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Crystal liquor bottles and glasses on a silver tray

A gift presented to President Kim Il Sung by the K. Arwei Insurance Brokers Ltd., U.K., in May 1982.

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Front Cover: Foreigners visit the venue of the Kimilsungia Festival

Photo by Ra Phyong Ryol



Back Cover: Mangyongdae in spring

Photo by Kim Jin Ho

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DPRK's Miracles and President Kim Il Sung

APRIL 15 IS THE BIRTHDAY OF Kim Il Sung, eternal President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The nation celebrates the day as the Day of the Sun in a meaningful way year after year, looking back on the revolutionary exploits of their great leader who is the top incarnation of all that is valuable, lofty, sacred and glorious in socialist Korea.

Juche Idea, Banner of the Nation

Kim Il Sung is the founder of the Juche idea, a new guiding idea which maintains that one is the master of one's own destiny and that one has the power to hew out one's own destiny in oneself. In his reminiscences *With the Century* he wrote: **"I analysed the situations of the nationalist and communist movements in our country and decided that the**

The Tower of the Juche Idea stands in honour of the exploits of President Kim Il Sung, the founder of the idea.



revolution should not be conducted in that way. I believed that the revolution in our country would emerge victorious only when it was undertaken on our own responsibility and by the efforts of our own people, and that all the problems arising in the revolution must be solved independently and creatively. This was the starting-point of the Juche idea, as it is known nowadays."

Kim Il Sung expounded the principle of the Juche idea at the meeting of leading personnel of the Young Communist League and the Anti-Imperialist Youth League held at Kalun, China, in 1930. Later he steadily developed the Juche idea in depth in the course of giving new solutions to problems arising in the revolutionary practice while leading the revolutionary struggle and the construction work. By applying the idea in the revolution and construction in an all-round way, he changed Korea into a socialist power which is independent in politics, self-sufficient in the economy and self-reliant in national defence.

Pyongyang witnessed a world conference on the Juche idea in April last year. Vishwanath, chief of the Board of Directors of the International Institute of the Juche Idea, and concurrently chief secretary of the International Kim Il Sung Prize Council, made a report to the meeting, when he said, "President Kim Il Sung is a genius thinker and theoretician and a great leader who founded the immortal Juche idea which stands at the top glorious place in the history of human thinking and pioneered the independent era. Thanks to him, the popular masses greeted a new historic era when they are working to achieve the ultimate aim of freedom and liberty against imperialism and colonialism... The Juche idea will continue to cast bright light on the world along with the august names of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il."

Great Victory in Two Revolutionary Wars

The modern Korean history was the one whereby the Korean people carved out their destiny and defended their national dignity and honour in the warfare against formidable enemies of the world. The first revolutionary war the Koreans fought was the one against the Japanese imperialists. Earlier in 1905 the Japanese imperialists occupied Korea militarily with an ambition to conquer the whole of Asia. At the time they were armed to the teeth with latest military hardware and technology.

Starting from the firm Juche-oriented stand that even a small nation will successfully vanquish formidable imperialist aggression forces when it fights it out with a stout confidence in its own strength, ►

► Kim Il Sung put forth the policy of fighting with the Japanese with arms in hand, and then organized and led the struggle wisely. He formed the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army, the first Juche-oriented revolutionary armed force in Korea, on April 25, 1932, and declared a war against the Japanese. But the enemy demeaned the Korean people's revolutionary army as "a grain in the vast blue sea."

Maintaining that they should overpower the Japanese imperialists' military and technical superiority with their politico-ideological superiority and strategic and tactical superiority, Kim Il Sung built up the Korean People's Revolutionary Army while encouraging broad masses of the people to turn out in the struggle against the Japanese. In this way he defeated the Japanese aggressors by means of a guerrilla warfare, thus making a breakthrough in the imperialists' colonial system for the first time.

The second enemy of the Korean people was the US imperialists who were vaunting themselves as the world's "mightiest." Having long sought to occupy the whole of Korea and then get control of the whole world by expanding aggression war to Asia, the US imperialists launched a sudden armed attack against the DPRK on June 25, 1950. It was only five years since Korea was liberated and only two years since the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was founded, so the nation had meager economic potentialities. Nevertheless, the Korean people, led by Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army Kim Il Sung, brought the US imperialists to their knees, the enemy who had talked their victory in the war was a matter of time, thus concluding the three-year-long Fatherland Liberation War to their great victory.

Marian Bellitski, a Polish writer, wrote in his work, "When the Korean people were putting up the heroic Fatherland Liberation War, I, as a war correspondent, sang of Korea and of the truth that there was no force to reduce to submission the courageous Koreans who were fighting unyieldingly and heroically to defend their dear country... I spent much time enjoying accompaniment of officers and men of the Korean People's Army. I saw them fighting valiantly in trenches in showers of bullets and shells exploding and making charges to enemy positions shouting, 'For the country!' and 'For General Kim Il Sung!' I saw a heroic Korea."

A Rich, Independent and Sovereign State Built

Meeting Pyongyang citizens for the first time in October 1945 after the country was liberated from the military occupation of the Japanese imperialists, Kim Il Sung said that the time had come for the Korean people to join efforts to build a new democratic Korea and appealed to them to let those with strength give strength, those with knowledge give knowledge

and those with money give money in order to build a democratic, independent and sovereign state. All the people rose up to put into effect his plan of building a democratic Korea. A new history of creation and construction began to be written in the country. The Pot-hong River Improvement Project, which had been done only a bit by the Japanese imperialists even in nearly ten years, was finished in only 55 days—no less than a miracle—and, likewise, a campaign was forcefully conducted to lay a foundation for an independent national economy by removing the colonial one-sidedness of the economy, which was the aftermath of the colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists, carrying out technical renovation of industry and agriculture and creating a high tempo of growth in production.

The reconstruction campaign after the Korean war was a struggle in which the Koreans demonstrated their national mettle again and wrought another miracle. During the war the bestial outrages of the US imperialists reduced all the Korean factories, enterprises and farms to sheer destruction and towns and villages to ashes. There was not a single whole brick to be seen. The Americans gloated that Korea would not rise again even in 100 years.

But Kim Il Sung had a confident belief that the nation would be able to rise again however difficult the conditions might be as long as there were the Workers' Party of Korea, the political power, the people and the territory. Having indicated the correct way of rehabilitation and construction, he forced his way across the war debris to visit factories, enterprises and rural communities and arouse the people to heroic struggle. Miraculous events took place. The workers of the then Kangson Steel Works rebuilt a furnace in no more than 40 days and produced the first charge of molten steel, while the workers of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex set up a mammoth open-hearth furnace at a site—where there had been a half smaller furnace—in only ten months and produced the first charge of iron.

The Koreans wrought one miracle after another by developing dreams into reality, firmly united behind their national leader with a single mind and for the same purpose. Grand Chollima march was carried out, resulting in the manufacture of the nation's first tractor from scratch in 35 days, the manufacture of the nation's first truck in 40 days, and the production of 13 000 machine tools in addition to the annual state plan. The "Pyongyang Speed" was created, a speed of building a flat in 14 minutes. The Koreans accomplished the socialist industrialization in a short span of 14 years.

Popular Masses-centric Socialist System Established

In his work *Ten-point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland* published in 1936 when the anti-Japanese armed struggle was at its height, Kim Il Sung proposed to establish a ►



► genuine revolutionary government of the Korean people after defeating Japanese imperialism and suggested a number of democratic policies for nationalization of major industries, land reform, 8-hour workday, sex equality, free and compulsory education and other issues. This was a manifestation of his far-reaching plan of building a socialist society where there would be no exploitation or oppression and the people with equal rights are put forward as the master.

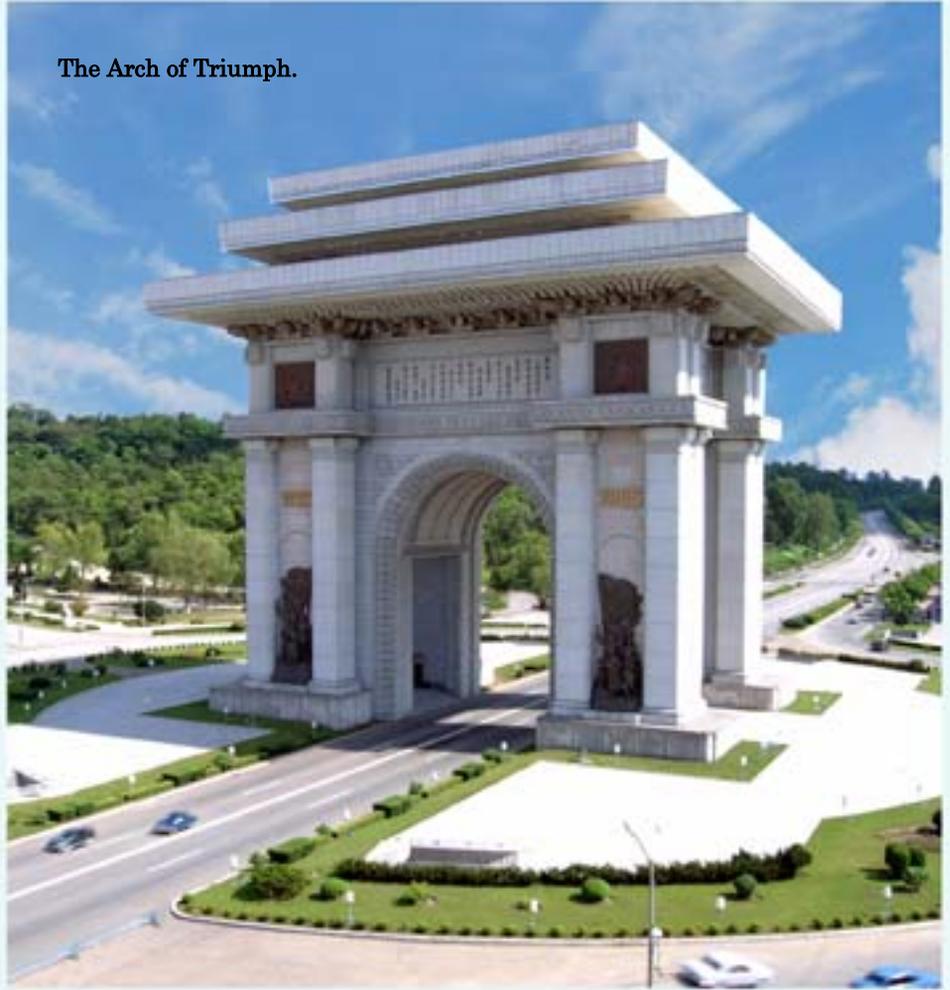
After national liberation Kim Il Sung put his plan into practice successfully. The land reform was carried out in less than one month putting an end to the feudal land ownership that had been in existence for ages. Nationalization of major industries and other democratic

reforms were effected to abolish the remnants of the Japanese imperialists' colonial rule. Thus the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution was accomplished, paving a road to switch over to the socialist revolution.

Having laid a foundation for the nation's free development by carrying out the land reform and other democratic reforms, Kim Il Sung advanced the idea of switching over to the socialist revolution following the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution and the policy of reorganizing the economic form along socialist lines before technical transformation of agriculture. According to the policy the socialist transformation of the relations of production was done in a matter of 4-5 years and the cause of exploitation and oppression was removed. As a result a socialist system settled in Korea. The system struck its root deep into the life of the people as it was chosen and built up by the Korean people themselves.

Kim Il Sung put forward the people as masters of politics, the economy and cultural development.

The Arch of Triumph.



He made sure that the people's government, or the socialist government, was faithful to its mission as representative of the independent rights of the popular masses, organizer of their creative ability and activity, caretaker of their life, and guard of their interest. He ensured that the socialist economy was managed and controlled by the masses of the people and that an independent socialist national economy was built up even in the imperialists' blockade so that everyone was equally well-off without any worry about food, clothing and housing. In this way he saw to it that the people's desire for independent and creative life was satisfied.

As the socialist system centred on the people looks after their life in a responsible manner, the Koreans regard it as the home of their happy life.

It is the greatest glory, happiness and pride of the Korean people to have acclaimed Kim Il Sung as their great leader for the first time in their history spanning thousands of years.

President Kim Il Sung will be alive in the hearts of the Korean people for ever and ever. □

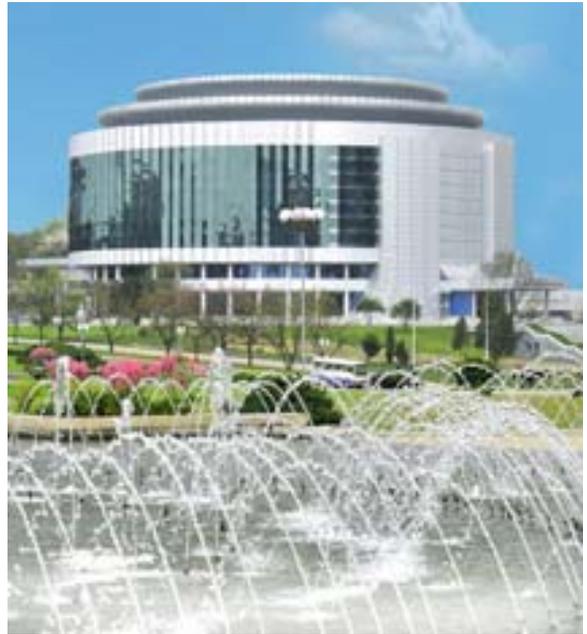
Names With *People* in Them

IN THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC of Korea there are a lot of names with the word *people* in them. The names of the state and the power organs and the regular armed forces are examples. The persons who render great service to the country and the people are awarded honorary titles like People's Scientist, People's Designer, People's Teacher, People's Journalist, People's Artist, People's Artiste and People's Athlete.

President Kim Il Sung provided the present status to the Korean people, who had long suffered from exploitation and suppression, shackled by colonial slavery in the past. After the Japanese imperialists occupied Korea militarily, he in April 1932 organized a revolutionary armed force for national liberation and named it the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army to make its character clear as a people's army. In 1934 he reorganized the expanded and strengthened AJPGA and renamed it the Korean People's Revolutionary Army. After national liberation in August 1945, the President strengthened and developed the KPRA as a regular army and named it the Korean People's Army. He saw to it that the KPA inherited the traditions of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. Under his wise leadership, the KPA regarded it as its mission to defend the people's freedom and happiness and won victory after victory enjoying the people's trust and support.

When deciding the name of the state to be founded soon in 1948, he proposed the name "Democratic People's Republic of Korea" and flatly rejected some officials' opinion to remove the word

The People's Palace of Culture.



The People's Theatre.

people from the name. He saw to it that the character of the people's state was made clear by putting *people* in the name of the power organs. So the government organs are now called the people's government in general and play their function and role as the representative of the people's independent rights, the organizer of the people's creative ability, the master responsible for the livelihood of the people and the protector of the popular masses' independent and creative life. The power organs, too, are called the Supreme People's Assembly and provincial, city and county (district) people's assemblies, and formulate state policies by enacting, revising and supplementing laws in accordance with the people's demand and interests.

There are many names related with people in all spheres of social life.

Since Kim Il Sung named the hospital which had been built for the first time after national liberation Pyongyang Municipal People's

- ▶ Hospital No. 1 in October 1945, most of the hospitals in the capital city, provinces, cities, counties and rural communities came to be called “people’s hospital.”

The Grand People’s Study House, a palace for education of all people which was built in the centre of Pyongyang, was named by the President. The place was the best one he had spared for long. One day some officials asked the President to build the central government building at the site. However, he proposed to build a large-scale library there and gave detailed instructions to erect a building of the Korean style. After the completion of construction, officials suggested naming it either *Kim Il Sung Library* or *Kim Il Sung Study House*, but the President maintained that the library should be named Grand People’s Study House in the meaning that it is the place where all the people have access to study. He declared that nobody was allowed to name it otherwise.

The People’s Palace of Culture with a hip-saddle roof (Korean style), located in central Pyongyang was also named by the President in the meaning that it is always open to the people.

His plan was to establish a best people-centred socialist society in the country. To him, the people meant the heaven, the teacher and the most powerful being. That was why the President wrote in his

**The Rungna People’s
Pleasure Ground.**



reminiscences *With the Century* that his God is none other than the people, that the popular masses are the almighty God and that so he regarded “The people are my God” as his motto. His life was rather a life of a son and a faithful servant of the working people than the one of a national leader.

The people-centred socialist system was further consolidated and developed by Chairman Kim Jong Il. Regarding the people’s demand and aspiration as absolute, he lived a life of patriotic devotion to fully realize them. The People’s Theatre built last year was named by Kim Jong Il. He proposed to build a modern People’s Theatre in the Mansudae area in central Pyongyang, saying that President Kim Il Sung had made sure that many buildings were erected with *people* in their names and that they should build a good theatre with the word *people* in its name and hand it down to younger generations.

The national leader Kim Jong Un who inherits Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il’s noble view toward the people gave meticulous guidance so that the



People’s Theatre was built on the highest level.

The Breast Tumor Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, the Rungna People’s Pleasure Ground and the People’s Open-air Ice Rink—which were all built last year—are fruits of Kim Jong Un’s iron will to carry out Kim Jong Il’s behests without fail.

In the DPRK where “The people are my God” is invariably the state line names with *people* in them are increasing day by day. □

Songun and Korea

THE KOREAN PEOPLE celebrate April 15, the birthday of President Kim Il Sung, founder of the socialist Korea, as their greatest national holiday.

The atmosphere of the day last year, in particular, was unprecedentedly heated as it was the 100th anniversary of the birth of the President. Kim Jong Un, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, made his first public speech at the military parade held at Kim Il Sung Square to celebrate the anniversary to the great delight of the people. In the speech he said, "The weak country [Korea] of yesterday which was trodden underfoot as a theatre of wrangling among big powers to expand the sphere of their influence, has now been turned into a proud political and military power and our people are demonstrating their dignity as an independent people whom no one dares to provoke." And he solemnly stated, "The military and technological edge is no longer the monopoly of imperialists, and the era is gone forever when the enemy would threaten us with atomic bombs."

When he finished his speech the square reverberated with loud cheers of KPA soldiers and civilians. It was the expression of the army and the people's greatest respect for President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il who had saved the destiny of the declining nation and exalted its dignity under the banner of Songun, and the demonstration of their firm will to follow Kim Jong Un's Songun revolutionary leadership to the end.

In the early 20th century the Korean people were deprived of their country by the Japanese imperialists leaving a disgraceful trace in the 5 000-year-long history of Korea. In order to wipe off the disgrace the Korean people put up bloody resistance against the aggressors. Patriotic martyr Ri Jun disemboweled himself in the venue of the 2nd International Peace Conference held in The Hague in 1907 to express his resistance to the imperialist powers that backed the Japanese imperialists' policy of invasion of Korea. In 1919 they started the nationwide March First Popular Uprising against the oppressive rule of the Japanese imperialists. But the Japanese imperialists mercilessly cracked down on it with bayonets. The Korean people were full of rancour against the aggressors, but nobody could appease the rancour, and they had nowhere to complain of it to.

Then, on April 25, 1932 the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army, a Juche-based revolutionary armed force of Korea, was founded on a hill at Tuqidian, Xiaoshahe (at that time), Antu County, China. It was an event announcing to the whole world that the Korean people would never accept the status of colonial slavery but carve out the destiny of the country and the nation by force of arms.

It was Kim Il Sung who gave strength to the Korean people wandering here and there with sorrow of the weak nation and encouraged them to turn out in the anti-Japanese armed struggle. He founded the Songun idea, the idea of beating off the imperialist aggression forces with a

revolutionary armed force at the Kalun Meeting in June 1930. In July of the same year, he organized the Korean Revolutionary Army. At the Mingyuegou Meeting held in December 1931 he put forth the strategic line of organizing and waging anti-Japanese armed struggle with guerrilla warfare as its basic form and pushed ahead with the relevant preparation. It was his rock-firm faith that the armed enemy should be beaten with arms, and that when the Korean nation made united efforts, it would successfully achieve independence and establish a thriving, independent and sovereign state.

At the inauguration ceremony of the AJPGA Kim Il Sung said that the mission of the AJPGA was to overthrow the colonial rule of Japanese imperialism in Korea and bring national independence and social emancipation to the Korean people. And the guerrillas' cheers shook the hill. Warm tears welled up in their eyes. It reflected the outburst of emotion of the Korean people who had earnestly wished for the birth of a powerful armed force which would restore and demonstrate to the world the dignity of the country and the nation trodden by the aggressors.

From then on the Korean people created a new history of Korea by relying on the revolutionary armed force of their own. The AJPGA (it later developed into the Korean People's Revolutionary Army) defeated the Japanese imperialists through the bloody struggle and accomplished the historic cause of national liberation in August 1945. The Korean People's Army, the successor to



The military parade held in celebration of the 100th birthday of President Kim Il Sung.

► the KPRA, won a decisive victory in the three-year-long Korean war unleashed by the US imperialists in the 1950s, thus honourably safeguarding the freedom and independence of their country. After the war, they kept putting great efforts in strengthening the People's Army, thus supporting the socialist construction with arms while resolutely frustrating the US imperialists' ceaseless aggressive manoeuvres. Some typical events were the seizure of the US armed spy ship *Pueblo* in 1968, shooting down of the US spy plane EC-121 in 1969 and the Panmunjom incident in 1976.

The Korean people got through the unprecedentedly hard time in the 1990s by putting forward the People's Army as the main force. At the time socialism collapsed in the former Soviet Union and east European countries. Taking advantage of this opportunity the imperialists headed by the US pointed their attack at socialist Korea. To make matters worse, consecutive natural calamities brought tremen-

dous sufferings to the Korean people. The progressive people around the world worried about the Korean people in political, diplomatic and economic hardships, while the imperialists made foolish remarks that the collapse of Korea was a matter of time.

However, the country won victory after victory in the political and military confrontation against the imperialists, holding fast to the banner of socialism, and laid a solid foundation for building a prosperous and powerful nation. This is thanks to the faith and will the Korean people kept never to see repetition of the history of sufferings whereby they fell into slavery because their national power was weak.

Kim Jong Il, chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, administered the unique Songun politics in an all-round way thereby brilliantly realizing the unanimous will of the Korean people and working another miracle in the history of Korea

where the Songun idea had been adhered to. Thanks to his Songun-based leadership the combat strength of the KPA and the defence capabilities of the nation improved in every way, and the DPRK has developed into a military giant with a nuclear deterrent. The KPA has become the main force of the revolution that plays a pivotal role while making a breakthrough in difficult sectors of the socialist construction. Undergoing rigours and ordeals which might affect the destiny of the country the Korean people were further convinced of the validity and vitality of the Songun idea and Songun politics.

Today the might of the People's Army is further strengthening and the people's living standards are improving day after day thanks to the Songun-based revolutionary leadership of Kim Jong Un, first chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission and supreme commander of the KPA.

Sim Chol Yong

Juche Idea Studied and Disseminated Worldwide

“HUMANITY HAS ENTERED a new century now... The present world is the one of fierce rivalry among ideologies and ideals, I dare say. This rivalry is a ground of test for the different ideologies’ competitiveness. Everyone wants to know which one of them could be honoured with the capacity of suggesting a timetable of the 21st century. The idea of liberal democracy or that of social democracy is exhausted, but the idea called Juche is racing forward dynamically. History is a fair and strict judge. The victory of the Juche idea is objective, and there is no doubt about the fact that it is the ideology and ideal humanity ought to choose in the new century.” This is part of a confession of a researcher at a West European institute of future studies.

The Juche idea came into existence to represent the demand and aspiration of the independent era, a new historical time when the popular masses emerged as masters of their own destiny.

President Kim Il Sung founded the Juche idea with a clear understanding of the demand of the independent era, and thus developed the struggle for independence and socialism onto a higher level and hewed out the era of independence, which is a new time in history. From the beginning of his revolutionary career until the end of his life he conducted energetic ideological-theoretical activities, writing a great number of immortal classic works that provide perfect solutions to theoretical and practical problems arising in all stages of revolution including the revolution for national liberation in colonial countries, the revolution for popular democracy and the socialist revolution, and the problems concerning the socialist cause and the cause of global



Participants in the World Congress on the Juche Idea held in Pyongyang in April 2012.

independence.

Chairman Kim Jong Il formulated Kim Il Sung’s revolutionary idea as an integrated system of Juche-oriented idea, theory and methodology, and developed and enriched its content uninterruptedly, thus exalting it as the guiding idea in the era of independence. In March 1982 when the aspiration of the peoples around the world for independence, sovereignty and building of a new society was growing intense, Kim Jong Il published his classic work titled *On the Juche Idea*. The treatise evoked a great response as soon as it came out, because it expounds a new man-centric philosophical principle, fundamental principles of the popular masses’ social movement or the revolutionary movement, and other important principles to be observed in the effort to make a success of revolution and construction. The broad political and public circles of the world gave an unstinted praise of the work, extolling it as a “new Communist Manifesto,” an “immortal encyclo-

pedic cycle that has developed the Juche idea in a profound manner,” and a “historic document that illuminates a true road of carving out human destiny.” The publication of the work gave a strong impetus to organized activities of studying the Juche idea throughout the world.

The first Juche idea study group was formed in Mali in April 1969, and the International Institute of the Juche Idea was established in April 1978. Juche idea study groups grew sharply in number in all the continents with the publication of *On the Juche Idea* as a momentum. In 1982 alone over 50 organizations were formed; in 1985 the African Regional Committee for the Study of the Juche Idea and the European Regional Association for the Study of the Juche Idea were established. Year after year similar organizations came into existence in a large number of countries and regions. They involved distinguished figures and people of all social standings, including former heads of Party and state, who acknowledged the justice and

Wealth of Comrades and Comrades-in-arms

ONE JANUARY DAY IN 2012 the supreme national leader Kim Jong Un said to officials: "We have the revolutionary army and the good people Chairman Kim Jong Il had trained with all his loving care and devotion. The army and the people as well as the officials who have long worked under the personal guidance of the Chairman are all my comrades and comrades-in-arms. In this sense we are blessed with a wealth of comrades and comrades-in-arms. This statement means that the national leader, the Party, the army and the people are strongly united on the strength of comradeship with which to share life and death in the same trench and on the basis of warm comradely care with which to devote one's all to

one's comrade. This is to be heard only in our country whose leader, Party and masses of the people are single-heartedly united."

On January 16, 2012 Kim Jong Un made similar remarks, saying: "Today our army and people are rallied around the Party single-mindedly on the basis of comradely relations with the leader. Though we are short of provisions and do not live comfortably, we are blessed with a large number of comrades and comrades-in-arms thanks to the single-hearted unity provided by the Chairman. We must accomplish on the strength of comradeship the Juche revolutionary cause and Songun revolutionary cause that started and won victory after victory on the strength of comradeship." □

Be the Eldest Brother and Sister

MARSHAL KIM JONG UN visited the Seoul Ryu Kyong Su 105th Guard Tank Division on the occasion of the New Year's Day of 2012. Going round several places of the unit, he paid close attention to the soldiers' life. Inside the barracks he personally measured the temperature and said that he would be there again later without prior notice to know the temperature of the room. In the mess hall, seeing various kinds of dishes piled on a cooking table, he asked warmly to provide feasts to soldiers as it was a holiday. "Then, General Kim Jong Il would feel satisfied. We should provide a sufficient supply of food to our soldiers whom the General loved all his life."

Then he stressed that the officers' duty was to take good care of the soldiers and that the officers should be not only the soldiers' eldest brother and sister but also their true revolutionary comrades-in-arms sharing joys and sorrows. □

- ▶ truthfulness of the Juche idea transcending the difference in social system, political view and religious belief.

Thanks to positive activities of the Juche idea study organizations, the study and dissemination of the Juche idea and the Songun idea got activated and went on purposefully. In the 1980s international and continental seminars took place nearly 20 times while national symposia were held in 36 Asian countries on more than 100 occasions. In the 1990s there was an upsurge in the activity to study and distribute the Juche idea, when international and national symposia on the Juche idea took place more

than 2 900 times. World conferences on the cause of independence in the 21st century held in Sri Lanka and Venezuela in 2002 and 2005 respectively adopted Colombo Declaration and Caracas Declaration on building a new independent world of justice under the banner of Juche and the banner of Songun. This is a manifestation of the inexhaustible vitality of the Juche idea.

A world conference on the Juche idea was held in Pyongyang in April last year amidst great expectation and concern of the Juche idea adherents and progressive peoples around the world. The meeting adopted Pyongyang Declaration, which points out in

part, "It is our adamant decision and will to fight it out to win global victory of the Juche idea. The election of Kim Jong Un as the first secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea is a historic event that convinced us of the bright future of the cause of Juche. We will be loyal to the idea and leadership of Kim Jong Un who is a great heir to the cause of Juche."

The Juche idea has struck its root deep in the mind of the progressive peoples around the world and is acknowledged as an established guiding idea which represents the present time and the whole history of mankind.

Sim Chol Ok

Kim Il Sung Is the Eternal Sun of Mankind (1)



LAST YEAR SECRETARY General Ogami Kenichi of the International Institute of the Juche Idea wrote an article titled "Kim Il Sung Is the Eternal Sun of Mankind" on the 100th anniversary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung. The Korea Today editorial board introduces the article in a serial form.

People call the sun mother of all living things. This is perhaps because they come to life and grow up thanks to the bright and warm rays of the sun. But the rays cannot illumine the road ahead for the carving out of human destiny and the sun is not as powerful as to move round the human world along an orbit desired by mankind.

There is a person who gave mankind what the sun of nature cannot afford. He is none other than President Kim Il Sung.

April 15 this year marks the 100th anniversary of his birth. I have something to say from the

bottom of my heart as a person who was honoured to meet him on many occasions and who is personally witnessing worldwide activities for the study and dissemination of the Juche idea. It is that President Kim Il Sung is the eternal sun of mankind who always lives in the mind of the Korean people and the progressive peoples the world over and leads them along the road of independence.

Rays of Juche illumine the road ahead of mankind

The Juche idea founded by Kim Il Sung indicates the way of hewing out the destiny of man. That is why people say that when getting to know the Juche idea everyone feels relieved at heart and comes to have a desire for living. So did I when I got to know this idea for the first time. I was born of a poor fisherman's family in a small island village. Growing up, I gradually came to think of how to relieve my parents of their hardships and how to save people from misfortunes. And I frequented bookstores and libraries devouring classics, and joined student movements but failed to find the correct way to that end.

Only when I got to know the Juche idea could I finally find the motto of life I had long tried to do. I still remember myself shouting "This is it!" in spite of myself. I felt as if I had come to my senses. It was in the autumn of 1971. One day I read *Kim Il Sung's Biography* published and in circulation in Japan at the time. Fascinated with it, I read and read the biography without sparing myself and even without going to school.

Through the biography I came to know about a brilliant revolutionary history of a great leader who established a new society of the people for the first time in the world, and I was infinitely attracted to the profound truthfulness of the Juche idea. So I decided to dedicate my life to the study and dissemination of the Juche idea. I did so despite the dissuasion of my teacher who felt pity that I should give up my medical talent before graduation from the university I had attended so enthusiastically for six years. It was because the Juche idea gripped my heart and soul.

The Juche idea clarifies everything. The sunlight, though bright, leaves shadows, but the rays of the Juche idea brightly illumine the road ahead of mankind. The idea means a compass all human beings should have, and a nutriment of genuine life for everybody. As soon as it was spread the Juche idea touched the hearts of people. With the number of young people studying the idea on the increase I was filled with admiration at the great attraction of the idea that was calling forth an enthusiastic response in the hearts of people.

In the closing days of the 1970s it became a trend of the times to study the Juche idea. Almost every day there was news that organizations for the study of the Juche idea were formed across the world. Relevant international symposia took place in succession, and students of the Juche idea rapidly increased in number.

Then, in September 1977, there was held an international symposium on the Juche idea in Pyongyang, participated in by lots

Tales of a Century Ago

PRESIDENT KIM IL SUNG was born at Mangyongdae, Pyongyang, on April 15, 1912. Some of the tales of his birth are introduced below.

Grandfather's dream

Early in the morning before the dawn broke, Kim Po Hyon, Kim Il Sung's grandfather, climbed Mangyong Hill behind his house to fetch bundles of firewood he had made before. It was still dark, but he walked up along the path without difficulty as it was a familiar way to him. When he almost reached the ridge, it suddenly got bright before him, and he could see a bright beam emitted from the top of the hill. The grandfather went up in haste. When he got to the open space on the top of the hill, he saw a dignified figure of a new-born baby sitting on a cushion and overlooking the neighbourhood of Mangyongdae. It must be a

Heaven-sent man.

This was a dream Kim Po Hyon had one day in April 1912, making a happy atmosphere in a humble straw-thatched house at Mangyongdae.

Great-grandmother's Admiration

Kim Il Sung's birth was a great, happy event for his family. Embracing her great-grandson who was smiling brightly with dimples on his cheeks, Kim Il Sung's great-grandmother exclaimed in admiration, "He's just like the sun!" After her, the family members and the neighbours began to call him "Sun."

Brass bowl, birthday gift

Regarding Kim Il Sung's first birthday as their own auspicious event, the people in the Chilgol

village (Kim Il Sung's mother's parents were living there) discussed for days what to prepare for his birthday. Some argued they should prepare nice school things, while others suggested making a sword for him. There were also opinions of preparing select foods, silk clothes, and making a significant folding screen.

After all discussions, they agreed to prepare a brass bowl in the meaning that they wished him good health for the sake of the nation's future. Now they began to make a design. Hoping that Kim Il Sung would grow up to be a great man who was endowed with a straightforward and indomitable spirit they engraved three letters meaning congratulations on his birthday, along with a couple of butterflies and two chrysanthemums.

The brass bowl was placed on the table prepared for Kim Il Sung's first birthday. □

► of students of the idea from around the world. At the symposium I, with deep emotion, witnessed the global tendency to study the Juche idea and the relevant enthusiasm of people, and felt the necessity to form an international organization for the study of the idea as soon as possible. I keenly felt such a necessity especially on the day when I, together with delegates from many other countries, had the honour of meeting President Kim Il Sung.

Overwhelmed with excitement and delight, the delegates with tears in their eyes, loudly shouted, "Juche!" "Kim Il Sung," and "Long live President Kim Il Sung!" raising their hands. Hearing the cheers I felt

tears welling up in my eyes because I seemed to see humankind advance under the banner of the Juche idea holding President Kim Il Sung in high esteem.

The symposium adopted a resolution to form the International Institute of the Juche Idea to be based in Tokyo, Japan, in response to the unanimous desire and requirement of all students of the Juche idea.

On April 9, 1978, the year that marked the 66th anniversary of the birth of the President, the founding of the IJJI was proclaimed in Tokyo. The founding of the IJJI was an epoch-making event in studying and disseminating the Juche idea on a worldwide scale, and a great auspicious

one for students of the idea. I was elected as secretary general of the institute. While working at the post I experienced the fact that the Juche idea is just an idea everyone sympathizes with and studies if they want to lead a life worthy of human being and the one to be studied by all statesmen who really value national sovereignty and dignity and want to build a genuine society for the people. And I came to hold it as part of my own conviction.

Now I must say that the worth and happiness of an independent life lie in studying the Juche idea and that the Juche idea is the eternal ray of the sun of humankind.

(To be continued)

DPRK's Answer

THE SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH of the artificial earth satellite Kwangmyongsong 3-2 in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was a great national event that marked an implementation of Chairman Kim Jong Il's instruction to put a sci-tech satellite into orbit. It also meant a pleasant victory of the nation's plan of space development for peaceful purposes. The progressive people who champion justice and value conscience were all pleased with the success won by the DPRK, a small oriental country, with its own efforts, and expressed positive support and solidarity. Even special institutions of those countries that are in hostile relations with the DPRK succinctly acknowledged the country's success in satellite launch for peaceful purposes.

Nevertheless, the US vilified the launch as a "firing of a long-range missile," a "grave violation of a UN 'resolution'" and a "serious challenge" against global peace and security, moulding public opinion in its favour. At last, by mobilizing the UN Secu-

rity Council, it cooked up a new "resolution on sanctions" against the DPRK on January 22.

Coping with the situation, the DPRK Foreign Ministry issued a statement on January 23, saying that the present reality clearly shows that the DPRK should counter the US's hostile policy with strength, not with words, and that the road of independence and Songun chosen by it is entirely just. It declared that the DPRK will continue to exercise its independent and legitimate right to launch satellites for peaceful purposes pursuant to the universally recognized international law on the use of space for peaceful purposes.

Then, on February 12 the nation successfully carried out an underground nuclear test, the third of its kind in the country, as one of its physical countermeasures against the US's policy of sanction and oppression that were becoming conspicuous on a daily basis.

Launching satellites is an exercise of a legitimate right that is universally recognized by interna-

tional law. Then, why are the US-led imperialists making much ado about the DPRK's satellite launch, labelling it as a "problem"?

In April 2006, the American newspaper Washington Post carried an article, in which it argued that what remains unchanged even when the modern situation in the Korean peninsula is in drastic change is the geographical location and that the peninsula is situated in the heart of Northeast Asia which is one of the most important and active regions in the strategic point of view.

This article seems to indicate the point. The Korean peninsula is regarded as bridgehead of continental intrusion by maritime nations and as launching point by continental nations. Considering that the American world strategy in the 21st century is to put the Northeast Asian region under the sphere of its influence and use it to realize its political and economic domination of the world, the peninsula means an advanced strategic point of critical importance on the part of the Americans. Herein lies one of the main



Service personnel and citizens of Pyongyang meet to celebrate the success in the third underground nuclear test.

► reasons why the US is trying to present the Korean issue as an international matter while driving the situation in the peninsula into tension.

Rodong Sinmun, organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, dated February 14, 2013, carried an article, which reads in part: "They are fighting for the existence of the empire and their rule against the sovereignty of a nation, instead of fighting against our nuclear possession and satellite. What the US imperialists are pursuing underhand is to make our country an unstable region neither in peace nor at war by raising a 'new question' about us—whenever we work out a plan for national prosperity—to bar our advance and by arguing for 'dialogue' with US, thereby gaining a political and military edge in Northeast Asia on one hand and attaining its aim of bloodless conquest of our country at a time when we are exhausted in a protracted confrontation on the other hand. The hostile forces do not wish to see our country become strong, rich and reunified. According to a

wolf's logic that the DPRK should remain a victim of their scramble for greater interest and influence, they have stood themselves again in our way of vigorous advance towards a powerful country."

Koreans were a kind-hearted and righteous-minded nation from olden times. Over the 5 000-year-long history our nation has never made an inroad into other countries, to say nothing of casting an aggressive glance at other nations. It has been a peace-loving nation that is only attached to its land, and engrossed in development of its culture and material wealth. But, for its geopolitical position, it used to be victims of imperialist aggression and plunder and underwent the time of national ruin. And now it has been suffering from national division for more than half a century.

The Korean people are no longer a naive nation. While waging a strenuous struggle to defend the country and build socialism under the condition of uninterrupted sanctions and attempts of the imperialists for aggression and plunder, they have grown up as

strong-willed people who have experienced to the marrow that independence is the life and soul of the nation and that their unity as one is stronger than any formidable armed force or any colossal wealth. They are well aware of the truth that force is the only resort in the fighting against the imperialists who regard force as almighty and that it is essential to develop one's own force to the end. True to the truth they have directed great efforts to the building-up of military capabilities and thus achieved a proud status of a nuclear state and a satellite manufacturing and launching nation.

Now Koreans are afraid of nothing. They know they are not to make even a step back in the centuries-old anti-US struggle and the overall confrontation against the imperialists. They are burning with a determination to win ultimate victory in the fight.

"There's no stepping back in the struggle for the dignity of a sovereign nation and justice. The righteous cause of the Korean people will emerge victorious without fail." This is the invariable answer of the Korean people. □



IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR our country successfully launched a satellite for peaceful purposes. Finding fault with it, the UN Security Council cooked up a "resolution of sanctions" against our country. This roused the indignation of our army and people.

The successful third nuclear test was our army and people's

merciless blow of justice against the US's gangster-like hostile acts, and a just and fair practical countermeasure to protect national security and sovereignty of our country. The success in the underground nuclear test demonstrated the strength of our country as a sci-tech and military power which can make any striking means in numbers as it wishes, inspiring our army and people with confidence in victory and bringing them to the realization that there is nothing to be afraid of any more.

Neither the enemy's insolent sanctions nor their military superiority can frighten our country that is further strengthening its might as a nuclear state in the

same spirit and stamina as were displayed in conquering outer space. Gone are the days when the enemy could use atomic bombs to threaten and blackmail us. It is our stand that vicious hostile forces should be met only with arms.

We will produce more and better knitwear in the same spirit and stamina as our country displayed in conquering outer space and supply them to the people. By doing so we will help frustrate the hostile forces' sanctions and consolidate the success in the third underground nuclear test.

*Choe Yong Chol,
general manager of the
Songyo Knitwear Factory*



Korea Makes No Empty Talk!

THE THIRD NUCLEAR test done last February was a just and fair practical countermeasure to protect national security and sovereignty of our country, and an extremely pleasant event that demonstrated the matchless courage and grit and great strength of Songun Korea that makes no empty talk and

actually does what it decides to do.

Provocation ought to be met with a retaliatory blow. It is natural for our country to take a drastic overall countermeasure, that is, a physical blow instead of a rebuke, to cope with the US's vicious hostile act of having grossly violated our legitimate right to launch satellites for peaceful purposes. Confrontation between our country and the US is the one between justice and injustice and between truth and untruth. It is an immutable law and one of the inevitabilities of history that justice and truth emerge victorious in the confrontation.

We are led by Marshal Kim Jong Un, man of the

strongest faith and will and matchless grit, and we have the might of single-hearted unity whereby all our soldiers and people are firmly rallied behind him. And we have on hand multi-stage carrier rockets, smaller and lighter atomic bombs with a high explosive power and a multifarious nuclear deterrent, so we are not afraid of any strong enemy and we will surely win. The US and its followers are asked not to misjudge or act rashly any longer. If they foolishly continue to resort to sanctions against our country, they will come in for death alone.

*Dr. and Assoc. Prof.
Ju Chang Il, dean of
Kim Il Sung University*



We Will Hasten Our Final Victory

THE THIRD UNDERground nuclear test done recently was a great event that demonstrated to the whole world the might of Juche-oriented science and technology developed onto a new high level, and a declaration of our army and people's strong will to resolutely fight against the US and its followers' vicious sanctions and pressure. The nuclear test done safely, perfectly and on a high level by using

a smaller and lighter atomic bomb with a high explosive power displayed the potentialities of our country which is unyielding and invariable in ideology and highly developed in science and technology, and the exertions of our people who are struggling for justice and truth. The success of the nuclear test makes it possible for us to acquire higher-level powerful physical means to deal a merciless blow at whoever attempts to stifle our country through sanctions wherever they are on the earth, and to firmly defend its security and sovereignty.

The US and its followers will commit a serious blunder if they try to stifle us by means of sanctions and pressure. The heavier

sanctions the hostile forces take against us the greater our strength will become to counteract them. If they intensify sanctions and pressure against us finding fault with the nuclear test once again we will take stronger, second and third countermeasures continuously and hasten our final victory in that way.

We film workers will produce successful films in greater numbers helping promote the building of an advanced civilized power so as to encourage the people to work hard in the final offensive for the building of a thriving nation.

*Ri Hae Song, deputy director
of the General Bureau of Film,
the Ministry of Culture*

Conscious of Being the Master

IN THE DPRK ALL THE sectors and units of the national economy are now making a great upsurge in production. Among them is the Taeon Heavy Machine Complex. Officials of the complex are on the shop floor to work with ordinary workers and technicians, solve problems at once and bring their creative initiatives into full play, thus making mass innovations in production of ordered equipment.

In early December last year, the complex was assigned an ur-

gent task to produce a generating facility to be sent to a local place. Earlier the local people had risen as one to carry out Chairman Kim Jong Il's instruction to build large and small power plants extensively to suit local condi-

tions, and wrought a miracle by finishing the construction of a power plant much earlier than schedule. A generator was to be manufactured at the Taeon complex. They were pressed for time. The managers and workers in charge of the production were at a loss what to do.

At the moment a senior official of the complex said: "Now the whole country has risen as one to implement Chairman Kim Jong Il's instructions.

His appeal moved all the hearts. The workers of the Steel Casting Workshop were the first to respond and produce castings necessary for the generating facility. Meanwhile, Generating Facility Processing Workshop No. 1 buckled down to process the generator's axis as soon as they received materials. The workers and technicians of Processing Workshop No. 2, too, finished the turbine processing in only two months with their concerted efforts. The workers of the Governor Workshop processed in time medium- and small-sized accessories necessary for the assembly of the generating facility, and thus helped to finish the task earlier. In this way the complex carried out the urgent task in a short span of three months.

In addition, the workers of the complex, conscious of their being in charge of production of generating facilities, produced and sent necessary facilities to many power plant construction sites including the Orangchon Power Station and the Wonsan Army-People Power Station. They are manufacturing in time the equipment needed in overhauling generating facilities of thermal power stations.



gent task to produce a generating facility to be sent to a local place. Earlier the local people had risen as one to carry out Chairman Kim Jong Il's instruction to build large and small power plants extensively to suit local condi-

Keeping step with the high enthusiasm of the power plant builders, we should send them the generating facility in time. We are responsible for production ourselves. You know there's always a way to a willing heart."



*Article by Sim Yong Jin
Photos by Ri Song Ik*



Pyongyang Rayon Yarn Mill





A laboratory.

NOT LONG AGO WE visited the Pyongyang Rayon Yarn Mill in the suburbs of Pyongyang. It was housed in large multi-storeyed buildings.

Meeting us at the gate of the factory, chief engineer Yun Kwang Sop said, "My factory was inaugurated in December last year, and it turns out high-quality materials necessary for production of various kinds of cloth and socks." Hearing his prideful words, we began to go round production processes of the factory.

In the transport and drying process, the first process of the rayon yarn production, raw mate-

rials were put into the storage tank. An operator observing the process said that the inputs are carried to the next production process through the selector—it removes impurities—and the drying tower. At the spinning and cop-winding processes we saw the molten material being jetted from nozzles through a screw extruder and pipes, and the cop being wound by a machine. Moving to the crispation process, the last production process, with us, the chief engineer told us that only when the state of the molten material is as good as to meet the standard in the spinning process can the cop-winding and crisa-

tion be done well. Hearing the smooth buzzing sound of machines, we saw the workers pleasantly moving thimbles. We met Paek Kum Hwa, chief of the process. She explained to us the processes of crispation machine No. 2. She added, "We produce threads of various intensities to make many kinds of cloth for the people. We are pleased with our job." Her words were expressive of the thankfulness for the socialist system that ensures the supply of more and better clothes to meet the people's increasing demand and the workers' enthusiasm to repay for the benefit.

We dropped in at the laboratory where efforts were made to improve the quality of products by the fine thread examination, the cutting and tightening examination of the thread, the melting examination of materials and so on.

We found all the production processes equipped with dust collectors, ventilators and automatic temperature and humidity regulators.

The chief engineer told us that various kinds of threads produced by the factory are sent to textile mills, knitwear mills and hosiery factories. Believing that the workers and officials of the factory would work harder to make a greater success in production, we left the factory. □

EATING HABIT HAS LONG been the concern of the Koreans, and they created and improved their own food culture. Their crockery can be cited. It was in the Neolithic era that crockery came into being for the first time. At the time the Korean ancestors used vessels of certain shapes made by baking clay. Most of them were those used as crockery. The Namgyong and Phyodae sites in Honam-ri, Samsok District, Pyongyang, the Kumthan-ri site in Sadong District of the same city, the Jithap-

Crockery of Korea

ri and Masan-ri sites in Pongsan County, North Hwanghae Province, and other sites from the Neolithic era include crockery in numbers.

The crockery was of various kinds. Typical of them are *pari* (a brass rice bowl), *taejob* (a soup bowl), *konggibosigi* (a small bowl) and cups, which are quite similar to those used today. The variety of crockery shows that

the Koreans prepared and ate various foodstuffs and drinks such as rice, flour food, meat and fish dishes, and *thakbaegi* (coarse liquor). They designed the vessels to be convenient as daily necessities and graceful as craftwork. A bowl, for example, was designed to be straight or slightly sloping in the mouth and the body, and flat or round in the bottom, and its surface was polished and decorated with patterns of a dotted line, a fir leaf or a coil.

Han Un Suk

Key to Increase in Production

AMONG THE FACTORIES CONDU-
cive greatly to the curative and preven-
tive medical care for the people is the
Sinuiju Streptomycin Factory in North
Phyongan Province. In recent years this
factory has modernized production processes
in keeping with the requirements of the de-
veloping situation where the national econ-
omy is being pushed forward in a quick
tempo, thereby normalizing the production
of streptomycin on a high level.

To those who inquire of him about the
key to the growth of production, General
Manager Choe Si Ung usually replies, "In
promoting the health of the people the role of
the curative workers is important, and I
think that the duty of the medicine manufac-
turers is as important as their role. We've
made efforts only to discharge our full duty."

It happened one evening several years ago. At
that time the officials of the factory were groping for
ways and means related to the activation of medi-
cine manufacture while summing up the day's work.
They knew their failure in the supply of a sufficient
amount of streptomycin to every hospital was
weighing heavily upon their minds. *How can we
manufacture efficacious streptomycin much more
and supply it to all hospitals across the country?*
Raising the quality of this medicine and increasing
its output necessitated the modernization of produc-
tion processes decisively.

The following day the technical group including
the general manager went to Kim Chaek University
of Technology and research institutes of the medical
sector, for they had a mind to find a way out by keep-
ing in contact with reality.

After sitting face to face and repeating discus-
sion with them, the technical group concluded that
it would be well within the power of the group. Hav-

Vials are filled with streptomycin.



The streptomycin refining process.

ing found the way for a new system of production
processes, they buckled down immediately to the
production of modern equipment needed in the
streptomycin workshop. Before anything else, the
technicians of the factory exerted themselves to
solve scientific and technological problems, enlisting
the aid of the researchers of the department of auto-
mation technology of Kim Chaek University of Tech-
nology and pooling their efforts. The technicians of
the workshop, in cooperation with researchers of the
university, saw to it that the temperature, the num-
ber of rotations, etc. were automatically regulated
by computer and the depickling and neutralizing
processes were newly improved in refining processes
as well. As a result, even when using one and the
same kind of raw material, the fermentation rate of
streptomycin could be raised by ten percent and
actual crystal extraction rate by two percent or more
than before, 200 tons of methanol could be saved
annually, the number of manufacturing processes be
raised by five percent or more and the time of manu-
facture, electric power, steam, etc. be saved by half
or more. In the glass workshop, too, an automatic
control system was set up that measures and ob-
serves the voltage of the electrode of the glass-
treating furnace, the temperature of glass-metal,
etc., thus improving the quality of glass-metal and
increasing the glass bottle production capacity. In
addition, the factory made a breakthrough in the
production of steam by bringing to completion the
method of automatically regulating the water level
of boilers and creditably settling the matters arising
in their operation. Besides, it solved lots of scientific
and technological problems, thereby providing mater-
ial and technical foundations for normalizing the
manufacture of streptomycin on a high level.

The Sinuiju Streptomycin Factory is now called
a model factory for all other factories throughout the
country to follow.

Song Yong Sok

Really a Wise Investment

RECENTLY THE FERMENTATION Research Institute of the Light Industry Branch of the State Academy of Sciences developed a new technology which makes it possible to earn a great economic profit by a small investment. It is one of the biggest interests of businessmen at the moment.

How wastes are recycled

Amino acid and peptide which come from dissolution of poultry feathers by hydrochloric acid and caustic soda are in wide use in crop growing, animal husbandry, horticulture, food processing and pharmaceutical industry. Until some time ago feathers of chicken, ducks, and other kinds of fowls were usually thrown away as it

the materials for the production is inexhaustible. Making deep studies of the problem, they found out in nature a microbe whose activity is as strong as to dissolve protein in feathers. This was a breakthrough in developing a technology of manufacturing compound amino acid.

What is characteristic of the technology is that it can mass-produce compound amino acid in an industrial process at a considerably low cost of production, without using acid or alkali which is root materials of poisonous gas emission.

The compound amino acid they developed proved effective. When administered to people who have just recovered from illness or surgical operation or weak people, it was as efficacious as conven-

tioned. Researchers of the Fermentation Research Institute conducted a research into rectification and successfully developed a charger-style rectifying tower which makes it possible to produce quality drinks at lower costs.

The technology of compound amino acid production is applied to ever wider areas.

Big profit is made

Until recently production of alcoholic drinks in food industry was mostly dependent on the use of hat-style rectifying tower. But the style was costly and needed a great space for its building, so minor foodstuff factories found it hard to introduce the tower.

Unlike the old charger-style rectifying tower which is no longer in use for its low operational safety, the new charger-style rectifying tower is filled with new material.

Noteworthy of the successful research is that the cost of manufacture is one-third lower than the hat-style tower and that the building space is much smaller—the tower's height dwindled from 9~12 m down to 2~2.5 m. Also, the filling material of the new tower is easily obtainable at low cost, the energy consumption is much lower and productivity is higher.

Chonghyang Liquor produced with the use of the new rectifying tower won the first prize straight

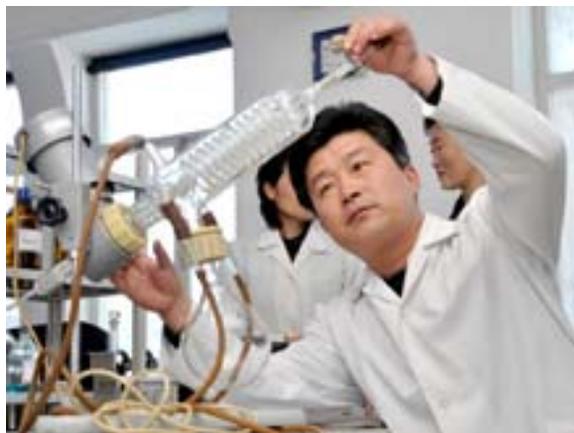


costed a lot to dissolve the feathers and, even if dissolved, some of amino acid is destroyed in the process of dissolution, emitting poisonous gas which harms the environment.

Researchers of the Fermentation Research Institute knew that amino acid and peptide are in wide use and that the source of

tional intravenous nutrition injections. The effect was clear and immediate in patients with digestive troubles like liver disorders, and those with tuberculosis—diagnosed with the X ray—got well after using their preparation for two and half months. All the patients who are treated with their amino acid-peptide com-

Basis of Success



“CAN PEOPLE BENEFIT? THIS IS WHAT I always think, when selecting a task of my study and in every process of the scientific research and even when I know a scientific ground,” says Pak Yun Sam, head of the basic chemistry research section, the Department of Chemistry, the University of Sciences. Awarded ten state patents in the past, he developed a new coal burning additive in recent years and was widely known to the people.

As an expert of analytic chemistry, he began to pay attention to the technique of coal burning additive in 2007. On his business trip to a place in January that year he came to know a fact that though the area was rich in coal deposits the local people bought high-calory coal from other places as it is low-calory coal. For the effective use of the local coal, some additives had been developed to improve the combustion rate. But they were not widely used because of high cost and some defects in using. Even after he came back Pak could not forget the local people's words that they had useless coal.

So he decided to put off the reading of his thesis and solve that problem first. He thought that the additive should be liquid made from natural mineral

material which is of low cost, not a reagent. With an attitude of learning all over again, he engrossed himself in searching data on the study of existing additives. His intensive study of a new additive began in real earnest in mid-August 2010. While accelerating the search of literature, he sometimes walked dozens of kilometres to get minerals for additive materials and sometimes sat up all night studying an easier process of preparation before a hot heating furnace. Even when he got a good result of experiment in 2011, he buckled down to the experiment for practical introduction to confirm the additive's practical usage, not the writing of a thesis to prove his scientific success. His experiments in Pyongyang, Jagang Province, North Hamgyong Province and other places of the country showed fully that the new coal burning additive was of low cost based on a simple manufacturing method and convenient to use. “A ton of low-calory coal mixed with only a bottle of the liquid additive becomes a valuable treasure.” “In the past we consumed ten briquets a day, but now only three briquets.” In every place he went, he heard voices of appreciation. He felt happy to see a bright smile on women's faces.

Informed of the fact on his way of field guidance to Jagang Province in October 2011, Chairman Kim Jong Il spoke highly of him, saying that Pak had done a good thing and deserved the title of Doctor. His title was proposed by people who are benefiting in reality, not by him, he added, and then had a photo taken with him who was in the province at that time for local introduction of the additive.

Pak says, “That glorious day I felt keenly in my heart what is the scientist's supreme glory. My colleagues and people ask me why I choose projects that need great endeavours. I say to them I want to make people benefit from them actually.”

Ri Kum Chol

► three times. The introduction of the new technology led to the solution of the two problems of cost and quality in production of alcoholic drinks.

Foodstuff factories in the country are enthusiastic about introduction of the new rectifying tower.

The researchers believe unanimously that the introduction of the technology into chemical and oil industries with a little transformation will make it possible to save a large sum of money and make a

great profit.

Chief engineer Yu Nam Su of the Sakju Foodstuff Factory in North Phyongan Province says, “By introducing the charger-style rectifying tower this time we've got unexpectedly huge profit. Now I believe we have a bright prospect for making as good products as those manufactured by central industries, and at lower cost.”

Jang Yong Suk

Nursery of Talent

“STUDENTS’ ACHIEVEMENTS ARE THE standard of the teachers’ achievements.” This is one of the mottos kept by the teachers and researchers of the faculty of metal engineering of Kim Chaek University of Technology.

Teacher’s bouquets

One of these days there took place a meeting to congratulate Kim Un Hyang, a fourth-year student of the university’s faculty of metal engineering on her winning a national exhibition of students’ achievements in information science and technology. She had developed a new method of finding out the correct content of alloy elements and wastes in steel. Everybody present there gave her heart-felt congratulations. With an armful of bouquets, she looked shy, when she said to the audience in a low voice, “I highly appreciate your congratulations on my small measure of success. By the way, I would like to say that the man who deserves such congratulations is Mr. Ri Hyon Mo, who gave me an idea and guided me for its realization. I would like to offer these flowers to him.”

She approached him and handed him beautiful flowers, when another big applause roared.

That day Un Hyang called back on what had happened one year earlier with deep emotion.

A girl of unusual inquiry, she happened to get a novel idea of increased steel production while reading reference books at the university’s e-library. But she knew she was incapable of making it a success. At the moment her teacher Ri Hyon Mo turned out to give her a good helping hand. He gave her kind-hearted lessons about problems arising in steel production, relevant sci-tech knowledge and worldwide trends. Also, he told her what were important tasks in developing the nation’s steel industry and what were the key points in the respect. He led her step by step, helping her to set a correct research task and carry it out at each stage of the research.

As a result Un Hyang’s project was successful, and was presented to the aforementioned exhibition to be highly appreciated for its possible merit in developing the nation’s steel industry.

The faculty of metal engineering often arranges meetings of congratulations. In the course of this the number of students who receive patents, diplomas and sci-tech research awards is steadily growing.

Academic knowledge confirmed in practice

One summer day a few years ago some students were working with workers for the construction of a fireproof material drying furnace at the Chollima

Steel Complex. They were fourth-year students of the industrial furnace engineering department of the metal engineering faculty of Kim Chaek University of Technology. During winter and summer vacations they used to form a research group and go to factories in the field of metal industry. There they often helped to solve problems in cooperation with local technicians while confirming in reality what they had learned at lesson.

That day, while assisting the workers on the job, they, aided by their teacher, were acquainting themselves with the actual conditions, hoping to get a new idea for increased steel production.

Finally they found an undesirable point in the fireproof material drying furnace. It was that there was no scientific means installed in the furnace with which to ascertain the temperature in the furnace.

The students decided to introduce an automatic temperature control system in the furnace. They made a deep study of relevant documents about furnaces of the kind, concentrating on having a comprehensive understanding of the furnace. On the basis



they carried out computer-based simulations and calculations in detail and conducted a number of tests. Meanwhile they assembled the necessary facilities for the control system. Many difficulties cropped up in the process, but they worked pertinaciously until they succeeded in establishing an automatic control system. Their innovative idea won a state patent of invention, and all the students of a class were honoured with the scientific research award. Their achievement was attributable to the unknown efforts of their teachers to help them succeed in their project. The students of the university are now developing themselves into talented scientists who will make tangible contributions to the improvement of the nation’s metallurgical industry.

Song Yong Sok

Country That Affords Learning to Everybody

IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF Pyongyang there stands the Grand People's Study House on Namsan Hill. It is a correspondence university that is open to all people, and is a base for dissemination of scientific, technical and cultural knowledge.

In the past century, President Kim Il Sung saw to it that a large-scale library was built on Namsan Hill—the site had been spared for a long time—so as to help people possess high-level cultural and technical knowledge as required by the revolutionary development. And he named the new building Grand People's Study House—in the sense that it is a house where anybody can

All children in the DPRK get free compulsory education until they are old enough to work.

percent of the Koreans were illiterate as a result of the policy of keeping the Korean people in ignorance and the policy of obliterating national culture enforced by the Japanese imperialists after their military occupation of Korea.

While putting emphasis on the

all the people. In this way the illiteracy was completely abolished in March 1949.

Korea has been exerting itself to develop education of children for training of national cadres and upbringing of talents. A typical example of the government's efforts for education of younger



study. This is how the Grand People's Study House was built that affords education to the working people of all strata.

Immediately after national liberation in August 1945, 80

education of the younger generation, the country directed great efforts into the adult education. Thus a campaign against illiteracy developed into a public and nationwide movement involving

generations is the fact that the pencil problem was put on the agenda at the first session of the North Korean Provisional People's Committee held in February 1946. In October 1946 Kim Il Sung University, the first university of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, was established. In 1949, three years later, there were fifteen colleges. The state enforced compulsory education systems—the universal compulsory primary education in 1956, the universal compulsory secondary education in 1958, the universal nine-year technical compulsory education in 1967 and the universal 11-year compulsory education in 1972. As a result, there were arranged all condi- ▶



Working people learn in a study-while-working course.

► tions for everyone in Korea to learn and study. Wherever there are children of school age there are schools. There is a branch school and a teacher for a few children even on a small light-house islet in the West Sea of Korea. There is a school jeep running for a few children in a remote mountain village in Ryanggang Province, and a school bus and a school train for some children of mountain villages far from the

going to university.

The successful universal 11-year compulsory education system led to production of numerous reserve talented scientists and technicians, promoting the development of science and technology of the country. There was not a single university in the country before national liberation, but now it is a socialist state with lots of universities and colleges, a land of education with millions of intellectuals.

In September last year there was held the sixth session of the 12th Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's

Republic of Korea, when a law on enforcing universal 12-year compulsory education was adopted. The enforcement of a new education system is a significant and historical step to improve the quality of education as required by the developing reality and bring up younger generations into well-qualified talents of the future. The new education system is the most reasonable and superior one that makes it possible to improve the quality of education as required by the developing reality in the age of knowledge-based economy and the world-wide trend and develop the younger generation as revolutionary talents of a Juche type possessed of perfect secondary general knowledge, advanced basic technical knowledge and creativity. The enforcement of the new education is based on the valuable successes of the 11-year compulsory education system that had been in force and on the firm foundation of the independent national economy.

At present Korea is developing the education in keeping with the requirement of the age of knowledge-based economy and hastening the building of a prosperous nation on the strength of the admirable education.

Sim Chol Yong



The Grand People's Study House.

school.

At all places of the country are small- and large-sized libraries, and a network of education is in force on the basis of a distance learning system based on communication, providing everybody with a condition to learn, without



Where Ice Does Not Melt

ONE OF THESE DAYS WE went to the People's Open-air Ice Rink which was newly erected on the bank of the Taedong River for news coverage. The large roof trusses of a waving form and walls finished with green glass and silver-grey building materials seemed to be indicative of a building related with water. Connected with Ryugyong Health Complex, which is a comprehensive centre of health service, the ice rink was crowded with people at the entrance. A man approached us, introducing himself. "I'm Pak Jong Man, chief engineer of this ice rink. I've been expecting you since I got your phone call." He added that he knew we were the journalists he had been waiting for, seeing a camera and a tripod we were carrying. He smiled at us welcomingly.

"Do you have many people every day like this?" I asked.

"Of course," he answered readily, "I think there are 600-700 visitors a day on average."

Now Pak led us to the inside of the rink. Walking in, we found an expansive space of ice crowded with people skating to the tune of pleasant Korean melody. There were people of all ages, ranging from primary schoolchildren to elderly folks. In the rink we felt warm probably because the room temperature was the same as in the outside when spring came around. Stepping onto the ice, we rubbed our feet on the spot where beams of sunlight fell from between the wall and roof and through the window. Watching

our acts, the chief engineer explained, "I think you journalists are afraid that the ice might melt in spring and summer as the inside is open to the outside and the sunlight comes in directly through the window. The temperature in the rink is about 10°C at the moment. The temperature outside goes up to over 30°C in sultry summer, but the ice in here does not melt. That thing you see outside the building is a freezing facility which was manufactured on the basis of latest technology. It is capable of making a floor of quality ice however high the temperature is outside."

Hearing him, we could understand how it was that the skaters were all wearing light clothes befitting the spring. What drew my attention particularly was a young man who was skating with the help of a young girl—probably his girlfriend—with a flushed face as if for shame of being unskilled in skating. I went up to him and said hello. The man said, "This is the first time of my skating. When I entered the ice floor with the skate on, I was ashamed and worried if I could ever learn skating. But now I can skate, as you see, because I have a nice skate and the ice floor is good enough. I've learned it in an hour thanks to my instructor here. (He pointed to the girl beside him.) She's given me a good lesson about how to handle feet and what kind of posture to have." Now I knew the girl helping him was an instructor at the ice rink. A girl of open manners, she said to us, "Those who begin to skate find it difficult

because they don't know the knack of skating. Without learning it your movement is awkward and slow even if you can skate. You know the proverb, 'As the boy, so the man.' It's really difficult to get rid of a bad habit."

At the moment there was an announcement from the speaker that there would be a break while the ice was maintained. When there was no person on the floor, a machine entered the floor and cut the surface while sprinkling water over it. Fifteen minutes later the ice maintenance was finished. We studied the quality of the ice.

The chief engineer said, "This ice is of high quality. Last year when our respected leader Kim Jong Un was here to look round our ice rink, some officials told him that the ice was of such a high quality that even professional skaters wanted to train themselves here. The leader said the People's Open-air Ice Rink should be open only to ordinary working people."

Hearing him we looked around the rink again. True to his words, there were to be seen no professional skaters there. A young boy was learning skating, guided by an instructor, a young man fell on his back trying to make a turnaround while speeding up, girls were laughing at him pleasantly. They all looked happy about their life as well as thankful to their country that had built such a great ice rink for their sake.

Leaving the place, we envisaged a more cultured life of the people in the rink in the future.



*Article by O Sol Hyang
Photos by Ri Song Bom*



A Look Back on Korean Stamp Development

NOT LONG AGO, I visited the Korean Stamp Museum inaugurated to mark the centenary (April 15, 2012) of the birth of President Kim Il Sung.

It was a two-storeyed building situated beside the Pyongyang Koryo Hotel. When I arrived at the entrance of the museum my eyes were caught by a sculpture depicting a dove, with new ▶



▶ Korea's first stamp *Samsonam* in its mouth, flying over rows of postcards winding round the earth.

Our guide Jo Hyang led us into the museum. What caught my eyes first in the entrance was the commemorative stamp bearing the portraits of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il which was issued on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the naming of *Kimjongilia*.

"On the first floor of our museum there are preserved the exhibits of the Stamp Exhibition held in April last year. Among them are the stamps showing the long stamp history of our country and the relevant materials by year of their issue," the guide said showing us round the data on the modern philatelic system of feudal Joseon dynasty, the relevant bourgeois reform in the closing days of the feudal dynasty, the Japanese imperialists' obliteration of Korean stamps and the anti-Japanese armed struggle. We now reached the exhibition board on which were displayed the materials on the birth of the first stamps in new Korea. Most impressive was *Samsonam*, one of the first stamps Kim Il Sung appreciated in March 1946. The guide said that it was when he was having lunch that the official responsible for the design of the stamp completed the design. As he wanted to show him the first stamp of new Korea as soon as possible, the official rushed to the national leader's house. The

leader and the anti-Japanese war heroine Kim Jong Suk suspended their lunch and saw the stamp design with satisfaction.

After hearing the guide's explanation, we saw a stamp that had been the first to bear the portrait of Kim Il Sung, stamps symbolic of new Korea as a sovereign state, those of the Fatherland Liberation War, the post-war rehabilitation, the socialist construction and the Chollima Movement. Then we listened to the guide's explanation about the stamps showing how energetic Chairman Kim Jong Il had been carrying on the revolutionary cause of Juche and transforming the whole society on the Juche idea.

Then we went to the next exhibition boards dedicated to the stamps reflecting the Korean people's efforts to develop their socialist national culture, their folk custom, Juche art and Juche sports, in the course of building a great, prosperous and powerful nation; to reunify the nation under the ideal of "by our nation itself," to promote the movement of the Korean residents in Japan, and to accomplish the cause of global independence.

The other exhibition board, under the title of "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Jong Il Will Always Be with Us!" introduced stamp designs Kim Jong Il had appreciated in the last days of his life and the data on the fact that he ratified more than 40 000 stamp designs

on over 410 occasions in total from 1976 to 2011. Now I came to realize how earnestly he had striven to develop stamps of the country. Most impressive were the thick stamp albums carrying stamps he had collected in his childhood and youth.

The last leg of my visit to the museum was the room where there were on display trophies, diplomas and medals Korean stamps had won at world stamp shows.

Halley's Comet (issued on August 25, 1985) from the DPRK won the balloting for the world's monthly popular stamps held in Japan, and souvenir sheets *Jipson Peak in Mt. Kumgang* and *Wisteria Blossoms and Puppy* won special prizes at the international stamp market Riccione 90 and the international stamp exhibition Riccione 91 held in Italy.

Varieties of Korean stamps including the one depicting Antarctic expedition won championships at the 92 Stamp World Cup competition held in France in 1992. Korean stamps also earned special trophies and top prizes at the balloting for the world's best stamps and the tryout for the best foreign stamps annually held in China.

Confirming that Korean stamps will further develop thanks to the tireless efforts of officials and employees of the State Stamp Bureau of the DPRK, I left the museum.

Song Yong Sok

Fragrance of Flowers

FLOWER SHOPS AND stands in Pyongyang are now drawing more and more customers.

Some time ago I visited the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital Flower Shop. In the shop I could see *Tagetes erecta*, chrysanthemum, dahlia, rose, calla, gladiolus, zinnia, gerbera, tulip, carnation and other species of flowers, all giving out fragrance. Among them is *manbokhwa*, a flower newly bred by the Pyongyang Floriculture Institute. It is a

for flowers were increasing day after day, and that on the occasions of the Mother's Day (November 16) last year and the International Women's Day this year, thousands of flowers in the shop were sold out in a few hours, so they had to order more flowers again to their producers. Listening to the saleswoman I saw visitors buying bunches of flowers, baskets of flowers or flowers. A man bought rose for a woman delivered of a child, another bought carnation for his mother

The shop's saleswomen are also commendable. When visitors told them about the age and taste of those for whom they were to buy flowers, the saleswomen quickly chose suitable flowers taking into consideration the meaning of the flowers and the occasion for congratulation to the great satisfaction of the buyers, for example, a bunch of red tulips for a university teacher who was going to congratulate his wife on her birthday, that of sunflowers for a mother who intended to congratulate her little son for getting full marks at school, and a basket of red roses with a souvenir in it for a young man who wanted to present it to his girlfriend.

Jong Ae Yong, one of the saleswomen, says, "People's increasing demand for flowers means that our life is becoming more beautiful, pleasant and optimistic. So, we are trying to make varieties of flower products in such a way as to meet the people's aesthetic and emotional requirement and their different uses and occasions."

Ri Chun Ae, a female acrobat of the State Circus, said, "I love flowers very much. Nothing can give me greater pleasure than to receive flowers from audience after performance. So whenever I see the people carrying flowers in their hands on a street, I feel myself pleasant at the thought that those flowers will give pleasure to some people."

In the shop I could smell the fragrance of a cultured, emotional life.

Rim Ok



really beautiful flower. Its long leaves seem to wish you *manbok* (every happiness), and its petals are pink and lip-shaped patterned with purple spots among their edges. Besides, there were cloth flowers representing camellia, peony, tulip and so on, and flower baskets and vases of various sizes.

Kim Myong Hui, saleswoman of the shop, said that the number of visitors to it and their demand

receiving hospital treatment and the other bought gerbera and tulip for doctors and nurses who were sincerely treating his family member in the hospital. And there were people who were buying flowers to congratulate their teacher on his or her birthday, a newly-married couple and their old schoolmate for being awarded a degree for having finished a scientific research project with success.

Five Red Stars

HO JUN HYOK GOES to Pyongyang Kinmaul Kindergarten No. 1. He is one of the ordinary children you can see at any kindergarten in Korea, yet he has now become known all across the country for his five red stars.

Stars he saw with his mother

Jun Hyok began to go to kindergarten on April 1 last year. From one year earlier he had been looking forward to the day, counting the days on his fingers. Such being the case he was particularly attached to the life at kindergarten. He received more red stars than other children for good things he did, both at lesson and in everyday life.

One evening when he was practicing counting—he had just begun to learn it—with the help of his mother looking up at the nocturnal sky through the window, he blurted out, “Can’t I attach the stars I’ve got to the sky, mom? I want to make my stars seen everywhere.”

Mom said that though he couldn’t put his red stars to the sky he would be able to make the stars seen everywhere when he became a good man in future.

Hearing her, the child felt quite hopeful.



Ho Jun Hyok is the first to answer the teacher’s question.

Star seen everywhere

Later the boy was bereaved of his mother unexpectedly. Now he behaved like a grown-up even at the time of playing. He wouldn’t join hands with his friends but was lost in meditation. In spare time he often wrote something. His teachers and friends thought he was yearning for his mother. But the reason was quite different. One day some People’s Army soldiers came to the kindergarten to improve the playground. Jun Hyok, scrutinizing stars on the shoulder strap of an officer, asked him innocently, “What kind of good things have you done for these stars?”

The officer with the most stars on the strap told him, “These stars are not appreciation of anything good we’ve done. They are what our country gave us in high expectation for our good things in

future. So the stars are put to where you can see them with ease.”

Hearing the words Jun Hyok thought the soldiers were the best people his mother used to talk about. He said that he would become a People’s Army soldier when he grew up.

What the boy had kept writing was letters to People’s Army soldiers. In every letter he put down his resolution without fail that he would become a soldier in future, along with stories of his happy life at the kindergarten.

One day in August when the kindergarten was on vacation Jun Hyok went to his kindergarten teacher. He produced 150 letters of his, saying, “I want to hand these letters to soldiers of the Hero Company who performed brilliant feats in the Yonphyong Islet Shelling.”

► Stars known across
the country

In the course of writing a lot of letters to People's Army soldiers with sincerity, Jun Hyok improved his writing skill beyond recognition. It was not his writing skill alone that improved. His mind also enlarged. What was most interesting to him about the Hero Company was that the respected leader Kim Jong Un personally proposed to award the title of Hero to the company.

Jun Hyok felt quite envious of the soldiers. When he received a big hand at the TV talent show held on the occasion of the founding anniversary of the DPRK (September 9) he made up his mind to write a letter to Kim Jong Un about his doings and good writing skill. With the help of his teacher he wrote a letter with sincerity. Yet he could not imagine that the national leader would be pleased with his humble letter.

Having read the letter Kim Jong Un wrote in reply, "You've done a good thing, Jun Hyok. I'm proud of you. I hope you will grow up to be a good man. I would like to offer five red stars to you, my dear Jun Hyok. October 10, 2012 Kim Jong Un." Then he drew five red stars and sent them to the boy. The five stars the leader drew with gel pens of different colours meant the highest commendation in the world to the child.

Kim Chol Ung

Short Novel

Room No. 5 of the Holiday Village

By Sin Yong Son

(Continued from the last issue)

THE WORRIED LOOK OF the old smelter got much darker when some young holidayers called him. "How much have you caught?" They asked him from afar, walking towards the angling place boisterously.

The old man drew hard on the cigarette with a frigid face.

"Well, you've caught only a few small fish," they murmured under their breath, seeing a few fish, as small as a finger, lying in the bag.

"Hmm," the old smelter groaned, casting an empty glance at the opposite shore of the lake. He felt angry and worried. Realizing that fishing is hardly what you can do as you want, he felt irritated, as if squatting on a needle cushion. That seemed to be the reason why the veteran smelter who was able to control the gigantic and ferocious furnace and molten steel at will could hardly settle his disturbed frame of mind at the angling site.

Of course there were sounds of the old man's bell ringing from time to time. But he couldn't bring fish onto the beach when the Administration Council official did it skillfully. Whenever the bell rang, he snatched the fishing line as strongly as he had wielded the

smelting bar, but there was always an empty hook to be seen. He found it hard to learn the knack of fishing.

The incontrollable desire and nervousness for fish resulted in the bitter failure. To snatch at the line without any consideration simply because the bell was ringing—it was far from the knack of catching fish.

The youngsters exchanged serious looks among them for a while before leaving the place silently.

The old man frowned at the receding images of the youngsters, probably because he was sorry he couldn't offer the delicacy of sliced raw fish by himself. The youngsters' footsteps died away, when there came sounds of another person's footsteps. The smelter gave a deep sigh, a thick column of cigarette smoke fuming out of his mouth and nostrils. They were the familiar steps of the truck driver who must be coming in haste to get the fish for preparing sliced raw fish.

"Chief Smelter," the driver called in haste, and his voice sounded rather pleasant, which was something unexpected about him. The driver was never soft in speech. His voice was always high-pitched. Perhaps it was a "gift" from his job whereby he had to have a talk amidst the noise of engine all the time. ►

► Now the chief smelter turned his face around and gave a glance at the curly-haired driver, who was all smiles.

“Is the girl named Song Sil beautiful?” he blurted.

“Eh?” the old man was aghast at the question that was quite out of the context.

“Don’t be so surprised,” the driver said. “The keeper of our room has just come to deliver a letter from a Song Sil to me, the chief of our room No. 5.” The corner of the driver’s mouth reached the ear for joy.

“Do you mean our dear Song Sil has sent me a letter? Let me see it,” the smelter asked. His tanned face, featuring deep-seated perspiration pores, was filled with gentle humanity and something earnest. He was being hectic about the letter, unlike his usually serious and dignified poise, and just like a father who receives a letter from his child after several years’ absence.

“You can’t read my letter from her,” the driver answered, “read your own.” He handed a closed letter to the smelter.

Reading the letter, the veteran smelter wore a bright smile. Sometimes he nodded, his face brimming with a smile. Happiness also settled on the eyes of the driver who was stealing glances at the old man’s letter over his shoulder, for every line of the letter was filled with the girl’s kind-heartedness. The letter conveyed the story that the old man’s workteam took first place at the monthly review of production done by the enterprise the previous evening, and asked him to relieve himself of the concern about the furnace. Also, the girl wrote her kind “bluff” that he

should have his fill of delicious sliced raw fish during the holiday by catching a lot of fish while enjoying the fresh air on the lake. But there were no such sentences in the letter that the old man’s pleasant holiday was the joy and recreation of all his workteam, which was to be read in the letter to the driver, the chief of the room. Perhaps it was because the old man had admonished not to make such languages before he left for holiday.

Having read the letter the old man asked, rubbing his dark chin with his chapped hand. “Ha, ha. That’s a good girl. What did she say in your letter?”

“She asked our room, particularly me, to look after your holiday,” the curly-haired boy replied in a serious look.

“I’m your charge? Ha, ha...” The old man’s laughter stopped sharply. The empty bag on the beach had just disrupted his happy frame of mind. Even the driver became dumbfounded to see him, for he had expected to have a special conversation with the old man about the girl who he thought might be beautiful in countenance as well. When there settled deep wrinkles of worry on the old man’s face, the driver receded listlessly.

The chief of the room, however, did not forget later to call the “Great Angler” to the “seat of honour” of the table on the flat rock. He hastened to the old man and helped him to erect his heavy body and walk to the table. Passing dishes of thick and soft slices of flesh of carp and mandarin fish, the driver talked volubly, “Help yourself, dear smelter. The delicacy of sliced raw fish is entirely thanks to you. Your peppered

bean paste and vinegar have given a special relish to the dish, you know.”

The smelter was silent. His lips were locked hard.

The table on the wide, flat rock was astir with the feast of sliced raw fish. To say nothing of the anglers in the neighbourhood, even passers-by were called in to the table.

The smelter was giving an empty look to a far-away mountain, puffing cigarette smoke into the air. He found it hard to involve himself into the merry environment. “How could they be so happy when I’m anxious? They think they are at a banquet,” he told himself, clearing his throat for no reason and casting displeased looks at the merry people. Yet there was a “pile of fish slices” before him. Unable to refuse repeated offers, he had a few slices in his mouth. Fresh and sweet fish slices tasted quite good in harmony with the seasonings of hot pepper and vinegar. The tempting taste made the wrinkles on his face rather deeper. He could hardly swallow the fish because he was reminded of his colleagues who must be working with perspiration at the furnace. He reluctantly made a few thrusts at the dish of fish slices before standing with his arms propping up his heavy body. The driver, the painter, the department chief of the Administration Council and the people around the table held him by the arms. But none of them could make him sit down at the table again.

“Help yourselves, friends,” the old smelter said smilingly, but he sounded rather lonely.

(To be continued)

Kind-hearted Prosthetic Dentists

WHEN I GOT ON A bus that goes to the Ministry of Public Health General Dental Hospital in front of the Pyongyang Grand Theatre, a girl among the passengers caught my eye. She was holding a bouquet in her hand. I guessed that she was going to see a patient in the hospital. When I asked her if she was going to see a patient, she replied, "No. I'm going to see a doctor." Then she told me a story.

She was Kim Song Mi by name, a student of the Pyongyang Kim Won Gyun Conservatory. One day she fell over something and had two of her front teeth broken. It was fatal to her, a vocal music student. Just at the time she saw on TV a programme dedicated to the introduction of the aforesaid hospital. She went to prosthetic dentistry department No. 2 of the hospital to get treatment. Later she became able to make stage appearance again. At a meeting of skill presentation she was highly appreciated and presented with a bouquet. So she was now going to see Jon Yong Ho, a prosthetic dentist, who had treated her with sincerity, taking the very bouquet with her.

Listening to our conversation, an old man said, "I'm also going to the same department. I heard that the head of the department is good at dental prosthesis."

"My next-door neighbour told me that she had been treated for dental diseases in the Ministry of Public Health General Dental Hospital and that the dentists' sincerity is marvellous. So I'm going to the hospital to get treatment for a dental disease. And this time I think I am going to have a false tooth put in the place of a back tooth," another woman said. She was Jong Chung Sim, a resident of Somun-dong, Central District, Pyongyang.

Before we knew it, the bus arrived in the compound of the hospital. I wanted to meet members of the aforesaid department. So, together with the music stu-



dent, I went to the department. Jon Yong Ho was having a rest after treating patients. At a glance he looked humorous and broad-minded.

He told me that it was only two years after his graduation from university. As I was doubtfully looking at him, he said, "We've benefited from our head's efforts. We learn much from him."

With over 30 years of experience in dental treatment, the department head Ri Jong Ho concurrently works as a teacher of the Pyongyang In-service Doctors Training School. "Good exchange of feelings between a doctor and a patient," Ri said, "is a primary condition for good treatment. Patients usually observe the doctor's look and gesture and heed to their tones. Only when doctors receive patients as kind-heartedly as they should their own kinsfolk can the latter feel at ease and actively cooperate with doctors in treating their diseases." Ri Yong Ho, Kim Jin Hyok, Yu Jong Min, Pang Yong Ho, Han Kwang Ho, Sin Chol Jin and other staff members were of the same opinion.

Holding that no medicine is better than sincerity, the dentists strove to find a method of reading

the minds of patients first while improving their practical qualifications. Among their patients was Kim Il Chan, a researcher of the Ferrous Metal Research Institute of the State Academy of Sciences who had been engrossed in a research project at the Sunchon Vinalon Complex. The department head and Ri Yong Ho themselves went down to the complex to fetch the researcher to the hospital. And they put a full denture to his upper gum so that he was delightfully engrossed in his work again.

Among the patients were also Pang Kyong Hwan, a resident of Kusong City; Kim Hak Min, a worker of the Chollima Steel Complex; So Kyong Dok, a resident of Wonsan City, Kangwon Province; Kim Suk Gyong, a resident of Sungni-dong No. 1, Rangnang District, Pyongyang; and Ri Yong U, a teacher of the Hyesan College of Arts in Hyesan City, Ryanggang Province—all different in age and occupation. The dentists, however, treated them with great sincerity.

Meanwhile, the dentists regularly went out to give on-site service to disabled persons, builders on construction sites, writers, ►

Far From Mandate of Heaven

IN JUNE LAST YEAR THERE was a man leaving the Pyongyang Medical College Hospital of Kim Il Sung University for his factory amidst well wishes of the doctors. He was Choe Kwang Chon, a worker of a provincial factory.

In mid-March last year he was rushed to the resuscitation department of the hospital by an ambulance. At that time he was unconscious and his life was in danger owing to the air and blood gathering in his lungs following overall bruise, fracture of ribs and rupture of a lung.

Doctors looked nervous. A medical consultation took place soon in the resuscitation department. They had treated a great number of patients, but the case in hand was really embarrassing to them. There were no novel measures suggested at the meeting. They knew they had to put him to emergency treatment but

it was impossible because he had various complications.

When the doctors of the resuscitation department were racking their brains to find a way, heads of many departments including those of psychiatry and respiratory organs entered the room. Thus, the consultation meeting enlarged to involve the hospital as a whole. Many of them produced good ideas. Now, in order to provide an intensive treatment, a team was organized with head of the resuscitation department Cha Sang Gyun as leader and Yang Myong Il as chief doctor in charge of the patient, and involving many doctors and nurses. They first took measures to prevent the air and blood from getting into the lungs due to the rupture of lungs, while carrying out procedures to make the patient breathe normally.

Meanwhile the team studied a lot of literature to choose the most

reasonable remedy. In an effort to diagnose and treat his symptoms in an all-round way, more than ten consultative meetings were held in the hospital, and over 30 meetings in the department.

Medical workers stayed by his bed day and night. The patient recovered consciousness in some 50 days. However, to the doctors' astonishment, he did not remember even his name owing to the traumatic mental disorder.

The resuscitation department had to make efforts again to remove his disorder. They introduced a scientific treatment to revive his brain and fixed a special pharmacist for the case. Also the medical staff paid deep attention to his general condition. Cooks made dishes to suit his appetite, doctors of the departments of curative nutrition and recovering treatment paid deep attention to the management of his nutrition, and the doctors of the department of cardiovascular surgery devoted their all to the recovery of his health. Such devotions made him recover completely in a little over 80 days and leave the hospital.

When he left the hospital, some people said that he was preordained by Providence. But he said to them: "Never. How could I be born once again? It is entirely thanks to the public health system of our country and the medical staff of the hospital who are taking care of the patients as their own kinsmen. I know they devoted their all to my treatment. I've made up my mind to work harder for the sake of my beloved socialist system and my country's prosperity."

Sim Yong Jin



► teachers and researchers. The department members often receive letters in which the writers express their thanks to them for

restoring their looks to those in their youth or inform laudable innovations they make in their work. "We'll fulfil our duty to the

people by improving our clinical qualifications and sincerity," said the department head.

Rim Ok

Sosong District Juvenile Sports School

THE SOSONG DISTRICT Juvenile Sports School is well known for its successful training of young athletes in the country. Many of the graduates of the school became winners of domestic and international games. People's Athlete Kim Il, gold medalist at the 25th and 26th Olympics in 48 kg category of men's freestyle wrestling event, can be cited. Now a number of graduates of the school are active in the national team and other sports teams of all levels.

The school trains children in football, basketball, volleyball, table tennis, wrestling, short-track speed-skating, field hockey and so on. In particular, it has brought up promising wrestling aces for dozens of years, and obtained a good result recently as well. Ji In Hyon, 14, has cut a dashing figure. He won first place in men's 46 kg category of the wrestling event at the Pyongyang technical innovation contest, thus drawing the attention of experts and fans. In addition, the school



also has made successes in football, basketball and volleyball.

In recent years junior and senior students of the school won national contests, attracting experts. The school snatched over 100 medals including 35 gold medals by winning men's basketball, women's field hockey and other events at the 49th national juvenile sports schools' contest held last year. It is attributable to the high practical ability and zeal of the instructors. Two thirds of the instructors used to participate

in domestic and international contests. Kim Sung Nam, wrestling instructor, and Merited Athlete An Nam Hui, volleyball instructor, and Merited Athlete Kim Hye Yong, football instructor, are in the van of training aces. By training their students on a scientific footing they make them attain precise basic skills and develop their physical ability continuously.

Kim Jong Ho, section chief of the school, says, "The duty of the juvenile sports school is very important. Only when it teaches basic skills to the students properly, will they develop into fine sportspersons. It takes much effort to find out those who have a taste and talent for sports, and train them into promising athletes by adopting suitable methods. To meet the growing social interest in and expectation for sports we, instructors, are devoting all our energy to training young athletes."

As there are such training bases in all corners of the country like the Sosong District Juvenile Sports School, young aces are produced year after year.

Song Yong Sok



Invigorating Mass Sports Activities

ONE SUNDAY IN BALMY spring we were walking to the Pyongyang Grand Theatre in central Pyongyang, when we heard enthusiastic cheers from somewhere by the road. We turned to find the Korean April 26 Children's Film Studio in the middle of activities on its employees' day of physical training.

Gratifying our professional curiosity we stepped into the studio ground where a volleyball game was at its height. Ri Kwang Il, chairman of the trade union of the studio, welcomed us and introduced the players one by one, saying that senior officials of the studio were playing the first round. Among them were the president of the studio, vice-president and most of the heads of a dozen production units. The chairman explained about the day's programme of volleyball games. According to him the first round was played by a team of leading officials of the studio against a team of heads of production units, and the second round between teams of women employees, and the third round between teams of the rank and file. Amid the spectators' cheering, the first round was over in favour of the senior officials. It was a close game. The players of the second round were all women, as had been told by the chairman. We were seeing their interesting game, when the chairman said, "In the past, women were reluctant to take part in sports activities. So, even when some of them participated in the game, they found themselves unable to serve at all to their great shame. But regular sports activities have developed them as competitive players, as you see now."

We saw the game a good while. Among the women was a woman

striking a hard blow and another woman neutralizing the blow—as if they were "pros." Their game was a close one, too, and what was more admirable was their enthusiasm to demonstrate their team's unity.

"There's another spectacular game," said Kwang Il, leading us to a wide table tennis hall. There were several tables where mixed teams were playing hot games. We found some people familiar. They were producers of the animations "The Boy General" and "A Squirrel and a Hedgehog" which are loved by grown-ups as well as children. We saw them playing as smartly as pros.

Kim Jun Ok, producer of "A Squirrel and a Hedgehog," who

officials saw to it that everybody took part in games. From that time on, all the employees came to have interest in sports as their enthusiasm was growing. That was not the only merit. In the past, many of the producers suffered from occupational diseases and felt languid. At present their enthusiasm for sports activities has removed undesirable things and their production is steadily going up.

As if testifying to Kim Jun Ok's words the people were all filled with pleasure of life, pride in their jobs and attachment to their studio.

Kwang Il said: A growing number of the studio's employees take part in the annual artists'



was on a waiting seat, told us, "In the past only those who were interested in table tennis used to play games in pairs. But now everybody wants to participate in games. So, table tennis games are organized on a schedule. The high competitive enthusiasm improves the unity of each group." He went on to say: At first games were mainly played by those with high skills. So the participants were fixed, and others lost interest in table tennis gradually. The studio

games. Last year alone, players from the studio participated in football, basketball, volleyball and table tennis games, making a great contribution to film sector's winning first place in total.

We realized that regular and lively mass sports activities are an important factor of the studio's achievements. Hoping they would attain greater success in their work, we left the studio.

Song Ryo Myong

Ri Se Gwang, Twice Asian Champion

DPRK GYMNAST RI SE Gwang won two gold medals in the rings and vaulting horse in the 5th Asian Gymnastics Championships held last year in Fujian Province, China, thus becoming a twice Asian champion in vaulting horse.

The gist of what he replied at a press interview held after the end of his competition is “My gold medal is my country’s.”

Ri Se Gwang was born in Tanchon City, South Hamgyong Province. When he was four he followed his parents to Pyongyang to settle there as his father Ri Jong Ho was transferred to a new post in the city. In his childhood Se Gwang was wont to ask unexpected questions and was praised by his teachers for being good at school. His parents expected him to develop into a scientist like his father. Growing up, however, Se Gwang would spend more time exercising on the horizontal bar. At home he would jump to hang on window sills, shelves and the like, all higher than his stature. Regarding it as merely a frolicsome child’s play, his parents planned to send him to a college in the future.

One day, when he was at the age of seven, Jo Hun, an instructor of the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren’s Palace, visited his primary school, and saw him hanging on the horizontal bar. Though he was exhausted to some extent, the boy persistently strove to keep hanging on the bar while carrying out movements of his own for his young age. Jo could understand his enthusiasm for exercise, his cleverness and his balanced motor sensation. Then the instructor took the boy to the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren’s Palace, where the boy, full of curiosity, saw boys and girls senior to him carrying out skilful gymnastic movements on horizontal bars and other in-

struments. When Jo asked him if he wanted to do gymnastics, the boy spiritedly replied at once, “Yes. That I can do.”

Se Gwang thus became a member of the gymnastics circle at the palace the state had established as an extra-curricular instruction base for the purpose of developing schoolchildren’s aptitudes. From then on relevant instructors did all they could to develop the boy’s aptitude. They would often remain in the training hall till late at night to help him master even a single movement. When he was ill they would stay at his bedside with his parents. Thanks to their efforts the boy, three years later, was recognized as the most promising among the relevant trainees.

His talent further improved after he was admitted into the April 25 Sports Team. Officials of the sports team made sure that he, though at the age of merely ten, was put under the guidance of an able coach so that he could master high techniques as soon as possible, and the whole sports team showed concern for him. Soon his skills went beyond junior class, and enabled him to hold supremacy in senior-class gymnastics. When he was 18 he participated in an international competition as a member of the national team. In those days he keenly realized that without technical movements of his own he cannot distinguish himself in gymnastics of the new century. So he decided to pioneer and complete new technical movements of Korean style in gymnastics with a view to leading the gymnastic world. But it was not an easy job. One day, while training, he was wounded unexpectedly and diagnosed as unable to do exercise any longer. Gymnastics meant his life and reflected all his hope and ideal. The



reality, however, was quite harsh to him. Then he remembered what his coach had said to him when he found it difficult to manage hard training before an international competition he was to participate in for the first time. “You really have the aptitude. But you should bear it in mind that such an aptitude can never earn you fame unless you are determined to exalt the honour of your country.” Now Se Gwang rose again with clenched teeth and finally managed to complete his own technical movement, thus developing into a twice Asian champion.

Back home he said to Song Sun Bok, the coach who had helped him win the international competition he had participated in for the first time, “When the scores concerning my new technical movement were announced I found your image coming across my mind. Yet it was not a happy look. You were wearing a look that you used to have when you were quite demanding on me.”

Chae Kwang Myong

Saint Sosan

SAIN T SOSAN (1520–1604) is one of the renowned Buddhist priests in the period of the last feudal state of Korea (1392–1910). In particular, he was famous as the chief of monk soldiers who, in spite of his advanced age of 73, turned out to lead all the Buddhists across the country in the struggle to repulse Japanese samurais during the Imjin Patriotic War (1592–1598).

His original name was Choe Hyon Ung, but he was widely known as Saint Sosan. This is because he lived in Mt. Myohyang, namely Sosan (West Mountain), as Buddhist *Taesa* (Great Teacher) for a long period of time. (*Taesa* is a title a feudal state conferred on a high-ranking priest of the Sonjong denomination of Buddhism.)

Saint Sosan was born into the family of a poor *ryangban* (aristocrat) in Anju at the time when owing to the corrupt feudal government factional strives became excessive and the people were suffering in great misery.

Unfortunately, he was bereaved of his parents when he was 9 and grew up, undergoing hardships in wandering life. Therefore, he keenly experienced the class contradiction of society in those days.

As he was valiant and clever, he comprehended what he learned through books and martial arts on a level higher than anybody else at a private tutorial school. However, he gave up an idea of getting employment in disorderly bureaucratic circles and became a monk at a temple in Mt. Jiri of Jolla Province at the age of 18.

Since then, he, travelling about scenic spots of Korea, sang the praises of the beautiful landscape of the country by composing poems and, calling on renowned scholarly priests in big temples,

studied Buddhism hard. As a result, he became generally known already in his thirties as a priest of deep moral culture and of high character.

It happened when he was living in Mt. Myohyang. One day he, taking a stroll in the front yard of the Pohyon Temple together with several priests, saw a hawk circling round in the sky in quest of its prey. He told a young monk to fetch a bow and an arrow and shot the arrow at the hawk even before the other priests kept him back. As he had excelled others in martial arts from his childhood, the arrow hit the hawk right, which fell headlong to the ground like a stone. “How is it that you have killed a life, Great Teacher? May the hawk rest in peace!” There was a general stir among the priests standing around. They felt as if they had witnessed something forbidden. However, Saint Sosan, laughing roaringly, said to them. “Removing the source of destruction of life accords with the precepts of Buddhism. If we had kept that hawk alive, it would prey on several birds day after day.”

No sooner had the Imjin Patriotic War broken out than he, staying in Mt. Myohyang, called upon the Buddhists all over the country to turn out in the righteous volunteers’ struggle. As soon as a large number of monks across the country turned out in the struggle in response to his appeal, he formed a righteous volunteers’ unit of 1 500 troops and he became its general commander.

At that time some priests were reluctant to embark on the road of struggle, saying that killing was contrary to the precepts of Buddhism.

He led them to the road of wiping out the Japanese invaders, saying, “If you do not come out in the struggle to annihilate the

Japanese aggressors, the arch-villain of killing, it will be contrary to the precepts of Buddhism and is an act committing a crime against our fellow countrymen. You must not forget that the priests are also people of this country.”

In response to his fiery call and notification, Buddhists in various parts of the country rose as one in the righteous volunteers’ struggle. As a result the number of Buddhist volunteers amounted to tens of thousands throughout the country.

He, leading the monk soldiers, made a march to Pyongyang and took part in the battle to win back the walled city as well. He fixed his commanding post in a mountain and dealt a telling blow at the enemies who were intent on the plunder of provisions and people’s property east of the Walled City of Pyongyang in cooperation with General Kim Ung So. On the other hand, he reorganized units of the monk soldiers in a way convenient to waging battles.

As soon as the battle to win back Pyongyang started in January 1593, he, taking the command of the monk soldiers, dashed into a section of Moran Hill and divided the enemy’s position into two parts, thus rendering distinguished service for the opening up of the path of onrush of the Korean army and ensuring its victory in the battle.

In January 1604 he passed away in Mt. Myohyang at the age of 85.

The name and brilliant exploits of Saint Sosan who made a great contribution to driving out the Japanese invaders in spite of his great age, saying that “Priests are also people of this country” are still handed down among the Korean people.

Kim Un Jong

Nam Gate of Taesongsan Fort

NAM GATE OF THE Taesongsan Fort is the southern gate built along with the Taesongsan Fort. Serving the aim of defending the Anhak Royal Palace of Koguryo, the Taesongsan Fort was one of the biggest of the kind in Koguryo. It was built by linking the six peaks of Ulji, Somun, Jangsu, Pukjang, Kuksa and Jujak with a wall. There were discovered 20 sites of gates in the fort, and Nam Gate is the only one that still stands.

Nam Gate is located in a big valley between Jujak and Somun peaks toward Mt. Taesong. It had

originally been built before Koguryo moved its capital to Pyongyang in 427. The present gate was restored to its original state in September 1978. It is 19.5 metres high and has a strongly-erected embankment under a gatehouse. The embankment was erected with square granite blocks. A gateway is in the middle of the embankment with battlements. The two-storeyed gatehouse has five *kans* (a *kan* equals about six feet) in front and two *kans* in side. The gatehouse's roof with the four solemnly-shaped slope-sides was

beautifully decorated with Koguryo's patterned tiles and carved ornaments formed after eagle plumes on both tops of the ridge and on the upper part of the hip. The inside and outside of the gatehouse were finished with gorgeous paintings called *tan-chong*. Nam Gate represents the characteristics of Koguryo in its all details, and also fully demonstrates architectural techniques of Koguryo and the mettle of the Koguryo people. It is well preserved as a national treasure.

Rim Ok



Pyongyang Folk Park (4)



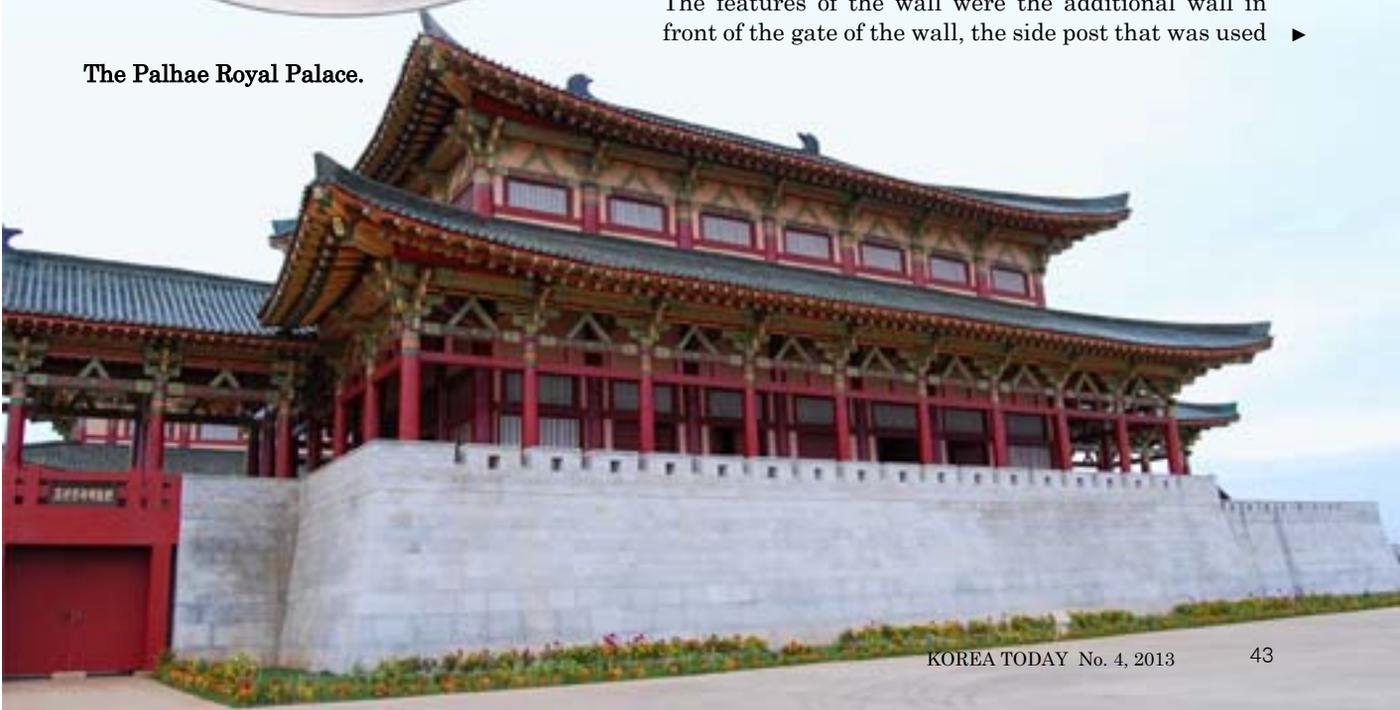
**Traditional folklore and beautiful manners
and customs handed down from
generation to generation**



PAST THE MODERN DISTRICT, WE ENTERED the district of folklore in the Pyongyang Folk Park, feeling as if we were reliving the ancient time our ancestors lived. Our guide explained, "This is the Koguryo wall of the Koguryo neighbourhood that makes up a section of the folklore district covering dozens of hectares."

The Koguryo wall was made of stone, showing the form of wall construction and structure at the time. The features of the wall were the additional wall in front of the gate of the wall, the side post that was used ▶

The Palhae Royal Palace.





A government office.

► for defending the corner of the wall and for a subsidiary commanding post, the battlement set around the top of the wall. They were showing the spirit of

Koguryo, which was a thousand-year-long power in the East.

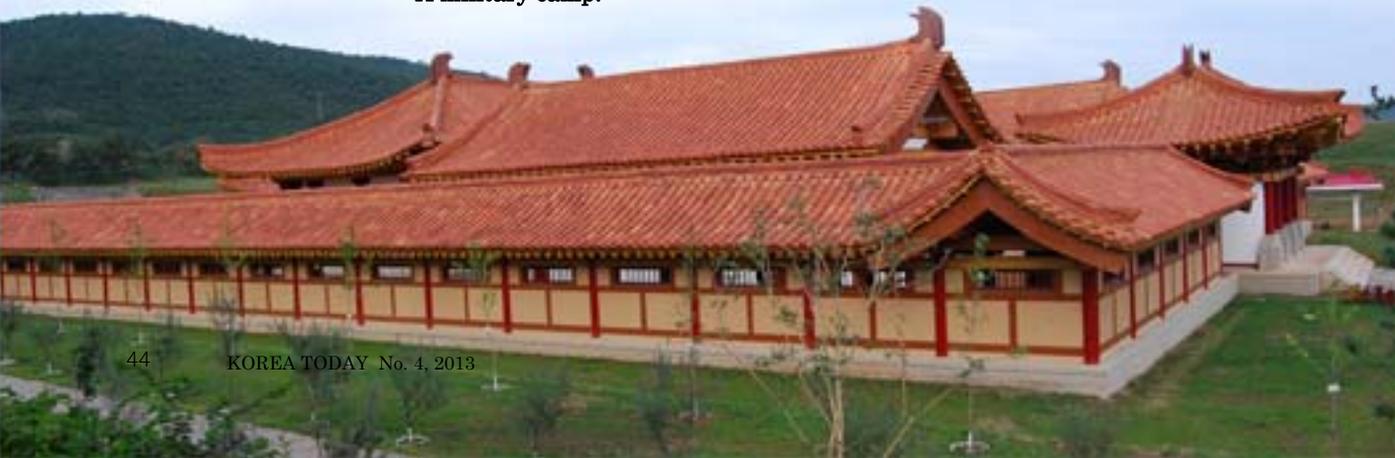
The folklore district was distinctive in that there were to be found no miniatures of buildings,

the guide said, leading us to Kyongdang, a Koguryo private school that was engaged in teaching martial arts as well as letters. The guide explained Kyongdang had played a big role in nurturing a militaristic spirit in the mind of the people in Koguryo.

We looked round different forms of dwellings, temples and military barracks which were real-like restorations, before heading for a Koguryo government office. The government office of Koguryo was second largest after the royal palace. It consisted of the main building where government affairs were dealt with, buildings



A military camp.



► where lower-level officials worked, various kinds of houses including the lodgings of the officials, storerooms, a number of gates and gardens—which were all representative of high architectural techniques during the time of Koguryo. In the government office were on display materials belonging to rooms No. 8, 9 and 10 of the Korean Folklore Museum. The materials showed the housing customs, furniture, habits relating to folk games and folk arts and illustrations.

Now we went over to the Palhae Royal Palace, which was an imaginary restoration of a number of buildings of the Royal Palace in Sanggyong Ryongchonbu, capital of Palhae, based on archaeological findings. Palhae appeared as the successor to Koguryo and left a distinguished chapter of our nation's history spanning 5 000 years, by making great progress in politics, the economy, national defence and culture.

One of the characteristics of the Palhae Royal Palace was that the main gates were set on both sides of the gate pavilion, instead of under the pavilion. The gable roof of the gate pavilion was shaped after Koguryo's architectural style, and there were some other architectural similarities to Koguryo's buildings. Along the galleries of the palace were arranged seven halls of the Korean Folklore Museum which are dedicated to the show of time-honoured traditions and customs of the nation. Some typical materials were those showing Korean ancestors' habits of labour, costume, food, table arrangement, table manners, learning, family courtesies, ceramics and the like. There we met the section chief Kim Myong Sim who told us that the Korean Folklore Museum had been moved to the Pyongyang Folk Park and added with several halls.

Like the Koguryo village and the Palhae Royal Palace, the Koryo village we now entered had a number of marvellous buildings that were indicative of the contemporary architecture and customs and manners. In the district were seen an exhibition of Koryo's historical relics, the Koryo Tongmyong House which was a renowned hotel where foreign missions stayed or state banquets were held, a magnificent residence of a high-ranking official of the feudal government, and a pottery where Koryo celadon was manufactured whose forms, colours and patterns were of unique nature and of high artistic value. I was pleased to see the cultural tradition and customs of the Korean ancestors as in real life, and what was more attractive was the natural beauties modelled on Mt. Kumgang.

In the folklore district was also the village of the feudal Josen dynasty, which is a comprehensive show of typical houses, eating habits, manners of labour in different areas—northern, central and southern—of Korea. Helped by the guide we had deep understanding of the dwellings that suited to physiographical conditions of each region. The northern house was a house with no wall between the kitchen and the living room so that the heat from the cooking range was directly used to warm the living room in consideration of the cold weather in the northern area.

The central house had a spacious floor before the door of the room, called Pongdang, which was used as a place for different kinds of work in the central area of Korea where they had much rain in summer and much snow in winter and strong wind.

The southern house was laid with the vestibule, called Taechong, at the centre, whose southern side was without any

wall but all with four or six sliding doors or without any door at all, to suit the warm weather in the southern region.

In the section were also to be seen a watermill, a blacksmith's shop, a house used as a store, a Tangun's Shrine where memorial services were held in honour of the nation's father Tangun, a private educational institution called Sodang, which were all life-like restorations conveying the customs and habits of the contemporary people. It seemed as if I could meet an ancient person at any door if I knocked at it.

In different houses there they were offering different folk foods like Pyongyang raengmyon (cold noodle), a peculiar feeling to our emotion.

Looking round the Pyongyang Folk Park we learned it was a grand museum that is a good blending of historical and modern arrangements and a good school of great information. The construction of the park laid a favourable condition for the public to have good knowledge of the nation's time-honoured cultural tradition and good manners and customs through vivid representations.

We saw groups of visitors singing and dancing merrily here and there. We were convinced that the Korean tradition and laudable customs would be handed down generation after generation thanks to our respected leader Kim Jong Un who loves our country and people most and brings President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il's lifetime instructions into reality.

Leaving the folk park we felt proud of the fact that the complex of the 5 000-year-long history of the nation was really a great treasure of Korea.

Rim Ok

DPRK's Consistent Foreign Policy

INDEPENDENCE, PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP make up the consistent principle of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's foreign policy which President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il put forward and wisely maintained. In his New Year Address in 2013, the supreme national leader Kim Jong Un reiterated the consistent stand of the DPRK government to implement the foreign policy of independence, peace and friendship.

To build an independent and peaceful new world all countries should defeat the imperialists' aggression and war manoeuvres and safeguard peace and security of the world and develop relations of friendship among the countries.

First of all, the DPRK firmly maintains the principle of independence in foreign relations. Independence is the life and soul and the criterion of an independent sovereign state. It is the DPRK's main principle of activity to take an independent view to and draw an independent inference of all problems, act in its own faith and solve problems in its own way. The country never allows outsiders to infringe upon its sovereignty, meddle in its internal affairs or get control of it. A legitimate nuclear state and an internationally acknowledged nation that is capable of making and launching artificial earth satellites, it is fairly exercising its independent rights as a dignified nation. It respects the sovereignty of other countries and supports righteous causes of the progressive peoples of all countries against the imperialists' domination and subordination. The foreign policy of the DPRK reflects the desire of the people to live in a peaceful world free from aggression and war.

To prevent war and safeguard peace is a common task of humanity and an essential task in building an independent new world. The desire of humanity for peace will come true only when the progressive, peace-loving peoples conduct a forceful campaign for peace against war in close unity. The DPRK is doing all in its power to secure peace, regarding the maintenance of peace and security in the Korean peninsula as an important task in defending independence. The DPRK is determined to make positive efforts in good solidarity with the peace-loving peoples around

the world to thwart the imperialists' offensive of oppression upon the DPRK, achieve peace and stability in the Korean peninsula and defend peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world.

It is a consistent stand of the DPRK government to develop friendly relations with all peoples of the world who champion independence. To live and make progress in a friendly environment is a unanimous desire and aspiration of humanity. Only when countries and nations develop friendly and cooperative relations among them, will they be able to build an independent and prosperous new society or such a world successfully. At the moment the imperialists and international reactionary forces are working hand in glove to overturn progressive nations one after another. In this condition it is necessary for all countries and peoples of the world who aspire after independence to have stronger relations of friendship and solidarity.

The DPRK government is making positive efforts to establish and improve friendly relations with those nations that treat the DPRK in a friendly manner, on the principle of independence and international justice. It is a consistent stand of the DPRK to improve and normalize relationship even with those countries that have been hostile towards the DPRK, once they renounce their hostile DPRK policy and respect the DPRK.

In developing friendly and cooperative relations with foreign countries, the DPRK government adheres to the principles of mutual respect of sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs of other countries, equality and mutual reciprocity, which are universal principles to be observed in development of inter-state relations. The DPRK will make every possible effort to establish fair international relationship and orders as a member of the international community. The DPRK government and people will struggle to implement the idea of independence, peace and friendship under the Songun revolutionary leadership of their supreme leader Kim Jong Un, and thus further expand and improve relations with a large number of countries around the world and make contribution to the cause of global independence. □

Hazard of the US-Japan Security Treaty

RECENTLY THE TOP-LEVEL STATESMEN of the US and Japan are rattling on about “security” in the Asia-Pacific region more than ever before. In a press conference last year, the US President said that the US-Japan alliance is the cornerstone of peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. And the US Secretary of Defense remarked that the US-Japan alliance has been the foundation of peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region for decades. About the same time, the Japanese prime minister and other high-ranking officials also uttered that the US-Japan security treaty should be kept up to maintain security in the said region. But, in fact, the treaty is a means of invasion and war upon other countries.

The treaty concluded in the year following the start of the Korean war by the US and revised in June 1960, stipulates military tie-up between the US and Japan, the former aiming to turn the Japanese territory into its military base and revive and rearm Japanese militarists to make them the shock force in its invasion of Asia, and the latter intent on resuscitating as a military giant as early as possible to embark on the road of overseas aggression. The treaty provides that the US forces shall stay in Japan without time limit turning it into a forward base, carrying out joint military exercises with Japan’s Self-Defense Forces and strengthening bilateral military cooperation. This aggressive treaty legalized the US’s military control over Japan and instituted a US-Japan military alliance.

Under this treaty, US military bases and facilities have been built extensively in Japan and Japan’s Self-Defense Forces beefed up without let-up, jointly stepping up preparations for aggressive war. After the conclusion of the treaty, the relations between the US and Japan developed into “relations of alliance” from the “relations of companionship,” and then into “a community bound up by common fate.” The implication was the materialization of a complete political-military integration, with Japan deeply involved in the US war strategy system. Towards the end of 1984, the US and Japan completed the US-Japan joint operations plan in case of Japan’s emergency and then the US-Japan joint study aimed at the defence of sea lanes by the end of 1986. In 2010, they reexamined and revised the US-Japan guidelines for defence cooperation adopted in 1997 and the US-Japan joint operations plan 5055 in case of emergency which was made public in 2004. Further, they established an integrated US-Japan operational command system through the reorganization and redeployment of the US forces stationed in

Japan. This is to be seen clearly from the fact that the US has reached an agreement with Japan on the issue of redeployment of the US troops present in Japan for building up armed forces and strengthening military activities in the Asia-Pacific region according to the new defence strategy made public by the US administration early last year. Today the Japanese territory is covered up by the meshes of US army, naval and air bases. The US warships and planes loaded with nukes have free access to Japan. Japan is turning farther into a dangerous base of nuclear attack.

Japan is in great haste to become a big military power. It has revised its military strategy from “total defence” to preemptive attack. According to it, the plan for modernization of the Self-Defense Forces is pushed on to develop their capabilities for protracted war, long-distance combats and preemptive strikes. Worse still, Japan is getting more feverish over joint military rehearsals with the US than ever before. Early last year alone, the SDF participated in the command post exercises twice with the US forces stationed in Japan. Involved in the exercises were an expeditionary brigade of the US Marine Corps, a striker unit of the US army, and task forces of Japan’s Ground Self-Defense Force. Moreover, Japan’s Air Self-Defense Force took part in the joint aerial exercises—together with the US and Australia—held in Guam, fanning up war fever. Japan’s participation in every joint military rehearsal with the US on the pretext of security proves its secret intention of invading the neighbouring countries again under the US patronage.

Now Japan is emerging as the most dangerous aggressive force in Asia. This gives rise to the unstable situation in the Asia-Pacific region. Japan would not behave in this way if it really seeks after security. But Japan is heading for reinvasion, not security. That’s way Japan is sticking to the US-Japan security treaty. Therefore, the US-Japan security treaty is the chief factor fomenting war danger and threatening peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. Its main target is the Korean peninsula. The sustained tension on the Korean peninsula and the ugly situation in the Asia-Pacific region are entirely due to the US and Japan following the road of strengthening their political-military conspiracy. Peace and security in this region requires the withdrawal of the aggressive US forces and dismantling of their military bases. Also the aggressive US-Japan security treaty should be scrapped. This is what the people of Asia and other parts of the world are demanding. □

Real Nuclear Culprit

OVER FIFTY YEARS HAVE passed since it was made public that the US aggressor troops in south Korea would be armed with nuclear weapons. After pronouncing in July 1957 that it would begin to arm its troops in south Korea with nuclear weapons, the US made it a *fait accompli* to start a nuclear war in the Korean peninsula and shipped strategic and tactical nuclear weapons into the south in numbers, and the GIs were heavily engaged in all manner of nuclear war rehearsals for the purpose of verifying the efficiency of their north-targeted pre-emptive nuclear strike. In mid-October 1957 the US began to arm the GIs with nuclear weapons by moving an armoured division from Japan to south Korea and merging it with its 24th Division there to be reorganized into an “atomic division.”

It made a formal announcement in January 1958 that Honest John tactical nuclear missiles had been deployed in south Korea before opening a 280-mm atomic gun to the public in a US military airfield in Uijongbu in south Korea in February of that year. Later B-61 nuclear bombs to be carried by bombers and nuclear mines were shipped into the south in numbers.

The US's shipment of nuclear weapons into south Korea further increased even after the conclusion of an international treaty that nuclear weapons cannot be shipped into a nonnuclear country or region. Such weapons shipped into the south numbered over 1 000 in the 1970s and amounted to over 1 720 in the 1990s so that the density of nuclear weapons there was the highest in the world. As the anti-US struggle was growing stronger revealing and denouncing the US manoeu-

res to turn south Korea into a nuclear base and the demand for denuclearization of the Korean peninsula was becoming more pronounced in the international community, the US played on the world public opinion by putting forward an NCND policy whereby it neither confirmed nor denied its shipment of nuclear weapons.

It is the course of nature that truth comes to light. A “chart of the existing state of the nuclear transport and deployment of GIs stationed in south Korea” presented to south Korean puppet National Assembly on October 9, 2005 reveals that 11 sorts of nuclear weapons are stored in major bases such as Chunchon of south Kangwon Province, Osan of Kyonggi Province, Seoul, Taejon, Pusan, Taegu, and Kwangju in south Korea. The northern half of the Korean peninsula today is a region selected by the US as a target of nuclear strike. The US designated the DPRK as a top-priority target of nuclear strike in the 2002 report of the “nuclear posture review,” and later the Obama administration redesignated the country as a target of pre-emptive nuclear strike. At the 41st annual security conference held in October 2009 the US and the south Korean puppets made a concrete agreement on “offering an expansive nuclear deterrent” by which to counteract in the same way as when the US proper is attacked in an effort to put south Korea under the protection of the American “nuclear umbrella.” This meant to provide a legal guarantee for unleashing a nuclear war to invade the north at any moment.

Besides, the US, together with the south Korean puppets, stages all sorts of nuclear war rehearsals—to invade the north—under the cloak of “defence” or “annual

occurrence.” In January 1968 when the US armed spy ship *Pueblo* was captured while illegally intruding into the territorial waters of the DPRK, the US administration tried to pose a fearful nuclear blackmail to the country by mobilizing aircraft carriers and destroyers only to ignominiously apologize to the country.

The US manoeuvres to start a nuclear war to invade the DPRK became more undisguised with the beginning of the Team Spirit joint military exercises it staged together with the south Korean puppets annually from 1976. The military exercises involved F-16 fighter-bombers and B-1B long-range strategic bombers capable of carrying nuclear weapons and a submarine with nuclear missiles on board. Meanwhile, they often conducted atomic gun firing drills on the pretext of neutralizing the combat efficiency of the north's field guns. The GIs and the south Korean puppet army have so far drawn up many nuclear war plans such as “wholesale retaliation plan,” “OPLAN 5026,” “OPLAN 5027,” and “OPLAN 5029” and improved them through Team Spirit, Foal Eagle, Key Resolve, Ulji Freedom Guardian and other nuclear war rehearsals.

These historical facts prove that the US is the author of the nuclear issue in the Korean peninsula and that nuclear threats come from the south to the north. It is most shameless of the US and the south Korean puppets to try to conceal their nuclear crimes and talk about “nuclear threats” from the north, the victim of the crimes. Nothing can cover up the true colours of the US as the real nuclear culprit that has intensified the nuclear crisis in the peninsula and the rest of the Northeast Asian region century after century. □

Piro Peak

PIRO PEAK, 1 909 METRES HIGH ABOVE sea level, is the highest peak in Mt. Myohyang. From olden times, the Koreans usually called the highest peak as Piro Peak. The one in Mt. Myohyang is an example.

There are many famous sites with magnificent views in and around Piro Peak, including Chonthaedong and Chilsongdong valleys famous for waterfalls, the Piromun resting place known as the first place on the way of climbing Piro Peak, Chonthaе Falls of Chonthaedong, Isonnam Falls, Paegundae with a famous view, Wonman Peak, and Solyongdae associated with legends.

The Piromun resting place has a magnificent view of alpine scenery. Streams flowing down from Chonthaedong and Chilsongdong join here, presenting a beautiful scenery of valley. Kolgae Stream flowing down over and around stones and rocks of various shapes and sizes, and the thickly-wooded forest seem to be a beautiful landscape picture completed by a celebrated painter.

Between fantastic cliffs is laid the 1.5-metre-wide

and 36-metre-long Chilsong Bridge, adding to the scenery of the valley. Past this bridge and the Kungangtho Bridge, there can be seen in the forest the Turtle Rock associated with a legend that a nearly-300-year-old turtle from an undersea world of the West Sea visited the world-famous Mt. Myohyang and changed itself into a rock, reluctant to leave.

Piro Peak is connected with Jingwi Peak to the west and Chilsong Peak to the southeast, and on top of Piro Peak are found rocks and a grassland. In the grassland various kinds of flowers are in bloom in July and August. Between Piro Peak and Chilsong Peak, *Pinus Pumilas* are spread in a wide area.

The highest lookout of Mt. Myohyang, Piro Peak, has an exquisite view. Below the peak are seen ranges of peaks high and low, and the thickly-wooded ravines are washed by clear water which makes pools and waterfalls.

When looking around on the peak, there can be seen a picture of high and low mountains and fields. And you can see the West Sea of Korea far away. □





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