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Observation Car

Gift presented to President Kim Il Sung by J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR in December 1948



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Front Cover: A group sculpture of the Samjiyon Grand Monument

Photo by Pyon Chan U



Back Cover: Rimyongsu Falls in summer

Photo taken by Ri Yong Myong in August 2019

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The Greatest Wealth

JUST AS GENERATIONS move on with the lineage, so the revolutionary struggle of the popular masses for independence goes ahead by dint of the revolutionary traditions, the historical roots and lifeblood of the struggle. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the revolutionary traditions of Juche are the historical roots of the cause of the Korean revolution or the cause of socialism, and the lifeblood of the cause.

Kim Il Sung, eternal President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, organized the Down-with-Imperialism Union (DIU) on October 17, 1926 and launched the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, giving rise to the revolutionary traditions of Juche.

With the formation of the DIU whose immediate task was to destroy the Japanese imperialism and achieve Korea's liberation and independence the Korean revolution began to advance along the road of victory to attain the correct fighting programme, relying on the revolutionary backbone and mass foundation.

The anti-Japanese armed struggle organized and led by Kim Il Sung was a national liberation war of the most advanced form through which the Korean people defeated the Japanese imperialist aggressors with their own strength and

achieved national sovereignty and independence.

In those days he established the revolutionary traditions of Juche with the Juche idea as their main content. In the arduous struggle to pioneer the path of the Korean revolution he found out a new truth of the revolution. With the truth as starting point he originated the Juche idea that man is the master of his own destiny and has the strength to shape his own destiny.

During the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle he invariably regarded it as the principal purpose of the revolution to achieve independence of the popular masses on the basis of the Juche idea, and encouraged the masses to take their position as masters and perform their role as such in the revolutionary struggle. And he firmly adhered to Korea's own standpoint while rejecting flunkeyism and dogmatism, and solved all problems arising in the revolutionary struggle independently and creatively.

The revolutionary spirit of Paektu was created amidst the flames of the war.

The spirit encompasses the spirit of being boundlessly loyal to the leader and revolution, spirit of uncompromisingly fighting against imperialism and class enemies, faith in sure victory, revolutionary

optimism, revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, indefatigable fighting spirit, spirit of devotion and self-sacrifice, revolutionary comradeship and obligation, socialist patriotism and genuine internationalism. These are the noble spiritual and moral traits to be possessed by revolutionaries.

From the early days of his revolutionary struggle Kim Il Sung had the firm conviction that the independent cause of the masses would surely emerge victorious and waged the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. However hard a trial might be he confidently led the Korean revolution along the road of victory without the slightest vacillation and hesitation. He educated and led the revolutionaries and people to possess the confidence in victory and revolutionary optimism, setting examples.

The soldiers of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army (KPRA) and other revolutionaries would hold a recreation party around the campfire in the evening in the presence of Commander Kim Il Sung, dancing and singing optimistically even in the situation in which they had to wage consecutive battles and keep marching while suffering from cold and food shortage. They broke through the difficulties and hardships cheerfully ►

► and won each battle while singing revolutionary songs aloud.

The revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude created in the forests of Mt Paektu brought about the brilliant victory in the war against the Japanese imperialists.

The Japanese imperialists' desperate "punitive" operations against the KPRA continued without letup, and countless unimaginable ordeals and bottlenecks such as severe food shortage and bitter cold stood in the way. Kim Il Sung, however, with an iron will and matchless courage, overcame the adversity and led his soldiers to fight against the enemy staunchly. The KPRA soldiers always carried out their revolutionary tasks without fail, no matter how difficult and hard they might be, by giving full play to the spirit of self-reliance and fortitude. Under the slogan "Defeat the enemy no matter how often we may have to die!" they fought heroically with a strong will and in the indomitable fighting spirit.

The revolutionary comradeship and obligation made it possible to achieve firm unity and cohesion of the revolutionary ranks on the basis of the revolutionary idea of Kim Il Sung. He started his revolutionary activities by winning over comrades, and wrote a new history of noble revolutionary comradeship during the arduous revolutionary struggle. In any circumstances

and at any time he would think of his soldiers before himself and took parental care of them. The revolutionary comradeship and obligation displayed in the hard and complex life-and-death struggle served as the source of strength which enabled them to surmount any grim trials and go along the road of the revolution to the last.

The lofty patriotic spirit Kim Il Sung displayed during the anti-Japanese war constituted the genuine spirit of love for the country and people in which he fought for national liberation even at the risk of his life, always took pride in the beautiful land and rich natural resources of the country and the history and splendid culture of the resourceful Korean people and ardently loved them. The anti-Japanese armed struggle led by the Commander was a most patriotic struggle unprecedented in history, and the soldiers of the KPRA were the archetypes of genuine patriots.

He gave birth to the history of building a Juche-type revolutionary party, created its prototype, and laid a firm organizational and ideological basis for the founding of the party, thus presenting an example in the building and activity of such a party.

He also gained valuable experience in all sectors such as politics, defence, the economy and culture, for example, the building of the people's government, the building of mass organizations and the

building of culture, and the united front movement.

Regarding the idea of "The people are my God" as his motto, he always mixed with the people during the anti-Japanese armed struggle. In the course of this, he established the revolutionary method of work whereby he solved all problems by drawing on the masses' strength and wisdom. He also developed the popular style of work in which he respected and loved the people sincerely, gave ear to them attentively, and solved their problems in time. And he displayed the spirit of setting practical examples for others, and set an example of being modest, simple, well-mannered and cultured in life.

As they were established in the great revolutionary struggle unprecedented in history, the revolutionary traditions of Juche are the DPRK's most valuable wealth which is of eternal vitality at all stages and in all fields of the revolution and construction.

Today the traditions are creditably carried forward and further developed. Chairman Kim Jong Un of the Workers' Party of Korea is carrying on the traditions with a firm faith and will to carry out the Korean revolution with credit.

Thanks to his wise leadership the revolutionary cause of Juche pioneered in Mt Paektu is safe and secure and is making headway without a slightest delay or concession.

Yom Song Hui

Endless Stream of Visitors

THE MT PAEKTU AREA IS A SACRED PLACE of the Korean revolution with a concentration of the relics of Kim Il Sung's anti-Japanese armed struggle, and a hub of education in the revolutionary traditions. But until the mid-1950s the old revolutionary battle sites in the area had been in poor preservation, and the education in the revolutionary traditions through the battle sites had been lukewarm.

Kim Jong Il, as student of Pyongyang Middle School No. 1 at that time, pioneered a route for the study tour to the revolutionary battle sites in the area of Mt Paektu. He came to know that some students of the school did not know well what kind of revolutionary battle sites were in Ryanggang Province, and where Pochonbo (the place where Commander Kim Il Sung organized the Battle of Pochonbo on June 4, 1937) was. So one May day in Juche 45 (1956) Kim Jong Il told his father Kim Il Sung that he was going to make a study tour of the revolutionary battle sites in the area of Mt Paektu during vacation.

Kim Il Sung said it was a very good idea. And referring to the Korean saying "If one opens the gate at dawn before anyone else could, one will enjoy five blessings," he said that the same applied to the first tour of the revolutionary battle sites, encouraging Kim Jong Il to embark on the tour with a firm determination as no one had been on it before. He believed that the tour would be the most valuable and significant experience in the life of his son.

On June 5 that year a study tour party formed

with 20-odd students of the middle school, the first of its kind in the country, left for the old revolutionary battle sites in the Mt Paektu area. The party toured the Pochonbo Revolutionary Battle Site, Lake Samji, the "Kapsan-Musan guard road," the Rimyongsu village and so on.

Back from the tour Kim Jong Il said that the enormous wealth that should never be bartered for any money had been surrounded by the primeval forest of Paektu. And he expressed his determination to devote his all to finding out and adding lustre to all the wealth of the revolutionary traditions established by Kim Il Sung.

One day in March 1980, during his visit to the Samjiyon Grand Monument, Chairman Kim Jong Il recalled: The great leader [President Kim Il Sung] made a historic pledge not to return before Korea became independent while crossing the Amnok River at the young age of 13. And while pioneering the road of study tour to the revolutionary battle sites in the area of Mt Paektu in my early middle school days, I made a firm pledge to add enduring lustre to the revolutionary traditions of our Party established by the leader.

True to his pledge the Chairman concerned himself deeply with defending the revolutionary traditions resolutely, and carrying forward and developing them creditably.

The 1970s witnessed a turning point in the construction of the revolutionary sites. At that time the construction of the Wangjaesan Revolutionary Site and the Samjiyon Revolutionary Battle Site ►

Study tourists look round the Mt Paektu Area Revolutionary Battle Sites.



► was going ahead briskly. The Chairman inspected the construction sites, fixing the spots where to locate statues of Kim Il Sung, and taught in detail how to form and arrange group sculptures to be built at the grand monuments. Under his wise leadership the revolutionary battle sites and revolutionary sites were put in good preservation not only at Wangjaesan and Samjiyon but also at Mangyongdae, Ponghwa-ri, Phophyong, Junggang, Huchang, Hoeryong, Sinpha, Phungsan and other places. Besides, revolutionary museums were built across the country, and thus the whole land turned into a school of education in the revolutionary traditions.

The Chairman also put great effort into the education in the revolutionary traditions through the tour of the revolutionary battle sites and revolutionary sites. From November 1975 a nationwide regular study tour of the revolutionary sites in North Hamgyong Province started with the main emphasis on that of the Wangjaesan Revolutionary Site. In March 1974 the 1 000-*ri* Journey for Learning-named study tour involving young people and schoolchildren from across the country was organized first to be followed by the organization of the 1 000-*ri* Journey for National Liberation-named study tour in the next year.

In March 2000 the Chairman visited the revolutionary battle sites in the area of Mt Paektu despite raging blizzards. For several days he looked around the Paektusan Secret Camp, the Sajabong Secret Camp, the Chongbong Bivouac, the Samjiyon Grand Monument, the Pegaebong Bivouac and other places. And he mapped out a grand plan of sprucing the sites up to be perfect enough to be admired in the distant future from a new viewpoint in the new millennium. By 2006 the area had turned into a great open-air museum befitting the sacred place of the revolution.

Over six decades have passed since the first study tour party left their footprints in the Mt Paektu area. Today all the people of the country turn out in the study tour to the revolutionary battle sites in the Mt Paektu area.

On October 27, Juche 103 (2014) Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un climbed up the top of Mt Paektu braving a fierce snowstorm. There he said: The revolutionary spirit of Paektu, the spirit of the blizzards of Paektu, is a noble spirit which our army and people should cherish for ever, and a precious spiritual wealth that must never be bartered for any money and valuables in the world. When we live in the revolutionary spirit of Paektu, the spirit of the blizzards of Paektu, we will have nothing to fear and we will be able to do anything.

The Korean people regarded his words as a call for them to tour the old revolutionary battle sites in the mountain where the revolutionary traditions of Paektu had been established.

Let us live and work in the revolutionary spirit of Paektu, the spirit of the blizzards of Paektu!

True to his intention lots of study tour parties left for the mountain.

In April 2015 Supreme Commander Kim Jong Un met and praised the fighter jet pilots of the Korean People's Army who had wrapped up their study tour of the revolutionary battle sites in the Mt Paektu area. Shortly afterwards, *Rodong Sinmun*, the organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, carried the words of the new song *We Will Go to Mt Paektu*.

*We'll go whether it is spring or winter
To Mt Paektu, the place dear to our heart,
The revolutionary battle area,
That stiffens our will not to be broken by a storm
And confirms us in our faith.*

All study tourists stepped up their march towards the mountain while singing the song.

At the end of last year Kim Jong Un visited the mountain again, when he said: Though the rivers and mountains, and generations have changed with the passage of time, the majestic appearance of Mt Paektu remains unchanged. I've further confirmed what attitude we should have to continue the march without fail through generations.

After his march to the mountain on horseback through the heavy snowfall the zeal for visiting it grew stronger across the country: Ceremonies of leaving for the mountain for the study tour took place at agencies, industrial establishments, cooperative farms and army units, and the number of the study tourists increased day after day in all parts of the country.

Over 60 000 officials, working people, service personnel, young people and students embarked on the study tour of the revolutionary battle sites in the Mt Paektu area during the coldest period from early December last year to April this year.

The Korean people regard the study tour of the mountain as the way to get the valuable spiritual sustenance that cannot be matched by the might of any nuclear weapons, to add lustre to the revolutionary traditions of Paektu, and to steadily maintain the lifeline of the Korean revolution. Their march to the mountain is an eternal undertaking to be carried on generation after generation.

Yom Song Hui

Unforgettable Days



EVERYONE HAS A PLACE they are eager to visit in their lifetime. The place might vary according to ideology, faith and religion of individual persons, but all the Korean people wish to climb up Mt Paektu. I keenly felt this during my study tour of the old revolutionary battle sites in the area of Mt Paektu.

On April 12 last we left Samjiyon, and started a march towards Mt Paektu, the climax of our itinerary. We reached Mudu Peak, a dozen kilometres away from the mountain, long before the sunrise. Though it was April when flowers would bloom in other places, the road to the mountain was still covered with snow. Furthermore, a blinding blizzard was sweeping the area, clogging up the road with snow. Braving the raging snowstorm we moved forward inch by inch, often falling into the waist-deep snowdrift or tumbling over the snow. This reminded me of the first time I had climbed up the mountain 29

years before.

At that time I, as staff member of the Korea International Travel Company, was on a tour to the mountain with a professor of Cambridge University and his family members. It was in July when it was sultry in Pyongyang,

but the mountain was covered with snow. When our party arrived at the foot of the mountain, a blizzard started to blow unexpectedly. The snowstorm blocked the road, and the professor's wife, who was in advanced years, gave up, so we had to leave her behind.

Thinking of it I, as leader of the group, suggested the hypertensives, elderly persons and women stay back in consideration of their health. However, none of them gave up, and they kept marching helping and leading one another.

When we finally reached the top of Mt Paektu, the sacred mountain of the nation, all of us embraced one another full of joy and emotion at its magnificent appearance, raising cheers. Actually, I had been there several times since my first tour scores of years before. I would go there with foreign tourists or make time to climb it whenever I was in Samjiyon City, Ryanggang Province. Then I felt refreshed and was full of vigour. It is

perhaps because Mt Paektu, the ancestral mountain of my country, is impressed on the minds of the Korean people as the spirit and symbol of the nation along with its 5 000-year-old history.

This time I was more deeply impressed. Earlier, we had used to tour by air or car. But now we were wrapped in more solemn feelings while experiencing first-hand the soul and mentality of the anti-Japanese revolutionary forerunners who had turned out in the sacred war for recovering the lost country in the first half of the 20th century. The anti-Japanese fighters had been optimistic about the future of Korea even in the biting cold of around 40℃ below zero, and uninhabited primitive forests. We could experience their indomitable spirit during the study tour of the revolutionary sites and revolutionary battle sites in the Mt Paektu area.

The most impressive was the "Kapsan-Musan guard road."

The Japanese imperialists had built the road between Kapsan and Musan along the border to check the advance of the anti-Japanese guerrillas into the homeland. In May 1939 the opening ceremony of the road was just ahead. The guerrillas marched freely along the road in broad daylight by employing the tactics of 400-kilometre rush march. Thus they broke through the enemy ►

► encirclement and advanced deep into the homeland, dealing a heavy blow to the Japanese aggressors.

Marching along the road I thought about the anti-Japanese guerrillas. Just like the guerrillas, we bivouacked, cooked rice in mess tins, sang and danced around the campfire. What was surprising was the fact that the anti-Japanese guerrillas had arranged neatly their camping ground to be used even for a night, been tidy in their dress, and led an optimistic and cultured life in good order.

It seemed that I graduated from another college while making the study tour of the revolutionary battle sites in the Mt Paektu area associated with the traits of the revolutionary forerunners. And I came to understand that their confidence in victory and their indomitable spirit had enabled them to achieve the cause of national liberation even without state backing and support of the regular forces.

During the study tour I conceived a new plan to bring about innovation in training talents for tourism. The plan is vast, but I am confident that I will do anything if I work the way the anti-Japanese guerrillas did.

The days of the study tour were short, but they were unforgettable days when I learned the truth of a genuine life.

*Ri Kon Ho, vice-director of
the National Tourism
Administration*

Mysterious Tactics

IN SPRING JUCHE 26 (1937) the main unit of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army (KPRA) set out on the trek to Fusong, led by Kim Il Sung, Commander of the KPRA.

When they reached the forest area in Xiaotanghe, the Japanese imperialist aggression forces declared that they would confine the KPRA unit in the Xiaotanghe valley and annihilate it. In this way they intended to recover from their failure to defeat it in their winter "punitive" operations.

The Japanese military hurled a huge force into the operations as they knew it would be of great importance. Taking it for granted that they would win the battle, they went so far as to invite a group of reporters from different countries to advertise their "splendid victory" to the world.

A bloody battle took place all day long. When the night fell, a sea of bonfires spread in the endless expanse of the valley of Xiaotanghe, which was made by the Japanese troops surrounding the KPRA main unit double and treble.

Staring at the threatening fire, the KPRA officers and men began to get ready for a last-ditch fight.

Kim Il Sung, however, thought over and over a scheme to slip out of the siege, looking down at the bonfire-filled valley.

Estimating the strength of the enemy, the Commander decided that the enemy rear would be empty and that the encirclement ring might be loose toward the road. Now he decided to break through the

siege to the inhabited area and then march along the road.

Hearing his plan, the KPRA officers were surprised, for they thought it would be against common sense to go to the inhabited area and trek along the road when huge enemy troops were deployed in folds of siege.

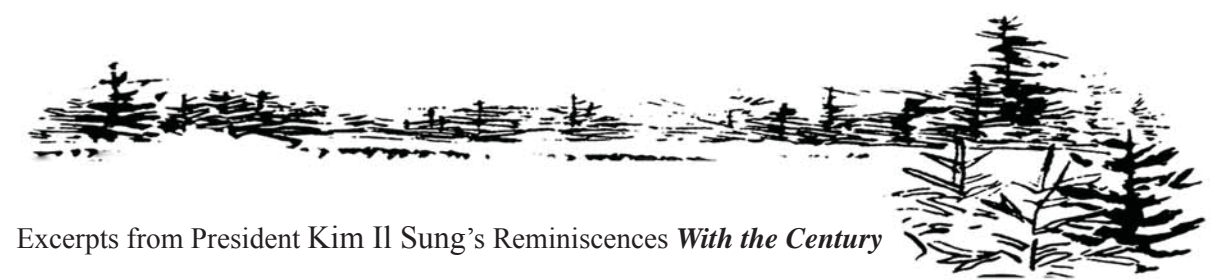
Now the KPRA columns moved silently toward the road, stealing between the enemy bonfires. When they got on the road they found no sign of human traffic there. Like an express train running nonstop along the rail, they passed a number of villages without meeting any hindrance until they reached Donggang at a dash.

Learning the KPRA main unit disappeared swiftly, the Japanese were shocked. In an attempt to avoid the confusing situation the commander of the "punitive" force introduced a "captive" to the press group and asked to cover his story. Strange enough, however, the "captive" said with giggles that he had defected to the KPRA while serving the Manchurian army and that he had no idea of communism at all.

The reporters, who had been excited to hear from the Japanese commander that they would be able to see the "KPRA" main unit fall into a trap, were dumbfounded at the farce.

The enemy could hardly notice that they had been lured by KPRA Commander Kim Il Sung into his trick to move from the border areas to Fusong.

Yom Song Hui



Excerpts from President Kim Il Sung's Reminiscences *With the Century*

Arduous March

AS YOU KNOW, WE MADE many hard treks during the anti-Japanese armed struggle. The march from Antu to Wangqing in autumn 1932, the march coming back to Jiandao after the first expedition to northern Manchuria and the Fusong expedition in early spring 1937 were all difficult excursions.

However, the trek from Nampaizi, Mengjiang County, to Beidadingzi, Changbai County, was such an unprecedented ordeal that it is beyond comparison with any other expeditions in terms of duration and misery. Because it took about one hundred days, this march is also called "the hundred-day march". To be exact, our journey took 110 days and was indescribably arduous, so it finally came to be known as the Arduous March.

The Arduous March was, in a nutshell, a constant, non-stop struggle against the worst of natural conditions, hunger, exhaustion, diseases and of course the brutal enemy. All of these were accompanied by yet another severe struggle: that of not giving in to all these hardships. It was primarily a struggle to survive and to destroy the enemy. These were the main contents of the Arduous March. Indeed, it was a series of

incredible ordeals and hardships from beginning to end.

What made this trek such an unprecedentedly horrendous one in the history of the KPRA? The enemy's continuous pursuit and encirclement and nothing else explains it. You cannot imagine how tenacious the enemy was in chasing and constantly surrounding us.

The Japanese imperialists concentrated all their "punitive" troops on our main force, sending all their forces out on the "punitive" campaign against Kim Il Sung's unit, the only force remaining now that the 1st Corps had been virtually annihilated. They whipped up their men's fighting spirit against us. They even used carrier pigeons for their campaign.

The enemy's tactic was quite simple: to deny the KPRA any chance to rest, eat or sleep. They hurled hundreds of troops continually against us, to the point where sometimes we had to fight 20 battles a day.

From the very beginning the enemy used the tactic of "violent attack and tenacious pursuit". This attack and pursuit was so stubborn that we had to keep constantly on the move, chewing raw grain because we had no time

to cook.

Their tactic was, in essence, the "*dani* tactic", which meant harassing the opponent ceaselessly by clinging to it like a tick. The Japanese word *dani* means "tick". With this tactic the enemy placed a "punitive" force at every single vantage point. As soon as guerrillas appeared, the enemy attacked immediately, and after the attack, tailed after them tenaciously in an attempt to annihilate them. The goal was to chase and strike the guerrillas continuously without giving them time to rest, sleep or eat until they were completely exhausted and destroyed. The enemy themselves could rest by shifts, but the guerrillas were compelled to fight without a breathing space, so their tribulations were beyond description.

An old book on war says that an army caught by a long-distance pursuit by the enemy that comes in shifts will certainly be defeated, so that a good general will avoid such a trap. In other words, once in such a trap, there is no way out. Unfortunately we fell into such a trap. The enemy converged on us from every direction and clung to us like ticks. We found ourselves in a real predicament and had to develop elu-

► sive tactics to get out of it.

I racked my brains and thought out a new, zigzag tactic. I summoned the regimental commanders and said: “From now on, we’ll march in a zigzag; at every turn of the zigzag we’ll lie in ambush and pepper the approaching enemy with machine-gun fire. This is the only way to take away the Japanese ticks.” The zigzag tactic was the best way to strike the pursuing enemy in the Manchurian mountains covered with deep snow. That winter there was an unusually heavy snowfall, so that the men at the head of the column had to tramp down the snow to open a path. The snow was so deep that even the healthy ones among us were totally exhausted after advancing only fifty or sixty metres. In some places we had to roll bodily on the snow to make a path, and in others we tunnelled through. Where the snow was too deep, the men took off their leggings, linked them in a long line and held on while forging ahead. This prevented anyone from falling behind.

The enemy had no choice but to follow the zigzag we were making.

One day the enemy fell upon us, attacking our marching column in swarms. There were foes everywhere, in front and at our back, on both sides and even in the sky. The situation was so urgent that I ordered the machine-gun platoon to strike the enemy in front of us, the 7th Regiment to check the enemy attacking from behind and others to break through the encirclement sideways.

We managed to get out of the

crisis in this way. We could do so once or twice, but it would be no good to have to walk this kind of tightrope all the time. Marching as a large force was disadvantageous in every respect. First of all, it was difficult for us to conceal ourselves. Next, obtaining food was a problem. The food dozens of men brought on their backs with great effort ran out in only a few days. Soldiers fell one after another, exhausted because they were fighting without eating or sleeping.

How were we all to survive and arrive in Changbai safely? After much thought, I decided to disperse our marching column. Not that dispersion would guarantee that everything would go well, of course. Other burdens and difficulties would no doubt result from dispersed actions.

Dispersing the entire army into several directions, I made up my mind to go with the 7th Regiment. But commanding officers present at the officers’ meeting unanimously objected to my going with the 7th Regiment. They insisted that Headquarters should go to the Qingfeng Secret Camp, the safest in the secret camps around Qidaogou. They were concerned about my personal safety, worried that if I went with the 7th Regiment, which fought the most frequently, I would be in personal danger.

I could not agree with them. I said that only the wounded and sick soldiers should be sent to the Qingfeng Secret Camp, and that our people needed a fighting Kim Il Sung, not a Kim Il Sung that sat in hiding with his arms folded. When I said this, they no longer objected.

In the end we decided to disperse our forces into three directions. Headquarters would go to Jiazaishui, via the Qingfeng Secret Camp, in command of the Guard Company and the machine-gun platoon, O Jung Hup’s 7th Regiment advancing towards Shanggangqu, Changbai County, and the 8th Regiment and the Independent Battalion operating around Donggang, Fusong County.

On the Arduous March we used a variety of combat methods and tactics. We can say that the march was a testing ground for all the strategies and tactics that had evolved in guerrilla warfare.

Let me give a few examples of the flexible tactics we used.

To conceal the traces of our march in the snow, we filled up or erased our footprints before disappearing; we also slipped away to the side by treading only on fallen tree trunks. A most thrilling experience was to throw the enemy into chaos by disappearing off to the side so that their forces, closing in on us from the front and back, ended up fighting against each other. We called this the “telescope tactic”. It meant that we made the enemy forces fight each other while we looked on from a safe distance. We used this tactic in Hongtushanzi, Changbai County, and on the Fuhoushui tableland to drive the enemy into a mess.

Hongtushanzi was a big mountain, the top of which was bare of trees. At that time, we marched around the mountain with the chasing enemy in our wake, and on the second round, ►

► when another enemy force appeared in front of us, we dodged away, picking our way across the fallen trees. The enemy forces came up against each other while one was in pursuit and the other in search of us. Mistaking each other for the revolutionary army, they fell into an exchange of heavy fire. The duel, caused by mistaken identity, ended in a tremendous life-and-death struggle.

On the Fuhoushui tableland, too, we used a similar tactic. A large enemy force was coming in our wake, but we had no way to throw them off, so we circled around the Fuhoushui tableland, as we had done in Hongtushanzi. During the second round, another “punitive” force appeared, this time between us and the chasing enemy. One round was a long enough distance to take us a whole day, so the two enemy forces pursuing us were out of mutual contact. It was a queer situation.

I had earlier ordered each of my men to cut a tree as long as a sleigh pole while on the march. Now we threw them across the tree stumps and slipped away to one side, using the poles as bridges over the stumps.

While we were taking rest under some bushes, wearing white capes and chewing on raw barley, one enemy force closed in upon the other and they battled it out between themselves. We watched them calmly from a distance as they fought and killed each other in large numbers. Having suffered this rather foolish loss on the Fuhoushui tableland, the enemy later said in despair that we were so slip-

pery, it was totally impossible to catch us.

We employed versatile tactics such as this several times a day, killing a lot of enemy soldiers. Still, the Japanese had a never-ending reserve of fighters. Japan’s enormous supply of manpower was one reason they set up a clamour for overseas expansion, using the excuse of overpopulation. No wonder it was able to send ready replacements for lost “punitive” troops, no matter how many we killed off. By contrast, we who were fighting in the mountains had no immediate source of replacement, even for a single dead comrade.

The Arduous March was not a mere movement of our forces. It was a large-scale military operation that was equal to a campaign. It was the epitome of our anti-Japanese armed struggle, so to speak. During this march we went through every kind of suffering a soldier could go through and experienced every kind of trial a man could experience.

Through the Arduous March we demonstrated once again to the world that the communists who took part in the anti-Japanese armed struggle were the true sons of the fatherland and the people, and that the revolutionary fighters were unfailingly loyal to their nation and to the cause of national liberation. Every anti-Japanese guerrilla that went through the march developed his character to the highest level possible. The noble image of the Korean communists formed in this event is a model that our people must learn and follow through the

coming generations. The Arduous March created typical communists who defeated the enemy because they were rallied rock-solid behind their leader and did not relinquish their faith in any adversity. This was an important success in the Arduous March, as well as one of the great achievements of the anti-Japanese revolution.

All the participants in the Arduous March were heroes, whether they are still alive or dead.

There are many factors that led the guerrillas to survive their hardships and emerge victorious, like immortal beings. Let me tell you some of these factors.

First was their indomitable revolutionary spirit, the spirit of self-reliance, fortitude and revolutionary optimism. I can say that this spirit contributed to their triumph over all their difficulties. Going through the most terrible suffering, we never lost heart or became pessimistic, but endured all our miseries by picturing in our minds the day of victory. In short we were absolutely convinced of our eventual victory. If we had lost heart or taken a gloomy view of the revolution, overwhelmed by all the difficulties we faced, we would have sunk into the snow, unable to face our grave trials.

Another factor for the success in the march was our love for our comrades in the revolution. I still remember how I met O Jung Hup and his unit towards the end of the march.

He wrapped his arms around me and cried. I also shed tears when I saw him. The joy of reunion with my blood relations would not have been so great as ►

► the joy I felt at that time. I was so glad that I could not get rid of the lump in my throat. I made up my mind never to part with these priceless comrades-in-arms again, not under any circumstances.

That winter I had worried myself sick after dispersing my comrades—I had never in my life missed my friends and companions as much as I did at that time. As many of you are discharged soldiers, you probably know how warm the love for one’s comrades can be. No love in the world is warmer or stronger than love for one’s comrades-in-arms and no moral obligation is nobler than the loyalty between them.

Revolutionary comradeship was an important factor in victory. It ran all through the anti-Japanese revolution. However, during the Arduous March the sense of moral obligation of our men was displayed more intensely than ever before. The anecdote of “a cup of parched-rice flour” was only one of many anecdotes about good deeds done in those days. One of my orderlies was carrying a cup of parched-rice flour in his pack as my emergency ration, but I could not eat it alone, so I shared it with my men, and this event has been handed down as a legendary tale to our children. This was not a rare instance.

Our men would have given their very flesh if their comrades had needed it, they were that willing to give their all to their comrades in the revolution.

As I mentioned once before, when Ri Ul Sol saw a recruit shivering with cold after his clothes were burnt while he was

sleeping by the campfire, he took off his own padded jacket and gave it to the recruit. He went through a terribly cold winter in an unlined jacket, but he did not freeze to death. That was because his comrades, too, showed their burning love to him. We did not starve to death because we lived and fought in the spirit of sharing a cup of parched-rice flour throughout the Arduous March of over 100 days. Though we went through severe cold in worn-out clothing, our hearts were always warm. This was the secret of why nobody starved or froze to death and why all of us survived like immortal beings. The power of love defeated death.

This experience has convinced me that a community firmly united in comradeship will never perish.

Another factor that helped to bring the Arduous March to a successful conclusion was the people’s love and support for us.

All through the march we received great help from such benevolent people as the owner of the watermill in Jiazaishui. You should not think that only our guerrillas took part in the march. The people, too, joined in. I would say that the people from Erdaohuawen and Yaogou who brought aid-goods such as rice, salt, shoes and cloth at the risk of their own lives participated in our march.

As we experienced on the Luozigou plateau and at the Tianqiaoling pass, the people saved us, helped us and became our companions whenever we were faced with a crisis. I was able to summon my courage be-

cause I was convinced that as long as we had such people, we would emerge victorious in this strenuous journey.

Our victory can also be explained by the fact that we applied flexible guerrilla tactics throughout the march to suit different situations.

Today we are still building socialism in a difficult situation. Our revolution continues to follow a rugged path, so we can say that we are even now continuing the Arduous March. In those days hundreds of thousands of the Japanese troops encircled and harassed us, but nowadays atrocious imperialist forces incomparably stronger than the former Japanese troops are trying to crush our country. In fact, we are living in a situation little short of war.

What is the best way for us to survive in this adversity? The only way is to display fully in our lives the same revolutionary spirit of Mt. Paektu that the anti-Japanese revolutionary forerunners displayed during the Arduous March.

Not only in the anti-Japanese war, but also later, in the days of building a new country, during the great Fatherland Liberation War, and in the period of post-war reconstruction, we overcame all hardships and emerged victorious in the revolution by displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance, fortitude and optimism.

Nothing is impossible for a people with as great a history as that of the Arduous March. No force can ever conquer the people who have inherited the history of this march. □

“We Were Not Invincible Army at All”

THE ANTI-JAPANESE ARMED STRUGGLE was a national liberation war the Korean people fought against the colonial rule of the Japanese imperialist aggressors. The people waged an unprecedentedly arduous and protracted revolutionary struggle without any state backing or help from a regular army. But they won it thanks to the wise command of their leader Kim Il Sung. Through the 15-year-long war the Japanese imperialists could not but admit that they were not matchless at all. Here are some of their confessions:

“The ambience of the place of conference where Ueda, commander of the Kwantung Army, and Minami, the Governor-General of Korea, sat face to face was very gloomy. Because they thought the item itself on the agenda of the conference was a hopeless task as it was to take an emergency measure for public security by launching punitive operations against the Kim Il Sung-led guerrillas (the Korean People’s Revolutionary Army—Tr.) that were posing a grave threat to Japan’s ruling system of Korea and Manchuria and further to the security in the Far East at large.

“The commander of the Kwantung Army and the Governor-General of Korea, who had been given by the Tokyo-based general headquarters an important task of fully solving the problem without delay, exchanged information on the prevailing state of public peace and all other circumstances in Korea and Manchuria, and discussed relevant measures for many hours. Their discussion reached the agreement to take some new measures.

“First, they decided to put the vast regions of Manchuria including Hunchun, and the Chongjin and Rajin areas previously under the control of the Japanese army stationed in Korea, under the direct control of the commander of the elite Kwantung Army. They also decided to substantially reinforce and expand the punitive forces against the guerrillas by mobilizing the Kwantung Army, the Japanese army stationed in Korea, the Manchukuo army, and gendarme and police forces; guard rigorously the border areas on both sides of the Tuman and Amnok rivers in particular so as to check the advance of the guerrillas into Korea; establish concentration villages; and further consolidate the security system in Manchuria.

“Actually, these punitive measures to cope with not a regular army but guerrillas were against common sense.”

(Former police department head of the Japanese military police in Sinjing, Manchuria, who participated in the Tumen conference as a member of the entourage of the then provost marshal of the Kwantung Army)

“We have been conducting an all-out punitive offensive against the Korean People’s Revolutionary Army since last autumn (1939) while suffering heavy casualties. But as they have got considerable experience in mountain life and mountain warfare through prolonged ordeals, they really have the combat capability that we cannot ignore.

“Furthermore, the mountainous areas where they are based are like an impregnable fortress, so punitive operations only bring many difficulties and casualties on ourselves, so we cannot achieve what we want with punitive pursuit alone. Moreover, there are not a few instances where we gave them opportunities to counterattack us. Thus we have come to pass where we have to change this policy. Our alternative may be to strengthen the defences of villages and thoroughly cut off the channel of food supply to them.”

(A secret report from the police department chief of North Hamgyong Province to the chief of the Police Bureau on January 24, 1940)

“At the urgent report that Damalugou was raided we hurried to chase the guerrillas the next day, that is, on March 12 along the footprints they had left in snow. The footprints vanished at the entrance to a deep forest about 8 kilometres northwest of Damalugou. But while carefully examining the ground, we found out some faint traces of the footprints which must have avoided erasing.

“Here!’ We cried and hurtled along the traces. But, to our surprise, we found ourselves again at the spot of Damalugou where we had started. *How on earth did it happen?* I was quite at a loss. It was some time later that I could solve the puzzle, and I was struck with admiration at the superb strategy and tactics of General Kim Il Sung again and again....

“We had been completely fooled by the mysterious tactics.”

(Unami, the then commander of the “punitive police battalion”)

“When the operations were opened, the military showed us a photo, saying it was an image of ‘Kim Il Sung, commander of the anti-Japanese communist army.’

“Seeing the photo we were very surprised at the fact that he was very young. They did not give us the photo, but only showed it to us. It meant we should remember him well....

“Though we set up a tight guard line and watched closely lest we should miss even an ant, the sad news that ‘we suffered a huge loss raided by Kim Il Sung’s unit’ or that ‘we lost a lot of lives’ came one after another.”

(Chimura, who served the Japanese consulate ►

- in East Manchuria from 1937 and belonged to a “special unit” from 1940 to take part in the “punitive” operations against the Korean People’s Revolutionary Army)

“After Maeda’s company, which had engaged in the punitive operations under the provincial police force organized in 1938, was totally annihilated in the battle of Hongqihe in March 1940, I joined Yamane’s company which was newly organized in place of Maeda’s.

“At that time, as a platoon leader of Yamane’s company, I received an order to ensure public security in the area between Mingyuegou and Antu where the guerrillas were in vigorous action, so my platoon was responsible for guarding a concentration village in the area.

“As it was commonplace at the time that the guerrillas raided the Japanese and Manchukuo troops and policemen in the village and took away weapons, food and clothing, our major mission was to keep the guerrillas from securing food, and prevent damage to our forces.

“Leading 40 troops I guarded the concentration village in Sandaohezi and roamed around mountains in the vicinity under the pretext of punitive operations.

“Now frankly speaking, we had no intention to fight against the guerrillas because it was obvious that we would lose if we had a battle with them as they were employing protean tactics in battle.

“So, while trekking through the mountains, we intentionally kept away from dangerous places where we thought the guerrillas were likely to appear, and looked round the spots that seemed to be relatively safe for us. And when we returned, we used to send our seniors a false report of what we had never seen as if we had reconnoitred it. This enabled us to escape from death.”

(Higashi Mamoru, chief of the Jinchang Police Station, Wangqing County of the former Manchukuo)

Seventy-five Years of WPK (8)

IN MAY JUCHE 82 (1993) President Kim Il Sung met a delegation from the Guinean United Progressive Party.

The delegation asked the President what was the ideal way to build a ruling party. The President held up one of peaches served on the table and answered that a party should be built just like a peach. He said: Success can be achieved in the revolution and construction only when the single-hearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses is achieved. Compared to this peach, the masses are the flesh, the party is the stone, and the leader is the core in the stone.

His answer was a plain explanation of the single-hearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses as the lifeblood of his country.

Many years have passed since then, but the single-hearted unity is invariably being carried forward, and developed into the eternal lifeblood of the Korean-style socialism. Now the unity is based on Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un’s boundless love for the people.

The Korean people still remember what happened after they suffered the greatest loss of the nation—the unexpected demise of Chairman Kim Jong Il whom the Korean people had believed and followed as Heaven. His demise brought them a terrible pain of loss which could not heal. Despite the

severe winter cold they visited different mourning places with a boundless yearning for the Chairman.

At that time the Supreme Leader said that Party organizations at all levels and officials should not confine themselves in their office worrying about the people who were out in the cold winter nights, but go out by turns and by date and time to the spots where people were mourning, and console them and share sorrow with them so as to overcome the hard time. Saying that officials should bear in mind that the Chairman would feel sorry if he knew that the people were shivering in the cold, and give top and absolute priority to their convenience, he took the relevant measures. This made everyone keenly feel his noble view of the people and love for them.

The people the Supreme Leader valued so much were not certain special beings or a certain group of persons. They meant ordinary workers, industrial and farm workers, intellectuals and servicepersons whom the President and the Chairman had valued as their teacher and Heaven during their revolutionary careers.

In his speech at the Fourth Conference of Cell Secretaries of the Workers’ Party of Korea the Supreme Leader said: Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is, in essence, the people-first doc-

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Integrated

Whole of Party and People

- trine and a person who worships the people as God and works devotedly for them is just a genuine Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist.

The people-first principle has become the basic idea in the building and activities of the Party which is guiding the socialist cause of Juche successfully. And the selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people are now the mode of existence of the Party and its revolutionary traits.

Since the first day of its founding the WPK has always served the people. Today its activities have become more meaningful with its selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people.

The February 16, 2012 issue of *Rodong Sinmun*, the organ of the WPK Central Committee, carried the news that Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un read a letter from the Manpho citizens, and wrote his autograph on it.

In the letter the local people expressed their desire to contribute white rice they had gathered. The Supreme Leader, however, wrote on their letter that the officials of the local provincial Party committee and the municipal Party committee should supply the rice to the people and children in the city true to the noble intention of the Great General [Kim Jong Il] who had devoted his whole life to the people’s interests and happiness. His autograph deeply impressed the

people.

The Supreme Leader once said to officials: I would like to speak out to the world that our people are the greatest. I intend to become their guardian and true servant who is ready to cross even a raging river and clear a thorny path cheerfully for the sake of them.

Kim Jong Un led the whole Party to serve the people by setting fine examples. For the sake of the people, he unhesitatingly got on a cable car for its trial operation, and visited factories and farms even during the dog days. Sometimes he readily trekked along dusty or muddy roads of construction sites and sometimes went up stairs with no handrails. Saying that he was most happy when he had done something for the people, he continued his journey of devotion to the people.

Whenever creating something for the people, he made sure it was completed on the highest possible level no matter how hard it might be. And he mapped out new blueprints for the prosperity of the people one after another. Thanks to his leadership, there mushroomed lots of things despite manifold difficulties and trials, adding to the people’s happiness.

In those days the image of the WPK was imprinted in the minds of the Korean people as that of their true mother.

A person who faithfully serves the people is regarded

as the one who is loyal to the Party. On the increase is the number of the officials who find out more and more things for the good of the people, strive to provide them with better living conditions and environment, take care of parentless children, helpless old persons and children of baby homes and orphanages.

Kim Jong Un said in a speech at the military parade and public procession of the Pyongyang citizens held in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the WPK:

The Korean revolution is advancing not by dint of any mysterious divine power but on the great strength of our people, including the heroic working class of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, who are following and safeguarding their Party with a single mind. The Party respects and believes in the people as in Heaven and regards them as its mentors, and they boundlessly trust and follow it as they would do their own mothers—this single-hearted unity is precisely the true appearance of Korea and the great foundation of the Korean revolution.

Now the Korean people are faithfully supporting the Party’s leadership with the conviction that victory and glory are in store for them for ever as they have the great motherly Party.

Ri Jong Nam

Most Vigorous Force of Society



Pak Myong Jin.

Kim Un Chol.

SOME TIME AGO A *KOREA TODAY* REPORTER had an interview with Pak Myong Jin, vice chairman of the Central Committee of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League, and Kim Un Chol, a department head of the committee. Excerpts:

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea young people are regarded as the most vigorous force of the society as they are strong in combat efficiency and revolutionary spirit and full of energy. This is why the Workers' Party of Korea has made it an eternal strategic line of the Party and revolution to attach importance to young people, I think.

Pak Myong Jin: You are right. President Kim Il Sung began his revolutionary activities with going among young people and rallying them. He also led the anti-Japanese revolution relying on young people as its main force. On October 17, Juche 15 (1926) he founded the Down-with-Imperialism Union, the first revolutionary youth organization in Korea. And on August 28, 1927 he formed the Young Communist League of Korea, the genuine revolutionary vanguard organization of the young people of Korea. And he put young people in the van of the revolution and construction at every stage, developing the youth movement onto a new higher level.

In his reminiscences *With the Century* the President wrote:

"No work in the world is more worthwhile and honourable than work among young men and women. If I were fortunate enough to begin my life anew and if I were given the right to choose a job, I would devote myself to youth work as I readily did when in Jilin."

This shows how much importance the President attached to the work with young people.

And Chairman Kim Jong Il gave a classic

formulation that the destiny of the Party is just that of young people, and that socialism is their lifeblood. He saw to it that close attention was paid to rearing young people into the youth vanguard of the Party and the reliable successors to the cause of socialism. The love for and trust in young people find expression in the slogans **"Love the future!"** and **"Love the youth!"** put forward by the President and the Chairman.

The President and the Chairman's love for and trust in young people are carried forward invariably, I think.

Kim Un Chol: Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un is writing a new chapter of the history of attaching importance to young people and loving them. He said that he felt confident because he had the dependable young people, the main force that would carry out the revolution arm in arm and shoulder to shoulder with him until the day of its final victory

When the whole country was in deep grief over the unexpected greatest loss of the nation (the demise of the Chairman), and when the imperialists, availing themselves of the opportunity, outrageously intensified their challenges and moves to suffocate the country, causing serious difficulties to it, the Supreme Leader sent the following autograph of his to us young people.

"A prosperous tomorrow will be achieved earlier by our young people taking vigorous

► steps.

"Always advance straight forward following the Party!

"Kim Jong Un

"January 26, 2012"

In his speech delivered at the military parade and public procession of the Pyongyang citizens held in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the WPK he said: By continuing to hold fast to the three-point strategy of attaching importance to the people, to the army and to young people as its foremost weapon, our Party will advance forward vigorously towards final victory and accomplish the Korean revolution.

The Supreme Leader's trust in and love for young people were clearly demonstrated through the construction of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station.

Pak Myong Jin: It was a huge, difficult project ever recorded in the country's history of building hydropower stations as the builders had to overcome the most unfavourable physiographical conditions. The Party entrusted our young people with the entire project.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited the construction site several times. He said that the patriotism displayed by the members of the youth shock brigade at the construction site would clearly show that the country was the only and one youth power in the world, and enhanced the dignity of young people by coining the new term of *masters of the youth power*. He also named the power station

Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station.

He said that the ideological and spiritual qualities and traits of young people were more valuable than a mountain of gems, and expressed his belief that they would creditably perform their role as the Party's youth vanguard by fully displaying all their youthful vigour, wisdom and enthusiasm in the current historic march.

Our young people are living under such great love and trust. So they regard such love and trust as the greatest wealth and glory that should not be bartered for anything.

"Live a worthwhile youth!"—this is the Korean young people's outlook on life, I think.

Pak Myong Jin: It is their unanimous aspiration to take the lead in carrying out the cause of the Party by working devotedly in challenging and labour-intensive sectors.

Regarding national defence as their duty they volunteer to join the People's Army, and work at farms to implement the Party's intention of building socialist rural communities. And they strive to be masters of modern science and technology and developers of new technology so as to actively contribute to the building of a socialist power. In the course of this more and more young people have developed into the heroes of the time and true sons and daughters of the country. They are the great pride of the Party, the country and the people.

Like this, our young people are preparing themselves into the dependable successors to the revolution under the concern, guidance and care of the Party, the State and the society. □

The Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station built by the Korean young people.



Position and Role of Man in World

THE JUCHE IDEA RAISED the position and role of man in the world as the fundamental question of philosophy and elucidated the philosophical principle that man is the master of everything and decides everything.

That man is the master of everything means that he holds the position of the master of the world and his own destiny, and that man decides everything means that he plays the decisive role in transforming the world and in shaping his destiny. This is precisely the view of the Juche idea on the position and role of man in the world.

Man is the master of everything. It means he is the master of nature and society and of his own destiny.

Man is the master of nature.

The natural world has various material beings. Among living things the kinds of plants number some 500 000 and those of animals about 1 500 000. But it is only man who lives controlling the surrounding world. He makes planes, sound detectors and telescopes so as to fly in the sky at a supersonic speed, catch the sound which no animal can hear, and see a thing which is invisible to animals. People build dikes and control rivers to prevent floods and drought, and generate electricity by using water power.

Such instances are countless. In the former days people who

did not know the secrets of the universe considered the universe and heavenly bodies mysterious. However, people have now set out to conquer the universe.

All these facts vividly prove that man is not a being blindly adapting itself to nature but the master that lives in control of it as he pleases.

Man is the master of not only nature but also society who makes social environment more serviceable to him. Unlike nature, society came into being with the appearance of human beings in the world. All the spiritual, cultural and material wealth in society is created and used by people. Social relations are also a product of people and dominated by them.

Next, man decides everything. It means he plays the decisive role in transforming nature and society. To remake nature, there should be material and technical means. If tideland is to be reclaimed there must be excavators, cranes, steel and cement. This shows that material and technical means are indispensable for transforming nature.

Thanks to the rapid development of science and technology robots assemble cars, fetch books from the stack rooms of libraries and perform other kinds of work, but they are all what people have made and work as people order. In other words, they are simply the extension of human brains and

hands, and it is man that plays the decisive role in remaking nature.

Man performs the decisive role in transforming society as well.

Originally, society was born of the demand of man to live independently. Since man is the direct agency in social relations, social laws are laws of his activity. The requirement of social laws will be put into effect only by people's demand and the struggle to satisfy it. True, objective conditions have an important bearing on social transformation, but man is always the decisive factor. After all, the decisive role in remodeling nature and society, that is, the world as a whole, belongs to man.

One thing must be made clear in this connection. It is that when we say man decides everything, this should not be taken for meaning that man brings about the movement and change of everything in this world. The decisive role of man in the world does not mean that all things move and change through human agency but that man plays a greater role in transforming the world than any other factors.

Like this, the philosophical principle of the Juche idea that man is the master of everything and decides everything provides a scientific answer to the question of man's destiny.

Kim Won Sik

Kim Jong Il and August 25

WHENEVER AUGUST 25 comes round, the Korean people look back with deep emotion upon the revolutionary career of Chairman Kim Jong Il, the eternal Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, because it is the anniversary of the beginning of his guidance on the revolutionary armed forces of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

On August 25 of 60 years ago Kim Jong Il inspected the Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105th Tank Division of the Korean People's Army. That day he clarified the KPA's mission to achieve the final victory of the Korean revolution under the slogan "Let us defend with our very lives the Party Central Committee headed by the respected Comrade Kim Il Sung!" and expressed his firm determination to turn the country into a one no enemy would dare to touch.

Later, during his decades-long revolutionary leadership, he put his determination into practice. He combined politics and military affairs in the most reasonable manner, and led the Korean revolution along the road of victory by applying the combination in practical government.

The mid-1990s recorded as the period of the Arduous March in the history of the socialist Korea was the one in which the

Korean revolution underwent trying ordeals.

At that time the Korean people suffered the greatest loss of the nation (the demise of President Kim Il Sung on July 8, 1994), and the allied forces of imperialism, availing themselves of the opportunity, unprecedentedly intensified the schemes to isolate and stifle the country. By means of political and military provocations and pressure and atrocious economic sanctions and embargo, the enemies extremely aggravated the situation on the Korean peninsula, and obstructed the country's normal economic construction, causing severe economic difficulties to it. Worse still, the country suffered food shortage due to consecutive natural disasters. Thus the Korean people were compelled to undergo the Arduous March.

At this juncture, Chairman Kim Jong Il gave precedence to the People's Army, and led socialist construction by relying on the army.

He newly clarified the relations of the army with the Party, the State and the people on the principle of giving precedence to the army over the working class, unlike in the past when the army was regarded only as the military means for merely defending the revolution. The clarification is that the army represents the Party, the State

and the people immediately.

On January 1, Juche 86 (1997), the Chairman stressed the need to keep putting in great effort to strengthen the army, and said: Our country is building socialism against imperialist encirclement and ceaseless military threats. In this condition there cannot be the people, the socialist state and the Party without the strong army. In this sense it can be said that the army represents the Party, the State and the people immediately.

Holding that the revolutionary army and the masses of the people in the socialist society pursue the same fundamental interests, aspiration and desire, and that attaching importance to the army means just doing so to the socialist state and the people, he put forward the Korean People's Army as the pillar of the revolution.

On the morning of January 1, 1995, the Chairman inspected the Dwarf Pine Post. After seeing soldiers of the post training, he said full of confidence: It is definite that we can accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche as long as we have the mighty People's Army infinitely loyal to our Party.

The Chairman's inspection of the post on the first morning of 1995 following the bitter year of 1994 when the Korean people suffered the greatest loss of ►

► the nation, that is, the demise of Kim Il Sung, the eternal President of the DPRK, was a historic event which announced to the world that his politics was the one by which priority was given to military affairs and the People's Army was strengthened before any collective in the society.

The small dwarf pine hill unrecorded on the map has since been known to the whole country and the entire world.

Later he went on a ceaseless tour of inspection to wherever there were soldiers in the country, expressing his intention to become the Supreme Commander smelling the earth in trenches and sharing life and death with soldiers.

He also led the army to play the role of the main force not only in national defence but also in creation and construction.

During his continued inspection of army units, he always stressed that soldiers should fully display the traits of army-people unity, loving and actively helping the people, and that they should keep setting examples in making breakthroughs in all difficult fields of the building of a socialist power.

The Chairman entrusted the KPA with both national defence and socialist construction and made sure that it performed feats of labour in difficult sectors including the construction of large-scale power stations, motorways and waterways and large-scale land realignment.

Because he attached im-

portance to the fact that the army possessed nobler political and ideological traits and more revolutionary spirit of fighting than any classes and collectives, he was confident that it could discharge its duty as the shock brigade for socialist construction and artist of the people's happiness.

Upholding the slogan "Let us take upon ourselves both national defence and socialist construction!" the army took the lead in difficult sectors of socialist construction. Thus a large number of monumental structures were built across the country and innovations brought about in major sectors like coal and power industries and agriculture.

The Chairman saw to it that the revolutionary soldier spirit was created among KPA soldiers and that the whole society emulated the spirit.

In June 1996 he visited the construction site of the Anbyon Youth Power Station. Looking round different places associated with soldiers' feats, he designated the fighting spirit displayed by the soldier builders as the revolutionary soldier spirit. Subsequently the spirit spread throughout the society followed by the creation of the Kanggye spirit, and the kindling of the torch of Songgang, the torch of Ranam and the torch of Kangson.

The revolutionary soldier spirit, the revolutionary ethos of the times, served as the driving force to inspire the people to defend the country and accelerate the building of

a prosperous and powerful socialist state despite the worst adversity.

The Chairman took warm care of KPA soldiers, regarding them as his own sons and daughters and his revolutionary comrades-in-arms. Whenever he met KPA officers and soldiers, he showed great concern for and trust in them, describing himself and them as the revolutionary comrades-in-arms on the road of the revolution.

Referring to KPA soldiers as his sons and daughters invariably, he, during his inspection of any unit, looked round its barracks, kitchen, wash-cum-bathroom and daily ration store, and even had a taste of food. And remembering a promise he had made to parents of ordinary soldiers, he, on a tour of inspection to a unit, sent for the soldiers and showed warmer care for them than their own parents, having a photo taken with them. Once he had an overnight journey to an army unit to see its soldiers he had missed. Still, he waited outside for long in a cold wind lest he should stir them from their sleep at dawn.

As a result, there was formed a harmonious whole between the Supreme Commander and all soldiers of the army based on the revolutionary comradeship.

One February day in 1999, Kim Jong Il, recalling those days, said that Songun politics was his basic political mode and a mighty sword for leading the revolution to victory.

Ri Jong Nam

Treasure of the Factory



Ri Chol Sok.



Jon Kyong Ung.



Kim Hyang Mi.

RECENTLY THE MANGyongdae Revolutionary Site Souvenir Factory has set up technical processes for mass-production of plastic and metal zips and a production line of melamine goods.

Chief engineer Han Kyong Il of the factory says, "It was not so easy as we had expected to get such equipment. Whatever we decided to do, there were always some difficulties—big and small. But we buckled down to the work as we knew the rise and fall of our factory depended on how to deal with them. That manner of work led us through the bottlenecks finally."

What turned out to be the biggest obstacle in the zip production was how to coat the slide. There was a coating process in the factory, which was based on an old method. As the new zip fasteners were to be used in manufacturing backpacks to be supplied to all pupils and students of colleges, junior and senior middle schools and primary schools in the country as well as sports goods, the slides had to be smart and strong with perfect shine and smoothness.

Jon Kyong Ung and other

members of the zip workteam in their 20s and 30s volunteered to undertake the task. They had finished college courses with honours on the study-while-you-work system. The factory formed a research team headed by the chief engineer and involving those workers.

The team worked hard to learn advanced coating technology in a shortest possible period of time, using the sci-tech learning space in their factory and visiting the Sci-Tech Complex and the Grand People's Study House. Meanwhile they often consulted teachers and researchers of Kim Chaek University of Technology. Sometimes they assimilated experience by visiting other factories which were leading the coating field. A lot of foreign reference books were also studied.

It was quite a formidable task for them as it was still an unknown world to them, yet they never vacillated in pursuing their decision that they had to do both designing and manufacturing of all things by the factory's technical resources to suit the factory's own condition.

At last their united effort brought about the success in developing silvery coating material

in six months. And they soon established a silver-coating process which ensures admirable brilliance and adhesiveness while reducing the power consumption considerably and saving a lot of money. Building on the achievement, the research team soon began the project for a gold-coating process, which was finished in a year and a half.

With the successful establishment of the coating processes, the workers became more convinced of the importance of science and technology. Now they set a goal of making alloy zinc with the factory's effort, instead of purchasing it from another enterprise. They designed and built an alloying oven by themselves.

When they manufactured quality alloy zinc with the oven and obtained as much as three tons of alloy zinc by recycling zinc slag and rejected zip fasteners, the factory employees were quite amazed.

As the oven brought a huge profit to the state as well as to the factory, it was rated the best at a national sci-tech festival.

Later the young workers made another plan to develop a double-coloured zip. Although it was thought impossible to make ►

Pride of Mushroom Producers



THE JANGJAGANG MUSH-
room Farm is situated in
Kongin-dong, Kanggye City, Ja-
gang Province, in the northern
part of Korea. The name of the
farm came from the fact that it
is halfway up the Jangja River
crossing the city of Kanggye.

Some time ago, I visited the

farm.

My first impression was
that it was an environment-
friendly farm in the shade of
trees: It was surrounded by
a green area of 10 000 square
metres where over 10 000
trees including apple trees,
black alders, lime trees, black

chokeberries, Korean spruces
and cypresses are growing in
good harmony.

The farm was established in
March Juche 103 (2014). Since
its inauguration, it has vigor-
ously boosted production by
relying on science and technol-
ogy.

After collecting fungus of
Ganoderma in the natural world
in 2017 and repeating experi-
ments for two years, the farm
established a good method of
cultivating the mushroom.

Later it intensified the re-
search to increase the species
of mushrooms, thus becoming
able to produce different kinds
of mushrooms such as agaric,
Lentinus edodes and King Oys-
ter Mushroom.

In addition, they developed
and introduced a method of
producing mushrooms by
means of substitute sub- ▶

▶ it with the existing production
facilities, they managed to set up
a necessary process and turned
out the trial product.

In addition, they were the
first to make a success of the
experimental introduction of
the HEDP coating method in
the country, which is one of the
advanced methods around the
world, and then developed it into
an industrial phase. They have
also made considerable progress
in the research into coating with

synthetic resin, which is one of
the top coating technologies.

What is worth mentioning
about their achievement is the
establishment of a melamine
goods production line, which
churns out different kinds of
kitchen utensils and dishes. The
waste from the production is re-
cycled to make plastic tiles.

Meanwhile, the team success-
fully developed five kinds of de-
vices, such as an item to improve
safe operation of the AC contactor,

a multifunctional digital counting
instrument and an intelligent
temperature control. In particu-
lar, their method of coating die-
cast goods won the first prize at
a national sci-tech achievement
exhibition last February.

Kim In Chun, a member of
the managing staff of the fac-
tory, says, "I would say they are
a treasure for my factory's devel-
opment. And we have a growing
number of such people."

Sim Chol Yong



Mushrooms are picked and supplied to the people.

▶ strates, raising the utilization
rate of sawdust and rice chaff
by 50 percent.

In particular, the farm
is putting much effort into
recycling raw and other
materials.

Kang Yun, chief engineer of
the farm, says, "We are striving
to recycle the substrates used
for mushroom production. Af-
ter gathering one or 1.2 kilo-
grams of mushroom from one
kilogram of substrate, we inject
some nutritive substances into
the substrates to be recycled
three times. And all the used
substrates are recycled for
organic fertilizer production."

Now the farm has 16 and
five modern indoor and outdoor
cultivation grounds free from
germs and dust, and hundreds of
tons of various mushrooms are
gathered from the grounds eve-
ry year. The clean environment,
introduction of science and
technology and growing mush-
room production—these are
some of the source of the pride
of the workers.

They say proudly in unison

that their happiest days of the
year are those when they pick
mushrooms.

Mushrooms from the farm
are all supplied to citizens, an
orphanage, primary and mid-
dle schools for orphans and an
old people's home in the city.

Kim Song Sim, a worker at
the indoor cultivation ground,
says, "Whenever people ask me
about the secret of the produc-
tion growth, I tell them, 'Mush-
rooms from my farm are regu-

larly supplied to all the nurser-
ies and kindergartens in Kang-
gye, and my son attends the
Oeryong Kindergarten. So not
only mine but also the children
and families of all other workers
of my farm are greatly benefit-
ing. I think it is natural that we
bring about innovation in pro-
duction with an unusual pride
in our job."

Article by Kim So Yong

Photos by Hwang Jong Hyok

Workers tend trees in the farm compound.



Through Mass-based Technical Innovation Campaign



Technical problems arising in the operation of the power station are solved in time to increase the production of power.



THE SUNCHON THERMAL POWER STATION is increasing the power production year after year.

Last year its output of electricity increased 104.2 % as compared with the previous year, and thus it was awarded a common rotating pennant and official commendation in the name of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the DPRK Cabinet.

This year, too, the power station overfulfilled its first half-year plan, and is striving to fulfil the second half-year task.

The achievement is the fruit of a brisk mass-based technical innovation campaign.

It was one day in mid-March last. The power production was at its height in an effort to carry out the first-quarter plan of the year. Unexpectedly, they were faced with the problem of how to repair a blade of a blast blower. An edge of the blade began to break, and unless it was mended in time, coal dust might go into the crack of the blower which would lead to destruction of the balance of the blades and their axis or breakdown of the electric motor. If they stopped the production to repair the blade, it would hinder the accomplishment of the production plan.

Won Il Sok, vice chief engineer in charge of production, and workers tried to find a way to repair the blade while continuing the production. In this course, they invented a method of putting foamed plastics in the inside spaces of both blades to balance them while preventing the breakdown of the blades. Thus the workers of the engineering workshop repaired the blade in a short time without causing any hindrance to the production, which led to uninterrupted power generation.

And by pooling their wisdom, they invented

a method of operating a high-pressure electric motor by dint of a generator. The method helped prevent fluctuation of the electric current during the startup and secure the normal operation of electric motors.

In close contact with technicians, the workers of the electric turbine maintenance workshop introduced new ideas to shorten the time for repairing such equipment as various electric motors and the reducing gear of a ball crusher, and thus they finished the repairing in two days, instead of a week which had been taken to do before. They also introduced rational ideas to solve technical problems of water pumps, and thus raised the output of each of the pumps and provided a favourable condition for flux by changing the angle of the blades of the pumps.

And the workers of the heat production workshop introduced technical innovations to shorten the time for repairing the breeching system, thus finishing the repair in two days. The technicians and operators of the turbine workshop used a scrap belt for valve plate around the exit of the pump of a dust collector instead of copper, and made the blades of the pump by themselves, thus contributing to the power production.

Besides, the technicians and workers have presented lots of innovative ideas conducive to the normal operation of the power station, making it possible to overfulfil the monthly plans.

Sok Tu Hong, general manager, says, "The masses have inexhaustible strength and wisdom. Now my complex has turned the technical innovation campaign into the masses' own work. So the power production will keep increasing, I am sure."

Sim Chol Yong

Pacesetter for Technical Development

IT IS MERELY A FEW YEARS AGO THAT THE Sinuiju Advanced Technology Exchange Company under the State Academy of Sciences started working. However, it is playing a leading role in developing valuable products, and diffusing and introducing advanced technologies.

The company has already introduced in many units in the province dozens of latest technologies including a system for producing electricity by combining wind power and solar panels, a pumping system relying on solar energy and a technique of using solar water heater.

It is also attributable to its researchers that electric power management systems and online classroom management systems based on solar panels have been installed at primary schools in Sinuiju.

They also installed geothermal equipment and decorative illuminations in many places of the province like the Ragwon General Machine Enterprise, reclaimed Taegyedo tideland, the provincial art theatre, Sinuiju Square, Sinuiju Baby Home, Sinuiju Orphanage, Ponbu Kindergarten in Sinuiju, Ryongmun Cavern, and Tongchang, Kwaksan, Thaecheon, Sonchon and Nyongbyon counties.

With a powerful research group in their twenties who graduated from Kim Chaek University of Technology and University of Sciences, the company is developing new technical products. Recently it has developed road signs, nano abrasive and a nano grinding machine relying on solar energy. The nano abrasive and grinding machine are popular as they help ensure the smoothness and lustrousness of artificial-stone floor on a high level.

It was some years ago that the researchers started to develop a nano grinding technique. At that time much artificial stone and nano abrasive were needed as it was a trend to finish building floors with artificial stone instead of tiles. The country

was still depending on the imported materials, not satisfying the demand for the materials. As a material based on the advanced technology, the nano abrasive made of hardener and nano glaze was exclusive to only a few countries, and there were no research data available in the country.

Setting a bold goal of developing the nano grinding technique, they were engaged in the research work, and thus they developed an efficient grinding machine and a dust collector. Following the achievements, they also embarked on the development of hardener and nano glaze.

The hardener enables the artificial stone floor to harden in a short time while shortening the grinding time, and the nano glaze enables the floor to be more lustrous than tiles.

Whiling pushing ahead with the research work, the researchers one day came to know that a unit was also conducting similar research. So they visited the unit, and the researchers of the unit gave them their basic research data without hesitation, encouraging them.

Based on the data, they grasped the core technology in a short period and succeeded in the development of the nano glaze. Thus it became possible to further improve the quality of structures while saving much labour and time. Their nano abrasive and grinding machine have made a great contribution to ensuring the beauty of buildings in the province, including those of Sinuiju Primary School for Orphans and Sinuiju Middle School for Orphans.

It is not merely thanks to their high ability that they are leading the technical development of the province. With ardent enthusiasm for pioneering the cutting edge of science ahead of others, they are making strenuous efforts to develop new technical products and introduce advanced techniques.

Pak Yong Il



Brightness of illumination is measured.



Effective Rehab Therapy—Scratch



Kinesiotherapy is applied.



A consultation is underway over a patient with slipped disk.

THE REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT OF Pyongyang Municipal People's Hospital No. 2 boasts medical workers who are well known for their rich clinical experience and high ability. Their main therapy is scratch.

While intensifying the study of rehabilitation therapies recently, they focused their attention on the scratch therapy Korean ancestors had long used.

The department scrupulously organized the research to put the therapy on a scientific basis, thus making it possible to combine the traditional therapy with medicines so as to raise the rate of recovery markedly.

Ku Son Hwa, head of the department, says, "If a certain medicinal lubricant is applied to the skin of a patient and the skin is scratched and rubbed with a special implement made of animal bone, tiny blisters appear on the skin. The blisters tell the disease of the patient and make it possible to apply a proper treatment. The frequent application of the therapy helps promote the blood circulation of the patient's capillaries, boost metabolism and restore the functions of the internal organs."

Ri Chol Su, 57, a resident of Ryonghung-dong No. 3, Taesong District, Pyongyang, says, "I recently felt heavy in the chest and had troubles in breathing. So I began to get the scratch therapy in this hospital. A few days later, I felt light in the chest. I could breathe with ease and I

felt invigorated. After getting the treatment for a month, I was cured of all my other diseases as well."

In late April last an old woman was hospitalized to the department of the hospital for her cerebral haemorrhage gravis. She was Kim Suk Yong, 69, who lives in Ryukkyo-dong No. 1, Phyongchon District, Pyongyang. At that time she had dysphasia and hemiplegia.

Seeing the case, Hyon Yom Sim in charge of her wondered if she could restore her to health. However, she bravely applied to the case finger-pressure therapy along with the scratch therapy she had mastered.

Recollecting those days, Hyon says, "Nearly ten days after beginning to get the treatment, the patient started speaking to my surprise. It meant the scratch therapy was effective. With the confidence that we could cure her completely, we pushed ahead with the treatment."

Witnessing her grandmother's treatment as a whole, Pak Myong Gyong, 25, says, "Thanks to the scratch therapy, there was an obvious improvement in my grandma's condition. I was surprised that she started speaking and got feeling in her arm and leg. The doctors said it was not long after they began to apply the scratch therapy to her. They were really competent doctors."

Leaving the hospital the old woman said, "I appreciate your effort to restore me to health. I

know it's not easy to cure a disease like mine, but the scratch therapy gave me a mysterious power."

Other members of the department, including Kim Su Hyang, Ro Myong Im and Ri Sok Chol, are also known for being good at scratch therapy. They are achieving much success in using the therapy to treat periartthritis of shoulder, bursal synovitis, ankle sprain, digestive troubles and deformed spine like cervical spondylosis and slipped disk.

The doctors also wrote treatises like *Clinical Research for Treating Rheumatism by Application of Sulfur Mud and Infrared Ray-based Scratch Therapy*, *Research for Treating Slipped Lumbar Disk by Combination of Scratch Therapy and Rehabilitation Means*, and *Research for Treating Cervical Spondylosis by Combination of Scratch and Mud Therapies*. Their experience is introduced across the country.

Article by Sim Chol Yong

Photos by An Yong Chol

Scratch therapy and low frequency therapy are combined.



Medical Oxygen Production Base Built

IN RECENT YEARS, MEDICAL OXYGEN FACTORIES HAVE been built all across the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to produce and supply enough medical oxygen to medical institutions.

In September Juche 105 (2016) a modern medical oxygen factory was newly built in Pyongyang and began to produce medical oxygen. Other provinces including South and North Phyongan provinces are pushing forward with the construction of similar factories vigorously.

In April 2020 a similar factory was completed and put into operation in North Hamgyong Province. It is situated on the bank of the picturesque Susong River, Saha-ri, Puryong County. With a total floor space of 6 800 m², the factory produces 1 200 m³ of oxygen a day on average. All the equipment—air compressor, air pre-cooler, air purifier and oxygen plant—and an integrated manufacturing system were developed and introduced by the province's own effort and technology.

The medical oxygen from the factory is supplied to hospitals, clinics and minor people's hospitals in the province.

Tong Song Gwon, director of the Provincial People's Hospital, says, "It is good in many aspects that we use medical oxygen from the provincial medical oxygen factory, for example, in transport and storage. And we've come to have an attachment to and take pride in our own things."

Kim Yong Hui



Developers of Orthoses

THE MUNSU REHABILITATION Clinic on the bank of the Taedong River in Pyongyang exclusively treats hypokinetic cases and the disabled. Among the medical workers of the clinic are technicians of its medical appliance department. They make and introduce effective orthoses in rehab, thus giving the cases and the disabled hope of life.

They started orthosis research in 2016.

“At that time there were prosthesis producers in the country but no producers of orthoses,” says Cha Myong Il, head of the medical appliance department.

The head and other technicians of the department comprehensively studied and analysed the data on human anatomy and other clinical aspects, visited the prosthesis producers and conducted orthosis-wearing simulation experiments according to different diseases and deformations.

However, it was not an easy job to manufacture the orthoses suited to individual cases as their physical features and deformation symptoms are

different. They had to solve lots of scientific and technical problems including design of structure and selection of the relevant materials to compensate for the disordered action of each part of the body and satisfy the technical requirement for deformation rectification and disordered function rehab. At last they succeeded in developing over 20 kinds of orthoses of high effectiveness for rehabilitation. And they also established a process for making the appliances effective for restoring various disordered functions.

The devices they make include a knee orthosis for rehabbing dislocated knee joint, arthritis and articular dropsy, a shoulder immobiliser for curing dislocated or fractured shoulder joint, a scoliotone and a thoracolumbar orthosis. Besides, they made the ankle & foot orthosis for curing strephopodia caused by cerebral apoplexy, spinal nerve paralysis, infantile paralysis and neuromuscular weakness, and dislocated ankle, a shoe liner for the cases who have trouble in normal walking for different lengths of both legs, and a wrist-and-hand

orthosis for curing finger joint diseases. All of them have been fully proved effective in clinical introduction.

Ri Jong Su, 34, a worker living in Neighbourhood Unit No. 86, Taewon-ri, Sadong District, Pyongyang, says, “Some time ago I hurt the spine in an accident. My legs were paralysed, and I became unable to walk. I could not help but fall into despair at the thought that I was disabled in my young age. Later, when I put on the ankle & foot orthoses made by the medical appliance department of the rehabilitation clinic, I became able to walk as normally as ordinary people. Then I was full of life, indeed.”

Choe Kum Ok, 59, a resident of Neighbourhood Unit No. 91, Chungsong-dong No. 2, Rangan District, Pyongyang, says, “My seven-year-old grandson had to walk on his knees as his two legs became narrower for cerebral palsy. I shed tears whenever I saw him. But now he wears ankle & foot orthoses developed by the doctors of the medical appliance department of the Munsu Rehabilitation Clinic, and he can walk almost as normally as ordinary people.”

The orthoses developed by the department are simple in structure and light in weight, and convenient to put on, smart in shape and highly effective. Thus they have created a great sensation among their users, and relevant experts at home and abroad.

Scores of appliances from the department won DPRK certificates of inventions and certificates of new ideas at the 16th National Exhibition of Inventions, the 9th National Exhibition of Medical Appliances, the 2019 National Exhibition of Sci-tech Achievements in the Sector of Public Health and other exhibitions.

Sim Chol Yong

Versatile Personnel Trained

KIM KUM SUN SENIOR Middle School in Sinuiju, North Phyongan Province, was named after Kim Kum Sun, who was a Children’s Corps member during the Korean people’s struggle for national liberation against the Japanese imperialist aggressors.

She was arrested by the enemy while carrying out a task given by the revolutionary organization. Though the enemy tried to cajole her with sweet words, and intimidated and tortured her, she kept the secret of her organization to the last. At the execution site she struck terror into the enemy by shouting, “Down with the Japanese imperialists!” and “Long live the Korean revolution!”

At that time a magazine associated with the Communist International and Chinese and Japanese publications vied in reporting about the little heroine, and her heroic life was highly praised under the title of *Short Biography of a Young Girl Martyr*.

In his reminiscences *With the Century* President Kim Il Sung wrote:

“Kum Sun died at the age of nine, but she is immortal. Though her life was short as a flash of lightning, she had reached the acme of mental development and set a per-



Joint discussions are held regularly to consider teaching plans.

fect example of an honourable life. While there are many people in the world who have lived for a hundred years and left nothing worth mentioning to their nations, at the age of nine she performed an undying exploit that will be enshrined in the hearts of coming generations.”

Now a statue of the girl portraying her at the execution site stands in the school. Every morning and evening students improve themselves ideologically and morally while conversing inwardly with the little heroine before her statue. This can be proved by the fact that the school has produced 11 heroes and a dozen winners of the title of Meritorious Person of Socialist Patriotism.

Students of the school are

setting examples to all others across the country in artistic activities. They are good at national instrumental music in particular. The school put a national instrumental ensemble on the stage, the first of its kind in the sector of education, and taught others to play national musical instruments. In 2018 and 2019 the school took first place at a national schoolchildren’s art festival.

Ri Jin Myong, one of its students, says, “Kim Kum Sun had an unusual aptitude for the arts. She was good at singing and dancing, thus being especially loved by guerrillas and people of the guerrilla base, and would imbue them with joy and confidence. I’m striving to become a good entertainer held in affection by people.”

Students of the school distinguish themselves in study ►





Teachers exchange their experience to raise their qualifications.



In a physics laboratory.

► as well. They were rated as excellent at the 27th national quiz held in 2018, and at the 28th national senior middle school children's quiz and the 26th national multi-subject academic contest held in 2019. More and more students win the title of July 15 Honour Student Prize that is annually awarded to model students.

Teachers of the school make unusual efforts to help their students broaden their knowledge. The teachers are

striving to invent new teaching methods as required by the developing times, and train the students into able future pillars of the country.

Winners of the title of October 8 Model Teacher increase every year among the teachers.

Meanwhile, all students of the school are making strenuous efforts to possess techniques of more than one sporting event. In the course of this, the school achieved excellent results at a national football competition.

Not content with the achievement they are striving to attain a higher goal.

Let us prepare ourselves as fine pillars of the country—this is the aspiration of the students who have unusual love for their school.

All the students say, “I’ll live like Kim Kum Sun who is still alive in the people’s memory.”

*Article by Pak Yong Il
Photos taken by Ri Song Ik in June 2020*

At a foreign language lesson.



Multimedia simulation is underway.



Profitable Online Agricultural Q & A Service



Ri Kwang Myong.

SOME TIME AGO A *KOREA Today* reporter had an interview with Ri Kwang Myong, an office head of the Ministry of Agriculture.

These days your ministry is sponsoring an online question and answer service for providing farming techniques. Could you tell me about it?

The farming-technique question and answer service system consists of an online education and question and answer service system, a homepage-based technical data service system, and a mobile communications network-based data service system. My ministry, agricultural science research institutes, and agricultural guidance organs and farms in all parts of the country are connected in a computer network. The establishment of the service makes it possible to easily disseminate advanced techniques to lower echelons, and thus even far-flung regions can have immediate discussions on problems arising in farming so as to take relevant measures in

time.

You have to have massive agricultural data to run the service, I think.

Absolutely. Officials of my ministry and scientists of the Academy of Agricultural Science, in contact with the Grand People’s Study House, the Sci-Tech Complex, the Korean Documentary and Science Film Studio, the Central Information Agency for Science and Technology, and other establishments, classified the data on scientific farming techniques at home and abroad, essays, experience of reaping good harvests, and hundreds of items of multimedia for each farming process and crop.

The service has further encouraged a scientific farming campaign at farms, adding fuel to agricultural production in the country. According to the statistical data almost 90% of the farms and hundreds of thousands of agricultural workers in the country as well as the agricultural guidance organs in each province, city and county go for the service.

Last year a large number of farms got high yields, and one of the secrets of the success is the aforesaid service, I think.

The service is available once every ten days from late January to before autumn. Clients get such information as the weather forecast for the coming ten days, data on predictions

for the growth of crops, sci-tech problems arising in the coming farming process, and similar problems arising in stockbreeding. From the first year of the service a lot of farms, workteams and sub-workteams joined the service network, and individual farm workers entered it last year.

According to data available, 390-odd farms, 4 000-odd workteams and 15 500-odd sub-workteams became high-yielding units, and more than 102 900 agricultural workers rose to the rank of high-yield producers last year. All those units and workers, strictly adhering to the requirements of the Juche method of farming, chose right high-yield varieties of grains to suit the characteristics of their local soil, and introduced the relevant scientific farming methods.

Kim Jin Ok, worker of Workteam No. 8 of the Kanggyo Cooperative Farm in Jaeryong County, told us that she will gather another good harvest this year by actively learning seasonal farming techniques through the service.

Now we can say for sure the increased grain production last year was attributable to the agricultural question and answer service.

The agricultural officials and workers’ expectations of and interest in the service are growing day by day, and we are going to work with greater devotion to improve the service. □

Spirulina Enjoys Popularity

SPIRULINA IS FILAMENTOUS CYANOBACTERIA. As the first photosynthetic microorganism, which came into being on the earth 3.5 billion years ago, its name comes from the Latin word *spirula* (small spiral). It has proportionate contents of five major kinds of nutrients necessary for the human body, including protein, minerals and vitamins, and 18 kinds of essential amino acid, unsaturated fatty acid, antioxidant elements and microelements, and thus it is regarded as “the most ideal health food in the 21st century” and “the future food of man.”

The Pyongyang Spirulina Processing Factory has established a process which can ensure mass culture of spirulina by an industrial method, and is developing different kinds of natural green health foods.

It was ten years ago that the factory started spirulina research. At that time its culture and processing involved many difficult problems such as the control of water temperature and light intensity and reagent treatment. What was most difficult was to find out a good nutritious feed for spirulina.

Technicians and workers of the factory pooled



An undiluted spirulina solution cultivation ground.

efforts to solve the problem, and found the solution in fossils of marine life. They knew that fossils are germ-free and contain various indispensable bioactive materials for the human body. They decided it could be excellent nutritious feed.

After several years of painstaking efforts they succeeded in culturing spirulina using those fossils richly available in the country. The protein and carbohydrate contents of the cultured spirulina amounted to about 70% and 20% respectively, and it also contained different kinds of vitamins and



Packages are sealed.



The pill production process.

► minerals enough to be used as a natural green food.

Later, they built a culture ground of 3 000m², and manufactured by themselves the relevant production equipment including a thermostatic dryer, an air purifier and a crusher, thus establishing a line for industrial spirulina culture and spirulina-based goods production. All the processes including the gathering and dehydration of spirulina are free from pollution, germs and dust. This is attributable to use of clean spring water, pollution-free environment and a vinyl-sheet greenhouse-type culture ground, says senior engineer Kim In Su.

On this basis the factory is producing various products like Spirulina Growth-promoting Nutritive Pills, Spirulina Jam, Spirulina Sweet Juice, and Spirulina Powder. It has newly established a spirulina powder-based tablet-shaping process.

The products from the factory are enjoying

popularity. It is the unanimous comment of their users that the products not only promote health but also are good for growth of children, and for treating different diseases such as diabetes, obesity and hypertension.

Ho Sun Ok, manager of the factory, says, “The public demand for and interest in spirulina are growing continuously. This requires us to redouble our efforts.”

Now the factory is pushing ahead with the modernization and expansion of the culture ground. Together with this, it is putting spurs to developing new products such as spirulina health drink.

Article by Kim Son Myong
Photos by Ri Song Ik

Efforts are put in to improve the quality of products.



Some of the products.

Flower Researchers



Close research is done on flowering plants.

WHEN PEOPLE ARE ASKED “What is the most beautiful in the world?” they tend to reply: It is flowers. It may be because flowers are closely related with their life.

The researchers of the Pyongyang Floriculture Institute are making sincere efforts to breed and cultivate beautiful flowers which can satisfy the people’s aesthetic requirement. The institute’s greenhouses have ornamental flowers to be planted in streets, villages, gardens, parks and pleasure grounds, decorative flowers to be raised on flowerpots in rooms, and flowers to be cut for

different decorations, bouquets and flower baskets. Besides, they have edible flowers, and those for medicine, perfume and dye.

Jang Son Ok, manager of the Hwanggumbol Flower Shop, says, “We frequent the greenhouses. I really envy the researchers of the institute who live in the world of flowers. Whenever I step in the greenhouses, I feel refreshed. I know every flower in the greenhouses is associated with the painstaking effort of the researchers to make the people enjoy a beautiful life.”

Pang Hyon Im, head of the ornamental flower laboratory

of the institute, says, “We are striving to cultivate much more flowers to people’s liking. We just want to help them have a pleasant time seeing beautiful flowers.”

Recently the institute has developed scientific methods of cultivation and propagation of roses with big flowers in bright, yellow, pink and white colours, and they are highly appreciated. It also cultivated ornamental flowers such as *Gusmania. L.* and hydrangea to be planted in gardens and parks and around lotus ponds, and cymbidium Manbokhwa and phalaenopsis belonging to the orchid family, and sent them to flower shops and stands in the city.

Meanwhile, the institute has achieved successes in the work to improve the ornamental effect of cactuses which are of diversified kinds and help purify the indoor air. It has bred over 30 kinds of cactuses of various colours by grafting so as to overcome the monotonousness of their colours.

Researcher Ri Myong Son says, “Cactus grows in tropical and subtropical zones. It likes to be exposed to sunlight, and



Dried pines and flowers are made.

► is highly resistant to cold. And as it grows well in calcareous sandy soil, everyone can cultivate it easily. These days the public demand for the plant is growing.”

The institute is now cultivating cactuses of ornamental value with red, yellow and white flowers, sending them to flower shops and stands regularly.

Besides, technicians of the Dried Flower Workshop of the institute have solved scientific and technical problems in making dried needles of the pine, the national tree of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, retain their original colour and shape, thus succeeding in producing dried pines.

Ri Hyong Sik, head of the workshop, says, “Pine is one of the trees the Korean people have

an unusual attachment to and plant widely. Technicians of my workshop have produced dried pines of great ornamental value which are suited to the people’s mode of life and the aesthetic tastes of the time.”

Such dried pines are placed for decoration in the architectural spaces of different sizes and missions including offices, drawing the attention of the people for their natural appearance.

The workshop has also produced scores of dried flower frames, baskets and wall hangings, which can keep the flowers from humidity, fading and deformation by ultraviolet rays.

The researchers of the institute are praised for their mind as beautiful as flowers.

Article by Sim Hyon Jin
Photos by Ri Song Min



Mirae Sanop Company



Technical products are on sale.

ADVISORY SERVICE FOR PRODUCTION lines, environmental protection and green architecture—this is the general direction of the future-oriented industry mankind aspires to.

The Mirae Sanop Company in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is putting effort into the research for and development of the future-oriented industry that ensures clean environment and prosperity for mankind. Established in Juche 93 (2004) it is a knowledge-based industrial business that has got an integration of education, scientific research, production and service. It has research groups and service centres that specialize in engineering designing, knowledge production, modern advisory service based on project organization and management plus cooperation, and painting, decoration, fission and recycling technologies.

Since its inauguration the company has intensified research into modern advisory service. Thus it has trained experts who can conceive the idea of realizing a project, design, build and try out a production line, make a general design of certain projects including designing, establishing and trying out an integrated manufacturing system, and deal with the relevant project organization and management.

On the basis of this, the company admits talents of different fields by means of project organization, management and cooperation and offers brisk

advisory services for production lines. A typical example is the advisory service it provided for the establishment of the active control system of an electric boiler at the Pyongyang Noodle House in close contact with some similar domestic companies.

The company also attaches great importance to environmental protection and green architecture. It introduced a recycling technique into the sewage purification system in the area of Lake Chon on Mt Paektu, and the water purification system of the Sunchon Phosphatic Fertilizer Factory, and the systems' rate of recycling is as high as 70%. And it is working to raise the rate up to 90%.

It also pays attention to the development and introduction of an environment-friendly heating and ventilation system. In August 2019 it succeeded in developing a total ceiling radiation system combined with cooling-and-heating and substitutional ventilation, which is recognized as the best cooling-and-heating and ventilation system in the world.

Now the company is introducing the system into scores of units in the country to order.

It is also accelerating the development of different functional building materials helpful to people's health. It has developed and introduced synthetic iron oxide paint, kerb-marking paint, exterior paint that gives an impression of granite, exterior paint that gives an impression of marble, exterior paint for embossed tile decoration, interior paint for embossed multicolour decoration, interior paint for fibre decoration and other green building materials. In particular, anion building paint, far-infrared radiation tile, functional stone decoration tile, and high-performance waterproof agent (120 mm in depth of penetration) from the company were rated as excellent at different domestic festivals and exhibitions.

Choe Song Il, director of the company, says, "Now my company is staffed with authoritative PhDs working in different fields of studies, and young scientists in their twenties and thirties possessed of advanced science and technology. We will make a short cut to the future-oriented industry by relying on them."

Choe Sol Mi

Taedonggang Mullet Soup, Speciality of Pyongyang

THE KOREAN PEOPLE HAVE LONG USED mullet for food extensively. As the fish is highly nutritious and tasty it was called *suo* which means distinguished fish. And the taste of the fish from the Taedong River, which flows across Pyongyang, was known nationwide. Thus soup of mullet from the river has long been regarded as a speciality of the city along with Pyongyang cold noodle, Pyongyang *onban* (meat soup with rice in it) and mung-bean pancake.

When Pyongyangites had special guests, it was commonplace for them to treat the guests to the mullet soup. And visitors to the city thought that they were well entertained only when they were treated to the soup. "How did you like the mullet soup?"—this was the first question to those who had been to the city.

The Pyongyang Mullet Soup House is situated on the picturesque Taedong riverside in Rangnang District, Pyongyang.

Jon Song Hui, manager of the house, says, "My restaurant has lots of visitors all the year round, who want to eat the soup prepared with mullet from the Taedong River. The number of visitors increases two times or more in June and July when the fish is caught in large quantities."

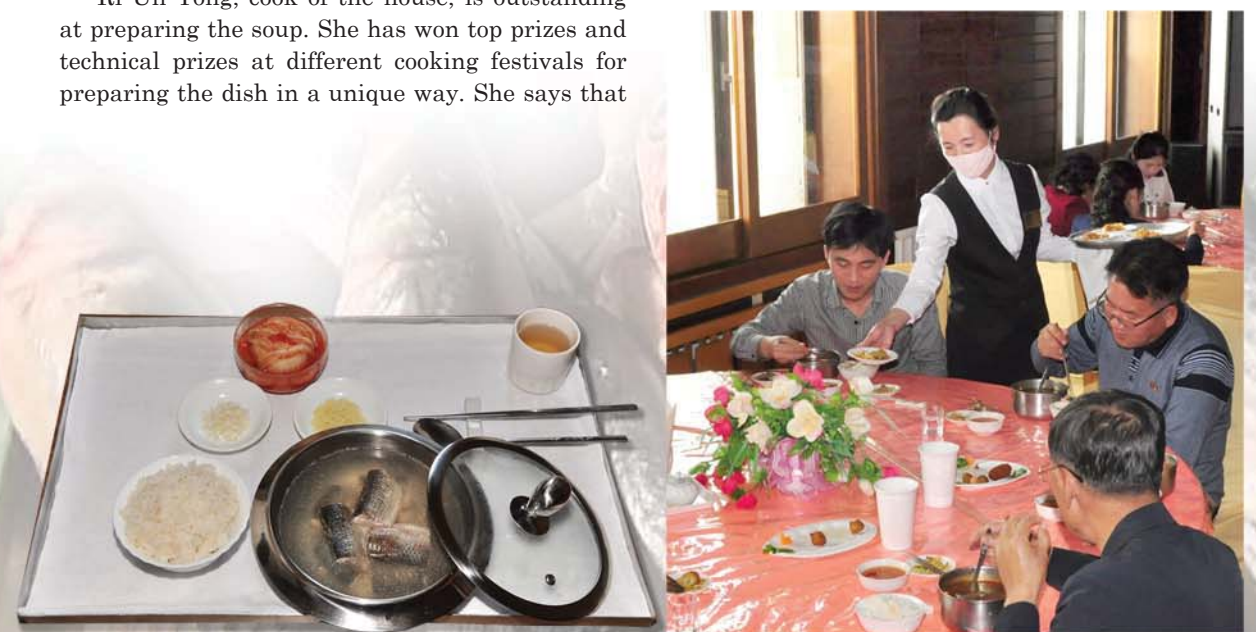
Ri Un Yong, cook of the house, is outstanding at preparing the soup. She has won top prizes and technical prizes at different cooking festivals for preparing the dish in a unique way. She says that

there are some special principles in preparing the soup, such as use of a stone pot and boiling the soup with pepper wrapped in gauze in it, and adds that what is most important is to prepare the stock well. According to the cook, the well-cleaned head of the fish should be put in cold water before boiling it hard to prepare the stock and putting cuts of the fish in it to make the soup. This is the way for the soup to retain its own taste and aroma. The soup prepared by this method accords with the "Like cures like" principle, and thus is a good health-promoting dish in summer.

Ri says, "Having ice cream, cold noodle and other cold food in summer usually has a negative effect on health because of severe difference between outdoor temperature and body temperature. In consideration of this the Korean people regarded it as customary for them to have hot foods even in the summer heat so as to nourish themselves and preserve their health. One of such foods was the hot mullet soup seasoned with garlic and ginger."

Today not only Pyongyangites but also people from provinces frequent the mullet soup house with a green Korean-style hip-saddle roof.

Kim So Yong



Life and Promise

Tokko Hyon

Part 1 Choice

1

ONE DAY LATE IN MARCH LAST I SET OUT on a journey to the northern region for news coverage.

The northbound train was rolling full steam ahead, and my car was in a pleasant atmosphere. Strange enough, however, my section where four people sat face to face felt rather awkward. The aloofness was obviously coming from the young man in his thirties who was seated next to me. For some reason I had found him unfriendly from the moment he stepped onto the train. Asked where he was going, he replied brusquely, “To Chongjin.” While the train was running for over an hour after leaving Pyongyang, he persistently kept his eyes closed leaning against the back of the seat.

This was very irritating to the man sitting opposite who introduced himself as a material supplier of a footwear factory. Saying that he had seen various kinds of people while travelling by train for business for more than 20 years, the material supplier lamented, stroking his forehead that went a bit bald as befitted a middle-aged man, argued, “I’ve never been in such an awkward atmosphere. We should quickly melt ‘this lump of ice’ that is disrupting our atmosphere. I know we should all enjoy a pleasant journey.”

The “lump of ice,” however, showed no reaction until the following happened.

Coming back from the neighbouring section full of atmosphere where he amused himself for a while, the material supplier suddenly shook the young man by the knees, crying, “Hey, what’s the matter with you?”

Opening his eyes wide, the young man complained, “What do you think you’re doing, sir? Don’t you think you’re noisy?”

It might have made an ordinary person blush. The material supplier, however, unexpectedly smiled, saying, “Oh, your eyes are very wonderful,

indeed. They are expressive yet soft. I can’t stand it when you keep such good eyes closed.”

Now passengers all around burst into laughter. Someone said, “It seems as if we were seeing witty talkers on the stage.”

The young man, too, grinned, ashamed of his own folly.

Now I found that he was an outgoing kind of person once he began to speak.

“My name is Ri Won Ho, and I am a power planner,” he introduced himself and added, “I was thinking of a ‘tactical plan’ to settle accounts in Chongjin.”

“Ha! ‘Tactical plan’? And what do you mean by accounts?” asked the material supplier.

Conscious of many eyes focusing on him, Won Ho shook his head lightly, saying, “Nothing much. I’ll tell you later.”

Now the “lump of ice” melted, so to speak, and it was high time for lunch. We produced a rich table. Satisfied with the meal, the material supplier stroked his impressive forehead, saying, “Travelling is really interesting. We meet and part for a moment during the journey. But unusually we all get friendly to one another—I don’t know why. By the way, Won Ho, what do you mean by accounts? Let’s brainstorm about the tactical plan.”

“In fact,” Won Ho hesitated for a moment before raising his head as if he had decided.

“It’s my family affair,” he explained. “In other words it’s related to my wife.”

At his unexpected words not only I but also the smiling material supplier got frozen.

Giving a short sigh, Won Ho said, “I can’t help it. You know the equation of life is so complex. They say love makes you blind and marriage makes you awake. If I had realized things would have gone like this, I would....”

“How long have you been married?” asked the material supplier.

“It’s nearly one year,” the young man replied. ▶

▶ “You say a year?” the material supplier exclaimed with a smile of amazement.

“Why, the young people are quite nervous these days. One year after marriage is a very happy time, isn’t it?”

“Oh, no. I have suffered only loss since I got married,” Won Ho complained.

Then a voice came from an elderly man opposite me, who had remained silent in a relaxed manner without joining the conversation—like an old man proud of his grandchildren as was described by the material supplier.

“What sort of benefit do you think your wife has got from your marriage, then?”

“Well, marriage itself was a benefit to her. Frankly speaking...” Won Ho murmured, perhaps because he felt a sense of morality before the man as old as his father.

“Equation of life?” the elderly man mumbled, casting his eyes out of the car window. Then he suddenly asked me, “Mr Journalist, I think you’re old enough to have heard about a couple of lovebirds in Chongjin who were well known to the whole country in the 1980s.”

A couple of lovebirds in Chongjin? I thought. Then I intuitively felt a memory spring out of the shell of oblivion. Right. I remembered that I had heard about the couple before. Before my mind’s eye arose a vague image of a young man I had seen in newspapers and on TV with deep emotion decades before.

“I remember. I suppose he married a discharged woman soldier with special-class disability. I think he was a truck driver,” I said.

Then the material supplier slapped his knee, saying he, too, remembered.

Not from force of habit as journalist but out of curiosity as man, I asked the elderly man about what had happened to the couple later.

“No doubt they have been happy. They are just a couple of lovebirds. The young truck driver Pak Ki Chon in the past is now the general manager of the provincial motor transport company, and his wife Pak Kil Sun is a respectful grandmother of a large family with sons, daughters, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law and grandchildren,” explained the elderly man, with a smile of satisfaction in his brown face.

“You know much about the family,” I said.

“Sure. The children and relatives of the couple call me elder uncle, and the grandchildren call me granduncle,” the elderly man boasted.

My news coverage started like this. But I didn’t

hurry to take out my notebook. In that situation, I knew, natural conversation was more effective than formal questions and answers.

The elderly man’s name was Ho Kwang Ho, and he, too, was the general manager of an enterprise in Chongjin.

I thought he must have been brusque in every-day work and life. Now his dignified face began to show signs of recollection.

“It was on October 10, 1979, 34 years ago,” the elderly man began to recall. “As a lieutenant at the time, I stopped at Chongjin, my hometown, on my way back to my unit after I had accomplished my mission. It was just the couple’s wedding day.”

2

Before the *Kaengsaeng* jeep could stop Ho Kwang Ho jumped off only to lose his balance and stagger for a moment. Then stopped the car, laughter coming out of it.

“Why, you are an eminent reconnaissance platoon leader, and you are staggering at this speed. You’re a failure,” joked a middle-aged major sitting at the steering wheel. Smiling affably, Ho saluted the major.

“Why are you getting off here? You told me your home is in Chongam District,” asked the major.

“Well, I’m going to visit my childhood friend first,” Ho explained. Pointing to a four-storey apartment building, he said, “He lives in Flat 403 of that apartment. I hope you would join me to drop in at his home. His home is as good as mine.”

“I have no time to do so. You know I have to drive all night,” the major said, starting the engine. The car soon left. Ho saw off the car and habitually adjusted his uniform, looking with deep emotion at the apartment.

In a cool autumn wind and the evening dusk windows of the apartment began to be lighted one after another. Ho’s mind was now full of affectionate remembrances.

Is the window of Ki Chon’s flat the fifth from that end? Ho wondered, looking at the window that was half open, when loud voices and applause came from it. *Do they have a birthday party?*

Ho passed the familiar porch and walked up the staircases briskly.

Having reached the corridor of the fourth floor, Ho felt dubious. Just before the door to Ki Chon’s flat there were lots of shoes, and women and children were popping in and out busily.

(To be continued)

Unbangul Expands Its Realm



Department head Sin Ki Chol.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH THE trademark of *Unbangul* of the Pyongyang Musical Instrument Factory are well known in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Characteristic of the conventional and button accordions manufactured by the factory are clean and rich sounds plus high quality.

Complete lines of manufacture

Producers of musical instruments around the world are usually engaged in professional manufacture of a single kind of part needed for a certain sort of

instrument. In case of a famous manufacturer whose family has been in the hereditary trade of manufacturing musical instruments, it takes him rather a long time to complete a single instrument, so you can hardly expect him to produce many at a time.

Yet, there is something unusual about the Pyongyang Musical Instrument Factory which is located in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang. It has got a firm material and technical foundation for production of conventional and button accordions as much as it can. A perfect line of production is in operation, ranging from designing to making of all kinds of things like outer boxes, reeds, keys and bellows.

What is noteworthy is the reed-tuning process, which is the core of the accordion production line. There are some 30 tuning workers. An average worker can usually complete reeds for one accordion for professional musicians a day. Many of the tuning workers are skilful enough to do reeds for three accordions a day.

In the past they used to depend on their own hearing senses alone in the tuning job, but now a computer-aided tuning system is in use to avoid even a tiny error and ensure a great accuracy.

However well the tuning has been done, the tune of instruments breaks immediately if the assembly fails to be done properly. Thus, the assembling process is no less important. There are hundreds of skilled workers who assemble excellent conventional and button accordions with delicate and precise hands.

Button accordions are assembled and tuned.



- ▶ A GMP-winning manufacturing line and excellent technicians provide a secure guarantee for mass-production of accordions of dozens of kinds.

More and more popular

Unbangul accordions won top awards at a good many national exhibitions and shows, including the 9th Pyongyang Musical Instrument Show 2017. They also attracted much attention at the 2018 China Shanghai International Musical Instrument Fair, following their precedent in 2004. At the 2018 fair the factory's instruments were all sold within only a few days, so the latecomers were quite sorry unable to get it.

That sign of high trust in *Unbangul* accordions further excited the workers. The export of the conventional accordions already began in 1999, and that of button accordions started in the 2000s. The main purchasers are from Italy, Russia and China at the moment, and orders are on the increase from different countries including Brazil.

According to department head Sin Ki Chol of the

factory, the export volume jumped several times by 2019 compared to that of 2011.

The factory has a plan to export harmonicas as well in the future. The relevant production line has already been set up, and trial production is going on.

To expand exchange, cooperation and transactions with more and more countries without feeling satisfied with the growing popularity—this is the steadfast strategy of the factory.

Article by Rim Ok

Photos by Ra Jin Hyok

Foreigners visit the DPRK section during the China Shanghai International Musical Instrument Fair in October 2019.



Greater Effort, Better Life

EVERY VISITOR TO THE Yokphyong Vegetable Co-operative Farm in Huichon, Jangang Province, is struck with wonder at its beautiful scenery and fertile land.

The village of the farm neatly situated at the foot of a wooded mountain, modern dwelling houses surrounded with various fruit trees and standardized vegetable fields—all these are the fruition of the ardent aspiration and devoted efforts of the villagers who are striving to change their village into a place good to live in.

The name of the village came from the fact that the place was once used to keep post horses in the period of the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392–1910). Surrounded by the Chongchon River and steep mountains, the village was known as an isolated area unfit for human habitation. The villagers had no property but thick forests and sterile fields of some 100 hectares. It was a place



A dwelling house at the cooperative farm.

of little rice and few visitors.

In Juche 82 (1993) the farm was reorganized into a vegetable cooperative farm which specializes in producing vegetables along with grain crops. However, the villagers were still in

difficult living conditions for their poor technical and material foundation.

In 2010 the farm got a new management board chairman, who was O Hye Yong. While thinking over how to improve

the workers' living standards, she decided to construct vegetable greenhouses. Most of the workers wondered how they would solve the acute problem of manpower shortage in the busy farming season and whether they could manage such a gigantic scale of construction project by their own efforts.

But Hye Yong was adamant. She reasoned, "Only when we build the greenhouses will we be able to produce vegetables in all seasons and thus raise the cash income and live a stable life. It depends on our resolution." Explaining to the workers about the importance of the greenhouse, she took the lead in the construction that started in April of the next year. The project was completed in six months. Thus the farm gathered tens of tons of vegetables in the greenhouses with the total area of 10 000 square metres that winter.

They also set a series of targets such as standardization of the vegetable fields and creation of an orchard of dozens of hectares, and strove to achieve the targets. Thus all the vegetable fields were standardized and the orchard and a pasture were created in two years or so.

Having introduced various



Vegetables are harvested in greenhouses.

farming methods suited to the local features, including the one of farming on terraced fields, they increased the grain and vegetable production every year. Last year they had the honour of becoming a high-yielding farm.

They also built a house of culture, the Yokphyong Welfare House, a clinic, a school, a nursery, a kindergarten and modern dwelling houses for hundreds of families.

By putting an effort into cultivating vegetables and fruits in kitchen gardens these days, they

are benefiting from them.

Kim Yong Jin, one of the workers, says, "I have 17 fruit trees including five apricot trees, three grapevines and two sweet cherry trees, and a garden greenhouse with an area of 40 square metres around my house. I harvest 1 200 kg of various fruits and 400 kg of vegetables a year on average."

The workers are making strenuous efforts to better their village.

Article by Kim Son Myong
Photos by Hwang Jong Hyok

Goats are put out in a valley.



Pigo

PIGO (FLYING VEHICLE) IS A KIND OF glider. It was invented and used in the early days of the Imjin Patriotic War (1592–1598).

According to a historical record, when the Japanese invaders encircled and attacked the Jinju Fort in South Kyongsang Province, the Korean soldiers flew on such vehicles as far as 12 kilometres to contact the outside.

The vehicle made of wooden framework covered with leather was in the shape of eagle or crested ibis. Its wings were tens of square metres in width so that it could have great

soaring capacity. In the centre of the vehicle were installed devices to control wings, bellows, and an air bag to store and send out the air, the device to control the bag and seats for men to operate these devices. The wings were controlled with several ropes connected to the centre. The vehicle also had wheels under the body so that it could run on the ground.

Pigo was the world's first military glider which carried people.

Kim Ji Un

Animal Sanctuaries on the Increase

STRENUOUS EFFORTS are made to protect useful animals in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. As a mountainous country it puts in primary effort to set up animal sanctuaries to suit its physiographical features. Research is intensifying to conserve and improve the ecological environment of over 300 existing temporary animal sanctuaries.

Each province has set up two reserves this year, and is planning to increase their number to ten in the coming several years.

Such areas are set up mainly in hilly places with scenic beauty, favourable traffic and habitable conditions in such a way as to avoid any damage to the local scenery and ecology.

Efforts are also made to

protect and multiply animals and birds that inhabit one hundred and tens of nature reserves and nature parks in the country.

Mixed forests are created in the animal sanctuaries by planting alder trees, oaks, Korean poplars, wild vines, tara vines and arrowroot between dwarf pine communities. And fodder plants and leafy shrubs are planted to provide natural habitats for pheasants, deer, roe deer and other kinds of animals. Meanwhile, nests are set on trees in the vicinity of villages, at the foot of mountains, in parks and pleasure grounds, and other places.

The number of the reserves is on the increase across the country with an all-people campaign under way to protect and multiply such animals. The Pukji Workers' District of Unsan County, North Phyongan

Province, Pongjae-ri of Yonthan County, North Hwanghae Province, and other localities have developed effective methods of creating and managing the reserves.

Recently, Nampho citizens have created animal sanctuaries in the city's picturesque areas, and set loose a lot of pheasants and roe deer there. Some of the reserves are found in Ryonggang County and Kochang-ri, Chollima District, which have over 60 000 trees of good species, pastures and drinking places.

There is a 4 km-long loop in the reserve in Ryonggang County, and tens of thousands of trees of good species are growing in it. A several kilometre-long wire fence has been set up around the reserve. The reserve in Kochang-ri covers an area of 100-odd hectares. And it has all

► facilities to provide animals with favourable living conditions and ecological environment.

Similar reserves have been created in Thongchon and Pop-tong counties and Wonsan in Kangwon Province and all other parts of the country with a large number of pheasants and roe deer in them.

The country is maintaining close supervision and firm control for the purpose of preventing harms to protection and multiplication of useful animals. It prohibits all sorts of development and use of resources that may impede the protection and multiplication of the animals in the reserves. Even when tree planting and tending, extermination of harmful insects and so on for afforestation and the conservation and management of forests are to be done in the reserves, it strictly restricts the relevant periods and methods, and the number of people with access to the reserves so as to cause no hindrance to multiplication of animals.



It ensures that keepers of the reserves and forest rangers improve their role. And the reserve management offices, in contact with the organs concerned, explain to local residents about the problems arising in protecting and multiplying useful animals so as to make them take part in the endeavour

voluntarily.

And the administrative and scientific and technical actions are taken in time to protect and increase the number of animals in keeping with the physiographical conditions and ecological environment of particular reserves.

Pak Yong Il



MT MYOHYANG (3)

Manphok Valley

THE MANPHOK VALLEY LIES TO THE south of Hyangno Peak. It is a famous place for a succession of large and small waterfalls, hence the name Manphok (ten thousand waterfalls) Valley. It has lots of waterfalls of various shapes—Sogok Falls, Murung Cascade, Unson Cascade, Yuson Falls, Unjong Falls and Kuchung Cascade—and many noted pools including Phaldam (Eight Pools). And there are famous rocks with a fine view like Jangsu Rock and Tangun Rock going well with the surrounding scenery.

Sogok (prelude) Falls, situated in the entrance of the Manphok Valley, announces the beginning of the “symphony” played by the waterfalls in the valley, and hence the name. It is not so large, but it is very impressive as it is the first attraction in

the valley.

Murung Cascade, some way from Sogok Falls, is one of the most magnificent and beautiful falls in Mt Myohyang. According to an old tale, eight brothers used to rest there after collecting firewood; the waterfall afforded such a picturesque scene that they considered it equal to Murung-dowon described in a legendary tale about peach flowers being always in full bloom. Hence, the brothers named it Murung Cascade. The water rushes down over a horseback-shaped steep rock face before falling down a nearly 27-metre high cliff, making earthshaking roars. After crossing the rock shelf, it runs against the hollowed-out stone, makes a big half-circle and then slides down some 50 metres before falling down to a big blue hollowed pool.

Over Murung Cascade is Unson Cascade, a peculiar one. It is not so high, but about 100 metres long. Unlike Murung Cascade, it runs quietly along the deep hollowed rock gap.

Yuson Falls is one of the great and famous waterfalls in the Manphok Valley. The name originated from an old tale that fairies would come down there from Heaven for merriment. It is about 60 metres long. The water falls sheer down or slides down quickly over a rock. At the bottom of the falls is a pool called Phaldam and at the top of it hangs the Yuson Bridge, scores of metres in length, where you can have a view of the beautiful valley. The bridge, which looks like hanging in the air, links dangerous precipices.

Pison Falls, a typical vertical falls among the numerous waterfalls in the mountain, is well known for its strange and beautiful appearance. The name originated from a legendary tale that fairies would ascend to Heaven by the rainbow made by the waterfall after having a good time in the valley. On both sides of the falls are forests. The sky is seen over the cliff, presenting a view of the watercourse reaching the sky. The water falls down in two currents from the sheer cliff. The left current, resembling countless silk threads, skirts around the rock and falls down into the pool. And the right one

►

Pak Yon and His Teacher

PAK YON (1378–1458) WAS a music theoretician, composer and instrumentalist in the 15th century. And he was one of the three great musicians of old Korea.

At his proposal the feudal government established a musical instrument agency to make different kinds of instruments. A large orchestra was also formed.

His works have been handed down recorded in the music book attached to *Sejong Sillok* (Chronicles of King Sejong).

The following is an episode about the musician.

While learning at a local Confucian school, Pak, in his spare time, learned to play the flute from a man of a neighbouring village who was good at playing it.

One day, several months later, the man told Pak not to come to him any longer. Pak was disappointed by the man's words.

“Did I do anything wrong with you?” asked Pak.

“Oh, no, no,” the man explained. “But I have nothing

more to teach you. In a month you've learned all that I have. Now I know you can play the flute better than I. What else can I teach you?”

Pak could hardly entreat any more. Thus he achieved fame as the best flute player in the locality. Even the royal palace came to know this and sent for him. Then it had a musician of the central music academy test him.

After hearing Pak play the flute, the musician shook his head, saying, “This man's tunes are common, and the rhythm is not right. And he is bound to the old practices. So he is hopeless,” the musician concluded.

Pak was heartbroken to know that he was not well-informed about music yet. He then visited and entreated the musician to teach him even for a few days, saying he was reluctant to return without learning anything.

Thus the musician began to teach him right tunes and rhythms, and Pak worked deep into the night day by day, assimilating what was taught.

When the teaching period came to a close, the musician said, “I'm pleased to teach you. I'll readily help you if you want to learn more.”

Thus Pak kept learning from the musician for another several days. The musician taught him without attending to anything else.

Pak's musical ability improved day after day. One day, after hearing him play the flute, the musician slapped his knee with great joy, exclaiming, “You're really a master of music.” And he went on to say, “Now I have no more to teach you. My talent is no match for yours. What a quick music learner you are!”

Pak said with a smile, “How can I be called a master? And how could I have learned music without a teacher who sincerely taught me without complaining about my poor ability?”

Finally, Pak came to outdo his teacher, and worked as musician in the royal palace all his life.

Rim Ok

► slides some way down the rock and then flies down violently to a rock shelf, raising sprays. Besides the falls is Pison Rock with a fine view and on the left shelf of the rock stands the gable-roofed Pison Pavilion.

Kuchung Cascade is a tilted falls next to Unha Falls in size. The name originated from the fact that it flows down nine steps along the slanted bedrock. The water falls 250 metres down the bedrock with a gradient of over 40 degrees, breaking nine times halfway. It reminds you of a great flood. The

scenery of this gigantic falls is unrivalled when you look down at it from the Undok Pavilion built on the top of the falls.

In addition, the valley has some famous rocks and peaks of peculiar shapes, for example, Jangsu Rock awesome in size with no match in the valley and Tangun Rock associated with a legendary tale that Tangun, founding father of the Korean nation, climbed up there every day to have archery training.

Pak Thae Ho



Kuchung Cascade.

Can National Chauvinism Bring Them Bright Future?

IT IS A HUMAN DESIRE TO live harmoniously and peacefully while helping one another. But only one country is running counter to it, doggedly pursuing national chauvinism and national liquidation. It is none other than Japan, the one and only insular nation in East Asia.

Historically, Japan is deeply obsessed with extreme chauvinism. This can be proved through its suppression of national education given by the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon).

This kind of suppression comes from the educational policy for colonial slavery Japan enforced in Korea during its military occupation (1905–1945).

In the early 20th century the insular country occupied Korea militarily, and what it put forward as a task of utmost importance was an all-out suppression of national education of the Korean people. It proclaimed the “Private School Regulations” in October 1911 and the “Village School Regulations” in 1918. On this basis Japan intensified the educational and administrative control and secret-police observation of all private and village schools in Korea, and suppression of the schools.

As a result, the number of the private schools decreased by 58.6% in 1912 and 30.7% in 1919 compared to that of 1910. And 736 of the village schools engaged in giving elementary education were closed in nearly a year after the proclamation of the “Village School Regulations.” Meanwhile, Japan cooked up the “Regulations of Private Learning Course,” thus wiping out any sign of national education activities including night schools. In June 1911 it dissolved Songgyungwan, the

highest educational institution of the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392–1910), and organized Kyonghagwon (school for study of Confucianism), a mouthpiece institution of the Japanese government.

After liberation of Korea on August 15, 1945 by the anti-Japanese armed struggle organized and led by Kim Il Sung, Japan focused on suppression of national education done by Chongryon. National education of the Korean residents in Japan has been under constant suppression for over 70 years since its beginning, and the policy of discrimination continues in the form of reduction and suspension of subsidies to Korean schools.

There is an instance that proves Japan’s discrimination policy.

In 2016 Japan’s *Mainichi Shimbun* reported that the Ministry of Education and Science demanded that all local organs concerned conduct a survey of subsidization of Korean schools in the country in view of “rationality and common interests” and submit their findings to it.

To be concrete, the former Minister of Education and Science sent the local organs a notice requiring them to conduct a survey of the “common interests of the subsidy, the effectiveness of the money in educational practice, and the rationality and transparency of the subsidization” and submit their findings as the relations between Chongryon and Korean schools were very close.

There are countless instances of such practice. Early in January 2016 a huge armed police force equipped with armoured vehicles were mobilized to ransack different Chongryon organizations and Korean schools by force. And in February 2018 the police

forcibly rummaged through Chongryon’s Tokyo Metropolis headquarters, a Chongryon official’s house, and the Future Foundation established to support Korean schools. In the same month Japan suspended the educational subsidization of Korean schools and excluded them from the objects of higher school support programme.

Such evil of Japan reached an extreme with the beginning of the Reiwa era. On October 1, 2019 the Japanese government began to enforce the system of “free infant education and childcare” for all three- to five-year old children in kindergarten and nurseries, but it denied the benefit for the kindergartners of Korean schools. And in March last, when the COVID-19 infection was sweeping the world, the Saitama municipal authorities, while deciding to distribute masks to kindergartens and nurseries in the city, excluded the Korean kindergartens from the list of the relevant objects for the “reason” that “they are not eligible for the city’s guidance and supervision facility.”

On May 1 last year Japan started to use the new year name Reiwa. The word means “beautiful harmony.” At the time the Japanese Prime Minister Abe pledged that he would create a bright future of his country in the Reiwa era. But how can Japan make the “beautiful harmony” and “bright future” while regarding the suppression of national education and national chauvinism as its state policy?

Japan is well advised to recollect the result of its past stained with national chauvinism.

Future is inconceivable apart from the past.

Kim Jae Sok

National Intangible Cultural Heritage (45)

Rope-skipping



ROPE-SKIPPING IS ONE of favourite folk games of Korean children. Girls aged from seven or eight to fifteen or sixteen love to play it. I was not an exception. In particular, when warm spring came after winter, I had a good time with my friends, playing the game in an open space of our village.

Two girls held a long rope at each end and turned it round and round, and the other girls jumped up and down over the rope the moment it touched the ground. While skipping, we sang songs or counted the number of the times they skipped the rope for the win or for demonstration of our skilful movements.

During the sports class in my primary school days my teacher used to teach us different methods of rope-skipping.

One can play the game by holding both ends of the rope, or jumping over the tightly fixed rope.

The history of the game shows that it was popular in the period of the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392–1910). Some historical data of the 18th century have the Chinese characters *tiao bai sheng* which is glossed by the

Korean word of *julnomki* (rope-skipping). *Haedongjukji* compiled in the early 20th century writes: “According to the folklore, children play a game of jumping up and down over a turning rope. Some of them do so over 1 000 times. The game helps them have strong legs and gain in strength. It is called *julnomki*.”

Until the feudal Joseon dynasty three-ply ropes made of hemp or rice straw were mainly used in the game. Colourful pieces of cloth were also twisted into the ropes at some intervals for decoration. At that time there was only one method of playing the game, that is, jumping up and down over the rope while turning it round and round.

With the use of elastic rope in modern times, a new method of playing the game using a fixed rope of the kind was created, and it has become more diverse.

Today rope-skipping is played across the country, and it’s a common sight that girls play the game at kindergartens, schools and villages. The Ponbu Kindergarten in Sinuiju is well-known for its children being good at the game. The kindergarten,

which attaches importance to folk games, developed the game into acrobatics mixed with different stunts in the course of teaching the children how to play it.

They fully demonstrated their talent at the mass gymnastics and artistic performance *Arirang*, winner of Kim Il Sung Prize which was put on the Guinness Book of Records, and other events of the same kind *The Glorious Motherland* and *The Land of the People*. The audience was struck with wonder at the rope-skipping stunts of the children in their national attire.

Merited Teacher Kang Sun Hui, head of the kindergarten, says, “My kindergartners are tall and slim, and have high cultural and emotional attainments. It is because they often play rope-skipping which requires agile movements and continuous jumps. Though a single rope is the tool for the play, the game helps promote children’s health and growth, and leads them to live merrily.”

Rope-skipping was put on the list of national intangible cultural heritage.

Rim Ok

