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The 90th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution Commemorative Medal

Chairman Kim Jong Il received the 90th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution Commemorative Medal from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USSR in January 2008.



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Front Cover: The participants in a mass demonstration display their trust in the Workers' Party of Korea

Photo by Ra Ju Hyok



Back Cover: The Party Founding Museum

Photo by Ra Phyong Ryol

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Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il's Party

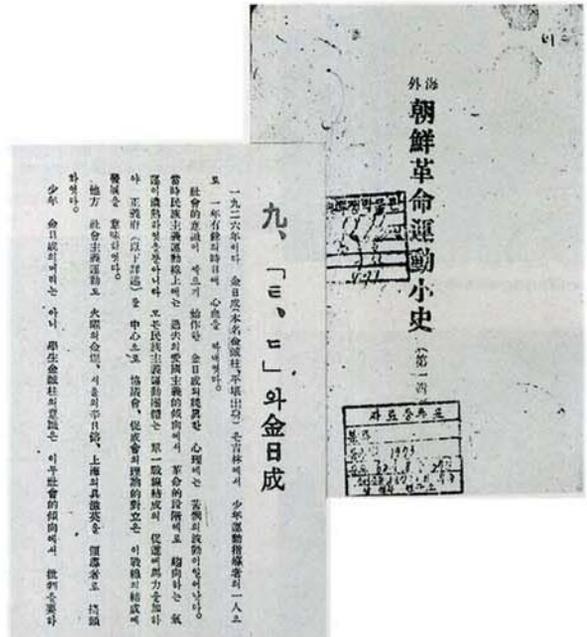
THE WORKERS' PARTY OF KOREA (WPK) is now growing as strong as ever befitting its honour as Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il's Party. Its origin dates back to the Down-with-Imperialism Union (DIU) which Kim Il Sung formed soon after he embarked on the road of revolution.

In his early years he convinced himself of the truth that the Korean revolution should be intended to liberate the country under the banner of the advanced idea by defeating the Japanese imperialists who had occupied Korea militarily and to build a new country where the working people including workers and peasants could lead a happy life. On October 17, 1926 Kim Il Sung formed the DIU which was a new-type political organization of young people with a clean slate aspiring to socialism and fighting to achieve national and class liberation under the ideal of anti-imperialism, liberation and independence. The formation marked the starting point in the effort to found a new-type revolutionary party in Korea. The programme of the DIU became the basis of the WPK's programme, the principle of independence proposed by the DIU served as a principle of the WPK in its building and activity, and the revolutionaries of a new generation the DIU had brought up became the backbone in the effort to

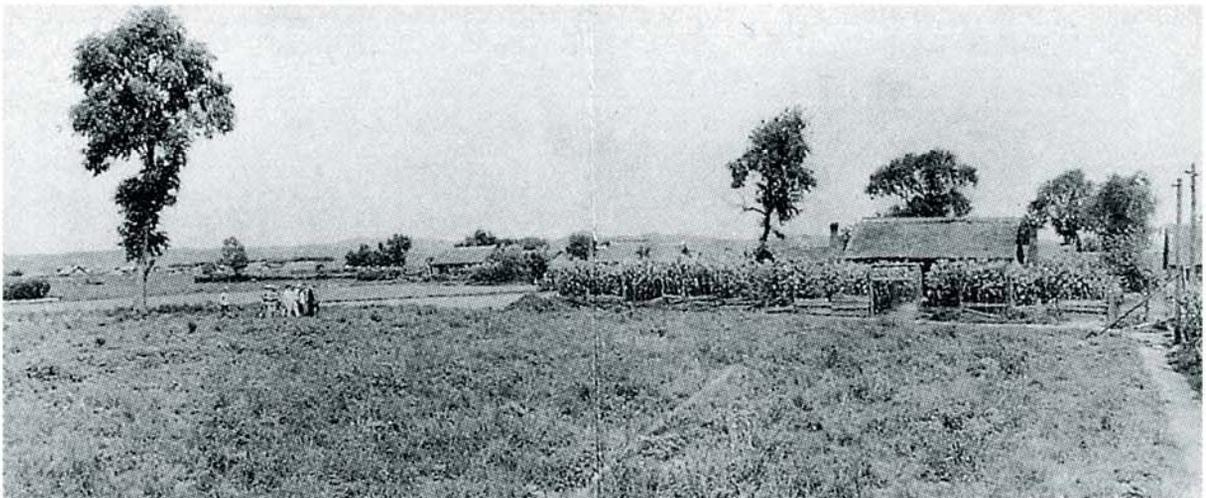
found the WPK.

Building on the deep and strong root of the DIU, Kim Il Sung founded the WPK on October 10, 1945. It was a historical event that demonstrated the completion of the cause of founding the Party, which had been pushed forward for a long time under Kim Il Sung's wise leadership.

A publication introducing the formation of the DIU and its activities.



Kim Il Sung formed the DIU when he went to Hwasong Uisuk School. The picture shows the site of the school.





Kim Jong Un presides over an enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee in February 2015.

► At the eighth enlarged meeting of the executive committee of the central organizational committee of the Communist Party of North Korea held in July 1946, a participant asked, “The party which is going to be founded will represent the interests of the working people, I hear. Then why is the Party named the Workers’ Party? It just means the party of the workers alone, doesn’t it?” With a little smile Kim Il Sung said that when it was called the Workers’ Party, people would usually think of only those at factories and mines, that it, however, was a very narrow vision, that the peasants were working on the field and the white-collar workers were engaged in mental work, and that as the Party was an organization of the progressive elements of those industrial workers, peasants and office workers, the Workers’ Party was a suitable name for the Party.

For half a century since then, Kim Il Sung, as the supreme leader of the WPK, wisely led the Party building and activity, setting up a model in building a revolutionary party.

The Korean revolution has been victorious, surmounting all manner of difficulties and free from any

erroneous policy. This is thanks to the wise leadership of President Kim Il Sung who led the Korean revolution under the banner of the Juche idea he had fathered.

The WPK’s history is the history of revolutionary activities of both President Kim Il Sung, the founder of the Party, and Chairman Kim Jong Il, the successor to his idea and cause.

Proceeding from the noble mission of strengthening and developing the WPK into Kim Il Sung’s Party, Kim Jong Il opened a new era of modelling the whole society on Kimilsungism after he accomplished the historic cause of formulating the revolutionary idea of the President as Kimilsungism. Thanks to the energetic ideological and theoretical activities and wise leadership of the Chairman, the WPK strengthened into a revolutionary party functioning under the steadfast systems of ideology and leadership of the leader, a motherly party in good relations with the people whom it serves faithfully, and an ever-victorious party with iron discipline and high functions.

In particular, during the Arduous March and the forced march, Kim Jong Il firmly defended the



▶ President's idea on party building and his achievements in the field, and further developed the Party into the leading force of the Songun revolution. With the Songun-based revolutionary leadership he elevated the dignity of the country up to the prime and opened a shortcut for the building of a prosperous country.

The great leaders' immortal revolutionary achievements are now successfully carried forward by the national leader Kim Jong Un. He wrote a new chapter of the history of the leaders' immortality to make sure that the leaders' revolutionary careers and exploits shine forever. He is now wisely leading the struggle to develop the Party into the glorious Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il's Party. Notably, he formally proclaimed Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism as the Party's permanent guiding idea and declared the modelling of the whole society on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism as the Party's top programme. This was a historical landmark in developing the Juche revolutionary cause onto a higher stage.

At present Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is the starting point and basic principle in drawing out all policies of the Party. The Party is arranging and conducting its organizational upbuilding and its activities as the President and the Chairman did. To do everything as the leaders did is the WPK's invari-

able method of work. The organizational upbuilding, ideological development and improvement of the art of leadership are also done in accordance with the leaders' ideas and achievements. The entire Party applies their revolutionary work method and popular work style, and holds it as the basis of its activities to be closely related with the people under the banner "Everything for the people and everything by relying on them!"

Regarding the leaders' instructions as its guiding principle, the WPK is pushing their implementations in an unyielding and determined manner. The permanent strategy of the Korean revolution is to go straight forward along the road of independence, Songun and socialism, and the WPK's goal is to win the final victory in the building of a thriving country as early as possible as desired by the leaders. Thanks to the guidance of the Party that is constantly loyal to the leaders' ideology and cause, and their instructions and desires, the DPRK is admirably effecting change after change day by day. The country has already attained the position of a politico-ideological power and a military power, and is now going ahead vigorously to become an economic giant and a civilized socialist nation. Monumental edifices including the Masikryong Ski Resort, the Munsu Water Park and the Songdowon Interna-

- ▶ tional Children's Camp were built or refashioned the country over, and miracles were wrought consecutively, like the Sea of Apple Trees that is unfolded at the foot of Chol Pass.

The Korean people keenly feel what a great fortune it is that they have Kim Jong Un as the supreme leader of the Party and revolution. They are convinced that the Party will honourably remain Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il's Party as long as Kim Jong Un is at the helm of the Party.

An Chol Ho



Some of the classic works WPK General Secretary Kim Jong Il wrote about the immortal exploits of President Kim Il Sung in the founding and developing of the Party.



Permanent Guiding Ideology of the Workers' Party of Korea

TODAY THE WORKERS' PARTY OF KOREA guided by Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is stepping up the building of a thriving socialist nation, resolutely frustrating all the challenges of the hostile forces.

Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is a monolithic system of theory and method about revolution and construction illuminated by the Juche idea and, based on the Juche idea that the popular masses are the masters of the revolution and construction and that they have the strength to promote them, clarifies fully the revolutionary theories for realizing the popular masses' independence including the theories of national liberation, class emancipation and freedom of human beings, and the methods of leadership for enabling them to fulfil their responsibility and role as masters.

The theoretical and practical problems arising in the building of a powerful socialist nation well under way in Korea now have been scientifically elucidated by Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism. As Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is lighting up the way ahead to victory, the WPK is vigorously pushing on with the building of a powerful socialist nation with confidence in the final victory in anti-US confrontation. The truth of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism has been clearly proved and developed in depth on the road of the Korean revolution.

The Juche idea which is the essence of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism, was created by President Kim Il Sung as a unique revolutionary idea in the history of human thoughts. Leading the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, the President found the starting point of the Juche idea with profound ideological and theoretical activities that the master of the revolution is the masses of the people and that when one goes among them and educates and mobilizes them, one will be able to register victory in the revolution, which one should start not by approval or instructions from someone else but by one's own conviction and on one's own responsibility and that all problems arising in the revolution should be solved in an independent and creative way. Then, in June 1930, he created the Juche idea by clarifying its principles and setting forth the Juche-oriented line of the Korean revolution at Kalun.

By applying the Juche idea to practice, he achieved national liberation and built a socialist nation of independence, self-sufficiency and self-reliant defence in Korea and generalized the rich and

valuable experience gained in this course, developing and enriching the Juche idea.

Chairman Kim Jong Il systematized ideologically and theoretically all the exploits of the President accomplished in the course of leading the Korean revolution to victory, formulating it as Kimilsungism and developing and enriching it. In his classic work *On Some Immediate Tasks of Party Ideological Work for Modelling the Whole Society on Kimilsungism* published on February 19, 1974, he formulated Kimilsungism as an integrated Juche system of idea, theory and method, and then on March 31, 1982, he published the classic work *On the Juche Idea* in which he systematized the Juche idea ideologically and theoretically.

In particular, in the 1990s when the imperialists' attempts to stifle socialist Korea reached extremes, Chairman Kim Jong Il developed the President's idea of giving priority to arms into the Songun revolutionary idea and the Songun political theory, and firmly defended the country, national independence, peace and socialism with his energetic Songun-based revolutionary leadership. He put forward the theory of building a powerful socialist nation, laying the groundwork for its building, and clearly proved its correctness.

Kim Jong Un, First Secretary of the WPK, published the work *Let Us Brilliantly Accomplish the Revolutionary Cause of Juche, Holding Kim Jong Il in High Esteem as the Eternal General Secretary of Our Party* in April 2012, in which he formulated Kimilsungism as Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism, and declared that the WPK is a glorious Party of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il guided forever by Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism and struggling for its realization. Putting it up as its highest programme to imbue the whole society with Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism, the WPK is now nurturing all members of society as the followers of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism and remodelling the whole society as required by Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism.

As the vitality of the popular masses is eternal, Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism which correctly embodies the people's intentions and desires and lights up the accurate way of their realization is immortal, and the WPK guided by Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism will be ever-victorious with the wholehearted support and trust of the popular masses—this is the unswerving faith of the Korean people.

Kim Won Sik

Matter of Great Importance

Primary attention

ONE SEPTEMBER DAY IN 1962 President Kim Il Sung arrived at the then Tanchon County, South Hamgyong Province, for on-site guidance. Meeting a senior official of the county he asked what kinds of factories the county had and how the workers were getting along. The official could not give him a satisfactory answer because he was new to his office.

Without telling him off the President said in the following vein: You should pay primary attention to the workers' living; they should be supplied with such foodstuffs as oil, bean curds and vegetables on a regular basis; and you should always have a good understanding of the supplies and take necessary measures.

He stressed in a kind voice: As an official you should always concern yourself about how the children are clothed and whether their shoes are worn-out; and you should assist the county people to improve their living standard with their own efforts. Kim Il Sung went on to say to the official that he should set up practical example in all efforts by always behaving himself and living a simple life.

Befitting servant of the people

One February day in 2009 Chairman Kim Jong Il visited the Manpho Restaurant. When he was stepping in, an official, pointing to photo albums nearby, said to the Chairman that they were the photos of the service activities since the opening of the restaurant.

After looking at all the many photos—including those which showed workers of a machine factory and farm workers and managers at table, and wedding ceremonies—he expressed satisfaction, saying that the restaurant workers were doing good things by giving wedding ceremonies to demobbed young people and bereaved children of the people who had died while working devotedly for the revolution and construction. The people must be very happy to have wedding ceremonies in this nice restaurant to suit the socialist mode of life, he said.

Giving satisfactory glances at dishes like noo-

dles in trays, boiled rice and meat soup, corn bread stuffed with vegetables and seasoned bracken in the cookroom and some kinds of teas made from wild fruits such as wild pear and *fructus actinidiae*, the Chairman spoke highly of the workers of the restaurant, saying that they developed special teas with local wild fruits.

And he emphasized: Nothing is more honourable and praiseworthy than sincerely serving the people; you should manage the Manpho Restaurant better paying special attention to the effort to keep thorough sanitation.

Prior to leaving the restaurant, he stressed again that the managers and workers of the restaurant should continue to be loyal to their responsibility as servant of the people.

Standard of evaluation

One day in May 2009, Kim Jong Un, accompanying Chairman Kim Jong Il, visited an enterprise in the northern region of the country. After looking round several places of the factory, Kim Jong Un went into a room where the factory's goods were on display. He gave detailed instructions to make flawless hard-porcelain vessels while studying some vessels. Then he stopped in front of a product which the Chairman had told the managers and workers of the enterprise to make in a new way several years before. A display was exhibiting its technical specifications.

Looking carefully at complicated technical terms and designs, Kim Jong Un grasped the advantages in a moment and said that the specifications were great and that the enterprise had done a lot.

The managers were surprised to see him understand fully at once just through the computer display—with no explanation by the expert. Turning to them, Kim Jong Un gave praise of the workers' efforts again, saying that it was a great technical innovation because the thing had needed much labour, materials and time in the past, and that such things were now produced in large numbers with less labour and materials. Then he said that the point was the users' appreciation and that they were the judge.

Kang Hye Ok

Essential Factor in Working Miracles

LOOK BACK ON THE HARD times of the revolution and construction in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and you can see that difficulties ended up in miracles and that innovations were made in succession. They were the result of the wise leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea that has mobilized the inexhaustible mental strength of the popular masses while giving priority to their mentality to propel the revolution and construction.

The WPK was founded on October 10, 1945 soon after Korea's liberation in August 1945 from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation. Kim Il Sung, founder of the WPK, decided that it was important to transform the ideological awareness of the masses, who had long been affected by the outmoded ideology during Japan's occupation, and to mobilize the creativity of the people, the driving force in the nation building, in order to successfully carry out the gigantic task of building a new democratic Korea. Consequently, in November 1946, he put forward the policy of the general ideological mobilization campaign for nation building, a mass-based ideological-transformation campaign.

In accordance with the policy, qualified people were selected and sent to work among broad sections of the people. They conducted explanation and publicity activities in different ways and forms, including lectures, free talks, discussions, entertainments and demonstration by means of visual aids to suit the specific preparedness of the people. Particular attention was paid to the effort to awaken the peasants so that they knew the harmfulness of the ideological remnants of Japanese im-

perialism and feudal conventions and had a patriotic spirit of well tending their land distributed by the state and doing farming well to increase grain production. They were also told to have proper understanding that it was their noble duty and a sign of their patriotism to provide the blue- and white-collar workers with food to help them put their heart and soul in the work of nation building.

The dynamic push of the campaign resulted in the settlement of the popular-style ethics based on collectivism whereby to work in a responsible manner with a stand of overcoming trials with their own effort to help build a new society, to place the interests of society as a whole above their own, and to help and lead one another forward. The "Kim Hoe Il movement" which was a patriotic emulation drive in the sector of railway transport, the patriotic rice donation movement of the peasants to ease the nation's shortage of food supply, and the patriotic donation campaign of the businessmen and traders were some of the fruition of the general ideological mobilization campaign for nation building. The ideological movement laid a solid precondition to advance the revolution more vigorously to successfully fulfil given tasks in the transition to socialism in the northern half of Korea.

The 1950s was the hardest time of the Korean revolution. After the Fatherland Liberation War from June 1950 to July 1953 ended in favour of the Korean people, the situation in and out of the country was very strained and complicated due to the constant and vicious moves of the US imperialists and the class enemies against the socialist revolution and construction in the DPRK.

How to handle the prevailing grave situation was a critical issue decisive of the destiny of the Korean revolution. At this juncture, Kim Il Sung, at a plenary meeting of the Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee in December 1956, advanced a policy of bringing about a new upswing in socialist economic construction by inspiring the popular masses with revolutionary zeal.

After the meeting, the leader went to the Kangson Steel Works (now the Chollima Steel Complex). Sitting knee to knee with the workers he talked about the difficult situation of the country and called on them to have mutual trust each other and break through the trials of the revolution together. In hearty response to his call they actively tapped potentials for increased production and maximized the efficiency of the equipment. Thus the Kangson workers smashed passivism, conservatism and mysticism about technique and wrought a miracle of producing 120 000 tons of steel billets with a blooming mill with an annual rated capacity of 60 000 tons.

In order to make the flames of a great revolutionary upsurge sparked in Kangson spread to all sectors of socialist construction, the leader encouraged the Kangson workers to take the torch of the Chollima Workteam Movement. He also saw to it that the participants in the movement helped and led one another forward under the slogan "One for all and all for one" to turn their workteams into the one working, learning and living in a revolutionary manner while remoulding the laggards into progressive people and the passive elements into the positive. As a result, the movement not only became a col-

► lective innovation movement in production but also established a method of educating masses along revolutionary lines. The movement soon went beyond the limits of workteams bringing about the zeal for a great Chollima upsurge across the country. From 1957 to 1960 the total industrial output value increased at the annual average rate of 36.6%, and the Chollima Speed was established rendering a great service to the successful fulfillment of the enormous tasks of socialist industrialization (1957–1970) in a short span of 14 years.

Later, too, different mass movements took place effectively fueled by the high spirit of masses of the people; the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude in the 1970s, and drives to set up the 80s' Speed and the 90s' Speed in the 1980s and 1990s accelerated socialist construction. The construction of the West Sea Barrage (it turned the Taedong River into a giant man-made lake) that stretches 8 kilometres in the West Sea of Korea is a typical example. When the project began, a French hydrodynamicist said to a news agency that it would be an only miracle in the contemporary century if the barrage was completed in five years instead of half a century it seemed to take. He declared he could hardly believe it.

The Korean people, however, successfully built the barrage in five years with their own efforts and technology. The spiritual exertion and self-reliance sustained them through the Arduous March in the mid-1990s. In the 1990s Korea suffered an extreme shortage of food, power and fuel due to the ever more tenacious political and economic blockade applied by the imperialist allied forces and severe natural disasters which hit the country consecutively. This brought the worst ordeals to the country, and the imperialists argued that the collapse of socialism in Korea was a matter of time.

The soldiers of the Korean People's Army, while engaged in both national defence and socialist construction, holding high the slogan "When the Party is determined, we can do anything!" displayed the spirit of guarding the national leader with their very lives, implementing the Party's policies at the risk of their lives and sacrificing themselves heroically. Chairman Kim Jong Il named their spirit the revolutionary soldier spirit and led the whole nation to adopt it. The people in Jagang Province operated machines and built medium- and small-sized power stations and dwelling houses from scratch upholding the banner of "Let us go the thorny path cheerfully!" That was dubbed as Kanggye Spirit. The spirit became the source of spiritual strength of all the Korean people in the hard time of the Arduous March. They laid the Youth Hero Road, the Kaechon-Lake Thaesong Waterway, the Kwangmyongsong Saltworks and other monumental edifices, thus making a springboard for building a powerful socialist nation.

In the new century, too, the WPK has propelled the building of a thriving socialist nation by stimulating the spiritual exertion of the popular masses. A UHP electric arc furnace, called the acme of steel industry, was built by the Chollima Steel Complex with its own effort and technology in a few months. It was followed by the establishment of the Juche-oriented iron production system at the Songjin Steel Complex. True to the Party's great plan to erect the Huichon Power Station as early as possible, the builders carried out in five months a gigantic task including the concrete tamping of the dam foundation, one of the hardest about the project, which would have taken several years at an ordinary space. Thus, instead of over ten years outsiders had ex-

pected, they completed the power station in three years, creating a new Chollima Speed, or the Huichon Speed. This construction speed gave an impetus to the successive construction of modern factories and apartment houses.

In 2013 the supreme national leader Kim Jong Un called to spread the enthusiasm for great innovation and great upswing across the country by emulating the fighting spirit and the way of struggle demonstrated by the builders of the Masikryong Ski Resort. In hearty response to the leader's call, the builders of the ski resort created the Masikryong Speed by completing the project in a little over a year which would otherwise have taken over ten years. At this speed, the Korean people built many wonderful structures, which are consistent with the principle of giving priority to convenience and aesthetic needs, in a short span of time at the highest quality.

The maxim of the WPK is such that when it believes in the people and relies on them at all times it shall always emerge victorious; if it doesn't believe in the people and is forsaken by them, it will always fail. Compliant with the maxim, the Party holds it as its supreme principle in its activity to steadily improve the well-being of the masses of the people, maps out all policies with due consideration of their desire and needs, and refuses to seek economic profit from projects intended to serve the people. This is why the people trust and follow the Party like their mother and cherish the faith that nothing is impossible as far as it is to realize the Party's plan.

Now the Korean people are making great upsurges and innovations on all fronts of socialist construction at the Korean Speed under the slogan "Korea does what it is determined to do!"

Kim Yong Sun

The Road of My Family



DECADES OF YEARS HAVE passed since I joined the dealings in spectacles, and I am now over 60. I find myself often looking back on the events my family have had along with the passage of time.

In the early years of the Japanese imperialists' military occupation of Korea (1905–1945) my grandfather opened a minor enterprise with his hard work. Having inherited his enterprise, my father did his best to promote development of the Korean industry out of his national conscience. But because of the Japanese aggressors' policy of suppressing national enterprise and assimilating the Korean nation, there was no way even for a big enterprise to survive. This gave my father the sore feelings of being a colonial nation.

In August 1945 our country was liberated but his happiness didn't go long. In the complex circumstances following the liberation those who had been businessmen or rich were labelled as pro-Japanese elements and became targets of elimination.

At this time Kim Il Sung, the liberator of the country, returned in triumph to homeland. After he founded the Workers' Party of Korea in October 1945 he made a historic speech to all the Koreans on his triumphant return. On the occasion he appealed to the whole nation, **"To contribute positively to the work of building the state, let those with strength give strength; let those with knowledge give knowledge; let those with money give money; and all people who truly love their country, their nation and democracy must unite closely and build an independent and sovereign democratic state."** Hearing the speech in the Pyongyang Public Playground my father was quite moved and chanted, "Long live General Kim Il Sung!" Later, when he heard the news that pencil production was dealt with as an important item at the first session of the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea, my father immediately embarked on the production of pencils without hesitation, although it was a new job.

The anti-Japanese war heroine Kim Jong Suk, who was always among the ordinary people in simple clothes, knew it first and reported it to Kim Il Sung. The leader then visited the pencil factory. Saying that he was there at the factory because he was delighted to hear of the pencil production and that my father had started a really patriotic job, he personally sharpened a pencil and tried it. He said delightfully that the first Korean pencil was a

considerably success.

During the grim Fatherland Liberation War my father contributed a huge sum of money to aid the front with the belief that even fabulous wealth could be of no use if his nation was enslaved. He took charge of war material production for himself.

My family has two heirlooms: one is a Samcholli-brand pencil our respected leader Kim Il Sung studied and the other one is the Medal of Merit my father received during the war. During the years of the post-war rehabilitation and construction when he knew oiled paper was needed to grow rice seedlings in cold bed in my country, he immediately launched into the production of oiled paper. When glass production was needed he built glass works. Later he worked as chairman of the management board of the Pyongyang Optical Glass Cooperative, when he was admitted in the Workers' Party of Korea as he had wished so much.

It was in the early 1960s that my father formed a special connection with spectacles. While visiting farms all across the country to solve the food problem Kim Il Sung heard the complaint of old farm workers over their eye sight. Then he assigned my father a task to produce glasses. When my father produced a million pairs of glasses the leader highly appreciated that they had been made well with sincerity.

Chairman Kim Jong Il always remembered my father and took every possible care of his

Eternal General Secretary of WPK

CHAIRMAN KIM JONG IL is the eternal General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea. He developed the Party founded by President Kim Il Sung into a party of the leader and an invincible revolutionary party which is in good harmony with masses of the people.

Kim Jong Il developed the WPK into a revolutionary party in which the leader's ideological and leadership systems are secure. From the mid-1960s, that is, soon after he started working at the WPK Central Committee, he made sure a dynamic campaign was conducted to establish the Party's monolithic leadership system on a higher level. He set

the establishment of the monolithic leadership system in the Party as a matter of permanent importance to be steadily addressed throughout socialist construction and the pursuance of the cause of independence of the popular masses, instead of a temporary task to be completed at a certain stage. And he invariably made sure that it was considered as a question of importance relating to the mainstay of the Party and the revolution.

The Chairman built up the leadership system more firmly after the demise of the President. He put forward the slogans "The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung will always be with

us" and "Let us arm ourselves more firmly with the revolutionary ideas of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung!" and made public the immortal classic work *The Workers' Party of Korea Is the Party of the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung*, providing the guideline to be maintained in building up the WPK as the one of the President for all ages. In the work the Chairman reiterated that the monolithic ideological system of the Party is the leader's ideological system and his leadership system, and that establishing the monolithic ideological system is the basic way to build the Party as the leader's Party. This was an expression of the

► work and life. When he was told my father was working as advisor to the glass cooperative he recommended my father to the chairmanship again, saying he could work for five more years. At that time my father lamented that he was so old to repay for the growing care and trust, and said to us, "How good it is for you because you are so young that you can do many things!"

He loved me, the youngest daughter, very much and never scolded me. He often said he was very happy when he did something for the country. He worked together with workers till late at night. Seeing him, I attained the age of discretion earlier than usual. The respect for my father made me burn with thirst to take over his job. This sealed my tie with glasses. At first I was assigned the job of processing and

fixing glasses to the rim. I was not satisfied with my customers alone so I started my mobile service. My first destination was Musan where the workers dig iron ores. For scores of years since then, I have often got on the way for local service—Kim Il Sung University, the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School, the State Merited Chorus, the Pukchang Thermal Power Complex, the National Symphony Orchestra, the Taean Heavy Machine Complex, the Chollima Steel Complex, etc. If there were people working for the sake of the country their places got on my service diary. One day an overseas Korean businessman asked me how I could run a profitless enterprise, always offering donations. Then I said, "The profit is by no means the amount of wealth. It is the

extent of happiness of the people enjoying the material wealth we created."

Learning of my work, our dear leader Kim Jong Un appreciated, saying that the manageress of the Pyongyang Glasses Shop is a fine, praiseworthy person, that my father had also contributed millions of wons of money to aid the front, that my family is a patriotic one who has done a lot of good things for the country and the people from generation to generation. Now my son is working in the service of glasses. After an account of my life I always ask my family to faithfully follow the great leader of our nation who invariably puts us forward for honour.

*Song Song Hui,
manageress of the
Pyongyang Glasses Shop*

► Chairman's firm determination and will to maintain the monolithic leadership system of the leader forever.

Under his leadership the WPK steadily intensified ideological education to equip all the Party members thoroughly with the President's revolutionary idea, or the Juche idea, and conducted a serious struggle against flunkeyism, dogmatism, revisionism, factionalism and other unsound ideas, as well as sectionalism, thus ensuring the ideological purity of the Party ranks with credit. Through the struggle to establish the Party's monolithic ideological system, the unity and cohesion of the WPK developed into the ideological and volitional fusion of the entire Party based on the sense of moral obligation, and relying on the President's idea and centring on him.

The Chairman built up the WPK into a motherly party that has struck its root deep among masses of the people and serves them faithfully. He made sure the Party work was oriented to the service of the people from A to Z, true to the noble intention of the President who regarded the people as his God. Maintaining that they be ready to pick stars from the sky if it is what the people want to be done the Chairman stood against the officials' abuse of authority and bureaucratic behaviour to help establish a revolutionary method and popular style of work among them.

His view on the people was such that he regarded the people as his God, held them in respect as his teacher and put trust in them as his revolutionary comrades who would throw in their lot with him. When he saw any establishments or products, he

would ask if the people liked them, taking into account the people's need and liking primarily who would use them. Once when the construction of the dam of a power station began, he initiated a revolutionary measure to build dwelling houses of the people to be evacuated from the area to be imminently submerged ahead of pushing the project.

All the activities of the WPK for the people embody the Chairman's noble outlook on the people. One of the Party's iron rules in actual activity is for the Party workers to regularly go among the people, breathe the same air with them, work devotedly for them and execute revolutionary tasks by relying on them under the slogan "We serve the people!" Since it strictly adhered to the Chairman's political philosophy of "The people are my God" in its activity, the Party could brave all kinds of difficulties by only trusting and relying on the people in the difficult period of the Arduous March.

In the mid-1990s when the Korean people had to undergo the Arduous March and the forced march, Kim Jong Il saw to it that the Party and the state paid deep attention to the people's living and put all the efforts in stabilization and improvement of their life. He often said to the officials that the biggest problem about the people's livelihood was the short supply of food and that it was essential to solve it by all means before everything else. He took relevant measures to radically increase the grain production by good farming and put the food supply on a regular basis. Along with this, he directed deep concern to the supply of basic consumer goods to the people,

including cloth, underwear, footwear and soap, taking all necessary measures to this end.

His mind to take responsibility and care of the people's life was not confined to the supply of basic living conditions. The study of how to help his people enjoy the happiest life in the world was always there in the heart of the Chairman.

As it faithfully applied his view on the people in its work and activities, the WPK could strengthen and develop into the most solid and invincible revolutionary party, establishing a harmonious whole of the leader, the Party, the army and the people.

Kim Jong Il built up the Party into a militant party with a strong sense of organization and discipline. The revolutionary sense of organization and discipline is the lifeline of a party as well as the basic guarantee for its enhanced capacity. Having a profound understanding of the significance and importance of the sense of organization and discipline in the building of a revolutionary party of the working class, Kim Jong Il, since he began to work at the WPK Central Committee, saw to it that a revolutionary work system was established whereby all matters and problems regarding the Party work and activity were reported to the Party Central Committee and solved properly after its decision.

The WPK traversed the road of victory and honour up to now without undergoing any turns and twists, thanks to the wise leadership of Kim Jong Il, General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Pak Chong Sop

The Sun Shines for Ever and Ever

By *Jiancarlo Elia Valori*



(Continued from the last issue)

QUITE A FEW REGIONS and countries around the world are now riddled with demonstrations and strikes against wrong policies of the authorities, and serious political dissensions lead to armed conflicts between tribes, leaving numerous people homeless and roaming about. How could you account for this tragedy of the elementary right to live being violated?

Now look to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Approaching the people-centred socialist system of the country, you would naturally ask who the leader of the country is.

Hoping it would help finding the answer, I would like to mention some of my impressions I have got from the political mode Kim Jong Un chose and has practised since he was elected to the supreme leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea at the third conference of the Party in 2010.

First, he is a distinguished master of ideology and theory. Read his writings, and you cannot help admiring the profound and philosophical contents. A typical

example is *Let Us Step up the Building of a Thriving Nation by Applying Kim Jong II's Patriotism*. Every phrase and expression touches the heartstring, encouraging the reader to choose a patriotic line of his or her own accord. All his works become classics, not to be found similar to any other thinkers or theoreticians' works. Therefore, the progressive political world is making a deep study of his works to adopt them as the textbook or guideline in their political activities.

Secondly, Kim Jong Un is a marvellous statesman endowed with the most popular art of leadership, the acme of wonder. The standard of absolute importance he abides by in drawing up a state policy is the ideal and desire of the people, and the unyielding principle he maintains in implementing state policies is to give precedence to the interests and convenience of the people. If he sees it helpful to the welfare of the people, he chooses to embark on a dangerous trip to frontline posts or plod through muddy fields without a moment of rest. This is his confirmed habit of giving guidance. His constant guideline regarding the service for the people is that commanding officers are there to serve the rank and file and that officials are there just for the welfare of masses of the people.

Thirdly, Kim Jong Un is a resourceful and erudite mind, and the most creative and practical man who accomplishes what he once decides—on the highest possible level. He is a genius who is well-informed in all economic and scientific spheres, including cutting-edge science. Every one of the many monumental edifices in different places of Korea is, without exception, associated with the devoted guid-

ance of Kim Jong Un who is equipped with accurate insight and admirably creative views.

Fourthly, Kim Jong Un is an iron-willed brilliant commander and the guardian of the national dignity who is endowed with matchless courage, resolute decision and great resources. His endowments came fully apparent in the year of 2013 when sensational events took place one after another as a result of the increased pressure from the moves of the US and its vassal nations to break down the DPRK. Some epitomes were the success in the third underground nuclear test, the enactment of the policy of carrying on the economic construction and the nuclear upbuilding simultaneously, and the pass of the ordinance on becoming a nuclear nation. These are the manifest declaration of the steadfast stand and will of Kim Jong Un who believes that great nuclear force is a sure guarantee of peace, prosperity and well-being of the people.

Altogether, Kim Jong Un is a peerless great man of the Paektusan lineage who is just the same as President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il who are held in respect as the eternal sun of Juche. He is a respected statesman who can make a success of whatever he plans to do. This is the very answer I would like to offer to the question raised above. I would like to ask anyone who thinks my answer is questionable to go to see the DPRK with his or her own eyes.

Now I would like to give an account of my view with the stress on the argument that the political mode pertains to the standard of statesmanship.

The revolutionary spirit of Paektu acquired by the Korean people is the one of undaunted forward advance toward victory. ►

► They well know that the way indicated by their national leader is the one leading them to victory. So, upholding aloft the banner of “Korea does what it is determined to do!” they support the decision of their leader by implementing it to the letter at all cost.

Early January last year I heard the news that Korea had just finished a mammoth-scale ski resort on Masik Pass, which was nearly shocking to me. The previous year when I was there in the country, I had never heard of the construction project. Building such a colossal scale of ski resort would allegedly take us Europeans more than a dozen years despite we have a long-standing tradition of skiing. But such a world-standard ski resort came into existence in a matter of a little more than a year. Words fail me to describe my surprise.

Another feature added to the image of the country recently is a sea of apple trees spread beyond your vision, and an uninhabited tableland under development into one of the world’s largest stock-breeding bases. I can hardly mention all the monumental edifices and wonderful villages that came into existence all across the country in recent years.

The Korean saying, “Rivers and mountains change in ten years,” is no longer true, for the land of Korea is having cataclysmic changes. These wonders are impossible without the power.

The sun is so hot and brilliant as a result of the continuous fusion of hydrogen nuclei. The mode of existence of the sun that has given birth to lives on this planet and pushed their evolution is, in a nutshell, fusion which produces inexhaustible force.

The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea is based on the mode of fusion in social structure. The nation’s unity, the one and only thing in the world, which is called single-hearted unity, is just the demonstration of the infinite power of the exertions of the popular masses who are fused into a single organism bound in

inseparable kinship relations with the leader as the centre. Just as the nuclear fusion-produced energy is incomparably greater than the nuclear fission energy, so is the single-hearted unity of Korea more powerful than anything in the world.

Then, what is the motive force of the single-hearted unity? It is, in a word, built on Kim Jong Un’s politics of loving care and trust. I still remember what I saw on TV: the leader inspected a Korean People’s Army unit standing guard on an islet in the hot-spot region in the West Sea of Korea. This aroused great sensation among the world press. As supreme commander of the armed forces, the national leader went aboard a small wooden boat accompanied by a few officers to look round the tiny islet that was exposed to an enemy gunfire at any moment. The audience must have felt their heart shrink at the news, and what was moving was that he showed kind-hearted concern for the soldiers and their families. As he keeps such a kind heart and great humanity, the soldiers and people bury their face in his bosom when they meet him shedding emotional tears, and they bid farewell in tears raising enthusiastic cheers and readily plunging into the cold sea water, reluctant to be parted from him. It must be a true image of the harmonious unity between the leader and the people, which can hardly be unfolded by any movie director and which cannot be seen in any other country. Attracted by the fury enthusiasm of the leader who is doing his best to bring happiness to the people and who is willing to go to pick a star from the sky if the people want it, the Korean people entrust him with their destiny and future without any hesitation, and follow him resolutely.

His politics that is consistent with loving care and trust all along is the very propellant in the effort to achieve prosperity of the country and immeasurable force

that can move this planet.

I remember the image of Kim Jong Un giving a New Year address on the first morning of 2015, amidst the focus of attention of the world press. I have seen a lot of national leaders and politicians make a New Year address, but I was overwhelmed with unusual feelings at the moment for the first time in my life. His dynamic speech filled with composure, self-confidence and optimism for the bright future felt quite dignified and courageous. His address showed he was a wise statesman firmly determined to build a thriving country for the people without fail. His popular statesmanship brings forth the people’s trust and confidence in the Party and the national leader for his infinite devotion to their service. The people are absolutely sympathetic with the policies of the Party and the leader, which are implemented without fail. This probably constitutes the attraction of Kim Jong Un’s statesmanship.

These days the song *We Can’t Get Along Without Him* is in much vogue in the DPRK. The local people do not think it just everyday music. It comes from the bottom of their heart that keeps the national leader as their own destiny. No other nation in any era has ever sung so emotionally that they couldn’t do without their leader. The Koreans are convinced that they cannot exist even a moment if they were without the care of Kim Jong Un, just like any living thing cannot exist without the sun.

Kim Jong Un is the present-day sun. Mankind is attracted to his politics of benevolence which no other statesmen can have. As the sun in the sky is everlasting, so is the sun of the oriental nation of Korea. This is the truth I have learned through my life, and I am absolutely convinced of it. Even in the distant future they will agree with me about the truth.

(The end)

The Sangwon Cement Complex

THE SANGWON CEMENT Complex situated in Sangwon County, North Hwanghae Province, went into operation in April 1989. Consisting of a cement factory which is the core of the complex, a limestone mine and a refractory factory, the complex has a general control room which automatically operates all the production processes, a maintenance shop, a repairs shop, a kiln shop, a steel foundry and a transport shop. Its workers live in a modern residential district on the scenic shore of the Sangwon River, which is provided with

public service facilities, a worker's culture hall, a hospital, schools, a kindergarten, a day nursery and trade networks which cater for the convenience of the residents in their everyday life. Since it started operation, the complex has produced tremendous quantities of cement for the economic construction of the country. By conducting the technical control of the processes scrupulously and carrying out various forms of technical reconstruction, it has produced a large amount of cement, and is now vigorously conducting many scientific research

works including new technical researches on the production of fire bricks in keeping with the requirements of the developing times and the work of further modernizing the production processes.

In addition, it is developing joint venture with foreign enterprises for increasing production. For its concentration of the production processes and its clean environment, the complex is known as a model of factory building.

Kim Yong Sun





Raengchon Soda

THE REFRESHINGLY cold Raengchon Soda is produced by the Kyong Ryon Aeguk Soda Factory in Tongdaewon District, Pyongyang. The factory is small in size, but it is famous for its quality products—in not only Pyongyang but also provincial areas.

Until about a dozen years ago the factory had been engrossed in ongoing production alone. But the reality that the people's material and cultural level is daily developing awoke the management and workers. *Let's make much better sodas to the liking of*

the people, they decided.

They saw technical innovation as an essential task in the effort. They knew they could get a higher result in production with less labour, materials and machines when they modernized machines and made the production processes automatic to suit the trend of the IT era. The whole factory turned out to fulfil the task. There started the contest of technical innovation between departments, workteams and individual workers. The workers read avidly and swapped their opinions in their extra time to

promote the modernization of the factory and continued their speculations to conceive new ideas. Managers of the factory including the general manager and the chief engineer were at the helm of the campaign. To combine sci-tech research with production they made sure that the workers attended technical lessons without any absence, and they sometimes gave lessons to workers. In close connection with the Grand People's Study House, the Central Information Agency for Science and Technology, the Kim Chaek University of Tech- ▶



► nology and the Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry they put primary efforts in the study of the trend of the world, mechanical engineering and application of computers regarding production of drinks. Meanwhile they ensured that ideas of technical innovation were put to collective discussions—whether they seemed important or not—and introduced into practice.

A particular success was the manufacture of an automatic device which can put bottles in the box and carry it, and a label-attaching machine. The new devices made it possible to produce, wrap and carry products faster and save manpower. The control system became computer-aided, opening a prospect for modernization of soda production. As part of the effort to improve the quality of products, a new filter was developed and applied into production, resulting in a secure guarantee for sanitary production. Different technical problems were solved to increase the life of the filter rod.



With the facilities remoulded along modern lines, various kinds of drinks began to be turned out. Attention was paid to using stevia to make drinks. The plant is famous for its efficiency in treating diabetes and obesity. The factory has established other processes and now produces varieties of drinks, such as those smelling lemon, apple and strawberry.

Today the managers and workers are full of enthusiasm to make competitive drinks tasting

sour, sweet and refreshing. General Manager Ku Hui Yun said, “We will continuously work hard to improve the qualities of products and produce different kinds of sodas. This way we are going to help improve the people’s standard of living.” The Kyong Ryon Aeguk Soda Factory went online on May 1, 1961 and has fulfilled its production plans year after year, earning great fame.

Rim Hye Gyong



By Working Strenuously

AT THE 30TH NATIONAL sci-tech festival held in April last one particular exhibit was wood-plastic composite planks. One of the visitors said, "These look smart and strong. That light brown plank seems to be suitable for the living room." Another one said, "Look at the yellow plank for the wall of the dining room. It feels cosy and is water resistant. It'll be a favourite with housewives." Hearing them many other people turned their eyes to the goods presented by the Korea Sangwon Trading Company.

The company has always maintained an important principle in developing and producing new things. It is to pay primary attention to the country's actual condition and people's needs in all

consideration.

Two years ago the company decided to lay a new process for production of wood-plastic composite planks. At the time Kwon Thae Song who was in charge of the task said, "We must make goods quite different from the existing kind. This is not simply for our company's popularity. Our company exists to produce the people's favourite goods and render a help to the country's economic development." He asked the workers to put out new ideas for the project.

All of them rose as one to develop high-quality goods. In this course, they all agreed that the primary problem was to improve the goods' water-resistant capacity.

Kim Yong Bok, an officer for technical affairs, knew by studying latest data and making repeated experiments that a clue of water

resistance might be to denature the surface of the filler (sawdust). He verified the possibility in several research institutes and buckled down to the making together with technicians and workers.

On the other hand, Kwon produced an idea that would help further decrease the production cost. It was to increase the ratio of the cheap filler while maintaining the quality index. Though some opinions were raised about the fear that a higher ratio of the filler might weaken water resistance, most of the workers wanted the two ideas to be pushed ahead with simultaneously. They believed there is nothing impossible to a willing heart.

After months of painstaking researches and repeated experiments and analyses, the sci-tech problems were solved to prevent humidity by denaturing the filler's surface. In addition, a reasonable ratio of combination of the filler, PVC and auxiliary additives was found out. At last the new kind of plank was developed, which is resistant to water, heat and decay. A gravitational water



Treasure from Waste

PYONGYANG MAPLE trees are widely planted in town and the country across Korea as they are well shaped and make up a beautiful scenery in autumn. In the past, however, their fruits were little used in sugar production, and their utility was seldom identified.

Recently, a research team of Kim Po Hyon University has changed maple fruits into treasure. Around May every year ripe fruits fall to be waste material, and their annual amount across the country is enormous. Considering the amount of fruits Prof. Ri Yong Su and his team thought of developing it as a useful source of protein feed. In the course of analysing its components the team focused on the fact that the protein content is over 30%, and it has plenty of different kinds of vitamins, amino acids and other essential microelements. The researchers thought that they could make animal feed of the fruits, and buckled down to the study.

Halfway in the research, a knotty problem cropped up—digestion inhibitors were found in the fruit, which prevent absorption of nourishment. Without removing them it was impossible to increase its utility as animal feed. The method of extracting inhibitors needed much cost, and it would hurt the value of the feed which needs to be in quantity. The



researchers made deep-going studies, groping for a proper method of removing the inhibitors. A particular effort was directed to the finding of a method of neutralizing the inhibitors in a unique way at a less cost. Finally, a successful method was developed to process the maple fruits by denaturation and microorganic fermentation. The test application proved successful at several stockbreeding and fish farms.

The nutritive components of the animal feed made from the maple fruits are much better than those of grain fodders, enhancing the appetite of domestic animals including poultry and fish as well as their digestive and absorptive functions. Not long ago, at an academic symposium on animal husbandry and veterinary sci-

ence, many scientists said that the new feed may ensure a stable production with no or little soybean when 20–30% of the feed is mixed in assorted feeds. They approved that it opened up a bright prospect in solving the problem of protein feed. Collecting the fruits costs less and the per-hectare yield of the maple fruits is two to four times larger than soybean. It also has much economic profitability as the sources of protein feed come from uncultivated land.

Ri Yong Su says, “Pyongyang maple trees are planted in the Sepho Tableland which is now being developed into a leading stockbreeding base. I think we still have a long way to go.”

Kim Chol Ung

► supply system was introduced in the moulding process after the workers’ ingenious idea, and a new sub-process was added in which the goods are cut as required by users. A year later the

company cut the production cost of the planks by 20 per cent, while improving the impact stress and pressure intensities 1.5 times.

As the users’ demand for planks is steadily growing and

becoming varied, the workers are making strenuous efforts to produce cheaper and better goods in greater quantity.

Kim Yong Sun

To Improve the Quality of Education

PYONGYANG UNIVERSITY OF MECHANICAL Engineering situated in Taedonggang District, Pyongyang, has been carrying out its mission creditably as a nursery of technical personnel for designing, manufacture and management of machines. It has a number of faculties such as those of machine production, traffic means, automation engineering, and extractive machine engineering. Dozens of chairs and research institutes including the mechanical engineering institute have been contributing to boosting the teaching and research capacity of the university.

In recent years, great efforts have been made to bring about an innovation in teaching in keeping with the requirements of the developing reality. The university has set a higher aim to raise the level of teaching and introduced new subjects, and strove to

renovate educational contents radically.

In this connection, the main stress was placed on cultivating the spirit of inquiry and creation in addition to giving comprehensive and systematic knowledge. Therefore, the contents of education were made up in such a way as to foster the ability to know ten things from a single bit of information. This is necessitated by today's reality when the amount of knowledge the students should learn is increasing because scientific and technical information is running up daily. *Then what should be the main point in teaching?* The focus of teaching was placed on intensifying the theory instruction to consolidate the basis of the students' majors. This was the right way to raise the students' ability of inquiry and creation and also a shortcut to improving the contents of education. As a result, the students could acquire exten- ▶



► sive knowledge through self-teaching and foster creativity to apply their knowledge and skills in keeping with the changing situation. It was of great significance in reforming the university's educational contents that the latest scientific and technical achievements were accepted into the programmes of instruction drawn up for hundreds of subjects according to a new curriculum.

On the other hand, comprehensive centres of experiments and practical training and of up-to-date product invention have been set up in the university to improve the quality of education. Son Tong Un, deputy chief of the instruction department, said that with the establishment of the centres it has become possible to improve the quality of instruction. It is important for all educational institutions to renovate the facilities of experiments and practice and improve the contents of teaching. The personnel of the university dealt with this problem from a new angle. Many experiments and practice rooms and up-to-date product invention rooms belonging desultorily to departments, sections and research institutes

have been brought together into one building. Similar rooms have been united into one. For instance, the automation engineering laboratory is a combination of information measurement, applied electronics and controls engineering laboratories. This enables the students to get wide knowledge from experiments not only of their majors but of related subjects of study and other faculties as well.

That's not all. By combining education, science and production, it has become easy to finish up products suited to reality. Successes have been achieved in researches and production of various tools and devices, demands for which are increasing every day—hard electrode wires used in CNC machines, hard alloy tools for rock-drilling, trial boring and cutting, and a voltage frequency control device made on their own by succeeding in the domestic production of the central controlling rig.

Today all teachers and executives of the university are working hard to attain the high aim of modernizing education while furthering their successes.

Kim Hyon Ju



Talents Are Growing



SOME TIME AGO WE visited the Changjon Primary School in Central District, Pyongyang. It was a snug four-storey building contrasted with high-rise apartment buildings in Changjon Street. All classrooms and practice rooms were neat and tidy, furnished well to fit in with the requirement of the universal 12-year compulsory education.

For a start, we stopped in the

first class of the first grade. Headmistress Kim Su Bok who guided us said every classroom has a computer, a television camera, a visual aid episcope, an LCD TV and a magnetic blackboard. The class was having lessons in the Korean language. The children in school uniforms issued by the state were looking into the Korean language textbooks, seeing the pictures of peo-

ple in different occupations and answering the question who they were. Some answered correctly, and others not, but prompted by the boys in the next seats, rectified their answers, somewhat embarrassed. But they were all straightforward in stating their hopes. Their hopes were different from one another, but when the teacher asked them how to attain their wishes, they replied in uni-



► son that they would study hard for purpose. On other classes we could see children studying hard to realize their dreams. But during breaks, the kids, still mischievous, struggled to each other to measure their heights at the measuring booth in the hallway to see who was taller. All were boisterous, perhaps because they had had to keep calm at lessons.

It is characteristic of this school that the wide corridors are used effectively in various ways. At every staircase a wall newspaper is put up to praise children of different grades for their good conducts and give information about the classwork and attainments of the children. There were posters of well-known cartoons on the walls of the corridors. The headmistress showed us the way to the library. There are two reading rooms, one for first and second graders and the other for third, fourth and fifth graders and teachers. The room for first and second graders has a hall suited to the most mischievous children. After school, they come here and see comic books or see films as they like. In the library a paper crane caught our eyes. Teacher Ri Chung Sim said, “All visitors marvel at the paper crane so made as to suit the chil-

dren’s mind.”

We saw teaching aids and tools which were eloquent of the teachers’ endeavours to initiate new teaching methods and introduce modern means of education. Searching for new teaching methods, they made scores of teaching aids and introduced visual aids for ready understanding of the contents of textbooks. Various teaching aids made at the school prove effective in raising the children’s ability to concentrate their attention—a teaching tool showing the relations between speed, distance and time and moving objects rather than by theory for them to understand the principle by themselves and find out the formula, a tool illustrating decimals and fractions visually, a Korean alphabetic puzzle tool and so on. Especially, the method of teaching the Korean language to the first graders helpful to improve their ability to express their thoughts and opinions clearly, initiated by the school, won first place at the panel discussion about teaching methods held on the occasion of the introduction of the universal 12-year compulsory education last year. It was awarded the certificate of a new teaching method and generalized throughout the country.



At the school which has been bent on introduction of IT in teaching, the stress is put on the use of aids in teaching, solution of mathematic problems by various plays, foreign language teaching through dialogues.

Besides extracurricular activities, school work contests, skill exhibitions and sport meetings are organized frequently and many talented children are coming forth.

Today this school stands out conspicuously in various national school work competitions, “our classroom literature prize” contests and national schoolchildren’s literary work prize contest held every year throughout the country.

We left the school envisaging the future of the children who will learn their fill by the favours of the universal 12-year compulsory education and grow up into the reliable pillars of the country.

Kim Yong Un



The Bright Future of Teacher Training



IT IS OVER 30 YEARS since I started working in the field of teacher training. After I graduated from the Kim Hyong Jik University of Education, I became a teacher of the university, then the dean of a faculty, and today I am its president. So, I am well acquainted with the development of teacher training in Korea. It started at the same time with the construction of a new society.

After liberation from military occupation of the Japanese imperialists on August 15, 1945, all sectors of social life began to show signs of activity with the enforcement of democratic reforms. The educational sector was no exception. Primary and secondary schools were built all over the country and most of school-aged children, who had been denied schooling before liberation, made a rush for schools. In 1947 the number of schoolchildren all over the country was 12.6 times greater than before liberation. This required to increase the number of teachers. To meet the requirement of the developing situation, the Kim Hyong Jik University of Education (Pyongyang Teachers' College at first) was founded on October 1, 1946. This was followed by the establishment of teacher training institutes in all provinces. With this, teacher

training got into its stride.

In spite of hardships and difficult economic conditions after liberation, primary attention was paid to education including teacher training, regarding it as the only way to bring up men of ability as early as possible to rebuild the country in the shortest period of time. The Workers' Party of Korea and the state have invariably shown deep concern for education, and our university has developed fast under their care and solicitude. President Kim Il Sung took measures scores of times to provide our university with more than ten thousand items of educational facilities and appliances and specimens of animals and plants of many hundred kinds. During the Fatherland Liberation War, on June 21, 1952, he called at our university which was then evacuated to Chungryol-ri, Pihyon County, North Phyongan Province, and told the teachers and students to teach and study surmounting all obstacles. In March 1975 the country renamed the university after the outstanding leader of the anti-Japanese national-liberation struggle Kim Hyong Jik. On July 5, 1994, three days before his demise, the President gave important teachings to rear the students into reliable pillars of the country and personally wrote the name plate of our university "Kim Hyong Jik University of Education."

In May 2011 Chairman Kim Jong Il saw an art performance of our university students and highly appreciated it. Then he took steps to rebuild our university in a modern way. As a result, six new premises includ-

ing two school buildings and a library were added, and the culture hall and gymnasium were rebuilt within a year.

Today our university has developed into a seedbed for teacher training fully provided with material and technical foundations for education and scientific researches. The educational environment and conditions of our university are now improving day after day under the care of the national leader Kim Jong Un who has inherited the great leaders' idea of attaching great importance to education. Recently an educational IT studying room equipped with up-to-date educational facilities has been set up at every faculty. In his classic work, *Let Us Glorify Ours As the Country of Education and a Power of Talents by Bringing About a Revolution in Education in the New Century* published in August 2014, Kim Jong Un pointed out that the main thing in the educational revolution in the new century is to radically strengthen secondary general education, and stressed that the teachers should devote their all to nursing the future of the country. It is the Party's idea and policy of laying stress on education that priority should be given to education above all else and that educational work should not be neglected or suspended even for a moment on account of hardships.

I am convinced that the future of teacher training in our country is bright thanks to the Party's idea and policy of attaching importance to education.

*Pyon Kyu Sun, president
of the Kim Hyong Jik
University of Education*

Eyesight and Life

“YOU’LL RECOVER your eyesight.” This is the assurance given to patients of inveterate eye diseases at the Vitreous Retina Department of the Pyongyang Ophthalmic Hospital. Many of the patients are pleased at the positive answer, but some will not readily believe it. However, all of them will finally shout for joy, “Oh, my eyes can see now!”

Kang Thae Hyon was one of them. He was an old man from Maengjung-ri, Pakchon County, North Phyongan Province. His sight had failed because of a retinal hemorrhage and then separation of the retina made him blind of the two eyes. He knew there was no help for old age and infirmity, but he could not give up hope of recovery of sight. So, he came to the ophthalmic hospital with the help of his sons, guided by a ray of hope. Some of the doctors were of opinion that an operation was impossible because of his high blood pressure and weak health. But after repeated conferences, Department Chief Kim Man Sok decided to perform an operation without delay.

He took it upon himself to bear the whole responsibility not only for the eyes of the old

man but for his life as well. Time passed in a tense atmosphere, and the operation ended successfully. A month later the old man recovered his normal vision.

Kim Kyong Ae, a competent operator, said, “Of course, this hospital’s facilities are the best in our country. But what emboldens and inspires us is our consciousness that we are engineers of human lives. At an operation we don’t think that we’re working simply to restore the eyesight to the patient.” That’s why they have successfully performed over 400 difficult operations in the past one year, so that they are now called “a reliable medical team” and “a medical team restoring life to hopeless patients.”

Many people of different ages, occupations and intellectual lev-

els left notes of thanks at the department when they recovered their sight and was leaving the hospital. Here is the note left by the old man Kang Thae Hyon which gives a deep impression on those who read it, “People may be able to guess the feelings of a blind man, but cannot fully understand them. When I lost my eyesight in my old age, I was totally distressed at the thought that my life came to an end. But now I’ve restored my eyesight in a modern hospital built by the state thanks to the devoted efforts of the experienced doctors. I cannot find words to express my gratitude. ...I feel myself newly born as I have gained my eyesight again. Indeed, I was born again at the age of 68.”

Chae Kwang Myong



The Motto of a Woman Doctor

RYONG SON IL, A pharmacist in the Kim Man Yu Hospital in Pyongyang for 35 years after graduation from the pharmacy department of the Pyongyang Medical College of Kim Il Sung University, has studied and developed many kinds of medicines. Her first invention in this hospital was an efficient medicine for anemia from iron poverty.

In the past, medicines for this illness were foul-smelling and inefficacious, and often produced side effects. But her invention overcame all weaknesses of the past remedies, and the time required for its use is 40 days, much shorter than before. Its clinical effect is notable. Ryong Son Il said to the people who were surprised at her success in research work shortly after starting work in the hospital, "I only have a close acquaintance with books."

Even when working as a pharmacist in the hospital, she was fond of reading books always like a college student, making a deep study of pharmacology. After work, she would go to the Grand People's Study House to hunt for books, her range of reading extending over a wide area even beyond her field of specialization. Her knowledge accumulated from her reading, which brought original ideas to her mind and led to new discoveries. Reading classic medical books and modern literature of science and technology, she hit upon an idea that a new medicine good for anemia from iron poverty could be compounded of ingredients of

domestic animals' blood, sulphate of iron and various microelements. After that, she got married and had two children, but her zeal for reading and spirit of inquiry never cooled down. She found time for reading on her way to work and back and even while cooking. Kim Yun Ho, her husband, a graduate of the University of Sciences with a major in mathematics and chemistry, would collect and offer a great deal of scientific materials to her, considering it the best help he could afford for her.

Her spirit of inquiry rose higher after her participation in

for use in ultrasonic diagnosis with domestic raw materials, dispensing with its import from abroad. Then, she invented over 30 kinds of medicines including gly-amino acid injection good for treatment of liver trouble and promotion of nutrition and a medicine for revitalizing cerebral metabolism, attracting the attention of the medical circles. Recently she obtained a doctor's degree by inventing sclero injection including tannic acid which works wonders in treatment of hemorrhoids by one injection, making operations unnecessary.

Now her hair has turned



Ryong Son Il (right) researches on a new medicine.

the National Meeting of Intellectuals in 2007. Hearing many speakers at the meeting talk about their scientific and technical achievements proudly, she regretted her own self-conceit at the trifling success she had achieved. Back from the meeting, she set about a new study and finally succeeded in making gel

frosty, but she never stops reading, always absorbed in books as she did when she was young. She is wont to tell young people, "Love books! And then, you'll be equal to creation of whatever you want." This is saying a great deal as her motto.

Ri Sun Nyo

More Important Promise



IN MAY THIS YEAR THE Korean player Kang Yong Mi won first place in an event of the uneven parallel bars in the FIG ART Challenge Cup 2015 held in Bulgaria. She had achieved successes in many international games including the 4th Asian Gymnastics Championships and the FIG ART Challenge Cup 2014. So she is popular among the people. When she was born, her father who was an army officer was very sorry because he had wanted a boy. But she grew up clever and active. Her father sometimes said to her, “I wish you were a boy!” To this she would answer, “Don’t be sorry, dad. I will act a son to you. Wait and see. I promise you I will make people envy you for your daughter.” She was so naive and eager to please her parents that she made such a wild promise, and this was even present in her mind.

One day, when Yong Mi was

nine years old, she went to the Pyongyang Students and Children’s Palace with her sister. In the gymnastics room, she saw pupils performing rhythmic movements such as turnings and handstands to cheerful music. At the sight of the scene, she was quite excited and felt a strong impulse to go in for it. Instructor Jon Ok Hwa who saw her invited her to perform some motions. She was attracted at once by the girl’s slender figure and sharp gymnastic sense. This was how Yong Mi set foot in gymnastics and she felt as if her dream came true. She changed over to the Changjon Primary School in Central District of Pyongyang so as to be near the palace according to the common usage established by the state a long time ago for the convenience of children engaged in extracurricular activities at the palace. As the days went by the girl’s ability improved and she was looked upon as a pupil with a bright future.

When she was 11, she was picked out by gymnastics coach Jo Yun Hui of the April 25 Sports Team who came to the palace to recruit new promising reserves. So, now Yong Mi was a member of the sports team. One day, she got her ankle injured in training. Despite her coach’s advice to stop training and undergo treatment for a few days, she went out to the gymnasium. So, she was severely scolded by the coach. The

coach said, “When I told you to receive medical treatment, it was not my personal demand. Surely you know that the state has placed many persons including an athletic science researcher, a dietician and a doctor in attendance on you and is looking after your life. But if you let your ambition break loose, it can be considered to be negligence of those people. You have to think of the honour of the country before your personal honour.” Her father who came to the gymnasium to see her training, happened to see this scene. He said to her, “You remember the promise you gave to me when you were a kindergartner. I wish you made that promise not simply to your family but to the nation.” That day she wrote in her training diary, “I will try hard to be a daughter of the nation who gives pleasure to and is a pride of the country.” With this determination, she polished up her special skills and got over the hardships of training. Her efforts brought about splendid showing in games.

When she was awarded the title of Merited Athlete in 2008, she said to her father, “Father, I’ve fulfilled my promise. But my duty does not end there. It’s because I have a more important promise to myself.”

To keep her own promise, she is sweating in the training hall.

Jo Yong Il



Supported by Researchers

SOME YEARS AGO AN ICE HOCKEY TEAM of the Taesongsan Sports Team participated in an international competition. As they had won a good deal of contests, they were expected to be winners again. But the result was not so good. This agonized some people more than the players and coaches. They were researchers in science depart-

ment. At that time the head researcher Ho Kum Sok said, "The developing sports science demands more scientific training methods and tactics. So in my opinion we are to arrange for the victory in competitions."

Now the researchers began making a review of the most recent and many other contests. Finally ▶





▶ they reached an agreement that it was important to put the physical training of the ice skaters on a more scientific base. First of all, they embarked on remaking physical training instruments and apparatuses. Thanks to them over ten items of facilities for speed skating and ice hockey were made peculiarly. Especially, the tool for training of serving in ice hockey was highly evaluated at the 18th national exhibition of sports science and technology for its peculiarity and good efficiency in training.

The researchers were not satisfied with this and continued to grope for more scientific training methods. They began programming the use of facilities to evaluate training and tactical problems of the skaters. By pulling their wisdom and strength they established more accurate tactical modes of training which are helpful to the training and analysis and the improving of functions of the skaters' imaginative training. They also made programs to be used both for training and real contests, including the one for ice hockey and figure skating, and the one that helps coaches apply accurate training methods by indicating the physical ability, speed and pulse of a given trainee, and the one of cycling-based training. They also completed a new rhythmic exercise that helps develop the sense of balance and space. An instrument was made to bring back injured skaters to normal condition earlier and a drink was developed, which contains lots of vitamin C.

The researchers say, "We are glad to see the skaters make progress in training and matches." Deputy head of the sports team Hong Song Chan says, "It is not too much to say that today the dais of honour the winner stands on means the level of science and technology."

Kim Yong Ok



Boys Running Forward with a Dream

ALL CHILDREN HAVE AN ideal, but their ideals differ from one another. This is true of brothers of the same blood.

But the three sons of Ji Pok Nam in Neighbourhood Unit No. 95, Sangsin-dong, Sosong District, Pyongyang, have one and the same ideal—to be an athlete and exalt the honour of the country.

Though Very Young

The youngest child Chol Hak (12) was very much interested in drawing from early childhood. He used to draw the flag of the Republic with a five-pointed star. When his parents asked why he drew only the national flag, he would answer, “The teacher said it represents all our dreams and ideals.” Time passed and he entered the Sangsin Junior Middle School. A new football instructor came to the school and saw Chol Hak playing football with his friends. The boy was agile and smart and quick-witted, and had legs with developed muscles.

Unmistakably he is the very sort for a forward, the instructor thought. A few days later he asked the boy if he wanted to become a football player, when the boy did not give a ready answer. So, he said soothingly, “I know you are interested in drawing. Further, I have found out what you like to draw, too. If you become a football player, you will be able to fly the flag you love so much high in the sky over the world.” At this, the boy’s eyes shone with joy. So, he entered on the road of football and, though still very young, he is winning fame as a nimble goal maker and clever game organizer in every event of the national middle school football contests.

A Halfback

Chol Ryong (14) stands in the middle of three brothers. In football games, too, he stands in the middle of the field. Seeing his brisk actions in offence and defence, the spectators admire him as a born halfback. But few people know that his role in football games had been discussed in the family’s football tactics meetings before he became a halfback in the Jungsin Senior Middle School. Chol Ryong says, “If our instructors can be likened to forwards in rearing us into football players, my father can be regarded as a halfback who supports the forwards and often goes even boldly to the offensive. Though a common worker, my father says he cannot remain indifferent to the building of our country into a sports

power and encourages us to devote our life to the development of football.” Many sports teams pay attention to Chol Ryong as a prospective reserve for a ranking football player because he dominates the halfway zone with his swift movements and excellent dribbling. Though just a halfback now, he is absorbed in training with an ambition to exalt the prestige of the country by scoring the first goal in every international game.

His Dream Will Come True Before Long

The eldest son Chol Bom (16) is a tennis player in the sports team of the Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering. When he was a middle school boy, he was well known as a back in football, and went in for all ball games. With a sturdy build, he was quick in movement and correct in judgment, and so stood out conspicuous in many tennis games played at various sports parks. A clear-headed man, he is interested in various mechanical devices and had an aspiration to make new automatic apparatuses which would be often convenient to sportsmen and spectators. The day when he started his life as a tennis player by persuasion of the tennis coach Ri Yong Chol of the sports team of the Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering whom he met in a sports park, he wrote in his training diary, “Everything including special training conditions and scientific coaching which I wished before is here at my disposal. I will train myself still harder to be a reliable son bringing glory to my mother country by winning gold medals.”

Ri Kum Chol



Though Past the Prime of Life

I AM WELL OVER 70, BUT I was invited to attend the recent Second National Conference of Model Youth of Virtue. Addressing the meeting I told about what I had experienced some 50 years before. The emotion that engulfed me on the rostrum still lingers, giving life to my youthful years again. So I wrote about my life.

Some 50 years ago I saved seven schoolgirls from a hole in a frozen river. This was introduced by the *Hamnam Ilbo* newspaper briefly. Later a mass meeting was held in the public playground in Hamju County. There I received the title of the DPRK Hero, the top honour for a DPRK citizen, as well as a letter and a present from President Kim Il Sung—which I had never expected. The leader mentioned in the letter that he was deeply impressed by an article about how I had saved seven pupils from drowning although I was a young girl, that he highly appreciated my spirit and that he heartily wished I would be a loyal daughter of the Workers' Party of Korea by studying and working harder in the future. At that time I found myself tearfully thankful for the deep care of the leader who was so concerned about how to put me forward before the people for my deed as if I had done something heroic.

It was the Chollima era, when not a day passed without hearing news about miracles wrought, innovations made, and acts of virtue performed throughout the country. Virtuous things were everyday events among the young people. Some examples: some young people readily donated their flesh and blood to a boy who was in the jaws of death; some

others performed heroic deeds by saving a wrecked ship, which was drifting away in a typhoon, at the risk of their lives; still others volunteered to go to work everywhere at mountains, seas and farms in response to the Party's call. They were all regarded as commonplace. Yet the President praised me, an ordinary girl, so much. And when the drama titled "Morning Glow" was produced he invited me to the theatre to see the performance together. He kindly came out to the entrance to receive me and introduced me to officials present there, saying I was Kim Jong Sun, the prototype of the heroine of the drama. I couldn't make a bow properly as there was a lump in my throat. I buried my face in the bosom of him. Then he said, **"It is the first time we meet after I sent a letter. Let's have a photograph taken. Don't be tearful! It will spoil our photograph."** Then he posed for a souvenir photograph with me. Later, when I participated in a congress of the then League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea and when I presented a bouquet of flowers to him the President showed kindly care for me like my real parents, asking me to do work well in good health.

Chairman Kim Jong Il was just the same as the President in looking after me. He always remembered me and put me forward for honour whenever an opportunity presented itself. He watched the drama "Morning Glow" with students of Kim Il Sung University, when he told them that it gave a vivid portrayal of the lofty personality of young people of the contemporary times who had grown under the care of President Kim Il Sung, and that all the



students should live their life like the heroine of the drama. Decades of years have passed, but he always remembered me. He made sure I learned at the University of National Economy so that I could do great things for my country and people. He sent me a birthday spread on my 70th birthday in 2011, the last year of his life.

Even when I am in twilight of my life I have enjoyed an honourable life. I was invited to take part in the national celebrations on the International Women's Day in 2012. I also participated in the Eighth Conference of Ideological Workers of the Workers' Party of Korea and had a souvenir photograph taken with our respected leader Kim Jong Un. These days people say to me that I look much younger after I participated in the conference of model youth of virtue. Then I reply, "Thanks. At the conference I was highly spirited and encouraged to see the bright and admirable young people. I know I am old, but I am determined to devote myself to the effort to establish a solid foundation of a youth power with a bright future by returning to my youth."

Kim Jong Sun, head of the Phyongchon District Publication Distribution Centre, Pyongyang

Let the Time Go



Happy to move into the newly built Pyongyang Rest Home.

A NEW SONG *LET THE TIME GO* IS VERY popular in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea these days.

*The springtime is long gone and
our life is in autumn.
We're grey-haired but still live a green life.
The Workers' Party looks after our prime of life.
Let the time go, and we always
have a youthful mind.*

The song came only recently, but is now much in vogue because it vividly describes the elderly people full of spirit and vigour and enjoying civilized and happy life. You usually see elderly folks in Moran Hill, Mt. Ryongak, scenic spots of Pyongyang, the Rungna People's Pleasure Ground and many other parks and recreation grounds sing songs, dance to the tune of merry music and even play volleyball games, attracting the passers-by.

The government of the DPRK bears full responsibility for and takes good care of their health and life. It promoted the Korean Association for Assistance of the Aged, established in 2003, to the status

of the Central Committee of the Federation for the Care of the Elderly of Korea in 2006. And a law on the protection of the elderly was adopted in April 2007. The federation serves the convenience of the elderly folks and develops exchange with foreign countries and international organizations including the Help-the-Aged International.

At present, the elderly people in Korea are granted pensions and various kinds of subsidies by the State and lead happy life thanks to the free medical care system.

The people in their advanced ages are under the State's special concern. The national organization for protection of the aged and power organs at all levels register them and render kindly services including material, cultural and medical assistance. Those aged over 90 are supplied additional food and subsidies. Every provincial people's hospital has a geriatrics department, and the capital city of Pyongyang has a basic and gerontology research institute. The number of people aged over 100 is increasing and the mass media introduce ceaselessly the news of the elderly people celebrating their 100th birthday amid all people's congratulations. ►

► *We look back on our fruitful
past life.
We look forward to our future
full of happiness.
Supporting our Party, we'll
remain youthful for life.
Let the time go, and we always
have a youthful mind.*

Each district in Pyongyang has an artistic and motivational group made up of veterans of the Fatherland Liberation War (1950–1953). Their performances are full of pride and honour they keep in their heart as they defeated the US imperialists, who were boasting of their being the strongest in the world. In recent years a similar team appeared. The members used to be stars, and now decorate the stage of the aged more colourfully. They visit con-

At a pleasant time.



The elderly are full of spirit and vigour.

struction sites, factories and enterprises to give artistic performances on important occasions including the founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army (April 25) and the V-day (July 27). Enthusiastically applauded by the audience are wartime songs including *My Song in the Trench*, *To a Decisive Battle*, *Beautiful Homeland* and *At the Spring Site*, and modern songs like *Our Leader the People Love*, *The Voice from My Heart* and *Song of Big Haul of Fish* and the songs in praise of the national leader, the Party and the thrilling reality of the country.

There are guides of the rank of general working in the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, who are war veterans honoured with the title of the DPRK Hero. Their impressive battle stories always go to the heart of the visitors.

The elderly people working as researchers and translators in the Grand People's Study House, the Central Information Agency for Science and Technology under the State Commission of Science and Technology and the like devote their heart and soul to the effort to hand down their knowledge and experience to the coming generation.

Enjoying worthwhile life even in their old age amidst the public respect and concern as the revolutionary forerunners and seniors, the elderly in Korea sing of their prime of life in spite of the passage of time and are fully determined to repay the deep care of the country.

Kim Un Jong



Flower Buds Growing Under the Loving Care

ALL FLOWERS COME INTO BLOOM according to their own laws of growth, but they will wither without sufficient nourishment. This is true of growing children. Then, what kinds of nutrients are provided to the children, the flower buds, in Korea?

Last year, in the capital city of Pyongyang, a baby

home and an orphanage were opened for parentless children on the picturesque banks of the Taedong River, and the children moved into the fine new houses. Early in June this year, a baby home and an orphanage were newly built at the foot of a mountain in the suburbs of Wonsan, Kangwon Province, and the children cut the tape for inauguration and moved





Triplets at a baby home.

► into their new homes. A few days ago, I visited the Wonsan Baby Home and the Wonsan Orphanage.

“Delicacies and playthings!”

At three meals, the table is set with meat, sea food and various vegetables. Children have nutritious bread, milk and candies for forenoon and afternoon snacks.

In the large playroom are all kinds of playthings such as imitation cars and bicycles and balls. The cars are the children’s most favourite things. When they go round the playroom in the cars, they become very proud. Some are playing at soldiers or playing balls, and others are rolling about in a circle full of small balls.



The control room and study room

The control rooms in the baby home and orphanage serve the purpose of guarding the children from accidents.

From the rooms one can watch all corners of the premises— bedroom, corridors, playroom, indoor ►





► wading pool, dancing room, dining hall and outdoor playground, in case children go off the normal course of behaviour or run into trouble. The children's study rooms are fitted with TV sets and video apparatuses, so that the children can see cartoons and Korean feature films at any time. As all the rooms are connected with a mike network, they can communicate with each other at any time.

lets said that their nutritive conditions have improved since they came to the home, with their height and weight increasing. She continued, "Their parents come to see the children once a month. Every time, they are surprised at their children's fast growth and feel thankful to the state for its deep care for their babies with tearful eyes."

The room of triplets

The baby home has a room for triplets, and now there are three trios in the home. Leaving the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, these trios and their parents were granted silver daggers and gold rings from the state. Besides, nutritious foods, tonics and various clothes needed for the triplets were given.

Nurse Sim Jin Hui in charge of the trip-

Two large apples

In the centre of the dining hall of the orphanage stands an artificial apple tree. The tree was heavily laden with 300 apples, and two of them grew as large as big rocks and fell to the ground. According to the nurses, the two apples have a deep meaning. Seeing the two big apples, the children decided that when they grow up, they would make all apple trees bear fruit as big as the two apples to bring joy to the national leader Kim Jong Un who loves them so dearly.

In the singing hour every day, the children cheerfully sing the song *The Orphanage Is Our Home*:

*Under the warm loving care every day
We are growing in happiness.
The orphanage is our home,
the bosom of the dear leader,
Ringing through with happy sounds.*

Sim Hyon Jin





Standardization Gets Brisk

NOT LONG AGO A *KOREA TODAY* reporter interviewed Jong Yong Ran, chief of the National Standardization Research Institute on the occasion of the World Standardization Day. Excerpts:

Recently everywhere in this country you can hear the expression “according to the international standard.” This refers to the work of standardization, I think.

That’s right. The standardization work used to be inclined to individual industrial goods, but now is reaching the social life as a whole including in-office jobs and services. This is why standardization is regarded as a criterion in measuring each country’s civilization and development. As standards were established to meet the requirement of people’s practical living to get the greatest socio-economic profits, it is a lawful course of development to meet the global standards that were already acknowledged as reasonable. My country is no exception. For instance, in our country the May Day Stadium was refashioned some time ago to meet the standard needed for playing international games. This is a good example. In addition, the new subject *Standardization* was introduced in all educational institutions across the country, drawing great attention of the students. Along with this, my institute opened *Raeil* homepage to render nationwide services for standardization information.

I want to know some more specific examples.

Long time ago the “pharmaceutical production and quality control criteria” and “pictorial marks for public guide” were already standardized to meet the international standards. Many things like traffic signs and signboards which were all regarded as the ones out of the standardization range, processes and management standards of several fields, and all spheres of social and cultural life are now going through standardization on a higher level.

In accordance with the growing tourism and service industries of the country, the standardization of airports, hotels and other service and tourist facilities is now going ahead to meet the international criteria. Great efforts are directed to introduction of



the international standards into circumstances for quality and safety of foodstuff. As a result, recently the sanitation and safety level of not only children’s foodstuff and other kinds of food but also the cosmetics was updated to the global level.

How about your foreign exchange and prospect?

The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea is a full-fledged member of the ISO and takes part in many operations of its technical committees. We attend the ISO and IEC general assemblies and sessions of technical committees where we have brisk interactions to introduce advanced standards. We also work hard for cooperation with different countries’ national standardization organs so as to offer convenience in cross-border transactions.

In our country the State keeps under its control the National Standardization Research Institute which is charged with the task of setting and deliberating standards. This is a system that can speedily adopt and introduce the most reasonable standards.

Whether he visits sci-tech centres, production units or any other establishments, our respected leader Kim Jong Un asks to follow the line of scientific accuracy and information technology and do all things in accordance with global trends and international standards. As he leads wisely and the State adopts the most profitable standards promptly, the standardization work in our country will soon rise to the world level. □

Bloodbath in Sinchon

DURING THE KOREAN war (June 1950–July 1953) the US imperialist aggressors committed massacres against the Korean people.

During the strategic temporary retreat of the Korean People's Army in the war, they occupied and controlled Sinchon County, South Hwanghae Province for 52 days, when they cruelly killed 35 383 people, equal to one fourth of the total population of the county. On October 18, 1950, the next day after their occupation, the invaders pushed over 900 people into an old air-raid shelter once used by the county Workers' Party of Korea committee, poured gasoline into it and set fire to it, burning the internees to death; they also buried alive or burned to death 320 people on October 19 and more than 300 people on October 23 in the trenches near the abovementioned air-raid shelter. On October 20 they confined over 520 people, among them 100 children, in an air-raid shelter once used by the county security office, blocked

up the entrance with wood boards and straw-bags of earth and detonated explosives to kill them all. The following day, on October 21, they loaded a number of people into five military trucks and carried them to the Sowon Reservoir, where they drowned all the arrestees.

Between the late October and the end of November, the American beasts threw more than 1 600 people into the Sowon and Pogu reservoirs to be drowned and shot to death. They also mercilessly murdered a total of 400 women and 102 children in a powder magazine in the *Pamnamu* (chestnut tree) Valley, Wonam-ri, the then Sinchon Sub-county. Under the command of an officer named Harrison, they separated children from their mothers by force and put them in a separate powder magazine. Then they gave gasoline to the thirsty children, many of whom died from the drinking of gasoline. The Yankee murderers threw straw and gasoline over the surviving children and the mothers and set fire.

They made sure everyone was dead by throwing grenades into the magazines. The US butchers perpetrated other atrocities—disemboweling pregnant women, driving nails into or sawing heads, etc.

Recently, 38 corpses and lots of relics were unearthed near the powder magazines in the *Pamnamu* Valley, Wonam-ri, Sinchon County. Among them were facial bones and skulls driven with rusty hoe blades, broken skulls and limb bones, and other bones of different parts of the human body with bullets. Relics including buttons, buckles and rubber bands and shoe soles were discovered with corpses. A silver ring, a mirror and a bottle of camellia oil were found by a woman body. Broken bowls, a copper spoon and a bundle of paper sheets were also unearthed.

According to the local inhabitants, there was a joining place of two streams in front of the powder magazines in the *Pamnamu* Valley. The US troops threw the bodies and unconscious people in a hollow in the swamp there and threw bricks on them mercilessly. When some people came to and tried to come out of the hollow, the GIs shot at them, and struck them with sticks to break their backs, skulls and limbs and smash jawbones. Thus all the innocent people died.

This year, some time bombs weighing 100kg, 30kg and 15kg were found around the powder magazines. All the corpses and relics found recently add to the exposure of the crimes of the US imperialists. □



King Tangun, the Founder of Korea



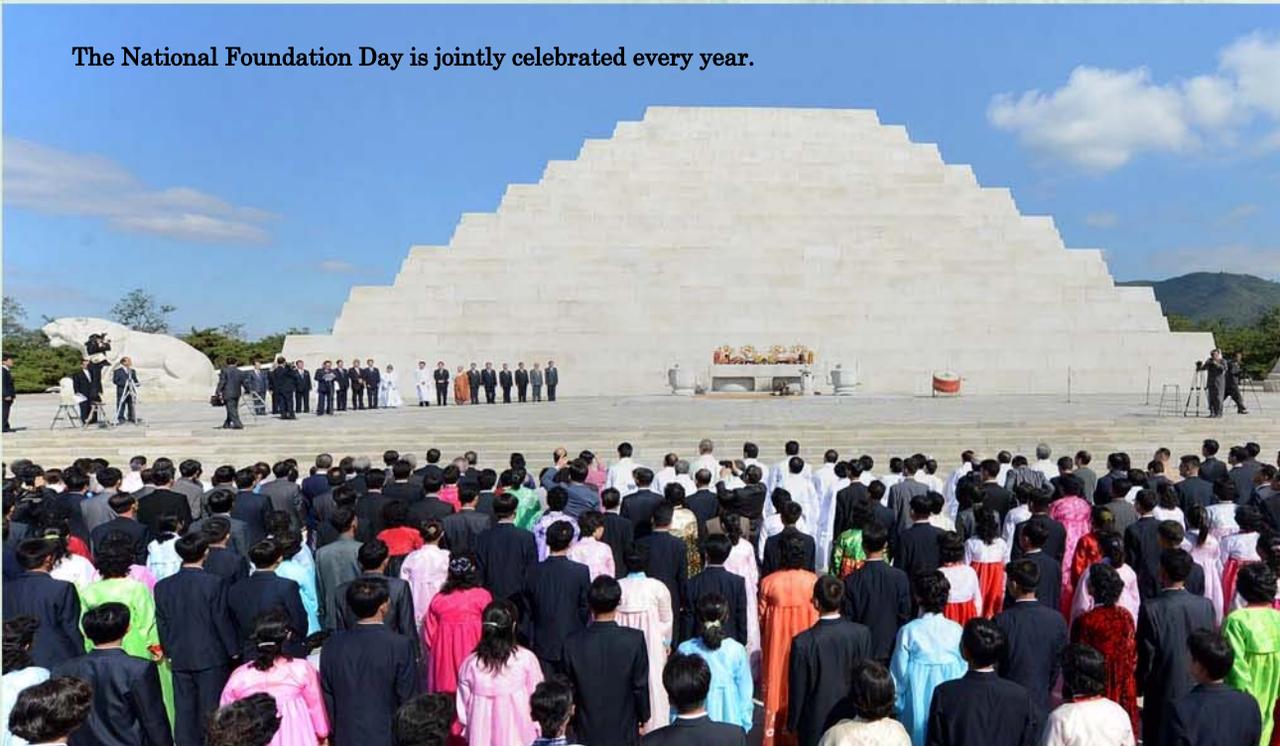
Wax replicas of King Tangun and his wife.

KING TANGUN FOUNDED ANCIENT JOSON (early 3 000 BC–108 BC), the first class state, and opened up the era of civilization in Korea.

The data about the social and political environments when Tangun was born, the course of his growth and the establishment of the state are written in the archives. Long before the appearance of King Tangun, several tribes formed a single community in Pyongyang and its neighbourhood. The head of the tribe that dominated the community became the chief of the community. Hwanung who was the last chief of the community married a daughter of the head of another tribe and Tangun was born between them.

In the period of his growth the confrontation between tribes and between classes became intensified with a widening gulf between the rich privileged classes who became wealthy by taking possession of the agricultural surpluses from increased agricultural production and profiting by wars of conquest and the poor commoners of the community and with the degradation of war prisoners to slaves. King Tangun spent his childhood training himself in

The National Foundation Day is jointly celebrated every year.



- ▶ military acts like archery, spearmanship and fencing and tried his best to know the laws of nature and society.

After he became the chief of the community in succession to his father who had tried to solve some serious social and political problems in the primitive society of tribes, he reorganized the primitive political system into a more powerful authoritative structure. He reformed the organs in charge of farming, medical treatment, punishment, and virtue and vice, and appointed officials of departments responsible for the execution of the king's orders, forest and river conservation, military affairs, handicraft and local administration. He also appointed the highest executive who exercises control over all of these officials. He founded a standing army, reorganized the council and amended the existing rules of "punishment." He also established a tax collection system. In this way, King Tangun laid the foundations for a state and founded a country in the early 30th century BC with Pyongyang as its capital, and named it Joseon. He encouraged the people to engage in occupations like farming, sericulture, hand weaving and animal husbandry and lead a cultured life. He readjusted the state ruling system of control over society, the economy and culture and expanded the territory by merging neighbouring tribes.

King Tangun was born in Pyongyang and was buried there. He had four sons Puru, Puso, Puu and Puyo. The eldest son Puru succeeded to his father and developed the cause of national foundation after him and the other sons, too, worked for the consolidation of the state founded by their father. The Korean people, who lived as a homogeneous nation after national foundation by King Tangun, revered him as the progenitor of the nation and organized various customs associated with him. For a long time King Tangun had remained a myth and a legend, but in 1993 it was scientifically proved that



he was a man who existed in reality with the discovery of his grave in Kangdong town, Kangdong County, Pyongyang. The age of his bones was assessed at 5011±267 years (as of 1993).

President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il learned of the legends about King Tangun woven around Mts. Kuwol and Myohyang and the data about his tomb in Kangdong County and proposed to excavate the tomb. When the data about King Tangun were scientifically ascertained from the excavation, the great leaders saw to it that the Tangun Mausoleum was built as grandly as worthy of the national founding father's last resting place.

So, the Tangun Mausoleum was splendidly built on a hillock under Mt. Taebak in October 1994.

Jo Yong Il

Traditional Dishes of Korea (4)

Dishes of Kangwon Province

KANGWON PROVINCE IS mostly mountainous and is bounded by the East Sea of Korea, so it has a wide variety of products. The foods of the province are so simple, natural and fresh, reflecting the characters of the local people and their

straightforward way of life, as well as suited to the geographical conditions. The typical dishes are potato *songphyon*, Kungang porridge of rice and pine-nut seeds, peppered yellowtail soup, *chongttok*, cuttlefish sausage and *makkuksu*.

Potato *songphyon*

In the past the inhabitants in the mountains of the province used to have potato as staple foods while those in the plain areas had



Potato cake.

it for side dishes. Accordingly, the province has different kinds of potato foods—rice with potato, potato cake, hard-boiled potatoes, potato pancake, potato fry and balled potato soup. The potato *songphyon* is best known of them. To make it: Potatoes are peeled, grated and sieved through a sack. The leftovers in the sack are steamed and kneaded with the sediments. Then the knead is stuffed with kidney beans or red beans and shaped like half moon before being steamed. What is peculiar about it is that it retains the trace of the clasp.

Kungang porridge of rice and pine-nut seeds

People in the Kungang and Kosong areas adjacent to Mt. Kungang used to have the porridge. To make the porridge: Grind the rice and shell-removed pine-nut seeds respectively before being mixed well and strained

through the sieve. Then pour the water from the straining in an earthenware pot and boil it. When it is boiling, put the sediments little by little in the pot while stirring it up quickly. Finally, season the porridge with salt and leave it settle in its own heat.

Peppered yellowtail soup

Yellowtail was long counted as one of the specialties of Kangwon Province. It is fatty and tasty, and the local people made several kinds of dishes with it, especially the well-known peppered yellowtail soup. To make the soup: Pour water in the pot first and boil it after adding peppered bean paste. Then put properly cut yellowtail. When it is almost done, season it with onions and *Allium odorum*.

Chongttok

People in the province loved to have foods made with buckwheat which is richly grown in the province, and *chongttok* is a typical

Porridge of rice and pine-nut seeds.



Roast yellowtail.



one. To make it: Oil the frying pan, and ladle the liquid mixture of salt-seasoned buckwheat in the pan and spread it around. Then put the pork and kimchi in it. It is also called buckwheat pancake as it is fried in the pan.

Cuttlefish sausage

The province has the custom of using cuttlefish to make cuttlefish sausage, seasoned cuttlefish, slices of raw cuttlefish and the noodles garnished with slices of raw cuttlefish. To make cuttlefish sausage: Spray wheat flour in the cuttlefish belly, and stuff it with boiled glutinous rice, arms of cuttlefish, carrot, leaves and stalks of turnip, garlic, onion, pepper powder, sesame oil and salt with parched sesame before steaming. Then it is sliced to be served with spiced soy sauce.

Makkuksu

It is a favourite dish of the people in the province. The noodles are made with buckwheat flour. The noodle coils are served in a tray garnished with sliced kimchi with kimchi juice in it. Plain kimchi is usually used for garnishment rather than the one seasoned with chilli powder and pickled fish. The noodles are sometimes half mixed with cold meat stock along with kimchi juice. The name of the noodles comes from the rough use of kimchi instead of decorative garnishment, and is usually served in kimchi juice. The dish is usually served for lunch and supper. □

Patriotic Proposal for Reunification

DUE TO NATIONAL DIVISION extending for 70 years there exist different political systems in the north and the south of the Korean peninsula at present. This necessitates a reunification proposal acceptable to every member of the nation if the country is to be reunified in a peaceful way.

Thirty-five years ago the DPRK already put forward a proposal for founding a Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo (DFRK) through the establishment of a unified national government on condition that the north and the south recognize and tolerate each other's ideas and social systems, a government in which the two sides are represented on the equal footing and under which they exercise regional autonomy respectively with equal rights and duties.

This proposal based on the federation formula is the only way to achieve national reunification peacefully in accord with the aspiration and desire of the Korean nation.

As it is expected to leave the two different social systems as they are within a unified federal state, it is a peaceful reunification formula which has neither a reason for conflict nor a fear of war in the course of reunification. It is realistic, fair and reasonable as it makes it possible to realize national reunification independently and peacefully on the principle of co-existence, a principle that is substantially different from the one of making one side conquering the other.

The federation formula is a proposal based on the spirit of loving the country and the nation that renders it possible to achieve national reunification in reliance upon national reconciliation and unity.

Reunification of Korea is, in essence, the cause of achieving national unity by linking again the national blood ties which have been severed into the north and the south by foreign forces and

strengthening the ties. Even though the Korean people live separately because of foreign forces it is undeniable that all of them belong to a homogenous nation of the same stock living on the same land while using the same language. Based on such national community, the north and the south can realize reconciliation and unity as much as they want and exist together as a single nation, within a single unified state without fighting.

The idea of federation completely accords with the national interest; it makes it possible to promote mutual understanding between the north and the south, improve national unity and reconciliation and put an end to national division caused by the foreign forces.

After all, the proposal of founding the DFRK enables all classes, strata, political parties and factions in the north and the south to devote their strength, wisdom and energy to the common prosperity of the nation and completion of the cause of national reunification by achieving national unity and reconciliation transcending ideological, regional and class interests and surmounting antagonism and difference in views as a single nation.

That is why the proposal called forth the support and approval of all fellow Koreans in the north, the south and abroad as well as the international community as soon as it was made public. People of different social strata in south Korea insisted upon achieving national reunification on the federation formula expressing support to the proposal as "a common reunification platform of the nation" and as "most square and realistic method." The international community expressed whole-hearted sympathy with the proposal and solidarity movements were unfolded in multifarious forms, such as the formation of committees supporting the proposal of DFRK founding, in different parts of the

world, the holding of a world congress or international meetings in support of the proposal.

The validity of the federation proposal was confirmed through the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration adopted in 2000 and the October 4 Declaration adopted in 2007. In the historic June 15 North-South Joint Declaration the north and the south acknowledged similarity between the low-level federation proposed by the north side and the commonwealth system proposed by the south side, and agreed to work together for reunification in this direction in the future. And in the October 4 Declaration the two sides agreed to definitely turn the north-south relations into those of mutual respect and trust, transcending the difference in ideology and social system, so as to develop north-south relations expansively on the basis of the June 15 Joint Declaration.

Marvellous practices during the June 15 era proved that any kind of problem can be solved without difficulty when efforts are made for common interests and purposes of the nation, even if the north and the south differ from each other in ideology and social system.

The tragic situation in recent years when the north-south relations have been constantly bad convinces all the Koreans of the validity of the proposal for federation and of the truth that the nation's way out lies in achieving independent reunification, securing peace and attaining prosperity under the banner of the June 15 Joint Declaration and the October 4 Declaration.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of national division. The Korean people are out as one to open up an avenue of independent and peaceful reunification. No force can break the will of the Korean nation to bring their bright future by putting the federation formula into practice.

Kim Hyon Ju

Koreans Want Improved North-South Relations

IN AUGUST LAST WHEN THE CONFRONTATION reached the extreme in the Korean peninsula the north and the south of Korea had a high-level emergency contact and discussed wide-ranging problems related to the straightening out of the prevailing dangerous situation and the improving of the inter-Korean relations. In the contact both sides deliberated upon issues for removing the prevailing acute military tension between the north and the south and developing bilateral relations, and reached agreement on a number of matters, including the one in which they agreed to hold authority-to-authority talks to improve bilateral relations in Pyongyang or Seoul at an early date and conduct multi-channelled dialogue and negotiation in the future.

The contact helped defuse the danger of the touch-and-go situation that might have plunged not only the Korean peninsula but the whole of North-east Asia as well into the whirlpool of an upheaval and offered an opportunity of a dramatic turn in achieving peace, stability, reconciliation and cooperation between the north and the south. The public at home and abroad unanimously welcomed the north and the south for preventing the situation from plunging into an unpredictable conflict and for joining hands for reconciliation.

The fact that the north and the south sat face to face, sympathized with the danger of the situation and had an exhaustive discussion to reach an agreement on issues of common concern, thus opening up an epochal phase for turning misfortune into blessings in the north-south relations, hints at a great truth. To have an open-hearted dialogue with the precedence given to the interest of the nation is surely the way to detente and peace.

In his interview with the KCNA news agency Kim Yang Gon, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, reiterated, "The north and the south should value the spirit of the agreement reached at the contact and, instead of simply feeling complacent at tiding over the extreme crisis, advance the north-

south relations in the constructive direction for reunification. It is my view that the contact would not have considerable meaning if it just ends up as a stopgap measure. Both sides should wipe out mistrust and confrontation and opt for mending the bilateral relations from a bold stand through dialogue and negotiations."

It is a consistent stand of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to remove the danger of war, relieve the tension and create a peaceful environment in the Korean peninsula so as to make one Korea again. The Korean people want the two sides to develop dialogue and negotiation between the authorities to solve problems of mutual concern and energize many-sided exchange and cooperation. To this end, it is of priority importance to keep afloat and develop the present trend of situation which the north and the south brought back on the track of detente with difficulty.

The recent agreement will be able to come true only when the two sides avoid using any inexplicable incident to aggravate the situation and drive the things to the extreme. Learning a lesson from the recent happening, they should keep their reason and patience under control when complicated problems arise, and make efforts to prevent the recurrence of such an incident. They should no longer be shackled to the past but care about the future of the nation first and look far into the future and join hands to repair the relations and achieve reunification. This will contribute to peace in Northeast Asia and the rest of the world, to say nothing of the Korean peninsula. Certainly there are forces that detest the development of the north-south relations, and some want to trim the relations in their interest.

Former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark once said that the big powers are still posing military threat to the Korean peninsula and the rest of East Asia and called upon the peace-loving people to demonstrate their effort to make a good world. The north and the south should pay particular attention to curbing any unhappy incident from happening ►

Culprit of Extending Dispute

HUMANITY IS MORE AND MORE subjected to dispute and conflict between nations, political forces, tribes and religious groups. They used to be confined to certain regions in the past, but they are now spreading to nearly all the world. According to recent data, armed conflicts took as many as 180 000 lives around the world last year, with the Middle Eastern and African regions being the greatest victims. Armed conflicts and other disasters left more than 46.3 million homeless. The UN and other international organizations are working hard to solve the disputes, but there are no signs of the disputes being lulled.

Then, what is the root cause of the disturbances that are spreading further endangering global peace and security? It is none other than the US and other insidious forces that are working to attain their sinister aims by a crafty means. They are agitating different political forces, tribal and religious groups within a state to fight with one another by driving a wedge between them.

In retrospect the US advanced the “Nixon Doctrine” in 1969 which was based on the principle of making its Asian puppets and vassal nations fight against Asians and its African ones against Africans. It was labelled as aggressive policy. Thanks to the policy quite a few nations have suffered from conflicts, with a huge number of people displaced and wandering for scores of years.

The US is employing the method craftily at present. It scours the past records of other nations for seeds of discord and conflict which it uses to find fault with the rule of the minority tribes by the majority ones, thus driving a wedge among the nations. Meanwhile, it pokes its nose into disputes, siding with any one party in the fighting, thus fanning up the conflicts. It also uses the method of assisting and supporting one side in a conflict, while bringing pressure to the other, which aggravates the contra-

diction. This brings it a pretext to make intervention in the internal affairs. After all, the US makes armed intervention openly for the camouflaged purpose of “end of conflict” and “keeping peace.”

A typical example is the conflict in Syria which has been on for several years. The US instigated some rebellious forces in the country to kick up an uprising. Then it disguised the rebels as democrats and supplied weapons and funds to them. This conflict turned into a civil war. Availing itself of the opportunity, the US mobilized its followers to make military intervention. Such a kind of policy of the US is making the situation even more complicated, preventing peaceful settlement of the conflict.

The US has appraised the countries suffering from conflicts from its own view of value and pressed them to accept it. Those countries that meekly accepted the American values saw all forms of forces rise under the signboard of liberty and democracy, which resulted in political chaos and aggravated contradiction. The relations among tribes and religious groups that had maintained relatively peaceful co-existence have turned into intolerable hostile relationships. The situations in several Middle Eastern countries and Ukraine are eloquent proof.

There are still continuous political upheavals and subsequent physical conflicts, social disorder and economic bankruptcy in many countries and regions. This shows the US is the cancer in the settlement of disputes.

The realities prove that only when the parties concerned in conflicts reject intervention from the US and other foreign countries and find proper principles and methods of their own through dialogue and negotiation, will they be able to solve disputes.

Beware that the US is still pursuing the policy of causing disputes in other countries to get its own profit in them.

Rim Hye Gyong

▶ and firmly maintain the idea of “By our nation itself.”

The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea will make positive efforts to improve the north-south

relations as desired by all the Koreans in the spirit of the agreement of the recent high-level emergency contact.

Kim Il Bong

What Is the *Abe* Destined for?

YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE ABE BECAME the Prime Minister of Japan. Earlier, in 2006 he got the Prime Ministership but was forced to leave the office in 2007 because he lost the support of the Japanese people who were angry for his poisonous fumes of militarism and absorption in US policies.

Then, how could he become the PM again after 63 months? After the end of the rule of the Liberal Democratic Party, the Democratic Party took power but failed to carry out its election pledges, thus drinking a bitter cup. Hatoyama who had avowed “he would not submit to the US tamely,” Kan Naoto who had declared he would “make an image of my own,” and Noda who went enthusiastic to do what he had announced he would “not do”—these three Prime Ministers lived a short life in office. Amidst the rapidly falling popularity of the Democratic Party and the increasing indifference of the Japanese people to the government, the Liberal Democratic Party became the ruling party again and Abe, the then president of the party, became the PM again.

In his earlier term Abe had fanned up militarism the country over and beautified Japan’s past crimes by advocating the “beautiful country,” but now in his second term he put up the signboard of a “new country.”

Seeing the *Abe* set sail under the flag of “peace,” the international community felt uneasy, foretelling that the Japanese politics might be further inclined to the right. The Russian newspaper *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* criticized that the policies of the Japanese government were turning to the right and getting more conservative. Even in the US there were some voices expressing apprehension that Japan was deviating far from pacifism.

These worries are not groundless. Abe publicly announced his intention to reconsider the Murayama and Kono statements that had acknowledged Japan’s past crimes. He said he thought it a great regret that he had failed to visit the Yasukuni Shrine during the first Abe Cabinet. In 2013 he initiated the decision on adopting April 28, the day of the termination of the US’s military occupation of Japan, as the “day of commemoration of the restoration of the national

sovereignty” and celebrating it in a big way. On April 28, 1952, the San Francisco peace treaty became effective between the anti-Hitler allied nations and Japan to put a formal end to the war and the American military occupation of Japan.

Under the influence of his maternal grandfather, a war criminal, Abe adopted a wrong view to history and has continuously challenged justice. Questioning the sentence given by the Tokyo tribunal to the militaristic Japan, he propagates the “unresolved definition of aggression” and refuses to admit that the comfort women problem was a state crime. In addition, he claims the need to revise the “pacifist constitution” that has been maintained for scores of years. Once he mounted a tank in military uniform and shouted, “Long live the emperor,” instigating the militarization of the Japanese society. Along with this, he is making a desperate attempt to rename the Self-Defense Forces into an army qualified to invade other countries. He is seeking arms buildup.

In a comment on the developments, The New York Times pointed out in its website: On December 7, 72 years ago, Japan chose to do reckless gambling—attacking the Pearl Harbour. At the time when the war against China came to a standstill, another war against the US seemed to be a gamble of making a double bet. The more risky, the sweeter the victory would be. Perhaps Abe at present wants to repeat the Japan’s dictatorship before the Pacific War.

Abe often speaks out he aspires to the country contributing to the global peace and security through “active pacifism,” but his words are far from his behaviours and present developments. Even his compatriots denounce that his argument for peace is just a cover of his policy of a new war.

The evil captain makes the crew undergo all sorts of troubles. If Abe recklessly commits acts of provocation, Japan will fall into the worst catastrophic disaster and ruin Japan has ever suffered—this is a common idea of the international community. The people with reason are now watching what will become of Japan.

Kim Il Bong

Kobukson

KOBUKSON, OR TURTLE-shaped ship, was the first armoured ship in the world, developed by the Korean people and first employed in the sea battle against the Japanese invaders during the Imjin Patriotic War (1592–1598). It was covered with iron or steel plate strong enough to resist gunfire at that time.

According to an old document, *Kobukson* was made first in 1413 and went through a performance test in the Rimjin River. The ship which was completed in the late 16th century by drawing on the advanced shipbuilding technique, was 35 m long, 11.8 m wide and 5 m high. On each flank were fixed 10 oars and over 70 holes for firing. Sails could be set up or down according to needs. The deck, shaped half-round like a turtle back, had a narrow aisle for the sailors to pass, and both sides were all dotted with spikes and nails to prevent the enemy from setting foot. There were 26 compartments in the centre of the ship; two of them were filled with iron pieces, three with weapons such as guns, bows and arrows and swords; 19 were bedrooms of the soldiers and the remaining two were for the captain and commanders.

The ship had a dragon-shaped head. When the fight began, sulphur and niter were burnt in it so that the enemy could not make out things around. For its simple but strong structure, high speed and excellent firing equipment, it was capable of launching a smart battle whether it was based on firing, butting or close fighting.

Kobukson entered into action on May 27, 1592 for the first time in the beginning of the Imjin Patriotic War.

That day, the Korean navy, on receiving the report that the

Japanese fleet was coming to Sachon, Konyang and Roryang areas, set sail towards the enemy in a fleet of over 20 warships including *Kobukson*. At that time an enemy patrol ship sailing westward from Konyang found the Korean fleet and fled in horror towards Sachon in South Kyongsang Province. While following the retreating enemy ship, the Korean fleet found the enemy's fleet staying at the Sachon Quay, and decoyed the enemy out of the port before attacking them suddenly. With *Kobukson* in the van, the Korean fleet made a flying-crane formation and started an attack. Dashing through the enemy ships, *Kobukson* shot different kinds of powder weapons at all once and butted enemy ships, and then all the Korean ships fired their guns and arrows. That day they sank 12 enemy ships and captured one.

On June 2, the Korean navy

lined up and attacked the enemy fleet who invaded into the sea off Tangpho (Thongyong in South Kyongsang Province). At that time, too, *Kobukson* butted the enemy flag ship and destroyed it, which put the Korean navy in high spirit. That day the Korean navy sank all of the 21 Japanese warships to the bottom of the sea.

Later, too, the turtle-shaped ships rendered great service in winning victory after victory in the battles including those in Hansando, Myongryang and Roryang, and played an important role in the struggle for the Korean navy to get the command at sea over the whole period of the war.

Kobukson, for both the shipbuilding technique and the fighting capacity, is a good indication of the Korean people's intelligence and resourcefulness.

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