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Jewel

A gift presented to Chairman Kim Jong Il by the central committee of the October 8 Revolutionary Movement of Brazil in April 1997

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Front Cover: Happy to be a People's Scientist (at the Pharmaceutical Research Institute of the Academy of Medical Science)

Photo by Ri Song Ik



Back Cover: Pae (pear) Rock in Mt. Chilbo

Photo by Kim Jin Ho

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Korean Women Support Socialism

“YOU HAVE PROCLAIMED THE Labour Law for the good of muscular labourers and office workers who lived a slavish life in the interest of capitalists even at the cost of being maimed. Moreover, you have provided us women with state and social protection and a number of equal rights; we are moved to happy tears. We are very pleased to be able to make contributions to the state and public development while enjoying full treatment as befits a human being. With this ecstasy of joy and happiness we swear we will work hard to lay a firm cornerstone of a new Korea.” This is part of a letter of thanks that was sent to Kim Il Sung, leader of a new Korea, on behalf of all the membership of the Democratic Women’s Union of North Korea on July 30, 1946.

The proclamation of the Law on Sex Equality was

a dramatic event that changed the Korean women’s destiny from that of age-long sufferings from feudal fetters to that of happiness. In a few months after the proclamation hundreds of thousands of women leapt out of the boundary of household to join the pulsating effort for building of a new nation, on the equal footing with men.

Later the women were freed from the heavy burden of household chores, as well as from socio-political shackles. Nursery schools, kindergartens, schools and service facilities rose up everywhere in the country, so that the women were provided with all conditions for devoting all their wisdom, effort and enthusiasm to social progress without any worry. Feeling obliged for all the care, the women, regarding the socialist country as their blissful land, worked with all their passion for the country’s prosperity.

The time of Arduous March and forced march the Korean people had in the past century was an unforgettable period when the Korean women felt the value of the socialist country to the bone. Even in such a difficult time social benefits were bestowed invariably. As usual, women entered the jewel-carpeted Pyongyang Maternity Hospital and had ▶

Participants in the 4th National Meeting of Mothers see a concert given by the Unhasu Orchestra in celebration of the Mother’s Day.





Ju Pok Sun, general manageress of the Manpho Spinning Mill.



Ham Ok Suk, teacher of the Pyongyang Jesan Primary School.



Ri Kang Juk, chief of the Pyongyang Kyongsang Kindergarten (first right).

▶ pretty children while receiving all kinds of tonics like wild honey. Legendary tales were woven about planes that were sent for to-be-born triplets. Soya milk vans headed for nursery schools, kindergartens and schools every morning. When they set step in the campus bringing their little children in school uniforms and when they heard their children reading aloud and cheerfully at school, the Korean mothers keenly felt indebted to the socialist country and were convinced that they would be well off sooner or later, though they were in difficulty at the moment, because they were under the care of the socialist country that looks after all the mothers. Now the women turned out as one to defend their home and the socialist country. They modernized factories admirably with their own efforts, created models of double and treble croppings in response to the Workers' Party of Korea's call for solving the food problem as early as possible and made positive contributions to urgent sci-tech projects in reality. Pak Ok Hui, chairwoman of the management board of the Town Cooperative Farm, Janggang County, Jagang Province, made a success of two- and three-crop farming a year in the northern geographical condition, putting aside the conception that such a farming was possible only in warmer regions. Mun Kang Sun, weaver of Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill, produced over 555 000 metres of cloth by operating five times as many machines as a normal worker does. Ri Chun Hui, a research section chief at the Munphyong Smeltery, made a tangible contribution to the solution of industrial material and home fuels. Many other women scientists, model workers and officials were put forward as DPRK Labour Heroes and Meritorious People in the Songun Era.

There is a peculiar group of women, called Women Supporters' Corps, at the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex, the nation's leading iron producer. The membership includes women of all occupations, like accountants, blueprint keepers and labour-safety-material supply workers, who are aged

between 18 and 55. The corps was not in the least an outcome of any outsiders' arrangement. Facing the thrilling realities whereby everyone was working enthusiastically, the women began to look for their jobs in the project. So they went out to the workplace after their daily work to give a helping hand, sorting out oval briquets and carrying bricks. Later, when their activities were known across the country and they were praised highly for their service, they said unanimously, "We only hoped to prove by our own practical efforts that when we women rise up together with men, we will be able to make a virile and lively community and achieve progress and development."

Among the women who are making considerable service for prosperity of the socialist country are many women who devote their sincere and warm care to the help of others. There are women who marry disabled men and work hard to do the share of their husbands along with theirs for the sake of society. There are women who bring in helpless old folk as their family members and look after them as kindly as their kinsfolk, seeking worth and pride of ▶

Wives of the workers of the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex conduct activities to encourage increased production.



Image of Mother

I HAVE NINE CHILDREN. The eldest (daughter) is 22 and the youngest (son) a little over 1. After I gave birth to the youngest, my mother-in-law said, “Kang’s family is thriving thanks to you.” She was pleased with her family enlarging, and I was unusually glad to have another son.

When I married my husband I intended to have only a daughter and a son and bring them up well. But towards the end of 1992, when I had my second child Kang Song Dae, I changed my mind. At the time the whole country was excited at the news

that Chairman Kim Jong Il wrote a reply of trust on a letter Pak Yong Chol, a KPA officer, and his seven brother officers had written to him.

Reading the story on a newspaper, my father-in-law who came from south Korea said, “If I had many children I would have developed all of them into soldiers myself so that they could do their share in reunifying the country.” His words made me realize what he had wished. Then I resolved to have more children and raise them as soldiers. Our family thus began to increase



gradually. During the Arduous March when the country was undergoing difficulties, every

► life in their selfless assistance. Ju Pok Sun, general manageress of the Manpho Spinning Mill brought a large number of orphaned children to her home, and brought them up as fine members of society like a real mother would do. Although there were orphanages to look after them, Ju wished she could lessen the country’s burden even a little by rearing them herself. With such a mind she brought up orphans for dozens of years and sent them to posts of national defence and important factories of the national economy.

At present some popular songs of the country include *Song in Praise of Women in the Songun Era*, *I’m an Officer’s Wife* and *Soldiers Call Me Mother*. These lyrics reflect the mentality of the Korean women in the Songun era. Preferring paths in mountains and solitary places to promenades, many women support their husbands who are in khaki uniform, while looking after local soldiers as their sisters or moth-

ers. They cherish the unusual pride of being revolutionaries who stand guards in defence of their socialist country in the same posts of their husbands who are officers. There are a large number of women who brought up all of their children admirably and sent them to posts of national defence. *Rodong Sinmun*, organ of the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea, dated November 11, 2012, carried a decree of the DPRK Supreme People’s Assembly Presidium on awarding the title of DPRK Labour Hero to women who had had many children and brought them up with credit. One of the awardees was Pak Ok Dan from Ryongsan-ri, Songchon County, South Phyongan Province, who says, “To have many children and bring them up as good people—this is the very motherly love and simply patriotic and pleasant thing to us women. I am going to train my children to be revolutionary successors who will be able to exalt the Songun era.”

November 16 last year was the first Mother’s Day in the country. On the occasion the 4th National Meeting of Mothers was held in Pyongyang. Kim Ki Nam, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the Party Central Committee, made a congratulatory speech on behalf of the Party Central Committee. He said, “Our Party is firmly convinced that Kim Il Sung’s nation, Kim Jong Il’s Korea, will remain prosperous and powerful for ever as long as there are laudable mothers with a strong sense of justice in this land of Korea. When mothers keep adamant faith, their numerous children will be courageous; when mothers advance forward in firm unity the country will make a greater stride.”

This trust of the Workers’ Party of Korea is encouraging the Korean women to hasten their proud march in support of their socialist country.

Sim Hyon Jin

► family was suffering from the food shortage. One day when I came back home from the local clinic with my six-month-old fifth child on the back, I saw bags of rice on the earthen veranda of the house. My children told me that many of the neighbours had brought them to help our family with many children. I felt a lump in my throat. I knew all the families in the village were short of food. The bags of rice were not big, but they helped me to realize their encouragement and kindness and brace myself up anew. When we overcame the Arduous March successfully I was a mother of seven children. Still, I felt no difficulty because the children were taken care of in a nursery school, kindergarten and school at state expense.

One evening the second child, who had gone to school in the morning, didn't show up at home. I was afraid that the mischievous boy might be lost while roaming about. Then, unexpectedly, his teacher appeared carrying the child on the back. My boy was fast asleep. The teacher said she had taken the boy to the county hospital because he had suddenly begun to wriggle grasping his abdomen. He had a cramp in the stomach, but was well after getting treatment. The young teacher explained to put me at ease without wiping the perspiration off her face. She reminded me just of my mother.

Time flew and I was pregnant with my eighth child. Children had grown up and I had difficulty in moving, so my husband often slept on the earthen veranda in summer. We now needed to enlarge the house, but my condition didn't allow it. One day a truck stopped before our house.

To our surprise the driver told us to pack up our household goods. The truck took us to a large three-roomed house. There we found officials waiting for us. They said that we must have felt great inconvenience in the former small house and that we should live in the large house to have more children and bring them all up into reliable pillars of the country. The new house was fully provided with furniture and kitchen utensils. I gave birth to my eighth and ninth children in the house. The villagers gladly congratulated me.

Another pleasant thing happened. In November last year we were informed that I was selected to participate in the 4th National Meeting of Mothers. All our family was filled with festivity. Before my departure to Pyongyang in the evening my eldest daughter lay by me and whispered to me, "Please have lots of photos taken in Pyongyang, mother. I want to see you beaming free from all cares." It was the greatest and yet simple desire of the daughter at the age of over 20. She experienced how hard I strove to take care of the family over the past years.

As she advised, I had lots of photos taken wherever I visited while staying in the city: in the Rungna People's Pleasure Ground where lots of mothers enjoyed themselves riding amusement facilities like children; in the Breast Tumour Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital built along modern lines for the good of women's health; and at wonderful theatres in the city. I always wore a smile whenever I posed for the photos as my children had entreated me.

But the day when I was

awarded a hero medal at the meeting I was rather worried. *Is this really a medal for me?* I doubted. The medal was awarded to me, when I was not a model worker, doctor or army-support activist well known throughout the country. I could hardly calm down my thumping heart.

The next day when we all representatives were to have a souvenir photo taken in the presence of our national leader Kim Jong Un I could not help shedding tears of deep emotion. I had never shed tears while bringing up my children for decades. When I received my certificate of delegate I wondered if it was a dream. And when I was leaving for Pyongyang I thought that I might have the honour to see our national leader. I thought that if it really happened, I would tell him what I had in my mind and my determination to bring up all my children into stout soldiers like my second son already serving in the army. Now my desire translated into reality. Words fail me to express my emotion that day. It was just like a dream to me. So at the happiest moment I shed tears of joy.

When I was back home my eldest daughter and other children urged me to show them my photos. Then I showed them the souvenir photo first. When the eldest daughter was trying to find me among the many delegates in the photo, I told her, "Don't try to find me particularly. You should all see the image of the great mother who has so far looked after you more devotedly than I."

*Pak Kum Ok,
resident of Sogo-ri,
Chonma County,
North Phyongan Province*

Meaningful Photographs

A Girl Doctor

THERE IS A PHOTOGRAPH OF PRESIDENT Kim Il Sung conferring a medal of doctorate upon a researcher for her distinguished service in a scientific research project. The conferee is Paek Sol Hui, who made a success of a research into cultivation of a new species of plant by devoted efforts for a dozen years at the cost of her youth, the prime of life, to help improve the people's eating habit.

On October 7, 1979 Kim Il Sung summoned the woman who was engaged in a research of an oil-bearing plant in a mountain village. Talking with her, he acquainted himself in detail with her research project. Then, saying he met an unknown heroine, he remarked that more priceless and laudable was her high loyalty and devotion with which she had worked for the Workers' Party of Korea and the national leader, for the country and the people, even in peacetime, than her successful research. Now he said he would stand guarantee for her admission into the Workers' Party of Korea himself, and suggested that the title of Labour Hero, the top honour for a DPRK citizen, and a doctorate be awarded to her.

And he personally pinned a medal of doctorate on her and had a meaningful photograph taken together with her.

President Kim Il Sung was a great benefactor of women scientists who valued what little they achieved in research work and put them forward for great honour and glory.

A Girl With a Persimmon in Hand

Chairman Kim Jong Il cared much for women soldiers and left behind a lot of photos taken together with them. One of the photos shows him and a girl soldier who is holding a persimmon in hand.

One day he revisited a company called Persimmon Tree Company as he had promised. A soldier of the company was Son Kyong Sil whose mother had served in the company as a girl. Son took a persimmon in her hand, which she had selected with care out of those picked from trees at her post, in order to offer it to Chairman Kim Jong Il when he was at the company again. But she had never imagined that the national leader would call her to his side to have a photograph taken together in high praise of

her good deed of standing at the old post of her mother. "Hers is a family of soldiers," he introduced affectionately.

The girl soldier was at a loss what to do at such an unexpected glorious moment.

Seeing her looking down at the persimmon in her hand in embarrassment, Kim Jong Il, with a full smile on his face, kindly suggested she pose with the persimmon in her hand.

This is how a significant photograph came showing the national leader Kim Jong Il together with a woman soldier holding a persimmon in hand.

Later when he met her mother Om Pok Sun and her family of soldiers, he, casting a meaningful glance at Son Kyong Sil, said that she was known to the public as a girl with a persimmon in her hand.

A Souvenir Photograph

One day last year the supreme national leader Kim Jong Un visited a machine factory. Having inspected workshops, he went into Kangsongwon, a service complex that had been just completed for the sake of the workers. Marvelling at the nice establishment, he wore a bright smile. He looked round the bathhouse, the swimming pool, the indoor stadium, the table tennis hall, and lastly the barber-shop. He asked a barber if she was good at hair cutting and how she improved her skill. When she answered that she had had practical training at Changgwang Health Complex, a famous welfare establishment in Pyongyang, he again asked if he would be allowed to have a haircut there at Kangsongwon while on his way of inspection of factories. His kindly request was unanimously accepted by the barbers. Now all the service workers of Kangsongwon surrounded the leader with great happiness—barbers, cooks, photographers, and librarians. A woman who had once been a soldier clung to him holding his arm while a young girl hung on to his shoulder raising her heels. It looked like a family in everyday life. Beaming at their childlike behaviours, Kim Jong Un asked them to pose for a photograph altogether. Thus a meaningful photograph was taken to be handed down in history.

Kim Jong Un must have taken great pleasure in having a souvenir photograph taken together with the women servants who were daughters or wives of ordinary workers. □

Heroic Women Soldiers

THE KOREAN PEOPLE WON a decisive victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, the war to repel the US-led imperialist allied forces' armed invasion in the 1950s. In the three-year-long war lots of Korean women performed heroic feats. They are now making a contribution to the building of a thriving nation.

Ri Sun Im, Heroic Nurse

Ri Sun Im was born in a foreign land, where her parents had settled after leaving their home village in search of a living after the Japanese imperialists' military occupation of Korea. Growing up in the alien land Ri experienced to the marrow the grief of a stateless nation. So, after returning to the motherland in March 1950, she volunteered to go to the front as soon as the US imperialists unleashed the Korean war in June that year. During the war she displayed a spirit of self-sacrifice to rescue many wounded soldiers.

In the early stage of the war her unit advancing southward arrived in Kyongju, South Kyongsang Province. At the time the local area had been heavily bombarded by the warplanes and warships of the enemies who were trying to check the advance of the Korean People's Army. The area became a sheet of flames. One day the ward of the divisional hospital she belonged to was enveloped in flames by the enemy planes' bombing. At this critical moment there were only a few surgeons and nurses including Sun Im in the hospital. They unhesitatingly rushed into the ward to rescue the wounded. Sun Im carried patients on the back through the choking flame. Her hair and uniform were scorched, and she was dripping with sweat. Gradually she began losing her energy and consciousness. Still, she managed to get the last patient out of the ward.

The state conferred the title of DPRK Hero on her in June 1951 in appreciation of her having saved many soldiers. Soon after she had the honour of being received by Supreme Commander Kim Il Sung to her pleasant surprise. The supreme commander



Ri Sun Im (second left)

had summoned war heroes and model soldiers. In a pep talk with her he highly praised Ri for her distinguishing herself by saving many soldiers and gifted her with a submachine gun and a wristwatch. Later, with patriotic enthusiasm, she devotedly worked for the postwar rehabilitation and construction and the socialist construction.

She is still working at the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital.

A Leader of Stretcher Platoon

The Korean film *A Leader of Stretcher Platoon* produced in 1995 is well known throughout the country for its heroine's noble spiritual world. The heroine evacuates a mortar artillery battery commander before her younger brother, both of whom had fatal wounds, during the Fatherland Liberation War so as to save the life of the battery commander. And she drives a truck in the face of dreadful bombing by an enemy plane to take a soldier of volunteer corps origin on the brink of death to a divisional hospital. In the course of this she is seriously injured. She recovers only two years after the cease-fire. Then she marries a demobilized soldier who lost his eyes during the war, and takes good care of him.

The archetype of the heroine who deeply impresses the audience is Kang Yong Sun. Before the outbreak of the war Kang graduated from the then

► Pyongyang Nurses' School and joined in the People's Army to be appointed as leader of a stretcher platoon. During the war, she creditably performed her duty in fierce battles such as the Rimjin River-crossing battle, the battle to liberate Seoul, the battle to liberate Taejon and the Raktong River-crossing battle she, together with her platoon members, crossed the river dozens of times to evacuate hundreds of wounded soldiers. During the temporary strategic retreat of the KPA she safely brought scores of seriously wounded soldiers from an enemy-controlled area to the home front.

What encouraged Yong Sun to fight so heroically was the affection and trust the anti-Japanese war heroine Kim Jong Suk had shown for her.

It was one day in April 1947 less than two years after the liberation of Korea (August 1945) from the military occupation of the Japanese imperialists. Kim Jong Suk visited the then Pyongyang Silk Mill where Kang was working. It grieved Kim Jong Suk to see Kang and other young women working with their hands immersed in hot water of nearly 80°C. On the spot she took measures to send them various kinds of medicines and rubber aprons and other materials they needed. She then told them that young women ought to be able to defend the liberated country with rifles in their hands like the women guerrillas had done during the anti-Japanese struggle. Experiencing Kim Jong Suk's benevolent affection for people, Yong Sun, who had been sold off for 20 won to the mill and forced into slave labour at the age of 11 before national liberation, realized the truth that one can enjoy genuine rights and happiness as a human being only when one has his or her own motherland. Therefore, she held a rifle in her hand to defend the country which ensured her a genuine life.

Though aged, she is acting as the head of a war



Kang Yong Sun (*second right*)

veterans' itinerant artistic promotional troupe of Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang and visiting KPA units and socialist construction sites to give performances.

Oriole

Kim Cho Sim joined in the song and dance ensemble of the then Ministry of the Interior at the age of 18 during the Fatherland Liberation War. She



Kim Cho Sim (*middle*)

encouraged KPA soldiers on the frontline with her songs. One day, when the ensemble visited Height 1211 she sang the songs *At the Spring Site* and *My Dear Is a Hero Now*, touching the heartstrings of the height defenders, who remembered their dear native villages and the villagers and envisioned the day of their victory. The singer was encored several times. Later that day the defenders courageously beat off enemy attacks over a dozen times. At the time she was called oriole among KPA soldiers.

At present she, in her 80s, is working as an instructor for early vocal music education at Kumsong School in Pyongyang. While working as an educator for 35 years she has brought up a large number of reserve vocalists. They are now playing the pivotal role in the Moranbong Band, the National Symphony Orchestra, the Unhasu Orchestra, the Wangjaesan Light Music Band, the Mansudae Art Troupe, the Korean People's Army Song and Dance Ensemble and other professional art troupes.

In appreciation of her distinguished services in the field of the arts in the spirit she had displayed during the war, the state conferred the title of DPRK Labour Hero on her in October 2007. She is still devoting all her wisdom and energy to the training of able artistes.

Sim Yong Jin

Eternal Home of the Korean People

ON MARCH 1, 1993 Chairman Kim Jong Il made public the historic work *Abuses on Socialism Are Intolerable*. In the work he convincingly refuted all sorts of sophisms of the imperialists and reactionaries against socialism and scientifically clarified the validity of socialism and the inevitability of its victory.

He set forth ideas and theories on arming the popular masses firmly with the socialist ideology, thoroughly maintaining socialist principles and giving full play to the true nature of socialism in all aspects of social life. All the ideas and theories are aimed at championing and glorifying socialism. As described in the work the Democratic People's Republic of Korea where the popular masses are masters of everything and everything serves them enjoys unreversed support and trust from the people. This can be proved through the political, economic,

ideological and cultural lives enjoyed by the Korean people.

The DPRK puts forward the popular masses as masters of the state and society, and actively encourages them to take part in the political life. The political life is a sphere of decisive significance in social life. For a state to become a shelter of happiness for the people, it, first of all, should be the one which puts forward the popular masses as masters of politics, and allows them to participate in the political life as such.

The Korean people's worthwhile political life finds expression in the fact that they enjoy genuine democratic freedom and rights as masters of the state and society. In the DPRK, which regards democracy as a basic mode of state activities, working people take an active part in state administration as masters of power and fully exercise the rights to all sorts of socio-political activities. And their democratic rights and

freedom as masters of the state and society are legitimately ensured through the observance of socialist laws.

In the DPRK all policies of the government are drawn up in such a way as to reflect the will and demand of the people, and even a single factory is built to serve the people's interests. An example came when a large-sized hydro-power station was about to be built in a locality as part of an effort to solve the problem of power shortage in the country. The state made sure that fine dwelling houses were built first for the people to be evacuated from the area that would be submerged and that they were provided with all necessities of life.

All citizens of the DPRK fully exercise their rights to elect and be elected. In 2011 there was an election of deputies to local people's assemblies of the DPRK. It served as a good occasion of demonstrating once again the advantage of its socialist system under which all the working people enjoy equal rights and freedom as equal members of the society.

Economic life is the basis of social life, and the DPRK provides its people with genuine economic life. Only a country which ensures genuine economic life as well as political life can be called home of the people where they can lead an independent and creative life. In the DPRK, where the public ownership of the means of production holds undivided sway, the management of the socialist economy is done by the popular masses, and the working people are provided with stable occupations by the state according to their ability and talent and the historic task of ►

People fully exercise political rights at elections to power organs of all levels. (On the day of election to the Pyongyang municipal people's assembly in July 2011)



► freeing workers from onerous toil is being successfully carried out. Therefore, everyone fully displays the revolutionary and voluntary style of work for the prosperity of the country at their post, and the state is taking responsible care of not only the life of disabled soldiers and merited persons but that of helpless elderly people and children.

The DPRK citizens' economic life is daily improving thanks to the system of universal free compulsory education, the system of universal free medical care, the system of nursing and upbringing of children, the full supply of food, clothing and housing to people, complete abolition of taxation system and other popular measures.

Besides, the country provides all conditions for the people to enjoy a sound and decent ideological and cultural life to their heart's content.

An ideological and cultural life is an important sphere of social life. People cultivate independent ideological consciousness and creative ability, attain multifarious cultural and emotional needs and acquire noble spiritual and moral traits through the aforesaid life. The people in the DPRK, with independent ideological consciousness, enjoy an independent and creative life to their heart's content.

The Korean people's ideological life is the one based on the Juche idea. Having accepted the Juche idea, a superior man-centric idea, as their faith of their own accord judging from their vital demand the Korean people are fully displaying their spiritual exertions in the endeavour to build a great, prosperous and powerful nation. The socialist system of cultural life of the popular masses established in the country is a superior one satisfy-



Kaeson Youth Park is a great public recreation centre.

ing the cultural requirements of the popular masses. Kim Il Sung University and other up-to-date educational institutions and hospitals built across the country, health establishments such as the Breast Tumour Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital and the Thongilgori Fitness Centre, dwelling houses wonderfully built in towns and rural areas including those in Changjon Street of Pyongyang, the Rungna People's Pleasure Ground, the Ryugyong Health Complex, the Pyongyang Folk Park, the People's Theatre and the People's Open-air Ice Rink—all these manifest the DPRK government's firm will to smoothly improve the material and cultural life of the people as early as possible.

All the working people in the country are developing into powerful beings possessed of high creative ability and qualifications. With the beginning of a new heyday in the development of the socialist culture, the people are creating original music and art pieces of their own style and actively conducting mass cultural and artistic activities and mass sports activities. They spend high days and holidays and weekend amusing themselves with folk and

other games at pleasure grounds and scenic spots.

The way the Korean people are leading a sound and rich ideological and cultural life while helping and leading one another forward with a sense of revolutionary comradeship and obligation and revolutionary conscience proves that the DPRK is a home of genuine life and happiness that provides the people with a worthwhile ideological and cultural life. So they are firmly defending their socialist system regarding socialism as their life and soul.

Socialism of the DPRK fully displays its great vitality. The flames of Hamnam and the flames of industrial revolution in the new century flared up, and miracles and innovations have been brought about in succession across the country. The ideology and leadership of Chairman Kim Jong Il, who devoted his all to socialism, are being creditably carried forward by the supreme leader Kim Jong Un. The Korean people will vigorously advance for the final victory of socialism under the leadership of Kim Jong Un.

Sim Chol Ok

Supreme Commander Aboard a Small Wooden Boat

ON AUGUST 18, 2012, Saturday, *Rodong Sinmun*, official organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, conveyed the news that Marshal Kim Jong Un, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, made an on-site inspection of the Jangjae and Mu islets in the West Sea of Korea aboard a 27 h.p. wooden boat.

Soon people saw on TV the solemn image of the supreme commander who was heading for the islet defence units positioned in the most sensitive flashpoint in the southernmost part of the southwestern front. On the screen were featured a small wooden boat that can be seen everywhere, a person in a black and ordinary jacket with a closed collar having pleasant chats with soldiers and inhabitants with a bright smile, his eyes shining with intrepidity.

At that time a scenario for northward invasion code-named "Ulji Freedom Guardian" was in course of preparation in south Korea. Under the signboard of "UN forces" more than 30 000 American aggression troops, over 56 000 puppet south Korean troops, 440 000 civilians, military personnel of various countries having joined the Korean war in the 1950s on the American part—upward of 500 000 personnel in all—and heavy military equipment were mobilized for this "annual defence exercise."

The Korean peninsula was in a touch-and-go situation.

Over 500 000 enemy troops against a 27 h.p. boat were quite a contrast. The day before, the Py-

ongyang citizens turned out into streets to give a warm welcome to their sportspeople on their return home after victory in the 30th Olympic Games. The moment they met their supreme commander who called at their position without any prior notice, the soldiers of the islet defence units and the inhabitants of the islets could not help but express surprise, joy and strong emotion. He told the soldiers of the defence units in the following vein: I am glad to see you. If a war breaks out, you must contribute a large share to it. Each day of your military service is that of your being conducive to making the country rich, powerful and prosperous.

He made his way through morning dews to an observation post, and glared at the enemy's position with a serious look on his face. He gave a pair of binoculars, an automatic rifle and a machine gun to soldiers in memory of his visit to their units and made a proposal for conferring the title of Hero and the title of the Hero Defence Unit upon the first gun of Mu Islet and the Mu Islet Defence Unit respectively that showed the mettle of the artillery of the Korean People's Army in a battle of artillery firing, centring around Yonphong Island.

The news of his inspection of Jangjae and Mu islets instantly swept the earth.

An Itar-TASS news dispatch of Russia dated August 18 reported that the supreme leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued an order that when the enemy dares to open a

firing against the DPRK and even a sparklet fell in the nation's territory, [the People's Army] should not confine itself to a local war but switch over to a sacred war for national reunification.

"An immediate counterattack for a provocation, a righteous war for national reunification for a war of aggression!" It was an order that inspired confidence and courage in everyone. Not only the defenders of Jangjae and Mu islets but also all the soldiers and people engraved his patriotic appeal alive with fervour on their minds. As they posed for souvenir pictures together with the supreme commander whom they had so eagerly wished to meet, each of the soldiers and inhabitants of the islets felt very happy, taken into the embrace of the brightly smiling commander. It was a picture showing that the whole nation was advancing ahead for the final victory, shoulder to shoulder and arm in arm with the supreme commander.

When he took the wooden boat again on his way back, the soldiers and inhabitants of the islets followed him tearfully, until the water came up to their waists. The supreme commander warmly motioned them to go back home.

Aboard the small boat Marshal Kim Jong Un came to provide every soldier and inhabitant there with something unimaginable and returned with something memorable in mind.

U Jong Hwan

By Building on Foundation of Independent Economy

LAST YEAR WAS A BRILLIANT YEAR OF remarkable achievements that were conducive to all-round consolidation of the foundation of economic self-sufficiency for the building of a knowledge-based economic power in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In his New Year address this year, the supreme leader of the Korean people Kim Jong Un said that last year the service personnel and people achieved historic victories which would brilliantly shine in the history of the country by waging a general offensive to put the intentions and instructions of Chairman Kim Jong Il into practice.

Last year Korean scientists and technicians successfully launched the artificial earth satellite Kwangmyongsong 3-2, carrying out the Chairman's instruction with credit and fully demonstrating the DPRK's space science and technology and its overall country's power. The successful manufacture and launch of the scientific and technological satellite with the country's own efforts, technology and wisdom was an event of national jubilation that raised the dignity and honour of the nation onto the highest level and a great event which inspired all its service personnel and people with confidence in sure victory and courage and clearly showed that it does what it is determined to do.

Although the situation was acute and complicated and severe natural calamities hit the country in succession last year, the Korean people put the Huichon Power Station and Tanchon Port into commission, built many Juche-oriented and modern factories and enterprises and reconstructed major production bases in key industrial sectors on the basis of advanced science and technology, thus further consolidating the material and technical foundations of the economy.

A large-sized machining centre, manufactured by the scientists, technicians, workers and officials of the Huichon Ryonha General Machine Factory with their own efforts, turned out lots of latest machine tools last year. Since the Day of the Shining Star (February 16) last year the parent machine has processed different kinds of vertical machining centres, CNC lathes and other machine tools of high precision. The precision of the main bodies of the machines processed by the parent machine is normally ten times better than those done by conventional machines.

The Hungnam Fertilizer Complex, too, established the methanol production process conducive to the Juche-orientation of the chemical industry and began production. The establishment opened a bright vista not only for vinalon production but also for supply of basic materials needed for development of the nation's chemical industry. In the meantime, an emulsified vinyl chloride process was newly laid at the February 8 Vinalon Complex, and now light

industry factories can be supplied with high-quality vinyl chloride to produce different kinds of goods. The Ryongsong Machine Complex manufactured modern geothermal facilities with greater capacities than earlier ones and sent them to hydroponic greenhouses in Pyongyang. Unprecedentedly many projects were finished and inaugurated last year to further consolidate the foundation of the independent national economy.

The achievements last year were ascribable to the fact that Chairman Kim Jong Il had unfolded an ambitious blueprint and laid firm foundations for the building of a thriving country. They were also a valuable fruit born of the unshakeable determination and correct leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea and the lofty sense of loyalty and patriotic devotion of the service personnel and people.

The Korean people are working hard as one to make the year 2013 a year of great creations and changes when a radical turnabout will be effected in the building of a thriving socialist country. Upholding the slogan "Let us bring about a radical turn in the building of an economic giant with the same spirit and mettle as were displayed in conquering space!", they are out in the grand onward march for an upsurge in production. Primary attention is paid to revitalizing the overall economy of the country by making innovations in coal-mining, electric-power and metallurgical industries and railway transport. In the DPRK this year nationwide efforts are concentrating on the field of agriculture and concrete measures are taken for the supply of raw and other materials to light-industry factories. In addition, deep attention is given to stockbreeding, fishery and fruit farming. Soldiers of the People's Army and people who are voluntarily working in the Sepho tableland to reclaim it are opening a bright prospect for carrying the grand nature-remaking plan to completion at an earlier date by working miracles and performing heroic feats through mass-heroism this year. Like the satellite scientists who conquered outer space scientists and technicians are now conducting a dynamic campaign to push back the frontiers of science and technology so as to develop the country's overall science and technology to the world standards as soon as possible. All sectors of the national economy direct primary efforts to the development of science and technology, boost production by relying on domestic resources and technology, and introduce CNC technology in equipment and production lines.

Under the banner of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism, the Korean people will struggle vigorously to build an economic giant of their own style, firmly rallied behind their leader Kim Jong Un.

Sim Hyon Jin

Hamhung Railway Bureau

THE HAMHUNG RAILWAY Bureau takes a lion's share in the development of Korea's railway transport. Accordingly, the officials of the bureau are striving to transport freight goods to different sectors of the national economy in time under the flames of Hamnam. With their transport quota increased, they opportunely grasp in detail and solve problems arising in maintenance and reinforcement of means of transportation such as locomotives and wagons, and go down to major lines to organize and control transport on the spot. In particular, the officials for controlling transport, well aware of their duty, are performing their duty in a responsible manner. They have established strict discipline and order in organizing and controlling transport so as to bring about good results in freight.

Meanwhile, dispatchers of the bureau, placing emphasis on shortening the transit time in accordance with increase in the volume of transit goods, are organizing in good time the formation and operation of trains and the shunting of wagons at centralized goods stations and marshalling yards so as to cut down the stoppage time and round-trip time of wagons. Besides, the bureau is putting efforts in securing locomotives, passenger cars and wagons for transportation. It makes sure service brigades of engines and service brigades of passenger and freight cars rationalize manpower allotment and help their technicians and skilled hands to enhance their role, fully provides



Transportation is well organized.

the service brigades with materials and gives proper technical guidance to them so as to repair locomotives, passenger cars and wagons faster and better.

Meanwhile, the bureau sees to it that engine drivers and their crews develop a high sense of responsibility and enhance their role. It meticulously arranges for members of all the service brigades of engines to do technical maintenance of their engines properly and carry more goods by pooling their wisdom and strength. And it fires the zeal of the crews by purposefully summing up and appreciating the merits of those who make innovations in transport and generalizing their examples throughout the service brigades of engines. As a result, members of the Tanchon Youth Service Brigade of Electric Engines and the Kowon Service Brigade of Electric Engines have so far driven their locomotives without accident by conducting well the technical management of the locomotives, and doing self-reliant checkups and repairs dur-

ing their running in a responsible manner, thus greatly helping carry out the bureau's task.

The Hamhung and Hungnam stations under the bureau are raising the utilization rate of their classification sidings and loading and unloading cranes by taking good technical care of them, and when wagons loaded with important materials enter the stations they rapidly compose and send them to their destinations.

Besides, the bureau normalizes the production of jointless rails and rubber pads so as to replace the rails in major sections in a planned way. It also produces sleepers and rail fastening materials by itself, thus making progress in the work to ensure the strength of the rails.

The bureau is registering more and more achievements thanks to the devoted efforts of the relevant officials and workers who have turned out to transport much more goods to major enterprises in Tanchon, Hungnam and other areas.

Kim Ja Yong

Makers of Condiments

“THE PREDECESSOR OF OUR FACTORY was small soy and bean paste factory in its early days. It is now regarded as one of the factories strong in material and technical foundation. In November 2000, in particular, it was renovated as a condiment factory provided with modern equipment and began to produce better condiments,” chief engineer Kim Sun Nyo said to us when we visited the Sariwon Condiment Factory not long ago.

Kim Sun Nyo, working as chief engineer of the factory for eight years, went on to say about her factory as follows.

The factory has so far put great efforts in producing more kinds of better condiments such as soy and bean paste. It introduced different methods of making soy and bean paste, thus remarkably improving the qualitative indices of soy and bean paste as compared with before. This earned it many certificates of new techniques introduced, and the soy and bean paste from the factory were highly appreciated at a national goods appraisal meeting.

Besides, they considerably increased the kinds of condiments, including bean paste mixed with lobster, garlic and sesame, amino acid vinegar soy, soy made from fruits of prickly ash, leek soy, sesame oil, pine-nut oil, beer, soda pop, carbonic acid juice, etc.

Workers and technicians of the factory, through their intensified creative cooperation, renovated and invented production equipment. The inventions include a pressure sensor capable of making it fully possible to cultivate micro-organisms by dint of standard pressure so as to better the steam cooked materials and an automatic heat exchanger.

Condiment production is going up.

One day in January 2011, Chairman Kim Jong Il inspected the factory, greatly encouraging the workers and technicians. Examining varieties of condiments produced at the factory one by one, he taught the ways and means to increase the production of condiments. His words that day became his last instruction the factory should thoroughly implement. True to the instruction, the workers strove to bring about an innovation in the production of condiments. What was most important was to combine science and technology with production. They created by their own efforts a process capable of producing 200 tons of amino acid soy to be conducive to the improvement of the people's eating habit.

Meanwhile, they achieved a success in the research project for the industrialization of malt-based bean paste production. From olden times, each household in Korea made malt-based bean paste at home.

The developing reality, however, required the industrialization of its production as well. Through strenuous efforts, the factory established the method



of rapidly producing bean paste by means of compound bacteria, finishing the technical preparation to produce malt-based bean paste by industrial method. This led to the laying of a firm material and technical foundation for remarkable increase in the production of all other condiments as compared with before.

The workers of the factory are now striving to produce more and better condiments as part of the effort to improve the people's living standards.

An Nam Hui

Solar Products Developers' Timetable

KWANGBOK STREET IN Pyongyang features the Solar Products Development Centre established two years ago. Last year the centre began to produce solar water heaters favourably commented upon by the public, especially, at Namri village in Mangyongdae District, Changjon Street and other parts of Pyongyang where they are set at state expense. Choe Kun Ok, an old woman living in Namri village, says, "Not one or two but all our villagers have become able to use warm water all the year round thanks to the state's benevolence. Now we can dispense with much fuel, and it is a great help to our life. This pleases us women in particular."

Long ago the state began to attach importance to the work of harnessing solar energy and took measures to establish a relevant centre for the purpose of providing the people with a more cultured life. As a result the centre came into being. Things, however, did not go well from the beginning. They had to start from scratch. Some people argued that the solar water heater was a monopoly of only a few advanced countries and that mass-production of such heaters was a premature task of the centre. A foreign technical delegation, during a visit to the centre in 2011, asserted that it would take five

years for the centre to develop and mass-produce solar water heaters.

The centre, however, set a goal of developing and introducing them and verifying their specifications in practice before beginning their mass-production in a single year, not five years. The toughest task was how to coat an evaporation film on the heat-collecting glass vacuum tube, the core of the product. The coating was a prerequisite for the making of a heater that would suit the actual condition of the country. One day, after repeated painstaking studies, Kim In Gol, a researcher of the centre, found that the efficacy of the evaporation film as a whole depends on how to do the third process of the coating. It meant a breakthrough in the entire research. On the basis of the findings they scientifically fixed the numerical value for maximum efficacy of the evaporation film, and soon after they succeeded in producing a trial product.

Mass-production of the equipment, however, turned out difficult as the necessary raw materials were in short supply. At the time most of the materials had to be imported, and that at high cost. Some people were of an opinion that they might take their time on mass-production of the heaters now that they had

produced the trial product. *If we were content with the trial product our people's living standards would never be as high as others'. We should keep our own timetable in the effort*—this was a firm resolution of the researchers and workers who knew well for what the state had had the centre established at a great cost. They soon set about localizing the supply of major materials of over 20 kinds. After lots of setbacks and failures, they found locally available materials to substitute the imports, making it possible to start mass-production of the equipment.

The expected life span of the heaters from the centre is usually over ten years. It is said that the thermal energy produced over the period by the heater with a 1.5 square metre-wide collector panel is equivalent to that generated by burning thousands of kilograms of standard coal, or tens of thousands of kwh of electric power, or that by burning thousands of cubic metres of propane gas.

Kwon Chol Min, vice-director of the centre, says, "We've already established the capacity for producing thousands of solar water heaters in a serial way. Our timetable, however, makes us realize that we cannot be content with it. The timetable urges us to develop much more solar equipment."



*Article by Chae Kwang Myong
Photos by An Yong Chol*



Sinuiju College of Agriculture



years the college has paid a great concern to the effort to refashion its appearance and improve the quality of education as required by the era of knowledge-based economy.

The state has been putting a primary effort in solving the

food problem to improve the people's livelihood. Then, what is the teachers' duty? It is to train agricultural scientists and technicians with high ability. A primary attention has been given to improving the ability of the teachers. When making teaching



Students learn profound wide-ranging knowledge conducive to agricultural production.

SINUIJU COLLEGE OF Agriculture is well known as a college giving substantial assistance to co-operative farms in North Phyongan Province. It has closely combined instruction and scientific research with actual production. Successful research projects were first applied to production for the verification of the merit before being introduced to students at class. As a result, problems arising in farming were solved and the students improved their acquirements. In recent



▶ plans, the teachers incorporated in them the contents that had been scientifically approved in the practice. In the course of this scientific research thesis and reference books were written in accordance with the teaching practice and many teachers were given the patents, registered program certificates and new technology certificates.

A great success is also made in scientific research. Fully understanding that the introduction of the organic farming method is a trend of the global agricultural development, the teachers and researchers had good experience in applying the organic farming method to the practical activity. The scientific research section established the subject of organic

farming method long ago and made sure that it was taught to suit the country's reality and introduced to actual production. On the basis of the experience they gained producing organic compound fertilizer, the college contributed to the building of organic compound fertilizer factories in many places. Teachers of the vegetable and crops departments achieved a success in developing a vegetable pesticide at a low cost by using plants growing in the country.

The college saw to it that teachers and researchers with rich experience and high ability taught students profound wide-ranging solutions of many urgent problems to make organic and microbial fertilizers in accordance

with the country's soil, to manage organic nutrition in cultivating crops, to develop organic seeds of the Korean style, to prevent air pollution and damages of harmful insects and so on. And it made sure that students consolidated what they learned at lecture by confirming scientific laws in various sectors of organic farming while tilling land personally.

In addition it helps increase agricultural production on a nationwide scale by introducing valuable farming methods and techniques and cultivating methods which are effective in production of grains, meat, fruits and vegetables.

*Article by Choe Chun Mi
Photos by An Su Yong*

Kongang Joint Venture Company

THE FOCUS OF MANY of the visitors to the 8th Pyongyang Autumn International Trade Fair in the Three-Revolution Exhibition House in Pyongyang in September last year was on medical instruments and medicines presented by the Kongang Joint Venture Company under the Medical Appliances Industry Management Bureau of the DPRK Ministry of Public Health. The visitors were particularly interested in a portable semiconductor-laser treatment facility, a health-protecting computer film, and a number of medical instruments, Koryo medicines and liquid medicines.

Deputy head of the company Jon Chun Gwon says, "We are little content with our achievement. We know we have a lot of things to do to help our people live without any

worry about illness and treatment."

Over the past years the management and workers of the company have striven to attain their top target of developing latest science and technology and introducing them into the manufacture of medical appliances and medicines. The technicians and workers of the pharmaceutical laboratory, not content with the existing production facilities, manufactured new smart ones that will be no inferior even in a distant future. As a result they consolidated the material foundation for steady increase in production. Building on the achievement, they manufactured effective Koryo medicines like entero-soluble lumbrokinase capsules, a good treatment of cerebral thrombosis, and alendronat capsules,

which both won patents.

In 2008 the company set a target of modernizing an existing liquid medicine plant and has since pushed ahead with it so as to fit the production processes to international standards. Now the plant is a special liquid medicine manufacturer equipped with a dozen modern facilities including production, measurement and examination ones.

The plant received a DPRK Quality Control Certificate in May 2009 and a GMP certificate in October 2010. Now it can manufacture any liquid medicine it wants to. Scores of popular medicines from the plant, such as musk injection, glucose injection and lactic Ringer's solution, are supplied to local hospitals.

Song Ryo Myong

Masters of Scientific Farming

A FEW DAYS AGO I visited the Chongsan Cooperative Farm, Kangso District, Nampho City, which was seething with the preparation of farming. "Hey, student! You've done it well again today," an old farm worker shouted to a tractor driver plowing the field diligently. Popping his head out of the tractor window, the driver appreciated the compliment with a smile.

What? He is a student, not a driver? I wondered. I waited for the break time and then met the so-called student. His name was Kim Kwang Il, who was attending the Chongsan Agricultural College while working as a farmer at workteam No. 3, Chongsan Cooperative Farm, and the man who had called him student was the workteam leader Min Kyong Nam.

"Most young people of our workteam have graduated from or are studying at the college under the system of studying while working. My workteam head calls all of them students. In his words, we feel the trust in and expectation for us younger generation who are shouldering the workteam's farming on the strength of science and technology," said Kim. Then he told me a story about how they developed a threshing machine years ago.

At that time, they thought the capacity of the threshing machine was the last thing to improve. There was a considerable loss in the harvested crops because of late threshing. The problem was an order of the day, but the workteam members differed in opinion. Some of them called for the help of experts of research institutes, and others suggested trying to do it after busy farming season. But Min put out an idea of improving the threshing machine by their own efforts, and set a plan to do it at the same time in the

threshing season, not in winter. He was confident that when he enlisted the technical ability of the workteam members, he would be able to do it.

Soon, a technical innovation team was formed with college graduates and students. Kim, who was studying at the farm machine faculty of the college, was selected as the leader. He knew he had to do not only farm work as a tractor driver but also the research work for refashioning the threshing machine while studying at the college.

He decided to work hard, though busy and tired, to meet expectations of workteam members who had helped him to study without anxiety although there was a lack of labour, saying that an era of scientific farming would come sooner or later.

He and his team engrossed themselves in the research work, counting every minute. They enhanced the speed of the wastestraw getting out of the machine, but the machine's efficiency showed no sign of improvement.

One day, in the course of watching the threshing machine carefully, Kim discovered that the machine should have feeding

blades to deal with more rice bunches. He knew he had to calculate the number and angle of the blades. By applying the knowledge they had learnt at college, the team members finished the calculation in a few days, completed the design and carried out a simulation.

At last, they made a new threshing machine whose capacity was 1.5 times greater per hour than the previous. Based on their experience, they made tens of kinds of farming machines like a rice-seedling transplanter and a fertilizer distributor which can apply fertilizer under the plant while transplanting rice-seedlings. For the machines that are capable of promoting efficiency of the farming operation, they won a top prize at the national farming machines show.

When I left the farm, Min said: "Please come to our farm again when the rice in the dry field grow well. The students of my workteam developed a new method of growing highly productive rice in the dry field. At that time you may hear me call them doctor of agriculture."

Kim Chol Ung

Chongsan Agricultural College is run in a study-while-working system



Little but Determined

PYONGYANG CHANGJON PRIMARY SCHOOL is widely known throughout the DPRK. It was the first to be built in central Pyongyang in the difficult postwar days. Its site was fixed by President Kim Il Sung.

In September 1954, not long after its opening, the national leader visited the school to see pupils at class and instructed teachers there that they should train the pupils into comprehensively-developed pillars of the country.

On the day that school started in 1975 when universal 11-year compulsory education was enforced in the country, and on many other occasions later he visited the school to teach in detail how to educate and edify pupils.

Chairman Kim Jong Il also visited the school on many occasions to give concrete instructions on developing pupils into talents well prepared in knowledge, morality and physical fitness.

In May last year the supreme national leader Kim Jong Un visited the school that was newly built on the picturesque Taedong riverside. In a classroom he examined desks and chairs to see if they suited the stature of pupils. Looking round foreign language and computer laboratories, he said that they were well arranged. In the auditorium of the school he said with satisfaction that it would be to the teachers and pupils' liking. Then he promised the teachers that he would visit the school again to see pupils at class.

Pupils of the school take unusual pride in attending the school associated with the leadership of the peerlessly great personages of Mt. Paektu. In the campus of the school stands a statue of Kim Il Sung in his childhood during his study at Changdok School after returning to the homeland through a 250-mile journey for learning true to his father's instruction that he should know well about Korea.

Every morning pupils of the school come to pay tributes to Kim Il Sung before the statue before starting the day's class. It is routine for the pupils to lay bunches of flowers before the statue when entering or graduating from the school.

Ri Chuk Bok, pupil of the school and daughter of Ri Jae Ryong, a former unconverted long-term prisoner, says, "Every nook and corner of our school is associated with the care of the dear leaders Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il and Kim Jong Un. Whenever I bow before the statue every day I feel as if he was affectionately encouraging me to get full marks."

Though little in age pupils are determined to grow



Teachers prepare a lesson.

up into pillars of the country without forgetting the expectation and instructions of the national leaders.

Teachers of the school are well aware of their unusual responsibility for education and edification of pupils. The truth that pupils' academic performance depends upon their teachers' qualifications promotes the teachers' thinking and practical activities. In recent years they invented important experimental apparatuses, teaching aids and multi-media programs which earned the school the first prize at a national exhibition. Besides, they created a data room which provides multi-media programs, common knowledge and e-books. And they pool their wisdom and come to have new ideas through exhibitions and experience presentation meetings held on the day of department. Meanwhile, they have made efforts to make teaching based on scientific accuracy and actuality, combine theories with practice and actively employ heuristics in teaching.

As a result many of them were highly appreciated at national meetings for demonstration lessons and experience presentation and national discussions about teaching methods, and won the title of October 8 Model Teacher.

People's Teacher Kim Su Bok, head teacher of the school and twice Labour Heroine, says, "Our pupils are good at school and like to do good things by themselves. In the past our school was the first in the country to produce a class of B and A pupils, and lots of our graduates have developed into heroes, doctors, People's Athletes and People's Artistes. This can be attributed to the unusual care of the peerlessly great personages of Mt. Paektu for posterity. Every morning, when I see the clear eyes of pupils looking up at the statue of Kim Il Sung, I renew my resolution to bring them up well."

Rim Sang Jun

Art of Manual Pressure Inherited

ON THE NIGHT OF January 11 last a doctor could not get to sleep. The doctor is Ju Hak Chol, head of the finger-pressure therapy section at the acupuncture and moxibustion institute of the Academy of Koryo Medicine who is well known across the country for his successful finger-pressure therapy and relevant research.

On January 11 in 1985 his father Ju Tae Song received Chairman Kim Jong Il's written instruction that he should develop finger-pressure therapy. Ju Tae Song was a doctor who had pioneered the field of the therapy in Korea. He lost his parents at the age of three when Korea was under the military occupation of the Japanese imperialists. Later, as a young boy, he had to make his living by massaging the backs, legs and necks of other people. In the course of this, he got the knack of curing simple pains in the waist, the leg and the stomach by massaging the parts. The efficacy of his manual therapy found expression in promoting blood circulation and in treating digestive troubles, neuralgia and neuroparalysis. He was widely known as an experienced doctor in the course of treating patients. Many years have passed since he died.

With this thought Hak Chol inwardly said, "Father, I confirmed the method of treating slipped disk not long ago."

It was nearly 20 years ago that Hak Chol graduated from Pyongyang Medical College of Kim Il Sung University with a determination to follow in his father's steps. Then, posted to the finger-pressure therapy institute

under the Academy of Koryo Medicine as researcher, he studied the relevant up-to-date literature published at home and abroad and constantly improved his qualification during his clinical practice. He thus found the method of detecting the cause of spinal diseases including cervical vertebral symptoms, shoulder-joint periarthritis and slipped disk, and that of well removing functional disorders which cause pains by combining strong and weak pressures to suit the patient's constitution. His special efforts went into curing the slipped disk to find an effective method of treating the disorder by changing the patient's posture.

Jong Yon Chol, a worker of the Pyongyang Automation Appliances Factory who had his trouble cured by Hak Chol's finger-pressure therapy in September last year, said, "I got hurt in the waist in an accident during work eight years ago and took hospital treatment. But with growing age I had trouble in moving the waist owing to the after-effects. Later I got the slipped disk and became unable to move my body. When I decided to have an operation I was told that I could have my disease cured by finger-pressure therapy. So I went to see Dr. Ju. His therapy was very efficacious, and I have now recovered much enough to do exercise as I can."

Hak Chol has so far cured hundreds of patients. Among them are foreigners. It was when he was in Venezuela in 2005. Wilmer Ruperuti, who was director of the Interpetrol of Venezuela, couldn't move freely owing to periarthritis in the right shoulder



joint and lumbago. After getting treatment from experienced doctors, he seemed to be cured, but the diseases would recur. Hak Chol's therapy made him completely recover in three months. His father, Domenico Ruperuti, 73 at that time, was in a more critical condition. Though he had undergone a coronary arteries transplant he felt short of breath while walking even a few minutes. At night he frequently got a cramp in his leg and had a difficulty turning his neck, so he gave up treatment. Hak Chol cured his disease in a few months by means of his finger-pressure therapy. The following year he cured Garcia Ponce, chairman of the Venezuela-Korea Friendship Association and director of VEA, who was invited to the celebrations of the 80th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung, of a disease in several months so that he became able to resume his work.

Hak Chol is giving assistance to other public health establishments by writing reference books on finger-pressure therapy verified in his clinical practice, and developing other members of his section into masters of the therapy.

Song Yong Sok

Able Sportspersons Are Trained

IN KOREA THERE IS HELD a national juvenile sports schools' contest every year. The public interest in the contest is increasing year after year. Last year witnessed the 49th round of the contest. At the contest the Sariwon Juvenile Sports School won 52 medals including 15 golds.

The school with a long history produces reserve footballers, tennis players, heavy gymnastics performers and other athletes. As to heavy gymnastics, in particular, half of the relevant coaches and players of national sports teams are all graduates of the school, including People's Athlete Kim Chun Phil and Merited Athlete Han Jong Ok. Ri Mun Hon, a senior instructor of the school, says, "Our school selects children from primary schools and trains them systematically. While working as an instructor for nearly 30 years, I have realized that much effort bears much fruit. I employ amusing methods as well to train the children to suit the age and psychological peculiarities of the charges, who fail to understand even the outlines of heavy gymnastics, so that they themselves come to have a determination to master heavy gymnastics without fail. I am most pleased when I see them performing basic technical movements properly. And I am filled with great happiness when I hear that those selected and

posted to national sports teams have shown good results in domestic and international competitions."

Head of the school Kim Hyo Song was a footballer. Over 200 boys and girls of the school are practising football. According to him, more and more of the school have recently aspired to play football, and girls particularly take an increasing interest in football. So the school is putting much effort in training girls into footballers with various specialities. The children gather in the training ground after school, and get intensive training according to their instructors' detailed plans. In recent years alone girls from both junior and senior circles of the school have ranked among the top three in national contests. Pak Pom Hyang, who is regarded as the most promising woman footballer of the school, says that

she wants to realize her dream of becoming a world-famous footballer to set a good example to her juniors aspiring to play football.

Kim Tong Hwi who have worked as a tennis instructor of the school for 40 years has his unusual pride. He has so far trained over 200 state-level players. He is content with the fact that all of them are fully discharging their roles while taking pride in having many such disciples. Actually all tennis instructors of the school are his disciples. And today they are training many reserves. The head says that the events his school specializes in and the number of its pupils are increasing amidst the state's increasing concern about sports. The zeal for sports is further flaming up in not only the school but also all other similar schools.

An Mu Gwang



Amnokgang Sports Team

THE AMNOKGANG SPORTS Team is a team with a longest history in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Its development since its foundation as the first national sports team in the country in 1947 is inconceivable apart from the word *first*.

Vice-director and People's Athlete Kim Myong, once as a coach, had trained Ho Sun Hui, Jang Ok Gyong and other six women footballers well enough to be enrolled in the national team, thus helping the Korean women footballers win the Asian Women's Football Championship held in 2000, for the first time in their history of participation in the competition. Kim said, "*First* is a word encouraging athletes to display the great spirit of rivalry, and that spirit of our sports team members is unusually strong."

The feeling that "we should take the first place, not the second or the third" came into Korean athletes' mind long ago. In 1963 the 1st GANEFO (the Games of New Emerging Forces) was held in Jakarta, Indonesia. Sin Kum Dan, a racer from the aforementioned team, set new world re-



ords in the women's track events of 400 m and 800 m at the Games. She renewed world records as many as 11 times during her career as a racer, and thus became a world queen in track events and the first Merited Athlete in the country. In the 1970s Ku Yong Jo, a boxer of the same team, astonished the world by winning boxing events in international games, adding lustre to the country. In 1976 he defeated the world's top boxers in men's 54 kg-category

events and bagged a gold medal at the 21st Olympic Games held in Montreal, Canada. And he won the first place in the 4th international boxing contest for the Gold Belt held in Hungary in 1975, and the world boxing circle appreciated Ku as a modern model boxer. In the 1980s Kim Kyong Sun and Ri Pun Hui, women table-tennis players of the team, distinguished themselves in the table tennis world. Kyong Sun, in particular, received the Julla Prize for her

Jong Song Ok, winner of the women's marathon race at the 7th World Track and Field Championships.



Om Yun Chol sets a new Olympic record in 56kg category of men's weightlifting at the 30th London Olympics.





With the beginning of the 2000s the members of the team achieved astonishing successes in international games. Ri Song Hui known as a Herculean woman of the world and Om Yun Chol, a younger weightlifter, both from the sports team, demonstrated their startling physical strength

and set new records in international weightlifting contests, deeply impressing the audience. Yun Chol, who set a new Olympic record by lifting the barbell three times heavier than his weight in the 56 kg category of men's weightlifting at the 30th Olympics, said, "When I joined the team I resolved to glorify my honour of being a member of the first team to come into being in the country. I am now very happy at the thought that I have even a little helped the team to glorify its long history."

Chae Kwang Myong

► ten victories at ten matches in the 37th World Table Tennis Championships held in 1983, becoming the first table-tennis player in the country to win the prize. In the latter half of the 1990s when the country was undergoing severe trials, Jong Song Ok, another racer of the team, won the marathon race in the 7th World Track and Field Championships held in 1999 to the great delight of the Korean people. So she became the first in the country to win a world marathon race and a world marathon queen.



Story of Thick Forests

IN MARCH WHEN SPRING is felt everywhere tree planting is well under way in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. March 2 is the Tree Planting Day in the country. The institution of the day is associated with the following story.

On March 2, 1946, the year after Korea's liberation from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation (August 15, 1945), Kim Il Sung, leader of the new Korea, went up Moran Hill situated in central Pyongyang. Moran Hill was the one he had always remembered and told his soldiers about by the campfire during the anti-Japanese armed struggle. Now, however, the hill he saw after national liberation was a denuded one. Recalling that formerly the hill was covered with trees, he said in distress that after their occupation of Korea the Japanese aggressors cut down trees at random in the hill. And he stressed the need to plant the hill with trees and flowers in large numbers and turn it into a park for the recreation of Pyongyang citizens. Going round the hill, he taught in detail the ways and means for the work of nationwide tree planting and for the bettering of the city.

Later the DPRK government instituted the day as the Tree Planting Day of the country.

On April 6, 1947 Kim Il Sung went up Munsu Hill without minding a cloud of dust, planted a tree in person and firmed it carefully lest even a single root hair should be wounded and the tree fall in the wind.

During the war unleashed by

the US imperialists in the 1950s, too, he took various measures to conserve forests of the country. He saw to it that certain soldiers were recalled from the front to be appointed as foresters and the military committee issued an order on tree planting. Scientists were assigned important research tasks pertaining to creation of mixed forests.

Under his wise leadership, mountains of the country turned into thickly-wooded ones.

Chairman Kim Jong Il creditably kept President Kim Il Sung's achievements. During a visit to the Sogwang Temple, Kim Jong Il, observing a healthily-grown zelkova tree, said that any place of the country is beautiful like the spot and that they should further enrich the precious and beautiful land before handing it over to posterity.

In the mid-1990s when the country underwent the Arduous March, he created a new history of change: the appearance of the land was bettered and all mountains and fields of the country were clad in verdure.

He used to think of landscaping the country when seeing even a single flower tree on a pass on the front line and continued his journey of boundless devotion, saying, "We should hand over rich forests to our posterity even though we do not benefit immediately from them."

During his continuous journey of Songun revolutionary leadership, he would be very pleased to see thickly-wooded mountains and green fields and appreciate the unknown, conscientious ef-

forts of the patriotic people concerned.

During a visit to the Central Nursery in October 2011, Kim Jong Il instructed in earnest that the entire Party, the whole army and all the people should be mobilized to push ahead with local afforestation and landscaping so as to hand over to their posterity a beautiful land, thickly-wooded and ablaze with all sorts of flowers. Saying that what was most important in nationwide afforestation and landscaping was to plant select species of trees in large numbers, he explained in detail about the advantages of such trees.

From then on afforestation was promoted as an all-inclusive mass movement. Under the slogan "Let us live not merely for today but for tomorrow!", all cities and counties across the country strove to change all mountains there into thickly-wooded "golden mountains" and "treasure mountains." Lots of officials and working people tended forests with patriotic enthusiasm and received the titles of Labour Hero and Merited Forest Ranger.

The supreme leader Kim Jong Un who inherited the idea and cause of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il arranged for a meeting of activists in the general mobilization movement for land administration to be held in Pyongyang in May last year, and bestowed great favours and trust on People's Army soldiers, scientists, technicians and working people who had helped increase the forest resources of the country. ►

Forest Sways as Pleasantly as Ever

IN MAY LAST YEAR A north-bound train started from Pyongyang. Among the passengers aboard the train was a man who was lost in deep thought. He was Kang Yong Su, a forest ranger at Pukjin Workers' Settlement, Unsan County, North Phyongan Province. He was on the way back to his working place after attending a conference of activists for general mobilization for land administration. While taking in the ever-changing view of mountain ranges clad in verdure from the train window for a good while, he looked down at one of his hands time and again.

Days earlier when the participants in the conference gathered together to have a photo session with the national leader Kim Jong Un, he was told that Kang, son of the prototype of the leading character of the feature film *The Forest Sways*, was taking care of forests creditably, succeeding to the generation of his parents. The national leader summoned him and warmly clasped his hand. Yong Su felt as if there still remained intact the warm temperature of Kim Jong Un in the hand he had clasped. With his head up again, he looked out of the train window. Tears welled up in his eyes. He told himself, "Father, I've become a man of honour, like you, known to the whole country."

When the Fatherland Liberation War (1950–1953) was over his father Kang Yun Gyong began to work as a forest ranger in Unsan County. Scorched in the flames of the war, mountains were almost bare of trees. To make matters worse, the mountain under his charge was quite stony, making it difficult for trees to strike roots. But he buckled down to the work of readjusting the forest methodically without hesitation. At times it took him all day long to dig a pit and fill it up with humus soil.

What remains in Yong Su's childhood memory of his father is only that he was always busy removing stones from early in the morning till late at night deep in mountains and walking about with manure and saplings on his back. Once Yong Su planted a young tree and poured water to it so as to help his father in his work. When he finished his work his father said with a satisfied smile, "My son Yong Su, too, has made a precious asset for the country."

Until then little Yong Su did not know completely why his father was so pleased. When he left to join the army many years later, the forest into which his father had put his heart and soul was thick and rank, thus enabling the local people to enjoy a great deal of substantial benefits. Therefore, they were all full of admiration for

the work done by his father. In 1982 when he was serving in the army there appeared a feature film that was produced with his father as the prototype of its leading character. Only then did he come to realize clearly that only a man who works devotedly for the country whether he is acknowledged or not is able to feel the real value and joy of life. A resolve rooted quietly in his mind, the resolve to live like his father, engraving clear-cut marks of life on the land of the country.

Afterward he got discharged from military service and returned to his native place. Visible everywhere were mountain ridges of his native place that were representative of his father's hard work.

His father died the year before his discharge from military service.

Determined to convert his native land into a better place to live in, succeeding to his father's business, Yong Su became a forest ranger of his own accord. On top of that he formed a rangers' team with his brothers and aroused all his family members to take care of forests of the country much better. It occurred not long after he started work. While going a round of the forest section under the charge of his team, he found that a young nut pine tree he had planted some time before was trampled. ▶

▶ Last year Kim Jong Un made public many classic works in succession, including *On Bringing About a Revolutionary Turn in Land Administration in Line with the Requirements of the Building of a Thriving Socialist Country*.

Explaining that Kim Jong Il's patriotism is genuine patriotism with which to hold dear every tree and every blade of grass of the country and devote one's heart and soul to looking after them, he initiated the struggle to apply

Kim Jong Il's patriotism, the crystallization of socialist patriotism, in practice. The number of patriots in the country is now increasing through the struggle.

An Nam Hui



Forest ranger Kang Yong Su (*third right*).

► Looking around, he saw a few children engrossed in collection of botanical specimens. He met them and talked admonishingly, saying: This tree is small and negligible. But it is precious wealth that can give people tasty wild nut, books and firewood later. One of the purposes of your making a study of the plants lies in having a better knowledge about them and increasing their species.

The children repented of their fault and erected the fallen nut pine tree upright. Now they expressed their determination to take good care of trees.

After the happening he thought that for proper discharge of his duty inspiring people to act with a will was more important than the work of control, and wrote materials for public information and made necessary boards with visual aids until late at night, though he was dead tired, going up and down mountain ridges the whole day. Thanks

to his unabated efforts people took a growing interest in forest. Thus it became a habitual practice for all of them to turn out with saplings on their backs when going to mountains.

As a result, forests in the Pukjin Workers' Settlement were expanded nearly 1.2 times greater than before, and various kinds of wild fruit and nut and medicinal herbs produced in that forest such as pine nuts, black walnuts, aralia shoots, mushrooms, forest asiabells, bellflowers, and the like made the living of the people more abundant.

After that he mapped out a plan to develop the mountain area from a place of economic profit alone to a natural botanical garden. To this end, he built up more than 1 000 hectares of useful animal reserves and over 400 hectares of tree nursery. Accordingly, the forests have now been built up for all purposes, which give a great deal of profit from year to year. All mountains in the area

have turned into treasure mountains. Whenever there came a good result he wrote it down in his diary with the feeling of informing his father of his achievement.

The state conferred the honourable title of Meritorious Person in the Songun Era upon him in appreciation of his devoted efforts, and awarded the Order of the National Flag 1st Class to him on the 100th anniversary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung.

Then he was invited to the conference of activists for general mobilization for land administration.

Yong Su returned home in the same spirit as he had when he got discharged from military service. The mountains were as green as he had seen before, but everything seemed to be new to his eyes. Casting a glance to the hill where his father's grave was, he murmured under his breath, "Father, we have good forests as you had."

Ri Kum Chol

Visiting the Ice Rink

THE ICE RINK TOWERING on the picturesque Pothong riverside gives an impression that it is shaped nimbly. Not long ago I visited the Ice Rink. After commanding a panoramic view of the Ice Rink that looked like a work of art, I stepped into the entrance hall, when I met Song Il Son, a senior officer of the Ice Rink, who gave me a joyous welcome, saying, "Our Ice Rink was opened in April 1982. Its total building area amounts to more than 25 000 square metres and the number of seats for spectators totals 6 000. When putting the main and training areas together, the ice area covers nearly 5 400 square metres."

Then he told me about several things that occurred in the course of building the Ice Rink. In order to provide the people with much more splendid condition for physical training Chairman Kim Jong Il initiated the construction of the Ice Rink. And in the whole period when its construction was in progress he paid a deep attention so that the Ice Rink would be congenial to a modern aesthetic sense and would guarantee the training conditions of the skating players and the convenience of working people making use of the Ice Rink on the highest level.

About the time when the construction of the Ice Rink was almost finished, he visited the Ice Rink once again. Looking round the interior of the Ice Rink, he said that the Ice Rink where such physical exercise as figure skating would be taken, would differ little from a theatre, that when building a hall, it should be done properly, and that only then the sightseers would feel a cultural sense from the moment they stepped in, opening the door of entrance and exit. I could hardly depart from the hall on the ground floor which is well associated with Chairman Kim Jong Il's efforts to provide the people with splendid facilities for physical culture, while pon-

dering over the mental state of the visitors in detail.

Conducted by an accompanying official, I stepped into the main building when figure skaters were intent on training. Really attractive were those who were unfolding elegant rhythmic movements on the ice. When I was gazing upon them in raptures, my guide told me a heartwarming story associated with the costumes and figure skates they had on. One day in early December 2011, Chairman Kim Jong Il inspected the place together with Kim Jong Un, respected leader of the nation, to see a demonstration performance of the figure skaters. Whenever the event changed he was the first to clap his hands, saying, "Well done!" That day he gave instructions with regard to the orientation and ways and means for the improvement of the level of figure skating and took a step for providing the figure skaters with good skates and costumes.

In January last year when the people of the whole country were shedding heartrending tears on account of the great national loss—the demise of Kim Jong Il—Kim Jong Un,

remembering the promise Kim Jong Il had made with the figure skaters, prepared the figure skates and costumes of the highest class for contest and sent them to the figure skaters.

In the reliable appearance of the figure skaters who were engrossed in training out of sheer desire to prove themselves worthy of that affection and trust, I could see their resolve to uplift the honour of the country with good results in contest in the near future. In retrospect, the government formed various associations for sports on the ice and has paid deep attention to training conditions and the living of players for the development of sports on the ice so far. During this period, the enthusiasm of players for training and the state of their physical and technical preparations were enhanced and excellent players were produced in large numbers, including Kim Il Sung Prize winner and People's Athlete Han Phil Hwa. In particular, with the construction of the Ice Rink the training condition of the players on the ice further improved. As a consequence, good results have been registered at major international contests. ▶

A scene of the 21st Paektusan Prize International Figure Skating Festival (February 2012).



Invigorating Resort

IMPAIRED FUNCTIONING, indigestion, pains in joints, disproportioned figures, and dull faces caused by obesity and circulatory diseases, and occupational diseases—all these trouble people. In the DPRK such troubles began to diminish among the people who frequent the Thongilgori Fitness Centre newly built in Pyongyang. It has a health exercise room, a recuperation room, an underwater ultrasonic treatment room and other exercise and recuperation rooms equipped with over 130 exercise instruments and medical facilities of over 60 kinds. The following are what a *Korea Today* reporter heard during a visit to the fitness centre.

I am reinvigorated just in 45 days

Yun Kyong Guk, a director of the Korean Mass Gymnastics Production Company

Until only a few months ago I would breathe with difficulty while even after walking a little or going up and down stairs. So I could not do my job properly, and I felt quite languid. When I went to a hospital to complain of my symptoms, the doctor I met then advised me to take kinesitherapy. At the time, however, I knew little about kinesitherapy. So I took exercises to my taste, but it bore no fruit.

One day a friend of mine told me that the Thongilgori Fitness Centre would serve my purpose, and I went there. Choe Myong Jo,

a doctor of recuperation room No. 1, asked me my age and examined my stature, weight, blood pressure, pulse, rate of fat and basal metabolic rate, and diagnosed me as having obesity and gave me an exercise timetable as follows:

1. Use a running exercise tool for 15 minutes: first, walk slowly on the tool at a speed of 6 km an hour for 5 minutes and then run lightly for 10 minutes.

2. Use a horizontal bicycle exercise tool: select a weight-reducing program and exercise on the tool for 10 to 15 minutes.

3. Use a waist massager for 10 minutes.

4. Use a body revolving tool for 10 minutes.

5. Take a ring or ball exercise for 10 minutes.

6. Use a footboard-type massager for 10 minutes after selecting a weight-reducing program.

According to the timetable I steadily took exercises with the help of the doctor and a guide. Just 45 days later I found my condition well again. I am really reinvigorated.

I am free from my trouble

Rim Hye Yong, a resident of Neighbourhood Unit No. 77, Chungsong-dong No. 2, Rangnang District, Pyongyang

I had a trouble. From some time ago freckles began to appear on my face, the skin becoming rough. I intended to get rid of the freckles at hospital. The hospital treatment, however, was a surgi-

cal one that would do harm to the face skin. And the patient should not be exposed to sunlight during the treatment, and after treatment, it was said, the illness might recur. So I gave up my intention.

Later I saw on TV a programme explaining that freckles could be removed by physical treatment at the Thongilgori Fitness Centre. So I decided to go there. Still, I doubted that physical treatment could remove freckles because it was difficult to do through hospital treatment.

Cha Kwang Ok, a doctor of recuperation room No. 3, told me that freckles might come into being owing to endocrine disorders or by a nervous factor, and explained in easy language about the theory of the physical treatment.

Then I began to get the treatment with confidence. The doctor skillfully massaged my face, sometimes making use of a beautifying device. During the massage my feelings of insecurity and fear turned into a feeling of security before I knew. The comprehensive beautifying device removed poison from the face and abraded an aged film of the skin, and anion steam was sprayed lightly on the face.

I got such treatment for 15 days, and the freckles disappeared and the skin became clear. And the disease didn't recur even several months later. So I had a fine face in 15 days, and I am free from my trouble.

It is not me alone that bene- ▶

▶ Then I dropped in at the training building set up outside the Ice Rink.

In this training building the ice hockey players of the sports team of the Pyongyang Railway Bureau were immersed in training to participate in the Osandok Prize sports contest. Visible in the outer course were many young boys and girls who were having a pleasant time, gliding over the ice

on skates.

When I asked if the training building is enlivened at all times, a young girl who was active as a guide said, "Our training building is animated all the year round. The training of hockey and speed ice-skating players is conducted and as you see, this building is visited by young people and children. So it is filled with happiness at all times."

Every year Paektusan Prize International Figure Skating Festival and other international contests and many national contests including DPRK championships take place in the Ice Rink.

I left there convinced that in the future, too, the Ice Rink would shed a bright light as a centre of physical culture and sports and as a monumental edifice.

Kim Ja Yong



► fitted from the centre. It is quite popular with us women because it applies scientific physical treatments to cure mastopathy and adjust hanging breasts.



*Article by Kim Won Nam
Photos by Ri Song Chol*

Folk Tale Adapted for Acrobatic Play



LAST YEAR THE STATE Circus produced an acrobatic play *The Tale of Chun Hyang* based on the Korean classic novel of the same title.

It is a love story between Ri Mong Ryong, son of a noble family, and Song Chun Hyang, daughter of *kisaeng* (a professional entertainer—Ed.). They meet each other when they go sightseeing to Kwanghan Pavilion, and plight their troth. Afterwards, Mong Ryong goes up to Seoul following his father, but Chun Hyang has to remain because of her lowly status. At this juncture, Pyon Hak Do appears appointed as the magistrate of the county where Chun Hyang lives. A vicious feudal government official, Pyon is taken by her beauty, and tries to force her to give him bed service. When she refuses to obey, Pyon puts her into prison in an attempt to decapitate her on his birthday. Meanwhile, Mong Ryong wins the first place in a state examination and is appointed as a secret royal inspector. He metes out a punishment to Pyon and his clique and rescues Chun Hyang.

The classic novel was adapted for a film and an opera in the 1980s, winning public favour. When the news spread that the story was adapted for an acrobatic play, people doubted if it could

depict the dispositions of the characters dramatically. When the performance of the play began in October last year it was a huge box-office success. People's doubt changed into admiration. The play ended amidst a thunderous clapping of hands. Cha Su Jong, teacher of Pyongyang Kumnung Secondary School, said, "I never imagined that the acrobatic play could laudably depict the individuality of Chun Hyang who was gentle outwardly but firm inwardly and pure gold like the novel. Fascinated by the play, I wept and laughed like Chun Hyang in the play. I have seen the play seven times, and yet I want to see it again. It's really fantastic."

It is a comprehensive acrobatic play which combines all gymnastic movements such as aerial stunts, acrobatic techniques on the ice, comic stunts and magic tricks. The State Circus completed the play in nine months. Pak Song Hui and Sin Chol Jin, who specialize in balancing, play the parts of Chun Hyang and Mong Ryong. The balancing they performed together won Gold Prize in the 12th China Wujiao International Circus Festival. During the production of the acrobatic play, they prepared themselves to be well-versed in seesawing, pole stunt,

wire rope walking, balancing on unrolled cloth, balancing in a rope net and illusionary jugglery. Pak mastered five stunts and Sin six stunts, and they were perfect in artistic representation, too.

Pak Song Hui says, "I had greatest difficulty in practising seesawing. I often fell in exhaustion and worried whether I could perform the difficult part of mine. But the thought that I must play well the part as the heroine of the first acrobatic play in our country's history of acrobatics inspired me to keep striving. At last I mastered the ABC of seesawing in six months, not three years which it had been expected to take to do."

Sin Chol Jin says, "Laurels should be given to all other members of the production unit as well. Because we all produced the play in one mind."

People's Artiste Kim Chol, Kim Il Sung Prize winner and head of the magic art production unit, and Merited Artiste Kim Jong Chol directed the play. They say, "The production of the acrobatic play made us confident that we can adapt any kind of works for an acrobatic play, and we accumulated experience to that end."

Article by Rim Ok

Photos by Ri Chung Ryol

Man and Wife as Judo Instructors

KANG MYONG CHANG, A JUDO INSTRUCTOR of the Tongdaewon District Juvenile Sports School in Pyongyang, and Pae Tong Suk, a judo instructor of the Juvenile Sports School of the Pyongyang Sports Team, are man and wife. They have been in the same profession for four and three years respectively. Their careers are not long, but they have brought about good results in training reserve judoists. The first judoist trained by Kang won a contest of juvenile sports schools in Pyongyang held in 2010. And trainees at Kang's school won first place in the team standings at the national juvenile sports schools' judo contests held in 2011 and 2012 on behalf of Pyongyang City. Pae is responsible for the training of reserve judoists for the Pyongyang Sports Team. Her charges do not participate in matches. As they are good in basic techniques and superb in physical constitutions, they are coveted by all coaches of the sports team.

The relevant experts say that the man and wife have achieved such good results because they had acquired substantial abilities when they were active as judoists. When Kang was a member of the Amnokgang Sports Team he won a DPRK championship. He fought well at many domestic and international competitions. Pae was also successful at many domestic and international competitions. She was awarded the title of Merited Athlete after winning the 48kg-category event of the 10th Asian Judo Championships held in 1996. The man and wife participated in a World Judo Championships held in Paris, France, showing good performances.

But an excellent career as an active player does not always lead to a fine capacity as an instructor.

After their marriage the man and wife thought a lot about their future careers. They wanted to work as coaches. But finally they decided to volunteer to work as instructors of juvenile sports schools at the thought that they had failed to achieve greater results because they had not strengthened their own basic techniques.

We materialized our wishes and aptitudes under

the care of the state, and it is our duty to train fine reserve athletes capable of helping develop judo techniques of the country. We will devote our all to the training of reserve athletes. With this determination they became judo instructors.

It was not an easy job for them to perform their duty properly. They were a good couple in family life, but there was no compromise between them in matters with regard to work. One late evening Pae returned home and told her husband that she was going to postpone her next day's schedule of training as she was too tired. It distressed the man to see his wife's face with bloodshot eyes and blistered lips. Even he himself felt tired sometimes and wanted to give up his job. So he could understand the extent of her tiredness as a mother of two children. Still, he could not agree to her idea. Later that evening the man told his wife, "Though difficult, let us brace ourselves up and train our charges into fine reserve athletes of the country without forgetting the solicitude the state showed for us."

They have devoted their all to the training of reserve athletes, helping and leading each other. Sometimes they talked about their experience far into the night or went to each other's training hall and stadium to encourage each other. And they promised to see who would produce fine reserve judoists faster and more. Thanks to their devotion their charges daily improved in ability.

"The more I know about the man and wife the greater respect I feel for them as instructors." This is what officials and instructors of the couple's sports schools and the parents of their charges say in unison.

Those who learned judo from the man and wife now take the lead in different categories of junior events. Experts say that they will soon distinguish themselves.

It is the couple's goal and aspiration to produce Asian and then world judo champions in a short span of time. They are now striving to attain the goal.

Kim Chol Jun



For Conservation of Water Resources

NOT LONG AGO A *KOREA TODAY* STAFF reporter had an interview with Dr. Pae Kwang Nam, a researcher of the City Management Research Institute of the State Academy of Sciences, on the occasion of the World Water Day.

Water is one of the very important resources indispensable to man's life. So humankind fixed the World Water Day and commemorate the day. At present the problem of water is a very serious one in the development of humankind, I think.

Right. Expressing deep concern about the serious shortage of water, the UN fixed "security of water and food" as the theme of last year's World Water Day. The global food crisis today is one of the urgent problems of humankind. According to data available, more than 70% of water now used worldwide is for agricultural irrigation. So the shortage of water, very important in ensuring food security for humankind, is a serious problem that should never go unnoticed.

The earth is called "blue planet" and "planet of water" for water covers two thirds of its surface. But very little are the water resources that can be used by people in practice. Even such little water resources keep decreasing owing to environmental pollution, climate changes and the like.

Please tell me in detail how your country conserves and manages its water resources.

First of all it is important to conserve natural water. In our country measures have been taken for the conservation of water resources, that is, river improvement and prevention of water pollution since national liberation in August 1945.

The Pothong River improvement project done in 1946 can be cited. Before liberation, even when it rained a little in every rainy season, the river used to be in spate, flooding the riverside and the western Pyongyang areas and resulting in inundation of thousands of hectares of farmland as well as loss of lives. The infectious diseases caused by the ensuing pollution gave the residents unbearable sufferings. The Pothong River improvement project started on the initiative of the national leader Kim Il Sung was completed in merely 55 days thanks to the patriotic enthusiasm of Pyongyangites. This heralded the beginning of large-scale nature-remaking projects in the country. Afterwards there were done big and small irrigation projects in Mathan, Kiyang and Chongdan, those for drawing water off Amnok and Chongchon rivers, and the construction of the Kaechon-Lake Thaesong gravitational waterway and the Paekma-Cholsan, Miru Plain and other waterways, opening a vista for more rational use of water resources.



Efforts are now made to build reservoirs across the country to store rainwater to be used for agriculture. And many cooperative farms place emphasis on increasing crop yields while saving water to the maximum by introducing the drop irrigation system.

The buildings of the Solar Products Development Centre can be called energy-saving buildings. The roofs of the buildings and the compound are designed to gather rainwater to be used as industrial water and fed into the solar water heater to warm the insides of the buildings.

Recently modern sewage treatment plants have been built in many parts of the country. This is of great importance in conserving water resources, I think.

The sewage treatment plants are built to suit our actual conditions. The plants collect and treat waste water to be used as industrial water. The Ryongsong Sewage Treatment Plant, for example, put the management of the sewage treatment on the basis of information technology by introducing a remote supervision and control system and industrialized the deposit treatment process by making use of a spin-drying process, thus ensuring that the Hapjang River is always filled with clear water. The Taedong River and its tributaries are also filled with clear water since the sewage treatment plants in Kumchon-ri and Janggyo-ri were modernized. Lots of small-scale sewage treatment plants in provinces, towns and counties have been renovated so as to provide rivers there with clear water. Besides, factories and enterprises have been equipped with advanced sewage treatment processes so that their waste water going through the processes can be clear enough to reach the international standard.

Meanwhile, the state is making detailed arrangements to fully purify the water for the people's life and for the public welfare service facilities. □

Room No. 5 of the Holiday Village

By Sin Yong Son

THE HOLIDAY VILLAGE was located on a lake. As the lake was teeming with fishes, angling was the happiest memory that holidaymakers kept for long. Some boasters said after spending holiday there that they had caught five carps as big as their arm from the window of their room on the first floor, but nobody accused them of the big “lie”. It was simply a pleasing reminiscence of the angling during the holiday.

When a morning glow tinged the windows of the holiday village in red, Room No. 5 on the first floor was already vacant. At the moment the eyes of the roomkeepers on duty were popping with amazement, and all the windows of the holidaymakers’ rooms were wide open. Youngsters in pyjamas cried, jerking their upper bodies out of the windows, “I hope you’ll catch a lot of fish, Master Angler.” Similar cries rang respectful and trustful across the ground of the building.

“Thank you,” an old voice replied, “and believe me. I’m a good smelter. Why don’t you make up your beds and follow me? Don’t you want to relish slices of raw fish I prepare this morning?”

An old man in his 50s with a wide-brimmed straw hat on askew waves his hand to the youngsters at the windows, nodding. He looked healthy and sturdy, with a strong, wide chest and a huge build. What was conspicuous about him was the dark face with deep-set sweat pores, black eyebrows and the prominent nose. With a bag of fishing tools slung over the shoulder, he

was wearing a smile on his thick lips. Having arrived at the holiday village after the holiday-beginning ceremony was over, he was the chief smelter of a furnace at an iron works. He was the oldest of the staying holidaymakers. He was called “master angler” in the holiday village. Nobody could tell who began to call him that nickname and for what reason, but it was clear that the holidaymakers loved to call him “master angler,” regarding him as their pride. Probably the nickname came from the holidaymakers’ enthusiasm about angling that had been aroused on the coach to the holiday village by the guide who talked a lot about the benefit of fishing to health and recreation. Probably the nickname came from admiration for the chief smelter’s fishing tools. Anyway, all his fishing equipment, like the line, rod and balls of bait, were the best they had ever seen. Even the bell, which reacts sensitively even to tiny waves in the lake was gilt.

He was being followed by a fat and reticent man—he was a department head of the Administration Council (Cabinet)—nodding acknowledgingly to enthusiastic speech of a young painter in his 30s who said he was there to create a painting to be presented to the coming autumn show of landscape paintings.

The four-men group was reared by a young truck driver—belonging to a long-distance transport company—who was walking with a plastic basin containing a bottle of vinegar and a pot of peppered bean paste. He

was singing a song incoherently and loudly, swishing the atmosphere of the early morning. Those four were all staying in Room No. 5, headed by the Master Angler.

They walked across the front yard, when a fishy smell reached their nostrils from the body of water, spurring their tempo. It seemed the mystery feeling and pungent excitement that is common to anglers had gripped them all, quickening their pulse.

A flat rock, jutting out from the shore and convenient for fishing as there were many fish around it, was yielded to the veteran smelter. The department chief of the Administration Council took a seat at the end of a willow wood, a place of nobody’s envy. The painter had no fixed place, for he always sought proper light and colour while fishing.

The lake in the early morning felt clean and damp. It was quite silent. A light-pink glow hung over the surface of the glossy water, and the morning fog was rising and flying low over the lake. A dozing silence reigned over the water. No breeze, no sunlight, no movement, and no sound, except birds flapping from sleep sometimes and the sound of the hooks falling in the water, which would rather add to the silence than breaking it.

The Master Angler dropped two lines into the water, lit a cigarette and began smoking. The smoke floated up covering the face that was a network of wrinkles. Time passed, second after second, minute after minute, wringing his heart. He was all the ears and eyes, watching the bell. ▶

► The lake was more and more tinged with a glow. As the day was breaking the light grey sky was turning clear and the cloud began to disperse, making the perspective view of the lake clearer. An autumnal aroma was smoothly spread in the soft yet heart-opening air. A carp jumped above the surface for prey, making minute wrinkles on the tranquil surface. Then there fell another silence.

The truck driver with curly hair, who was usually a boisterous young boy, was also keeping silence, chewing petals of wild chrysanthemum flower, and lying on one side of his body on the moist sand beach. He seldom joined fishing. Being an active character, he thought it hardly imaginable for him to watch the bell while muting even his breath. When the department chief had offered him a fishing rod in the room, asking him to join fishing, he had jumped up with astonishment, causing a roar of laughter among the room-mates.

The Master Angler was still keeping his eyes on the bell, squatting at the fishing tool. But his sight was blurred. Feeling the glow over the water surface, he sometimes mumbled something to himself and sometimes smiled to himself. The excitement and mystery worry that had been growing with the bell were gradually thinning out, while the view of well-molten iron in the furnace and the dear faces of his colleagues, who he thought were whirling a rod before the furnace at the moment were fleeting across his mind. *They must have poured a charge of iron by now, he told himself. I am afraid Kyong Hun is so hectic. I should have given him a good warning before I left here.* The old smelter was in bottomless worry—like a father with his

young children left far-off. He had been working at the furnace for more than 30 years. The furnace meant the whole of his life to him, and the colleagues were no less important than his flesh and blood. He had left for holiday since senior officials of the iron works, to say nothing of the colleagues, urged on him with intense heat to go for holiday. His holiday was a result of earnest requests and advices, which were all for his recreation.

“Caught it!” There rang the deep voice of the department chief in ecstasy of joy, breaking instantly the “agony of silence” and the inner thinking of the old smelter. At the same moment the bell fastened to the old man’s fishing line sounded loudly.

“Alas, I am distracted,” uttered the old man, snatching the line sharply. But it was too late. Having become clever while putting their wits against the aggressive anglers, the fish had successfully picked the bait from the hook. The old man focused on the bell again, calming himself down with difficulty. *Now what will become of me? If I fish like this, I would be shameful before my colleagues.* Now a kind of worry began to rise in his mind like a fog. He could hardly seat himself fixedly. The young driver, the “accountant” and “cook” of Room No. 5, was running in haste to the department chief, raising cheers of joy, and the sun was rising higher. The water surface was dazzlingly bright.

The golden maple leaves and light purple petals of wild chrysanthemum flowers were radiant with zealous light and fragrance, gem-like dew falling from them. Enraptured by the clear colours of all kinds and the reflections on the lake, the painter opened his board, finding himself hardly able

to curb his thrilling heart. He got a seed for his painting in the light and colours around, which he had been groping for. He was burning with creative zeal now. The bell of his fishing line rang twice, but his brush went on dashing. As it ran, there appeared admirable scenes on the board: a blue lake, golden leaves of trees around the lake, clear and fresh atmosphere, beautiful autumn flowers of all names. Presently the brush came to a stop, for the shadowy expression of the old smelter pricked him. It was an unexpected sight that was quite different from the scene of the lake in the happy morning.

The old man was smoking continuously with a grimaced face, squatting himself on his heels like a bear. He was fishing, not for himself. He was spending a worried time on the lake for the sake of his colleagues and holidaymakers. He knew well that his recreation and pleasure were that of his colleagues who were dealing with glaring flames in the furnace. He knew he had decided to catch at least two carps that day to send it to the father of Ro Song Sil, a girl crane operator at the works, for celebration of his 60th birthday early next month.

Also, he knew he was going to catch a catfish to be given to the wife of the head of the second shift of the furnace—she was suffering from aftereffect of childbirth. The last few pages of the Master Angler’s handbook were filled with a fishing plan instead of production figures. If he succeeded in catching fish he had planned in his blue handbook, he would have to prepare several big boxes to send the fishes home when he returned after holiday.

(To be continued)

Unanimous Desire of the Nation

IT IS A DEMAND OF THE TIMES TO IMPROVE inter-Korean relations through national reconciliation and unity. Only when the north-south relations change from distrust and confrontation to reconciliation and unity will the nationals be able to secure the country's peace and common prosperity and thus pave a way to reunification.

Improving the inter-Korean relations is an urgent task that brooks no further delay. Independent and peaceful reunification is inconceivable without it. In order to attain peace in the Korean peninsula and achieve independent reunification by pooling wisdom and efforts of the Korean nation, it is of crucial importance to improve north-south relations.

At present the inter-Korean relationship is in the worst ever, catastrophic situation. The former south Korean regime headed by Lee Myung Bak pursued a vicious anti-reunification policy while denying the June 15 Joint Declaration and the October 4 Declaration and working desperately to vanquish the north despite the fact that it is of the same bloodline. Thanks to their vicious policy the relationship between the north and the south was shattered to bits and the danger of a nuclear war reached the extreme in the Korean peninsula. The grave situation is an eloquent proof that as long as there exists the anti-north, pro-confrontation policy in force in south Korea the road of favourable relations between the two parts of the peninsula will remain blocked and peace of the peninsula and security of the nation will continue to be exposed to threat.

Koreans do not want fratricidal confrontation. They want to clear up the abnormalities of the north-south relationship as soon as possible. The north and the south should improve mutual relationship by removing the misunderstanding and mistrust that have reached an extreme, respecting and trusting each other, and making use of mutual community while transcending differences.

Good relations between the two sides will lead to peace, reunification and common prosperity of the nation. The June 15 reunification era in the 2000s was a historic time when the two sides were heading for reconciliation and unity. With the adoption of the historic June 15 Joint Declaration, the inter-Korean relations definitely changed towards reconciliation and unity, and the Korean nation achieved a great deal of things that had been unimaginable earlier in the time of showdown. Diversified channels of dialogue and cooperation, including the minister-level talks, reconnected the nation's bloodline and territory. Businessmen, artists, sportspeople, believers and people of all walks of life travelled to and from

both sides, deepening their trust and displaying clearly the image of the united nation. Cheers of "By our nation itself" rang all across the land of three thousand-ri, in particular, in Pyongyang and Seoul. Tourism was actively promoted to Mt. Kumgang resort and the Kaesong area, and members of separated families and relatives reunited year after year, bringing great pleasure to the nation. The emotional events of the June 15 reunification era should not be a simple reminiscence. The north and the south ought to get rid of the feelings of distrust and confrontation for the sake of the nation's future and open again the road of reconciliation, unity, peace and prosperity by improving relations.

The only way to good relationship lies in implementation of the June 15 Joint Declaration and the October 4 Declaration. The June 15 Declaration, the milestone for independent reunification in the 21st century, and the October 4 Declaration, programme for implementation of the June 15 Declaration, underlie favourable relations between the two sides. The declarations fully show what and how to do to make a radical improvement of inter-Korean relations and achieve peace, reunion and common prosperity of the nation. After the adoption of the June 15 Joint Declaration the north-south relationship that had been marred by confrontation made steady progress without losing stamina even in turmoils of turns and twists. This testifies to the assertion that the two north-south declarations are the correct guideline for improvement of inter-Korean relations and accomplishment of the cause of reunification. When the declarations are adhered to, the north-south relationship will develop into that of "By our nation itself", that is, reconciliation and cooperation.

When they respect and implement the declarations in south Korea, the two ideas of the Korean peninsula will be able to join efforts and work miracles again. The south Koreans' desire for good relationship with the north is growing daily intense. In the recent public opinion poll in south Korea, most of the respondents claimed to promote north-south dialogue to ease the tension in the peninsula.

Lamenting over the tragic relationship between the north and the south that is stuck in a catastrophic corner, all members of the nation are looking forward to amiable relationship this year. However desperate the anti-reunification forces are, they will never be able to hold in check the nation's vigorous advance towards independent reunification, peace and prosperity under the banner of the north-south joint declarations.

Kim Jun

High-handedness and Arbitrariness Are Intolerable

LAST YEAR NEWSWEEK said in an article titled “This Is Why All the World Dislikes the United States” to the effect that what the US brought to other countries and regions was not peace and security but destruction and disorder, misfortunes and calamities and that that was why the world disliked the United States. It can be said to be a relatively correct expression against the US’s pretence as the “international police.”

The US thinks all things yield to force and behaves as it pleases regardless of the UN, international laws and the norms of international relations. As to the human rights issue alone, the US poses as a “human rights judge” and makes use of the human rights issue for intervention to oppose and stifle those countries that are against its grains. It annually publishes a “human rights report” to put in question “human rights faults” of different countries and interfere in their internal affairs.

Under the pretext of defending human rights, the US puts pressure upon sovereign states

and goes so far as to use armed forces without hesitation. This can be proved by the Iraqi events of ten years ago. At the time the US used it as a pretext for invading Iraq to “disrupt the development of weapons of mass destruction” and “defend human rights.” Interfering in the internal affairs of Iraq under the pretext of protecting ethnic minorities there, the US finally attacked the country militarily. There was no limit to the targets of the attack. Not only soldiers but also even the elderly, women and children became targets of the attack. Lots of innocent Iraqis thus lost their lives, and refugees increased. The economy of Iraq was completely destroyed, followed by a lasting vicious circle of terror and retaliation and public disorders and chaos.



US troops set foot in Afghanistan.

The US still acts arbitrarily. As to the Middle East alone, the US, finding fault with the human rights situation in the region, interferes in the internal affairs of local countries and instigates anti-government forces to violence by giving assistance to them. It used even armed forces to overthrow the former government of a country. The region thus has turned extremely unstable.

The strong arm and arbitrariness of the US seriously menace peace and stability in the Korean peninsula. The US, which was defeated in the Korean war it had started in 1950, has not given up its ambition of nuclear attack against the DPRK. In the 1990s the US tried to topple the DPRK by making use of the nuclear issue, but in vain. The US has since been annually staging Foal Eagle, Ulji Freedom Guardian and other large-scale joint mili- ▶

Iranians conduct an anti-US demonstration.



Never-to-Be-Forgotten

► tary exercises together with the south Korean puppets against the DPRK by deploying huge armed forces, including nuclear-powered aircraft carriers, in and around south Korea. This is aimed at invading the DPRK and realizing its dream of world domination.

The persistent unreasonable pressure of the US meets with resistance everywhere in the world. The US schemes for sanction against Iran can be cited. Having imposed sanctions on Iran through the UN Security Council, the US is applying additional sanctions against it by mobilizing allies. The US ruling circle is threatening Iran saying that unless the government of Iran accedes to its demand in the future, pressure upon it will go on and isolation of it be aggravated and that they have a plan to opt for a military action. No pressure or threat of hostile forces can change the strong stand of the Iranian people who are determined to keep holding fast to their right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

The military high-handedness of the US fails to work. The prolonged Iraqi war aroused an anti-war atmosphere in the international community. In recent years the US administration, regardless of public opinion at home and abroad, further intensified military operations in Afghanistan only to have suffered lots of material and manpower losses.

No one can defeat people out in the struggle for a righteous cause. The countries and people that value independence should correctly understand the danger of the US high-handedness and arbitrariness that become more and more undisguised day after day, and smash its manoeuvres at every step so as to realize the desire of mankind for independence and peace and national prosperity.

Ri Hak Nam

THE JAPANESE IMPERIALISTS trumped up the “Ulsa Five-point Treaty” and occupied Korea by force of arms in 1905. Soon after the seizure of Korea they enforced an unprecedented colonial repressive rule over the Korean people. Everywhere in Korea they installed repressive apparatuses on a large scale and ruthlessly trampled down the sovereignty, human rights and the right to live of the Korean nation.

Their most heinous fascist outrages gave rise to an outburst of the anti-Japanese feeling of the Korean people. The patriotic people’s uprising that had broken out in Pyongyang on March 1, 1919 spread nationwide in an instant and this struggle was waged vigorously not only at home but also abroad where Koreans were living.

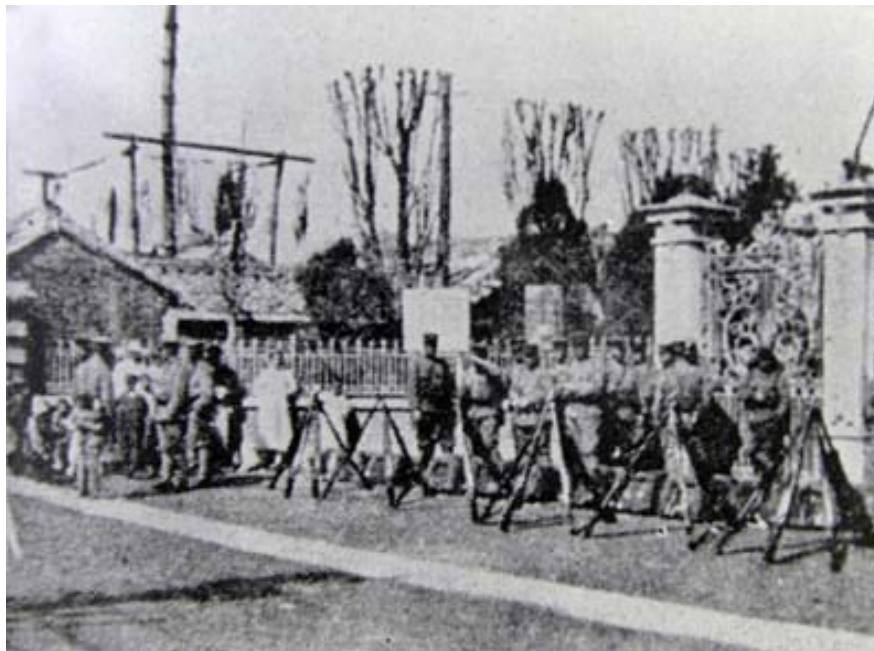
Ill at ease at the fighting spirit of the people, the Japanese imperialists were on the rampage

to put down their struggle. They effected a general mobilization of repressive forces such as their fully equipped stationary troops in Korea, military policemen, policemen, firemen, etc. and indiscriminately subjected the March First Popular Uprising to pressure. Not satisfied with that, they brought in even armed force from Japan proper.

While whipping massive repressive forces up to the suppression of the uprising, they went so far as to give instructions to rain bullets on the uprisers without hesitation. As a result, everywhere in Korea there started brutal murderous atrocities against unarmed inhabitants who had nothing but empty hands and naked fists.

By unleashing troops of cavalry, they surrounded the uprisers and rained fire on them irrespective of age and sex, thus inflicting wholesale deaths upon them. On the other hand, they ►

The Japanese imperialist army and police crack down on the March First Popular Uprising.



Crimes

- ▶ saw to it that their cavalry men killed uprisers by randomly bringing down their swords on them. On top of that the Japanese imperialists ghastly killed those Koreans at random who had nothing to do with the uprising.

The Japanese imperialists' murderous atrocities perpetrated against the uprisers were the most ferocious and the cruelest. Saying that shooting the people to death is "an uninteresting thing" and "It's too good to use swords for the Koreans", they tied legs and arms of Koreans to four cows or horses and whipped them up. Thus they killed Koreans by tearing off their limbs. Besides, they cut off necks and limbs of Koreans with fodder-choppers and suspended them from trees.

They seated the uprisers they had arrested and broke their skulls to pieces by striking them on the back of their heads with an iron bar or an iron hook, and made their bodies smeared with blood by stabbing them with a dagger haphazardly. They finished off a little boy in cold blood by tearing up his mouth, for the reason that he shouted "Long live independence!"

The beast-like repression of the March First Popular Uprising was an extra-villainous anti-ethical, anti-Korean crime that could be committed only by the Japanese imperialists, the aggressors and the spiteful and blood-thirsty felons.

Little wonder that even a Japanese scholar in government pay



The Japanese imperialist army and police hang participants in the March First Popular Uprising to death as a group.

lamented, saying: "Japanese ran amuck for cruel repression to such an extent that was shocking to look at. The tyranny of the Japanese military policemen was beyond description. They stabbed the old, women and even little children to death with their bayonets and put them to death by hanging."

The Japanese imperialists killed more than 100 000 Koreans in cold blood in a matter of several months by such brutal methods without precedent in history. Their suppression and murder of the participants in the uprising were not merely for the putting down of the uprising. Stamping down the anti-Japanese spirit of the Korean people ruthlessly and exterminating the Korean nation forever—this was the fundamental aim of their murderous atrocities. The Japanese imperialists' fiendish suppression and mass slaughter of the participants in the March First Popular Uprising are a criminal act contrary to morality and remain psychological and physical scars of spite that will go unhealed forever in the minds of the Korean people.

Nearly a century has passed since the uprising. However, far from repenting of and reflecting on the criminal acts they commit-

ted against the Korean people, Japan is still on a headlong rush toward the road of reinvasion, harbouring an illusion of realizing the old dream of the "Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere."

At present, Japan's manoeuvres for the conversion of herself into a great military power and for reaggression, such as the approval of arms export, nuclear programme, the conclusion of the military agreement with the south Korean puppets, the exercise of the right of collective self-defence, and the like have exceeded the line of danger. Without the hindrance and the frustration of Japan's militarization and scheme for overseas aggression the Asian countries including the Korean peninsula and, further, mankind, may suffer a dreadful calamity once again.

The peoples of the Asian countries who were forced to suffer a great calamity and misfortune owing to the Japanese imperialists in the past should never tolerate the atrocious machinations of the Japanese militarists who are desperately trying to become the "leader" of Asia and realize their old dream of the "Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere" over again.

Choe Kwang Guk

Ri Sun Sin Beats off Japanese Invaders with Turtle Boat



Thus he passed the military examination in 1576. Later, he went the length of becoming the *thongjesa*, commander of the combined fleet that merged the naval forces of three provinces—Jolla, Chungchong and Kyongsang provinces.

In 1591, the year before the Imjin Patriotic War broke out, he was appointed *joltosa* (one of provincial-level general officers) taking the lead of naval forces in Jollajwa-do province. At that time he exerted himself to make preparations to defend the coun-

fast in speed and strong in firing equipment. During the Imjin Patriotic War (1592-1598) it fully displayed its might in battles for repulsing the Japanese invaders.

The Japanese aggressors invaded Korea in April 1592, resorting to armed forces approximately 200 000 strong. In those days of war the enemies put forward the “simultaneous advancing of naval and land forces” aimed at occupying Korea by making attacks from the ground and sea at the same time as their



AMONG FAMOUS PATRIotic generals the Korean people still keep in mind is Admiral Ri Sun Sin (1545–1598) who made a great contribution to the Imjin Patriotic War by building the world’s first iron-clad warship.

Ri Sun Sin made a deep study of military science and set his heart on training military arts.

try from the invasion of the Japanese, such as repair of warships, strengthening of military training and the like.

In those days he built the world’s first iron-clad turtle boat on the basis of advanced shipbuilding technology. The turtle boat was unique in shape, simple yet solid and safe in structure,

basic strategy. In accordance with this strategy, the enemies set the foot of aggression on Pusan and soon captured Seoul and wormed their way deep into the interior of the country.

The disposition of Admiral Ri Sun Sin as a famous general was brought into full play from the first period of the Imjin Patriotic

Korean Bow and Arrow

KOREAN BOW AND arrow began to be famous in the period of early Tangun Joseon (early 30th century BC–mid-15th century BC). The bow in the period of the Three Kingdoms (Koguryo, Paekje and Silla) was called *kakkung*. In Koguryo the bow was also called *maekkung* because the Koguryo people were called Maek tribe.

It is said Koreans used buffalo horns and tendons to make a bow. One bow needed several buffaloes.

The arrows and arrowheads were unique. The arrows were made of wood of *Securinega suffruticosa* (*Pal*) *Rehd* available in the present North Ham-

gyong provincial area. The arrows were strong enough to pierce metal things. And the arrowheads were made of blue stone from Mt. Paektu.

The bow was characterized by long shooting range. The bow produced almost no shock when arrows were shot because the shock was absorbed by the shot arrows. A story goes that a man, Ku Jin Chon by name, made a bow called *chonbono* in the meaning that the bow could fly the arrow a thousand steps off.

The Korean people, who attached importance to military affairs from olden times, not only made the bows and arrows well but also were good at archery. Tongmyong, founder king of Koguryo, was named Ko Ju Mong because a master of archery was called *jumong*. There is a historical fact that Yang Man Chun, a general of Koguryo, shot an arrow exactly into one eye of the chief of an aggressor army during the battle in Anshicheng

to dispirit and compel the enemy to retreat.

Koguryo featured sound arrows as well. The arrow was designed in such a way as to attach a sound device to the back of the arrowhead to make a sound when it was in flight. Koguryo mural tombs usually have pictures that show people shooting arrows on horseback, most of which are sound arrows. Among the unearthed relics from the period of Koguryo are those of sound arrowheads. Sound arrows were used not only for signaling the start of the battle and indicating the target, but also for hitting the enemy. Later the arrows developed into those with fire wicks. The sound arrows of Koguryo were exported to China and other neighbouring countries in large quantities.

Korean bow and arrow display the development of Koguryo's military equipment. □

▶ War. After going to the war as the *joltosa* of naval forces in Jollajwado in May 1592, he sent more than 40 enemy ships to the bottom and killed or injured thousands of enemy soldiers at several naval battles such as Okpho and Jokjinpho in league with naval forces in Jollau-do province and in Kyongsangu-do province. And in July that year he sank over 50 enemy ships out of more than 70 and wiped out over 9 000 Japanese aggressors in command of the Korean fleet headed by turtle ship. The battle is a signal victory won in the sea off Hansan Island that is conveyed as one of the three victories of the Korean people along with a great victory obtained in the Haengju Mountain Fortress and a sweeping victory achieved in the Jinju Fortress.

The consecutive victories gained by the Korean fleet completely foiled the attempt of the Japanese aggressors for the "simultaneous marching" of their naval and land forces.

Ri Sun Sin was promoted to *thongjesa* of the three provincial

naval forces in 1593. However, owing to the enemy's trickery and the intrigue of the treacherous subjects who had been jealous of his merits, he had to go through such trying ordeals as being degraded from the post of *thongjesa* to an ordinary soldier. But later with the lost battle of the Korean naval forces in the sea off Chilchon Island as a momentum, he was appointed as *thongjesa* again, when there remained only 12 warships and about 200 sailors. However, he was not discouraged in the least but did his best to readjust the naval forces. And he scored a victory of sending more than 30 enemy ships to the bottom and annihilating over 4 000 Japanese aggressors with 12 ships at Myongnyang between Haenam County and Jin Island, South Jolla Province. With this victory as a turning-point, the Korean land and naval forces became able to switch over to an all-round counteroffensive.

Afterward, he, while skillfully directing the Ronyang naval battle that decorated the final victory of the Imjin Patriotic War, died of

a fatal wound caused by a bullet from the enemy. Breathing his last and handing over the flag of command to his nephew, he left the following will, "Now the battle is at its height. So, keep my death secret and command the battle instead of me."

In connection with him, lots of anecdotes have been handed down. It happened at the "banquet held in commemoration of victory" during the Russo-Japanese war (1905). Many pressmen, praising Japanese Admiral Togo Heihachiro who had annihilated almost all the Baltic fleet in the Korean Strait, said, "You are a god of war outstripping British Admiral Nelson who had put to rout a combined fleet in the naval battle in the sea off Trafalgar."

In reply to their praise, Togo said, "As far as I know, Nelson is unworthy of becoming the god of war. The man who can be called the real god of war is Admiral Ri Sun Sin. When compared with him I'll be nothing but his non-commissioned officer."

Song Ryo Myong

Manphok-dong

A RAVINE FORMED ON THE southern slope of Hyangno Peak of Mt. Myohyang is called Manphok-dong. To be found in the ravine are lots of big and small waterfalls. Hence the name Manphok-dong (a ravine with innumerable waterfalls of various sizes). Visible there is a course of mountaineering designated by President Kim Il Sung and opened up by Chairman Kim Jong Il. Seen there are the Sogok Waterfall, Murung Waterfall, Unson Waterfall, Yuson Waterfall, Unjong Waterfall, Pison Waterfall, Kuchung Waterfall, Unha Waterfall, and others that differ with one another in shape, lots of blue pools including the Eight Pools, the Manphok-dae presenting a captivating sight in harmony with the surrounding scenery, the Jangsu Rock, the Pison-dae, the Tangun-dae and other curious rocks affording fine views.

The Sogok (overture) Waterfall seems to be informing the mountaineers of the overture of "a symphony played" by the waterfalls in Manphok-dong. It is not so big, but very impressive because it is the first waterfall the mountain climbers see in the ravine. Visible on both sides of the waterfall are thick forests of pine trees. Also to be seen there are waters of this falls coming down from a height while flowing along the back of the rocks.

The Murung Waterfall is one of the very exciting and beautiful waterfalls in Mt. Myohyang.

It is found nearly 250 metres up the Sogok Waterfall. Even around it is a story running that once upon a time eight firewood-gathering young brothers betook themselves to this waterfall and amused themselves with the view during breaks. It is said that its scenery was so beautiful that they named it Murung Waterfall by comparing it to the Happy Valley, an imaginary place alive with peach blossoms appearing in a Utopian dream.

The Unson Waterfall is lo-

cated in a place up the Murung Waterfall. It is one hundred metres or so in length. Unlike the Murung Waterfall where the water falls plumb down while springing up in the air over the white rock, the Unson Waterfall has something remarkable and the water flows quietly along the shady deep grooves of rocks. Conspicuous about the waterfall is that with large and small rocks having tumbled down from above gotten in the narrow and deep cracks of the rocks, the water flows down forming stairs within the groove of the rocks in a rainy season but flows down under the stone gotten in the groove in a dry season.

Words carved on a natural rock beside the Unson Waterfall are given as under:

**"Mt. Myohyang is the most celebrated mountain in the world.
Kim Il Sung"**

Each letter, a replica of the handwriting of President Kim Il Sung, is 2.4 metres in height, 3.75 metres in width and the stroke is 0.3 metres in width and depth.

The Yuson Waterfall is one of the big and famous waterfalls in Manphok-dong. An old legend runs that fairies descended from heaven and disported themselves there. Hence the name Yuson Waterfall. This waterfall is 60 metres or so in length and the water falls plumb down from vertical cliffs or slides down sloping rocks as fast as an arrow.

Visible under this waterfall is a set of pools called Phaldam (Eight Ponds) and seen above is the 30-metre-long Yuson Bridge where one can take a picturesque panoramic view of Manphok-dong. The bridge lies in the air across a dangerous cliff as if it were the Ojak Bridge that is said to have been in existence in the galaxy draped across the sky.

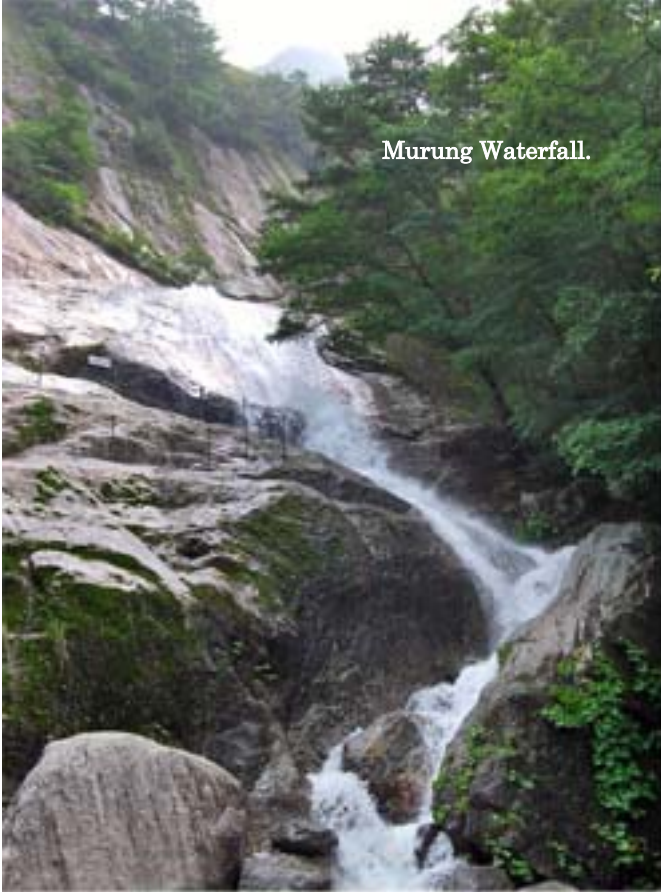
The Jangsu Rock shaped like a man of Herculean strength is a curious rock that made itself famous in Mt. Myohyang and a big rock rarely to be found in Man-

phok-dong. Kim Jong Il saw to it that the rock whose one side is raised somewhat like the peak of a cap was called Jangsu Rock. It is 40 metres long, 15 metres wide and 20 metres high and its volume amounts to 12 000 cubic metres.

Out of many waterfalls in Mt. Myohyang the Pison Waterfall is a typical one whose water falls perpendicularly down and is widely known for its strange and beautiful appearance. It is said that long ago fairies having descended on to Manphok-dong and enjoyed themselves used to ascend into heaven with the help of the rainbow that hung aslant the waterfall. That is why it is called the Pison (flying fairies) Waterfall. It is 46 metres high. When looking upward from below, one can see that both sides are covered with woods. And to be obtained over the rocks from where the water of the falls cascades down is an unobstructed view of the sky. Therefore, the Pison Waterfall makes one feel as if a water course is linked up with the sky.

The water falls in two cataracts from the precipitous rocky cliff. Seen from the side of the Pison Waterfall is Pison-dae commanding a fine view and visible on the raised part of the left-hand cliff is the Pison Pavilion with a gable roof.

The Kuchung Waterfall, flowing down an almost plane rock face, is next to the Unha (the Galaxy) Waterfall. The water finds its way to nine steps—formed on the bedrock that lies down slantwise. Small wonder that the waterfall is called falls shaped like a nine-step staircase. The water flows down nine steps one by one along the large bedrock with a gradient of more than 40°, covering a distance of 250 metres. Its appearance gives the impression that the ground around the waterfall is all inundated with water. In this way the waterfall magnificent in scale presents a fine sight when looking upward from below and when looking down from the Undok (favour) Pavilion, an



Murung Waterfall.



Evening glow seen from Tangun-dae.

► harbour visible over the waterfall.

Tangun-dae is situated half-way up Hyangno Peak. It is a curious rock that made itself famous for its fine view from olden times. When going up there, one can get, with a single glance, a view of the valley of Manphok-dong that produces an enchanting scene on account of waterfalls, of the inside of a valley through which glides the Myohyang stream and of a chain of mountain peaks that are linked up southward endlessly.

There is a legend that was woven around the Tangun-dae. According to it, Tangun, father of the Korean nation, went up there and conducted archery exercises every day with small Chonju Rock standing halfway up Thakki Peak on the opposite side as a target. When going up along a mountain ridge from the Tangun-dae one gets to the Unha Waterfall, one of the most magnificent and the biggest lying waterfalls in Mt. Myohyang and to Hyangno Peak. The peak (1 599 metres) is located between Oson and Chonthap peaks. It is called Hyangno Peak, for the aromatic trees growing on the peak send forth fragrance and it is shaped like an incense

burner.

Seen on the top of the peak are *Sabina chinensis*, and *Pinus pumila* that are spread beautifully like a green carpet. And to be found on its ridges are *Vaccinium uliginosum* and a kind of rhododendron

that give off the flavour of the alpine region. Towering high in a row in the east of Hyangno Peak are mountain peaks of Chonthap, Chonthae and Sokka.

*Article and photos
by Kim Jin Ho*

Kuchung Waterfall.



Pyongyang Folk Park (3)



Miniature of Mt. Paektu (scale 1:20).

NOW WE ENTERED THE district that is dedicated to introduction of modern times on our course of visit to Pyongyang Folk Park.

Reminder of Juche Korea's Historical Development

We found the district subdivided into the area of monuments and the one of edifices. Our guide explained: "This district is an intensive show of the course of development of our country that has written chronicles of victory ▶



Miniature of Kim Jong Il's birthplace in the Paektusan Secret Camp (scale 1:3).



Miniature of the Arch of Triumph (scale 1:7).

Miniature of the Tower of the Juche Idea (scale 1:5).



► unprecedented in the nation's 5 000-year-long history under the guidance of President Kim Il Sung, who was the sun of the nation and father of socialist Korea. You can see here in this district miniatures of modern structures that are socialist in content and nationalist in form."

The first sight we caught along the course of visit was the magnificent model of Mt. Paektu, known as celebrated, ancestral mountain of Korea and sacred mountain of revolution. Marvelling at the mountain that is symbol of Juche Korea, or symbol of the revolutionary tradition established by President Kim Il Sung while he was successfully waging a war against the Japanese aggressors to regain the country, we walked to the replica of Lake Samji. The name of the lake comes from the fact that it consists of three neighbouring lakes. The place is associated with revolutionary activities of the eternal DPRK leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, and with devotion of the anti-Japanese war heroine Kim Jong Suk to Kim Il Sung. Past the lake we went over to the model of Paektusan Secret Camp that stands against the soaring Jong Il Peak. Looking round the model of the log cabin in which Chairman Kim Jong Il was born, we had a vivid recollection of his life: he was born at Mt. Paektu in the rigours of winter and led the Korean revolution for scores of years, visiting people all across the country till the last moment of his life while opening a bright future of national prosperity.

Reaffirming the conviction that Kim Jong Il will be alive forever in the mind of the people, we now headed for the model of the Arch of Triumph. The arch was set up on the occasion of the 70th birthday of President Kim Il Sung to satisfy a unanimous de-

sire of the people to hand his immortal achievement—he led the anti-Japanese armed struggle to victory and thus won national liberation—down to generations to come. Although the model is one-seventh smaller than the real arch, a four-storeyed stone building, it looked so real as to elicit admiration of all the visitors to the modern-times district. The front and rear sides of the four pillars bear the years of 1925 and 1945 in relief which respectively show when Kim Il Sung left his home at Mangyongdae with a resolution to regain the lost country and when he returned home in triumph after his winning national liberation. Under the years are seen sculptures of people who cheer enthusiastically for his triumphal return and turn out to build a new Korea in hearty response to the patriotism-inspiring speech he made on his return home. Also heart-warming were the lines of *Song of General Kim Il Sung* embossed on walls of the arch.

Quite impressive was also the replica of the Party Founding Memorial Tower which features tower bodies representing strong fists with a hammer, a sickle and a writing brush in them respectively and the slogan "Long live the Workers' Party of Korea, which organizes and guides all victories of the Korean people!" hung around the towers as a symbol of the Korean people who are united as one behind the Party. The visitors were also impressed by the copy of the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Memorial Tower which conveys the Korean people's victory in the war through a magnificent scale, rich content of messages and original portrayal.

Now we looked round the model of the Tower of the Juche Idea. The guide told that it was inaugurated on April 15, 1982 marking the 70th anniversary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung, who is the ►

Miniatures of the Chollima Statue (scale 1:7) and the Okryu Restaurant (scale 1:7.5).



Yut Game

FROM OLDEN TIMES KOREANS PLAYED various kinds of folk games. One of them is *yut* game played with four sticks or pieces and markers on a board. In the game the markers are moved forward and backward according to the points scored by throwing the four sticks, with the winner being the first to complete one round along the course of the board with all his or her markers.

The *yut* board represents heaven and earth; the square board means land and dozens of sites on the board mean constellations.

The sticks are made by cutting two round sticks lengthwise to make four. The points are *To* worth one point, *Kae* worth two points, *Kol* worth

three points, *Ssyung* worth four points and *Mo* worth five points.

The game can be played between individuals or teams. There were various methods of moving markers. With the passage of time the game improved to be more interesting with some special regulations added to it.

The game began to spread abroad in the period of Three Kingdoms, and in the periods of Koryo Dynasty (918–1392) and Feudal Joson Dynasty it developed into a popular folk game played throughout the country.

In the past, on every lunar New Year's Day and other folk holidays, the Korean people, regardless of sex and age, used to gather in a drawing room or yard of a house to play the game merrily.

The game is still played everywhere in the country.

Sim Hyon Jin

- ▶ founder of the idea. She continued to explain, "The construction of the tower was initiated by our great leader Kim Jong Il. He proposed to erect a memorial tower to hand President Kim Il Sung's Juche idea down to generations to come forever. Standing 170 m high in 70 stages, it is the highest in the world in terms of a stone tower."

Next we went to see a model of the Three Charters for National Reunification Memorial Tower. The three charters are the three principles of national reunification, the Ten-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country, and the proposal for founding the Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo. The monument is shaped of two women in Korean costume meeting each other in an ecstasy of joy holding up the mark of the Three Charters. The figures of women standing face to face with open arms as if to hug each other at any moment to raise cheers for reunification seemed to show that national reunification is the supreme task of the nation that brooks no further delay and the greatest desire of the whole nation.

We now took a straight road on both sides of which were seen a great deal of miniature structures, including the Korean Revolution Museum and the Grand Monument on Mansu Hill, which show how the Korean people have struggled under the leadership of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, a national pride of Okryu Restaurant, the Grand People's Study House that is open to anyone who wants to learn, the Pyongyang Grand Theatre, the Ice Rink, the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium and the People's Palace of Culture.

Also admirable were the models of structures that are representative of the potentialities of the country in the era of the Workers' Party of Korea. The replica of the West Sea Barrage, which was built through joint efforts of the military and the civilians across a rough sea in the 1980s, was laid magnificently in a considerable area. Remarkable structures were to be

seen, like the Chollima Statue which is symbolic of People's Korea that was developing by leaps and bounds shaking off the war debris and refuting the US imperialists' announcement that Korea would not be able to rise again even in 100 years, the May Day Stadium of an original style, and the Ryugyong Hotel.

We stopped before the model of Kim Il Sung Square. The square was laid in 1954 according to the master plan for rehabilitation and construction of Pyongyang which had been drawn up during the Fatherland Liberation War on the basis of Kim Il Sung's idea of Pyongyang development. It has been the venue of a lot of significant meetings and rallies recorded in the national history, such as the Pyongyang Mass Rally in celebration of the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War, and Pyongyang mass rallies on anniversaries of the founding of the DPRK.

Going round the modern times area, I was convinced it is closely associated with exploits of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il who opened up a broad vista for the nation and with the pulsation of the nation that is advancing with vigour for final victory under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea.

There I met a woman from Kaesong City, who said, "Looking round the modern times district of Pyongyang Folk Park today, I learned the truth that the 5 000-year-long-history of the nation is great as it is supported by the past 100 years of Kim Il Sung's nation in the Juche era."

Having finished our visit to the modern times district in deep emotion, we went over to the folklore area, feeling obliged to the supreme leader Kim Jong Un who made sure that the folk park was successfully laid true to Chairman Kim Jong Il's intention.

*Article by Rim Ok
Photos by Ri Chol Song*

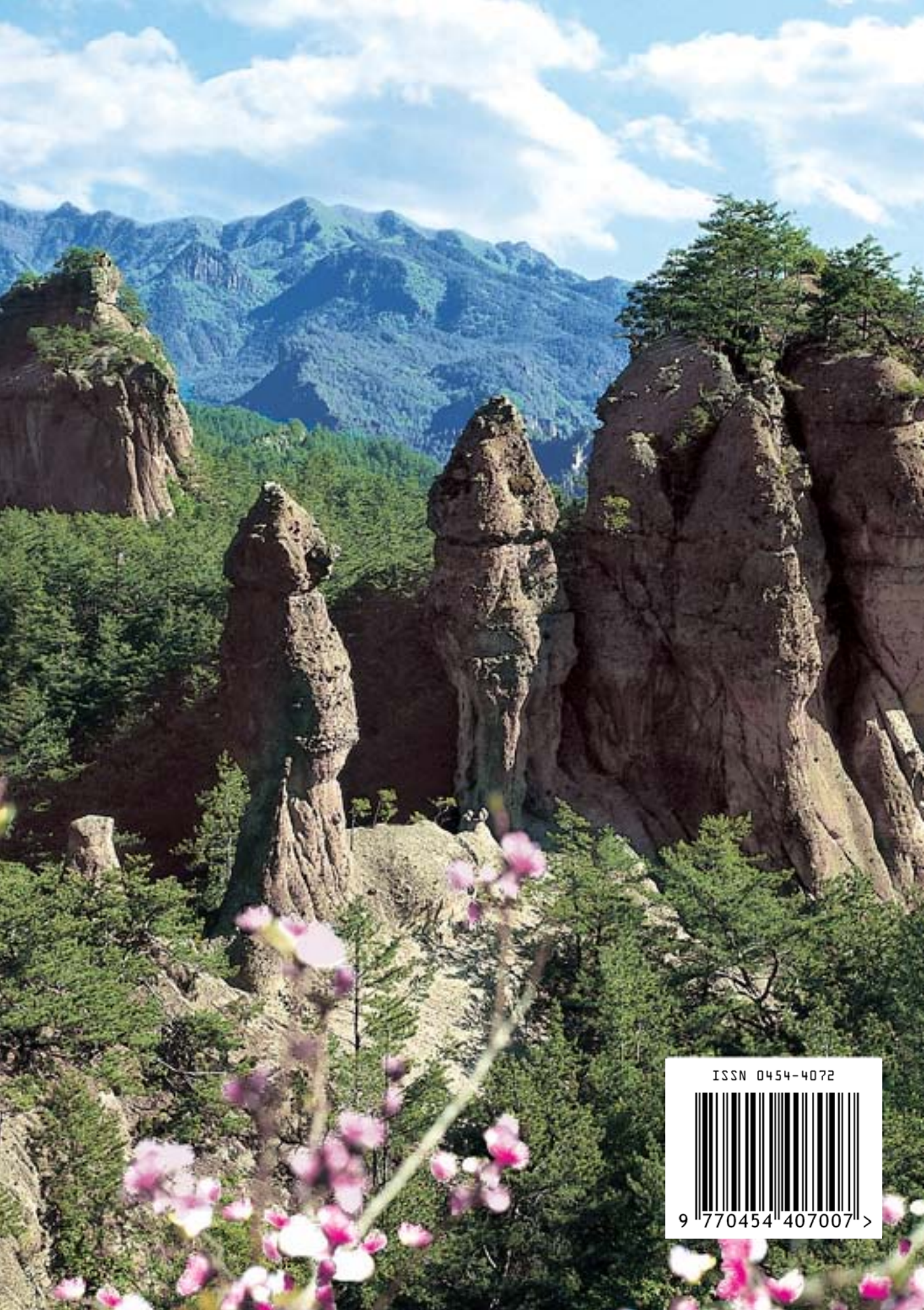
People's Open-air Ice Rink



THE PEOPLE'S OPEN-AIR ICE RINK WITH the total building area of 6 469 square metres is a public sports centre where the working people

and youth and students can improve their fitness at any time of the year. It is also a place of public recreation. □





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