

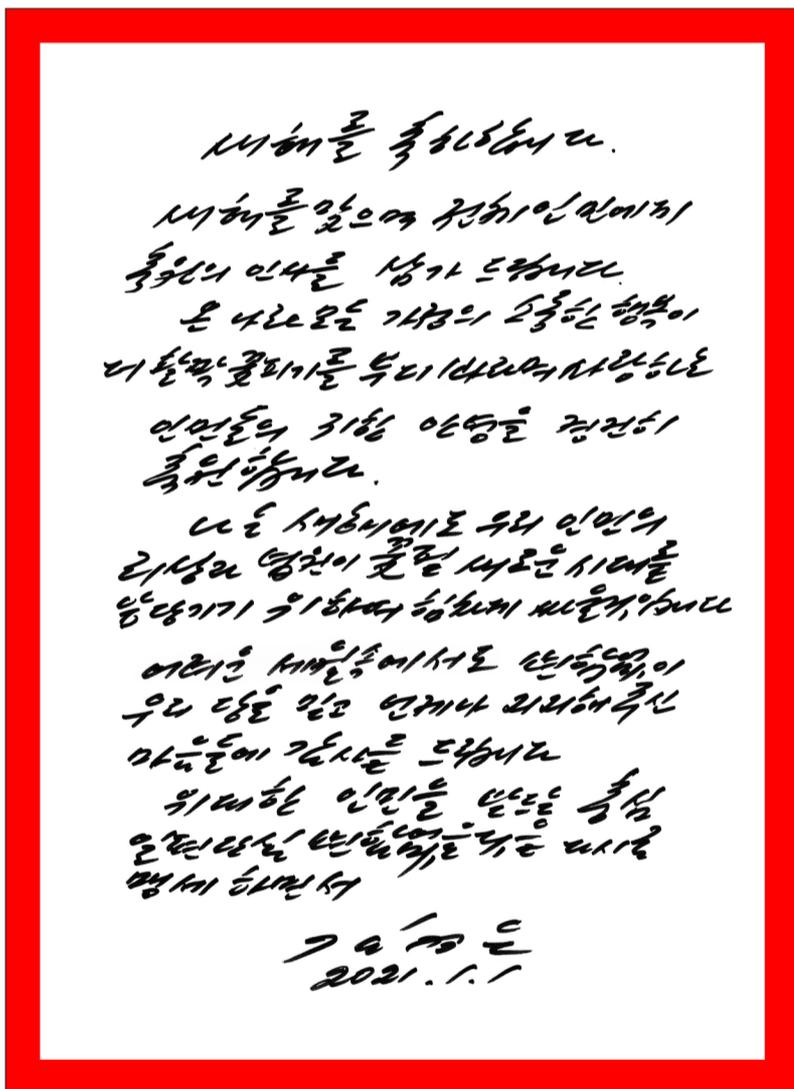
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Chairman Kim Jong Un sends New Year greetings to the people



Happy New Year.
As we greet the New Year, I extend my heartfelt greetings to all the people.
I sincerely wish all the families across the country greater happiness and beloved people, good health.
In the New Year, too, I will work hard to bring earlier the new era in which the ideals and desires of our people will come true.
I offer thanks to the people for having invariably trusted and supported our Party even in the difficult times.
Pledging once again that I will always remain faithful to the great people.

Kim Jong Un
January 1, 2021

KCNA

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, sent a letter to all the people, greeting the hope-filled New Year 2021. The following is the full text of the letter:

Kim Jong Un pays homage to great leaders at Kumsusan Palace of Sun

All the Korean people, who are greeting the significant New Year 2021 when the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea will be held, are extending the

best wishes of immortality to President Kim Il Sung, founding father of socialist Korea, and Chairman Kim Jong Il, who are the eternal leaders of the Party and

people and the great sages of the revolution.
Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of

the DPRK and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun.

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FROM PAGE 1

Sun at 00:00 on January 1 2021, together with the delegates to the Eighth Congress of the Party.

A solemn atmosphere pervaded the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the supreme temple of Juche where the President and the Chairman are preserved in their lifetime appearance.

He was accompanied by Choe Ryong Hae, Ri Pyong Chol, Kim Tok Hun and Pak Pong Ju, who are members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, and other members of the Party's central leadership body and the delegates to the Eighth Congress of the Party.

A basket of flowers was placed before the statues of the great leaders in the name of the Supreme Leader.

Other flower baskets were laid in the name of the WPK Central Committee, the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly and the DPRK Cabinet.

The Supreme Leader together with



the visitors paid high respect to the great leaders at their statues.

In the halls of immortality where

the President and the Chairman lie in state, he offered them his New

Year greetings with the deepest

reverence.

KCNA

MESSAGE

Congratulatory message sent to Cuban leaders

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the State

Affairs Commission of the DPRK, sent a congratulatory message to Raul Castro Ruz,

first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, and Miguel

Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, president of the Republic of Cuba, on the occasion of the 62nd anniversary of the victory in the Cuban revolution.

In the message the DPRK Supreme Leader expressed his belief that the ties of friendship, unity and cooperation between the two parties and the two countries forged through the joint struggle for

accomplishing the cause of socialism would be cemented and developed in line with the spirit of the agreement concluded at the Pyongyang meeting in November 2018, and wished the Cuban leaders good health and greater success in their noble work of leading the Cuban revolution.

KCNA

LEAD

Milestones in history of WPK

In the new century of the Juche era, the Workers' Party of Korea held important meetings geared to strengthening and developing itself into an invincible party that guides the revolutionary cause of Juche and a genuine motherly party that makes selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people.

The Fourth Conference of the WPK held in April 2012 adopted a decision to uphold Chairman Kim Jong Il as the eternal General Secretary of the WPK and elected Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un to the top post of the Party.

With the meeting as a momentum, the WPK could strengthen the steadfastness of the centre of leadership and unity and provide a powerful political guarantee for the victorious advance of Kim Il Sung's and Kim Jong Il's Korea in the new century.

The Fourth Conference of Cell Secretaries and the Fifth Conference of Cell Chairpersons of the WPK held in 2013 and 2017 were meaningful occasions for

bringing about a great turn in Party building and socialist construction in the new era of the Juche revolution under the banner of great Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism.

The Seventh Congress of the WPK held in Pyongyang in May 2016 put it forward as the general task for Party building to develop it into the party of the leader, and discussed the matters of importance in strengthening the Party such as applying the people-first principle thoroughly in all aspects of its work and improving its leadership role steadily in the revolutionary struggle and construction work and set forth tasks to be tackled to this end. The congress elected Kim Jong Un Chairman of the WPK.

The First Conference of Chairpersons of the Primary Committees of WPK marked another significant milestone in further strengthening the Party into the great Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist party and stepping up the building of a thriving country by greatly enhancing the militant functions and role of

primary Party organizations.

The Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh WPK Central Committee held in December 2019 discussed the matters of strengthening the Party and enhancing its leadership role significantly and further strengthening the Party organizationally and ideologically as required by the times and developing revolution.

The enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee held in February 2020 served as an important occasion in firmly maintaining the WPK's original feature of taking full responsibility for the destiny of the people and in thoroughly applying the people-first principle to Party activities.

The Korean people are out to greet with high political enthusiasm and labour feats the historic event which would mark another turning point in the building of a powerful socialist country and strengthening of the Party.

By Pang Un Ju PT

EDITORIAL

Happy New Year to readers

The 21st New Year has come in the 21st century.

The Editorial Board of *The Pyongyang Times* sends you readers warm New Year greetings.

We also sincerely hope everyone will overcome the terrible nightmare of malignant viral disease plaguing the world, regain vitality and achieve remarkable progress, every family will brim with happiness and every child will frolic under the blue sky dreaming beautiful dreams.

Dear readers,

We worked to strengthen the links between you and the Korean people by dint of our newspaper last year.

We hope all the political, economic and cultural news on our paper and articles about and photos showing lots of ordinary yet remarkable persons helped you have a real and correct understanding of the DPRK.

As you know, 2020 was a year of serious challenges and obstacles from the outset and all these greatly affected every family and every person.

The Korean people, however, made strenuous efforts for a better future by surmounting all difficulties under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea.

All the people turned out as one in the campaign to prevent the inroads of COVID-19. And although unprecedented natural disasters hit different parts of the country to leave many homeless, better houses sprang up in succession in a matter of scores of days.

Under such circumstances, the Korean people celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea in splendour in October last year and they are now brimming with rapture.

This year, too, the entire staff of the Editorial Board of *The Pyongyang Times* will fulfil their mission as they redouble their efforts to make the paper a good companion of all the readers and a publication that informs you of what happen in the country quickly, accurately and truthfully.

We once again wish Happy New Year to all the readers, your families and friends.

CELEBRATION

Flag raising ceremony highlights New Year celebrations



The flag of the DPRK is hoisted by three representatives of workers, farmers and intellectuals at Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang on New Year's Day of 2021 as crowds of people look on in salute.

A national flag-hoisting ceremony was held solemnly at Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square on January 1 2021.

Lots of citizens, who thronged to the square to greet the first start of the hope-filled New Year, were awaiting the moment of emotion when the national flag would flutter.

At 00:00 a bell tolled signalling the start of the New Year and the melodies of immortal revolutionary hymns *Song of General Kim Il Sung* and *Song of General Kim Jong Il* reverberated far and wide.

On behalf of workers, farmers and intellectuals, exemplary working people of the capital city hoisted the flag of the DPRK amid the playing of the national anthem.

The crowds paid their respects to the national flag.

At the moment of excitement, the people and service personnel

across the country also paid their respects to the national flag, looking up to the sky over Pyongyang.

Reflected clearly on the eyes of all of them, who have defended the national flag like their lives, were the invariable confidence that the DPRK led by the WPK would be invincible and prosperous for ever.

The flag of the DPRK fluttered in the nocturnal sky over Pyongyang, with the display of gorgeous fireworks lighting it up.

The crowds were determined to make a dynamic general advance of the New Year according to the grand plan for building a prosperous country which the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea would put forward and their deafening cheers resounded through the square.

KCNA

Performance counts down to New Year



A New Year performance was given at Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang on the night of December 31 2020.

The venue of the performance was decorated with colourful illuminations and fascinating stage sets and crowded with Pyongyang citizens.

The performance began with the playing of prologue "Snow Is Falling on New Year's Day". The performers sang highly of the greatness of the Party Central Committee which firmly defended the well-being and happiness of the people and the socialist system despite manifold hardships in such numbers as female chorus "Glory to General Kim Jong Un" and "Pyongyang Is Best".

The performance deeply touched the audience with

such pieces as male solo "We Call You Father" and mixed duet "We Think of the Marshal Day and Night" reflecting the firm determination of all the people to uphold Kim Jong Un as the Sun of their destiny and the whole of their life and happiness.

Light music and modern dance "Let Us Run towards Future" and folk dance "Drum Dance" revved up the atmosphere of celebrating the New Year.

The performance climaxed with the song and dance "People's Delight" and finale "Snow Is Falling on New Year's Day".

The performance which was full of conviction about a bright future and self-confidence drew enthusiastic applause of the audience.

KCNA



A gala performance is staged at Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square on New Year's Eve to the delight of citizens.

Schoolchildren give New Year performance

A schoolchildren's performance "We Are the Happiest in the World" for greeting the New Year 2021 was given at the

Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace on December 31.

In the performance which began with prologue "We

Offer New Year Greetings to Fatherly Marshal", the performers extended the New Year greetings to Supreme

Leader Kim Jong Un in reflection of the minds of schoolchildren across the country who earnestly wish

the fatherly Marshal good health.

They also extended greetings to all fathers and mothers across the country who are performing feats to add glory

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REPORT

Demonstration of aspiration for glorifying Party congress

The Korean Central News Agency published a report on the successful conclusion of the historic 80-day campaign on December 31 2020.

The 80-day campaign of loyalty was an all-people offensive to brilliantly conclude the year 2020 and significantly greet the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea by further heightening the loyalty and patriotic enthusiasm that had remarkably been raised on the occasion of the 75th founding anniversary of the WPK and an eruption of the strong desire and will of all the people to win victory after victory, the report said.

According to the report, state emergency infectious disease prevention efforts, the key target of the 80-day campaign set by the Party, were further intensified to keep the infectious disease prevention front as tight as possible and socialist fairyland villages mushroomed in the disaster-stricken areas.

In the major fields of socialist construction, lots of priceless achievements were made, which are conducive to consolidating the foundation of the self-reliant national economy and improving the people's living standards.

The 19th meeting of the Political Bureau of the Seventh Central Committee of the WPK made a crucial decision on waging an 80-day campaign to proudly greet the Eighth Congress of the Party, which would mark a historic turning point in the Korean revolution, with shining achievements.

The letter of the Party Central Committee which appealed to millions of Party members inspired the whole country to make fresh endeavours and perform great exploits as a patriotic appeal and immortal

militant banner.

The Party Central Committee led the 80-day campaign while exercising its heavy responsibility and demonstrating leadership ability to the full to open up a period of fresh upsurge and rapid change in the revolution.

The 80-day campaign was the fight for making selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people to protect the life and safety of the Korean people from the world health crisis and consecutive natural disasters and consecutively consolidate the foundations of their happiness.

All the people took an active part in the fight against the world pandemic as the driving force, improving the mass-based infectious disease prevention atmosphere to defend the country, themselves and their children.

World-startling miracles were created one after another in the disaster relief operation, the forefront to which the Party directed all-out efforts.

The combatants of the elite divisions of Party members from the capital city splendidly built model villages which can be the standard of socialist rural construction in the afflicted areas of South and North Hamgyong provinces and carried out other enormous reconstruction projects successfully in the shortest possible time.

The service personnel of the Korean People's Army turned severely damaged Taechong-ri, Unpha County of North Hwanghae Province, Kimhwa County of Kangwon Province, Komdok area of South Hamgyong Province and others into another world of civilization.

Thanks to the untiring efforts of the service personnel, members of shock brigades and

other builders, fairyland villages sprang up in succession in the disaster-hit areas including Kangwon and North Hamgyong provinces and a happy event took place that all the flood victims of the country moved into new homes.

The electric power, metallurgical, rail transport and forestry sectors finished disaster relief operation tasks assigned to them ahead of schedule, including the reconstruction of flood- and typhoon-hit dams, railways and iron bridges. And agriculture, land and environment protection, urban management and other sectors of the national economy also successfully completed the reconstruction of hundreds of bridges, roads on well over a thousand places, many parts of irrigation waterways and structures and river improvement projects.

New innovative achievements were made one after another in all economic sectors during the campaign.

Agricultural workers across the country stepped up the successful conclusion of the farming for this year and the preparations for next year's farming.

The workers of the general tideland reclamation enterprises of North Phyongan and South Hwanghae provinces finished the second-stage project of the Honggondo tideland reclamation and the construction of the third and fourth sections of the Ryongmaedo tideland, making it possible to bring under cultivation large acreages of tideland equivalent to the farmland of a county.

The land rezoning was pushed throughout the country and networks of facilities of reclaimed tideland were built in several thousand hectares.

Kumyagang Power Station Unit 2 was completed as a model of medium- and small-sized power station and Munak Power Station, Munchon Army-People Power Station and Kowon Taehung Power Station were completed or started operation. Efforts were directed to making effective use of water-power resources across the country to ease the power shortage.

The reconstruction of promenade along the Pothong River and the Tongrae River reservoir construction project were completed and the Chongchon River-Phyongnam irrigation waterway project is nearing completion.

Multi-, low- and single-storey houses for thousands of families were built in a dozen dong and ris of the City of Samjiyon, Ryanggang Province, socialist fairyland villages on feed farms of the Kwangchon Chicken Farm and many new houses in South Hamgyong, South and North Phyongan, Ryanggang and Jagang provinces and Rason and Kaesong cities to go well with their topographical features, adding to the sceneries of rural villages.

Kim Chack and Hwanghae iron and steel complexes, the Chollima Steel Complex, Jaeryong and Unnyul mines and other units in the metallurgical industry sector hit their campaign targets for the production of pig iron, steel, rolled steel, iron ore and other major indices ahead of schedule.

Many chemical factories and enterprises carried out their plans on major indices.

The electric power industry exceeded its campaign target by 6.4 percent and the coal-mining industry by 2 percent.

The machine-building industry finished the production plan on major indices including

tractor, hydroelectric generator, rock-drill and air compressor before the set time.

The rail transport sector carried out its freight transport plan at 105 percent.

The Sangwon Cement Complex hit its five-year strategy goals and the Sunchon Cement Complex, Chonnaeri Cement Factory and others timely supplied cement needed for disaster relief operation and other construction sites across the country.

Many units in the mining industry sector fulfilled their production quotas: the Ko Kyong Chan-led Hero Workteam of the April 5 Pit at the Kumgol Mine under the Komdok Mining Complex exceeded its campaign target by 19 percent in a month. Over 40 units in the forestry sector set examples in carrying out the campaign plans.

The light industry sector achieved its targets on major indices for the 80-day campaign by holding fast to recycling and focusing on improving the quality of consumer goods on the principle of giving priority to quality over quantity.

Scientists and technicians across the country invented and introduced over 7 900 technical innovation plans during the campaign, paving the way for the sustainable development and revitalization of production of their units.

The historic 80-day campaign clearly proved once again that no force on earth can stop Juche Korea that dynamically advances by holding single-minded unity and self-reliance as the treasured sword and backed by the inexhaustible creativity and spiritual strength of the people, following the idea and leadership of the great Party.



Part of the achievements made across the fields during the 80-day campaign of loyalty.



A year of self-reliance, tangible achievements made

Upward turn in power generation

The electric-power industry sector overfulfilled electricity production plan by 8 percent last year.

The secret lies in focusing all energies on building the capacity of generating facilities, said Han Jin Gyong, department director of the Ministry of Electric Power Industry.

To this end, steady efforts were made to step up the overhaul of boilers and turbine generators, maintain the original performance of boilers and increase the output of each generator at thermal power stations.

In particular, the Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex ensured the domestic production of turbine blade in close collaboration with the State Academy of Sciences.

An official of the complex said that the turbine blade has been under trial run since it was introduced last October, and the output of each generator has been increased by thousands of kW.

The Chongchongang Thermal Power Station applied the automatic control system for combustion stabilization to a boiler, thereby saving several tons of heavy oil and hundreds of tons of coal every month.

Dozens of hydropower turbine blades with high efficiency have been introduced into hydropower stations.

The blade is said to be 2-3



Workers monitor power generation at Huichon Power Station Unit 2.

percent more efficient than the previous one and its lifespan is over ten times longer.

Modernization of the power distribution and supply system has been pushed dynamically.

“The ministry increased voltage step in a planned way in the past five years in order to reduce the transmission loss of electricity and make effective use of generated electricity,” said Ri Chol Gyong, an official of the Ministry of Electric Power Industry.

According to him, hundreds of major transformers and over 10 000 kilometres of power distribution lines were remodelled throughout the country and transmission loss was reduced by tens of thousands of kW.

The Pyongyang municipal power distribution station rationally formed the electric

distribution system of the Kangdong Area Coal-mining Complex to increase voltage step so as to ensure the sufficient supply of electricity for coal production. The power distribution station in South Hamgyong Province established the transmission system in a radial way to ensure the quality and reliability of power supply for railroads, coal mines and other industrial establishments in the province.

In addition, medium-sized, small, miniature and super miniature hydropower plants were built in places with water source in order to achieve self-sufficiency in electricity, while the construction of a large-scale hydropower station was pushed in the Tanchon area.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

Numerous structures spring up

Many structures were built in all parts of the DPRK in 2020.

It was most noticeable that many dwelling houses sprang up one after another by clearing away the aftermaths of floods and typhoons which hit the country in succession between August and early September.

According to the timely state measures taken to complete reconstruction in a short time and stabilize the life of residents, the service personnel of the Korean People’s Army, members of the elite divisions of Party members from the capital city and other builders came to rehabilitation sites and built better houses for the people by waging a 24-7 campaign.

Thanks to their devoted efforts, socialist fairyland villages were built in the areas along the Military Demarcation Line, Onsong in

the northern tip of the country and the rural areas on the west coast and along the east coast of the country.

The first event of moving into new houses took place in Kangbuk-ri, Kumchon County, North Hwanghae Province, in September, followed by those in Kaesong near the Military Demarcation Line and other afflicted areas in North and South Hwanghae provinces in October.

More than 820 dwelling houses were built in a little over two months in Taechong-ri, Unpha County, North Hwanghae Province.

New houses for thousands of households were built in the east coastal areas including Hongwon and Riwon counties of South Hamgyong Province and Kim Chaek City of North Hamgyong Province and new

villages rose up in county town, 17 ri and workers’ districts in Kimhwa County of Kangwon Province.

Modern dwelling houses epitomizing the bright future of the mining town appeared in a mountain gorge in the Komdok area of South Hamgyong Province which had been ravaged by natural disasters.

Different construction projects were carried out in each province.

In Kangwon Province, the Wonsan Fish Farm, Anbyon Phosphate Fertilizer Factory, Munchon Sodium Carbonate Factory, Wonsan City Trolley Bus Station, Wonsan Communications Machine Repair Shop and others were newly built or modernized.

South Phyongan Province saw the construction of the Phyongsong Youth Open-Air Theatre, Phyongsong Gymnasium, turtle workshop of the Sunchon Catfish Farm and South Phyongan Provincial Tree Nursery.

The turtle workshop of the Sunchon Catfish Farm with

Achievements made in machine building

“Last year, the machine-building industry sector introduced hundreds of sci-tech innovations to develop up-to-date equipment and add new production processes,” said Choe Yong Min, deputy department director of the Ministry of Machine-building Industry.

Dozens of new products were developed.

The Taean Electrical Appliances Factory manufactured different kinds of dynamotors in collaboration with the Sunchon Engine Factory and some research institutions.

Taking into account the monolithic structure of generator and motor, the developers introduced an elastic board coupling method, thus solving the concentricity problem of engine and generator, the most important part in the design. They also settled various technical problems including the reduction of fuel consumption and minimizing of vibration. And they applied new technology to a 20kW dynamotor to maximize its efficiency.

The factory also developed a new brushless synchronous

generator in line with the global trend.

The Songchongang Electrical Appliances Factory manufactured a highly-efficient electric motor and the Ragwon General Machine Enterprise hydraulic and mechanical mixture feed pumps.

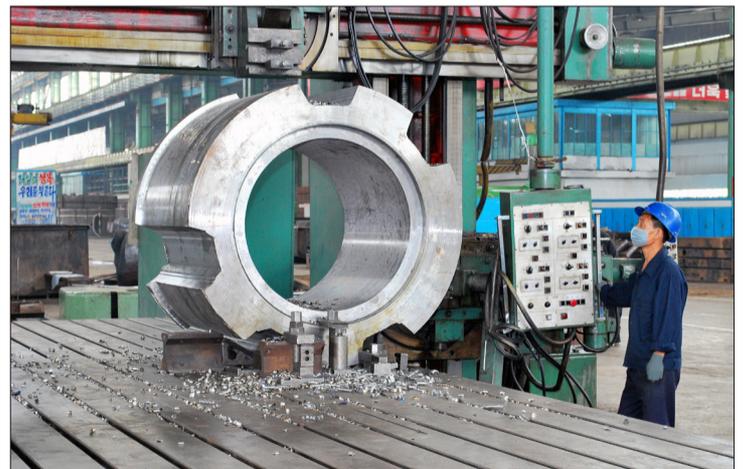
An irrigation pump was unveiled at the Anju Pump Factory.

According to manager Hwang Yong Jin, they added a new structure to the water current channel of the pump to lighten it and lengthen its lifespan and the rational designing of the runner has improved the efficiency of the pump 8 percent more than previously and reduced power consumption remarkably.

In addition, different measuring instruments were developed, such as a capacitive differential pressure transmitter and noncontact 3-D measuring.

Many industrial establishments set up new production processes including the process of manufacturing hydraulic turbine blades based on combustion resin pattern at the Taean Heavy Machine Complex.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT



RI SONG IK / KOREA TODAY

A piece of a custom-built machine is processed at the Taean Heavy Machine Complex.

an annual production capacity of dozens of tons consists of facilities for ensuring necessary growth conditions to meet the animal’s ecological characters, tilapia pond, earthworm feeding ground and others.

An open-air ice rink was built in Hyangsan County and the Kujang Fish Farm reconstructed in North Phyongan Province.

South Hamgyong Province reconstructed the provincial people’s hospital and Sinpho Fish Cannery and built Hamhung Youth Power Station Unit 1, Hamhung Kimchi Factory, chemistry laboratory of Hamhung University of Chemical Industry

and gymnasium of Hamhung College of Medical Sciences.

North Hwanghae Province completed the construction of the Sariwon Youth Open-Air Theatre and Taekwon-Do training hall and the project for expanding the capacity of the Kyongam Cement Factory.

Besides, the Sunchon Phosphate Fertilizer Factory was built as the model and standard factory in the chemical industry sector and medical oxygen factories were constructed in North Hamgyong and South Phyongan provinces.

By Kim Il Jin PT



Springboard provided to develop higher education

Efforts put into education of major basic subjects

“Mathematics is the basis of all sciences. That is why it is essential for students majoring in mathematics to possess profound and wide-ranging basic knowledge of their study. To this end, the department analyses the global educational condition of relevant learning and concentrates on the writing of proper basic textbooks on major subjects,” said Ri Kang Il, head of the geometry department in the mathematics faculty at Kim Il Sung University.

The department now deals with explanatory geometry, topology and differential geometry as the basic subjects

of special study.

But it has reportedly become quite troublesome for the students to fully grasp the principles covered by the subjects.

“Present teaching materials explain both abstract and complicated principles in a specialized form.

“But such a method is unable to raise the study efficiency of students or undermines their confidence in and desire for geometry. That is why we decided to boldly change the description method of teaching materials,” said Ri Kang Il.

The department directed main efforts to writing the principles

of basic subject of special study on a priority basis and in a popular style so that students could feel interest in them.

They say that the teaching materials of the world’s prestigious universities were of big help to them.

As a result, the new teaching materials came to describe contents in a plain way while dealing with the principles that should be known in the basic subjects. And they gave examples by incorporating the principles, rather than proving them, so that students could develop their creative way of thinking and further improve their faculties of inquiry.

“Our aim is to make the basic knowledge of special study a strong stepping-stone for development. We plan to train students into those who can apply what they learned from teaching materials, rather than those who confine themselves to the understanding of them,” said Ri Kang Il.

This year, the department has a plan to further make the teaching contents modern, comprehensive and practical by integrating and readjusting major subjects.

By Kim Rye Yong PT



KIM RYE YONG

The geometry department of the Mathematics Faculty of Kim Il Sung University put their heads together to upgrade teaching content.

Focusing on training of creative students



KIM RYE YONG

Lecturers at the heat engineering faculty of Kim Chaek University of Technology work on a plan for an experiment on heat conductivity.

The heat engineering faculty of Kim Chaek University of Technology is putting much effort into the training of development-oriented talents.

To this end, subjects have newly been established, extracurricular study groups favoured by students briskly operated and new teaching methods created.

“Last year, we integrated and regulated subjects while making the content of education practical, comprehensive and modern. We removed the subjects dealing with the subdivided phases of heat engineering and merged them in a way so as to give wide-ranging and professional knowledge,” said Yom Tae Son, dean of the faculty.

Therefore, the faculty established 20-odd major subjects by readjusting over 50 subdivided subjects.

Students can join extracurricular study groups according to their wishes.

The faculty runs more than 10 study groups on design, calculation, programming and others that are specially important in energetics.

Teachers give students assignments incorporating cutting-edge science and technology and problems arising in reality and guide them to solve problems in such a way as to stimulate their interest.

Group members would complete their assignments by pooling their wisdom. Students in the low class learn after knowledge and experiences from the students in the higher class, while the latter get the inspiration for solution from unexpected ideas of the former.

Last year, the faculty created about 10 highly-effective teaching methods including the one that enables students to develop their ability to solve practical problems in the course of presenting essays after studying latest sci-tech data and of discussing them.

As a result, students were able to refashion a turbine at an industrial establishment and develop a system control design for maximizing the capacity of natural energy equipment.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

AI technology introduced into teaching

“Our university created over 20 teaching methods incorporating artificial intelligence last year. This constitutes an innovation in developing new teaching methods,” said So Chol Ryong, instructor of the teaching guidance department of Kim Hyong Jik University of Education.

The AI-based new teaching methods are designed to optimize lectures while enabling lecturers to assess students’ cognition in real time.

Last year, the university set it as the main direction of creating new teaching methods to introduce AI into them and fired lecturers with the zeal for competition.

Those at the information science faculty intensified research into the application of AI to teaching methods to set good examples.

Each faculty formed a team to this end according to their

specific features and there was a fierce competition between faculties and between departments. Efficient teaching methods were devised especially by the faculties of science information, physics, pedagogy, art and foreign languages.

A teaching method which was highly appreciated in the higher education sector of the country was the one that helps students enhance their theoretical cognition and practical abilities as to electricity production by dint of a sunlight tracking test device and through the solving of practical problems using AI.

The method enables students to acquire the abilities to find out and apply the way of generating electricity and maximizing the use of it according to each process when installing solar panels that automatically track sunlight.

“This teaching method improves students’ rhythm

developing ability in writing lyrics of songs by using the letter recognition program incorporating AI. It even addresses the problems that lecturers may miss,” said Choe Nam Sun, a department director.

Even if the words of each line in a song are arranged properly, they may fail to produce lyricism when they are set to music, she said, attributing it to the failure of selection of correct words. But the program recognizes the lyrics written by students and points out their merits and demerits as it sets appropriate words to music for ideal rhythms, she added.

The application of the program remarkably boosted the lyric composing abilities of the students of the faculty as compared to the previous year.

By Han Kwi Hun PT



SONG TAE HYOK

A lecturer gives an online lesson at Pyongyang University of Architecture.

SHOPPING

Customers busy with shopping for New Year's Day

Seeing in the New Year 2021, Pyongyang Department Store No. 1, the Ragwon and Daesong department stores and many other commercial service centres have put on holiday attire.

Meat products and delicious and nutritious processed foodstuffs have been increased in kinds for the holiday service, and dried *songi* mushroom, one of the famous Korean specialties, is very sought-after, said O

Ye Song, saleswoman of the Kwangbok Area Supermarket.

Customers are busy with putting different foodstuffs and daily necessities in their baskets and pushcarts.

Cha Song Ho and his wife, residents of Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, said that they came to buy souvenirs on the occasion of the New Year.

Cha bought cosmetics and a bunch of flowers first.

"I am going to present them

to my wife, who manages household while going to work," he said.

His wife Pak Song Ok is said to have been a famous women's platoon leader of the divisions of Party members from the capital city last year.

She purchased not only materials for holiday dishes with mind to delight her family members with special foods but winter underclothes for her parents-in-law.

Seeing their souvenirs, the couple made their way to the furniture department.

An old couple from Pothonggang District were choosing souvenirs for their own children and grandchildren as required by the traditional custom to mark the New Year.

They bought gloves and muffler for their son and daughter-in-law and "Haebalagi (sunflower)" school things. On the other side, delightful faces of people come into sight, who are specially served with holiday foods in the restaurant built at the second floor of the supermarket.



RYU KWANG HYOK

Customers pay for their shopping at the Daesong Department Store in the run-up to the New Year holiday.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

CUBA

Efforts channelled into boosting industries, improving livelihood

On January 1 1959, the Cuban people achieved a victory in the revolution to overthrow the Batista dictatorship by waging an armed struggle under the leadership of Fidel Castro.

Since then, they have written a new chapter in the history of their development as true masters of their state and society. They gave the country a radical facelift as they achieved great successes in all domains of the economy, culture and defence buildup in the face of all challenges from within and without.

Last year, too, Cuba pressed on with economic development and improvement of the people's standard of living despite the global pandemic and natural disasters.

President Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez appealed to his people to overcome dependence on imports and deal with everything by their own efforts.

By setting organic agriculture as an important strategy for ensuring self-sufficiency in food, the country has applied organic farming to more than 8 360 hectares of vegetable fields to produce 1.2 million tons of

vegetables each year.

It works hard to boost sugar and electricity production and save fuel, while focusing on vegetable production, housing construction and the substitution of domestic products for imported goods.

As it channels efforts into sci-tech development, it exerts itself to develop nanotechnology. The government mapped out a national strategy for developing nanotechnology by 2030.

At present, the country has sufficient human resources specialized in nanotechnology and with great technical abilities at its universities, sci-tech innovation units, enterprises and cutting-edge research centres. And the technology has already been introduced into such sectors as electricity, environment, construction, engineering and chemistry.

To reduce carbon dioxide emissions, the government is planning to ensure 24 percent of the total power output by dint of renewables by 2030.

As constant attention has been paid to protecting children's health, the country has maintained the survival rate

of children under five at over 99 percent for 20 years.

Polio vaccination was launched on a nationwide scale on November 23 last year.

State measures have been taken to clear away the aftermath of natural disasters which hit the country last year.

The President stressed the need to make positive efforts to repair damage to the sectors of power supply, telephone service, housing and agriculture starting from a viewpoint of bettering them.

Cuba is also conducting positive humanitarian activities. After dispatching its medical workers to Lombardy in northern Italy last March, it sent medical teams to five countries in Central and South America experiencing difficulties due to overwhelming spread of the epidemic and the consequent breakdown of their medical systems.

The Korean people have offered their active support and encouragement to the Cuban counterpart advancing dynamically along the road of socialism.

By Song Jong Ho PT

Performance: Celebration event held

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to the Congress of the motherly Party.

The repertoire included folk play, accordion quintet, jugglery, rhythmic gymnastics and small chorus, among others.

The performance was pervaded with boundless thanks to the Supreme Leader who have made a ceaseless journey of loving care for the children to make the song *We Are the Happiest in the World* resound forever throughout the country.

Also put on the stage were the numbers showing the bright and cheerful features

of schoolchildren who are preparing themselves as pillars of the future, equipped with knowledge, good moral character and good health, and other numbers representing their pledge to fly the flag of the Korean Children's Union on the road of following the motherly Party by inheriting the tradition of the anti-Japanese Children's Corps.

Meritorious scientists, teachers, researchers, doctors, journalists, editors in the fields of science, education, public health and mass media, labour innovators in Pyongyang and teachers and students of revolutionary schools enjoyed the performance.

KCNA



A scene from the schoolchildren's performance for celebrating the New Year.

PALESTINE

Committed to win back national rights

Palestine has long been under the control of the imperialists.

The imperialists fostered antagonism and confrontation between Arabs and Jews in a bid to wipe out the struggle of the Palestinians for achieving the country's independence.

They egged the United Nations on to divide Palestine, which was under the mandatory ruling of the United Kingdom, into an Arab state and the state of Jews. Finally, Zionists unilaterally built the Jewish state in the Palestinian territory in 1948.

Israel waged several wars afterwards under the patronage of the imperialists, thus occupying the Palestinian territory and killing numerous people.

The Palestinians turned out in the struggle to win back their occupied territory. The National Liberation Movement of Palestine was formed in 1958 to launch an armed struggle against the Israeli aggressors on January 1 1965 under its guidance. It was a declaration of intention and will of the Palestinian people to independently live and develop after driving out the Israeli aggressors.

The founding of the state of

Palestine was proclaimed in 1988, which made their struggle enter a new development stage. In the new century their struggle to win back national rights was further enhanced. They smashed all obstructive moves under the support and encouragement of many countries over the world, secured the status of an observer state of the UN and hoisted the national flag in the UN headquarters.

But their struggle to establish an independent state of Palestine with East al-Quds as their capital and win back the legitimate national rights is now encountering grave challenges.

Despite international protest and denunciation, Israel continues to hasten the expansion of Jewish settlements.

The Israeli authorities have recently worked to expand the settlements in a bid to increase settlers to a million in the West Bank and are mercilessly putting down the demonstrations of Palestinians against them.

The Palestinians express their firm will not to stop their endeavours until they win back their occupied territories and found a complete and legitimate independent sovereign state.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

Photos capture images of 2020



The Korean people smiled away the challenges throughout 2020 although the malignant virus threatened their lives from moment to moment and serious natural calamities harassed them. Extra-large measures were taken, with decent houses provided gratis to the afflicted people and precious achievements made in economic sectors. The crowds extend highest respects to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un in the marvellous celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea.

