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Porcelain Vase

A gift presented to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un by the delegation of the Study Forum of Self-reliance of Pakistan in April 2014



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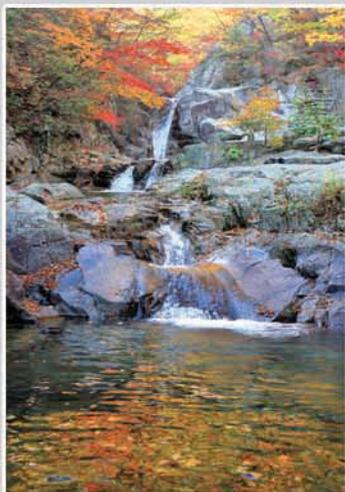
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Front Cover: An instructor and his students of the program science circle of Kim Chaek University of Technology win the Codechef contest several times

Photo by Ri Song Ik



Back Cover: Puyon Valley in Sinhung

Photo by An Kang Rim

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Might of Korea

THE KOREAN REVOLUTION, SINCE THE early days after the founding of its revolutionary armed forces, has marched along the road of victory by dint of the great army-people unity.

The history of the great army-people unity took its root during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle (1926–1945) organized by Kim Il Sung. He always educated the anti-Japanese guerrillas in the spirit of army-people unity, and set practical examples. In his reminiscences *With the Century* he said that he had clarified the relations between the army and people in the provisional regulations of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army as follows:

“Given that ‘fish cannot live without water,’ this army [Korean People's Revolutionary Army] shall fight for the restoration of the country and emancipation of the people, defending and protecting the lives and property of the people and sharing life and death, good times and bad with them and in concert with them.”

The provisional regulations of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army were the rules of conduct of the guerrillas and the standards of activity of the KPRA.

Kim Il Sung saw to it that the anti-Japanese guerrilla army always gave top priority to the army-people relations, waged the revolutionary struggle by thoroughly relying on the popular masses and by organizing and mobilizing them, and awakened them to revolution so as to strengthen the unity and cooperation with them.

The guerrillas and the people took warm care of each other and pooled their efforts, thus bringing about brilliant victories in operations and battles in all combat zones, and in the final operations to liberate the country from the Japanese imperialists.

A typical example was the struggle to defend the guerrilla bases in the Tuman River basin through an all-people resistance. When the guerrilla bases were established in the wide river basin and in the northern border area of Korea, the Japanese imperialists mobilized a huge force to do a large-scale “punitive operations” against them.

Kim Il Sung inspired the guerrilla army and the entire people in the bases to wage a death-defying struggle to safeguard the bases. The people in the guerrilla bases turned out as one to prepare a do-or-die resistance by organization and social stratum. The anti-Japanese self-defence corps and the young volunteers' corps, together with the guerril-

las, took up defence positions, and those young and middle-aged people with no rifles piled up heaps of stones on the steep heights in the defence front. Members of the Women's Association came to the trench with rice balls and hot water to serve the fighters, and the Children's Corps members beat drums and blew bugles to encourage the combatants. Thanks to their heroic struggle the guerilla bases was defended successfully.

An all-people heroic struggle brought about victory for the country in the Fatherland Liberation War in the 1950s. At that time it was only five years after Korea was liberated from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation, and two years after the Korean People's Army was founded as regular armed forces. So it was not an easy job for the country to fight against the US imperialists who boasted of being the “strongest” in the world.

The KPA soldiers and the people, however, fought with the thought that they were always in the same trench to mow down the enemy, and shared the destiny together, struggling with concerted efforts in numerous battles. A typical example was an all-people campaign of assistance to the front during the war. People in the front areas made their way through the rain of bullets to deliver shells and provisions to the trenches of KPA soldiers, and brought the wounded to hospitals on their way back home.

And the other people sent many articles of comfort they made with sincerity and letters of comfort to the fighting soldiers, and national and provincial art troupes toured the front to give performances. Even schoolchildren did so in order to encourage the soldiers.

The dynamic all-people campaign to assist the front was an epitome of the great army-people unity, whereby both the army and the people fought firmly united with one mind and purpose, following the tradition of the army-people unity created during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

The tradition of the great army-people unity has been invariably maintained at every stage of socialist construction. They defended the country shoulder to shoulder and pushed ahead with socialist construction, thus frustrating the imperialists' continuous moves for war provocation, and building a powerful socialist country independent, self-sufficient and self-reliant in defence by completing the socialist industrialization in 14 years, which would take other countries as many as one hundred years. ▶



People cheer Korean People's Army soldiers.

► The West Sea Barrage built in the 1980s is the fruit of the strength of the great army- people unity. They did the designing and construction together, finishing the project by erecting an 8-km-long structure in a short span of five years.

It happened during the construction of Dressing Plant No. 3 at the Komdok Mining Complex. KPA soldiers came to the construction site, true to the intention of the Workers' Party of Korea to make sure that the project was carried out in a three-dimensional way with the active help of the whole Party, the entire army and all the people.

The soldiers continued tunnelling even though the water dripping from the ceiling was up to their waists and cave-ins occurred frequently. They drove vehicles inside the inclined pit to bring the debris out. They built a tunnel of hundreds of metres and installed a long-distance conveyor belt of thousands of metres in a little over three months. This greatly encouraged all the builders who engaged in the project. The construction of the dressing plant was completed in a year, which had been expected to take ten years, thanks to bold joint operations of the army and people and the leading role of the



► army.

The might of the great army-people unity was more fully displayed in the 1990s when the country had to undergo the Arduous March and the forced march. In the period the KPA made breakthroughs in the most difficult and key sectors of socialist construction, and the whole society waged a vigorous campaign to follow the revolutionary soldier spirit and the fighting spirit created by the army.

In the late 1990s a huge land realignment project was underway to facelift the land of the whole country to befit that of socialist Korea. The KPA played a core role in the campaign, true to the order of the DPRK National Defence Commission for the whole country to turn out to rezone the land of Kangwon Province. KPA soldiers and the people fully displayed the revolutionary soldier spirit, readjusting in less than a year tens of thousands of hectares of land in the province which had had the most unfavourable farming conditions. Later followed the realignment of 236 000-odd hectares of land in North and South Phyongan provinces and South Hwanghae Province, thus laying a solid foundation for further increasing grain output.

Numerous monumental edifices went up across the country, socialism was safeguarded in the worst ordeals and a new era of building a powerful nation was opened, all miracles in history.

Today the great unity of the army and people is further developing under the wise leadership of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un. He regards it as his opinion of revolution that there is no fortress in the world that one cannot conquer if one relies on the popular masses, and that even an egg, if charged with ideology, can break a rock.

Thanks to his wise leadership the great army-people unity is more fully displaying its might than

ever. When the construction of the stockbreeding bases in the Sepho area was ongoing KPA soldiers and builders created tens of thousands of hectares of grassland, and over 10 000 hectares of forest for protecting the grassland, performing new miracles and merits day after day.

KPA soldiers and builders, true to the leadership of the Supreme Leader who is unfolding a new heyday of construction, built countless monumental structures such as Ryomyong Street, Munsu Water Park and Mirae Scientists Street. Joint operations of the army and people propel the gigantic nature-remaking projects, to say nothing of the construction projects of national importance, and the construction of urban and rural areas and the facelift- ing of provinces, cities and counties.

KPA soldiers and the people of the areas where they are stationed pool their strength and wisdom to build cultural facilities such as parks and pleasure grounds to suit the requirement of the new century, and are vigorously pushing ahead with land administration projects including afforestation and lawn making.

If the Party chooses the agricultural sector as the direction of the major attack, the great unity of the army and people effect innovations in agricultural production, and when it maps out a plan of developing stockbreeding and fishery, the army and people build pig farms and make a new history of "gold seas."

Now in Korea the army and people are demonstrating their mental strength to the maximum, and the consolidation of their unity based on it is bringing about new miracles in all sectors for the building of a socialist power at a lightning speed by which to reduce ten years to one.

Ri Jong Nam

Structures built jointly by the army and the people.



For Army-People Unity

ARMY-PEOPLE UNITY IS the basis of the Korean society. The army and the people are consolidating their great unity based on the single ideology and faith and on the single concept of love and obligation, sharing mutual aid and support. The army and the people are now firmly united in a genuine comradely relationship whereby they share life and death, and the whole society is imbued with the traits of army-people unity.

Essence of Army-People Unity

On February 22, 1998 Chairman Kim Jong Il, talking to some commanding officers of the Korean People's Army, emphasized the importance of army-people unity.

At that time KPA units were further displaying the trait of helping the people as never before. In the previous year, too, KPA soldiers went to take upon themselves difficult tasks in socialist cooperative farms. When a unit came to know that there was a delay in the construction of a reservoir to supply drinking water to the local residents it turned out and completed the project in a day.

The military officers thought they had good army-

people unity.

But the Chairman had a different idea. He said, **“Now some people think that the army-people unity would be OK if only they provide the army with aid materials, but what we call army-people unity does not mean anything like that.”**

He went on to say, **“It is important in realizing army-people unity that the army helps the people and the latter aid the former with all sincerity, but the point is the realization of their unity in ideology and way of struggle.”**

Army-people unity means that the army and the people become one. But if they are not the same in ideology and way of work, they cannot be said to be an integral entity however much they help and care for each other.

Later the army-people unity of Korea developed into that in ideology and way of struggle.

Empty and Bulging

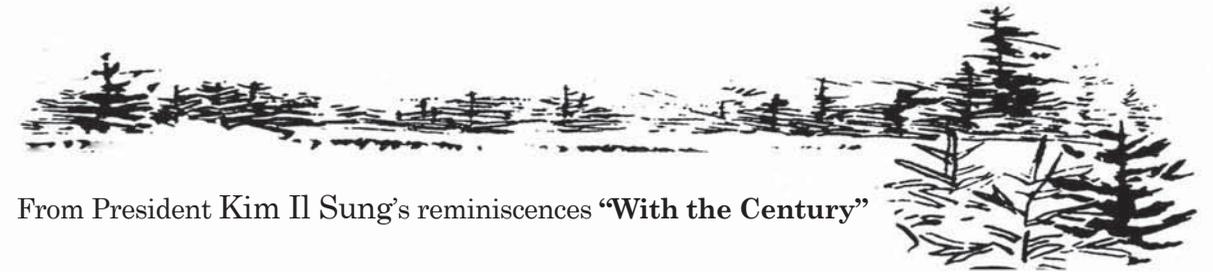
In October 2015, when the flood-affected city of Rason was under reconstruction, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited the city and asked if there arose any problem in army-people relations.

A military officer proudly reported that the soldiers were making efforts to improve the relations. Then a senior official of the city sadly complained, “The citizens of my city prepared and brought different aid goods to the soldiers as they knew the soldiers were working day and night to reconstruct the disaster areas. But they could never give the materials because the soldiers set up ‘special checkpoints’ and refused to accept any materials.”

The people knew it was not proper for them not to help the soldiers, so they would leave their aid goods around the soldiers’ bivouacs, construction sites and so on without any notice to the soldiers. The soldiers, however, had immediately sent them back to the people, the official mentioned and added, “How could the army of the people ignore the sincerity of the people like that?”

Listening to his tearful words, the Supreme Leader was smiling all the time. Then he said the soldiers should not make any trouble for the people even when they were to leave for their posts, and stressed, **“If their rucksacks are bulging when they leave, they are not the army of the people.”**

Rim Ok



From President Kim Il Sung's reminiscences “With the Century”

The Sound of the Watermill

WHEN I ENTERED farming villages in west Jiandao, to be found in each range of Paektu, I would see foaming, meandering streams and hear the sound of watermills pounding grain with the stream as its power. What tingling nostalgia the sound of watermills falling on our ears from afar at moonlit nights stirred in our minds! With our advance to Mt. Paektu, the watermills in Changbai, which had been pounding grain amid the tears of Korean immigrants, came to be used for different purposes and acquired another meaning.

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

The people in Deshuigou, Shiliudaogou, were the first in the Changbai area to assist the People's Revolutionary Army.

We first went to Xinchangdong on our advance to Changbai. The villages in the valley of Shiliudaogou, including Xinchangdong, were called, as a whole, Deshuigou.

The upper Xinchangdong was a remote village of 40-odd households situated on the confluence of two streams. There was also a watermill.

The villagers hulled buckwheat with the watermill that day and treated the People's Revolutionary Army to refreshing noodles.

The support-the-guerrillas campaign, started by the Deshuigou people in Shiliudaogou, later affected the whole region of west Jiandao such as Wangjiadong, Yaoshuidong and Diyangxidong.

Large teams frequently came to our secret camps along secret routes in the forests, carrying grain and cloth on their heads and backs.

In a fit of consternation, the enemy reinforced its troops in Changbai area and molested the people. It burned down villages,

arrested or killed people at random at the slightest unusual sign.

“Anyone supplying the communist bandits with provisions and articles and making contacts with them will be regarded as helpers of the bandits and executed on the spot”—this threatening warning was posted in all parts of Changbai County in those days.

The people living in the border areas around Mt. Paektu were not even allowed to take with them a pair of workman's shoes and a box of matches. Nevertheless, supply goods sent by the people regularly came to our secret camps.

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

Whenever I recall the images of the Changbai people, who were out to assist the army, the upright and simple image of Ri Ul Sol's

▶ father, Ri Pyong Hon, who, as a member of our organization, was working as a village head in Yinghuadong, appears in my mind's eye. He and his two brothers were standard-bearers of the campaign for supporting the army in Changbai area.

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

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

"They are excellent, indeed!"

He blushed at my praise.

"The snow is deep in Changbai, General. If you do not care for your feet in winter, the suffering is immeasurable."

This was my first encounter with him, but I could see in an instant that he was very faithful and modest. He never sang his own praises. Although he led the other people, carrying goods to the secret camp, he did not give the slightest air that he was their leader; he stood behind his colleagues and only looked at me thoughtfully.

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

At that moment I could not believe my eyes. Fine barley as white as snow! Is this barley, not

rice? They must have pounded it with great sincerity to make it so clean and tempting!

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

"We hulled it four times."

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

"The women in our village are so persistent."

This time, too, Ri ascribed the meritorious deed to the village women. He said, "It was not men, but women who took the trouble to hull this barley. Grain can be hulled ten times, not four times, if one invests all one's efforts. It is never a trouble, as it is all for the benefit of the revolutionary army. Unfortunately secret agents make rounds of the village to detect which houses hull grain for what purpose and where they are taking the hulled rice to. The Women's Association members rack their brains to dodge surveillance. They go to the market in Hyesan and buy cloth for the revolutionary army; then they tie it round their waist or fold it and put it on their babies, just like diapers. For this reason, they carry babies on their backs intentionally when going to markets. The elderly, who are unaware of this fact, rebuke them for going to all this trouble; however, the women always carry their babies, because only then do they have somewhere to hide cloth."

Ri did not mention a word about the trouble the men took; he only referred to the pains the women took.

His words moved me. I took a handful of barley from the knap-

sack and smelled it. Then I said to those around me, "Even though the Japanese Emperor is exalted, he is just like a tree without a root, while we are a sprout from a firm root, even though we are not visible. So, how can he ever see such fine grain as we have received?"

We came to know every detail of the support-the-guerrillas campaign, conducted by the people in Yinghuadong through Ri Ul Sol next year, who joined our unit that year. He was not inclined to sing the praise of himself, just like his father. Moreover, he hardly uttered a single word about the pains his father and mother took. However, he told an anecdote, apparently by a slip of the tongue, in which his mother picked wild berries to obtain money for the cloth used to make knapsacks.

In Yinghuadong many households suffered from a dearth of food grain; one of them was Ri Ul Sol's. Although they had scanty meals of grass gruel, his family tried not to lag behind the others in supporting the revolutionary army. So they picked wild berries in summer and wild grapes and fruit of tara vine in autumn to sell them at the market in Hyesan. Whenever the mother returned with wild fruits and assorted them, his younger brothers would sit round her with watery mouths. Even though she read their minds well, she did not readily give them even a single wild berry, for she considered this to mean less sincerity to the revolutionary army.

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

▶ ther stopped him.

Ri Pyong Hon rejected his suggestion there and then, saying, "The soldiers under the wings of the General are all stalwart and good at shooting. How can you venture to become a soldier of the revolutionary army, when you only know the hoe in the field and hemp trousers? Train yourself a little more before you go."

He made his son join a branch of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland for training. Next summer he sent his son and nephew to the guerrilla army. Sending beloved children to the army constituted the highest expression of the spirit of support for the army.

Ri Pyong Hon invariably supported the revolutionary army, even after sending his son to the guerrilla army.

... ..

Every Korean living in Changbai County helped the guerrillas. Even the elderly, who could only walk with the help of canes, climbed mountains and barked basswood trees; they burned the midnight candle to make us shoes with the bark. The women ran the watermills, standing guard in turn, refraining from lighting fires in cold winter nights, in order to avoid the lackeys' surveillance.

In most cases the village heads organized the transport of support goods. As most of the village heads in Changbai County chaired branches and chapters of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland, it was convenient for them to take charge of that task. The supply workers in our revolutionary army would in those days send the village heads threatening notices on purpose,

demanding delivery of goods, to enable the latter to offer excuses to the enemy for organizing aid to the revolutionary army. On receiving a notice, they secretly organized the work, allegedly under pressure.

The people vied with one another to take the goods on days, when the conveying teams left the villages.

Our soldiers dropped in at the houses in Changbai County, as if they were their own homes.

We frequented most often in those days Ryom Po Bae's house.

Ryom In Hwan told me that Kang Jin Gon was the first to develop Deshuigou. Kang could not live any longer in his native village, crossed the Amnok with some of his family and relatives and built a village in a valley in Shiliudaogou. Ryom Po Bae was the wife of Kang's cousin. Ryom In Hwan said that Mrs. Ryom and her husband were intensely anti-Japanese and upright, as they had come under the great influence of Kang.

Therefore I went to see them both, when we were staying in Dadeshui. I still vividly recall the face of Mrs. Ryom, who was so shy at that time, as she treated me with boiled oats and barley mixed with potato. She would always dip oats and barley in water in a large vessel, so that she could boil them in an instant, even if we dropped in at her house at midnight. The barley mixed with oats she boiled was well-cooked and aromatic, stimulating our appetite.

Her husband Kang In Hong set the chimney low and covered it with wheat straw to make the smoke issue downward, lest the smoke ascending through the chimney at night should arouse

the suspicion of the lackeys. Both of them were tenderhearted.

The people in Deshuigou were literally as poor as church mice, but regarded it as a great honour to serve the revolutionary army.

It was not surprising that the enemy turned the village of Dadeshui into a sea of flames in a day. This atrocity reminded people of the "sea of blood" in north Jiandao. When the villagers swept away ashes on the floors and set up straw-thatched cottages, the enemy would attack them again and set the cottages on fire.

Ryom Po Bae's family had to move to Zhangmozi, Xinchangdong.

When we went there to see her on hearing the news, we could again hear the sound of a watermill there. I felt it was a good omen, for where a watermill made a sound, I could feel the spirit of Korea, which did not burn in fire or drown in a storm and a struggle; the people took the greatest pleasure to support the army. The sound of the watermill resembled the giant strides of the people, who continued their resistance to the Japanese imperialists, by aiding the army.

I first went with my orderly to the watermill and met Mrs. Ryom there.

On seeing me, she bent her knees and cried bitterly. Her tears contained so great sorrow after leaving Dadeshui.

I consoled her with great difficulty, saying, "Please calm yourself, mother. What can be done? You have to endure it..."

I later learned that her family had set up the mill after moving there. Her house, a small log-cabin, was situated near the mill.

That day she got a hen from ▶

▶ a neighbouring village and served us starch noodles in meat stock, with chicken garnish. However, she was sorry that it was such a poor meal.

The starch noodles I ate frequently in the villages in Changbai County were so unforgettable that even when I give a banquet to distinguished guests, I still serve them frozen-potato noodles or starch noodles as a rare dish.

That night she was very concerned that the sound of the watermill might disturb my sleep. However, this was unnecessary, as that sound only induced sound sleep and deep meditation.

Her family did not set up a new watermill after moving to Zhangmozi for their convenience. It was aimed at supporting the guerrillas.

That remote village was not, however, a place, where one could live in peace. The enemy also stretched out his tentacles to this heart of the mountain. The policemen from Erdaogang pounced upon the village without notice, destroyed the watermill and took all the villagers to the police station. Her family members underwent atrocious tortures for three days and were released as good as dead. They returned on an oxcart. Old man Kang, who had been beaten most, was in a critical state.

On hearing this, I sent them some bear galls, which are effective for welts. Apparently they got out of bed after taking the galls. Even Mr. Kang, who had been most seriously injured, rose from the bed and again devoted himself to supporting the guerrillas. He was good at carpentry; he felled a birch on the mountain and repaired the mill's long

board, which had been broken. His children tried to dissuade him, saying that he should start working after achieving a full recovery. But their words fell on deaf ears. He only said, "What are you talking about? Even the elderly in their 80s are busy making straw sandals and socks to help those on the mountain. I am too strong to have a nap."

The watermill at Zhangmozi once again started to hull grain for the guerrillas.

On Mr. Kang's request, we admitted his son Kang Jong Gun to the revolutionary army. We always took good care of him, taking him with us. However, he was killed in action later to our regret.

... ..

Following the country's liberation, Mrs. Ryom Po Bae moved to Hyesan with her children. But she did not inform us for more than ten years where she was living.

It was only in 1958, when I was providing field guidance to Ryanggang Province, that I came to know that she was living in Hyesan.

I met her at the railway station. Her hair had turned grey.

"Mother, your son Jong Gun and husband have already passed away... To see you today when your hair has turned grey..."

I was too choked to go on. Beaten at a police station for helping the revolutionary army, her husband Kang In Hong had coughed out blood and died.

She embraced me, tears streaming down her face.

Feeling her rough hands I said with disappointment:

"I frequented your house in the bygone days, mother, as if it were my own. But it is too much.

More than ten years have passed since liberation; why didn't you call on me? Couldn't you write to me even once?"

"How could you believe that I was not eager to go to Pyongyang to see you, General? But I might not be the only person wishing to see you. If we all call on you, when you are always busy, how can you run the government properly?"

The passionate people of Changbai, who rushed out of the village entrance in the past without noticing how their shoes fell off as they saw us, returned to the liberated country and led a quiet life without making themselves known to the world.

Soon afterwards I brought Mrs. Ryom to Pyongyang and chose a house on the scenic River Taedong for her.

The Changbai people, who helped us at the cost of their blood in the days of the anti-Japanese revolution, were all people of such calibre.

... ..

I regard single-hearted unity and unity between the army and the people as the greatest success achieved in the Korean revolution.

My ears still ring with the sound of the watermills I heard during the great anti-Japanese war. With that sound, the faces of a great number of Changbai people appear in my mind's eye. How many of them died on the gallows and behind bars! How many of them froze to death or laid down their lives on the snow-capped Mt. Paektu, on their way to aid the guerrillas!

I take off my hat to them and my heart swells with gratitude when I remember their boon and virtue. □

Universal Free Medical Care Introduced in Wartime

ON NOVEMBER 13, 1952, during the Fatherland Liberation War, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea proclaimed Cabinet Decision No. 203, which brought about the introduction of universal free medical care in the northern half of the Korean peninsula from January 1, 1953.

Free medical care of Korea dates back to the anti-Japanese armed struggle. Guerrilla bases—liberated areas—had public hospitals, and their residents were under free medical care. And the hospitals carried out their tasks, often moving as required by the development of the anti-Japanese armed struggle and the circumstances of battles.

After its liberation from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation on August 15, 1945, the introduction of a free medical care system was included in the 20-Point Platform which clarified the tasks the people's gov-

ernment had to carry out in the fields of politics, the economy, society and culture in the stage of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution.

From 1947 a free medical care system was enforced for industrial workers, office workers and their dependants according to the social insurance law of the state.

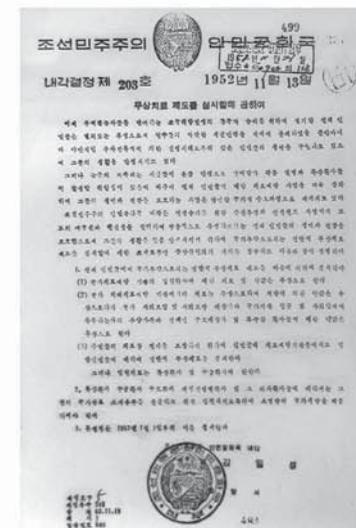
When the Korean war broke out there came not a few difficulties in medical services. Having suffered repeated defeats throughout the front in the summer and winter of 1951, the enemy carried out heavier bombings against the rear in an attempt to make up for their defeats. For two years after unleashing the war, the enemy dropped over 200 000 airburst bombs, incendiary bombs and napalm bombs on peaceful cities and rural populated areas, and for two months in 1952 they dropped germ bombs on over 400 spots more than 700

times. Owing to the bombing lots of hospitals, clinics and pharmaceutical factories which had been established for five years since liberation were destroyed, and public health facilities and health care workers suffered a great loss. The war became arduous and was prolonged. This required much more human and material resources for the country's victory in the war.

On January 20, 1952, the DPRK leader Kim Il Sung made public his immortal classic work *On Making Good Preparations for Universal, Free Medical Care*, in which he urged to make adequate preparations to introduce universal and free medical care and map out a plan to make meticulous preparations for a year or so.

The year of 1952 became the one for the sector of public health to prepare universal free medical care. The state expenditure on public health service

Universal free medical service began in 1953 with the proclamation of Cabinet Decision No. 203.



► increased 1.6 times in 1952 and 2.2 times in 1953 as compared with 1949, the year before the war.

As a result, all destroyed and burnt facilities for preventive and curative medical care, including hospitals and clinics, were rehabilitated and readjusted well enough to ensure regular medical care. More medicines were produced and supplied than before the war, and medical education institutions intensified their work, thus producing as many health care workers during the three years of wartime as those produced for the five years of post-liberation peaceful construction. And the number of beds in hospitals increased more than twice that before the war, and the one of outpatient treatment establishments surpassed that before the war.

This led to the maturity of all conditions for the introduction of universal free medical care even in the difficult situation of the war, and thus there was adopted the aforesaid Cabinet decision in this regard. Thanks to such a wartime measure the Korean people became free from worry about medical care forever.

The 7th Session of the Second Supreme People's Assembly held in February 1960 after the end of the war adopted a law on developing the already enforced



Section doctors go to see residents in their charge.

universal free medical care system into a complete universal free medical care system.

The new system has a number of specific features different from those of the previous ones. The free medical care system according to the social insurance law of the state and the universal free medical care system put emphasis on the scope of the application of free medical care, but the new one put the main emphasis on raising the quality of medical service. For example, a people's hospital appeared in each ri, maternity and children's wards were established in each city or county people's hospital and a step was taken to help all women in childbirth without omission. And a section

doctor system was established in not only urban but also rural areas.

Recently there has been established a nationwide telemedicine system, making it possible to provide medical treatment and health care to people promptly and accurately through consultations for surgical operation and so on between central, provincial, municipal and county people's hospitals.

The Korean people are now provided with inpatient treatment, outpatient treatment, sick calls, medical examinations, experimental examinations, functional diagnosis, operations, vaccination and recuperation, all free of charge.

Rim Ok

Telemedical service is provided.



Socialism Is Science

BETWEEN THE LATE 1980s and the early 1990s socialism collapsed in the former Soviet Union and Eastern European countries, leading to a return to capitalism. This gave a mental shock to lots of people, making them anxious about the future of socialism. The imperialists and their ideological mouthpieces talked about the "victory" of capitalism and the "end" of socialism.

Chairman Kim Jong Il, in his treatise *Socialism Is a Science* published in November 1994, proved that socialism will without fail win victory for its scientific accuracy and truth.

Collectivism is the intrinsic requirement of man, and socialism regards collectivism as lifeline. Man can transform nature and society only through collective cooperation of social members, not individually, and realize the independent requirement only through collectivism. As socialism realizes man's independent nature and the popular masses' independent requirement on the highest level, it becomes the cause of the masses themselves, and socialism based

on collectivism surely emerges victorious as long as there exist the masses.

In order to accomplish socialism the revolutionary forces should be prepared which are able to take charge of and perform it, and a correct method of struggle should be ensured. The decisive factor on which depends the victory of revolution does not lie in outside conditions but in strengthening the motive force of the revolution and improving its role. The socialist society is the one developing by dint of the creative power of the popular masses who are equipped with high ideological consciousness and united single-heartedly. The remoulding of men, the ideological remoulding work, is a primary task more important than that of creating material and economic conditions of socialism. The scientific accuracy and truthfulness of the Juche-oriented theory of socialism were proved vividly in the practice of the Korean revolution.

The Workers' Party of Korea, in keeping with the requirement of the Juche idea, firmly united the popular masses around it

and the leader organizationally and ideologically all the time to hold fast to the work of strengthening the motive force of the revolution and enhancing its role as the main link of its work, thus pioneering the road of socialism brilliantly.

Socialism of Korea is based on the Juche-oriented viewpoint of and attitude to man. The issue relating to the viewpoint of and attitude to man is a fundamental one in the matter of how to approach and understand social development, revolutionary development, with what viewpoint and attitude. The viewpoint of and attitude to man becomes a standard proving the scientific accuracy and validity of ideology and theory, and line and policy.

The Juche idea, for the first time in history, clarified the intrinsic characteristics of man scientifically and, based on it, delineated newly the position and role of man in the world. Man is a social being with independence, creativity and consciousness, and thus man becomes the most valuable and powerful being. Man is the only master and remaker of the world. There is

► no being in the world more valuable and powerful than man.

Man-centred socialism, proceeding from the Juche-oriented viewpoint of and attitude to man, has everything serve man, and solves all problems by enhancing the creative role of man. Socialism of Korea defends and secures independence of man from A to Z, and by quickly improving man's ideological consciousness and creative ability and actively giving full play to it, it remarkably strengthens man's position and role as master and remaker of the world and dynamically accelerates the revolution and construction.

The Juche idea newly elucidated the essence and worth of man's life. The physical life is what keeps a man alive as biological organism, and social and political integrity is what keeps him alive as social being.

The genuine human life can be well realized only in the socialist society based on collectivism. Socialism of Korea holds man dearest and well meets his intrinsic requirement, and thus it is the true man-centred one which enables all the people to possess social and political integrity and add lustre to it infinitely, and fully meets the re-

quirement of their physical life.

Socialism of Korea is based on the Juche-oriented viewpoint of and attitude to the popular masses. The truthfulness and superiority of socialism find expression in the people's support for and trust in it. The popular masses are a social group combined with the working people as its basis through the commonness of the independent requirement and creative activity. Everything in the society is created by the masses, and they become masters of everything in the society. There is a limit to the strength and wisdom of individuals, but no limit to those of the masses. Everything in the society is created, the history advances and the revolution is promoted by the inexhaustible strength and wisdom of the masses.

In the socialist society of Korea the Party and the state formulate all their lines and policies by comprehensively expressing the independent will and requirement of the masses, and push ahead with the revolution and construction vigorously by giving full play to the revolutionary zeal and creative activity of the masses. They provide the popular masses with a richer

and civilized material and cultural life, and have everything serve the masses.

The people-centred socialism applies best the comradely unity and cooperation, and the relations of love and trust in all sectors of social life, and changes politics into the one of love and trust. The fundamental guarantee for connecting the Party and the popular masses in the same vein and the secret to giving the fullest rein to the creative power of the masses both lie in the benevolent politics.

The WPK is a motherly party which takes full responsibility for and care of the people's destiny and future, and makes selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people. It treasures the people's will to follow it as the most precious wealth of the revolution and makes more and more efforts shouldering all burdens for the sake of the people. Thanks to its leadership, the people's dream and ideal become reality in the country.

The Korean people surely see the bright future of the socialism of Juche in the world of the WPK's love for the people.

Ri Jong Nam

For Development of Building Materials Industry

RECENTLY THE DPRK put in great effort into the development of the building materials industry.

Efforts to increase production capacity are being stepped up at cement factories and complexes. The workers of the Sangwon Cement Complex actively introduced advanced science and technology into all the processes from raw material feeding to production. Thus they overfulfilled the monthly increased production assignments in the most difficult conditions from July last year to July this year. The Suncheon Cement Complex finished the repair of Kiln No. 1 in three days which had been expected to take a week, bringing about innovations in cement production.

The workers of the Chon-naeri Cement Factory have been increasing the cement output systematically in recent years, which is attributable to the growth of their own technical forces. The factory developed and introduced a new kind of kiln firebrick, and created an ideal production condition which makes it possible to monitor the oxygen density of exhaust gas in real time, and control the amount of fuel and raw materials to be fed. Besides, it changed the production processes into economical ones, thus making it possible to recycle a large amount of waste materials that had been left useless.

A campaign is in full swing

to turn out diversified finishing building materials of good quality by relying firmly on the country's own strength, technology and resources. Scientists and technicians in Kangwon Province have laid out building materials production bases of their own and are activating the production of the materials by dint of science and technology. They are using the resources from the province to produce heat-ray-reflecting coloured glass, sanitary ware and tile, corrugated cement roof tile and decorative glass beads, making an active contribution to the development of the province's building materials industry.

Meanwhile, South Hamgyong Province is waging a dynamic work to turn out similar building materials with locally-available resources. Scientists and technicians of the province are now producing artificially-polished stone floor plates and artificial marble for decoration by using coloured stones, stones from river bed and by-products from a building stone mine. They are improving the quality of the products through the introduction of them in different structures. And without using polyvinyl alcohol at all they make a filling material whose raw material is limestone, and use it in construction.

The Functional Paint Works of Kim Il Sung University has conducted the research work to produce diversified, multi-

functional and multicoloured building materials, thus producing scores of kinds of functional paint. Previously, the works produced merely exterior and interior coating materials. Through the repeated research its managers succeeded in making functional paint for different purposes by adding additives to the acryl-based paint. And they and technicians on the shop floor pooled their wisdom to find out a rational method of improving the quality of synthetic resins with the existing foundation of the works, thus developing multicolour-patterned paint. The paint was highly appreciated at the 2019 National Exhibition of Sci-tech Achievements in the Field of Finishing Materials.

Scientists of the Paektusan Institute of Architecture conducted dozens of experiments, thus inventing a rational and ideal method of colouring sand in any colours that blend well with natural environment. Not content with this, they established a coloured sand-based colour-plastering method, rendering a great service to the development of the country's urban beautification.

Scientists and technicians of Korea are now fully displaying their wisdom in further developing the building materials industry so as to improve the cultured life of the people.

Sim Chol Yong

Light-burned Magnesia Goods Produced



Manager
Ri Kum Hwa.

THE BUILDING MATERIALS COMPANY under the control of the Local Construction and Building Materials Management Bureau, North Hwanghae Province, is producing varieties of furniture, furnishings and building materials made of light-burned magnesia.

It was over ten years ago that they decided to produce various goods with light-burned magnesia. Ri Kum Hwa, manager of the company, says, "When we had the first trial to make products with light-burned magnesia as the main material, we didn't

get what we had expected. Some people voiced the opinion that it would be better to use timber for some parts while adopting a mould for the main part alone. Because it required much labour to mould even a small part. But we could never give up halfway."

Despite repeated failures they made strenuous efforts, directing their attention to how to ensure accuracy in moulding goods. By developing an additive which is highly resistant to water, they developed products which are moisture-proof and fairly strong.

Not resting on their laurels, they set a higher goal of producing lighter goods. They fixed the rational rate of composition of additives, which made it possible to reduce the weight of products by half. Thus, they became able to produce any goods of high elasticity and strength, decorated with various patterns.

Among the first products were doors, round

▶ tables, single pedestal tables and chairs, dining tables and chairs, tea tables as well as ping-pong tables. According to the manufacturers, the intensity of the furniture becomes greater as the material changes into magnesium carbonate with gradual absorption of carbonic acid gas from the air. These fire-proof goods are now widely used in every field, they added.

Kim Chang Song, an official of the local urban construction company, says, "In recent years lots of structures have been built across the country. And we needed more and more shutterings. As the shutterings made of light-burned magnesia can be recycled as many as 300 or 500 times, we could save a lot of funds and manpower as compared with the time when we had employed wooden shutterings. And they were easy to handle. According to our experience, they show no change in humidity and fire."

These light-burned magnesia products won first place at the 2019 National Exhibition of Sci-tech Achievements in the Field of Finishing Materials and received a certificate of registered sci-tech achievement.

Article by Sim Chol Jun
Photos by Ra Phyoung Ryol



Light-burned magnesia shutterings.

Light-burned magnesia-made furniture presented to the 2019 National Exhibition of Sci-tech Achievements in the Field of Finishing Materials.



“This Is the Product of Our Factory”



Efforts are made to develop new products.

THERE ARE LOTS OF popular products in the shops including Pyongyang Department Store No. 1. Among them is *Pongsonhwa*-brand product from the Rangnang Ponghwa Garment Factory.

Previously *Pongsonhwa*-brand products were widely known. Recently the factory has brought about a turn in diversifying the range, types and colours of its products and improving their quality, which are attracting the public attention.

The technicians of the factory’s new product development section are always busier than anybody else. To create designs of products, they used to contact the sellers of their allotted shops to inquire what they want. Sometimes, they would spend all day at the *Pongsonhwa*-brand goods counter of a department store to listen to the purchasers’ opinions.

It happened after Ri Cho Yon was assigned to the aforesaid section after graduating from the Pyongyang Jang Chol Gu

University of Commerce. Seeing her worrying about her work, Nam Hyon Mi, head of the section, said, “Go among the people, and then you can find a way.”

Soon, Cho Yon went to the Pyongyang Underground Shop. At the *Pongsonhwa*-brand goods counter she noticed some women talking about spring and autumn underwears in their hands.

“In my opinion this form of underwear of this colour would be suitable for young women,” one woman said.

“The lace around the neck alone looks stiff, isn’t it?” said another.

At the moment, a new idea occurred to Cho Yon. After returning to the factory, she developed a new design with that kind of cloth of the same colour. The spring and autumn underwear she presented was highly appreciated not only in a show but also in the national consumer goods exhibition.

Her first creation of new style was so popular with women that

the factory could hardly produce the clothes enough to meet their demand.

At present the speed of the factory’s development of products has grown very much. This can be proved by the fact that over 20 trial goods are on display at a weekly show. And only those found acceptable there are allowed to get into production.

For the purpose, the technicians each develop one or two designs every day, and workers of the factory also vie to develop new ones to present in such a show.

High quality, new style and decent colour constitute the show’s criterion of evaluation. This makes sure that the *Pongsonhwa*-brand products are rated as the best in different exhibitions and shows.

As to the products associated with their efforts and wisdom, the technicians say with pride, “This is the product of our factory.”

Rim Ok

Aroma of Kimchi

NOVEMBER IS A MONTH of preparing kimchi for winter in Korea. Kimchi making is under way in urban and rural communities and every family. There are different kinds of kimchi such as whole bok choy kimchi, sliced bok choy or radish kimchi seasoned with pepper, kimchi without seasoning and cubed radish kimchi.

The aroma of the tasty kimchi does not come from families alone—it also emanates from the kimchi stands set up across the capital city of Pyongyang.

When I met Nam Kyong Hui, a woman resident in Neighbourhood Unit No. 21, Sogam-dong, Pothonggang District, on my way to news coverage, she said, “Kimchi can be called the second staple diet for winter, so it takes an important part in the dietary life of families. In the past it took much trouble for us women to prepare varieties of tasty kimchi. Now kimchi factories have gone up everywhere, so we can have the dish anywhere in all seasons.”

Kim Kuk Hui, a 76-year-old woman, said, “The *Podulbit*-branded kimchi from the Pothonggang Kimchi Factory is very unique, especially its taste and aroma. I always feel the taste of home-made kimchi.”

So I made for the Pothonggang Kimchi Factory situated

in Pothonggang District, Pyongyang. The green-coloured single-storey factory with 40-odd employees was cosy at first sight. When I asked Pak Yong Gum, manager of the factory, about the secret of its producing kimchi favoured by the consumers, she said, “As you know, kimchi is a traditional food made and developed by our ancestors. So the aroma of kimchi can be said to be the one unique to our nation. We only strived to enrich the aroma ourselves.”

She continued to say about her factory’s three-point management strategy.

The factory was applying the traditional method in kimchi production. It was cultivating chemical fertilizer- and insecticide-free vegetables including bok choy, radish, cucumber and eggplant and wild edible greens, and those for seasonings such as chilli, garlic and ginger. Its employees were often irritated by different kinds of insects when they were working in the relevant cultivation area, the manager added.

Maintaining the principle of self-development in modernization of production processes is important part of the factory’s management strategy. Previously, manual labour had taken a large share in carrying and washing raw materials. How-

ever, the workers of the factory renovated their workplace in response to the manager’s call to do so by themselves. Thanks to their effort and wisdom a bok choy and radish washing process and a flow-line process for seasoning pouring were established in the factory in 2017. Last year it introduced kimchi-packing machine it made by itself.

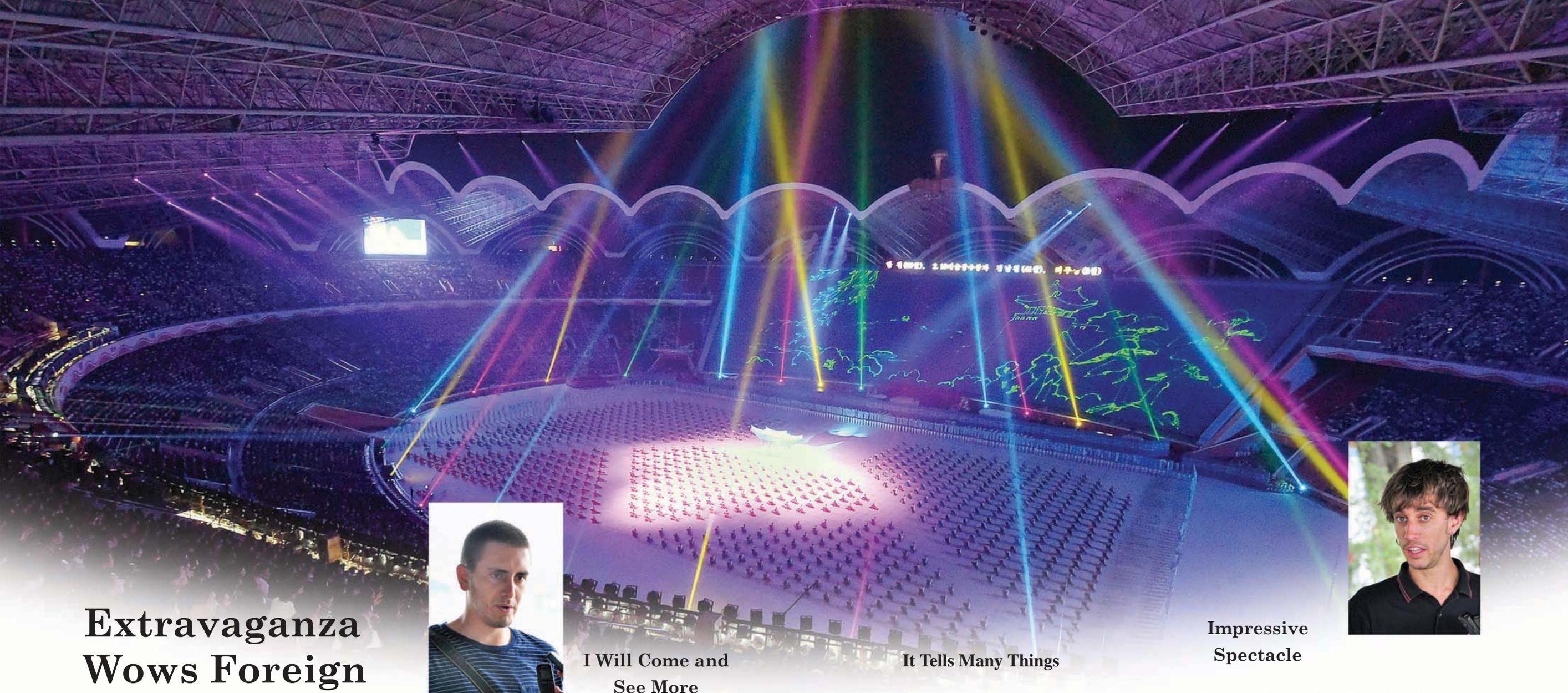
At present all the processes of the factory from storing to packing have been put on a flow-line and automation basis.

The most important part of the factory’s management strategy is to encourage the workers to take part in developing new products. The workers as well as technicians and researchers were of the opinion that they are the masters of developing new products. In a word, the workers’ zeal for new product development has become a trend in the factory. This year it has developed a dozen new products such as aralia shoots kimchi and anise kimchi.

Now the factory is producing over 50 kinds of dishes. Though it is small, its employees are making effort to carry forward the traditional food. Thanks to their effort the aroma of kimchi is wafting all the year around.

Choe Sol Mi





Extravaganza Wows Foreign Viewers

THE GRAND MASS GYMNASTICS and artistic performance “The Land of the People” is drawing admiration of viewers from abroad.

Here are some impressions voiced by members of the delegation of the Korean Friendship Association based in Spain.



I Will Come and See More

The performance was like nothing we have seen before in our country.

It was like seeing an Olympic Games opening ceremony on the level of details. It was well worth seeing and very impressive. We have been talking all the morning about how it was and that there is nothing similar in our country.

We feel very lucky to have the opportunity of seeing that. We are very moved.

Definitely, I would like to come again and see that kind of performance, every one of them.

Santiago Lascano Santa Cruz

It Tells Many Things

I agree with my friends that the performance was great.

It was something we could not see before and I am pretty sure that the performers have been working very hard. We did not see any mistake and the performance was perfect.

I wonder how they could organize the students to make all the cartoons and pictures. I think the people who were organizing the performance, especially the background stand, were really good.



Laureano Recio



Impressive Spectacle

The most impressive thing in this tour of Pyongyang was the grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance.

The whole performance was extraordinary but the most exciting part was acrobatics.

It was really amazing to see acrobats zooming down from an airborne motorcycle and some others flying up high and passing through rings in the air.

I have never seen such a magnificent stunt in my life.

I will tell my family, relatives and colleagues about the wonderful performance.

Joan Balomares

Mirae Sci-Tech Centre

LAST JUNE, THE MIRAE Sci-Tech Centre was newly built in Kim Chaek University of Technology. With a total floor space of 14 000 square metres, it is an 18-storeyed building.

On the ground floor there is an exhibition hall which shows successful scientific and technological projects carried out by teachers, researchers and students of the university. There are also examination rooms.

Floors from the first to the 16th floor make up an area of research and development; here are research institutes, research facilities, over 60 development teams' offices and over 30 laboratories—typically the Electrical Engineering Institute, the Information Technology Institute and the Telecommunications Institute.

Working in this area are de-

velopment teams consisting of teachers, researchers and students. High-tech products are developed and produced.

The deputy director Jon Ryong Jin of the analysing apparatus institute of the Metal Engineering Faculty said to me, "We have developed a lot of high-tech products including a near infrared spectrometer and an atomic emission spectrometer. Now we are hastening the research into a flow cytometer in the last stage."

The area is also used to help students get the ability to realize their scientific ideas and plans through practice and manipulation in after-school and practice hours.

"Here we are making free use of information exchange on the Internet and designing and developing programs as we want.

This is an era of IT industry and the students' goal is to become a world-famous program master by acquiring more about information science and technology in the university period," said Kim Kang Guk, a third-year student of the College of Information Science and Technology.

The 17th floor has a hall for international scientific discussion, two small council rooms and an interview room.

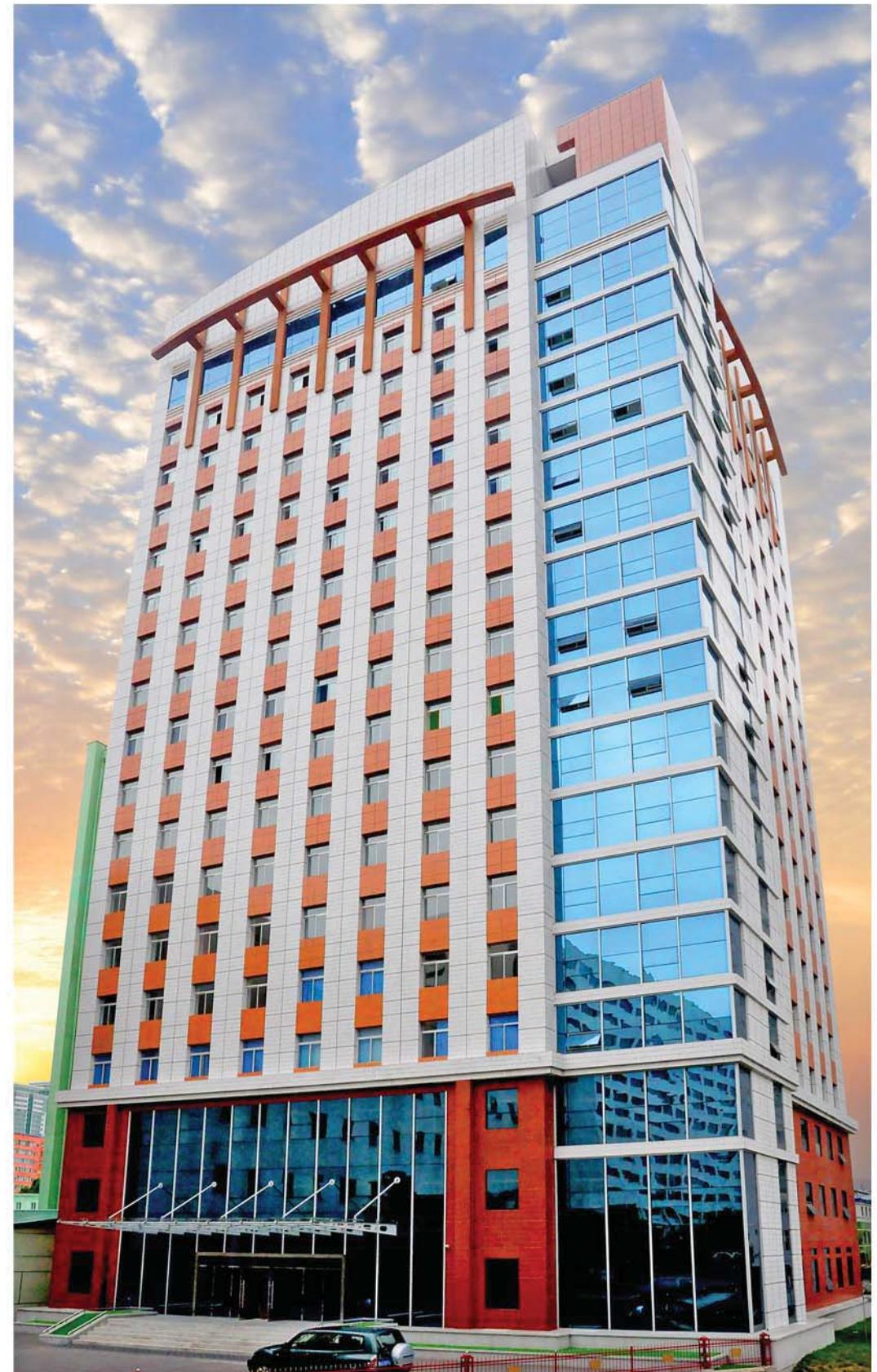
Vice Director of the centre Ri Song Ju said, "Our strategy is to develop our university into the centre of the international and domestic exchange of science and technology in a short time. In implementing this strategy, the Mirae Sci-Tech Centre will play an important role in the future."

*Article by Choe Sol Mi
Photos by Ri Song Ik*



Researchers develop new products.

The exhibition hall.



Women Doctors



Pak Hye Suk.

First Woman Doctor of University

Pak Hye Suk, teacher of the mineralogy and lithology department at the Geology Faculty, is the first woman doctor of the university. In her university days she was well known as a student of high ability. After graduation, she became a teacher.

To give students a vivid idea of mineral resources in the country, she made a field investigation into mines across the country. In the course of this, she not only ascertained deposits of nonferrous metals and rare minerals but also established a method of prospecting nonferrous metals.

Then she wrote a thesis titled *Research on the Demonstrative Characteristics of Ore Quartz in the Polymetallic Ore Deposits and Its Geological Application*, and soon she received her doctorate in geology. At that time she was in her thirties.

Later, she compiled 13 books, textbooks and reference

books including *Compendium of Geology, Applied Mineralogy* and *Mineralogy*, wrote and published over 60 essays and trained two doctors.

Having conducted the research to expand the fields of mineral use, Pak developed an inorganic colour, an inorganic hemostatic and *Noul*, a database on mineral natural colour resources, thus she was awarded a state patent and a state certificate of registered sci-tech achievement at national exhibitions and contests.

And she succeeded in the research to substitute natural minerals for imported vinyl chloride paint, and thus she became an October 8 Model Teacher, and was awarded the title of professor in January this year.

When they had to solve the problem of obtaining microelements necessary for poultry feed additives and animal preservation and care, she developed microelement additives using niter, making a great contribution to the development of the country's poultry farming.

IN KOREA WHERE SOCIAL equality is ensured, its women have grown up into a powerful force that propels the progress of the society. Among them

are professors and doctors of Kim Il Sung University. The *Korea Today* editorial board introduces some of them below.

Doctor of Microorganism

Recently Korea is conducting a vigorous reforestation campaign. What is important in the project is the role of tree nurseries. But the tree nurseries were often in danger of being affected by harmful insects due to climatic conditions.

All relevant scientists and researchers strove to solve the problem.

Professor and Doctor Kim Ryon Hwa, teacher of the forest conservation department of the Forestry College, went to a tree nursery and noticed saplings turning yellow because of wilt. Soon she took various steps to get rid of the disease, thus making it

possible to save all the saplings. Later, she developed microorganism-based pesticides to remove powdery mildew occurring in plants, flowers and crops, and in 2014, she developed similar pesticides *Chongsin* and *Phurunip*.

In addition, she played a big role in establishing an integrated management system to care for trees of the Taedonggang Combined Fruit Farm.

Kim, who has made a great contribution to the improvement of the people's eating habit by solving problems arising in fish farming and stockbreeding, is now displaying her ability to the full in afforestation. Thus she is called doctor of microorganism.

Kim Ryon Hwa.



Choe Chun Hwa.

Doctor Who Created Unique Teaching Method

Choe Chun Hwa, head of the visual information processing department of the Information Science College, is well known as a doctor who created a unique teaching method in the university.

She solved lots of sci-tech problems arising in the modernization of TV broadcasting equipment and in different sectors of the national economy. Her theses, including *Visual Estimation by Particle Filter*, were published in foreign magazines gaining great favour, and her research achievements were greatly conducive to the education of the younger generation.

Recently Choe has created and introduced a research-based teaching method of combining priority education and applied experiments in special lessons, which helps students improve their practical ability and creativity. The method enables students to raise questions

by themselves and combine thought and research. Thus it was recognized as a superior teaching method which helps students display their ability to the full, and she was awarded a certificate of registered new teaching method.

She also manufactured several experimental apparatuses to ensure cutting-edge education, including a computer visual control experimental device, a stereoscopic visual correcting system and a 3-D reconstruction device, and developed and introduced different simulation programs to education.

In addition, she developed new subjects such as computer vision and modelling method, and compiled over ten textbooks and reference books including the textbook *Computer Diagram Science* and the reference book *3-D Computer Vision*.

Now she is making a strenuous effort to create profitable and superior teaching methods.

Article by Sim Chol Yong
Photos by Ri Chung Guk



With High Aim

JONG CHOL RYONG, AN instructor of the program science circle of Kim Chaek University of Technology, often says to his disciples, "Only those who always set a high goal can make progress and achieve success." This is a lesson he learned from work and life.

It was at the Codechef Internet program contest held in June 2013 that the circle made its international debut. As the contest brings together more than 3 000 teams from over 100 countries to compete in ability, it is one of the world's top three Internet program contests.

And the circle won first place at the aforesaid contest to the surprise of the participants.

It was in July 2013, a month

after the contest that Chol Ryong was appointed as an instructor of the circle. At that time its members were full of enthusiasm and their ability was good. But they were conventional in the way of thinking and method of solving problems. Moreover, they were carried away by their success.

As a result, the members of the circle were sadly defeated in three consecutive contests in July, August and September. It left a serious lesson to Jong and his disciples that if one becomes self-contented, one is bound to fail and that only when they make exact demands on themselves and redouble their efforts can they win.

Since then Jong put in efforts to change their studying method.

Most of all, he made a database with all the problems suggested in the past international program contests and difficult questions to solve around the world. Based on this, he had the circle members pool their wisdom and efforts to find correct answers to questions most rapidly. After solving the problems, he saw to it that they conducted simulated Codechef training.

And in accordance with shifts in members of the circle, he put emphasis on their efforts to maintain the enthusiasm for and tradition of study.

Thanks to their tireless efforts, the circle displayed its new aspect in the Codechef Internet program contest held in April 2014. Ryu Song Chol, one of its members, won first place by de-



The circle members in the venue of the 43rd Annual ICPC World Finals held in the University of Porto, Portugal, and the certificates they received in the contest.

feating all his strong rivals from other countries, thus having the national flag fly again on the Internet. Later the circle won another four consecutive similar victories in August, October, November and December that year.

Based on the success, they further exerted themselves, and thus the circle members Mun So Min, Kim Song Il and Hwang Paek I won consecutive victories in the Codechef Long Challenge. As a result, it succeeded in winning the contest more than 10 times for five years.

But they never rested on their laurels. Jong and his students set a goal of participating in the International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC),

which can be said to be a world brain war. The contest, which is held every year, is one of the most difficult competitions in the world participated in by 50 000 selected students from more than 3 000-odd universities in over 100 countries and regions.

Mun So Min, Ri Kuk Song and Kim Song Il from the circle won gold prizes at the 2018 ICPC Asia Beijing Regional Contest and the 2018 ICPC East Asia Continent Final respectively, and obtained qualifications for the ICPC world finals.

In April this year they took part in the 43rd Annual ICPC World Finals held in the University of Porto, Portugal, and won

the silver medal and the top prize of the Asia East Champions.

When a reporter asked about their impression of the contest, Kim Song Il said, "Though we failed to take first place in this contest, we don't lose courage. What is important is that we've got self-confidence in victory through the contest."

They had already achieved quite a lot in the previous contests, but they seemed unsatisfied. Now Jong and his students told the reporter about their goal to attain in the next ICPC. They are making strenuous efforts to attain the goal.

*Article by Kim Son Myong
Photos by Ri Chung Ryol*

With a determination to win another victory.



Haeju College of Technology



Students improve their ability through practice.

THE HAEJU COLLEGE of Technology is situated in Haeju, South Hwanghae Province. Its predecessor was the Haeju College of Technology and Economy established in April 1954 not long after the end of the Fatherland Liberation War (June 25, 1950–July 27, 1953) for the purpose of training technical personnel to boost the destroyed national economy.

Its name changed into the present one in April 2015.

Mainly aimed at training technical personnel, the college is conducting a vigorous campaign to have the teachers develop a high sense of responsibility and enhance their role as required by the developing reality in which the range of education content is widening.

Through keen collective competition for improving their qualifications, the teachers developed and introduced new teaching methods and different

teaching aids, which help the students improve their cognitive faculty, and enhance the efficiency of education.

In addition, all classrooms turned into multifunctional ones, and IT was introduced into education and teaching administration. And in keeping with the present-day trend in education development, new teaching methods are constantly introduced to improve the students' ability.

In a few years, the teachers developed more than 2 830 e-teaching plans that make a contribution to the education work.

Under the plans of creating experimental and practice training equipment and renovation and modernization, the college scrupulously organized the work of implementing them, thus bringing about many achievements.

Its teachers newly completed over 60 experimental apparatuses and teaching aids, including a PIC-based computer binding material analysing device developed by Won Jong Sop, teacher of the computer technology department, and are actively in-



Able people are trained so that they will play a good role in reality.



Zeal for learning.



▶roducing them to the education work.

Having presented valuable sci-tech achievements in different festivals and exhibitions, they were awarded 13 certificates of registered sci-tech achievement and over 80 certificates of invention, all of which are making a contribution to the development of the provincial economy.

In the past several years, 37 of the teachers were awarded certificates of registered new teaching method, seven, certifi-

icates of registered educational and scientific achievement and over 20, the title of October 8 Model Teacher.

With the improvement of the educational conditions and environment and the quality of education, the students' ability is further improving. In recent years students from the college have taken top three places in the national university students' information sci-tech achievements exhibition, and the number of such students is increasing.

In March this year, five students from the college, including Yun Myong Su, third-grader of the computer technology course, and Jong Chung Hyok, third-grader of the fishing technology course, won the university students scientific research prize.

Now the college is steadily striving to train its students into technical personnel capable of doing their share in the developing reality.

Article by Pak Yong Il

Photos by Ra Jin Hyok

Effective Fuel Additive

AT THE MOMENT research on fuel additive around the world tends to reduce fuel consumption, prevent corrosion of the engine and reduce gas emission.

The Pyongyang Taehung Fur-tanning Company has developed the Taehung Fuel Additive. It makes it possible to reduce fuel consumption sharply by enhancing combustion efficiency to the maximum. According to the result of several horsepower tests, when the

additive is mixed at the rate of 0.1% of the amount of fuel, it could save over 12% of gasoline and almost 9% of diesel consumption.

And it was proved scientifically that when the additive was introduced into vehicles, it saved fuel consumption two or three times more than the result of the tests. And the tolerance threshold of all the elements that have unfavourable effects on the engine's fuel supply system fully meet international standards.

The people who have used it for several years give a comment that there has been no engine corrosion or wearing, and that it has saved a large quantity of fuel while remarkably reducing gas emission.

When it is added to low-quality fuel or that past the expiration date, it also raises the engine's efficiency and improves the quality of fuel.

It was registered as a national sci-tech achievement in June last year, and awarded the certificate of the State quality authentication at the national sci-tech achievement exhibition in the energy sector held in October last year.

Pak Yong Il

Look in Changgwang Kindergarten

ANYBODY IS BUSY IN the morning rush hour. More so are the teachers and workers of the Changgwang Kindergarten situated in Central District, Pyongyang. This is not merely because it is a weekly kindergarten. At 06:30 the daily routine of the kindergarten starts with a signal announcing the time for its children to get up.

Now Jo Hyon A, teacher in charge of senior class No. 6, who is called *youngest mum* in the

kindergarten, also greets the morning at the kindergarten. As usual she is very busy taking care of dozens of little children's life in detail, asking them to wash their hands well, gargle well with salt water and so on. Thus sweat gathers on her forehead in a few minutes, but she always wears a smile.

At 9 starts the children's lesson of the day. At present the kindergarten is making the most of the intellectual devel-

opment multimedia program *Kkotbongori* it invented by itself for the education and edification of the children. Consisting of 1 800 intellectual problems, including search, choosing and guessing ones, to suit the children's psychology, the program is very popular with not only the children but also their parents.

Department head Jong Un Sil, one of the program developers, is a veteran educator with a



► career of over 30 years. Recalling how the program was developed, she says, "Frankly speaking, I was quite busy when we were making the program. I even spent several nights processing and editing over 16 000 pieces of images. Now I'm happy that the introduction of the program has brought about great progress in educating and edifying children." With the help of the program Om Yu Bin, a mischievous boy, has now become a pride of

the kindergarten, she adds.

Among the "mums" striving for good care of the children are cooks as well. It is their duty to spare no sincerity to provide the children with good meals.

When I visited the kindergarten I found it was the birthday of Choe Song Gyeong and Kim Ye Jin of senior classes Nos. 8 and 6 respectively. The cooks had already had a hard time preparing birthday foods for the two children. At noon there took place

a birthday celebration. Some children gave them flowers, and others produced fine toys. And the children happily relished the dishes prepared by the cooks.

From 15 to 19 the children conduct extracurricular activities enjoying themselves in the playground, nature study room, folk game room, room for playing at housekeeping and wading pool. According to their tastes and aptitudes some children learn to play the piano, violin, ►

Teachers put efforts in intellectual development of children.





Children enjoy a happy time.



► hour-glass drum and *kayagum* and *paduk* (go).

The greatest favourite of the children is the art room where they model animals and plants with clay or other materials or make drawing.

Jong Kyong Ae, a teacher in charge of the room, is always busy helping the children, making teaching aids to develop their ability to conceive, obtaining picture books to widen their mental vision and inventing methods of fine art practice to suit the little minds. Thanks to her guidance children from the kindergarten always take first place at an annual sketch festival. Song Un Hong, a girl from the kindergarten, won the special prize by distinguishing herself in modeling in clay at the 12th national contest of kindergarten children with special talent held in July last.

Also exemplary are violin department head Won Mi Gyong, piano teacher Jong In Suk and *paduk* teacher Ri Ryon Hwa who are all busy looking after children.

People's Teacher Jon Chang Suk, head of the kindergarten, says, "It is natural that we 'mums' are always busy for the happiness and future of the children, and it is our pleasure, I think."

At 21 silence settles in the kindergarten which has been full of children's reading, singing and laughing all day long. Stars are shining in the sky, and the children are already sound asleep.

The "mums," however, are busy preparing for tomorrow of the children.

Article by Kim Hyon Ju
Photos by An Yong Chol
and Hwang Jong Hyok



Children are under warm care.



Honest Ophthalmologist

THERE IS A WOMAN DOCTOR CALLED *Our Daughter* and *Our Mother* in the ophthalmic department of North Hwanghae Provincial People's Hospital. She is senior doctor Kim Myong Wol.

One day a woman from Pongsan County of the province came to the department. She was suffering from an eye trouble that the provincial hospital had never operated on before. So she had to be sent to a national hospital.

That evening Kim reproached herself for her inability. Then she, based on her medical knowledge and experience, made her determination to introduce an artificial eye lens plantation operation in the treatment of cataract highest in blindness and case rates.

For the purpose she went to the national hospital to meet experienced doctors there. Under their positive support, she learned micromanipulation. Through hundreds of mock operations, she finally mastered the core technology of the artificial eye lens plantation operation, and succeeded in the first operation of the kind.

Since then she could perform any operations on eye diseases like cataract and glaucoma without difficulty.

Once a case who had lost his eyesight a long time before came to see her, wondering whether the doctor might restore his eyesight. Luckily, he regained his eyesight thanks to her high technology and sincerity, and shed tears of gratitude.

Not resting on her laurels, she conducted the treatment not only in her hospital but also out in Songnim City and Phyongsan, Thosan, Singye and Unpha counties of the province in deep mountains.

When an old man who was afraid of going outside because of his loss of eyesight restored his eyesight, he shed tears, repeatedly saying he was very glad to see this good world he had only heard about.

Once a miner's wife was rushed to the department of the hospital. At that time her condition was very serious: She had long suffered intractable keratitis, and one day her corneal burst due to a sudden external wound, with the content of an eye



nearly spilt.

After giving the patient first-aid treatment, Kim participated in the department discussion with a heavy heart. Because the case was allergic to special dishes, medicines and any slight climatic change. Plantation materials would worsen her condition while causing negative reaction, even complete loss of eyesight. What was most necessary to preserve the condition of her eye and the nutritive condition of its cornea was the bioconjunctiva tela.

After due consideration for two days, Kim decided to graft her conjunctiva to the patient. Soon the relevant operation was done without the patient knowing. When she knew it the day she restored her eyesight, she said in tears, "Doctor, I don't mind losing my eyes, but your eyes should take care of those of many people."

That's not all. She treated with sincerity more than 30 cases from South Hamgyong and other provinces. For the last 32 years she has restored more than 9 500 patients who had lost eyesight or had eye diseases, over 2 000 of whom were cataract patients.

Besides, she finished and made public scores of research tasks and essays including *Research on Operational Treatment of Cataract*, rendering a great service to the development of ophthalmology.

The State put forward her as a National Meritorious Person of Socialist Patriotism and a prototype in the Mallima era.

Sim Yong Jin

Our Doctor

“DOCTOR, DOCTOR,” A WOMAN shouted rushing into the office of the paediatrics department of the Moranbong District People’s Hospital. She came from Kaeson-dong, Moranbong District, Pyongyang. She held in her arms a five-year-old girl who was out of consciousness. With tetanus caused by toxic colitis the child was in a critical condition. Doctors immediately started her treatment. They administered an antidote and an antibiotic to her, and took a measure to keep her warm. At last her life indexes reached the stage of recovery.

A lot of similar patients have recovered thanks to the paediatricians. Ri Nam Hui, head of the department, has got rich experience of over 30 years and a good medical art. She has written different books including *Handbook of Clinical Paediatrics* and *Reference Book for Intensive Paediatric Treatment*, won four State patents and presented more than 100 treatises. Not long ago she was awarded



the title of Meritorious Person of Socialist Patriotism.

Recently her department has introduced a treatment method of multiplying the intestinal bacteria in order to remove the burden on organs caused by medicines and raise curative efficacy. As a result, it cures children without using chemical medicines like antibiotic.

A few years ago a patient visited the otorhinolaryngology and head and neck department of the hospital. Unable to diagnose the patient correctly, the doctors decided to send the patient to a hospital



► of higher grade. The patient left the hospital with worry about his disease and the thought that he had to go to a faraway hospital.

Doctors of the department were more worried than the patient. They were sorry they failed to fulfil their duty. Then they made up their mind to make by themselves a laryngoscope badly needed for diagnosis and treatment. After making the device, they did an ear endoscope and other treatment devices.

Many residents of the district benefited from them. Kim Kang Chol, a resident of Hungbu-dong in the district, had thought little of his months-old hoarse voice. And thinking it was clergyman’s sore throat, he went to the district hospital. The endoscopy, however, showed that it was cancer of larynx. As it was detected in its early stage he could get well again after an operation.

The obstetrical and gynaecological department of the hospital is also famed for having invented a new remedy.

Previously hormone drugs had been used for the treatment of woman’s diseases. It, however, had adversely affected the health of women under long treatment.

The new treatment the department developed cures a disease by blocking astral ganglions so as to adjust the balance of hormones in the body without using hormone drugs. The relevant manipulation is simple but highly efficacious. It can cure dif-

ferent diseases including functional metrorrhagia, mastopathy and pregnant hypertension. The treatment was rated as excellent at medical science and technology festivals and sci-tech achievements exhibitions, and introduced in many other hospitals.

All the other departments of the Moranbong District People’s Hospital have made similar achievements. The number of patients sent to hospitals of higher grade has decreased considerably, and the sickrooms and treatment rooms of the hospital have improved, so residents of the district can get medical treatment without any inconvenience in the local hospital.

The residents call the hospital doctors “our doctors” as they take good care of their health with excellent medical art.

Article by Rim Ok
Photos by Yun Song Hwa

A medical consultation.



Promising Judoist

IN APRIL LAST THE 2019 Asian-Pacific Judo Championships took place in the United Arab Emirates bringing together 270 male and female judoists from countries and regions in Asia and Oceania.

In the women's 57-kg category Kim Jin A of the Pyongyang Sports Club from the DPRK won first place, drawing the attention of the experts and amateurs. She defeated her Jordanian rival in the preliminary, and a Chinese in the quarter-finals.

In the finals she stood against the Japanese rival who had defeated a Mongolian judoist, a world champion. (The Japanese was the hopeful of the event.) With the signalling of the start of match Kim launched a positive attack. She took the initiative in the match by using her forte, managing the game confidently. However, the four-minute-long match ended in a draw. Now the two players had to go into extra time—it was a confrontation of spirit beyond physical and technical abilities. By applying positive tactics the

Korean judoist beat off her Japanese rival.

The result of the finals caused a sensation, because an unknown Korean player cut her figure in the Asian judo world. After the finals the chairman of the International Judo Federation said that he sincerely congratulated Kim's success, and that he wished her to achieve successes in the future, too.

Full of joy over her win Kim recalled those people who had helped and led her wholeheartedly: her coach put in all effort to her training; her parents and friends earnestly asked her to make a success; and the officials of the sports club took selfless care of her lest she should be exhausted in training or fall ill.

Kim was born as the youngest daughter of a worker's family in Rangnang District, Pyongyang. As she was clever, cheerful and patient, she was liked by her friends. She was good at her studies, so she was always praised by her teachers.

. One day in 2005 when she was nine years old she was play-

ing with her friends, while a woman (she was Kim Jong Sim, a judo instructor of a juvenile sports school) was carefully looking at her with a stronger constitution and better perseverance than other children.

When the instructor said that she would train Jin A into a judoist, the child was delighted, but her parents were embarrassed. The teacher explained carefully that Jin A would be able to make a wonderful judoist. Now her parents accepted her proposal. In this way the child started her career of judoist, and two years later, she was admitted into the aforesaid sports club.

Kim Ryon Mi, a coach of the sports club who took Jin A, says, "Jin A was patient with a good physical condition and a great mental power. She never failed to fulfil her training task she had chosen herself. One year after she came to the sports club she participated in domestic games. She started to distinguish herself in 2009. She took part in the national senior contests from when she was 16."

Jin A participated in the 2019 International Judo Federation Hohhot Grand Prix held in May last, winning a gold medal. At the competition she used different fortes in each match, drawing the attention of the experts again.

She rose to prominence in the international judo circle by winning victory at the Asian juvenile and junior judo championships held in 2011. Now she is training hard with the help of her coach Ryon Mi to win another gold medal.

Pak Un Yong

True story

I'll Remain a Winner (2)

Kang Ho Jin

NOT A FEW PEOPLE including some officials of the Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports said the same thing when they knew that Sun Hui was appointed as a coach of the Moranbong Sports Club.

The sports club, with the Moranbong District Juvenile Sports School under it, had to raise little reserve judoists as well as the active.

It is not an easy job at all to train little judoists, and an obvious success is not to be expected in a year or two.

Sun Hui could not readily open the gate, for she could not tell what would happen to her if she opened it. And she was worried she might lose even her past honour instead of keeping a successful career.

Though she had made up her mind to decide her future after understanding the condition of the young athletes, she now found herself hesitating without knowing why.

Then she heard childish voices coming out from inside.

"I hear Kye Sun Hui is coming to teach us."

"You know, she is a Kim Il Sung Prize winner, Labour Hero and world judo queen."

"Wow! she's great, indeed."

Having already heard the news, the children were talking enthusiastically about Sun Hui. This made her fall into deep thought.

The whole country and the

whole world as well as the children know me, and who am I?

She was a Kim Il Sung Prize winner, Labour Hero, People's Athlete, Olympic gold medalist, quadruple world female judo champion and world-famous female judoist who had been invited to participate in many national functions including the celebration of the 60th birthday of the Workers' Party of Korea and elected a deputy to her district people's assembly.

As an athlete and citizen of the country she had been loaded with quite a lot of honours. Now, however, she considered herself quite ordinary.

Who am I really? She asked herself once again.

The question woke her past memories of her days spent in the training hall.

Sun Hui wept in her mortification.

In her days at the Janghun Primary School she ranked top in running. But she failed to pass an examination to recruit Taekwon-Do circle members of the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace because of her lack of flexibility.

Back home she wept, and spent a week weeping on. She felt chagrined at having failed to join the Taekwon-Do circle she had wished to do, but what further mortified her was that she was judged inferior to others.

Sun Hui was unusually com-



petitive from her childhood. She hated to lose to anybody, and would not give up the lead to others in doing anything.

Once when she was a first-grader of primary school, a next-door boy boasted of a fallen young magpie he picked up, and she unyieldingly climbed up to the top of a very high poplar in front of her house to catch a magpie by herself to the great worry of her parents and neighbours.

She always took the lead in races. The secret was nothing but that she hated to follow others and that she was satisfied only when she was ahead whether it was a sports competition, study or organizational life. So she ran with her teeth set in races in order to allow nobody to catch up with her, thus always taking first place.

Such an unyielding spirit developed into distinctive stubbornness and tenacity.

The characteristics perhaps enabled her to distinguish herself in study and be exemplary in organizational life so that she was elected sub-branch head of the Children's Union and then head of her school's organization of the union.

One day, unable to stand seeing her sobbing in her room for



► several days, her mother, a biology teacher of the then Songuja Middle School, took her to the Mangyongdae District Juvenile Sports School.

In fact her grandmother and father were displeased with her sports activities. They insisted that she get university education without fail. Her grandmother often argued with her mother, saying, "The precious daughter of our family should surely be sent to university like her father. Our Sun Hui is fond of reading, and what she says is logical. Don't tempt the clever child to do sports."

Her grandmother lost her husband soon after marriage, and brought up her only son Kye Yun Hwan. So she loved Sun Hui, the only granddaughter of her family, most. Sun Hui's grandfather Kye Ho Nam had died in battle while fighting bravely as a regimental commander during the Fatherland Liberation War. The grandmother Pak In Ae had been working as general manager of an enterprise for over 30 years. She also was a deputy to the local district people's assembly. Having worked as an enterprise manager for a long time, she was a woman of strong nerve and principles.

And she brought her son up strictly and uncompromisingly. In his university days the son joined the boxing circle, but he had to give it up six months later because his mother dissuaded him holding that it hindered his study.

Unusual was the grandmother's love for Sun Hui, the only granddaughter of hers. She wanted to send the girl to university so that the latter would not envy others.

But Sun Hui's mother Son To Suk also was of strong princi-

ple as an educator. Noticing her daughter's aptitude for sports in her childhood, she thought she should help her develop the aptitude.

In her nursery days Sun Hui was always fond of romping around instead of playing at housekeeping like others.

Once, when she was about four or five, she went up to the top of a high climbing bar in a school yard by herself. She was so fond of going up to a high place. However much her teacher explained that it was dangerous and tried to keep her from doing so, the child would hang on a wall or iron bar in spare time. So people advised her parents to let her learn acrobatics.

To Suk, however, noticed her unusual aptitude for sports, and made up her mind to help her develop the aptitude. So, despite the opposition of her mother-in-law and husband, she stealthily took her daughter to the juvenile sports school. She also intended to see if the girl would be able to make a successful career in sports.

They went directly to the judo circle of the Mangyongdae District Juvenile Sports School.

At that time the female judo had just started in Korea, and the event was done only by some sports clubs and juvenile sports schools.

The judo instructor of the district sports school was Pak Chol who had previously worked as a coach at the Pyongyang Sports Club after graduation from the Korea University of Physical Education.

Several days before the coach had been at the then Songuja Middle School to recruit, when To Suk met him.

He declared he was there to select reserve female judoists,

but no one readily applied.

He then requested the school administrators to let him give a lesson to To Suk's class which had the most suitable girls.

With the approval of the administrators Pak Chol replaced To Suk in a biology lesson, and she listened to him in one of back seats in the classroom.

The coach started his lesson with the question "How should man live?" and explained about the pride and honour of sport-people.

"Sportspeople are indeed those who fight to defend the honour of the country in peacetime," he said.

Then many of the girls held up their hands volunteering to do judo.

Fascinated by Pak's lesson like the girls, To Suk met him privately asking if he could teach judo to her daughter as well.

The coach declined at first because he could not accept anyone of no suitable physical constitution.

To Suk, however, entreated him, so Pak gave a half-hearted consent promising to bring her daughter one day.

Without knowing it, Sun Hui casually followed her mother.

"To be frank I didn't like Sun Hui at first. I considered her as ordinary as others," the coach said later.

But Sun Hui found Pak wonderful.

In a sleeveless undershirt while guiding his charges in training, the coach was tall and strong with a muscular body.

Accustomed to the image of her father, quiet and of a small build, at home, Sun Hui was amazed to see the coach similar to a masculine warrior described in legendary tales.

(To be continued)



Family of Stamp Collectors

THERE LIVES A FAMILY that has collected stamps through generations in Munhwa-dong, Phyongsong, South Phyongan Province. The family has several stamp albums containing thousands of stamps classified by subjects and fields.

Jang Ung Gwon, the elder of the family at the age of 70 this year, developed a taste for stamp collection since seeing the stamps collected by his elder brother. "Seeing the stamps collected by my elder brother in my childhood, I was seized with curiosity. Among the stamps were those that showed the machines produced in the country and students full of vigour," he says. At the time he found the stamp album quite precious as it seemed to reflect the image of the daily developing country.

One day his brother showed him a stamp of the national flag published in 1949, and told about the pre-liberation days (before August 15, 1945) when he could not learn even though he wanted to as the Koreans

were deprived of their country by the Japanese imperialists. Then he added that they should learn more and more for the precious country.

Now Jang also wished to add new stamps to the album as precious as treasure. Thus he began to collect stamps, and kept doing in his university days and while working as senior staff member of the South Phyongan Provincial People's Committee. The stamps he collected served as not only a fellow traveller and silent teacher who helped him to get knowledge of the country's history, culture and development but also a stimulus to his work for the prosperity of the country.

With the passage of time, he is now 70 years old and the number of his family's stamp albums has increased.

At present his children are collecting stamps. His son Jang Hyon Chol says, "As I have seen my father collect stamps since my childhood, I think that each of the stamps has a meaning.

Seeing the stamps collected by my uncle and father, I felt they reflect the past and present we should never forget, and the confidence in and optimism about the future." Jang Ung Gwon, the father, says, "There are many people who collect stamps as a hobby and for amusement in the world. But it is something to be proud of to collect stamps that reflect the history of the country associated with the happiness of the people."

He had already contributed three Korean stamps published during the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950-July 1953) and two exemplary soldier badges awarded to such soldiers in the period to the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum.

Today his family is frequented by lots of people who want to see the stamps that show the glorious history of the country, and they affectionately call it family of stamp collectors.

Rim Hye Gyong



Mother of Coal Miners

THERE IS A WOMAN NAMED KIM YONG Suk, at the age of 58 this year, in the Songnam Youth Coal Mine of the Pukchang Area Youth Coal-mining Complex, South Phyongan Province.

She has devoted herself to the benefit of the coal miners for over 30 years, thus all the coal miners affectionately call her *mother*.

Determination into Practice

In fact Kim was born in the then Onchon County, South Phyongan Province. After graduating from middle school, she volunteered to work in a farm. At that time she said, "I've learnt to my heart's content free of charge in the nursery, kindergarten, ▶

A sumptuous meal is prepared for miners.



▶ primary school and then middle school. And I gave full play to my ability at the music circle. I think it is time to repay the benefit from the country."

True to her determination, she took the lead in difficult farm work at a youth sub-workteam for over ten years. In the course of this, she became a sub-workteam leader, and hers used to lead the grain production in the farm.

Later she married a coal miner. After she began to live in the village of the youth coal mine, she came to know how hard miners had to work to cut coal.

She then set out to do things for the benefits of miners.

With Parental Mind

A person reveals his true worth when in adversity.

It was a great loss to her that she lost her husband. Her husband had always supported and helped Kim who tried to work for miners. His death confirmed her determination to devote her all to the increased production of coal.

To succeed to her husband who had been a heading worker, she decided to work at the coal-face, but the complex, understanding her intention, saw to it that she worked at the nutrition canteen for miners.

Since then she made a strenuous effort to serve them even a single special dish. And she once went to see a researcher to learn from the latter who had developed new cooking methods for several days.

One year, when the truck transporting fishes from a fishery situated on the west coast of Korea was broken on the way, she brought the fishes with the help of the residents of a nearby village, so that the miners could have fresh fish dishes.

And with the selfless help of her, a man developed into a model miner and the head of the Youth Pit of the aforesaid mine. Recollecting those days, he said, "The saying goes, 'Spare the rod and spoil the child.' The head of the nutrition canteen always leads us to live uprightly." Then he told the following story. There was a freshman who was not attached to his job at all. One day, after finishing the daily work, he returned to the boarding house and

went to bed after having a short bath. Then Kim opened the door quietly and came into the room with special foods. Seeing his cap and dirty clothes hanging roughly on the chair, she scolded him severely: However tired you may be, you must wash the clothes to put on, and live in an orderly fashion. It is easy for you to say you are a miner but difficult to discharge your duty.

Listening to her scolding, he felt motherly love and made up his mind to become a fine miner as she expected.

While working as a department head of the mine, she is still taking good care of the miners with motherly affection. Everyone in the mine is respecting her as the pride of their village.

Article by Kim Il Bong
Photos by An Jong Min

Close care is shown for miners.



Shunned by the Public

RECENTLY MPS OF “Liberal Korea Party” (LKP) have been brought to trials one after another. Typically Ri U Hyon, not long ago, was ousted from the “National Assembly” following seven years’ penal servitude for his acceptance of a huge sum of illegal money.

Several other members of the party have also been expelled from the “National Assembly” after they were given a jail sentence and a pecuniary penalty for their embezzlement of funds of the National Intelligence Service for special activity programs and illegal political funds.

The leadership of the party denounced these judicial decisions as “new judicial evil” while the grassroots were terrified.

The penalties given to LKP members are a just retribution for their illegality and corruption and evil conducts.

When it had been driven out of power by the candlelight force along with the former south Korean President Park Geun Hye, it replaced its old name with “Liberal Korea Party,” while advertising its “reflection” and its plan of “reform” and “breaking with the past record.” But it was still exposed to public criticism and rejection because it remained the vermin that infested peace and stability in the Korean peninsula by keeping up fratricidal confrontation.

The DPRK-US summit meeting and talks held at Panmunjom on June 30 this year had a great impact on the whole world as an extraordinary event to be recorded in history. But the conservative LKP has been finding fault with the summit meeting. Meanwhile, the “Association of Reservists” and other ultra-conservative groups have made

such absurd remarks as “sense of collapse” and “toleration,” disturbing the south Korean society. In this situation the conservative media and so-called experts have intensified their critical offensive against the regime, arguing that its “north policy constitutes the greatest menace to security.”

The LKP’s attitude towards Japan is another indication of its nature as inborn pro-Japanese elements. Since the time of its progenitor “Liberal Party” the party has pursued friendship with Japan as “state policy.”

Last July Japan took a retaliatory economic measure as a sign of disobedience to the south Korean Court’s judgment that Japan should make compensations to south Korean victims of forced draft enforced by the imperialist Japan. This aroused the great public anger from all walks of life in south Korea, and the people are still continuing with their struggle.

The LKP, however, has supported the Japanese moves instead of struggling against it, thus revealing their true colours. Yun Yong Sok, an LKP MP, said it would be of no help to stir up anti-Japanese sentiment constantly, and Ra Kyong Won, the LKP floor leader, asserted that the authorities, driven by romantic and closed nationalism alone, were ruining the relationship with Japan through sentimental and tangled diplomacy. The LKP has even hindered the effort to take government countermeasures against Japan’s retaliatory measure.

Denouncing the party, the south Korean Internet newspaper *Jaju Siboo* carried an appeal

of the south Korean People’s Solidarity for Sovereignty calling upon the people to join the struggle against Japan and the LKP. Noting that a pro-Japanese traitorous group had appeared in south Korea which sympathized with Japan when it launched an economic offensive and caused an internal dispute in concert with Japan, the appeal pointed at the LKP as the centre of evil force. Following the logic of Ri Wan Yong (1858–1926), a pro-Japanese traitor who had sold out old Korea to the Japanese imperialists, the force was coercing the authorities into succumbing to Japan, the appeal denounced. And proposing to destroy the party completely on the occasion, the appeal suggested admitting not even a single lackey of Japan into the “National Assembly.”

The south Korean media, reporting the news of struggles of people of different social strata day after day, commented that the public indignation against the LKP was passing the limit, that it was the first time that all regions and people from all walks of life rose up for the dissolution of a certain political party and that the existence of the LKP itself would be in danger.

The whole land of south Korea is burning with the zeal for the dissolution of the party, and the vigorous mass struggle is developing into another candlelight uprising, wringing the neck of the party.

The stormy public antipathy has driven the party into a tight corner. It is the party’s inevitable lot to go to ruin thanks to severe punishment from the public sentiment.

Kim Il Bong

Where Will *Reiwa* Lead Japan?

ON MAY 1 THIS YEAR Japan started to use *Reiwa*, a new year name, instead of *Heisei* (Achieving Peace), the previous year name of the Japanese emperor which had been used since 1989. *Reiwa* means the “beautiful harmony.” The Japanese Prime Minister Abe pledged that he would create a bright future of his country in the *Reiwa* era.

In the 20s of last century the insular country changed the year name of its emperor from *Taisho* (Great Righteousness) into *Showa* (Bright Peace). In the era of *Showa*, Japan invaded China and ignited the Pacific war in an attempt to attain its ambition of the “Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere,” occupying almost all regions of Southeast Asia. In the *Heisei* era that followed the *Showa* era Japan headed for its conversion into a military power, without giving up its ambition of reinvansion. So the international community is keeping keen eyes on Japan, wondering what is the “bright future” it intends to create in the *Reiwa* era.

Global peace and stability are what mankind desires. But Japan is still in a hurry to turn itself into a “country capable of going to war” now in the *Reiwa* era. Moves to revise the constitution and have the status of a “country capable of going to war” are under way overtly in Japan at present. Some time ago Abe, in the congress of the Liberal Democratic Party, referred to the significance of specifying the existence of the “Self-Defense Forces” in Article 9 of the constitution, and said that the constitutional dispute over the issue should be terminated. Later, in

a plenary session of the House of Representatives, he openly asserted the need to clearly define the existence of the SDF in the constitution.

The Japanese ultraright conservative forces are taking the tough stand that a new constitution should be established by 2020. The Japanese MPs swarm to the Yasukuni Shrine to pay homage to it, fanning the mania for militarization in the society. The Rising Sun, the flag of war crime, is openly fluttering in downtown Tokyo and on Japanese warships, and the educational institutions are forced to hoist *Hinomaru*, symbol of militarism, and sing *Kimigayo*.

Today Japan’s SDF are changing further and further into an aggressive force possessing modern means of attack. The SDF’s sphere of military activity is continuously expanding on a worldwide scale. It is already known that the insular country has laid a legal foundation for overseas military expansion through the adoption of the “bill on peripheral happenings,” the “law relating to emergency cases” and the “law on special measures to counter terrorism.” And the SDF plans to conclude an agreement of goodwill visit status with the British army, and the agreement is already under examination. When the agreement is concluded officially, it is said, the SDF will get legal treatment during its participation in a joint military drill in the territory of its counterpart.

The modernization of the SDF is in full swing. The Japanese authorities adopted a new defence programme and a mid-

term defence capacity maintenance programme in December last year. Accordingly, 27.47 trillion yen, the unprecedented maximum amount in history, will be paid for military expenditure for coming five years to establish and build up units specializing in space and cyberwar, purchase the ground-based missile defence system *Aegis Ashore* and *F-35* stealth fighters from the US.

Making a fuss about someone’s “missile threat,” Japan is attempting to ship from the US 56 “SM-3 Block 1B” which can be mounted on *Aegis* ships—it costs as much as US\$1.15 billion. The insular country is also propelling the introduction of new-type interceptor missile “SM-3 Block 2A” it developed in concert with the US. Together with this, it is overtly attempting to update the escort ship *Izumo* into an aircraft carrier which can carry *F-35B* stealth fighters.

The ultimate aim of conversion into a military power that Japan pursues is overseas aggression. This clearly shows that Japan is going headlong along the road of aggressive war for overseas expansion in the *Reiwa* era as it did in the previous era. Its endeavour to make the *Reiwa* era into an era of realizing reinvansion is nothing but an impossible dream.

The situation in Northeast Asia has changed considerably. If Japan truly wants to advance toward the “bright future” in the *Reiwa* era, it has to know that it should give up its ridiculous ambition of reinvansion, atone for its past crimes completely and follow the trend of the times sincerely.

Kim Jae Sok

Who is Disturber of Peace?

JAPAN IS NOW MAKING a desperate effort to create an atmosphere of hostility toward the DPRK. In the international arena it instigated the complete implementation of the “sanctions resolutions” on the DPRK. Recently it has let loose such a dangerous remark that it “will intercept north Korea’s missiles by exercising the right to collective defence.”

The insular country intends to aggravate the situation in Northeast Asia by branding Korea as a “threatening state” by all means so as to refurbish its image.

As is generally known the situation in the Korean peninsula and its vicinity is developing well thanks to the active and sincere effort of the DPRK. The world is unstintingly supporting and encouraging the country that has brought about three rounds of DPRK-USA summit meeting and the following current of peace in the peninsula and the region. And the absurd remarks of Japan, which has often uttered about “peace,” show that it does not welcome the present reality. Why?

Down through history Japan was the enemy of peace dead set on the moves of confrontation and war under the veil of peace.

In the first half of last cen-

tury Japan, clamouring for the “Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere,” drove the Asian continent into a sea of blood. Since its defeat on August 15, 1945, it has resorted to the revanchist moves for reinvasion while beautifying its past crimes as a “righteous action to protect Asia from the aggression of the European powers.”

In particular, the present rulers of Japan, gabbling about the “positive pacifism,” have run amuck to revise the constitution into war constitution, intensified offensive and aggressive nature of the “Self-Defense Forces” with a colossal sum of military expenditure and hastened its deployment across the world.

Today the world is surprised at Japan’s huge military capabilities. The country fixed 5 257.4 billion yen, an unprecedented maximum sum, for military expenditure this year, and is bent on strengthening the SDF’s capacity for pre-emptive attack such as possession of aircraft carrier and development of long-range cruise missile and weapons-level computer virus.

Meanwhile, the SDF, which has changed into an offensive-oriented force, is expanding the range of military operation,

“regularizing” overseas expansion and practising the capability for war performance. On May 29 last Japan’s *Ashahi Shimbun* reported that the country possessed the largest F-35-series fighter group among the US’s allies, and that the carrier-type ships of the SDF will soon be active in the whole area of Indian and Pacific oceans while carrying F-35B fighters.

Now Japan is overtly asserting that its moves for its conversion into a military power are aimed at checking the advance of its neighbouring powers. So it is never likely to welcome the relaxation of tension, an obstacle to its conversion into a military power, and the DPRK’s leading role in it. This is why the Japanese government is hell-bent on making a fuss about “north Korea’s threat” while putting up with its diplomatic isolation. It is the insular country’s true nature to turn back the good current of the regional situation and profit from the escalation of the tension for its realization of ambition of reinvasion.

However, it is nothing but a wild dream. The more Japan finds fault with the DPRK, the more it will nakedly disclose its evil nature to the international community.

Kim Il Ryong

The Middle East Wants Peace

RECENTLY THE UNITED States, under the cloak of epoch-making deal, made public “a Middle East peace proposal” of its own for settling the dispute between Palestine and Israel. The core of the proposal, which was announced amid the ever-aggravating dispute between the two countries with the hopes of its settlement fading day by day, is that the US will invest tens of billions of US dollars for the sake of the Palestinians for a decade.

Washington is describing the plan as a precondition for putting an end to the dispute of dozens of years, and announcing that it will enable Palestine to achieve economic growth. But the international community comments that the plan proceeds from the sinister intention to deny the Palestinian people territorial sovereignty and the right to self-determination with a trifle of money and legalize Israel’s eternal occupation and settlement, and condemns it as a dangerous plot to frustrate the Palestinians’ will to found an independent state with East al-Quds as its capital.

The Palestinians staged anti-US demonstrations in the Gaza Strip, disclosing the reactionary nature of the economic stimulus package deal designed by the US and protesting that their land

and Quds are not the things to sell and buy, and that even an inch of their territory cannot be sold and bought.

And Arab countries regard the fair settlement of the Palestine-Israel dispute based on two-state solution as the only way to achieve eternal peace and stability in the Middle East.

On July 3, 2000 the central council of the Palestine Liberation Organization approved a decision to proclaim the independent state of Palestine on September 13 that year. Later, in the Middle East peace talks between Palestine and Israel, both sides did not reach a compromise owing to their interests contrary to each other. So Palestine postponed the proclamation after that month.

The Palestinian people’s wish to win back their land has yet to be realized.

Israel is intensifying crackdown on the Palestinians, and running amuck to expand Jewish settlements in territories occupied by it. At the end of last year it announced a plan to build over 2 190 dwelling houses in the settlement in the West Bank of Jordan River, and approved a plan to build 13 new settlements around Al Aksa Temple in East al-Quds.

Israel said that in case protests continued around the Gaza

Strip by the wire entanglement they would not hesitate to use armed forces against the Gaza Strip, and that even if there was created a framework of the peace agreement in the future, there would be no withdrawal of settlements from the West Bank of Jordan River or suspension of their construction.

Foreign press comments that the international community’s arbitration effort ended in smoke owing to the Zionists’ persistent ambition of territorial expansion, and that the Middle East peace process has a longer way to go.

The UN special coordinator of the Middle East peace process, saying that the hopes of solving the Palestine-Israel dispute through a two-state solution had completely faded, expressed his fear that there is a growing danger that the present conflict would develop into war.

It is the unanimous opinion of the analysts that the development of the Middle East peace process cannot be expected as long as Israel keeps resorting to crackdown on the Palestinians, and moves for territorial expansion.

The reality clearly proves who is checking the Middle East peace process.

Rim Hye Gyong

Renowned Figures in Korean History

Ulji Mundok

ULJI MUNDOK IS A PATRIOTIC commander of Koguryo who rendered distinguished services in the war against the foreign aggressors in the early 7th century.

From his childhood he practised military arts like horse riding and archery and studied books on tactics. When he grew up, he became a military officer before being promoted to minister-level officer.

In 612, when Koguryo was attacked by three million foreign invaders, he became the commander-in-chief of the Koguryo army. He commanded the army to conduct defensive warfare against the enemy at the boundary of Ryoha and the Ryodong Fort, frustrating the latter's scheme.

Meanwhile, the enemy's naval force, which had advanced into the vicinity of the Walled City of Pyongyang (North Pyongyang), attacked the fort only to be driven away by a powerful counterattack of the Koguryo army, losing 35 000 troops.

Now the enemy formed a detachment of 305 000 troops to detour in an attempt to pass the front and attack the walled city. When they left, each of them had to carry food for a hundred days, weapons and accoutrements but they were too heavy. So the enemy soldiers buried the food in their bivouac before leaving. A few days later they were faced with hunger.

At this juncture, Commander Ulji went alone into the enemy's camp to know the latter's situation, and "negotiated" with the enemy commander. In the course of this he found out that the enemy was in disorder and suffering from food shortage, and made up his mind to employ the tactics of clean field and decoy to destroy the enemy.

He took measures to evacuate people and leave no food and water to the enemy. And he had the Koguryo army make believe to fight the enemy and retreat seven times a day, luring the enemy to a spot 12 kilometres away from the walled city. Now the enemy, already exhausted, found the defence of the city strong and came to know that their naval



force had already been annihilated, thus being at a loss what to do.

Then Ulji wrote and sent a poem to the enemy commander.

The poem reads:

*Thy divine tactics has got through astronomy
Thy mystery tactics has mastered geography.
Thou have already performed*

great feats in battles

So how about return home with satisfaction?

After reading the satirical poem the enemy began to retreat. Ulji Mundok commanded the Koguryo soldiers to attack the enemy front and rear when they were halfway in Salsu (river) to cross it, dealing a heavy blow to the latter. Only about 2 000 of 305 000 enemy troops who had crossed Amnok survived the battle. After hearing the news of a colossal defeat in the battle, the enemy force had to retreat en masse the following day.

Rim Ok

National Intangible Cultural Heritage (36)

Koryo Celadon Workmanship

THE BLuish GREEN REFLECTED ON A white stone submerged in crystal-clear water is called jade green as it is similar to the colour of jade.

The people of Koryo (918–1392) made jade-green celadon as pure and graceful as the clear water which flows from the Eight Pools in Mt Kungang. The porcelain of this colour which is lustrous and elegant and evokes profound emotion was called Koryo celadon.

The jade green is naturally obtained by chemical interaction between ground mud and iron included in glaze in baking, and this process requires ceramists' high skills and long experience. So some people referred to jade green as the secret colour only the ceramists of Koryo could make.

Jade green celadon was made in the first half of the 10th century, and was at its zenith in the 11th to 12th century. In the period of Koryo there were made and spread white and black porcelain as well as celadon. Still, celadon served as a synonym for Koryo porcelain.

According to ornamental techniques the Koryo celadon is divided into pattern-free celadon, engraved celadon and inlaid celadon. The pattern-free celadon was made in the early days of the Koryo celadon making. It was made by putting glaze on it before baking. The engraved celadon was the one patterned by intaglio, relief and carving. The inlaid celadon is the unique one in the period of Koryo. It is made by embedding patterns on the surface of pottery, and the patterns are embossed with the clay of different colours from the ground colour, so the patterns blend with the ground colour. The beautiful effect of the inlaid decoration where delicate patterns are faintly visible through the clear enamel can only be found in the Koryo porcelain.

The kind of the Koryo celadon is various and novel. Original in particular are the shapes of the celadon modelled after things, mainly, figure, animal and plant. Not a few kettles are in the shape of a melon, grape, gourd or bamboo sprout. In such celadon, lines are long, thin and curved, so it seems light, delicate, smart and graceful as a whole. Forms, patterns and bluish green colour of the Koryo celadon constitute a harmonious whole, attaining the highest perfection of ceramic art, thus their value was and is still acknowledged.

The tradition of the Koryo celadon workmanship is still carried on. The pottery production unit of the Mansudae Art Studio has a team specializing in making the Koryo celadon. U Chi Son and Im Sa Jun, both Kim Il Sung Prize winners and People's Artists, were modern Koryo celadon producers well known at home and abroad, and their children have succeeded them as the Koryo celadon makers.

There are ceramic factories across the country, and the Pyongyang University of Fine Arts and the Koryo Songgyungwan University are training experts in the Koryo celadon.

The Koryo celadon workmanship was put as No. 12 on the list of the National Intangible Cultural Heritage. □





Mt Kumgang (9)

Inner Kumgang (2)

FROM OF OLD MANPHOK district of Inner Kumgang is well known as Manphok Ravine for having a huge number of waterfalls and pools. All those falls and pools are different from one another, with unique shapes each that are associated with legendary tales.

The falls, pools, rocks and peaks there together harmoniously combine to create a magnificent spectacle. There can be seen the Kumgang Gate, Kumgangdae, and Eight Pools includ-

ing Hungnyong, Pipha, Punsol and Hwaryong pools and other scenic spots including Saja (lion) Rock.

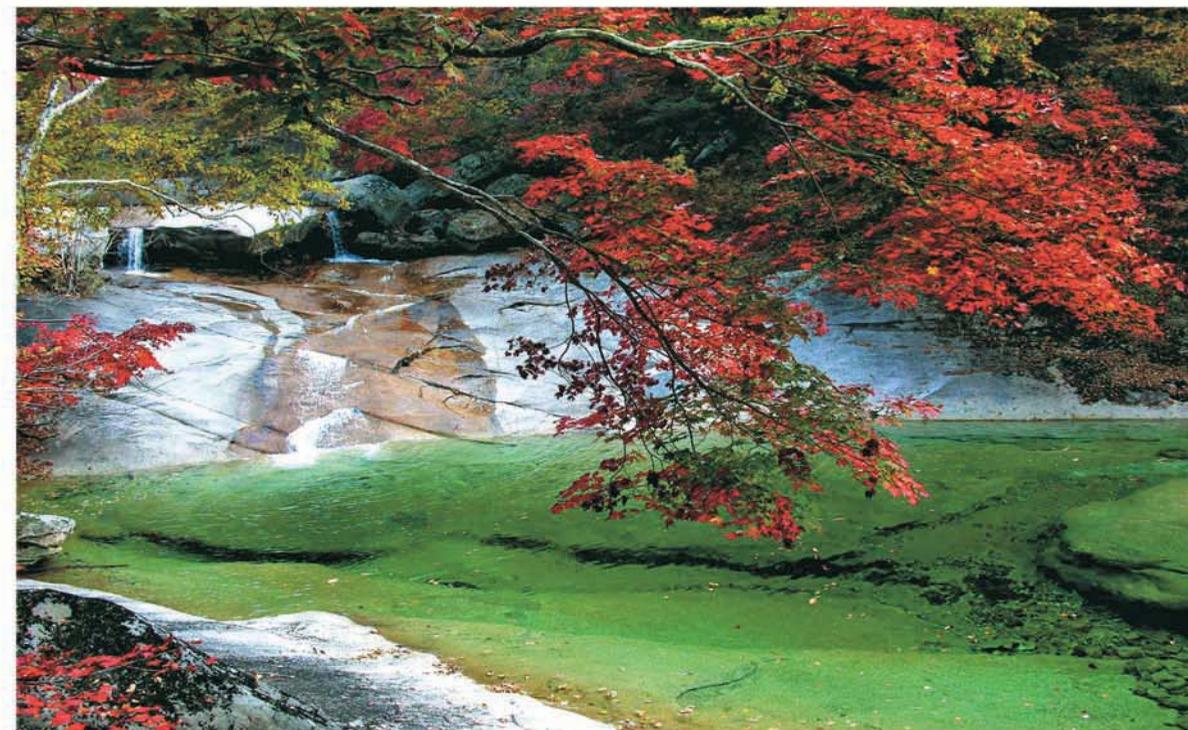
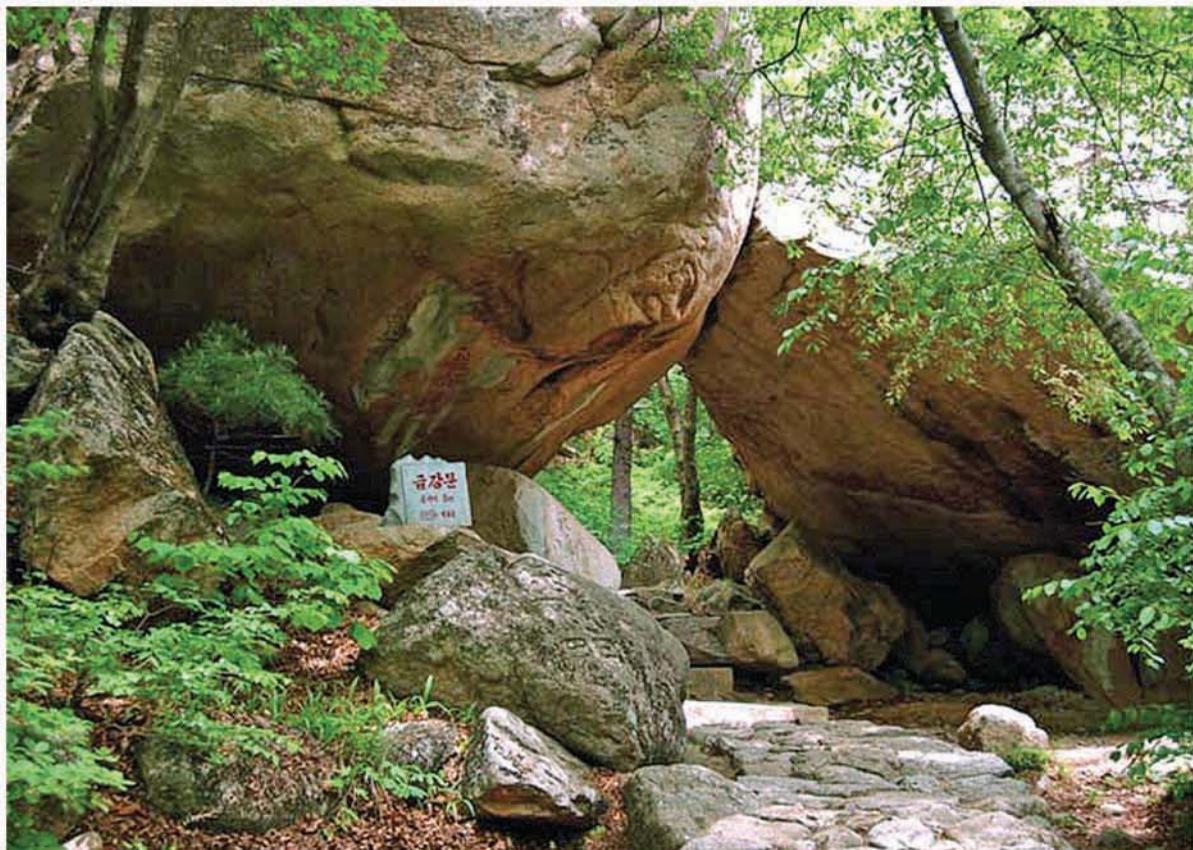
The stone Kumgang Gate is in the shape of a triangle, which is some 5 metres in bottom width, some 2.5 metres high and some 4 metres long, and narrows towards the end. Past the gate is Mulgae (seal) Rock, resembling a seal out of water. Next to the rock is Kumgangdae, on the top of which, it is said, there lived a couple of blue cranes.

Hungnyong Pool, the first of Eight Pools in Inner Kumgang,

looks black due to the surrounding rocky cliffs and forests mirrored in it. Above the pool is Pipha Pool whose shape and sound resemble those of *pipha* (a Korean mandolin). Near the pool is Tinggun Rock which, it is said, rolled over seven times and stood straight eight times. Around the rock is Punsol Pool not far from the Podok Hermitage.

Jinju (pearl) Pool and Jinju Falls are known as the most spectacular in the ravine. On the bed of the brook over the pool is the Upper Pool, a big hollowed-out stone, in which water is

Kumgang Gate.



Hungnyong Pool.

► poured before flowing over the waterfall. Over the upper pool are Pae and Kobuk pools.

Past Pae Pool are a big rock looking like a pile of flat stones and a rock resembling a lion roaring on the top of a peak behind, hence the names Janggyong Rock and Saja (lion) Rock from a legend titled *A Lion and a Dragon Who Defended the Sights*. Below the rocks is Hwaryong Pool where it is said the dragon hid.

Paegundae district of Inner Kumgang boasts both the beauty of valleys and that of mountains. It is divided into Solokdong, Paegundong and Hwagaedong.

Solokdong is surrounded by very high peaks, each with rocks of different shapes. It is known as the Manmulsang of Inner Kumgang. There can be seen a huge number of curious and fantastic rocks of all descriptions,

including Kwanum Rock resembling a man in standing position, Ryongchu Rock resembling an eagle, Chilbo Rock of a rare shape and Pidan Rock resembling a roll of silk, etc. Unlike the Manmulsang of Outer Kumgang, the colour of the rocks is dark with thick lines. As the forests full of needle-leaved trees like nut pines, firs, pines and maple trees are connected with waterfalls and pools, the scenery of the valley is very beautiful.

Paegundong boasts the beauty of mountains and views from the mountains. Paegundae is the best place to observe the scenery of the Inner Kumgang area. It commands a beautiful scene of white clouds lifting in the morning and gathering in the evening glow. In autumn, its scenery is as beautiful as a picture of fantasy. Below Paegundae is a spring called Kumgang

Water. To the north of Paegundae, there are lots of rocks in piles and Junghyangsong looking like a rampart surrounded by smoke from hundreds of millions of incense fires like a thin mist. As a long mountain range, Junghyangsong consists of pillar- and spear-shaped rocks standing side by side whose colour is similar to that of a white gem or silver. It presents a spectacular sight when it is surrounded by white clouds and bright with glow.

In Hwagaedong there are noted places like Pulji and Sogwang Hermitages and Myogil Image. It is a place of superb scenic beauty with a brook running through a thick forest and all sorts of full blossoms. It also provides a good view of scenery, and is a likely place to take a rest in on the way to Piro Peak.

Pak Thae Ho

