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Grand Cross Order of Merit

Chairman Kim Jong Il received the Grand Cross Order of Merit of Central Africa from the President of the Central African Republic in July 1983.



Sweeping Victory



The national leader Kim Jong Un warmly welcomes the women footballers on their return home in August 2015.





Over 200 000 Pyongyangites turn out to offer hearty congratulations to the women footballers on their win at the EAFF Women's East Asian Cup 2015.



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Front Cover: The emblem and flag of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Photo by Ra Phyong Ryol



Back Cover: The terminal of the Pyongyang International Airport

Photo by courtesy of the KCNA

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DPRK's Healthcare System

THE DEMOCRATIC People's Republic of Korea has a popular healthcare system whereby the state takes full responsibility for people's lives and health.

The popular character of the DPRK's healthcare system finds expression in the fact that all things including production and construction are put at the service of the people for their lives and health and nothing is spared for them. In the country people's health is considered the most important problem in building factories, enterprises and cities and making parks and recreation grounds. Even when it is in a difficult economic condition or in a strained situation, the popular policies for the people's lives and health are invariably implemented. In particular, the government makes whatever investment needed for their lives.

The health problem comes ahead of economic calculation, and any economic profits can hardly match the people's health—this is the invariable standpoint of the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK government. For instance, in June 1986 in Haeju City, South Hwanghae Province, a smeltery which had emitted a tiny amount of harmful gas was blown off and a modern one with no harmful gas was set up thanks to a state measure. Ruled by the public health policy of the Party and the state, fumes, sewage and waste water are thoroughly purified.

The popular character is also to be found in the complete, universal free medical care system. The free medical service is equally offered to all the Korean people irrespective of age, sex, place of abode, occupation and quality and quantity of labour done, and it includes all aspects of care for people's lives and health, including diagnosis, test, examination, treatment, operation, sick call, patient's transport, usage of facilities, recuperation, assistance at childbirth, health checkup and consultation, and vaccination. Thanks to the beneficial system, the Korean people, with no idea of what doctor's fee and bill are like, receive treatment and improve their health.

One day a local worker was badly wounded in an accident. First-aid service was given in the local hospital before he was transferred to a central hospital in Pyongyang, where he got well after 15-day-long treatment—all free of charge. He was looked after by more than ten medics including an academician, Professors and Doctors of Medicine, with over 70 kinds of expensive medicines, and had a transfusion of 5.7 litres of blood.

Children, pregnant women and mothers of children enjoy special benefits. Women have a maternity leave of 240 days. Mothers of more than four children are paid a special subsidy the amount of which is determined by the number of children. Mothers of three children, accord-

ing to their wish, can temporarily retire from office following childbirth while being provided with food as usual.

A prematurely-born baby or those born of a birth are put in the incubator until they weigh four kilograms. A woman from Hanggu District, Nampho City, diagnosed as carrying quadruplets in August 1984, was admitted to the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital and delivered more than 50 days later. She and her children were discharged in February next year only after they all got healthy.

In the DPRK excellent facilities and conditions are laid fully enough to afford people free medical care any time and anywhere. Medical care centres are in good arrangement from the central down to the lowest echelon, including large-scale, general hospitals such as the Kim Il Sung University Pyongyang Medical College Teaching Hospital and Kim Man Yu Hospital, many special hospitals like the Pyongyang Ophthalmic Hospital, the South Hamgyong Provincial Dental Hospital and the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, and other hospitals and polyclinics. Hospitals or polyclinics are to be found in all places whether they are towns, rural villages, industrial districts, fishing villages or forestry workers' villages, with *ri* or *dong* as unit. Every district or county has a people's hospital. A reasonable number of medical workers are assigned to

- ▶ work according to the number of population. Factories and enterprises have their own hospitals or polyclinics, and collieries and ore mines have hospitals or polyclinics outside pits while pits have clinics or first-aid posts inside. Even deep-sea fishing fleets have their clinics.

In recent years modern medical establishments were built in the country, including the Breast Tumour Research Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, the Ryugyong Dental Hospital and the Okryu Children's Hospital. Similar establishments are going up now, too. Modern factories to produce medicines and medical appliances, pharmaceutical plants and special medical herb farms are in operation the country over, and every province has medical workers training centres including medical colleges.

The WPK and the government's policy of preventive medicine, too, is expressive of the popular character of the DPRK's healthcare system. A primary attention is paid to the effort to keep people from contracting diseases. Great efforts are directed to the work of ensuring the prevention of diseases and keeping sanitary living and working conditions, and the section doctor system and prevention-oriented medical services are ceaselessly improved. The section doctor system has been in operation since the early 1960s. It puts doctors in charge of some residential areas and look after the local people. As a result of the developed section doctor system, doctors in charge visit families and working places to prevent and treat diseases in accordance with people's working



The multi-purpose X-ray room at the Breast Tumour Research Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital.



The Ryugyong Dental Hospital.

and living conditions, living custom and constitutional qualities. In this way they bring medical services like field treatment, medical examination and management of chronic patients closer to the local people. Today in the DPRK, doctors go around looking for patients—this is a common practice.

Even when many countries suffered from bird's flu, SARS and Ebola, none of the Koreans was

infected. This is entirely attributed to the complete hygienic and anti-epidemic work of the DPRK government.

Under the beneficial healthcare system, the Korean people's mortality and attack rate have decreased year by year while their average life span has increased, and thus people's wish for longevity is coming into reality.

Jo Song I

Care for the People's Health

The System of Universal Free Medical Care

ONE DAY IN JANUARY 1952 when the Fatherland Liberation War was at its height, President Kim Il Sung summoned a health official. On his table lay a document about the germ warfare perpetrated by the enemy and the countermeasure against it submitted by the officials concerned sometime ago. The leader who had been looking over the paper for a long time with a serious face asked the official how much the people were charged for the doctor's fee.

This unexpected question confused the official who had been thinking the President would give his views on the document. So he remained dumb for a moment before he answered that the workers and office clerks were given free medical care under the social insurance programme of the state while the peasants and private merchants and industrial entrepreneurs were charged a very small fee for medical treatment and the dependents of workers and office employees were paying about 40 percent of the outpatient's bill.

At this, the President said that the people were fighting for victory in the war at the front and in the rear at the risk of their lives and that nothing should be spared for such patriotic self-sacrificing people. Then he proposed to adopt a free medical service system for the entire people. As a result, the Cabinet decision about the introduction of a universal free medical service system

was announced in November 1952. The introduction of such a system in a hard war time when every penny was needed for conducting the war surpassed all imagination of people.

For the Real Benefit

One day in June 1977 Chairman Kim Jong Il met an official of South Hamgyong Province and gave instructions to construct a large up-to-date dental hospital in Hamhung, a city thickly populated with working people. Then in the days of its construction, he more than once helped to find a way out of difficulties in construction and sent experts to complete the building of the hospital in a superb way.

One day in February 1978 when he received a report from the province that the workers of the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex with bad teeth were given primary treatment, he was very pleased. He said that with growing age, people's teeth would decay, and that so intensive treatment for one time was not enough. With this he pointed out that dental hospitals were indispensable for the regular treatment of the people with bad teeth. He emphasized the need to hasten the completion of the dental hospital and gave instructions once again to fit it out with fine equipment. In about a year after that, the South Hamgyong Provincial Dental Hospital was completed in a modern style. When he visited the hospital later, he said that it was useless only to give publicity to the construction of a large den-

tal hospital and its modern equipment and that it was necessary for the hospital to give practical benefits to the workers and other sections of people.

The Watchtower and Dressing Station

When the Rungna Wading Pool was under construction, the national leader Kim Jong Un visited the place and personally went up to the unsafe creaking top of the water slide not yet fully assembled and gave detailed instructions that more diving platforms and water tanks should be built at the wading pool, and that a beach volleyball court, a basketball court and a volleyball court should be constructed. At the dusty construction site, he personally drew pictures to show his ideas to the constructors and kindly advised them to set up a photo-monitor over the water slide to prevent an impetuous slider from bumping against another from behind.

Later, when the wading pool was nearing completion, he visited it again. Attentively looking out over the scene—wide and open water pools, water slides, diving platforms, changing rooms, a beach volleyball court, a basketball court, artificial lawns, and so on, he told the officials to set up a watchtower and a dressing station to spot an accident and give first-aid treatment without delay. Thanks to his tender care a watchtower and a dressing station were built.

Kang Hye Ok

Legal Guarantee of Socialist Healthcare

THE DEMOCRATIC People's Republic of Korea adopted the Public Health Law through Ordinance No. 5 of the Supreme People's Assembly in April 1980, and it was revised and supplemented in 1999 and 2001. Its adoption marked an important turning point in ensuring legal guarantee to consolidate the successes achieved in the sector of public health in the country and develop it onto a higher level. In Article 1, Chapter I of the law it stipulates that public health in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a worthy and honourable work to protect the lives and promote the health of people, the masters of nature and society and the most precious beings in the world, and to enable all the working people to contribute actively to the accomplishment of the socialist cause.

Medical care system 55 years ago

In the DPRK the free medical service in which the State is wholly responsible for taking care of the people's health dates back a long time ago. After liberation of Korea from the military occupation of the Japanese imperialists (August 1945), the blue- and white-collar workers and their dependants, when in need of medical service, were treated gratis from January 1947, based on the law on social insurance. In 1952 when the Fatherland Liberation War was at its height, the DPRK Cabinet Decision No. 203 titled "On Introducing Universal Free Medical Care System" was adopted at the 22nd Plenary Meeting of the DPRK Cabinet and its enforcement began on January 1,

1953.

When the economy of the country gradually recovered from the aftermath of war, the government introduced a complete and universal free medical care in February 1960. And the Public Health Law of the DPRK was enacted in keeping with the developing situation.

Right to free medical care

Article 9, Chapter II of the Public Health Law reads that the State shall provide every citizen with the benefits of complete free medical service and that the industrial workers, farm workers and intellectuals and all the rest of citizens have the right to free medical treatment.

In the DPRK all the working people, including the industrial workers, farm workers, soldiers and intellectuals have the right to free medical care irrespective of sex, age, residence and occupation, and the quantity and quality of labour done while special State benefits are directed to the children, pregnant women and nursing mothers. And it also satisfies the people's demand for medical service to the full.

All sorts of medical services are free of charge such as outpatient and inpatient treatments, sick calls, diagnoses, tests and experiments, functional tests, operations and foods at hospital, and the State or cooperative organizations bear the travel expenses to and from the places of recuperation. Moreover, such services are given gratis like health checkups, health consultations, preventive vaccinations, delivery of the pregnant women, dental prostheses and other pros-

theses for the disabled persons, treatments and medicines.

Protection of health by prophylactic medicine

Article 18, Chapter III of the Public Health Law stipulates that the State shall regard it as the main duty in its activity to take measures to prevent the people from being affected by disease and direct efforts first and foremost to prophylaxis in public health work.

The socialist medicine in Korea is, in essence, prophylaxis, and it is the main target of the socialist medicine to prevent the people from being affected by disease and protect and promote the lives and health of the people. To this end, the State strengthens the hygienic and anti-epidemic efforts.

First of all, health and other agencies, enterprises and organizations strengthen hygienic publicity and education so that the people participate voluntarily in the hygienic work, protect and look after their health in a scientific way and thus prevent diseases. And relevant measures are taken to create and preserve hygienic and cultured living environment and provide safe working conditions. The streets in Pyongyang and the local villages in Korea are wonderfully facelifted, and the cultured ways in production and life are thoroughly established in industrial establishments while positive measures are taken to prevent pollution. Along with this, a dynamic campaign to afforest and landscape is in full swing in all factories and working places, and the work is going ahead to turn all production ►

Benefits of Sanatoriums

ALL WORKING PEOPLE in Korea are entitled to the benefits of medical care in the sanatoriums established in all parts of the country. Medical treatment of people at sanatoriums was started soon after Korea was liberated from Japanese military occupation (August 15, 1945) by building them at spas and hot springs in North Hamgyong, South Phyongan and Kangwon provinces and other places. After victory in the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950–July 1953) against the US imperialist aggressors, medical

service for the people who had suffered injuries in the war was set as an important task despite the difficult postwar conditions of rehabilitation, and measures were taken for restoration of the old sanatoriums and construction of new ones. In June 1954 the Cabinet adopted a decision to rehabilitate or newly build sanatoriums and spa resorts, and the work of rehabilitation and construction started on a full scale the next month. The sanatoriums in Songchon of South Phyongan Province, Onchon and Kangso of Nampho, Kyongsong of North

Hamgyong Province, Sambang and Sogwang Temple areas of Kangwon Province were restored on an enlarged scale. This was followed by the work of organizing spa prospecting teams and exploring new hot spring and spa areas.

The construction of new sanatoriums was carried on simultaneously. In the process of exploring spas and hot springs all across the country, more measures were taken to build sanatoriums in the main spa areas with state investments and in the provinces, cities and counties

► processes unmanned and germ-free.

Meanwhile, special attention is paid to the effort to preserve environment and prevent pollution when they build houses and factories; facilities for labour and environment protection, and other sanitary installations are set up. Thanks to the enforcement of the section doctor system the doctors in charge regularly take care of their people systematically in a responsible manner. According to the prophylactic medical service diseases are detected as early as possible through regular checkups and are cured through thorough observation and corresponding treatment.

Now the Korean people fondly call their doctors “our doctors” because they look after their health sincerely.

Material foundations for public health

Article 39, Chapter VI of the Public Health Law stipulates that

health agencies in the DPRK are popular agencies that protect the lives and promote the health of the people, the masters of the State and society, so as to guarantee their happy life and satisfactory social activities.

In Korea, material and technical foundations are laid firmly to provide people with practical right to free medical treatment and its benefit. Medical service bases including large and modern comprehensive hospitals and different kinds of special hospitals and polyclinics are arranged in good order—ranging from Pyongyang to local residential quarters in all provinces. In Pyongyang many healthcare establishments promote the people’s health; the General Dental Hospital, the Pyongyang Ophthalmic Hospital and the Thongilgori Fitness Centre are to be seen in Rangnang District; there are Kim Man Yu Hospital, the Academy of Koryo Medicine, the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, the Breast Tumour Research

Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, the Okryu Children’s Hospital and the Ryugyong Dental Hospital in the Munsu area, helping improve the people’s health.

It is already known that a large dental preventive hospital was built in the 1970s for the sake of the workers in Hamhung, South Hamgyong Province. Clinics and hospitals are set independently in factories, enterprises and mines. And first-aid stations are placed inside the pits of mines, and similar posts are also to be found in the ocean fishing fleets. The telemedicine system is in operation even in the terminal people’s hospitals in counties which are ceaselessly supplemented with modern medical apparatuses.

The State investment is made unsparingly for the public health to provide hygienic living conditions and working environment to the people.

Sim Chol Yong

▶ with social aids in conformity with the actual local conditions, while carrying out the work of converting the recuperation centres and rest homes to sanatoriums. As a result, many recuperation centres and rest homes including the Sambang rest home, the rest home in the Kwangmyong spa area, the recuperation centres in the Okhodong spa and Sokthang hot spring resorts were changed over to sanatoriums. Hotels and other public service facilities were set up in the hot spring and spa resorts and outpatients' departments were opened at the sanatoriums for the people coming to the health resorts without medical certificates to receive enough spa treatment.

What is more, the sanatoriums are furnished with means of

cultural recreation, treatment facilities and emergency ambulances, and buses are made available to those who come to and leave the sanatoriums that are far away from railway stations and to the inmates of disabled soldiers' sanatoriums. And the state bears the costs of travels to the sanatoriums and back and grants a subsidy to their inmates under the state social insurance system. While medical service for recuperation is improved, children are provided with a good environment for recuperation. Paragraph 27 of Article 3 of the Law on Nursing and Upbringing of Children enacted in April 1976 reads that the state shall set up good recuperation facilities for children's health in the hot spring and spa areas and at scenic spots by the sea. Accordingly, recu-

peration facilities for children increased and specialized medical aids for their recuperation improved. In the 1980s, children's sanatoriums were built at the new spa zones.

According to the Public Health Law adopted in April 1980, a greater number of modern sanatoriums have been built in the spa and hot spring areas and at places of mild weather, the procedures of sending, receiving and discharging their inmates have been simplified, and the time of their stay in sanatorium revised. So, 30 days are allowed for invalids of common diseases, 45 days for chronic hepatitis and gynaecological disease, and 60 days for disabled soldiers, and the sanatoriums that deal with hepatitis and women's diseases open seven terms a year and common sanato-



Working people receive treatment in sanatoriums.

riums, ten or more terms.

Today all the working people in Korea benefit from hundreds of sanatoriums including large state-run sanatoriums that deal with disorders of digestive organs, liver and cystic troubles, nervous and cardiovascular diseases and female disorders, and local sanatoriums.

Kim Yong Ok

The Blessed Triplets



A gold ring and a silver dagger.

IN KOREA WHERE A popular health policy including the universal free medical service is in effect today, triplets are born and brought up under the special care of the state. For almost 70 years the state has paid deep attention to triplets. In July 1946, the year after the country's liberation from the military occupation of Japan, triplets were born in the then Kangdong County of South Phyongan Province. Even in the difficult, complex circumstances, the state showed deep concern for the triplets and the mother, sending a physician and a nurse to attend on them and supplying them with nutrients, clothes and quilts. After that, the system of the state taking the whole responsibility for the upbringing of triplets was established in Korea and further improved.

Cars, trains and even planes are mobilized to bring triplets or expected triplets to the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, and they have all necessary medical appliances and doctors on board.

In April 1983, a woman working in a farm in Kapsan County, Ryanggang Province, gave birth to triplets ahead of the expected

date. The state sent a plane with a medical team aboard without delay and brought the triplets and their mother to the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital. The news that a plane was sent out for the sake of four lives in a remote mountain village deeply touched the hearts of people. But such instances continued to happen after that, and today similar things have become commonplace occurrences.

The pregnant women diagnosed to be with triplets in provincial, city or county people's hospitals are taken to the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital for correct diagnosis, and when it is confirmed, they are looked after until delivery with all cares. The Pyongyang Maternity Hospital has a specialized triplet department staffed with tens of doctors and nurses to take care of all triplets and quadruplets. Born in the fullness of time or not, the triplets are placed in the incubators until they grow bigger than normal babies and leave the hospital.

From olden times the Korean people have regarded an ornamental silver knife and a gold ring as symbols of happiness. After May 1983, in case triplets

were born, a boy was presented with an ornamental silver knife and a girl, a gold ring, and then in February 1991, all the triplets born before May 1983, too, were given the presents. The parents of triplets are also given a silver knife and a gold ring.

When triplets are released from the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, they go to the nursery homes in their relevant areas, not their own home. There, they are brought up until they are four years old under the care of nurses and doctors who are in charge of their health.

The birth and health care situation of the triplets are surveyed twice a year and necessary measures are taken for their welfare. Subsidies for their upbringing are granted, and textile fabrics to clothe them from cradle to marriage are supplied. The state is always concerned about their growth, rears them in conformity with their hopes and talent and even arranges for their wedding feast.

The triplets brought up under such a profound care are working hard for the country and the people, giving no end of joy to them.

Jo Yong Il

Foreign People Enjoying Good Fortune in Korea

UNDER THE BENEFICIAL SOCIALIST healthcare system of Korea where human lives are deemed supreme, not only Koreans but many people from abroad get blessings.

Saebiyol, a symbol of friendship

Raul Garcia Alvarez, a Cuban linguist, came to Korea with his lady in June 1988 and worked for two years. They had a worry in their life. It was that they had no child in their eight years of married life owing to the lady's habitual abortion. Then, in 1990 when their term of stay was coming to an end, the lady became pregnant and entered the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital. They had to leave Korea in three months, and they felt worried for fear of another abortion.

When this was reported to Chairman Kim Jong Il, he took steps to prolong their stay for the lady to be delivered of a baby safely in the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital and have them accorded the same treatment as before until they would leave for home.

A boy was born in November that year. With a deep sense of gratitude, they wrote a letter of thanks to the Chairman, in which they asked him to give a name to their baby. After reading the letter, Kim Jong Il said that *Saebiyol* (Morning Star) would be a good name for their boy, for the star could be seen everywhere. With this, he sent suit materials, baby clothes, quilting cloth, condensed milk and so on as gifts to Saebiyol. Saebiyol's mother who received her baby's name and gifts said, "I cannot find words to express all my joy and good fortune. I'll bring up my son Saebiyol so named by the great Chairman Kim Jong Il as a symbol of Cuba-Korea friendship."

Jindallae and Ruba

Jindallae is a daughter of Mustafa al Safarini, former Palestinian ambassador to Korea. His wife Jasmin who was suffering from sterility gave birth to a pretty girl in the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital and wrote a letter of gratitude to Chairman Kim Jong Il, asking him to name her baby. On February 24, 1985, the Chairman gave the name of Jindallae (Azalea) to it in compliance with its

mother's wish.

When Jindallae was ten years old, she had a dear friend called Ruba, 9. Ruba was always in low spirits because of severe alopecia. Her parents had taken her to many countries to cure her of the disease, but in vain. Her trouble was diffuse alopecia and even her eyebrows fell out. It was regarded as incurable. One day Jindallae said to Ruba, "If Chairman Kim Jong Il comes to know about you, he'll surely cure you of it." And she wrote to the Chairman, "Although I am living in happiness, my friend Ruba is suffering from alopecia. I beg you to arrange for her cure and a happy life." Kim Jong Il took measures for Ruba to be put into the Pyongyang Friendship Hospital and sent highly efficacious medicines and tonics to her. One month later thin hairs appeared on her scalp and after four months hairs came out all over her head, so that she took off the hat which she had been wearing for five years. After nine months she was completely cured of the disease and left the hospital.

Hiba and Solmae

In May 1999 the wife of an official of the Syrian embassy in Pyongyang gave birth to a girl in the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital and named her Hiba in the sense that the girl was born under the deep care of Chairman Kim Jong Il. The Syrian word Hiba means a child given by Heaven. The mother Jaira who bore a girl weighing 3 600 grams expressed her thoughts in writing when she was leaving the maternity hospital, "As a foreigner who has given birth to a baby in Korea, I feel proud of my confinement in the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, the best medical institution in the world. Its doctors and nurses were so kind that I felt as if I had a baby in my parental home."

The wife of Gadir, an official of the Palestinian embassy in Pyongyang, was delivered of a child in the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital on February 16, 1994. In a letter of thanks she wrote to Kim Jong Il for the kind nursing and all sorts of precious medicines and tonics including honey she took in the hospital, she begged him to name her child. The Chairman who read the letter gave the name of Solmae to the child.

Sim Yong Jin

Telemedicine Energized

THE HEALTH MANAGEMENT RESEARCH Institute of the Ministry of Public Health has been going about the research work for introduction of telemedicine since 2008.

First, it set Kim Man Yu Hospital, Mangyongdae District People's Hospital in Pyongyang and North Phyongan Provincial People's Hospital as models, where a telemedicine-based consultation system and a remote X-ray examination support system it developed were introduced. Building on the success the institute continued its research and experiment at some central hospitals and provincial, city and county people's hospitals. Finally in 2012 a national system of remote medical services including consultation, examination and X-ray examination was established connecting all the central and local hospitals. Later the institute newly developed a telemedicine-based operation support system in 2013 and introduced it to all hospitals across the country in three months. The WHO visited for confirmation Kim Man Yu Hospital, Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, the provincial people's hospitals in Kangwon, North Phyongan and South Hamgyong provinces and the Yonhan County People's Hospital in North Hwanghae Province.

Today you can get benefit from telemedicine anywhere in my country. For example, in August 2012 the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital saved a new-born baby from a critical condition by complying with the request of the Kyongsong County People's Hospital in North Hamgyong Province for telemedical aid. In February 2014 it helped take an emergency measure to resuscitate an 81-year-old woman in Ryanggang Province who was in danger for a complication of high blood pressure and a pulmonary edema. In July 2014 the South Hwanghae Provincial People's Hospital had a long-distance consultation about a 100-year-old case in Samchon County and, referring to her history, clinical symptoms and results of medical examinations, suggested a special remedy, thus restoring her health.

People can get surgical service as well through a telemedicine-based operation support system. In June 2014 surgeons in Jongju City, North Phyongan Province, successfully carried out a difficult operation on a patient who was in coma due to a serious blow to the head through consultations with the able neurosurgeons of the provincial people's hospital. The patient's family were greatly happy while the doctors of the Jongju City People's Hospital were



unanimously glad that their skills improved through telemedicine.

This system is contributing to emergency aid as well. In November 2013 a man fell unconscious due to a serious blow to the brain in an accident. He was rushed to the Onsong County People's Hospital in North Hamgyong Province. The hospital staff turned to the telemedicine system to contact Kim Man Yu Hospital in Pyongyang. Through detailed discussion on how to deal with the blood pressure, breathing, a wet brain, nutritional control of the patient and even possible development, they saved him from the jaws of death. In 2014 the telemedicine system that links all provincial children's hospitals was introduced to Okryu Children's Hospital, thus establishing the national children's health management system. Over a year the hospital gave services—through telemedicine—to thousands of patients at provincial children's hospitals and city and county people's hospitals.

Telemedicine is also contributing to improving the skills and proficiency of health workers. They acquire latest achievements of medical science and technology and learn new methods of medical diagnosis and treatment. As telemedicine-based health service is active, the number of cases sent to senior hospitals is decreasing, so the patients' physical and mental burden is reduced and better diagnosis and treatment are given. We will make closer studies to further develop the telemedicine-based health service.

Son Chang Ho, chief of the health information management office, the Health Management Research Institute of the Ministry of Public Health

A Small Yet Big Factory

THE PYONGYANG ELECTRONIC MEDICAL Appliance Factory, not a big one, has been producing medical appliances and instruments such as X-ray diagnosis apparatuses, high-pressure steam disinfectors, heavy-water machines and dry sterilizers, supplying them to big and small hospitals across the country for scores of years. This factory is undergoing a radical change in recent years.

Several years ago, General Manager Thak Pyong Chol came to have a notion: *Recently, the state has established a telemedicine system for all hospitals at the county level and upwards to promote the people's health. However, county hospitals are not equipped sufficiently with modern medical facilities, meeting with many obstacles in medical treatment. It will be absolutely impossible to solve this problem with the existing equipment of the factory. The equipment*

should be replaced boldly with up-to-date installations. This is imperative for producing more machine parts and supplying enough modern medical appliances to the local hospitals. Then, isn't it possible to solve this problem by our own efforts? There can be no marking time in our era of the knowledge-based economy.

He went on thinking, answering his own questions, and finally came to decide on modernizing the equipment of the factory by their own efforts. All the engineers and workers of the factory rose in the work of modernizing the facilities in cooperation with scientists from the relevant scientific research institutes. They remodelled many lathes along CNC lines in one short year by pooling their strength and wisdom. In addition, the factory built up the ranks of skilled workers capable of working modern machines. Scores of skilled workers and labourers were enrolled at an on-site study class formed by the medical appliance department of the Pharmaceutical College of Hamhung University of Chemical Engineering to improve their technical and practical qualifications on the scene of work. As a result, tens of workers joined the ranks of technical staff. Hun ▶





Electro-medical appliances produced at the factory.

► dreds of medical appliances such as ultrasonic abdomen diagnosers, video endoscopes, electromyographs and electroencephalographs produced at the factory till last year have been supplied to county hospitals. Han Yong Ho, head of the electronic workteam, said, "I have improved my technical and practical faculties in the study-while-working class and now

I can operate any kinds of machines. I am determined to produce more electronic medical apparatuses for the improvement of the people's health in future." Engi-

neer Pak Chol Bom of the medical appliance workteam said, "I am very proud that we have manufactured video endoscopes of our own type. Our endoscope is an apparatus capable of projecting moving and stationary pictures, of partial enlargement, and up-and-down, right-and-left and quick switchovers which will be greatly helpful to the diagnosis of diseases and the promotion of people's health."

The general manager had this to say, "The medical instruments of our factory's make have been provided to county hospitals and highly appreciated by their users. Our factory is not a big one, but we will strive to make it a big factory, widely known to the whole country for its great contribution to the promotion of public health by developing more medical appliances of best quality."

Sim Hyon Jin



The Sun Shines for Ever and Ever

By *Jiancarlo Elia Valori*

(Continued from the last issue)

IN THE 20TH CENTURY mankind met another great sun just like President Kim Il Sung, and it's no other than Kim Jong Il.

Anyone who is interested in the political situation around the world must be aware of the fact that in the 1990s US President Clinton sent a letter of assurance for implementation of the DPRK-USA Agreed Framework to Kim Jong Il, supreme leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This mega event that happened in the relations between the two nations that are still in armistice and hostile relationship was the greatest topic throughout the world. A senior fellow with an American institute contributed the following article to a monthly journal, which reads in part:

"What kind of person is Kim Jong Il, who commands respect from the world?"

"He is the type of President Kim Il Sung—this is my answer. And what kind of person is Kim Il Sung? That is a needless question, I dare say. But if it needs to be answered, it would be good to remember what Carter said after he met Kim Il Sung as the first of the former US presidents to talk to him. 'President Kim Il Sung is greater than the Three Presidents of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln altogether, who were representa-

tive of the establishment and fortune of the United States.' These three are respected by the Americans like the God. But Kim Il Sung is greater than the three celebrities altogether. This is rather a praise from the 20th century than a private appreciation. Kim Jong Il is a man of the type of Kim Il Sung who is the greatest of the great personages born in the 20th century. Kim Jong Il is truly the greatest man who is endowed with the sense of moral obligation unparalleled to any of those that have ever shown up in the world, in addition to the wonderful brain, courage and humanity of the sun."

Needless to say, I can't give a full description of Kim Jong Il's immortal exploits in this article. But there's one particular remark I'd like to make here. It is that all his thinking, activities and practice are based on his loving care for and trust in human beings.

His slogan is to build a thriving nation on the strength of trust and care; his policy is to put true heart in your trust in people and maintain it to the end; his motto is that you have to have a great calibre if you want to win the world. Such a way of politics had influence on anyone that was his acquaintance.

Now I'd like to mention a heart-warming story. In early 1997 I visited the DPRK again. Remembering my 57th birthday, His Excellency Kim Jong Il was so kind that he arranged a party in honour of me, and sent me a



gift, which was a sculpture of my mother. The image was inscribed with "Kim Jong Il. January 1997." Holding the sculpture I was so excited that I couldn't say a word for a while. The vivid image of my dear mother who was so simple and benevolent all the time was a true depiction. I'd never imagined that I'd get the image of my mother in Pyongyang on my birthday. I felt that Kim Jong Il's kind-heartedness was really the light that shone every corner of my mind.

The DPRK leader kept constant trust in and care for anyone he had made a friend with. This I was convinced of when he, on January 27, 2010, congratulated me on my 70th birth anniversary by sending an official of the Workers' Party of Korea to Italy far away from Korea along with a floral basket and valuable gifts. He knew well that I'd done what little I could to help the just cause of the Korean people, and was kind enough to appreciate it. I was overwhelmed with thankfulness. My feeling of gratitude must be no match to that of the Korean people.

I'd like to make a small note ►

► of it. Kim Jong Il inherited the motto of President Kim Il Sung, which is “The People Are My God.” He believed in the people as in heaven and as his teacher, while regarding himself as their son and servant. As he kept the people in his heart all the time, he set “We serve the people!” the slogan of the WPK and was always on his way of field guidance. Overcoming all his physical pains and difficulties with the feeling of happiness that he was working for the welfare of the people, he was going the way of service for the people even in the closing days of his life. Such a kind of national leader had never been known before.

If the people are his heaven, then the sun in the heaven is surely Kim Jong Il. The sun commands universal praise because its existence itself is great. This is probably the reason for the fact that the World Congress of the Juche Idea held in Pyongyang as a great international meeting on the occasion of the centenary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung formally declared that Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il are the sun of Juche for all eternity.

The great leaders lie in state in the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun. I'm sure there is no other place in the world so sublime and holy as the place of the sun. I've visited Pyongyang, the great abode of the sun, more than 30 times. Nobody asked me to go to the country. But my mind was and is oriented to Pyongyang, the land of the great sun of Juche. The palace is rightfully the eternal holy place of pilgrimage for the admirers of the sun.

Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il will remain saviors of the progressive peoples the world over and the sun of mankind.

2

I'd like to begin the second part of my article by telling a fantastic story.

Days ago I'd almost finished this article, when I, quite unexpectedly, received a congratulatory message, a gift and a basket of beautiful flowers from His Excellency Kim Jong Un, the national leader of the Korean people, on my 75th birthday. I can hardly express all my emotional impact I got at the moment. My Roman acquaintances are all surprised to learn such an unusual event that the supreme leader of a country showed a great kindness to an ordinary foreigner.

Greeting in the New Year 2015, I had mailed a congratulatory message to Kim Jong Un to show my best wishes. To my surprise, the leader sent a WPK official to the far-off country of Italy in the West to congratulate me on my 75th birthday. I was told that he had said that he remembered Valori who had been under the special care of the Korean leaders and that he wished me good health and happiness. Hearing the words I shed tears of gratitude. I dare say it is the acme of happiness and privilege no one can ever have.

The Korean vocabulary has the phrase “blessed life,” and I'm sure mine is a model of the blessed life. The great concern for me that started with the care of President Kim Il Sung and continued with that of Chairman

Kim Jong Il is still kept by His Excellency Kim Jong Un.

These days quite a few people ask me how it is that the small country of Korea attracts the global interest and, in particular, what kind of person the leader of the country is. I know they wonder how Korea is devoid of any distrust in the ruler or discord between the government policy and the general public which are the plagues in the West.

One day I heard what the American Reverend Billy Graham answered when he was asked by a journalist why he had failed to convey a bible to Korea. He said, “The bible tells of the God's idea of loving the human being. In the country I learned it maintains human love as its constant government policy. Free medical care, free education and the government's responsibility for the people's food, clothing and housing—these are the national policies initiated and implemented by President Kim Il Sung who regarded the people as his God. The Korean people hold him in respect as their God. For what would they need the bible?”

By this he means Korea is the land where even the God could find no job. The statement of my mother, who was a devout believer in Europe, is consistent with that of the American priest who was regarded as leader of the conservative Christians and a big shot in the world of religion. They were from different regions and belonged to different nations. They visited the Oriental country at different times but they found the same answer in the country.

(To be continued)

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea Is a Juche-oriented Socialist State with Invincible Might

CHAIRMAN OF THE DEMOCRATIC People's Republic of Korea National Defence Commission Kim Jong Il released an immortal classic work entitled *The Democratic People's Republic of Korea Is a Juche-oriented Socialist State with Invincible Might* on September 5, 2008. Excerpts:

2

A great leader and a great party build a great nation. If a leader and a party are great, their country, even though it may be small and once backward, can become a developed and dignified, powerful one.

The greatness of a leader and a party is precisely the greatness of their ideology and leadership. Our Republic has been able to rise as a Juche-oriented socialist State with invincible might because it is guided by the Juche idea that was authored by the great leader and because it embodies this idea fully in State building and State activities under the leadership of our Party.

The immortal Juche idea is a man-centred outlook on the world, and an ideology of independence; it is a great guiding ideology of our era that sheds scientific light on the way of championing and realizing the independence of the masses and of the country and nation. Our Republic, which incorporates the great Juche idea in its State building and State activities, is a people-centred socialist country in which the people are regarded as God, an independent socialist State with a strong Juche character and national identity, and an invincible socialist power that prevails over any enemy, however formidable, and overcomes every manner of trial and hardship by dint of Songun.

Our Republic is a genuine people's country, a people-centred socialist State that upholds the masses of the people as the masters of the State and society, and serves them.

Although the masses of the people are the driving force of social history, it is not true to say that their position and role are always identical in any society or country. Never before in history has there been a country like our Republic that guarantees the position and role of the masses at the highest level by embodying the doctrine "The people are my God," which was President Kim Il Sung's dictum. This

philosophy is permeated with the noble love for the people that is expressed in upholding the masses of the people as the most valuable and powerful beings in the world, serving them faithfully and solving everything by relying on them.

The dictum "The people are my God" is our Party's fundamental principle in State building and the basis of all its lines and policies, as well as the starting point of the activities of the State. Everything in our Republic—the socialist system of the State and society, the Socialist Constitution and other State laws, as well as all the lines, policies and activities of the Party and the State—is geared to defending and ensuring the independent rights and interests of the masses. The basis of socialism is the people. Our politics, which regards the interest of the people as the foremost concern, is genuine socialist politics and the politics of infinite love for and trust in the people, that is, noble, benevolent politics. Every line and policy of our Party and the government of our Republic reflects the opinions and demands of the masses and is successfully implemented by their voluntary zeal and struggle. In our country, promoting the people's well-being is regarded as the supreme principle in the activities of the Party and the State, the slogan "We serve the people!" is fully incorporated in State activities, and the infringement of the people's interests and lording it over them by the abuse of authority and bureaucratic behaviour are never tolerated. Since the masses of the people are regarded as the most valuable beings, the State, the army, the public security organ, many monumental edifices and various honorary titles are named after "people," and this is a powerful symbol of the people-oriented character of our State, our system and our politics.

Our people, who hold the position of masters of the State and society in the embrace of the people-centred socialist country, are enjoying a worthwhile and fulfilling life and performing their responsibilities and roles as such. Each of them takes part in the exercise of State power and State administration with equal rights and leads a valuable political life in a particular political organization. The State bears responsibility for the people's livelihood; all the people study to their heart's content, promote their health and enjoy a revolutionary cultural and recreational life that is full of optimism thanks to the systems of free education and medical care and various other people-oriented policies. Now our Party and State, despite the strained conditions in which everything is in short supply, are concentrating all

► their efforts on stabilizing and improving the people's livelihood, with their primary attention focused on it, and stepping up the building of an economically powerful socialist country so as to ensure in the near future that our people live a rich life with no reason for envying anyone in the world. The independent and creative life our people are enjoying in the embrace of the Republic is a genuine human life, dignified, worthwhile and happy, which is something unimaginable in a capitalist society.

Our Party and our Republic are the most affectionate motherly party and motherly country that lead the people and take care of them with love and trust, and their embrace constitutes the cradle of the genuine life and happiness of the people. For this reason, our people have sacrificed themselves in the defence of their country, their motherland, and, firmly united behind the Party, waged a heroic struggle for its prosperity, invariably trusting and following our Party and the government of the Republic both in days of glory and in days of grim trials.

The single-hearted unity of the whole society constitutes a priceless achievement in State building that could only be made by our socialist country under the leadership of President Kim Il Sung, who was endowed with love for and trust in the people, and of our Party, which faithfully carries forward his ideas and will. This is the proud face of our society, the like of which cannot be witnessed elsewhere in the world. Based on the relations of revolutionary comradeship, and the inseparable blood ties by which the Party and the leader boundlessly love and care for the people and the latter absolutely trust and loyally support the former, the single-hearted unity of the leader, the Party and the masses was formed and has developed despite the complicated and difficult circumstances and conditions, and the whole society has become a great harmonious family in which its members help and lead one another forward. Today our single-hearted unity has been further strengthened at a new height of unity in which the entire Party, the whole army and all the people are joined together rock-solid, centred on the revolutionary leadership and based on one ideology and faith, comradesly love and revolutionary obligation. No force can break this great unity. Our single-hearted unity is the fundamental guarantee of the strength of the socialist system and social stability in our country, the inexhaustible source of the invincible might of our socialist motherland and the powerful driving force of the victorious advance of the revolution and the building of a thriving nation.

The US imperialists are most fearful of the single-hearted unity of our entire army and the people behind the great Party, and resort to every conceivable scheme to break it. While persisting with their aggressive military manoeuvres, the US imperialists and their acolytes try to slander us under the signboard of "human rights" and "democracy," but this is wild dream. The "defence of human rights" and "democracy" the imperialist reactionaries advocate are nothing other than sophistry to hide their

intervention in and hegemonic moves towards other countries. It is preposterous to slander our Republic, which is the motherland of the people, and our society that is united single-heartedly, with such far-fetched sophistry. It only serves to trigger the unanimous indignation of our people, and can never be tolerated.

This country of the great people, this people-centred socialism of our own style, which enjoys the absolute support and trust and ardent love of the masses, will forever add brilliance to its noble image and dignity, overcoming every manner of trial.

Our Republic is an independent socialist State that absolutely maintains its Juche character and thoroughly preserves its national identity in its development and activities.

The Juche character and national identity are the independence and lifeline of a country, a nation and the masses of the people. The struggle of the masses for independence is waged with the country and nation as the unit, so the party, the government and the masses of each country should conduct the revolution and construction independently and creatively as masters. It is only when they hold fast to the Juche character and national identity and maintain the line of independence in the revolution and construction that they can defend the sovereignty of the country and nation, guarantee their independent development and realize the independence of the masses successfully.

Having put forward such original ideas on the Juche character, the national identity and the line of independence for the first time in history, President Kim Il Sung blazed the trail for the independent development of the Korean revolution and guaranteed, by dint of his iron faith and will and seasoned leadership, that the principle of Juche, the line of independence, was maintained consistently in the revolution and construction. True to his idea of State building, our Party and State regarded preserving the Juche character, the national identity and the line of independence as the fundamental principle in accomplishing the cause of the masses' independence, the cause of socialism, and strictly adhered to it, and thus built our country into a highly dignified and prestigious independent country, a socialist State embodying noble love for the people and nation.

We have solved all the problems arising in the building and activities of the State and in the revolution and construction by our own efforts and in our own way on the principle of self-reliance, in accordance with our ideology and faith, our determination and will and the actual situation in our country, and in line with the interests of our revolution. By holding fast to the principle of Juche, the principle of independence, in all fields of politics, the economy, military affairs, culture and external relations, we have resolutely opposed great-power worship, dogmatism and all other ideas advocating dependence on outside forces, and categorically rejected any form of intervention and pressure by the imperialist reac- ►

► tionaries and other foreign forces. We are also doing everything we choose and decide in conformity with our own ideology, demands and interests, regardless of the existing theories or formulas, and despite what others may say. Our Party long ago put forward the slogan of "Let us live our own way!"; this is Juche, independence and self-reliance, and herein lie our dignity, pride and honour.

President Kim Il Sung, based on the Juche stand, shed a fresh, scientific light on the essence of the issue of the nation and its position and role in social development and, on the basis of this, linked class character with national identity, and the destiny of socialism with that of the nation; thus he made it possible to preserve the national character in the revolution and construction while maintaining the class character and to open up a vista for achieving the prosperity of the nation while advancing the socialist cause.

Our Party and State treasure and preserve the nation's identity in the revolution and construction and in all fields of social life in line with President Kim Il Sung's Juche-oriented idea and theory on the issue of the nation. Since a man is a member of a class and at the same time a member of a nation, he embodies a national identity along with a class character and entertains national demands along with class demands. If the national identity and national demands are neglected and suppressed, it will be impossible to rally the broad sections of the masses and other patriotic forces, build a truly independent and sovereign State, or successfully carry out the cause of the masses' independence, the cause of socialism.

Ours is a proud nation with a time-honoured history of 5 000 years and a brilliant culture. Reflected in our people's national identity are their nation's resourcefulness, talents, firm character, patriotic spirit and outstanding cultural traditions. Our Party and State have made valuing and preserving the excellent and beautiful traditions of our nation a major policy, and have fully implemented it. While preserving the excellent features of our nation that have been handed down throughout its history, we are creating new excellent features of the nation along with the advance of the times and the revolution; on the basis of this, we are educating the people in the Korean-nation first spirit, the spirit that our leader, our Party, our ideology and our system are the best, and adding brilliance to the greatness of our nation.

The socialist cause of Juche is a cause for realizing the independence of the working class and other working masses and at the same time a cause for guaranteeing the independence of the country and nation and achieving the nation's prosperity. Our Party and State have, while stepping up socialist construction, enriched the excellent qualities of the nation and added a new chapter of national prosperity to history.

Because we properly maintained the Juche character and preserved the national identity of the

revolution and construction under the leadership of the great leader and the great Party, no form of intervention or pressure from the imperialist reactionaries could cut any ice with us, no modern revisionism or other ideological trend towards opportunism could make inroads into our country, and our people have been able to cherish a uniquely high level of national pride, self-confidence, consciousness of national independence and self-respect, and give fuller play to the spirit of socialist patriotism. Our Republic, which has developed under the banner of the Juche idea, is demonstrating its pride in being a people-centred socialist country that fully embodies class and revolutionary principles, and at the same time, a socialist State, independent, self-supporting and self-reliant in defence, strong in the Juche character and national identity, and the genuine motherland of the whole nation. Our Juche-oriented socialist motherland has stood firm amid the worldwide great political cataclysms, and will win victory after victory by following the road of development, the road of Juche, as ever.

The imperialist reactionaries are now slandering our Republic, the motherland of Juche, claiming that it is "closed" and "isolated," and are making futile attempts to lead us to "reform" and "openness." Our country has never closed its doors, and it maintains good relations with many countries, home to billions of people, around the world, based on mutual respect. As for reform, we reformed the outdated social system in a revolutionary fashion decades ago, and have been constantly creating the new and renovating what is old and backward. In actual fact, the imperialists and reactionaries are hostile towards our country and are blockading it and trying to isolate it. The "reform" and "openness" they are advocating represent a move to destroy and put down our style of socialism. Such moves will only worsen their relations with us and are doomed to failure.

Our Republic is an invincible socialist power that demonstrates its dignity by dint of Songun.

The history of the revolutionary activities of President Kim Il Sung and our Party is the history of Songun-based revolutionary leadership, and our country and revolution have travelled a road covered with victory and glory by displaying their invincible might under the banner of Songun. President Kim Il Sung liberated the country by dint of Songun and guaranteed its sovereignty, independence, prosperity and development by force of arms. True to his Songun idea and line, our Party has, since long ago, grasped military affairs and Party work as the key, and concentrated its efforts on strengthening our revolutionary armed forces politically, ideologically, militarily and technically, thus laying a firm foundation for developing its Songun-based revolutionary leadership at a new, higher stage.

The Songun-based revolutionary line, Songun politics, that our Party is pursuing now, is a great revolutionary line of our era, the basic mode of socialist politics, that gives top priority to military ►

► affairs over all other affairs of State, that safeguards the country, the revolution and socialism by strengthening the Korean People's Army to the maximum, and that builds up the driving force of the revolution and pushes ahead with socialist construction with the army as the core, as the main force. With regard to the system of State administration, we ensured that the authority of the National Defence Commission was strengthened and a system was established whereby the Commission guides and administers defence affairs overall, so that all work in the revolution and construction was conducted strictly on the principle of giving precedence to military affairs. Our Songun politics, because it is rooted in the Juche idea and fully embodies and encompasses the Juche-oriented principles, strategy and tactics of the revolution and its methods and art of leadership, is the ever-victorious banner of our country and revolution and an all-powerful sword in the revolution and construction.

The paramount strength of a nation rests with its military might. Our anti-imperialist, anti-US struggle is waged fiercely on all fronts of politics, the military, the economy, ideology and culture, and the main front that decides the destiny of the country and nation is the anti-imperialist military front. The confrontation with the imperialist aggressive forces is, in essence, a showdown of strength, and strength alone can make sense in relations with the imperialists. Without our own strength, our own powerful self-defensive military might, we can neither win the fight against the imperialists, nor defend the Party and the State, nor guarantee the safety of the people. This is the stark reality of today.

By dint of its Songun-based revolutionary leadership, Songun politics, our Party has strengthened and developed the Korean People's Army as the army of the Party and the leader, as the invincible revolutionary armed forces, both in name and in reality. The monolithic leadership system of the Party, the command system of the Supreme Commander and revolutionary military traits have been firmly established in the People's Army, and the entire army—from the Supreme Commander down to the rank and file—now forms an integral whole based on revolutionary comradeship. All the men and officers of the People's Army, cherishing an unshakable ideology and faith, constitute an invincible armed force that has acquired a mastery of our style of strategy and tactics and is equipped with up-to-date military hardware. Our Juche-oriented defence industry has become able to produce every type of powerful state-of-the-art weaponry and military hardware and means, and the spirit of giving importance to military affairs has been established throughout society, with the result that the work of arming all the people and fortifying the whole country is proceeding at a higher phase.

Thanks to the Songun politics, our Republic has frustrated all the challenges of the imperialist reactionaries and all their schemes to isolate and stifle it, and demonstrated its invincible military might to the

world, and our socialist country, Songun Korea, has risen as a world-class military power that no aggressor dares to attack.

As a result of the Songun-based revolutionary leadership, Songun politics, of the Party, the politico-ideological position of our Republic has been made rock-solid, and great progress has been made on the economic and cultural fronts. On the road of Songun our army and people have successfully achieved great unity—oneness of ideology and work style on the pattern of the revolutionary spirit and the work style of the soldiers—and the politico-ideological might of the country and the revolution has been enhanced beyond any comparison.

Under the Party's Songun-based leadership the army and the people have carried out all their undertakings in socialist construction in a revolutionary and militant manner by forming an integral whole, and have in this way implemented grand projects to transform the appearance of the country, build numerous monumental structures, develop science and technology by leaps and bounds, and usher in a new golden age of culture and the arts of the Songun era.

Thanks to our Songun-based policy of national reunification and the concerted efforts of the nation, the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration (2000) and the October 4 Declaration (2007) were adopted and made public, and this opened up an epoch-making phase in the reunification of the country. The national spirit for reunifying the country independently has been raised to an unprecedented height in the north, the south and abroad, and the movement for national reunification is developing as a nationwide movement under the banner of "by our nation itself."

Our Songun politics, which stands against the imperialists' policies of invasion and war and for the independence of the country and nation, arouses great sympathy among the progressive peoples of the world and greatly contributes to global peace and the cause of mankind's independence. Our Songun politics and independent foreign policy have made it possible to raise the prestige and influence of our Republic to an unprecedented level in the international arena and to develop its external relations rapidly.

Under the leadership of President Kim Il Sung and our Party the DPRK was built and developed into a Juche-oriented socialist State with invincible might and achieved world-startling victories and changes by overcoming every manner of historical challenge. The glorious country of Kim Il Sung, socialist Korea, that shines with brilliance by dint of Juche and Songun, is displaying its might as a great socialist country, and for this it is warmly loved and held aloft by our people as their great motherly country, is highly regarded by all Koreans as the pride and honour of the whole nation and as the fortress of national reunification, and is attracting the attention and admiration of people the world over. □

The Nature of Kim Jong Suk



The bust of the anti-Japanese war heroine Kim Jong Suk in the Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery on Mt. Taesong.

PRESIDENT KIM IL SUNG gave an emotional account of the anti-Japanese war heroine Kim Jong Suk during his lifetime, which is to be found in his reminiscences *With the Century*. A quotation goes:

“She (Kim Jong Suk) was afire with love for the people. She thought her sacrifice for others was not in the least wasteful.”

The anti-Japanese war heroine Kim Jong Suk threw herself in the strong current of the revolution in her teens and devoted all her life to her comrades and nation with noble human love and benevolence, enduring all hardships and ordeals.

“Younger Daughter of the Hoeryong House”

Kim Jong Suk’s family moved from Hoeryong, their native place, to Beigou, Yanji County, China.

As tenant all the family worked hard but they were as hard up for living as they had been in Hoeryong. Although they were poverty-stricken, they always lived in harmony.

Kim Jong Suk, though young, worked in the field with her mother and elder brother in the day time, and wove cloth with a loom together with her sister at night.

Despite her poor living she

devoted herself to helping her neighbours and friends.

One day Kim Jong Suk went to a nearby hill early in the morning to pick edible herbs and returned home in the evening with empty basket. Her mother looked dubious. Kim Jong Suk told her mother what had happened: When she was on her way back home towards evening with the herbs she had picked, she heard a baby crying in a hut at the foot of the hill. It sounded so pitiable that she entered the hut, only to find a young woman ill in bed with her baby crying while trying to suck at her breasts that had run dry. Kim Jong Suk took the baby onto her back and lulled

► it to sleep. Then she prepared gruel with her herbs, and served it to the woman. She even cleaned the rest of the herbs for a meal for the next morning.

Learning this, her neighbours praised her, saying that the younger daughter of Hoeryong House was kinder than grown-ups. Thereafter they fondly called her “younger daughter of the Hoeryong House.”

Cake of Pine Endodermis

One of the days when a bloody fight for the life was going in Chechangzi Guerrilla Zone, Kim Jong Suk felt sorry that she had to give nothing but gruel to the guerillas for supper again. That morning she had seen off her fellow guerillas to a battle against the Japanese “punitive force” after they had gruel for breakfast. She searched her knapsack and found a small amount of wheat flour. Mulling over how to serve the guerillas equally with the little amount of flour she decided to make cake by stripping some bark from pine trees and mixing with the flour. She climbed a mountain despite her state of emaciation. She broke down from dizziness several times but stripped the bark, thinking of her comrades who were enduring hunger. That evening the guerillas were delighted to see the cake. So pleased to see them having their supper with relish she brought her share and gave it to them.

Godsend

Once Kim Jong Suk was en-

gaged in the underground revolutionary work in Taoquanli, Changbai County, China.

One day she knew that a landlord in Liugecun banished his kitchen maid, a little girl who was suffering from typhoid fever, to a hut in the mountains. It was certain what would become of her if she was left alone, but nobody extended a helping hand. Her relatives, to say nothing of her neighbours, expressed great pity for her but none of them dared to take care of her for fear of infection. When Kim Jong Suk went to the hut without hesitation, the girl was almost dead. At the miserable sight of the girl who was unconscious due to a high fever, Kim Jong Suk pictured the people in the homeland who were writhing in agony. Later, on receiving that news, some villagers came to the hut and their eyes were full of tears facing an incredible scene. Kim Jong Suk was feeding the girl gruel spoonful by spoonful, holding her in her arms.

Kim Jong Suk smiled and comforted them, saying, “Don’t worry, and please go back. If we are afraid to save a child at a risk of our lives, how can we restore the country and rescue our fellow countrymen? I’m determined to sacrifice my life for the sake of the people.” She remained in the hut, looking after the girl until she got well.

Later the villagers regarded Kim Jong Suk as a “godsend” to the poor.

Gist of a Nap

During the large-unit circling operations in the anti-Japanese

armed struggle conducted actively under the strategic idea of Commander Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Suk encouraged and led the guerillas always in the van of the marching column.

By the time the unit reached Dunhua from Antu the guerillas ran out of even the parched-rice flour kept for emergency use. Having had only water for meals for several days, they even had to go round fallen trees, as they had no strength to climb them.

In these circumstances Kim Jong Suk never showed any signs of fatigue, helping the young guerillas. She trekked in the lead carrying their knapsacks. When camping, she used to patch up the clothes of young guerillas all night as quietly as possible so as not to disturb them in their sleep.

One night when the unit was camping after making their way through the depth of snow and climbing over high mountains Kim Jong Suk patched up the clothes of the guerillas who had fallen into deep sleep. When Orion’s Belt set and even the campfire burned up with the approach of the dawn, Kim Jong Suk found a young guerilla sleeping with his worn-out shoes on. She took the shoes off his feet carefully and mended. After a fairly long time when the guerillas woke up, they found her dozing against the tent pole with his mended shoes on her lap. Looking at her the guerillas got tearful and got out of the tent quietly.

These are some of many stories about her revolutionary life. □

Absolute Support and Trust of Masses



TODAY THE WORKERS' PARTY OF KOREA enjoys the absolute support and trust of the broad masses of the people because it pays high regard to their needs and interests, caring for their life and assuming the whole responsibility for their destiny under the slogans "We serve the people!" and "Everything for the people, relying on them in everything!" All the policies of the Party represent the people's wishes and needs and all its activities are geared to the realization of their needs and interests.

Kim Jong Un, First Secretary of the WPK, frames all policies with the intention of building a thriving socialist nation in this land for the people to enjoy the happiest life in the world, true to the ideas and cause of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il. The wishes and interests of the people are clearly reflected in all the ideas and lines he set forth, such as the problems of simultaneously carrying on economic construction and upbuilding of nuclear forces, of enforcing universal 12-year compulsory education and adhering to the principle of giving priority to convenience, aesthetic taste and opinion of the rising generation in construction. This is quite evident in the case of enforcement of universal 12-year compulsory education. Originally, universal 11-year compulsory education had been in force in

Korea. This free compulsory education was aimed at giving complete secondary general education to all the rising generation before they reach the working age. It was partially effected from September 1972 and completely went into force in September 1975, based on the ripe requirements of the developing revolution and the actual possibility for remodelling the whole society along revolutionary, working-class and intellectual lines by dynamically pushing ahead with the ideological, technical and cultural revolutions.

The national leader Kim Jong Un set forth the idea of radically improving the quality of secondary general education in keeping with the requirements of the era of the knowledge-based economy and wisely guided the enforcement of universal 12-year compulsory education. Thanks to his firm resolution to put up the education of the rising generation as a matter of the highest priority in the work of the Party and the state, the state investments were concentrated in the educational sphere and the arrangements for the introduction of 12-year compulsory education were looked upon as an important work of all nation, all people and all society. Following the ordinance on the introduction of universal 12-year compulsory education passed at the 6th ►

► Session of the 12th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, education was started from the 2014-2015 school year according to the programme of universal 12-year compulsory education, and the firm foundation has been laid for enforcing it on a full scale in a few years.

Meanwhile, Kim Jong Un gave important instructions several times concerning the compilation of new school textbooks while giving detailed guidance to the work of improving the contents and methods of education. The enforcement of 12-year compulsory education is a good expression of the WPK's love for the people and the rising generation, the Party that gives absolute priority to the people's desire and interest.

The WPK is steadily carrying on its policies so that the people get real benefits. A typical policy is the one of giving first and foremost importance to aesthetic needs, convenience and the children's desire in construction. This serves as a thoroughgoing principle in the recent projects that give rise to monumental structures befitting the Songun era.

One day some officials working for the Munsu Water Park project submitted a formation plan to the

national leader Kim Jong Un. Considering the plan he was sorry that the number of water slides was small and suggested more slides be fixed. A few days later when he studied the supplemented plan, he was very pleased, saying that the people would be delighted when the water park was completed. Besides the water slides, he studied the formation plan of the park for improvement as many as 113 times. Whenever he did it, his primary concern was if it would be favourite with the people.

On May 10, 2014 a merry sound of bugle rang out in Songdowon, a scenic spot in the east coast of Korea; it signaled the start of the first-round camping at the Songdowon International Children's Camp which was admirably rebuilt thanks to the WPK's love for the younger generation. When the national leader visited the camp in May 2013, he gave specific instructions on the renovation of the camp, saying that the modernization of the camp was an important task to add lustre to the exploits of the President and the Chairman. In 2014 alone he visited it several times and solved all the problems arising in the reconstruction, saying that it might be the best camp in the world and that they should spare no expense for ►

The Workers' Party of Korea founding anniversary is significantly celebrated every year.



- ▶ the children, the treasure of the country. Under his great concern the camp was renovated magnificently in less than half a year, comprising the International Friendship Children's Hall, camping buildings, an indoor stadium, an indoor swimming pool, an outdoor playground, an outdoor wading pool, an outdoor archery ground, an aquarium, an aviary and a stuffed animals room.

When Kim Jong Un visited the camp which was near completion, he said with great satisfaction that all the buildings and facilities in the camp go well with the image of a civilized socialist country in terms of their scale, content and architectural style, that the national identity is preserved in all aspects and that the principle of giving priority to convenience and aesthetic quality is implanted as required by the Juche-oriented idea of architectural aesthetics. He continued to say that the camp is an edifice, the world's one and only hotel and palace of the children which reflects the Party's outlook on the rising generation. He also said that although there had been difficulties in the renovation of the camp, their efforts turned out worthwhile, and that if they toiled a year the country would make a 10 years' progress. He exclaimed it was very nice to see the camp renovated and that he made revolution to taste that pleasure.

Like the Songdowon camp, many monumental structures that went up recently, including the Okryu Children's Hospital, the Mirim Riding Club, the Masikryong Ski Resort, the Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp, the Pyongyang Baby Home and the Pyongyang Orphanage, are the crystallization of the national leader's loving care.

In his 2015 New Year Address Kim Jong Un said: **"We should ensure that the people-first principle runs through the whole of Party work as appropriate for its nature as a motherly party to make the climate of respecting, loving and depending on them pervade it and Party work focus on improving their living standards."**

True to his words, the officials of the WPK are making tireless efforts to improve the living standard of the people while absolutely prioritizing their convenience. It is a matter of course that the people faithfully trust and follow the Party, with the conviction that happiness and future are in store for them as they advance in the direction pointed by the Party.

Kim Song Ok

THE RYONGSONG MACHINE COMPLEX was established in April 1946. At that time, it was merely a small factory with some 200 employees. With the rapid industrial development of the country, the factory developed into a large-sized machine maker.

Some of the landmark events of the complex were the manufacture of a 3 000-ton press, a 6 000-ton press, a 10 000-ton press, and a 70m gantry planing machine, which were all the products of the wisdom and resources of the complex.

The image got further elevated when it developed an 8-metre turning lathe, a 12 000-KVA thermal power turbine, a 15 000-cubic-metre centrifugal blower, a 20-metre lathe and an 18-metre turning lathe. In recent years, it developed different kinds of compressors including the 3-cubic-metre piston compressor No. 1.

For this reason, people call the complex the "mother factory of machines," "exemplary factory of self-reliance," "almighty factory," "multipurpose factory" and "powerful factory."

In the 1980s, the complex was given a task of manufacturing a 10 000-ton press, whose parts usually weighed tens or even hundreds of tons each, and which needed tens of thousands of designs when those of petty small parts were counted. Worse still, it had no experience in making such a big press before. However, exerting



Complex

- ▶ their meritorious spirit of doing anything that the country and the Workers' Party of Korea wanted, the employees made the 10 000-ton press by building on the experience they had had in making 3 000- and 6 000-ton presses before.

They also produced lots of equipment needed for the development of the national economy, thus exalting their honour as a powerful manufacturer.

In December 2011, the complex was awarded the title of Labour Hero, and this encouraged the workers and technicians to a greater upsurge in production.

Last year the complex was given a task of producing floodgate wheels needed for the construction of a set of power stations on the Chongchon River. By conducting a mass technical innovation campaign and introducing a new iron-casting method, they wrought a miracle of making nearly 1 000 floodgate wheels of six kinds in a matter of six months, not in three years as usual.

When they were ordered to produce cog wheels for thermal power stations in June last, the workers of the Songun iron foundry moulded castings in a short period by introducing a new method, different from the conventional one of making small castings

Efforts are put in the processing of ordered equipment.



The quality of casting improves.

separately.

Also, the technicians and workers of the complex produced lots of equipment and sent them to the East Pyongyang Thermal Power Station, the Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex, the Komdok Mining Complex and other enterprises, and manufactured and installed geothermal compressors at the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace, the Pyongyang Hydroponic Greenhouse and the Hamhung Water Park.

Han Yong Hwan, deputy chief engineer of the complex, says, "As in the past, we will display our honour as Hero Complex by speedily producing and supplying facilities to major projects."

Sim Yong Jin



Young Scientists Win Special Prizes

YEARS AGO THE Automation Research Institute under the State Academy of Sciences was given a task to give assistance to the project of modernization of the hot rolling process in the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex. Many researchers volunteered to tackle this field work. Most of them were in their 20s with short scientific research career or had just finished college. The institute put big trust in them and formed a research team with those young scientists as the main force and experienced and able researchers as the backbone.

The team rushed to the spot and began to understand the layout of the existing process. Exchanging their opinions and referring to experiences of operators and skilled hands, they completed a general design of an integrated automation system of the rolling process in a short span of time after painstaking efforts. They also finished designs of partial systems, and buckled down to the

establishment of the integrated automation system which was to reduce the time of production and improve the quality of steel plates.

Young scientists in charge of the control system of a universal rolling mill—it was the first big task for them—developed a reasonable operating program by introducing the operators' working methods, and put forward a great idea to decrease the number of passage of steel in the mill while ensuring the quality. Once they remodelled a dynamotor of the universal rolling mill with a big capacity into a converter, but running the rolling mill, they found that the mill's speed was not high enough and that the new devices were interrupted sometimes. They knew it was because of bad combination of the new devices and existing facilities. Far from disappointed, the team pooled their wisdom to produce good ideas, consulting able researchers—one of them was Jang Myong Chol—and skilled work-

ers. At last they successfully fitted the new devices to the specific conditions and solved problems to start the motor of the rolling mill at a try.

Along with this, the research group solved many sci-tech problems including a digital control system of the hot rolling process, a computer-aided intensive monitoring system of the hot rolling process, a rolling mill operating system and a production management system of the hot rolling process.

At the end of last year the hot rolling workshop began production of rolled steel based on the integrated automation system. The successes scores of young researchers made in the modernization project won the special prize in the 25th national program contest and exhibition held in October last year, and the integrated automation system of the hot rolling process won another special prize in the 30th national sci-tech festival held in April last.

Many people including the employees of the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex say in unison that they came to know young scientists' ability through the development of the integrated automation system and gained a good view of the bright future of their country's sci-tech development.

Jo Yong Il



Korea Education Fund

NOT LONG AGO A KOREA
Today reporter had an interview with Chae Ryang Il, president of the Korea Education Fund. Excerpts:

When was the Korea Education Fund established and what is its mission?

The Korea Education Fund was established on January 26, 2005. As an NGO registered as a corporate body of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the fund has an important mission to render cooperation and support for improvement of the quality of education. Our work is important one as it is intended to carry out the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK government that regard education of the rising generation as one of the fundamental problems decisive of the destiny of the country and spare nothing for education.

Today our country is pushing ahead with the effort to enforce the universal 12-year compulsory education in an all-round way and radically improve the quality. Along with this, great efforts are directed to building up the material and technical conditions for better education, promoting international exchange and cooperation and creating model units for nationwide generalization in the fields of teaching environment and quality.

I think the teachers' qualifications are very important in improving the teaching quality. How is this work going on?

Our fund has positively pushed ahead with the campaign to improve the qualifications of the teachers of different schools and colleges by strengthening exchange and cooperation with NGOs, organizations and personal figures at home and abroad and overseas Korean compatriots. The fund established the Pyongyang Teacher Training School in 2009. In the school equipped with modern lecture rooms and welfare facilities, English and computer courses are given to teachers of

junior and senior middle schools across the country four times a year according to the refresher plan. In addition, refresher training is arranged for dentists and nursery school and kindergarten teachers in a planned way. In 2013 there was an English course for the teachers of Kim Chaek University of Technology.

What do you do for improvement of the teaching environment?

Great attention has been paid to construction of schools and experiment and practice conditions of schools. Between 2008 and 2014 a dozen schools were built in North and South Hwanghae provinces, Kangwon and South Phyongan provinces; school buildings, dormitories, mess halls and wash-cum-bath rooms were rebuilt at the Hwangju Orphans' Secondary School, Wonsan Orphans' Secondary School and Nampho Onchon Orphans' Primary School. Solar heating greenhouses with a cyclic system of production were built in colleges of agriculture to improve the conditions for practice of crop growing and animal husbandry. We successfully finished projects including the cooperation for water sanitation in orphans' primary and secondary schools in Wonsan and the installation of the solar water-heater in the North Phyongan Provincial Orphans' Secondary School. Practice rooms were established for carpentry, cookery, sewing and driving in several orphans' secondary schools and senior middle schools.

How about your assistance regarding the supply of teaching facilities and school things?

We've worked hard to supply computers, videos, projectors and foreign language labs to many educational institutions in Pyongyang and other areas. And we helped procure school things and produce textbooks. To improve the healthcare and living conditions of the students, orphans' schools and children's hospitals of every province were given medical



supplies, clothing, footwear, articles for cultural use, foodstuffs and so on. We provided the Wonsan Orphans' Secondary School and other orphans' schools with sports and amusement facilities including open-air apparatuses, footballs and uniforms. We also preferentially sent foodstuffs, daily necessities, school things and medicines for everyday use to the schools in the typhoon- and flood-stricken areas including Yangdok and Sinyang counties and Komdok and Taehung areas.

What are you doing to build up the capacity of the fund?

My fund has had several lectures on cooperation under the support of many organizations in the world, and they served us as good opportunities to improve our capacity of project planning and management. We also raise the level of cooperation by exchanging opinions with many partners. Taking advantage of this opportunity, I extend my heart-felt thanks to the overseas Korean compatriots and organizations of many countries such as the FMV-DPRK, Switzerland, the Russkiy Mir Foundation, the Bread for the World, Germany, Friends in Education, Canada, the Light Foundation, and the Maranatha Foundation, for their sincere help to our children's education and living.

We will continue to have positive exchange and cooperation with overseas Korean compatriots, NGOs and organizations and individual supporters around the world. □

Talent Nurtured



THE PYONGYANG STUDENTS and Children's Palace is a comprehensive extracurricular education centre where children are trained to become promising scientists, artistes and athletes. The instructors of the palace devote all their energy to the training of the children, the future of Korea and the king of the country. The palace is a great favourite with the children.

Promising singer Kim Song Hui

In a performance given by schoolchildren's artistic groups of the Pyongyang Students and Children's Palace to celebrate the Day of the Sun (April 15), President Kim Il Sung's birthday, this year, a schoolgirl left a deep impression on the audience with her songs *Mangyongdae Is the Best*, *The Country of Mangyongdae* and *Mt. Paektu and Mangyongdae Is in a Flower Garden*. She is Kim Song Hui, a second-year student of the Changjon Senior Middle School in Central District, Pyongyang. As a promising singer, she won first place in national schoolchildren's solo contests several times.

She has taken lessons from Choe Kwang Suk, a vocal instructor of the palace, who has made

efforts to train her as a promising soloist of folk music.

When she was 12, she was in the second year of the then Changjon Secondary School in Central District. At the time she once took part in the performance given by schoolchildren's artistic groups from all parts of the country, which was held in the Py-

the palace every afternoon. The music-loving girl of high sensitivity developed faster than others in her circle. Learning folk songs suitable for her tone, she became a leading soloist of the palace.

Little dancer

Kim Jin Ok is a striking little



yang Students and Children's Palace. After the performance, the vocal instructor Choe came to see the girl, for she had noticed the girl had tried to present a tone unsuitable for her voice though she sang well. She found that Song Hui had not received proper instruction to give life to her own tone. She decided to take charge of the girl.

From that time on, Song Hui took new basic lessons of vocal music from the vocal instructor in



dancer. Her movement of making turns while beating the *janggu* is a difficult movement even for the experts, so it draws admiration of the audience. She has a great sense of dancing, and people fall into an ecstasy of joy. In a concert "Love the Future" in celebration of the 66th founding anniversary of the Korean Children's Union in June 2012, she danced a solo dance "*Janggu* dance" to the tune of the song *Our Country Is the Best*, receiving a great applause of

► the audience.

During her kindergarten days she had been called prodigy for her good play of the *kayagum*, a Korean traditional musical instrument. What made her a great little dancer?

One day Kim Hye Gyong, a dancing instructor of the palace, visited a kindergarten in Central District, Pyongyang. Hearing the children singing, she entered the music room and saw a little girl making wonderful rhythmic movements while playing the *kayagum*. The rhythmic movements made her *kayagum* sounds more beautiful. Fascinated by the little girl's wonderful movements, Hye Gyong gazed at her for a good while.

One year later when Jin Ok entered primary school, Hye Gyong visited her home to see her parents. Since then the girl began to learn dancing involved in the folk dance team of the palace. In order to make the most of the limited hours in the palace, Hye Gyong improved the girl's practical education including the visual aid-based one and multimedia-

based one. In this course, Jin Ok fully understood one by one the basic knowledge of dance. At last her dance movements came up to a high level as her teacher wanted, and when her teacher taught one she used to understand two or three.

Jin Ok's dance was already introduced several times in performances held at home and in China and European countries, demonstrating the image of the happy Korean children.

World championship at 14

The 11th Junior and 6th Veteran ITF Taekwon-Do World Championships were held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in August last year. Won Ok took part in the junior championships which was participated in by more than 300 young Taekwon-Doists from 26 countries and regions including the DPRK, Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. She, a member of the Taekwon-Do team of the Pyongyang Students and Children's Palace, won a gold medal by defeating the Greek rival in the women's 46 kg individual sparring in the division of 14-15 years of age. How could the young girl have the DPRK national flag hoisted in the foreign country?

At first she was led into the Taekwon-Do world by her instructor Kim Nam Hui. One af-

ternoon a girl entered the training ground of the Taekwon-Do of the palace. She was Won Ok, 10, who lives in Jonjin-dong, Thongil Street, Rangnang District. Talking to her, Nam Hui knew that when she was anxious to learn Taekwon-Do, her parents would not approve her decision because of her thin physical shape. Soon she met the girl's parents and persuaded them to approve their daughter's decision, saying that the teachers' duty is to develop in time children's aptitudes and that she would bring her up as a successful Taekwon-Doist.

This was how Won Ok became a member of the palace's Taekwon-Do team and was developed as a promising Taekwon-Doist. She knew better how the Korean nation's traditional martial arts Taekwon-Do had come and developed and how her ancestors had worked to keep it generation after generation. Now a decision settled in her mind to work hard to practice Taekwon-Do. Going to school in the morning and training at the palace in the afternoon, she mastered the basic knowledge, several patterns, rules and regulations of Taekwon-Do.

She had won two gold medals in the domestic competitions before winning a gold medal in the world championships.

Sim Yong Jin



Erstwhile Wrestler



A scene from the final of the 48 kg category event of men's freestyle wrestling at the 26th Olympic Games.

WHEN THEY TALK ABOUT wrestlers, many of the Koreans choose the topic about Kim Il. Then, what kind of trace did he leave in the wrestling world and what is he doing now?

Twice Olympic gold medalist

Born in Sosong District, Pyongyang, Kim Il began to learn wrestling in the then Pyongyang Namgyo Secondary School. The wrestling teacher spotted him who, though not tall and large in build, was quick-witted, powerful and unusually enthusiastic, as a promising wrestler.

Later Kim Il got a strong foundation of wrestling in the Sosong District Juvenile Sports School and joined the Amnokgang Sports Team. As many people expected, he gained good experience in some international competitions and won a gold medal in the 25th Olympic Games. The Pyongyang citizens greeted him with warm welcome along the 40-odd-km-long route. In 1992 he was awarded the two titles of Merited Athlete and People's Athlete.

In the 26th Olympic Games, too, he fully demonstrated his ability. It was the most difficult and impressive game to him, he recollected later. As a result, he became the first twice Olympic

champion of the country. He was also conferred the title of the DPRK Labour Hero.

In his flat in Kwangbok Street, there is a souvenir photograph which he and other gold medalists of the 25th Olympic Games had taken with President Kim Il Sung in celebration of the New Year of 1993. Looking up at the photo, he makes up his mind, "Listening to the ticking of my watch the President

presented to me, I'll always remain a victorious sportsman by making strenuous efforts."

Height of the awarding platform

After his athletic career, he enrolled in Kim Hyong Jik University of Education. In his university days he qualified as an excellent sports expert with experience and theoretical qualities. After graduation of the university, he became a full-time officer of the wrestling league of the Federation of Athletic Technology in 2001. In 2009 he was promoted from deputy chief secretary to

chief secretary of the wrestling league. Now he had to bear greater responsibility.

Under his guidance twice world wrestling champion Yang Kyong Il and world wrestling champion Yun Won Chol were produced. Yun Won Chol is the country's first champion of men's Greco-Roman wrestling. In addition, So Sim Hyang and Jong Hak Jin took the top place in the 16th and 17th Asian Games respectively.

For the achievement, he was awarded a certificate of commendation of Chairman Kim Jong Il and elected a deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly in 2014.

Only when he has a high ability and lofty sportsmanship and morality, can he be on the awarding platform—this is his motto.

"The height of the awarding platform you get on means just the height of your country's dignity. When all of us win gold medals, our country's dignity will get higher and higher," he says. With unabated enthusiasm and courage, he devotes his all to the development of the country's wrestling.

Rim Ok

Kim Il (centre), chief secretary of the wrestling league.



On the First Tour to Korea



Everything Is Incredible

I DON'T KNOW VERY MUCH about Korea. The reason why we come is purely out of curiosity. As a result of my lack of knowl-

edge I didn't really know what to expect at all when I first came to the DPRK.

But when I arrived at the DPRK finally I was very pleasantly surprised by the things I saw—the natural sceneries are very beautiful, and in Pyongyang the architectural monuments and the whole society are incredibly unique. A lot of tour guides have asked me what the Western perception of their country is. I con-

sider myself a very well travelled person but coming to the DPRK has been truly a unique experience.

*Haynes Oliver Alexander (UK)
the 38th Batch of the
British Tourists*



I'm Really Happy

I'M REALLY HAPPY I could see so many different places, here, in Korea. We went to Mt. Myohyang and there we saw one of the greatest temples. The scenery there may be the best I have ever seen. I've never

seen a scenery like that before in my life and it was just a magnificent mountain. That day we also went to the International Friendship Exhibition House. It was a very interesting experience to look at all the different gifts presented to the DPRK leaders in one house. I very much enjoyed seeing the gifts from my own country of Norway in that house.

We also drove down to Kaesong which was a big city. And then we had several city tours to look at Pyongyang. I think that was what I enjoyed the most because I was very impressed by

how big the city is and all the places, especially the tall Tower of the Juche Idea. Another thing that was very unique and I've never seen was the children's performance. To see young children performing in very professional way was great. The singing was very different from what I had heard. I was impressed.

*Myhrvold Fride (Norway)
the 38th Batch of
the British Tourists*



Unique Tastes

THE KOREAN FOOD HAS a very unique taste which I have never experienced before. The dish, which is gray mullet soup, was very, very good. Even the food that I can find back home tastes quite unique and is also very good. I'm very lucky to have a tour guide who shows the national food in the best places and helps to get the best Korean food. Korean noodle is also deli-

cious. The beers are unique. Kimchi is also very good. I really hope I'll in the future be able to have more Korean foods.

*Lobmeyr Arthur (Austria)
the 38th Batch of
the British Tourists*

Mother of Heroes

CHOE OK AE, A resident in Munsindong No. 1, Tongdaewon District, Pyongyang, is winning respect and admiration of the people as mother of two sons who are Labour Heroes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Choe was a designer at the Pyongyang Urban Planning and Designing Research Institute from her girlhood until she retired. Her husband too

was a designer who was always busy and often went on a business trip. But her concern for the children was particularly noteworthy. Though she returned home late, she checked the homework of her children and washed and ironed their school uniforms before laying them by their bedside. When they went on a picnic, she prepared delicious foods for them and often said, "Share your foods with your friends, and don't mind others' foods even if they are humble."

Her husband died from a sudden illness in his forties. Whenever the mass media introduced the Taean Heavy Machine Complex and the Kumsong Tractor Factory, she was wont to tell her children, "Your father designed those factories. Though he died, his merit is still going down. I think the value of man is not to be decided by how long he lives, but by how he lives."

One day before her second son's graduation from school, she sat knee to knee with her three children and said to the youngest child as follows: "Your sister and brother are university students, and I hope you will join the army. The epitome of patriotism is to stand guard for the country."

The day before the youngest son's leaving home for military service Choe took her children to the Chollima Street, the Pyongyang Wheat Flour Processing Factory and the Pyongyang Condiment Factory which are associated with her husband's efforts, telling them about the worth of and pride in creation. The image of Choe working hard for the country rather than her own family even in the period of the Arduous March, the most difficult period of the nation, cultivated in them the attitude of strenuous thinking and quest, a sense of justice and an upright manner.

Her elder son Sa Song Il became a designer of the Pyongyang Urban Planning and Designing Research Institute after university (it was his dream from his



**The first son
Sa Song Il.**

**The second son
Sa Song Guk.**

childhood). He distinguished himself in his first task, and rendered service to the construction of hundreds of large and small bridges across the country which are suited to the local conditions and bring much profits. He took charge of designing and building work of the modernization of the Ryuldong Junior Middle School in Tongdaewon District, Pyongyang, which he graduated 20 years ago. When the teaching staff expressed thanks, he said, "Well, this is my alma mater." The title of Merited Designer was conferred on him when he was 33, and the title of DPRK Labour Hero when he was 38.

The second son Sa Song Guk also sent good news. He has been in service for 25 years, and has worked as company commander at a post for a dozen years. He was awarded the title of DPRK Labour Hero at the 4th Conference of the Company Commanders and Political Instructors of the Korean People's Army. At the conference Supreme Commander Kim Jong Un said that he had discovered patriots and meritorious officers as precious as pearl and jewel, who had devoted their all to the strengthening of companies, and that the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea had decided to highly appreciate them. Then he personally awarded the medals of DPRK Labour Hero.

Seeing the souvenir photo of her second son standing arm in arm with the Supreme Commander, Choe told, "The day when your brother became a Hero I thought you would be proud of your brother. But I never imagined you would be a Hero yourself. Now I'll try my best to do good things for the country which has given me the pride of being mother of two Heroes."

Now her first son is 44 and her second 42, and they are putting their heart and soul in their work.

Rim Ok

A Musical Wonder Girl

ON HER WAY HOME FROM work several years ago vocal music teacher Pae Hye Nam of the Kumsong School happened to hear a little girl singing a song. Her clear voice, tremorous and correct tune convinced Hye Nam who had reared many children of musical talent that she had an aptitude for vocal music. She felt a desire to take on and train her. So, after she left the kindergarten, Jon Song Yong was admitted to the Kumsong School.

Hye Nam took charge of her. Endowed with unusual concentration and absolute pitch, Song Yong could easily grasp the teacher's intentions and quickly understood what she taught. To her a single word was sufficient. When she was a second-year pupil, she sang solo in a school concert and was believed to have a bright future as a folk singer. She specialized in vocal music while learning the piano. She had already taken piano lessons since she was four and played a piano solo in a children's music broadcasting concert when she was six. Then, one day Hye Nam happened to hear a piano tune coming from a classroom and was greatly surprised to know it was Song Yong who was playing it. She, a primary school girl, was perfectly playing the piano solo *Let Us Study*, which had been played by the leaving children in their graduation concert some time before, arranged in her own way.

As the days went by, Song

Yong showed her talent in musical creation, too, besides singing and playing the piano. She expressed her thoughts and feelings in words and tune. When Hye Nam received the first musical score of her composition evincing a child's heart, she was reminded of her class teacher showing her a composition written by her in a class. There was a passage in it, which said, "The national leader Kim Jong Un loves the children very much and gives them the best things. How I envied the children of the Kyongsang Kindergarten who sang in the presence of the leader when he visited the kindergarten! How happy I should be if I could sing a song before the leader!"

She was growing in discretion, too, along with musical ability. Her diary has a passage like this. "The weather was warm until the morning, but it began to pour in the afternoon. As I watching the falling rain outside the window, my mind went out to our leader in spite of myself. I wonder where he is now. He must be far away on the road of field guidance. My heart yearns for the dear leader. It is really vexing. How happy I should be if my heart could go out and shield him from the rain like an

umbrella! Now, the words and tune of a new song came across my mind. Immediately I wrote them down word by word in my music book. In the evening I played the tune on the piano before my parents to their great joy."

The medical treatment at the Okryu Children's Hospital and her life at the reconstructed Songdown International Children's Camp gave her creative inspirations. Her creative ability to find new factors in natural things and social affairs brought no end of songs like a gushing spring. Song Yong made a collection of songs, *The Bosom of Our Leader Is Best*, with eight pieces of music she had composed and presented it to the national leader Kim Jong Un.

Wishing her a happy future, the leader recommended her songs to the students and children. In April this year Song Yong appeared on television and sang the song of her own composition *The Bush Warbler on Mangyong Hill*, bringing joy to



The Road I Chose

ONE DAY SEVERAL years ago when I was going around to find school-aged children I happened to know Un Yong who was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and could not move herself. The seven-year-old girl was standing with the support of crutches, and I learned that she hadn't enrolled in kindergarten, and even gave up going to school. That night I was obsessed with her image gazing at me until I turned around the corner.

The next morning I went to see the headteacher of my school. I told him I wanted to take charge of Un Yong and help her go to school like normal children. Then the headteacher, who was the age of my father, advised me to reconsider it because I would be married any of those days, which might make me unable to look after her until she finished school. "It'll add to her sorrow," he said. And yet he told me how I



Ri Un Yong and her teacher Ri Kyong Sim.

should be prepared if I was to choose to help her. After hearing his words, I finally made up my mind.

To begin with, I taught Un Yong how to hold a pencil and the ABC of the spoken and written language. Sometimes I sat up far into the night developing her ability to do elementary mathe-

matical calculation. Rain or snow, I took her on my back and walked four kilometres from her home to the school every day. I was soaked with perspiration, and more than once I got bruises on my knees as I slipped on the snowy road. Sometimes I felt exhausted. I, however, was pleased to see the bright smile of the girl sitting in ▶

▶ her friends, teachers, family and many other people. At the school there were many discussions about training Song Yong into a musical composer. Piano, vocal music and composition teachers are eager to win over Song Yong. But according to her own desire to keep to vocal music, she is now bent on improving her singing skills under the guidance of the famous folk song teacher

Kim Jong Nyo.

Pae Hye Nam who initiated her into vocal music says, "Song Yong has musical talent by nature. Teachers are striving to give her good training by united efforts." Song Yong's mother says, "There has never been a musician in our family. Her father is a driver and I was a traffic controller in my maidenhood. I am both surprised and gratified to see her

growing up as a musician. As we are living in a good society my daughter is flying high in the sky of hope."

Song Yong is now preparing a new folk song book *The Songs of Mangyongdae*. People place great hopes on her, an 11-year-old girl. The children all over the country are waiting for her new songs.

Rim Ok

► the sunny classroom, free from all worries.

One Sunday of the rainy season a year later, I felt like having a rest. But I thought of Un Yong who had been disappointed to have a poor result in a math examination. This urged me to go to see her. To my embarrassment, however, the stream had swollen up to my belly. Torrents of water seemed to swallow me. Gripped with fear, I nearly turned back, but when I remembered Un Yong who I knew would be expecting me I braced myself and began to cross the stream. Holding a stick in one hand I moved step by step. When I got to her house, I was so exhausted that I had not the energy to say even a word. But when I saw the girl greeting me gladly, I felt completely refreshed. It was worth the trouble I took.

From the next school term Un Yong ranked among the top-honour pupils, and she could solve any difficult problems in maths reference books.

Her remarkable progress was the worth of my life. One of those days when I entered the classroom after organizing an after-school sports activity I noticed her looking stonily through the window at other pupils playing in the ground. The pitiful image of her hurt my heart. That day I reproached myself for feeling satisfied with teaching alone, and resolved to make her walk freely. The Okryu Children's Hospital flashed into my mind first. Via telemedicine I met the vice director of the hospital who was in

charge of technical affairs. He said the young girl had better begin with kinesitherapy. I was buoyed by his suggestion.

The next day I took Un Yong out to do walking exercise holding her by the hands. When she moved a step, she trembled with a severe pain, falling down on the spot before moving the second step. "Stand up! If not, you'll regret yourself all your life!" I cried out anxiously. Then she put all her energy in raising herself and made another step. I had to exert more effort. I first went to the people's hospital in the county and then travelled to hospitals in other counties to get advices from experienced doctors. I explored the deep mountains for medicinal herbs. When the head of the department of the cerebro-neurological surgery of the Okryu Children's Hospital volunteered to conduct an operation on her, I didn't hesitate to take her on my back to the hospital.

The operation took about five hours. And the rehabilitation treatment spanning several months required much more sweat and perseverance. But under the care of doctors and nurses of the hospital who took care of us as their family members we could return home with happy news in the long run.

Still vivid is my memory of the ceremony of children's joining the Korean Children's Union on the Day of the Shining Star last year. The audience was surprised to see Un Yong—who had walked on crutches or been taken on others'

back—standing in the middle of the front row of the children. When the signal of entrance was given, the children marched forward to the rostrum, singing a song in chorus. The onlookers held their breath, watching Un Yong. She stepped forward proudly up to the flag of the Children's Union. Amidst the clapping a red tie of the union was put around her neck. Then, to my surprise, she dashed towards me, instead of her mother. The spectators shed tears of emotion, saying that I became her "mother" after all my efforts without making any home of my own.

In this way Un Yong regained her cheerful life, and now is a pride of the school as an exemplary member of the sub-branch of the Children's Union of the school. She often says she will become a teacher like me by working hard. This fills my mind with happiness about my efforts.

In May last I was chosen as a delegate to the 2nd National Conference of Model Youth of Virtue and had an honour of addressing the conference. Inwardly, I said loudly, "I thought I was making my career by myself. But now I know it is not true. As I'm under the great care of the benevolent national leader, our youthful days will remain honourable forever."

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South Hamgyong Province*

Traditional Dishes of Korea (3)



Haeju pibimbap.



Songphyon.

Dishes of Hwanghae Province

HWANGHAE PROVINCE in the past covered today's North and South Hwanghae provinces. The region is less mountainous and has a vast plain area, so it was known from of old as the granary of the country. This explains the generosity of the people in the region. Their foods, simple but appealing without any special dressing, neither salty nor washy, are appetizing and always served brimful.

The local kimchi pickles are characterized by the use of the seeds of coriander and Korean pepper bush as spices.

Haeju pibimbap (rice with assorted mixture)

Haeju pibimbap is fried rice garnished with mung-bean sprouts, bracken, parsley, broad bellflower roots, sliced egg fry, and sprinkled with crumbled roast laver. What is peculiar

about it is that the bracken must come from Mt. Suyang of Haeju. The garnishings sometimes include fried pork and parsley. The dish is also called Haeju *kyoban*.

Big songphyon

Songphyon is a half-moon shaped rice cake stuffed with beans and flavoured with pine

needles. Big *songphyon* is one of the rice cakes often made by the people of Hwanghae Province with ordinary or glutinous rice. The method of making it is much the same as those of other provinces, but the people of this region make rice cakes as big as a palm with plenty of stuffing, reflecting their generous nature. Wormwood and pine endodermis are often put in the rice flour before it is

Cold boiled West Sea foods.



- ▶ kneaded into dough. Soy beans, mung beans, red beans and jujubes rich in the province are used as stuffing.



Paeksolgi.

Mesiruttok (steamed rice cake)

Mesiruttok is a well-known food in Hwanghae Province. It is made of salted rice flour added with sugar and water and then steamed with sesame powder. It is mainly prepared in winter, especially for holiday and festival feasts. At a festival feast, it is served in a pile on the table. And

Squid jelly and steamed lobster.



at a holiday feast the rice cake is coated with white sesame flour, and at a memorial service it is coated with black sesame flour. The Sinwon area was well-known for its steamed rice cake. It is said that visitors to the area would invariably have a taste of it before leaving the place.

Croaker soup

Croaker is largely caught off the shores of the province and its people love to have croaker soup. It is prepared by putting chops of croaker, and its roe and milt in the salted boiling water. When they are almost done, onion, garlic and crown daisy are put in to be scalded lightly. The croaker caught off Haeju was renowned for its good taste. The people of this region make it a point to add crown daisy to the croaker soup. Some of them like to put in hot pepper paste according to their eating habit.

Mung-bean jelly

Mung-bean jelly is made by grinding husked mung beans into flour, which is put in a sack, adding water to it and straining out dregs and then settling it before pouring it in a cauldron to boil, and finally, ladling it into flat bowls to set as it cools. The people in Hwanghae Province believe that they should take mung-bean foods at least once a year to keep

fit and live long. This gave rise to the local custom of having mung-bean jelly and mung-bean starch noodle in summer.

Coriander kimchi pickles

A peculiar thing in the kimchi pickles of Hwanghae Province is that coriander leaves are used in making kimchi pickles. Mixture of bitter-removed leaves of coriander and seasonings is put in between the leaves of celery cabbage. Then, the unique aroma of coriander gives a special flavour to the pickles to stimulate appetite. Seeds, young stalks and leaves of coriander are largely used as seasonings and spices.

Yonan fermented fish

Yonan fermented rice-fruit punch is also one of the specialties of Hwanghae Province. In that shellfish goes into it, it is different from those of Hamgyong, Kangwon, Kyongsang provinces and other areas on the east coast of Korea. It is made by mixing water-drained salted shellfish with boiled rice, powdered malt, chestnuts, dates, pine nuts, sesame oil and salt before putting it in a pot to be fermented in four or five days.

The food culture is further developing in the Hwanghae provincial areas based on the local specialties. □

Steamed medicinal pumpkin.



Three Classics of Koryo Medicine

KOREA MADE A LEAP FORWARD IN medical studies in the 15th–early 17th century.

The medical professionals at that time made an analysis of books of Koryo medicine and published superior books based on the results of researches into Korean herbs and their application in treatment. The typical ones are *Hyangyakjipsongbang*, *Uibangryuchwi* and *Tonguibogam*.

Hyangyakjipsongbang written by Ro Jung Rye (?–1452) and other medical men was released in 1433. This compendium of clinical medicine, consisting of 85 volumes, contains methods of treatment suited to the Koreans' physical constitutions, the methods established on the basis of all the successes of the traditional Koryo medicine and remedial experience in using domestic materials until the early 15th century.

Divided into two parts of clinical treatment and Koryo pharmacy, the book gives a summary of each disease and explains in easy language the cause, pathology, symptoms and curative means, and methods of acupuncture and moxibustion.

For polydipsia, for example, it gives a brief account of its pathogenesis and suggests more than 100 treatment methods for the disease. The book provides 10 706 prescriptions for 959 kinds of diseases and 1 479 methods of acupuncture and moxibustion. It is distinguished by a greater amount of treatments suggested, including folk remedies, than other Korean medical books. As it is the first medical compendium compiled in Korea, its merit is still accepted.

Uibangryuchwi is an encyclopedic collection of Koryo medicine compiled in 1445 by Ro Jung Rye and other medical men by summing up all the successes and experiences achieved in development of Koryo medicine until the early 15th century and referring to over 150 Korean medical books. It was made up of 365 volumes at the time of compilation and went through three times of revision and amendment before it was published in 266 volumes in 1477. Three volumes are dedicated to general introduction and the other 263 to particulars.

The part of general introduction comprehensively describes methods of medical examination, prescription, dosages, traits which medical staffs must keep, and general principles in treatment. The part of particulars is divided into 95 sections which deal with all the diseases addressed in modern medicine—the internal medicine, surgery, ophthalmology, dentistry, dermatology, gynaecology and paediatrics and other problems—and describe their causes, symptoms and treatments (Koryo medicine, acupuncture, moxibustion, massage, physical training and diet). This work is similar to modern medicine in classification—principles of treatment, human physiology, various diseases treated in clinical



medicine, care of health, and even the theory of *Kyongnak*.

Tonguibogam is a complete compendium of Korean medicine compiled by Ho Jun (1545–1615) in 1596–1610, based on his experience from his long medical practice and hundreds of classical medical books at home and abroad. This book was published in 1613. This book describes different medical treatments and prescriptions suitable to the customs of life and the structure of the human body of the Korean people. It consists of 25 volumes in total—two volumes of catalogue, four of internal treatments, four of surgical treatments, eleven of various remedies of petty troubles, three of use of medicinal decoctions and one of acupuncture and moxibustion.

The part of internal treatments describes physiological functions of all the five viscera and six entrails and their diseases; that of surgical treatments addresses different diseases of skin, ear, nose, mouth and eye; that of various remedies of petty troubles indicates ways of medical examination, causes of diseases and symptoms and their prescriptions of different diseases that were not mentioned in earlier parts; and gynaecological and paediatric problems are also included. In the medicinal decoction part are introduced more than 1 400 kinds of traditional medicines in general use in Korea and their effects, diseases for which these medicines are efficacious, methods of gathering herbs for those medicines and processing them, and their habitats and even local names underneath; the acupuncture and moxibustion part shows positions of needles and moxa cones and diseases which are easily cured through the treatments.

This book is significant since it sees physical training and a regular routine of life as of fundamental importance and medical treatment as of secondary importance. This book is still highly evaluated for its practical value as well as its scientific contents.

These books are called three classics of Koryo medicine or three compendiums of Oriental medicine, of which *Uibangryuchwi* is considered the best.

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Kim Il Sung University

Myongrimdabbu, a Hundred-year-old Veteran Commander

MYONGRIMDABBU (67–179) was a minister of Koguryo, the first feudal state of Korea which existed between 277 B.C. and A.D. 668. As a minister, he distinguished himself in the fights against the foreign invaders. In 166 he became the prime minister of Koguryo and held the prerogative of supreme command over all armed forces.

In the fight against the invading enemy troops in 172, he fully demonstrated his mettle and spirit as a military man. In November 172 large enemy forces intruded into Koguryo. The king consulted the ministers for measures to deliver the country out of the crisis. Looking out over the vassals, the king asked, "Large enemy forces are invading our country and which do you think will be better, assuming the offensive or the defensive?" Many of his ministers were whispering and nodding in consultation among themselves. The king threw his eyes at Myongrimdabbu. However, the prime minister was absorbed in deep meditation, drooping his head.

Now a minister rose and gave his opinion, "Your Majesty, I think the enemy is making little of us relying on their large numbers. So I suggest meeting and driving them back. If we avoid fighting, the enemy will regard us as cowards and frequently make inroads into our country in the future. In addition, we have the advantage of steep mountains and narrow paths, so ten thousand enemy troops won't be able to get over our barrier guarded by just one man. No matter how large the enemy force may be, they will be helpless to do anything against us. So I think it the best policy to check them by sending out our

troops." To his words the king responded with a dry cough. The other ministers guessed that his opinion failed to gain the favour of the king.

At this moment, Myongrimdabbu opened his mouth. He said in a low but forceful voice, "Your Majesty, I consider it inadvisable to go out and engage the enemy head on." "Why?" the king asked in a consenting tone. Myongrimdabbu answered, "The enemy's land is vast and it has a large population. They are coming a long way in an assault on us with a huge force. So there's no breaking the brunt of their attack. It is often the case in war that the superior force attacks and the inferior one defends."

With this, he explained his plan. The enemy was invading Koguryo with the design of all-out surprise attack. As the enemy had many experiences in winning by surprise attack rather than by long-drawn-out war using ingenious tactics, they thought it was more advantageous to capture and subdue the king of Koguryo with a vast territory to make the other walled cities, fortresses and feudal states surrender by themselves.

In addition, they calculated that the problem of provisions for their army would be easily solved because now, just after the harvest time, the fields would be studded all over with stacks of grain crops. Therefore, it was as good as the enemy had left their fate to the strategy of surprise attack, and this meant that Koguryo's key to victory lay in frustrating this strategy of the enemy. Now the best course was to employ the empty-earth and holding-out-the-fortresses tactics,

surrounding them with deep moats, building strong defences and leaving not a grain of cereals in the fields, making the hungry and tired enemy troops retreat helplessly. Then, large armed forces would be sent out to chase and cup up the enemy. The king and all the ministers gave their approval to this plan of Myongrimdabbu.

Immediately the king took necessary measures and ordered many army units to assault the enemy's logistic units and cut off their supply line. As a result, the commanders and soldiers of the enemy who had intruded deep into Koguryo had no other choice but to retreat, hungry and frozen with cold. As planned, Myongrimdabbu started in hot chase of the routed enemy. It was important in this battle to wipe out the enemy to the last man to cut down their strength never to try to make a comeback. He formed a pursuit unit with thousands of elite cavalrymen and led the van of the battle to chase the running enemy, ordering his soldiers never to let the invaders escape alive and to show the mettle of the Koguryo people.

At the time, he was aged 106, but he commanded the Koguryo army exterminating the fleeing enemy. About this a history book says that the enemy forces suffered a crushing defeat, so that not even one horse went back home. The empty-earth and holding-out-the-fortresses tactics employed in combination with the exterminatory war method by Myongrimdabbu in this battle were widely used later by many famous patriotic army commanders of Korea in the battles to defend their country against foreign invaders. □

Seventy Years of Occupation of South Korea by the US

IT IS 70 YEARS SINCE THE US occupied south Korea with the end of the Second World War. The protracted stay of the US forces in half of the Korean territory while throwing their weight around is neither in compliance with the requirement of the Koreans, nor is it for peace and prosperity of south Korea.

No other place on the planet has been subjected to so long occupation of the US military. Over the years south Korea has been reduced to a colony of the US, the democracy of society stamped out scathingly and the time of antagonism, jealousy and confrontation between the north and the south of Korea has continued. The US occupation gave rise to the Korean war in the 1950s.

Seventy-year-long occupation of south Korea by the US proves that the US is not only the chieftain of aggression, plunder and massacre but also the main factor of the deteriorated situation of the Korean peninsula and the neighbourhood.

The Seoul Municipal People's Committee and the Workers' Party of South Korea Seoul municipal headquarters are forcibly disbanded by the US military government.



Product of an unjustifiable scheme

On September 8, 1945 the US forces occupied south Korea militarily under the excuse of the disarmament of the Japanese army. The US had long been insatiable of the favorable geographical situation and natural resources of Korea. It saw the defeat of the Japanese imperialists as an opportunity to take hold of Korea as a whole. The Americans' strategy was based on the understanding that Asia would play a decisive role in the global advance for the 1 000 years to come and that the vital link in Asian domination would be how to occupy the Korean peninsula.

But the situation changed suddenly unfavorable to the US, for the Japanese imperialists were crumbling much earlier unexpectedly with the general offensive of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army and the participation of the former Soviet Union in the war against Japan began on August 9, 1945, and the liberation of Korea becoming imminent. At

that time the US troops were engaged in battles in Okinawa more than 600 miles far away from Korea. Flurried at this, US President Truman, hoping to occupy even a half of the Korean territory, ordered army officers Dean Rusk and Charles Bonstill on August 10, 1945 to draw in half an hour a line across the peninsula to decide the areas to be put in charge of the American and Soviet forces to accept surrender of the Japanese military by the US and the Soviet Union. They argued over the division of the Korean peninsula until they agreed to draw a line along the 38 degree north latitude of Korea. The main reason for this was to put Kyongsong, the capital of the Feudal Joson Dynasty, under the jurisdiction of the US Military. Also, attention was paid to the fact that Korea north of the 38th parallel had been controlled by the Japanese Kwantung Army while the south by the 17th field army under the direct control of the general headquarters of the Japanese Military.

Later, between August 10 and 15 the US drew up "General Order No. 1" which specified that the north of Korea should be put in the charge of the Soviet forces and that the south should be controlled by the US and notified it to the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and Kuomintang's China. On September 2, under the agreement and connivance of the Allied Nations, MacArthur, commander-in-chief of the US Forces in the Pacific, declared through radio aboard the USS Missouri which was in Yokohama Port in Tokyo Bay, Japan, that the US military would occupy Korea south of the 38th parallel. Soon, on September 8 the main force of the 24th Corps landed on Inchon bloodlessly aboard civilian boats, to say nothing of warships. By the end of October that year 70 000 US troops landed on Inchon, Mokpho and Pusan and occupied the



A US military truck runs over a south Korean in broad daylight.



Secondary schoolchildren Sin Hyo Sun and Sim Mi Son are run over to death by a US armoured car.

▶ whole of south Korea.

As a result, the plan of the “line of operational division” between the Soviet Union and the US or the question of the Korean division, which had never been proposed or discussed in a number of negotiations over the matter of postwar Korea during the Second World War, was drafted and carried out by the US.

Later, the US refused the Soviet proposal to withdraw both the Soviet and the US forces from Korea simultaneously by the end of 1948 and rejected the resolution of the 30th session of the UN General Assembly in 1975 on dismantling the “UN Command” in south Korea and pulling all foreign forces. The American occupation of south Korea has been on with no sign of cessation.

Aggressor in the Guise of “Liberator”

The excitement and jubilation of the people over the defeat of the Japanese imperialists and the liberation of Korea (August 15, 1945) vanished like smoke in south Korea as soon as the US troops set foot on south Korea under the cloak of “liberator.”

The US military forcibly disbanded the people’s committees organized by the south Koreans themselves, and outlawed the activities of all democratic parties and social organizations by executing military administration that is usually applied by a victor nation to a defeated nation. Worse still, opposing the desire

and requirement of the Koreans for establishment of a united democratic independent state, the US forcibly carried out a “separate election” in south Korea on May 10, 1948, which led to the concoction of the pro-US Syngman Rhee “government” in August that year.

It is needless to say that the Syngman Rhee regime played a role of an aggressive tool used to implement a war policy of the US to stamp out the young DPRK that chose the road of democracy.

A famous American book wrote that “the Republic of Korea” which started functioning with Syngman Rhee as the “president” was actually no more than a substantial extension of the American frame of occupation and a stepping stone to attack China and Russia. Thereafter, the US changed the south Korean regime with pro-US elements whenever it was in a crisis. It has plunged all sectors of south Korea including politics, military affairs and the economy still deeper into subjugation. The south Korean regime was the instrument owned by the US to carry out its Asian strategy, and the south Korean army was the cannon fodder of the US to carry out the military strategy. And south Korea has been not only a supply base but also a nuclear outpost to invade the DPRK.

The GIs in south Korea have revealed their murderous nature throughout their occupation of south Korea. Some examples can be enumerated: A woman with

her baby on her back was cold-bloodedly murdered by the GIs in Uijongbu in broad daylight after being gang-raped; a pregnant woman was kicked on her stomach and belly to death when she resisted against a GI’s attempt to rape her; a woman named Yun Kum I, a worker at a US military base in Tongduchon, was raped and killed by a GI (The murderer struck her on the head to unconsciousness, and put a bottle into her womb and an umbrella stick into her anus before she was dead); a US armoured vehicle ran over secondary schoolchildren Sin Hyo Sun and Sim Mi Son zigzag on the roadside.

The GIs’ ethos is that the Korean nation is inferior to them. This caused them to shoot to death a wild-vegetables-picking girl calling her a “pheasant” and a fire-wood-gathering countryman calling him a “roe deer.” Since the occupation of Korea the number of criminal incidents including murders, burglaries and rapes amounts to over 230 000.

So the south Koreans say in unison that the atrocities of the GIs remind them of what the American cannibals did, who took delight in killing Indians, and that south Korea is miserably deprived of the military sovereignty to the US.

Obstacle to Korean Reunification

Having divided Korea into two, the US has brought immeasurable disasters and misfortunes ▶

The GIs are mad about various military exercises.



- ▶ to the Korean nation, trampling upon the Koreans' desire for reunification.

After Korea's liberation on August 15, 1945 the US set up a regime by wirepulling a pro-US lackey, contrary to the desire and efforts of the Korean people to avoid the division of their country. In June 1950, its ambition for domination of the whole Korean peninsula triggered off the Korean war. The American moves never ceased in the 1960s and 1970s to foil the efforts for one Korea. In 1972 a high-level north-south conference was held, followed up by the adoption of the historic North-South Joint Statement which specifies the three main principles for the north and the south to maintain—

independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity. They were the core of the statement. The entire Korean nation rose up valiantly in the struggle for the country's reunification. Scared at this, the US and the south Korean regime advanced the "two Koreas policy" to delay the reunification of Korea indefinitely and perpetuate the division. At the instigation of the US, the south Korean regime put up a separatist policy abandoning all their commitments to the nation. The south Korean authorities not only frustrated the conversation between the north and the south held amid the expectation and concern of the Korean nation but also openly declared a policy of perpetuating the division of Ko-

rea through a "special statement." Due to the separatist policy and treacherous acts a great obstacle came in the way to reunification of the country.

With the beginning of the 2000s a historic inter-Korean summit meeting was held in Pyongyang and the June 15 Joint Declaration was published. Years later the October 4 Declaration came after another north-south summit. Now the atmosphere of reconciliation, unity and reunification settled in. Going against all those developments, the US launched an open campaign to derail the reunification trend. It clung to a dirty policy of smearing the DPRK, frantically making propaganda about the DPRK's "nuclear problem." It put another pro-US conservative junta in office ▶

▶ to stamp out all successes of the June 15 reunification era.

The manoeuvres of the US to interrupt reconciliation, unity and improvement of the north-south relationship are more ferocious this year.

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of national liberation from the Japanese military rule the DPRK appealed early this year to open up an avenue for independent reunification with the united efforts of the whole nation and took substantial measures from the beginning of the year.

On the contrary, the US declared new “additional sanctions” against the DPRK by means of the “presidential executive order” in early January and has perpetrated various joint military exercises with south Korea clamouring for “earlier destruction” of the DPRK.

The number of all sorts of DPRK-targeted war drills and joint military exercises held in south Korea and its vicinities since the US’s military occupation of south Korea amounts to 20 000, when the announced ones alone are summed up. The fact proves

that the US is the culprit of Korea’s division, not “liberator,” and the culprit of the danger of a nuclear war. The US’s move to compel the south Korean authorities to fight against the fellow countrymen while instigating constant hostility between the north and the south is aimed at strengthening its military domination in and around the Korean peninsula and making an excuse for realizing its supremacy in the world, in Asia in particular.

As long as there is American military occupation of south Korea, it is inconceivable to achieve development of inter-Korean relations, peace, reunification and prosperity of the nation. It is the will of the Korean nation to put an end to military occupation of south Korea by the US, the cause of all their sufferings and pains. These days voices demanding the withdrawal of the GIs from south Korea are growing louder in the international community. To cope with this development the US is turning to the policy of moving its military bases, redeploying its troops and making a US-south Korea combined division. This is

none other than a crafty scheme to strengthen its presence in south Korea in an attempt to perpetuate its military occupation and ratchet up aggression and war moves.

The US often argues about the need to make a certain party obedient to UN resolutions, while it shuns its obligation to the resolution on the withdrawal of the US troops from south Korea, which was adopted at the 30th session of the UN General Assembly in 1975. Over its 70-year-long occupation of south Korea it has inflicted all kinds of misfortunes and sufferings alone on the south Korean people while blocking the Korean nation’s way to reunification.

The Korean nation never wants the US’s military presence in south Korea, an illegal intruder. There is no longer a reason for the GIs’ presence in south Korea since the Cold War ended and there are declarations adopted by the north and the south for independent reunification, peace and prosperity.

Kim Hyon Ju

South Koreans go on a demonstration for withdrawal of the US troops.



Root out Cause of War

IT HAS BEEN A UNANIMOUS DESIRE OF ALL the Koreans in the north and the south of the Korean peninsula to stop fighting and pave a new way to reunification with their concerted efforts. This desire, however, hasn't yet come true owing to the anti-DPRK moves of the United States who are escalating the tension in the peninsula.

Despite the fervent desire for national reunification, the tragedy of division has continued for 70 years, and one of the main causes of it is the provocative joint military war exercises waged annually by the US in south Korea. The uninterrupted war drills become the root cause of the failure to improve inter-Korean relations and achieve national reunification.

The Korean peninsula is stuck in constant confrontation, tension and the danger of war, despite the fact that the north and the south have common principles and methods to be maintained in developing relations and pushing reunification. There exist some inter-Korean agreements of crucial importance which correctly reflect the common desire and will of the nation and the actual conditions prevailing in the peninsula, typically the July 4 North-South Joint Statement which clarifies the three principles of national reunification—*independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity*—and the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration and the October 4 Declaration which address all matters arising in developing inter-Korean relations and achieving peace and prosperity under the idea of “By our nation itself.” If they had been translated into reality, the relations between the north and the south would have made remarkable progress and the peaceful reunification of Korea would have drawn nearer.

The June 15 era of reunification, which is deeply imprinted in the mind of the Koreans, is tangible proof. When the June 15 Joint Declaration was adopted in 2000, the whole world extended support to it. Minister-level talks and other negotiations of different branches held between the north and the south in order to implement the declaration became the venue of solving practical issues of mutual concern in the spirit of trust and cooperation. Consequently, the barrier of misunderstanding and mistrust was removed, and the severed railways and roads were relinked along with the opening of air and sea routes.

The compatriots from all walks of life in the north and the south deepened their trust through reunification-oriented rallies and meetings of different sections, vividly demonstrating an image of the united nation. The spirit of mutual cooperation settled in the mind of the fellow countrymen to take the place of confrontation, and the anti-US, independence- and reunification-favouring ethos of aligning with the north became the major trend in south Korea, creating a structure of confrontation of the Korean nation against the US. It proved that the maintenance and implementation of the June 15 Joint Declaration is the only way of the Korean nation to live and the way to achieve reunification, peace and prosperity, and that, if not, they will encounter misfortune and disastrous war.

In the course of implementing the declaration there have been many turns and twists owing to the challenge by the US and its obedient separatist forces. The US is now directing the brunt of attack at the DPRK and strengthening large-scale anti-DPRK war drills in an attempt to realize its ambition of domination by keeping the Korean peninsula as a constantly hot spot.

In January last the DPRK called on the whole nation to join efforts to open up a broad avenue to independent reunification this year on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of national liberation, and took practical measures from the outset of the year.

But inter-Korean relations lost every opportunity for improvement due to the reckless war exercises of the US against the DPRK. According to the data available the number of the north-targeted war drills the US had with south Korea including Key Resolve, Foal Eagle, Ulji Freedom Guardian, Ssangyong and Max Thunder has reached 90 in the past a little over two years, and all those exercises were conducted with the extreme provocative purposes of “preemptive surprise attack,” “striking the original bases” and “occupying Pyongyang.” The ceaseless anti-DPRK hostile moves and war exercises are serious obstacles in ensuring peace in the Korean peninsula.

The reality shows that the improvement of inter-Korean relations and peace in the Korean peninsula should be achieved by the concerted struggle of the Korean nation against war moves of the aggressive forces within and without.

Kim Yong Un

The Event of 140 Years Ago Declares

SEPTEMBER 20, 1875 (LUNAR AUGUST 21) is the day when the Japanese aggressors gave rise to the *Unyo* Incident.

After the “Japan-US Treaty of Peace and Amity” in 1854 Japan began to fall into the hands of the US and European capitalist countries. It was mercilessly plundered. To make up for the loss Japan chose a brigandish policy of pillaging Korea.

Its preposterous intention was planted in the decision to occupy Korea. It was adopted as a state policy after “Meiji Restoration” in 1868. In the mid-1870s the aggressive manoeuvre of Japan went over to open military provocations. Japanese warships including the *Unyo* sailed about the East and South seas of Korea, perpetrating espionage and military display.

At that time Japan set it an immediate task to force Korea to sign an unequal “treaty,” and moved outrageously to find an excuse for this.

In September 1875 the *Unyo* illegally intruded the coast of Korea again. It sailed up to the Kanghwa Islet via the South Sea of Korea, perpetrating the plumbing and the military display. The Kanghwa Islet which was not only the main gateway to the capital of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty but also a military fortress was the place even the Korean ships couldn’t approach freely without the permit of the government. But the aggression ship perpetrated acts of exploring a route off the Wolmi Islet. On September 20 it intruded up to the Chojijin Battery which was the main military fortress in the West Sea of Korea that stood in defence of the capital city of Korea. When the garrisons of Chojijin showered fire the aggressors bombarded the battery—perhaps they had waited for this. They, however, were defeated in this battle, but now attacked the unguarded area and massacred innocent inhabitants there and committed atrocities of destruction and plunder.

The *Unyo* Incident was an intentional military provocation to get an excuse of the Korean invasion.

This marked the beginning of Japan’s Korean invasion with force of arms. Later Korea was reduced to a colony as a result of the aggressive “Kanghwado Treaty” in 1876, the “Ulsa Five-Point Treaty” in 1905, the “Jongmi Seven-Point Treaty” in 1907 and the “Treaty on Annexation of Korea by Japan” in 1910 which were all forced by the Japa-

nese imperialists.

The Japanese imperialists committed criminal atrocities by adopting an unprecedented fascist rule during the 40-year-long illegal occupation of the whole Korea. Over the years they forcibly drafted over 8.4 million young and middle-aged men for war supplies for the aggressive war or for slave labour, and kidnapped 200 000 Korean women as their “comfort women.” Besides, they killed over a million innocent people.

Nevertheless, the insular nation shows no sign of fundamental self-examination of their past crimes and is desperately trying to shirk its responsibility, uttering shameful and cunning language such as “There is no evidence” and “human traffic” about the criminal sex slavery.

The present Japanese ruler is openly pursuing the rebirth of Japanese militarism while refusing to admit the sex slavery, distorting history books, asserting its “dominium” over Tok Islets, attempting to revise the pacifist constitution, and working to make it possible to exercise “the right to collective self-defense.”

Therefore, demonstrations and rallies are taking place in many parts of the world to denounce and reject the Japanese authorities’ acts of history distortion and rejection of past crimes. In many countries including the US important media are giving much space to urge to the Japanese top executive to examine his country’s past crimes.

The *New York Times* pointed out that the problems associated with the history should have already been solved but that due to the Japanese ruler and the right wing they remain unresolved. Nevertheless, Japan is strengthening its political oppression on Chongryon (Association of Korean Residents in Japan) to purge and liquidate it while actively responding to the American hostile policy towards the DPRK instead of feeling shameful for its past crimes. This is just a reminder of the *Unyo* Incident.

Every sin brings its punishment with it.

To the Japanese authorities who try hard to realize their old dream of “Greater East Asia Prosperity Sphere,” the event of 140 years ago warningly declares: Korea today is not what it was 140 years ago.

Kim Il Ryong

UN Needs Reform—Urgently

NEARLY 70 YEARS HAVE passed since the UN Charter came into effect through some countries' deliberation. However, the demands of the UN Charter have not yet been realized. Peace and security are the permanent subject of the UN. Without peace and security, you could hardly imagine the existence of mankind, sustained development, protection and promotion of human rights and the conservation of the global eco-system.

Though it is charged with maintenance of the international peace and security, the UN Security Council is now failing to be faithful to its mission, unfairly conniving at the US's highhandedness and arbitrariness, which is a great obstacle to keeping peace and security.

The Korean peninsula is a typical example. The world remembers some historical facts that the situation in the peninsula was strained to the breaking point. The cause was the US-south Korea joint military drills aiming at "occupation of Pyongyang," the capital city of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This year, in order to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Korea's liberation from the Japanese military occupation the DPRK put forward broad-minded and reasonable proposals to remove the danger of war in the peninsula and create a peaceful atmosphere, and made sincere efforts to bring them into reality. It also expressed its readiness to temporarily suspend its nuclear test if the US stopped a joint military

exercise, and broadmindedly stated that it was prepared to have talks with the US if the US wanted it.

On the contrary, the US declared additional sanctions against the DPRK and an all-out confrontation policy that it would continue to conduct war drills aiming at "occupation of Pyongyang" to topple the DPRK.

The DPRK government formally brought to the UNSC the issue of discontinuing such exercises which endanger peace and security in the Korean peninsula and its vicinity, but it was ignored. However large the US-led joint military exercises may be and however aggressive and dangerous their aim and nature may be, the UNSC turns a deaf ear.

Even during the cold war, the Eastern and Western blocks maintained a code of conduct, whereby they had a limited number of military drills that drew more than 40 000 troops each. Tens of years have passed since the end of the cold war. But in the Korean peninsula alone, there are open war exercises involving 500 000-strong force each every year. This fully shows that the UNSC is disloyal to its responsibility.

The strained situation of the Korean peninsula has an impact on that of the Asia-Pacific region as a whole. War drills focusing on landing, long-distance nuclear bombing and commando operations to occupy a foreign country's capital city can never be called "defensive." Removing the ideology, system and sovereignty of the

DPRK by using all possible means of "nuclear weapons," "human rights," "cyber attack" and "free expression" is a state policy of the US administration, and an approach of the US, a permanent member of the UNSC that is said to "work for" the principle of mutual respect for sovereignty.

Many countries' unanimous claim is that in order to ensure the UN's pivotal role in international relations, the UN should be put on a democratic basis so as to avoid being ruled by certain nations, and that the UN General Assembly should be vested with a greater power. The resolution on dismantling the United Nations Command in south Korea was set up long ago, and resolutions on ending the US's blockade on Cuba have been adopted every year, but to no avail. This shows the urgent need to build up the UN General Assembly's power. There are voices for the need that the UN General Assembly should be authorized to supervise overall activities of the UN and examine ultimately the UNSC's resolutions on peace and security, including sanctions and use of armed forces, for final approval.

The UN must be necessarily reformed to become a complex capable of ensuring fair and objective operation, which will be able to keep all countries' sovereignty and equality by the vote of not any certain nations but all the UN members.

The international community urgently demands the reform of the UNSC.

Kim Il Bong

The Sungnyong Temple

THE SUNGNYONG TEMPLE, LOCATED in Central District, Pyongyang, was built in 1429 to hold memorial services for King Tangun, the founder of Ancient Joseon and founding father of the Korean nation. Originally, it had been called Tangun Temple, but later it was renamed Sungnyong Temple since it was used to hold memorial services for not only King Tangun but also King Tongmyong, the founder of Koguryo. It was rebuilt in 1714.

The temple consisted of the main building, east and west wings, front gate and small gates on both sides. During Japanese military occupation (1905–1945), most of them were demolished except the main building and front gate. The temple was se-

verely ravaged by the US imperialists' barbarous bombings in the Korean war (June 1950–July 1953), but was restored to the original state after the war. The main building measures four *kan* (12.88m) by three (9.17m).

The temple is halfway up the hill.

One of its architectural characteristic is the even number of its frontal *kan*. In Korea's architecture the frontal *kan* is usually in an odd number. But the Sungnyong Temple has four frontal *kan*, because as required by its mission to hold memorial services for two kings, two *kan* were dedicated to the altar for King Tangun on the west and another two *kan* to the altar for King Tongmyong on the east. Another feature is that the brackets of the building are too simplified for its size.

The temple is an architectural heritage of the nation representing the art of construction of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty. Located in the midtown area of Pyongyang, it adds to the national elegance of the city.

Rim Ok



