehand strokes and serves. In consequence, he won the table-tennis events in the national technical innovation games of juvenile sports schools in October last year and the Pyongyang juvenile sports school games in March this year. Receiving congratulatory bouquets from his friends, he said, "My dream is to become a world table tennis star. I'll realize it without fail."

The members of the basket-

ball team of this school are also ambitious. Coach Hyon Ho Ryong says that as basketball is a collective sport, he is training them in a way suited to their mental features and individual characters. Based on the teaching and training plans drawn up in keeping with the children's mental features and physical development, the basketball coaches train them in basic movements and get them skilled in technical and tactical tricks congenial to their physical ability. As a result, the members of the basketball team have become adroit in quick breaks, long shooting and brushes under the basket, making good successes in many games. In particular, they won first prize in the 50th national games of the juvenile sports schools last year. Not resting content with this, they are now training harder than ever before to achieve greater successes in the future.

Many children of the football, volleyball, boxing and wrestling teams of the school have an ambition to be world sports stars.

Kim Il Ryong



ment than other children his age, but he hesitated to admit him because he was not sure whether the 6-year-old boy could overcome the hardship of physical training that would tire out even the primary school children. However, the boy's persistence



Sister Weightlifters



Coach Kim Chun Hui and the Rim sisters.

LAST MARCH RIM UN SIM FROM THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea got three gold medals by winning the women's 58 kg event of the youth category at the 2014 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships. It was unusually happy news to the Koreans, for she is the sister of Rim Jong Sim who won the women's 69 kg event of weightlifting at the 30th Olympics in 2012.

Mother's Confession

As child Jong Sim was very mischievous and naughty. She hung from tree branches upside down with her skirt on and jumped down from high trees.

The sisters train together.



Her shoes were torn off and her clothes got dirty a few minutes after she changed. Seeing her sliding down the handrail of the staircase in her apartment, her neighbours lamented she should have been born a boy. One day when she was five years old, she carried a bucket of ten litres of water up to several floors in her apartment, amazing her nextdoor neighbours.

As such a kind of girl, she won a lot of events in the spring sports games of the local district when she was in the fourth year of primary school. Then she also brought home an armful of prizes from the autumn games, too, that year. The teacher in charge of her class came and advised to let Jong Sim enter the sports world. That was how she began to learn weightlifting.

Her sister Un Sim liked to play musical instruments from childhood. She learned how to play *kayagum* at kindergarten and *oungum* at primary school. When she sang to her own musical accompaniment her parents envisaged her future in the musical field. The little girl often came to see her sister in the weightlifting exercise. One of the local coaches proposed she would try to train her as she was physically suitable for the weightlifting event.

Her parents refused to accept the offer at first because they did not like to let both of their daughters join in weightlifting. But Un Sim argued she ►

► would do it, so her parents gave up. “My husband is an amateur wrestler, and I myself was once in gymnastics and calisthenics teams, but we both did not expect my children would be sports stars.” Her mother Ri Yong Hui confesses.

The Sisters in the Coach’s Eye

Kim Chun Hui is one of the Ten Coaches of the Year 2013. She is an experienced and veteran coach who has trained a lot of women giants.

Three months after she began to teach Jong Sim, the 9-year-old ranked in the top three of her event at a national contest. Her record grew higher since she was put under training together with her younger sister. One day the coach gave a task of repeated exercise to Un Sim for she could not maintain her posture properly. But soon she cancelled the task, because she felt sorry about the child. That evening she heard sounds from the training ground. She approached the place to see the two sisters absorbed in training. Jong Sim was sweating to attain a higher record than the day’s assignment, while her sister was given to the exercise of the movement she had failed during the daytime. After a while Jong Sim began to tell her experience and knack of the movement to her sister. Hours passed until Un Sim mastered the skill and the two left the ground arm in arm in a happy frame of mind.

Un Sim, too, cut her figure soon in her category. The rivalry between the two sisters—the elder tried to keep her honour before her sister while the younger tried to catch up with her elder—brought about marvellous results. Jong Sim became an Olympic winner in her teens, and Un Sim, who began her career when she was ten, distinguished herself in her international debut.

Flowers of the Weightlifting World

The Sportspersons’ Apartment had crowds of visitors when Un Sim got three gold medals at an international tournament, like when Jong Sim had won the Olympic Games. One of the flats, with a floor space of a hundred and dozens of square metres, is what was allotted to Jong Sim. A wall is given to the display of her glory: there are a souvenir photograph of Jong Sim posing arm in arm with the national leader Kim Jong Un, the medal and certificate of Labour Hero, the medal and certificate of Kim Il Sung Youth Honour Prize, an ID card of delegate to the 2012 Youth Day celebrations and a souvenir photograph taken with Kim Jong Un on the occasion. There are also to be seen on the wall the more than 100 medals and diplomas the sisters have won. Their mother was honoured, too: she was invited to the 4th National Conference of Mothers as



Trophies and medals the sisters won at international and national games.

mother of the two daughters. She shed tears when the national leader met and praised the Olympic medalists as patriots, heroes and admirable people. “I could hardly believe you’re my daughters. Your parents couldn’t pick your aptitudes, but our country found it and developed you as heroes.” Then she said to Un Sim, “You must make a success of your career like your sister. That way you’ll repay for your benefit.”

Now the sisters often inwardly measure the weight they have to lift to live up to their honour. Make a smarter movement—this is the motto they keep in mind.

Jong Sim says, “In the past I wished I could be qualified for the Olympic Games. I wanted nothing more. Now I know the merit of sportspersons. There is limit to our physical exertions, but not to our patriotic devotion. I’m scarcely content with my achievement. I’ll keep conscientious and devoted to my country.”

Un Sim says, “I’ll participate in the Olympics and win. That’s an obligation of an Olympic winner’s sister. My sister and I decided to become flowers of the weightlifting world to be remembered by the people.”

The public gives blessings to the sisters, hoping Un Sim will accomplish her decision and Jong Sim will remain successful in her efforts.

Rim Ok

The People's Ideal Comes True

IN FEBRUARY LAST JIAN Mwa, writer of French publishing house Grasset, wrote to the Korean people's supreme leader Kim Jong Un. It reads in part:

"This is my second visit to Korea as a French citizen, and I would like to tell you how I was struck with admiration for all the realities in your country, especially the Masikryong Ski Resort.

"Above all, I admire you for your solicitude for the people: you gave such a wonderful present to the people ...

"The construction of monumental edifices like the ski resort and your care of the people is the inheritance of the great tradition of careful service for the people pioneered by the eternal President Kim Il Sung and the great Chairman Kim Jong Il."

The long history of humankind can be said to be the years that witnessed the people's efforts to accomplish their dream and ideal. In retrospect the dream of the Korean people was so simple. When the peasants were exhausted over their toil and moil as poor tenants, they wished they had even a patch of land of their own. What the Korean women longed for when they were subjected to tearful life shackled by feudalism was to have equal rights with the men and be treated decently. But before the liberation of the country (August 15, 1945) they could not realize their dreams.

Thanks to President Kim Il Sung, who liberated Korea from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation, the century-old dream of the Korean

people came true. On March 5, 1946 the President saw to it that the Law on Agrarian Reform in North Korea was proclaimed, making the peasants become owners of land. The Labour Law for the Workers and Office Employees in North Korea was proclaimed in June 1946 and the Law on Sex Equality in North Korea on July 30, 1946. Commenting those events the newspapers at that time made the headlines that the people achieved long-cherished desires. The Korean people enjoyed the dignity of genuine human beings, benefiting from free education and health care under Kim Il Sung's administration.

Chairman Kim Jong Il accomplished the nation's century-old desire for a powerful nation by means of Songun politics. He

encouraged all the people to defend the country by smashing the aggressive moves of the imperialists including the US imperialists who were seeking to dominate the socialist Korea politically and militarily. He laid down Songun politics as his basic political mode whereby the People's Army is the pillar and main force of the revolution and the socialist construction is pushed forward as a whole on the strength of the army. His politics brought about a historic event of the successful launching of the artificial earth satellite Kwangmyongsong 1 which was manufactured by the Koreans' own resources. Thanks to his Songun-based leadership Korea became more powerful, and the sky over it turned clear and blue for all eternity. ▶





Workers move to a newly-built hostel amidst the public blessing.

The Munsu Water Park.



► He also saw to it that the people's dream for happiness became a reality in this land. He said that it was his wish to help the people, who are the best in the world, live as happily as any other nations in the near future, enjoying all the happiness on the earth. To this end, he was on the road of field inspection in all seasons. In the course of this, the typical sceneries of the Songun era made their appearances in succession such as the scenes of sturgeon and ostrich growing and boundless Handure Plain. There goes a popular song that the ideal harboured by the President and developed by the Chairman has blossomed in this land.

The world of loving care for the people established by the national leaders is carried forward by the supreme leader Kim Jong Un. In his first public speech in 2012 he said that it is his firm determination to ensure the people enjoy all the benefits of socialism. He is now turning it into reality. Changjon Street, Unha Scientists Street and Kim Il Sung University Lecturers' Apartments, Ryugyong Dental Hospital, Okryu Children's Hospital and Mirim Riding Club were built in less than a year. The Munsu Water Park which is several times larger than the Rungna Wading Pool was built in 2013. The park has scores of pools and various kinds of indoor

and outdoor slides, and the people say with pleasure that the words of the song *Paean to Motherland* come to their lips by themselves. The environment of the Okryu Children's Hospital is arranged to suit the children's psychology, and it is furnished with up-to-date equipment. The Masikryong Ski Resort was built in a mountainous area as a base for mass-based sports and tourism while the workers' hostel at Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill went up wonderfully to accommodate ordinary workers. And the Songdowon International Children's Camp, an exemplary holiday home of the schoolchildren, underwent remarkable facelift. ►

Everything in Korea Is Faring Well

I'M DELIGHTED TO SEE that everything in Korea is faring well as Chairman Kim Jong Il wished.

This time I visited the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum. I had been to the old museum.

Looking round the museum which shows the Korean people's spirit, I was unable to contain my joy over its fine reconstruction.



There are many interesting data on display.

The Fatherland Liberation War was the most difficult period in the Korean people's history. But President Kim Il Sung wisely commanded all the military operations, and his leadership brought about victory in the war.

Looking at the materials on display, I looked back on the days when Kim Jong Il had visited Russia. He always thought about his people and was anxious to make them well-off with a bright smile on their faces.

I think the love of the President and Chairman for the people is inherited today.

I have come to Korea again after an interval of two years, and found everything has changed beyond recognition. The

Okryu Children's Hospital, the Rungna People's Pleasure Ground, the Rungna Dolphinarium, the Munsu Water Park and many other places gave me an impression that Korea is vigorously moving forward for the building of a prosperous nation.

I'm convinced that under the leadership of the respected Kim Jong Un, the Korean people's ideal to build a civilized country is coming into reality.

*Olga Maltseva,
Associate professor of
the Far East Federation
University of Russia,
Russian reporter*

*Olga Maltseva
Vladivostok
Russia
July*



An inner view of the Okryu Children's Hospital.

► All those monumental edifices were constructed under the detailed instructions of the national leader Kim Jong Un. Visiting the structures he says happily that the people would like them very much, and that he is pleased to provide another

cultural wealth to the people. The Korean people put absolute trust in their leader and follow him faithfully. They are now experiencing what the benefits of socialism are.

Yom Song Hui

Schoolchildren enjoy themselves at the Song-dowon International Children's Camp.





New Appearances of Taedong Riverside in Pyongyang

SOME TIME AGO I HAD A stroll along the promenade on the Taedong River. The scenery around was just like a picture. In the sky a rainbow was hanging in the spray of fountains, and in the river the boats seemed to be blossoms. The weeping willows and ubiquitous anglers added to the pleasant scenery of the river.

There arose roaring cheers from the Taedongmun Park. When I got there I saw people having recreation. What drew the greatest attention was the volleyball match. The match was heating up with the sound of whistle announcing the serves and the enthusiastic voices of counting one, two and three. And

the wonderful hits of the players added fuel to the cheers of the spectators. The players came from Changjon Street, and they were all elderly who had been in sports teams when they were young. Their seasoned and spirited movements were the envy of the young people. Even passers-by were absorbed in the game while the youths were anxious to join it. After the match I met Yun Kyong Il, one of the players, and asked if he were exhausted. "I feel refreshed," he answered, "I have had the same feelings as that I took in the past. I feel as if I were back in those days."

Next I went to the roller

rink. The rink was crowded with children. Some children were dashing energetically while others were demonstrating their feats. There I saw a child about two years old skating with her mother's help. The mother was Kim Yong Hui from Taedongmun-dong. Kim said with delight, "I taught my daughter how to roller-skate as soon as she could walk. She asks me to take her here every day, so we are here. I find she has devel- ▶



► oped a good sense of balance and concentration.” Nearby I saw boys and girls in sportswear playing badminton. A park keeper said that many people visit there regardless of time and the number of visitors swells on holidays and Sundays. Many of them are regular visitors.

I met Kim Chol Man who was playing *janggi* (Korean chess). He said he had lived on the riverside all his life (he was over 80). He said, “After playing *janggi* I usually go to Ryongwang Pavilion to enjoy the scenery of the river. I like to see young people have a pleasant time here. From ancient times this river was well known for its scenery. Kim Hwang Won, a celebrated poet in the period of Koryo Dynasty, once went up to Pubyok

Pavilion on Moran Hill to write a poem about the beauty of the river. But finding himself unable to choose proper words to describe the scenery, he left only two-lined poem. It goes:

*The water ripples on one side
of a long wall
And mountains rise in the
east of a great field.*

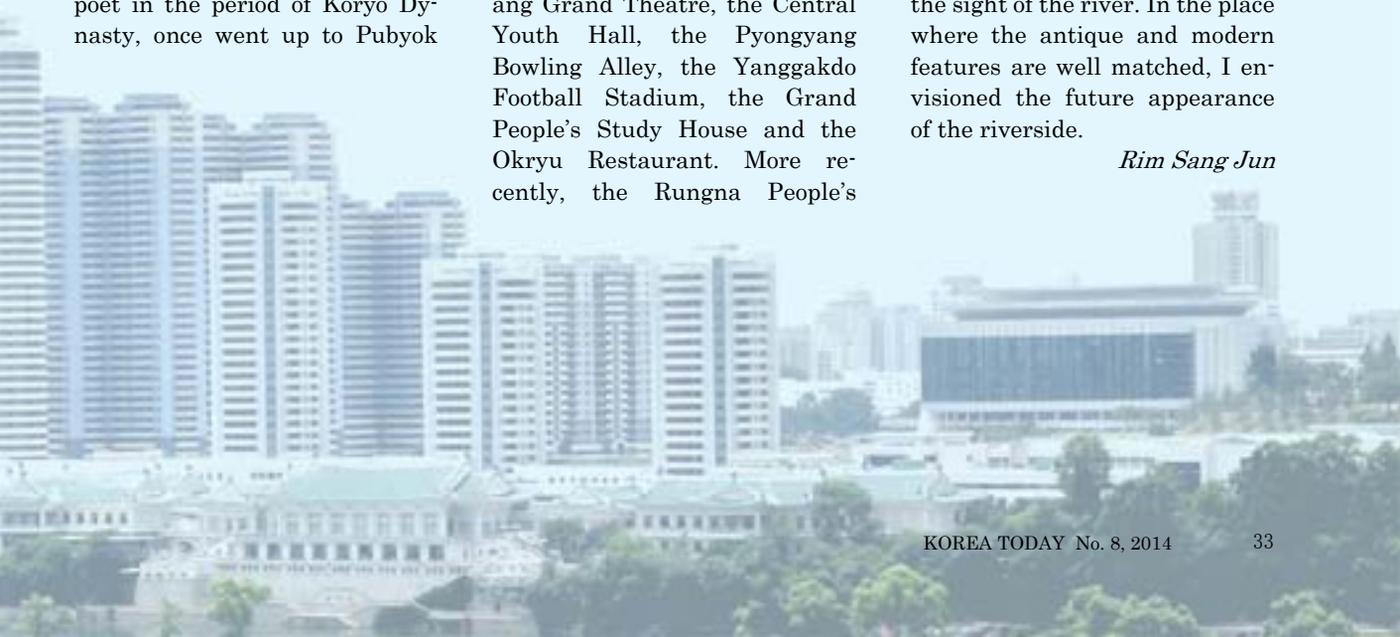
This poem was first attached to Pubyok Pavilion before it was moved to Ryongwang Pavilion, one of the eight scenic spots in northwest Korea. I often think what the poet would do if he had seen the appearance of the riverside today.”

Now I glanced up and down the riverside, and many edifices came into my sight—the May Day Stadium, the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre, the Central Youth Hall, the Pyongyang Bowling Alley, the Yanggakdo Football Stadium, the Grand People’s Study House and the Okryu Restaurant. More recently, the Rungna People’s

Pleasure Ground appeared on Rungna Islet and the Delicacy House under the Okryu Restaurant was opened, and modern architectural monuments went up such as Changjon Street, the People’s Open-air Ice Rink, the Roller Rink, the Ryugyong Health Complex and the Haedanghwa Service Complex. The dancing fountain and the restaurant boat *The Taedonggang* were also built to the delight of the people. And the newly-built parks like the Taedongmun Park and the Kyongnim Riverside Park are filled with merrymaking people, adding the scenery of the river.

The Taedongmun Park stands by Ryongwang Pavilion which is the best place to enjoy the sight of the river. In the place where the antique and modern features are well matched, I envisioned the future appearance of the riverside.

Rim Sang Jun





Visit to the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum

(Continued from the last issue)

NOW WE STEPPED INTO the inside of the Fatherland Liberation War Museum.

The Victory in the Anti-Japanese War

Entering the museum I was first attracted to a large colour statue of President Kim Il Sung in the centre of the three-storeyed hall. (I was told it is a statue of plaster.) In front of the young image of their national leader during the Fatherland Liberation War, the visitors paid unbounded respect for him.

Our guide explained about the fact the central hall was arranged excellently under the guidance of Kim Jong Un, the supreme national leader, and that it is

dedicated to the show of the determination of the Korean army and people to hold the President in high esteem age after age. Then she ushered us into the anti-Japanese warfare section.

“Last year our museum attained a new feature as a showcase of the victorious anti-Japanese war,” said the guide. “This section is given to the display of the major military operations Kim Il Sung conducted during the anti-Japanese armed struggle.”

Hearing the words we passed the introductory hall of the section which shows the general history of the heroic anti-Japanese armed struggle, and got to the place where there were two pistols on display. They were the valuable heritage Kim Il Sung had received from

his father Kim Hyong Jik. He had got them from his mother in February 1928 when he set out on the road of national liberation which was the burning desire of the Koreans. Earlier Kim Hyong Jik, outstanding leader of the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle of Korea who had been pioneering the historic cause of national liberation, had left his son the revolutionary heritage of the idea of “Aim High,” the three-point readiness, the idea of winning comrades and the two pistols. Cherishing the will of his father, Kim Il Sung found the path of the Korean revolution in the armed struggle against the Japanese imperialists in his early years and first formed the Korean Revolutionary Army which was a transitional political and paramilitary ►

► organization.

Hearing such an explanation from the guide we now saw a picture of Kim Il Sung declaring the anti-Japanese war at the Mingyuegou meeting, Yanji County, China. In front of the picture, the guide said, "At the Mingyuegou meeting Kim Il Sung put forward the policy of waging an armed struggle with the guerrilla warfare as the main mode. For the purpose he told that it was necessary to organize a guerrilla army with the communists—who had been trained in the trials of the underground revolutionary struggle—as the backbone and steadily build up the armed ranks by admitting progressive workers, peasants and patriotic youths. It was essential to win weapons, he claimed, and put up the military slogan 'Weapons are our life and soul! Oppose armed force with armed



Things used by the anti-Japanese guerrillas.

force!' He instructed that they should seize enemy weapons and arm themselves while making them by themselves."

Now we looked round the data and materials on the founding of the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army (April 25, 1932) and the establishment of guerrilla bases and the bat-

tles for their defence. The guide said the munitions factories of the guerrilla army in the forests had initiated the traditions of the effort for fortification of the whole land and the spirit of army-people unity and self-reliance. There we saw a number of data and materials on display including the semipano- ►

A panorama shows a battle to defend Xiaowangqing.





▶ ramic picture of a battle to defend a guerrilla base, panoramic pictures and illuminated maps showing major battles and operations conducted under Kim Il Sung's command, including those of the Pochonbo Battle which had implanted in the mind of the Korean people the confidence that the Korean nation was not dead but alive and that if they fought against the Japanese imperialists they would be able to win, the Jiansanfang Battle, the Taehongdan Battle, and the final campaign for national liberation. By turning out in the nationwide struggle against the Japanese aggressors closely united behind Kim Il Sung, the Korean people finally defeated the Japanese aggressors and achieved the liberation of their country on August 15, 1945.

Seeing the pictures of the defeated Japanese forces and the

captured weapons on display, Ri Se Il, a visitor, said, "In this newly arranged section of the victorious anti-Japanese war, we are all convinced of the truth that the Songun cause led by an outstanding statesman will surely emerge victorious."

Stepping to the next section, I saw the picture of Kim Il Sung

addressing the Pyongyang mass rally held to welcome his triumphal return home. It seemed as if I were hearing the cheers of "Long live General Kim Il Sung!" that shook the heaven and earth in the days immediately after the national liberation.

(To be continued)



Non-material Cultural Heritage Upheld and Promoted

THE FOLK SONG *ARIRANG* IS A TYPICAL piece of Korea's non-material cultural heritage. It carries the sorrow over the parting with one's spouse, the yearning for him or her and the hope of reunion. The song has been orally handed down among the Koreans generation after generation. A symbol of the Korean folk music, it is on the lips of all Koreans, especially among the nationals overseas. There are diversified versions of the music in Korea, such as independent lyric, orchestra, instrumental ensemble, film music, dancing music and so on, which are put on the stage very often. What is particularly worth mentioning is the mass gymnastics and artistic performance *Arirang* based on the theme of the song, which was premiered in April 2002. The masterpiece left a great impression on the mind of the Korean people at home and abroad, and was awarded a diploma of the Guinness Book of Records.

Ssirum, Korean-style wrestling, is also a piece of non-material heritage that was created and has been developed by the Koreans in their working life for ages. They played the game at any time and in any place—at break of rice transplanting, weeding and harvesting, by the fields, on the sand bank of streams or in grassland. Large-scale games were often organized by regions. The winner's prize was usually a full-grown ox. A *ssirum*-showing mural picture in a tomb found in Ji'an, Jilin province, China—it dates back to the closing years of the 4th century—and the 18th century's renowned painter Kim Hong Do's work *Ssirum* are substantial justifications of the impor-



Old painting *Ssirum* by Kim Hong Do in the 18th century.

tance of *ssirum* in the Koreans' everyday life. At present a Grand Bull Prize national *ssirum* contest takes place in Korea every year on the occasion of the ▶

The Grand Bull Prize national *ssirum* contest takes place annually.





Folk dance *Peasant Dance*.

► folk holiday of *Chusok* or Harvest Moon Festival. This promotes the development of wrestling techniques and skills.

Makkolli, a traditional folk drink, is one of the popular drinks of the Korean people at the moment. An unrefined drink made by fermenting a porridge of malt and white rice, it is not so alcoholic (5-8 percent in alcoholic content) and has a well-regulated mixture of sour, sweet, bitter, astringent and other tastes. So it has been used as a nice soft drink for a long period of time. It also contains original flavour and a good amount of nutriment.

The folk dance *Yonbaek Nongangmu* (peasant dance) that came into existence among the peasants in the Yonbaek region, South Hwanghae Province

was later spread to different parts of the country to be established as a perfect musical and dancing model of art. It is currently placed in an honourable position among the folk art since its influence is reaching even foreign lands.

The campaign to excavate, confirm and preserve non-material heritage is making headway in the country with the participation of broad sections of the people, enriching the stock of the nation's culture.

Folk song *Arirang*, national sport *ssirum*, folk dance *Yonbaek Nongangmu*, national cuisine of Pyongyang *Raengmyon*, *kimchi* and *makkolli* are registered in the list of state non-material cultural heritage. □

Solgo's Painting

SOLGO WAS A FAMOUS PAINTER OF SILLA (a feudal Korean state that existed from the early mid-first century to 935). He was very fond of painting from his childhood. He often skipped meals for his poor living, but would never do without painting even a day. His skills were overwhelmingly higher than any other contemporary artists.

Once he painted an old pine tree on a wall of Hwangryong Temple at the request of the monks. It looked just like a real pine tree—the trunk with rough, thick and broken barks like the tortoise shell

that hints at its unyielding growth under the wear and tear of the world for hundreds of years, and the green pine-needles glittering as if they were just sprinkled with dew. The painting was so vivid that crows, eagles, swallows and sparrows used to run against the mural.

As time went by, it began to get dull in colour. The monks of Hwangryong Temple put their hearts and soul into the restoration of the painting. But, from that time on, the birds did not cast a look at the tree in the picture. □

My Subworkteam Members

By Pyon Chang Ryul

1
WHEN THE CHIEF ENGINEER of the Songwon Cooperative Farm management board was transferred to the post of the agricultural affairs section chief of the county cooperative farm management committee, the head of Workteam No. 4 of the farm was appointed as the farm's chief engineer. Who would be the leader of the workteam was an important topic among the members of the workteam at the moment. Early this morning, too, the members of the Third Subworkteam of Workteam No. 4 were out in the rice seedlings plot, and their chatting was focused on the important topic. They were making boisterous arguments, speaking of their opinions.

"Of all the people the head of the First Subworkteam will be the workteam leader, I'm sure. You know the career is the point in every consideration. Is there anyone who has a better understanding of the fields of our workteam? Even the official of the Ministry of Agriculture who was here to supervise the land realignment called the head of the First Subworkteam 'Breathing Terrier.' Moreover, he is quite inquisitive and enthusiastic about introduction of new technology." This challenging and enthusiastic voice came from Cha Jun Ho, who was in charge of looking after the draught cattle. He was about to have his breakfast—brought by his wife—sitting on a dry mat after grazing his cattle fully from the early hours of the day. All the subworkteam members knew he was an intimate friend of the head of the First Subworkteam, but none of them stood against his opin-

ion, perhaps because his words were rather reasonable.

"Is there any one who is as inquisitive and enthusiastic about introduction of new technology as the head of the Second Subworkteam? He won two patents at the provincial new technology exhibitions, you know. Moreover, he is young—and has got a kind heart. If he becomes the leader of our workteam, we will be able to do farming more easily. When others failed to manage the wintering of the mud snails properly and so more than half of them died, our workteam successfully kept the mud snails in winter so that none of them died. This was thanks to the head of the Second Subworkteam. The mud snails got rid of the weeds the next year, and we did the farming quite easily, didn't we? And the yield rose up to the highest ever level per hectare." This fluent statement without any hitches came from a woman worker, Ku Jong Sim, who went by the nickname of Sin Bangsong. Originally, she used to be called Ku Bangsong (whose literal meaning might be interpreted as "Old Broadcast") as she was informed of any affairs of the workteam and the farm and her information was correct. Later she suggested renaming herself as Sin Bangsong meaning "New Broadcast." Some strangers often mistook her family name as Sin.

"Thanks to Sin Bangsong's campaign the head of the Second Subworkteam is most likely to become the leader of the workteam." Somebody made a sarcastic remark.

At this, Sin Bangsong immediately made a refuting broad-

cast, saying, "Do you mean I've broadcast a false report? It's a stark fact that he has got two patents. And if you ask anyone you see on the highway about him they will say he's got a rosy future as he is young. And he is born a clever and kind-hearted character. And our subworkteam had a huge benefit from the successful wintering of the mud snails, didn't we? I haven't made a false report at all. Even on a stormy hilltop, I keep the balance and make a correct judgment."

There burst forth giggling sounds here and there. At that time Chun Hwa, head of the Third Subworkteam, got to the plot of rice seedlings. As if the straw-made windbreak around the plot were a kind of soundproof wall, the members of her subworkteam had been carelessly talking about whatever they pleased. Their words reached her ears clearly. Her first impulse was to stop the absurd discussion about the matter of "appointment of officer," but she was gripped with a certain curiosity, so she stood behind the windbreak. She wanted to hear what kind of appraisal her workers would make of her. It might be their objective and unbiased judgment.

"The members of the Fourth Subworkteam say their head will become the leader of the workteam. I hear he has many acquaintances in the county cooperative farm management committee and the husband of his father's sister or his uncle works in the provincial rural economy committee as a section chief. The subworkteam head finished the college course while working on ▶

► the job; he served in the army; he is handsome, a good speaker, a good worker. He is a typical man fit for executive posts." This soft and logic words came from Yong Sil, whose husband was in charge of the irrigation in the Fourth Subworkteam.

"Then, what about registering the head of the Fourth Subworkteam formally as a candidate?" Cha Jun Ho cried jokingly, giving rise to another round of laughter.

In a minute Ku Jong Sim's serious and patient tone began to sound. "I wish the statistician of the workteam were our workteam leader. I know how meticulous and humane she is. She acquaints herself with the expected day of young women's delivery and makes sure that they have their holiday of childbirth in time. On one occasion I heard an old operator of the rice cleaning mill speak highly of her; she gathered the fallen unhulled rice grains to the last one and put into the cleaning machine to increase the cleaning percentage even a little. I saw how scrupulous she was when there was a distribution of rice; for fear there was even a handful of rice less given to us, she confirmed the divisions of the scale again and again. When she makes public the assessment of the man-days, she carefully checks it to see if there is even 0.1 point missing. She thinks highly of us workers and treats us respectfully."

There fell a silence as if everybody agreed with her.

Someone else followed up her remarks. "She must have done so while she was a platoon leader in the People's Army. That's why her comrades make hundreds of ri's detour to see her on their way back home after they're discharged. That's really unusual."

The conversation focused on Hyo Sun, the statistician, before changing to everyday problems.

Chun Hwa felt more or less strange. Her subworkteam members talked of all subwork-

team heads except her alone. She was sorry she was not worth being taken into consideration.

As if sensing her mind, Pak Ung Thae, an elderly man in charge of water control, was heard saying, "By the way, why are you leaving our subworkteam head out of your topic?"

There was no answer.

"Well, why don't we make haste? Remember the subworkteam head stressed we would be the first in the county to finish the rice transplanting only when we finish the job in the Kolgae paddies today." A high-pitched voice cried. It was Yong Ae, the subworkteam member in charge of publicity. Her words changed the atmosphere of the place at once, like the bell announcing the beginning of school. Sounds of their making haste were heard; perhaps they were now aware their head would appear presently.

"Is that you, Third Subworkteam head?" someone called from behind. It was Hyo Sun who was the statistician of the workteam. She was Chun Hwa's schoolmate. Chun Hwa rushed up to her, for she was in an awkward situation, unable to decide whether to join her workers in the rice seedlings plot or to keep her away from them. Hyo Sun appeared at such a moment to save her. Approaching her friend, Chun Hwa thought she was going to tell how her subworkteam members had "recommended" her for the post of the workteam leader. But Hyo Sun looked rather serious for a certain reason she couldn't tell.

"Today the members of the artistic circle of the senior middle school are coming to give a performance," Hyo Sun announced. "They say they are going to perform here on the bank of the Songwon Stream. Please make an arrangement."

Chun Hwa nodded, but inwardly she was calculating how much time and labour would be wasted travelling from the Kolgae paddies to this place of per-

formance.

"By the way," Hyo Sun spoke again, looking directly at Chun Hwa. It was a glance of silent criticism. Feeling nervous for no reason, Chun Hwa accepted her eyes.

"Did you say you would cut 0.5 point from the day's labour assessment if the workers were not present at the work place at 5:30 in the morning?" Hyo Sun asked.

"Yes, I did," Chun Hwa replied innocently. She had said that the evening before at the hour of reviewing the day's work of her subworkteam, in order to mobilize the entire subworkteam to the last effort of rice transplanting.

Hyo Sun made a face and stared at Chun Hwa, before saying, "I don't think you were right, Chun Hwa. How could you wield the assessment of the man-days like a pocket of coins in the hand of the subworkteam head? This morning I heard some women workers of your subworkteam say they were a little unpleasant because they felt as if they were blackmailed by your mentioning of 0.5 point."

Hyo Sun was speaking of the fact as it was, without any addition or deduction. But Chun Hwa flushed, feeling uneasy about the sharp criticism. She remembered her subworkteam members' appreciation of Hyo Sun and their no-mentioning of her when they were talking of their "candidates" for the workteam leader.

Now Chun Hwa recalled that her fiancé Myong Sik had divulged his admiration for Hyo Sun. He had said, "She is different from us as we anticipated—both in the angle of thinking and in the attitude towards things. Surely different from us."

Chun Hwa had felt his statement of "different from us" insulting to her self-confidence one way or another, for it sounded like "different from you, Chun Hwa."

(To be continued)

Story Associated With Anhak Palace



THE ANHAK PALACE WAS the royal residence of Koguryo (277 BC-AD 668) after the kingdom moved its capital from Kungnaesong in Jian to Pyongyang in 427. Around the time when the construction of the palace was underway, there lived a boy named Isadal who was a slave owned by the royal family.

One day the royal minister in charge of the Anhak Palace project looked through the design. Then, he called in Isadal and gave a strict order, saying, "Listen, Isadal. We're going to decorate this palace of the king with coral bricks. You shall have to make the bricks. If you succeed, you'll be given liberty as you want. If not, you shall die."

It was almost a lethal order, but Isadal was rather happy than afraid, for he thought living as a slave was no better than being dead. He made up his mind to make coral bricks at any cost as a treasure of his country and earn liberty like Noul for the reward.

Isadal was in love with Noul who was a royal servant. But as he was a slave, he could not meet her openly. Whenever they came across in the ground of the palace, they had to share their burning affection by exchanging their eyes alone.

Having experienced such a misfortune, Isadal made desperate efforts for the development of the coral bricks. The Anhak Palace rose magnificently befitting the dignity of the prosperous country.

A dozen years passed and it

was time to use coral bricks for the decoration of the buildings where the sovereign of the country would live. Isadal's hair was scorched by the fire of the brick kiln, and his hands were burnt numb and hardened with calluses. But he failed to make coral-bright bricks.

The minister decided to sentence him to death for his failure to fulfil the order, so that other people working for the project might be awakened to the loyalty to the royal order. When people gathered in a certain place of the palace under construction as he had ordered, he asked Isadal to leave words if he had any before he died.

"I wish to die with this brick I've made in my arms," Isadal implored.

"What do you mean by that?" asked the minister.

"I wish to be a cornerstone of Koguryo even when I'm dead."

The minister allowed him to hold the brick in his arms, and ordered the executioner to carry out the death sentence.

The stupidly honest executioner put up his sword over his head and struck a fatal blow down onto Isadal's neck.

But, alas! The sword was broken into two pieces and Isadal was standing erect like a giant with his brick held up over his head. The crowd was shocked to see his brick still complete.

At the moment Noul, among the crowd, called out to him and elbowed through the gathering. The fragile girl came up to Isadal with tearful eyes and looked at him for a good while, before

standing by him. She seemed to be determined to share the lot with him by his side whatever the ordeal. She had never been able to do it yet, and now she looked happy. She was grey-haired now, like Isadal. Their position of being enslaved without any human right turned them gray-haired though they were no more than in their 40s. Infuriated, the crowd shouted to the minister to let the couple alive. They looked ready to rise up against him at once if he did not accept their opinion. And the minister knew such a revolt would make it impossible to build the palace and that he would be blamed for the failure. So he decided to pardon Isadal who had earned the favour with the workers by making strong bricks and let him achieve his desire. This would help him court the workers and hasten the project.

Finally Isadal escaped the death penalty and his name was erased off from the register of slaves. The people erected a small house for his couple at the foot of Mt. Taesong and looked well after them.

Later the local inhabitants handed down the legendary story of Isadal and Noul generation after generation.

Kim Un Jong

Korean Folklore Museum

(Continued from the last issue)

THE HALL WE ENTERED SHOWS THE Korean nation's peculiar dressing manners. Seeing the relics such as hemp thread, bone needle, and abb gripe unearthed from the remains of the primitive ages, we realized that the dressing manners had been formed in remote antiquity.

The Korean people's style of dressing was fixed in the ancient times, so that the commoners wore hemp clothes and the peers silk clothes. The wax replicas of King Tangun, the founding father of Ancient Joseon, the first state of Korea (early 30th century BC-108 BC), and his wife, show that they wore long silk clothes indicating the dressing habit of the ancient times.

In the period of Koguryo (277 BC-AD 668), the country was powerful, and so it had a developed culture and a high dressing style. The murals of King Kogugwon's tomb showing common man's attire in trousers and leggings, with tight and short sleeves and a belt around the jacket, and the mural paintings of the Tokhung-ri tomb exhibiting common woman's dress gave me an idea of how common people dressed themselves in that period; that is, men wore trousers

while women a jacket and a long skirt (wide corrugated skirt). Belts were wound around the waist. Women wore toecapped shoes.

In the middle period of Koryo Dynasty (918-1392), the jacket became short with no belt and a jacket string came into fashion. Textile fabrics were of silk, ramie and hemp, and cotton cloth came to be used from the late 14th century as cotton was cultivated. Silks were widely known. At the time, Koryo had trade relations with Song of China, and through the Koryo-Song trade, the silk goods of Koryo spread to Arab countries. Records say that in the era of Song, Chinese traders from the Shandong, Fujian and Zhejiang areas, the renowned silk producing centres, visited Koryo to purchase various kinds of silk and ramie cloth. In this course, the name Korea (Koryo) came to be well-known to the world and it has come to stay to this day.

During the Feudal Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910), the Korean costume underwent a great change in appearance and variety. In this period the production of hemp prospered all over the country. On display are a model of a woman weaving hemp cloth at a loom through four processes and the produced hemp cloth. Also on show are common men's sleeveless

The costumes in the period of Three Kingdoms.



The Haengju apron and Hoejang jogori (colour-striped coat of women).



▶ jackets and short trousers for working use and padded jackets and trousers for fishing. Impressive are the sleeveless jacket and sleevelet made of the wisteria stem wood. The sleeveless jacket worn next to skin in summer will save clothes from being wet with sweat and keep the body cool, so that even modern people will want to wear.

The Haengju apron from the times of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty attracted attention. It was connected with the patriotism of women who made a great contribution to the victory of the battle of the Haengju Mountain Fort by carrying stones in their apron during the Imjin Patriotic War (1592-1598).

The women's jacket with colorful strips of cloth for trimmings came into being in the same time. Originally the colourful strips were used to replace easily-soiled and worn-out parts of the jacket with other pieces of cloth, but later developed into one of the Korean women's decorative costumes.

Very important to show the dressing manners is that every attire has its own mural, giving the scientific accuracy and authenticity.

There is also on display a suit of armour which a military officer wore in battles about 400 years ago. Inside the suit are the pieces of pressed leather which were laid to overlap each other not to be stabbed by a sword, and on the parts of shoulders are metal pieces.

Various kinds of personal ornaments for women can be seen. Moreover, a pendent trinket, as one of



Wax replicas of Tangun, father of the Korean nation, and his wife.

the special personal ornaments for Korean women, is very suitable for beautiful Korean women's costumes and has some industrial value.

Feeling the Korean people's lofty, meticulous and frugal life, we went to the next hall.

(To be continued.)

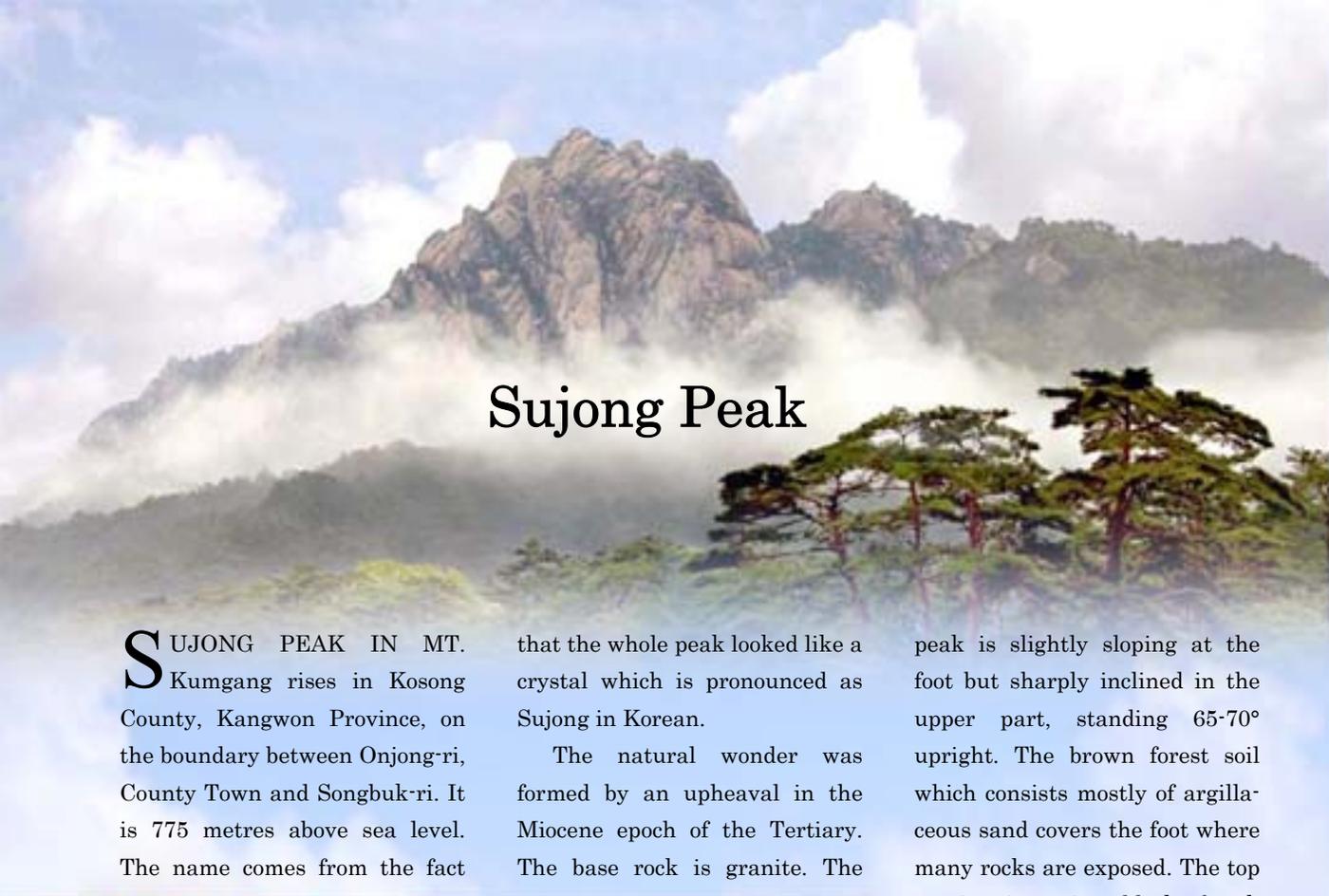
Rim Ok

Children's garments.



A scene of women weaving hemp cloth in the Feudal Joseon Dynasty.





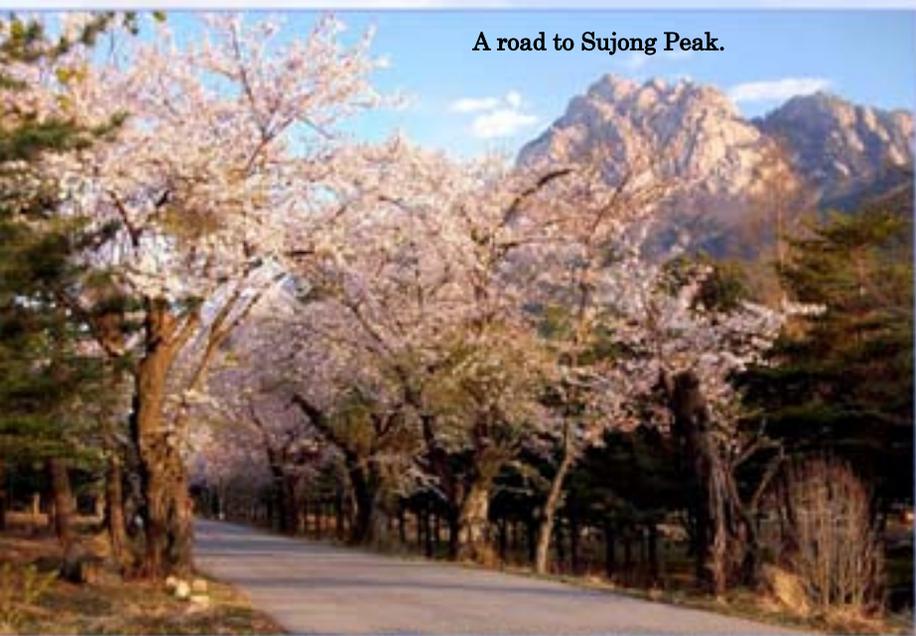
Sujong Peak

SUJONG PEAK IN MT. Kumgang rises in Kosong County, Kangwon Province, on the boundary between Onjong-ri, County Town and Songbuk-ri. It is 775 metres above sea level. The name comes from the fact

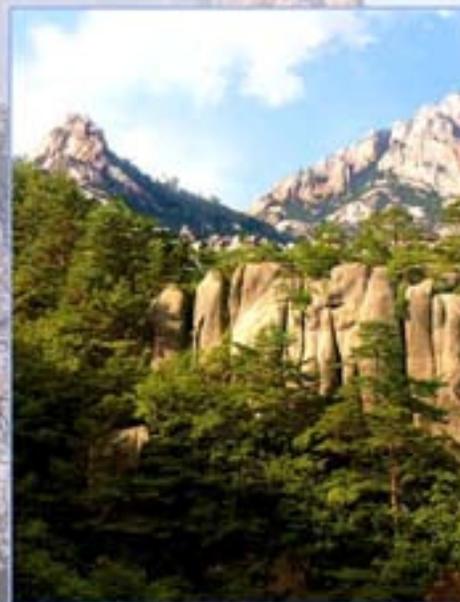
that the whole peak looked like a crystal which is pronounced as Sujong in Korean.

The natural wonder was formed by an upheaval in the Miocene epoch of the Tertiary. The base rock is granite. The

peak is slightly sloping at the foot but sharply inclined in the upper part, standing 65-70° upright. The brown forest soil which consists mostly of argillaceous sand covers the foot where many rocks are exposed. The top consists in a giant block of rock as a whole. The lower part of the peak has pines, oaks, maples and *Aceraceae meno*, and the top is sparsely wooded. Azalea, bush clovers, royal azaleas and *Weigela subsessilis Bailey* are ▶



A road to Sujong Peak.



► found in numbers. The summit is to be reached by sightseeing paths that start from Sujong Valley, Jong Valley in Songbuk-ri and Idanpho Valley in Kosong County Town. Standing along the paths are Nuun Falls which is 20~30 m high, Jara Rock, Pidulgi Rock, Sonsu Rock and other fantastic rocks.

Sujong Gate rises just under the ridge of the peak. It is the largest natural stone gate in Mt. Kumgang. It is a piece of arch-style rock with the thickness of two or three metres and the length and height ten metres each. Crystals are stuck in the stone. Passing through the gate and climbing a little up an iron ladder will bring you to Kangson-dae, a big flat rock where hundreds of people can sit together. Hollows are to be seen here and there on it. In summer they are filled with water, grasses grow around and frogs live in the wa-

ter. It reminds you of a pond in the garden. Go two or three metres up, and you will have a look-out on the summit. It is one of the best places for sightseeing in the northern area of Outer Kumgang. There you can command beautiful sceneries of Hanhagye, Kwangum Peaks stretching southeastward from Sangdung Peak in the west and peaks behind them like Ongnyo, Janggun, Chaeha, Jipson and Sejon peaks. Also to be seen in the north are Mt. Chonbul, and imposing Chodae Peak and Chodae Rocks. To the east there is Kosong Bay which intrudes deep into the foot of Sujong Peak, the East Sea of Korea, Onjong Stream and Kosong Plain, which make up a picture.

Sujong Peak has a legend, which goes:

In olden times an orphaned little boy lived in a cave in the coastal cliffs in Jangjon Inlet. One night he happened to see

one of the many peaks in Mt. Kumgang shining brightly. The next day he went to the peak with a bow and arrows. When he climbed up the peak in defiance of difficulties, he found Sujong Gate near the summit where brilliant crystal rods as big as forearm were hanging down. He fell into raptures, and enjoyed the sight unconscious of the passage of time. Then there were birds twittering suddenly and he went out. He saw a gang of thieves climbing up the peak to steal the crystals. He repulsed them using his bow, and defended the crystals. Now he settled there to defend crystals, and the thieves could never approach the summit.

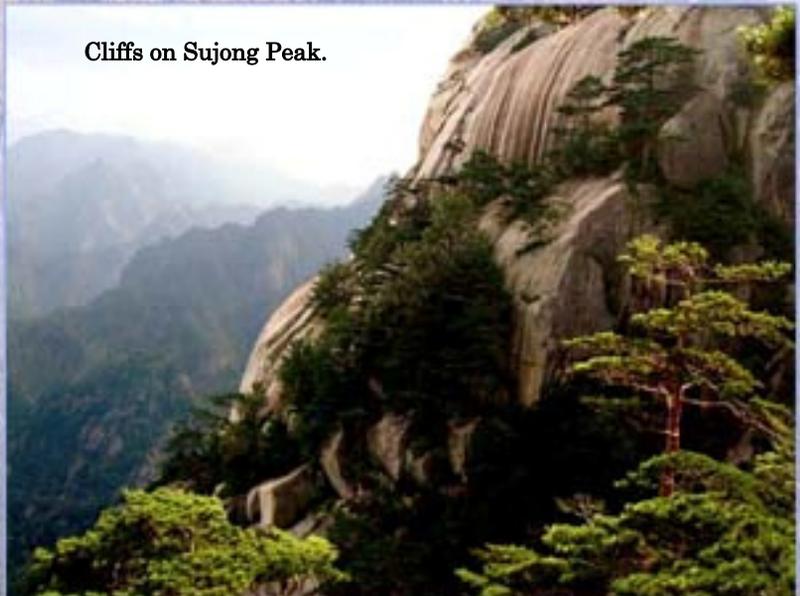
The peak area has developed into a wonderful sightseeing resort with good facilities. It is an attraction to holidaymakers and tourists in Mt. Kumgang.

Sim Yong Jin

Fantastic rocks on Sujong Peak.



Cliffs on Sujong Peak.



The Phungsan Hound

THE PHUNGSAN HOUND is native to the region of Kim Hyong Gwon County (Phungsan County in the past), Ryanggang Province. It is smart and agile and full of fight. Trained for hunting, Phungsan hound is faithful and sharp-eyed, and most ferocious against big

game. It looks dashing and, with strong hind legs, is a good runner even on steep mountainsides.

It always keeps its head high on the lookout, with rather small eyes. It has comparatively small straight ears bent forward or sideways. Its neck is thick, short and well-formed. The she-

dog has a slightly drooped belly, but the male's is taut for quick movement. It has its tail held high in a loop on its hips. The dog has short legs, and some have additional toes in their hind legs. The fur is mostly white, but sometimes yellowish brown. The male is 55 cm tall and weighs 24-25 kg (28 kg at the most), and the she-dog is 53 cm tall and 22-23 kg (27 kg at the most). The male is 57 cm long and 61 cm round its chest, and the she-dog is 55 cm long and 59 cm round. It has a litter of 5-6 puppies after 60 days of pregnancy, and gives suck to the young for 45-50 days. The dog is strongly resistant to diseases and cold and eats very well, and so it can be bred in rough conditions.

It is a state natural monument in Korea.

Rim Ok



By Our Nation Itself

EARLY THIS YEAR THE DEMOCRATIC People's Republic of Korea announced its will to improve the inter-Korean relations that had been going from bad to worse, and reiterated its policy of joining hands with anyone who attaches importance to the nation and wants reunification, without questioning their past. Later, through the important proposal (January 16) and the open letter (January 23) of the DPRK National Defence Commission, it appealed to the south Korean authorities to take practical measures to create an environment for improving the north-south relations and completely stop all hostile military acts against each other and cooperate in the effort to take a realistic step to ward off a nuclear disaster to come to this land. Then the DPRK took the initiative to take peaceful approaches towards improvement of the relations between the north and the south.

Despite those efforts on the part of the DPRK, the inter-Korean relations that made a step forward for improvement at first were frostbitten and driven into a catastrophe. To pave a way out, the DPRK National Defence Commission made on June 30 a special proposal to the south Korean authorities with a resolute decision to make a turning point in the effort to improve the inter-Korean relationship by adhering to the three principles of independence, peace and great national unity and the idea of "By our nation itself."

The rise and fall, and life and death of the Korean nation depend on the determination of the north and the south. The Korean nation can no longer stand the continued confrontation between the two parts, which will end in catastrophic disaster of a nuclear war in the Korean peninsula. Fourteen years ago the north and the south had a summit meeting with the determination to end the history of national division, and adopted the historic June 15 North-South Joint Declaration.

The soul of the declaration is *by our nation itself*, or, *by the concerted efforts of our nation*. The idea actively promoted the struggle to remove the mistrust, confrontation and hostility and improve travels, contacts, dialogue and unity between the two parts of Korea. Thus, it played the key role in changing the confrontation-oriented relationship into the one of unity and reconciliation. North-south negotiations supported by the idea opened up the channel of trust and cooperation leading settlement

of substantial matters and discarding the outdated frame of concept. Railways and roads that had remained severed for more than half a century were reconnected and air and sea routes were opened, which itself was the catalyst for greater efforts to unravel the distrust and expand cooperation and exchange between the two parts. In those years all the Korean communities around the world sent their delegates to meetings in Pyongyang, Seoul and the Mt. Kungang resort on major anniversaries including June 15 and August 15 (the day of Korean liberation from the Japanese military occupation) for the display of the nation's will to make one Korea. People of all strata in the north and the south often met to have rallies for reunification and other kinds of assemblies and in the course of this they deepened mutual understanding and demonstrated the image of the united Korean nation. It brought the festivity to the whole land along with the hope of independent reunification. Such was the image of the June 15-marked era of reunification. The spirit of giving priority to the nation and treasuring the national characters settled in the minds of the Koreans, and the trend of national cooperation overwhelmed the tendency towards fratricidal confrontation. The ethos of rejecting the American intervention and pursuing independence and reunification with the north swept south Korea while the structure of confrontation between the Korean nation as a whole and the United States was formed. This meant the feasibility for the Koreans to achieve reunification by themselves. The anti-reunification, pro-confrontation advocates asserted that it is impossible to regain one Korea with different ideas and social systems and that it was a long way to go until the "heterogeneous north and south" got homogeneous again, but the sophism was smothered by the vitality of the idea of *by our nation itself*.

The June 15-born era of reunification demonstrated that nothing is as powerful as the idea of by our nation itself and that no other isms of patriotism are as momentous.

The reality shows that the motive force of the cause of national reunification is the entire Korean nation and that the cause will be accomplished in an independent way and in the interest of the nation only when the stand of *by our nation itself* is taken firmly.

Choe Chol Nam

Behind the US's Fervour for Human Rights

A BLATANT INSTIGATION IS GOING AHEAD in the US over the "human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea." Former and incumbent high-ranking officials are frantic with their mud-slinging campaign against the DPRK's system. A human rights act was approved at the law-making body against the country.

The Americans went so far as to bring the matter of the "DPRK's human rights" to the UN, upsetting the international community. A typical event is that they made absurd accusations in Geneva last March at the 25th session of the UN Human Right Council.

Then, for what is the US making haste to call the "human rights problem" of the DPRK to the international attention again while running amuck with their war rehearsals using a huge amount of means of nuclear war in and around the Korean peninsula on the unjustified ground of the DPRK's threat?

The Americans have kept the peninsula in a touch-and-go situation for scores of years since they occupied the southern half. Their strategic aim is to take control of the whole peninsula and use it to gain the world's hegemony. But their hard-line policy has come to a deadlock. To cope with the US's extremist policy of isolation and stifling the DPRK made the best of its own material and technical foundations to successfully make and launch artificial satellites. This meant the bankruptcy of the Americans' hostile policy against the DPRK, and it also demanded that Washington change its existing policy.

Nevertheless, the Pentagon, in its report on examinations of the four-year defense strategy, stigmatized the DPRK as the country that threatens the US directly, and declared that it would win a decisive victory through armed force-based conquest in case its strategy of containing the DPRK's nuclear and missile threats fails. The chief of staff of the US Army fanned up the fury for war by making another war in the Korean peninsula a *fait accompli*.

The Americans have left no stones unturned to smear the DPRK. A typical example is that the secretary of State recently called the DPRK the cruelest state of evil, claiming it is necessary to keep bringing pressure to the country. The commander of the US forces in the Pacific region and other brass hats are making absurd allegations about the DPRK's regular rocket firing drill, asserting it is a threat and provocation, and arguing for applying sanctions.

All this comes from the crooked intention to attain the aggressive aim by tarnishing the image of the DPRK. Referring to this, even south Korean and Western media reported that "the US is trying to

sustain the pursuance of the strategy of isolating and stifling the DPRK, the crumbling policy that is faced with the DPRK's dialogue- and peace-oriented offensive," and "the US is forcing [south Korea] to maintain the tough policy against the north by interfering in the inter-Korean relations."

Apprehensions over the American arbitrariness and intervention are voiced strongly. In the final analysis the US has decided it could hardly topple the DPRK by means of the nuclear problem alone. Now it seems to have chosen the alternative of producing fake stories about the "human rights violations" of the DPRK and propagating them up to such a level as to get a pretext for intervention into the internal affairs of the country and overturn the socialist system.

In retrospect the US, in last century, threw down some 40 Latin-American governments, and committed as many as 900 assassinations and terrorist atrocities from 1961 to 1976 in different countries and regions. During the period from the end of the Second World War to the mid-1960s 23 of the national governments in Asia crumbled; and a number of national governments fell 20 times in Africa in 1960-68. The wars in Dominica, Grenada, Panama and Kosovo in the 1980s-1990s were all what the Americans fought under the cover of "protecting human rights." The aggression of Afghanistan and Iraq in the 21st century gives the lesson that the "human rights"-claiming campaign of the imperialists is followed by bloody war or military intervention without exception.

Recently the US Central Intelligence Agency issued an instruction on carrying out offensive intelligence activities against the DPRK.

The US gives no regard to international law, so it is obvious that the US will trigger an aggressive war against the DPRK at any moment by wielding the "law on human rights."

The Korean peninsula-centred northeast Asia is where the interests of the world's powers come across or conflict. The Russian foreign minister stated his government's stand whereby it is opposed to using human rights to justify political pressure and intervention into internal affairs of other nations. It is high time to give up the idea of coordinating the existing difficult problems in the Korean peninsula by way of force and establish a multilateral security mechanism in Northeast Asia.

To make a cool judgment of the reality and decide a policy consistent with the trend of the time may be a beneficial choice to the US.

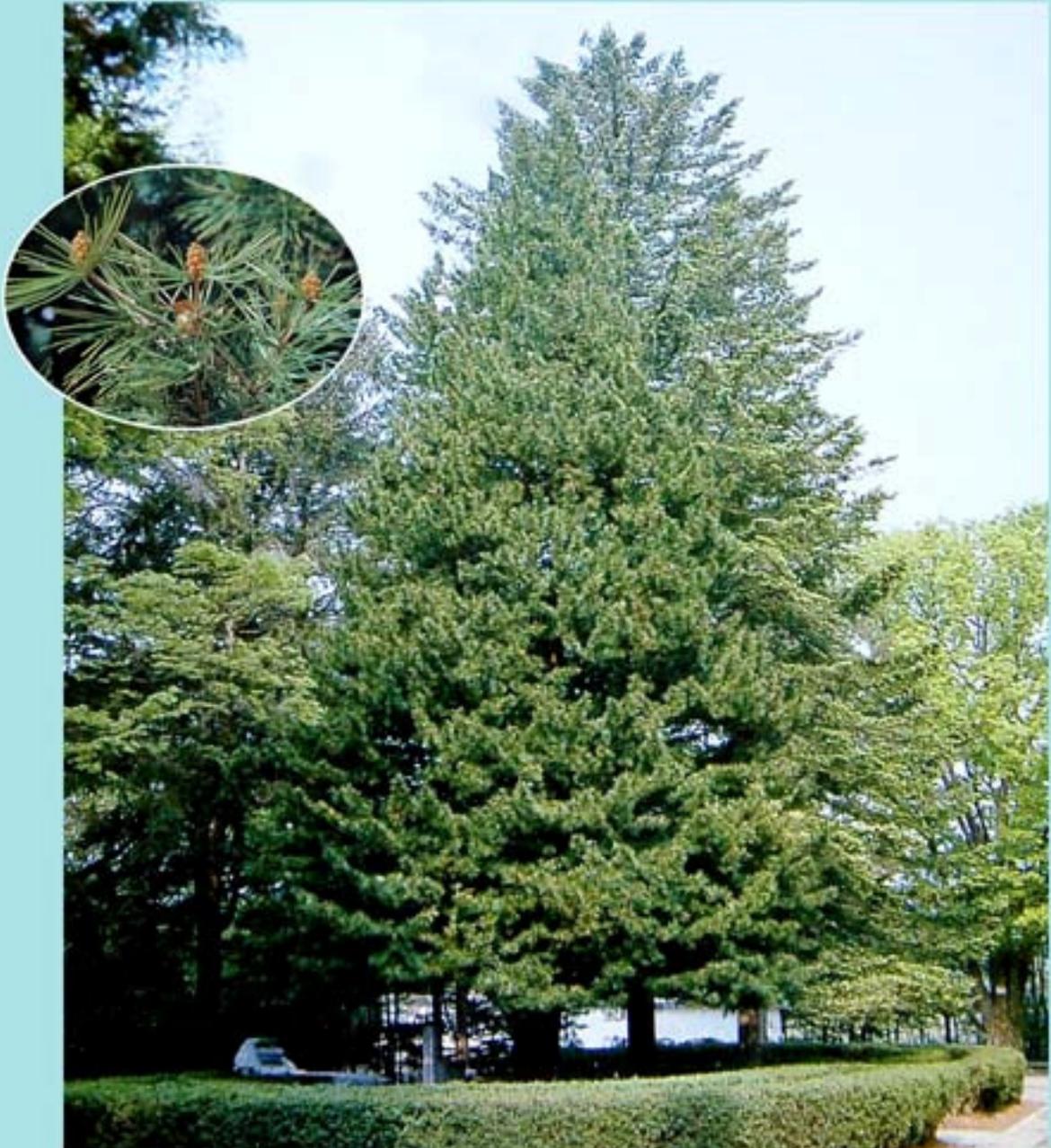
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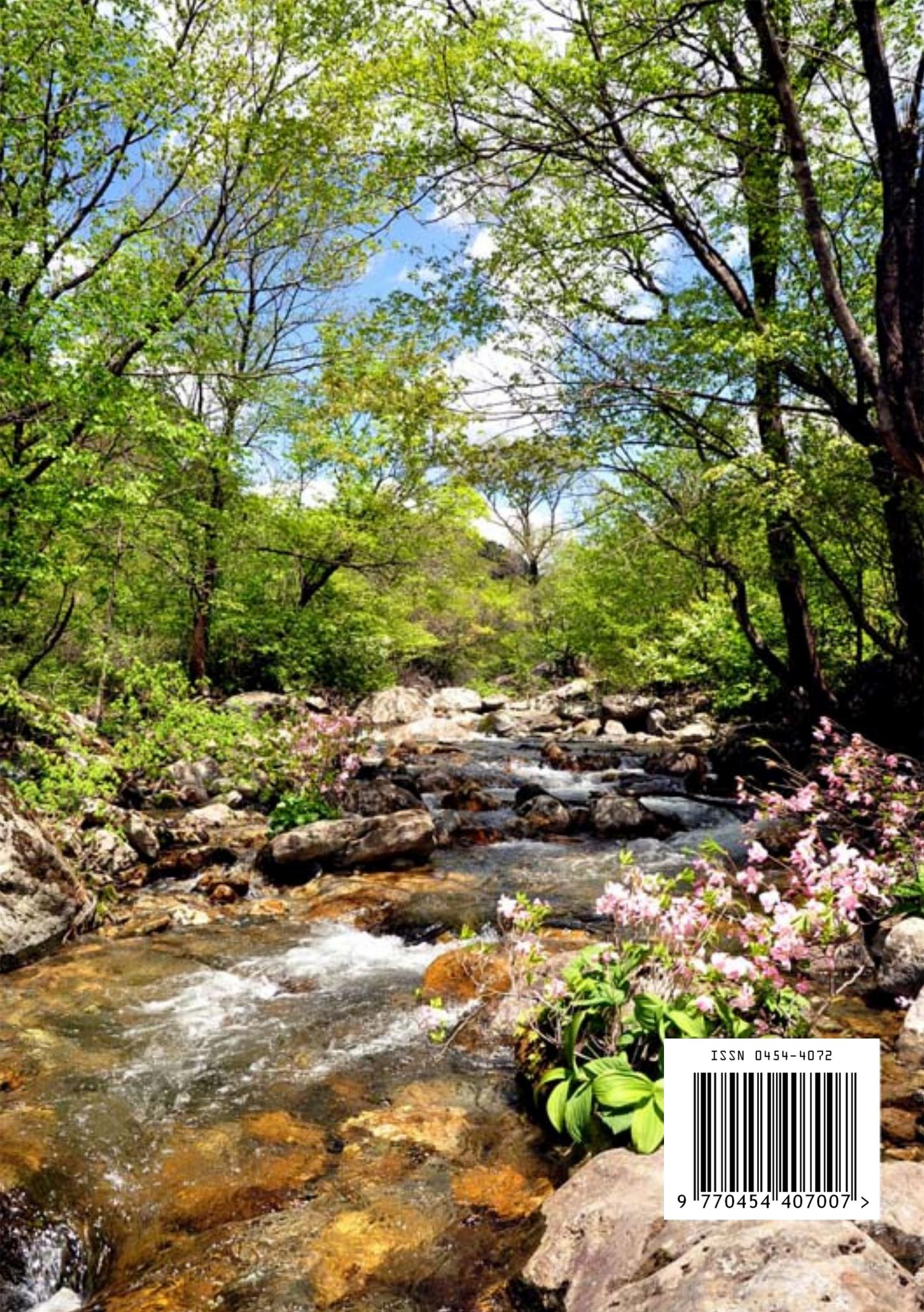
Sciadopitys Verticillata Sieb. et Zucc. in Wonsan

A *SCIADOPITYS VERTICILLATA SIEB. ET Zucc.* stands in the compound of the Wonsan University of Agriculture situated in Songchon-dong, Wonsan City, Kangwon Province. It was transplanted to the present place around 1890 when it was 30 years old. It is 18 m tall, 2 m round at the bottom and 1.9 m round at the breast height. Its crown is 6.4 m across. It grows straight up and the branches

stretch out almost horizontally all around the trunk, so it looks just the same from all directions. It is in good condition and is the biggest tree of its kind in Korea. The biggest and oldest tree in the coastal areas of the East Sea of Korea, it was registered as a state natural monument in January 1980 for its scientific and scenic merits.

Song Ryo Myong





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