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Stamps reflecting the important tasks set by the Seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.



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Front Cover: Foodstuff production is on the upswing. (At the Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory)

Photo by Ri Song Ik



Back Cover: Lake Samji in Autumn

Photo by Ho Song Gil

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Korea Running at Mallima Speed



The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex is effecting an upsurge in production.

THROUGH THE CHOLLIMA MOVEMENT FOR an upsurge in socialist construction as was appealed by the Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) in December 1956, Korea achieved remarkable successes—a rapid growth was made in industrial production every year and the socialist industrialization completed in a matter of fourteen years.

At present the campaign to create Mallima Speed is going on vigorously in Korea, the land of Chollima, thus a new historic era of Mallima is being opened now.

In honour of the Seventh Congress of the WPK, the Korean people increased the industrial output 1.6 times compared to the same period of last year through the 70-day campaign of loyalty, and thus made a prelude to the movement for creating Mallima Speed.

In the period of the 70-day campaign, they continuously made and won miraculous achievements in a heated atmosphere, racing against time. In the sectors of electric-power, coal-mining and metallurgical industries and the rail transport the annual record-high production was surpassed, and the light industry field made positive efforts to develop new models of products and improve the quality of goods through an emulation drive, thus carrying out the target of production 1.3 times every month.

Having built one street each of the recent years, Korea has concentrated all efforts on the construction of the Ryomyong Street after the ground-

breaking ceremony in April this year, thus entering the finish stage now.

The campaign to create Mallima Speed is to bring about a radical change in all spheres of the economy, culture and social life on the strength of science and technology under the banner of the spirit of self-reliance and self-development.

The builders of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station developed a perfect design of new-type arched dam and introduced it into the construction, thus saving the materials and manpower needed to tamp a huge amount of concrete and to dig hundreds of thousands of cubic metres of earth while ensuring the safety of the dam. With their tireless efforts and wisdom and through repeated trial simulations, young scientists in their 20s and 30s succeeded in manufacturing CNC-14 and CNC-16 which are new-generation digital control devices.

Now in Korea the number of highly modern and IT-based factories with an integrated system of combination of science and technology with production is increasing continuously. Tree Nursery No. 122 of the Korean People's Army, which is on a high level of scientific, industrial and intensive standards, was built in a short period of some months, and lots of factories and enterprises including the Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory and the Pyongyang Sports Equipment and Materials Factory, have become highly modern and IT-based.

Since new production processes have been laid in factories and enterprises relying on their own efforts

- ▶ and technology and domestic materials, the independent and Juche character of the national economy has further consolidated. The scientists and technicians at the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex put an end to the production system that depended on imported raw materials, and established a new system relying on richly available domestic materials by their own efforts and technology, and is now increasing the production by leaps.

In the flames of the movement of creating Mallima Speed, Korea is vigorously accelerating the work of making all people well-versed in science and technology. All units are furnished with sci-tech learning spaces where everyone can learn new knowledge to prepare themselves as sci-tech talents.

Now lots of workers at factories and enterprises including the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex and the Chollima Steel Complex are enrolled in the well-regulated distance learning system built at many universities across the country like Kim Il Sung University, the Pyongyang University of Architecture and the Hamhung University of Chemical Engineering, and are learning while working at the job.

Amidst the growing passion for distance learning,

the Kim Chaek University of Technology online alone has as many as 10 000 worker-students.

It is thanks to the spiritual might of the single-hearted unity whereby the whole Party, the entire army and all the people share the same idea, air and pace with the WPK Central Committee that the campaign to create Mallima Speed has become an all-people mass movement and the powerful driving force of social development.

Kim Jong Un, Chairman of the WPK, presented a bright blueprint of a thriving socialist nation at the Seventh Party Congress and is wisely leading the all-out offensive to implement the decisions of the congress. The campaign to create Mallima Speed is an all-people movement that Kim Jong Un decided to conduct to glorify a new historic age through a daring and lightening campaign in an indomitable fighting spirit and at a high speed of progress.

Giving on-the-spot guidance continuously to factories and enterprises—the Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory, the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill, the Pyongyang Middle School for Orphans, etc.—he is awakening the Mallima spirit and encouraging them to display it fully. Under his wise leadership, Korea is rushing forward at Mallima Speed, a new Korean speed, and the innovative campaign to ride Mallima is spreading like wildfire as an all-people movement.

Korea completed the socialist industrialization by Chollima Movement yesterday, and now it will rise forcefully as socialist power by the movement of creating Mallima Speed.

Sim Chol Yong

Tree Nursery No. 122 of the Korean People's Army has put the production of saplings on a scientific, industrial and intensive basis.



In the Days of Building an Economic Giant

Special Concern

IN OCTOBER 2013 THE SUPREME LEADER Kim Jong Un visited the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill. After looking round the rayon fabrics production site he dropped in at a new cloth shop. Approaching a machine he stroked the cloth from the machine and said in great satisfaction that it was really good to modernize the equipment. Seeing workers operating machines he said that the job must need high skills and that without having high skills they might feel afraid to operate the machines well.

When he went up to a weaving machine and felt the cloth, an accompanying official told him that home production of the cloth would cut the cost of the cloth to one tenth of its import. Hearing him the leader was satisfied. He said that some people tended to import things perfunctorily, that it was an expression of over-reliance on import, that proclivity to import among officials was a big problem, and that he was proud that the factory was reliant on its own efforts without any resort to import.

Seeing a Production Process

In June 2013 Kim Jong Un visited the Pyongyang Condiment Factory. Enjoying the appearance of the factory he said with a bright smile that the buildings were really clean and tidy like a gentleman in a suit, and that he felt them better-looking because the tiles on exterior walls of the buildings had been produced from a Korean tile factory.

When he saw a video introducing the factory, he happened to see the production process of monosodium glutamate. He asked what was its ingredients. The factory had turned the production process of monosodium glutamate into the one with liquid glucose suited to their actual condition, thus producing it from cornstarch. After acquainting himself with the production Kim Jong Un said that the factory had produced monosodium glutamate from sugar in the past, that now it was producing it from cornstarch, that it was a good job that they had changed the production process, and

that condiments should be produced from materials available in the country. He stressed again that all the people should ward off over-reliance on import and try to make equipment themselves as the factory did.

On a Sultry Day

One day in June 2013 when the sultry weather continued due to the unprecedentedly high temperature the supreme leader Kim Jong Un visited the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex. First he looked round a process newly laid in the high-pressure polyethylene workshop to produce functional triple PVC film for greenhouse. It was built by the workers of the complex to supply sheets of PVC film sufficiently as greenhouses were going up all across the country to increase the supply of fresh vegetables to the people all the year around. The PVC film had the property of preventing dew, ultraviolet and aging, and heat insulation.

Walking toward a PVC film machine, he saw some trial products spread on the floor. He bent his knees and felt it before asking about the difference between PVC sheets for rice-seedling bed and the functional triple PVC film. A manager of the complex answered that the PVC film produced by the workshop is 1.5 times thicker than that used for cold-bed of rice seedlings. Hearing the words the supreme leader said that they were going to build as many PVC film-covered greenhouses as to cover the whole country with PVC film, and that the capacity of the PVC film machine was enough to meet the needs of all the greenhouses in provinces, cities and counties before the end of the year.

He continued to say that it was imperative to produce a lot of PVC film in order to produce vegetables and mushroom in large quantities, and that he would personally take measures to provide sufficient materials for the production. And he stressed that the complex should take good care of the equipment, ensure normal operation and improve the quality of PVC film steadily by enhancing the technical knowledge and skills of the workers constantly.

Kang Hye Ok

On the Road of Self-reliance

LAST MAY THE RYONGNAM SHIPYARD built the cargo ship *Ja Ryok* of 5 000 ton capacity by dint of their own effort and technology and launched her, bringing pleasure to the people across the country in the run-up to the Seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

It was years ago that the shipyard started build-

ing the ship. It had been only engaged in ship repair, but now decided to build a ship, which is an aggregate of industry. It was not because its condition was better than before. At the time it was undergoing rather a greater hardship than others in production and operation, due to the imperialists' persistent economic sanctions.



► One day a few years ago General Manager Ri Tae Song was looking around the repairing area in which a few small boats were at anchor. His face turned cloudy. *This way, we might collapse once and for all. We have to make a big ship with our own effort. My workers will manage to make it,* Ri said to himself.

So the plant started building a ship they had never done before. Everything was in short supply, but when they got down to the project with determination it seemed achievable.

First of all, the plant, in order to build up its own tech force, sent dozens of college graduates to the Kim Chaek University of Technology shipbuilding and marine engineering faculty with the help of the Education Commission to have them learn professional knowledge of shipbuilding. When they came back to the plant after graduation, a ship designing institute was established with them as the main force. The tech force of the institute played a decisive role in the shipbuilding.

In the meantime the plant launched the work of laying a carbon dioxide producing process simultaneously that is necessary for shipbuilding. Since they were strangers to the chemical industry, they encountered a number of difficult problems. But they finally finished the design by solving difficult technical problems one by one relying on their tech force and with the help of scientists and technicians of relevant sectors. But at the examination of the design the research team could not give proper answers to serious questions of the State Deliberation Committee. Some members of the committee said it was premature. At the time a quiet but dynamic voice sounded in the room.

“Our design is not perfect, I admit. But I feel rather confident. Now that we know what is insufficient for us, we are convinced we can do something by ourselves. Even if it took us years to succeed, we will go steadfastly along the road to the end we chose.”

The general manager’s statement impressed the committee, who now joined the research work of the plant. And so the plant finally managed to build the



carbon dioxide process.

They might introduce the others’ technology or import some necessary facilities for technical preparation of the process. But they took the rough road of self-reliance. On the road they enhanced their development ability dramatically. On this basis, following the completion of the *Ja Ryok* last May they built three sophisticated pleasure boats with intelligent functions in only a few months. The boats are driven by solar power under automatic control system.

The shipyard workers have proved themselves to be right to take the road of self-reliance by repairing and building fishing boats of different sizes in the 200-day campaign following the 70-day campaign. They are now vigorously advancing along the road they chose.

Sim Yong Jin

The solar-powered pleasure boats and their interiors.



Production Goes up



Innovations are made in silk thread production.

THE PYONGYANG Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill is well known for its *Kumgangsan*-brand silk thread. The factory has overfulfilled its annual economic plan and made unusually rapid growth in production in recent years. By carrying out the first half-year task envisaged in the national economic plan ahead of other factories across the country, it exalted its honour as an exemplary unit.

Some time ago I visited the factory and could not help expressing my surprise as the factory has changed beyond recognition.

The most striking feature of the working place was the latest, high-speed facilities which had been newly set instead of old facilities, and the TVs which display various data—the world trend of silk thread production, technical problems, actual performances, and technical indices as well as a progress schedule.

According to a technical officer, thanks to the TVs in workplaces, production and technology are closely combined, and the employees improve their technical knowledge ▶





The sci-tech learning space.



► and skills rapidly and their competitive spirit is rising.

The factory is taking the lead in the national campaign of introducing the distance learning system. In the past it had only a room for distance learning, but now it has laid a sci-tech learning space furnished with an e-library, a reading room and a distance-learning room. And the number of attendants of the online college has increased twice as against 2009.

The sci-tech learning space is aimed at educating all university graduates, technicians and workers of the factory in modern science and technology and improving their cultural level. The space is also used to control the factory's management system, sci-tech dissemination and data dissemination.

As most employees of the factory are women, it is important

to furnish the nursery and kindergarten well. Today the nursery and kindergarten are so nice that everyone admires them. In the playground covered with man-made grass are amusement facilities and a wading pool. The workers are happy to see their children enjoy themselves with a variety of toys and facilities such as bicycles and battery cars or play a game of dinner and intellectual games. Since the nursery and kindergarten have turned from daily system into weekly one and their nutrition conditions and education improved, the mothers could put all their efforts into production without any worry about their children.

Han Kyong Hui, a nurse, says, "I feel very happy to see mothers come to see us with a bunch of flowers as innovative workers. Seeing them, I'm sure that their children in my nursery will grow up into model workers at our factory in the future."

That's not all. As the area under green foliage has expanded five times as much as that of 2009, the factory has fulfilled the task of planting grass and trees including fruit-bearing ones. And a general welfare service house has been newly built to ensure an enjoyable cultural and recreational life for the workers.

Through the campaign for increased production, lots of employees have become innovative workers, masters of new conception, and developers. They have developed over 50 kinds of accessories of reeling machines and manufactured facilities for production of sanitary goods, which are now turned out with high quality.

The workers say, "Ahead of us is Kim Myong Hwan, our general manager of high ability." Having worked at the factory as engineer, workteam and workshop leader, he has been faithful to his position of general manager for about 20 years. Now he is Labour Hero of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and a deputy to the 12th Supreme People's Assembly.

Kim Chol Hyon



New Looks

SOME TIME AGO I VISITED the Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory which had been renovated recently. In the compound of the factory I saw the Chongchun Service Centre which had been built newly. In front of it volleyball and basketball courts were newly laid with artificial lawn. According to Tong Myong Suk, an official in charge of technical affairs who guided me around, the factory is in good operation as all the officials and workers are united single-mindedly through sporting activities.

Tong's pride in the service centre was great. Cultural and welfare facilities and a clinic are on the ground floor while a library, an e-reading room, a room for learning technical skills, a room for technical study and a distance-learning room are on the first floor. In the distance-

learning room I met the general manager of the factory. He said that it is imperative to learn latest science and technology in order to do business management well, so he and the chief engineer, and all workshop leaders and heads of departments were attending the Kim Chaek University of Technology online. He added, "At present a hundred and

scores of workers of my factory are enrolled at the online college, and the result of their study can be found in production." He advised us to look round the shops.

Then we dropped in at a sample room of manufactured goods. There I saw many kinds of biscuits, candies, glucose, corn syrup, Oktang sugar and cornstarch, and patent certificates ►



The production of foodstuffs is on the increase.





of glucose we can increase the production of foodstuff in keeping with the actual condition. Now we are steadily creating the new and making innovations.”

In the general analysis room they conduct quality examination of products as required by the regulations so as to ensure the nutritive standard and hygienic safety of the products. Tong said that the factory has arranged a process of producing oil and animal feed with by-products of the corn processing, thus getting much profit in business.

Looking round the factory I could feel the power of the spirit of self-reliance and self-development displayed by the workers of the factory who had successfully made their equipment with their own technology and effort. I was convinced of it seeing the slogans “Love for Our Motherland,” “Attachment to Our Factory” and “Love for Our Native Land” in every corner of the factory. Saying goodbye I promised Tong to come again when the factory achieved greater success.

Rim Ok

► which were awarded to excellent goods. What was spectacular was the new trademarks and packaging. Tong said that since they made original trademarks in cooperation with the National Guidance Bureau of Industrial Art their products became more popular. She said that they had done away with the old confectionery workshop, and newly set up the biscuit workshop, the candy workshop and the stuffed candy workshop. Hearing her I could understand how hard they were working to improve the quality of confectionery and meet the demand.

At the biscuit workshop I could see the production site completely facelifted—there was no

vestige of the older shop. From raw material feeding to packaging all the production processes were on automated, streamlined, germ- and dust-free basis, thus making it possible to ensure the hygienic standard of the production. What was more surprising was that the biscuit production equipment had been manufactured by the Korean scientists and the factory’s technicians and workers.

At the corn syrup workshop I was deeply moved by the fact that it solved the problem of producing glucose from corn which is widely planted in Korea. The workshop leader Phi Yong Chol said, “Now that we have established a complete, modern line of processing corn and extracting several kinds

Path Chosen by CVD Tools Developer

THE PYONGYANG CVD Tools Development Company encountered a difficulty in 2009. Due to hostile foreign forces' sanctions the import of hard alloy, the essential material of tool production, was blocked. It could give rise to serious consequences in the existence of the company and the development of the national economy at large. Ri Jong Hwan and other technical staff of the company, however, considered the difficulty as a chance. *We should have discontinued as early as possible the import of raw materials which raised the cost of tools,* they thought.

Ri recalls that time, "Until then, the import was justified as it was merely easy and fast. There were two reasons why we chose the way of our own development of necessary raw materials. First, it would be profitable for our country, and secondly, it was the way to satisfy self-esteem of scientists."

In fact the research into tool materials was not unfamiliar to them, for the fusing method used to produce APT powder, the basic material, had already been established. However, it was an old method that depended on a huge consumption of electric power and caused environmental pollution. It was also impossible to ensure stable purity. It was not the way researchers considered good, so they decided to start from the beginning. In 2013 they focused on the method of pressurized leaching and ion exchange, which was a global trend. There were a lot of difficulties and trials in the way, though. The biggest problem



was how to obtain the facilities for pressurized leaching and ion exchange, the main link of the whole production process. There arose varying opinions about the facilities. Some insisted on importing the facilities even if it was more expensive than the possible profit because a lot of money and labour was needed to design the production process as a whole and make those kinds of facilities. However, Ri Jong Hwan brushed away all those opinions. He said, "What is old to us is not the fusing method alone. What shall we do when the imported facilities come to the end of their life? We have to start everything from the beginning."

Two years passed with repeated failures. There were some opinions that time was being wasted for hopeless things. But none of the researchers gave up the study. *Scientific study is not a royal road. Neither is the road we're following,* they told each other and braced up. As they had such firm faith they finally carried out their bold plan of increasing the resistance to internal pressure of a swivel, the kernel of the facility of pressurized leaching, five times as much as im-

ported facilities; they also produced an ingenious idea of building a reaction tower of ion exchange with domestic materials.

In the late 2015 the production process of hard alloy materials was laid successfully thanks to the technicians' own efforts—100 percent domestic from designing to manufacturing of the facilities. Afterwards, new ideas including the method of improving purity of materials were introduced into the production process, making it perfect.

In 2016 the company laid a firm foundation fully to meet the domestic demand. This meant the opening of a bright prospect for ample production of varieties of tools essential for economic development. Ri Jong Hwan says, "It is certain that he who believes there is always a way out always has a bright future."

Chae Kwang Myong

DIU and WPK

THE WORKERS' PARTY OF KOREA WAS founded in 1945, but it struck its root with the Down-with-Imperialism Union (DIU) organized by President Kim Il Sung on October 17, 1926.

Kim Il Sung set out on the road of revolution when Korea was under the Japanese imperialists' military occupation (1905–1945). He decided to form a vanguard revolutionary organization to wage the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle, and founded the DIU. It was a pure and fresh political organization of a new type aspiring to socialism and working to achieve national liberation and class emancipation under the ideal of anti-imperialism, independence and sovereignty. The formation of the DIU became the starting point in the effort to found a new revolutionary party different from existing ones in Korea. The programme of the DIU became the basis of the programme of the WPK; the DIU's principle of independence became the principle of the WPK in its activity; the revolutionaries of a new generation trained by the DIU became the backbone in founding the WPK.

Kim Il Sung suggested a Juche-motivated line of the Korean revolution at the Kalun Meeting in 1930 and indicated an original line to form a revolutionary party. He stated that the party should be founded independently in the way of setting up grassroots first and steadily expanding and strengthening them; the preparation for the party foundation should be closely combined with the anti-Japanese struggle.

According to the line, the construction of party organizations progressed quickly. In July 1930 the first party organization was formed with the Juche idea as its guiding ideology. The parent body of the first party organization gave birth to a lot of party organizations, and the organizational and ideological foundation was laid strong enough to declare the founding of the party.

After liberation on August 15, 1945 Kim Il Sung, building on the successes and experience achieved during the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, formed party organizations in local areas without delay, and on October 10, 1945 he organized the Central Organizing Committee of the Communist Party of North Korea. It was the historic event that meant the accomplishment of the cause of the party founding which had been pushed for a long period of time under the leadership of Kim Il Sung.

From then on, the WPK traversed a glorious road of struggle upholding the banner of Juche under the wise leadership of President Kim Il Sung. Opening up a new era of revolutionary party building in his teens and achieving the historic cause of founding a party of a new type in his 30s, Kim Il Sung led the WPK along the road of victory and glory for 50 years.

Kim Jong Il, the eternal leader of the WPK, strengthened the WPK founded and led by the President into a revolutionary party of Juche type which wages revolutionary activities independently and creatively in the interest of the people and in conformity with the reality of the country, regarding the Juche idea as its guideline. Kim Jong Il published numbers of works including *The Workers' Party of Korea Is a Juche-type Revolutionary Party Which Inherited the Glorious Tradition of the DIU* (October 1982), thus clarifying the direction and ways to build up the WPK. He formulated the Juche idea fathered by the President as the revolutionary guiding ideology of the WPK with the august name of Kim Il Sung. Then, he declared the modelling of the whole society on Kimilsungism as the overriding programme and led the historic cause of its realization wisely. He advanced the slogan "Let's Model the Whole Party on Kimilsungism!" and made sure that the Party building and activities were conducted strictly on the basis of Kim Il Sung's ideology, theory and method. Under his guidance the WPK strengthened into an invincible revolutionary party with the firm monolithic ideological system, and radical changes came in all sectors of the revolution and construction.

Kim Jong Il firmly maintained the revolutionary character of the WPK as the Party of its leader; carrying forward Kim Il Sung's idea of prioritizing arms, he formulated Songun politics as the main socialist political mode and applied it in all sectors of Party and State activities. He made a beautiful picture of the revolutionary party building by achieving single-hearted unity of the leader, the Party and the masses by dint of the noble benevolent politics.

Today Chairman Kim Jong Un of the WPK is leading the Party with confidence building it up as invincible leading political organization for the Juche revolution by faithfully carrying forward the ideology and cause of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il. He made sure that the Fourth Party Conference adopted the decision on honouring Kim Jong Il as the eternal General Secretary of the Party and declared it as the Party's dominant programme to model the whole society on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism. The Seventh Congress of the WPK held in May last set definite tasks and ways to hold Kim Jong Il in the highest esteem as the eternal leader of the WPK, and build up the Party into Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Party and enhance its leading role steadily.

Today the Korean people are advancing forward vigorously to build a socialist power, rallied rock-solid around the Party Central Committee, upholding the revolutionary banner of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism.

Pak Chol Jin

The DPRK— Great People's Power (1)

THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S Republic of Korea is a world-famous power in the East and a great people's country working historic miracles in its effort of prioritizing, respecting and loving the people. I'd like to talk about it now. "Let the whole Party make selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the great people!"—this is the fighting slogan proposed at the Seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea that was held months ago. It made me convinced more deeply that the DPRK is a great people's power.

The international community is making various responses to the fact that the DPRK is exalting its honour as independent power and nuclear power at present when smaller countries' political sovereignty is trampled down by bigger nations' high-handedness and arbitrariness. The forces hostile to the DPRK, striving to deny the appearance of a new power, are mobilizing all their reptilian mass media to smear this country's image.

However, people who love justice and truth and want to have correct eyes to the world are raising their objective and right voices for the DPRK. Most impressive to me is the comment contributed to an Internet site by an American political analyst, which said: Why are the UN's sanctions against the DPRK un-

just? The real intention of the US is not the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, but the Americanization of the Korean peninsula. North Korea has a planned economy managed by the State. Safeguarding its sovereignty, it is striving to meet the people's material demand. ... The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a typical communist country with free medical care, free education system, no house rent, rate of public transport next to nothing and so on.

His comment gives a strong message that the DPRK is not a cruel country or a violator of the international law, but a country for the people, which has rightfully gained an H-bomb and ICBM to defend the people. It can be called a relatively exact opinion. What is all the more important is that it came from the US where malicious propaganda against the DPRK is rampant. Expressing sympathy with this comment, I thought I should help the international community know about the true image of the DPRK working hard to achieve the historic cause of building a powerful nation on the strength of single-hearted unity of the leader and the people.

I began to study the DPRK in an all-round way in the 1960s when sharp confrontation was taking shape between justice and injustice, between the progressive

and the reactionary around the world, and the flames of national liberation movement were rising high in Asia, Africa and Latin America. At this juncture, the news on the DPRK, the country of Chollima and the country of miracles, shook the world. The news, flying across the world's highest peaks of the Himalayas, roof of the earth, reached my country of Nepal.

Nepal came to be widely known to the world when Tenzing Norgay from Nepal and Edmund Hillary from New Zealand reached the top of the Everest on May 29, 1953. For the first time in the world a Nepalese conquered the Everest which had buried a number of climbers in its glaciers.

However, the social changes in the DPRK were the miraculous ones which were far superior to the conquest of hundreds or thousands of peaks like the Everest. At the time the Nepalese people's curiosity and worship of the DPRK were so great that they all knew the august name of DPRK President Kim Il Sung and the word *Juche*, although there were some who were ignorant of their King's name.

Having become a journalist championing justice with an objective eye after graduation from university, I wrote not a few articles in the course of studying the DPRK's reality in real earnest. My articles' subject was how the ►

► country was bringing about the world-startling miracles and changes.

Since then, for scores of years, the news on the DPRK has been on the front page of the weekly of the Nepal Journalists Association.

Now there are more than 200 countries in the world. But many countries are out of attention of mass media. At present when the power-centric world order is affecting the press, the DPRK is drawing the attention of the world mass media, like powers. Even the Western press, though undisguisedly disregarding and slandering those countries that are going against their grains, finds it hard to ignore the events of the DPRK. This is meaningful.

In 2016 some shocking events took place consecutively in the DPRK. It succeeded in its first H-bomb test and the launching of the earth observation satellite *Kwangmyongsong 4*, thus becoming one of the leading nuclear and space nations of the world. So far, the H-bombs have been the monopoly of the five permanent members of the UNSC—the US, Russia, France, the UK and China. With the DPRK's successful possession of H-bomb there came a comment that the country is eligible for permanent membership of the UNSC. In the field of space industry, only a few countries can launch their carrier-rockets with satellites which they make with their own techniques, wisdom and efforts. Even those countries that are proud of their great economic and sci-tech

potentialities dare not do it. This was why the world mass media immediately reported the special news of the DPRK's first H-bomb test and successful launch of the earth observation satellite *Kwangmyongsong 4*, and counted them as the greatest events of the world. Even in the US that has a constitutional antipathy to the DPRK, the AP, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and other major media said that North Korea came to have powerful nukes and that its nuclear development had reached a high level of technology.

Here is data I collected myself. In 1905 Korea lost its sovereignty to Japan. At the time the total strength of the Korean army was about 7 000 when the Japanese standing army was 200 000 strong. The Japanese army was armed with steam warships and rifles, but the Korean army mostly had spears, bows and hackbuts. I think such a great gap between the two nations offers immediate proof of what kind of miracle the Korean people have wrought for over 70 years since they regained their sovereignty.

In the dignified image of the DPRK shining brightly, I see the emergence of a new kind of power which the human history has never known. The powers the world has seen so far are the countries that are superior to other countries in terms of both the politico-military and economic potentials because they have advantages in population, territory, natural resources, treasure and geopolitical location. But the

DPRK is a completely different kind of power which relies on the people-first policy. This is a conclusion I've made from my coverage since the 1960s and 30-odd-year-long study and dissemination activities of the Juche idea.

The people-first policy can never be heard in any other countries in the world, and it is not to be found in any dictionary. However, in the DPRK it is incorporated into daily life and all fields of society like air. The policy is based on President Kim Il Sung's famous statement that if there is the almighty being in the world it is the people. When an almighty being is mentioned one is usually reminded of Buddha, God or Allah. Unlike this, the people-first policy puts forward the people as the almighty being, instead of the unrealistic beings of Buddha, God and Allah. In the DPRK the popular masses are regarded as God in reality. They exercise their legitimate right as master of the state and society and everything serves them. All lines and policies pursued by the Workers' Party of Korea, the ruling party, and the DPRK government are materialization of the people's desire and demand and are carried out by their concerted creative efforts. The popular masses in the country are not only the master of creation but also enjoyer of it.

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(To be continued)

In a Letter of Thanks

THE KIM MAN YU HOSPITAL is winning favours of the patients because it uses biochips for examination of patients so as to reduce the time of diagnosis and improve its accuracy. The DNA chip for detecting pathogenic microorganism was developed in 2011, and now it is contributing to the improvement of the people's health. It was a fruit of unrelenting pursuit and zeal of the researchers of the Bioengineering Branch of the State Academy of Sciences.

Today the biochip technology is tilting to the purpose of basic experiment. Administrators and researchers of the branch, however, decided to study problems badly needed in reality. They set a target of making biochips which can be used in medical science. Unfortunately, nearly all members of the research team were unfamiliar with biochip, and there was little basic data on it. Recalling the days researcher Kim Yong Ung says, "We started from scratch. We had difficult and challenging problems, but we buckled down to the research unhesitatingly, because we knew

we had to develop it by our own effort and technology."

Kim took charge of designing the biochip. He visited the Grand People's Study House, the Central Information Agency for Science and Technology and many other relevant units to acquire necessary data. In those days he worked late into the night to find even a single clue. One day Candidate Academician Kim Song Gun gave Yong Ung some data for reference. They were what Song Gun had accumulated through years of efforts. Other veteran researchers also gave a helping hand to Yong Ung in his project. At last he finished the draft design, which was highly appreciated at the deliberation.

Building on this success the

researchers intensified their work to make a biochip from domestic materials. Thanks to their collective wisdom and effort its development finished in a short span of time, pushing the nation's biochip manufacturing technology a step forward. Through redoubled efforts they solved a problem which made it possible to identify genetically modified crops and a dozen pathogenic germs rapidly and precisely. They also developed a biochip with which to find infectious diseases, and a technology of activating the biochip slide, one of the cutting-edge technologies in biochip manufacturing, thus laying a foundation of manufacturing biochips without importing expensive activated glass slides. Pak Chol Min, a sec-

Emphasis is placed on research into new biochips.



tion chief, says, "We know we are placed in an important position in developing science and technology of our country, improving the people's standard of living and building an economic giant. We will set our target high and develop the bioengineering technology faster."

The biochips they made are now widely used by a lot of hospitals. Kim Myong Hui, resident in Phyongchon District, Pyongyang, sent them a letter of thanks, reading, "I'm happy to tell you I was rescued from the jaws of death by your biochip. When I was rushed to the hospital, I was

First Step

SOME TIME AGO WE visited the Ryongyang Mine, a leading magnesite producer of the country. The workers of the mine told us that their mining volume was the same as usual but the output and quality of concentrated ore have risen remarkably. Asked about the secret behind this success, they told us a story about photoelectron researchers in the Laser Institute of the State Academy of Sciences.

In the past ore dressing was largely done by the method of heavy media separation. This resulted in heavy consumption of electricity and environmental pollution by reagent during production. Thus, many mechanical innovations to improve the dressing process were advanced by relevant research units but unprofitable. On the other hand, the technique of dressing by ray entailed low cost and had no danger of environmental pollution. The researchers set up phased goals, and finally made an ore-ray sorter pooling their creative wisdom. In April 2015 they operated the machine on a trial basis. The quality of the concentrate improved markedly and the machine was in normal condition. But the debris contained a lot of concentrate, which worried the researchers. Some insisted a machine should be imported from abroad and that they should continue their research after they studied its distinctive characters. But Kim Kum Yong, who was a novice for the research project, had a different opinion for some reason. Earlier when he had been

unusually enthusiastic about his studies at college, he had heard a story from one of his teachers: Once when he was a researcher, the teacher visited a foreign country as a member of a technical delegation to purchase a machine. But the machine had a built-in program which was kept confidential. Whenever they found anything unsuitable for the actual condition or out of order, they had to ask the foreign country for help. The story sorely ached Kim's heart.

Now he told his fellow researchers that any invention devoid of one's own things is the same as a person without his soul. His appeal encouraged the team to go on with their project vigorously from the beginning. Kim Kum Yong, proposing a new invention, undertook the development of control programs for all devices connected, including the one for dressing, which was the core of the project. It was not an easy task. All ores should be sorted out in several millimetre seconds of latency and a lot of high-pressure air valves should be accurately operated.

During those days Kim read heaps of technical documents overnight, and finally completed new programs for ore-ray sorter. Other researchers exerted themselves too. A middle-aged re-



searcher, who had thought the project impossible in view of his old experience and the field condition, joined in Kim's energetic effort. He developed accessory devices to prevent the sensor from vibration and newly fixed suitable positions for their installation through painstaking experiments. Every part of all inventions was associated with self-pride of the researchers. Their efforts resulted in great progress in arrangement of devices, suitable positioning of parts, application of control programs, and so on. The accuracy was on a par with those of foreign machines and the production cost was only a quarter of the foreign ones. Moreover, as the core program of the ray sorter was locally developed, it could be changed for different purposes. That was a remarkable success in the extractive industry.

Kim Kum Yong says, "Our success means just the first step in this field. We are determined to go on with our research however arduous it may be."

Kim Chol Ung

► in a critical condition. Later when I was transferred out of the emergency room, I said thanks to the doctors, who told me about your biochips. Now I extend my thanks to you researchers who are devel-

oping biochips which render great service to the improvement of the people's health."

The researchers have made a new kind of biochip, which can identify new diseases, in the run-

up to the Seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea. Now their effort to break through the cutting edge is going ahead steadfastly.

Pak Yong Il

With Ryongnam Hill



WHEN IT WAS LIBERATED FROM THE Japanese imperialists' military occupation on August 15, 1945, Korea was bare-handed. At the time Kim Il Sung, leader of a new Korea, with a plan to train able national cadres for the new country, designated the site of the country's first university on Ryongnam Hill.

For 70 years since it was founded on October 1, 1946, Kim Il Sung University has become the most prestigious institute of science and a reliable national cadres training centre in the country. In the current century, new buildings and an e-library, a

base for education and dissemination of information science and technology, were built and the material and technical foundations of the university were further consolidated. A new education system was completed to surpass the cutting-edge, the teaching content and methods were improved enough to meet the demand of talent power and IT era, and educational conditions and environment got much better.

The teachers, researchers and students of the university are now redoubling their efforts with tireless enthusiasm for scientific research. In May 2016 an international academic symposium was held with the participation of Nobel Prize winners in the e-library to mark the 70th founding anniversary of the university. A member of the International Peace Foundation delegation, who took floor at a discussion on the subject of "International Academic Exchange for Peace and Development," said, "The Nobel Prize winners were happily surprised when they had a talk with Kim Il Sung University students. They were particularly struck by the students' profound knowledge of the fields studied by the winners themselves, and their excellent English. They say that in Asia they have never seen students with such a high ability of speaking English as the students of Kim Il Sung University."

In reality, the teachers, researchers and students of the university are proudly competing with their counterparts of the world in human intellectual ability. This is evident from the fact that scores of scientists of the university have won the recognition of the world science circle and the students won victory ►

► after victory at international students' program contests which were held on the global scale. At present, department head Kang Jin U of the Physics Faculty is a researcher of the international theoretical physics centre and department head Yu Chol Jun of the Material Science Faculty is a member of the international association for latest material. Joint campaigns are in progress with several foreign universities, research institutes and international academic associations in many sci-tech fields such as the study of cosmology. In addition, the university keeps friendly relations with several foreign universities, developing exchange in education and science, and admits foreign students.

The university students participate in worldwide program contests on the Internet every year. Having won the Asian regional qualifying contest in the past, they achieved excellent results at the 40th international students' program contest held in Thailand this year.

The university has put a great effort in international academic exchange. From 2011 on, it sponsored tens of international seminars in which many

scientists at home and abroad took part. A large number of valuable papers were presented there on different subjects like "Educational and Scientific Development and Kim Il Sung University," "For the Social Progress and Prosperity," "For Peace and Development in Northeast Asia" and "Scientific Development and Building of Civilized Country." Scores of scientists of the university participated in international symposiums held in foreign countries and read out hundreds of papers which were highly evaluated.

The graduates from the university play an important role at state and economic organs, scientific research institutes and in other fields of social life.

Ri Kuk Chol, vice-president of the university, says, "Seeing our developing university, we picture in our mind a new appearance of our country which will be more prosperous. Make a tangible contribution to the country's development—this is the unanimous desire of all our staff."

The university is now doing its best to make the country a talent power.

Ri Chung Ho



An international symposium held with Nobel Prize winners on the 70th founding anniversary of Kim Il Sung University.



Hospital With Many Noted Doctors

TODAY THE OKRYU CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL in Pyongyang is frequented by lots of people. People who used to be hopeless for their sick children return home with their healthy boys and girls. Before leaving the hospital they express their gratitude in a book. One of the notes reads, "Everything seems to me like a dream indeed. Today my son Song Hyok, who was at the doorstep to death, is leaving hospital as a healthy boy. I never thought the mostly young doctors of the hospital have such techniques. This is a hospital with lots of master doctors."

The departments of the hospital including the neurosurgery and the abdominal surgery that treat obstinate diseases of high frequency and danger have made good successes.

One afternoon in February this year, a boy who was badly hurt on the head was rushed into the department of neurosurgery. His name is Song Hyok, aged 14, son of a worker's family in a province. As his face was swollen and torn with bruises all over, it was hard to make a primary exam of the pupils of

his eyes.

The department had an immediate consultation. All they could do for him was to perform an operation, but they were not sure of his life.

Chief surgeon Kim Jin Myong recalls, "It is usually a serious problem for a surgeon to have an operation on a patient who is in the jaws of death, be-



The Okryu Children's Hospital.



- cause it might leave an indelible blot in his career. But being conscious of our position as doctors of the Okryu Children's Hospital established by the State for the children, we couldn't allow ourselves to hesitate to take up a scalpel."

At last the operation started. The condition of his skull was beyond their expectation when they cut the skin open. It was nearly broken to pieces and brain tissues were leaking through broken gaps along with blood. The doctors fixed the broken pieces of bones one by one for hours and finished the operation successfully, but the patient's life index was still at the critical point. As he was unconscious and suffering from a complication of nose-bleeding and pneumonia, he had to be turned every 20 minutes and aspirated every a few minutes, otherwise he would get worse.

So, the doctors had to have a 10-day sleepless battle. On the ninth day when they heard the patient

Engrossed in treatment.



groan moving his body, they all could not help shedding tears of delight.

At last Song Hyok recovered. With his life index normal he was now able to walk and read and write. On receiving the news of his recovery, his grandfather, who had been very sad over his grandson in hospital, said in tears of delight, "We have had only one son for three generations, and now that Song Hyok is alive we can carry on our family line."

This is a simple story about their achievements. Early this year they successfully performed operations on incurable cases like cerebral tumour, an obstinate illness of the world. In particular, they succeeded in an operation to completely cut out the encephaloma in a four-year-old child, the youngest case ever operated on in the country.

Meanwhile, the surgeons in the abdominal surgery performed flawlessly a transanal endorectal pull through operation for the first time in the country. The technique had been a monopoly of only a few foreign hospitals with developed medical science and rich experience in clinical medicine. Thus the Okryu Children's Hospital reduced the burden of patients and shortened the period of treatment from six months to only 15 days.

In particular, in the first few months this year physicians in the digestive department made a new record of bringing all the patients with advanced diseases back to life, whose number is equivalent to that of last year. Vice-director for technical affairs Ri Kwang Chon says, "It is true that the future of a country and a nation depends on its healthy and happy children. In this sense we are pioneers in the effort to ensure the future with medical skills. We know our duty, and we will do our best to find wonderful techniques to cure diseases."

Chae Kwang Myong

Moxibustion

MOXIBUSTION IS A KIND OF traditional Korean medicine that dates back thousands of years. The Koreans began to use stone needles and wormwood for treatment of diseases in the Stone Age. Moxa cautery was in full progress in the Koryo Dynasty (918–1392).

Medical education was given in different areas including Sogyong (Pyongyang) in 930 and Kae-

gyong (Kaesong) in 987 with the emphasis on acupuncture and moxibustion.

In its first part, *Hyangyakjipsongbang*, compiled in the time of the feudal Joseon dynasty, gives the spots for moxibustion and explains methods of moxibustion according to diseases. Methods of moxibustion were described in detail in *The Book of Experience of Acupuncture and Moxibustion (Chingugyonghombang)* compiled in 1644.

Moxibustion treatments, which are very good for obstinate diseases and stubborn geriatric diseases, are recorded as intangible national heritage, valuable treasure of the nation. □

Sight Restored

SOME TIME AGO I WAS told that a doctor at Kinmaul Polyclinic in Moranbong District, Pyongyang, has brought back eyesight to a student. I went to see her at her clinic. Fortunately, I met Il Gyok who had gained his eyesight and his mother Sin Kyong Hui at the polyclinic. Sin said they were there to tell doctor Pak Kyong Suk, who was in charge of his son's treatment, about his son's winning first place at an academic contest of his school. Then she told me the following story.

One evening a few years ago when Sin Kyong Hui entered the room after finishing kitchen work she happened to see her son hold a book up to his eyes to read it. To her question he said that he seemed to have lost his sight gradually for several days. Now he couldn't see the letters on the book clearly. Next day Sin took her son to hospital to have vision test, and the result was 0.08. He

was diagnosed as having optic nerve retinitis. For a month he had taken different kinds of Western medicines, but there was no sign of improvement. Her anxiety grew as the days went by.

One of those days she happened to hear that there was a doctor good at Koryo therapy at the Kinmaul Polyclinic. When she took her son to the clinic, the elderly woman doctor examined Il Gyok and said, "You can surely get well, boy. And don't worry too much, madam." Then Pak continued to say that Il Gyok's case was not caused by any eye disease but by other diseases in his body. Sin was surprised to hear the doctor's firm words, and she could hardly accept them. But she was soon encouraged to see the doctor apply acupuncture and cupping while administering some Koryo medicinals.

After the lapse of a fortnight Il Gyok felt there was a sign of recovery in his eyesight. Four

months later he could see the watch, and after a year his eyesight became 1.0. Witnessing that unbelievable reality Il Gyok's maternal grandmother, grasping Pak's hands, said, "Thank you. You're really a great physician." With smile on her face Pak replied, "Don't mention it. You know I'm a doctor, and I'm responsible for the people's health. I've only treated him with the traditional Koryo therapy of our country."

I went to see Pak together with Sin and her son, but we failed. She was away in a province for treatment. When we felt regretful, Kim Kyong Hui, head of the polyclinic, said, "Pak is nearly sixty, yet she is still devoting all her enthusiasm to the work of



Koryo treatment. Now she is compiling a book in her free hours on the basis of modern books on medical science and her experience. It will help improve the people's health. People call her 'our doctor' respectfully."

I couldn't meet Pak who has cured so many patients, but I could imagine her appearance engrossed in treatment.

Pak Thae Ho



Victory After Victory



LAST MAY THE basketball players of the Central District Juvenile Sports School in Pyongyang won first place again in the women's basketball competition of the 53rd national contest of juvenile sports schools. With this the junior team of the school won six times consecutively and the senior team four times consecutively in the contest. "It is the fruit of our instructors' aspiration and efforts," says the assistant principal of the school.

Unusual choice

Some years ago, the junior women's basketball team of the school lost their title that they had held for years.

At that time a new instructor was assigned to the school, whose name is Kim Myong Hui. Declining an offer to take charge of the senior team that was promising, she took the junior team saying, "You can't build a highrise on weak foundations."

Her selection of team members was noticeable from the start. Her standard was very demanding on the physical charac-

teristics such as speed, endurance and intelligence. In the training she applied various methods to promote and develop the merit of each player. She organically combined usual training forms that demand either accurate movements or their practical use, thus fostering a positive and self-reliant competitive spirit in the players, though they were young.

Thanks to her tireless effort, she and her students were able to have the delight of winning a year later. Now the players of the women's basketball team who opened the history of six consecutive wins are full-fledged sports-women running for the honour of the nation. Kim Myong Hui says, "I didn't imagine I would have an honour of today when I took my job. I just wanted to be the root."

Successful instructor

Kim Ok Sun, instructor in charge of the senior team, is held in respect for her successful career.

Personally she was awarded the title of Sports Master and won a number of gold medals in her 15-year career as sportswoman. But

she didn't become an instructor of this school four years ago only to teach the students her experience and skills.

As a student at a sports school, when her team lost a game, she used to be so angry that she practised through the night even if she was alone. Proud of her, her instructor used to be her opponent in her training, saying, "There is a winner and a loser in every game. But you will never be able to be a winner if you lose yourself."

The instructor's words have become her motto. When she sees her trainees collapse yielding to physical burdens Ok Sun tells them that those who make a strong demand on themselves can bring honour to the nation.

Captain Pak Mok Ryon, 16, who played a decisive role in winning the fourth consecutive victory, says, "Embracing all of us in delight after the game our instructor said that we should lead our school's four consecutive wins to four consecutive victories of our nation. We were impressed from her words. She wants to run in the future, too, together with us beginners of basketball."

Ri Kum Chol

Korean Deaf-and-Dumb Soccer Team Makes Debut

A FRIENDSHIP FOOTBALL game took place in Sydney, Australia, between the deaf-and-dumb players of the DPRK and Australia in December last year. With this the Korean soccer team made its international debut. The coach and some players are introduced below.

The First Coach

Hong Chol Jin worked as a football referee at the Football Association of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea after graduating from the Korea University of Physical Education eight years ago before he became

the first football coach of the Korean Deaf-and-Dumb Soccer Team.

"Frankly speaking," Hong spoke of his impression as the coach, "I was very disappointed when I was appointed as coach of the team. I was afraid I couldn't understand them. But as I learned how the State is concerned for the disabled, I was aware of my duty. So I learned their sign language to share their ideas and feelings, thus I could train them in a correct way."

Amidst the growing public interest in the deaf-and-dumb soccer team, the disabled players are provided with videos of modern football and gymnastic apparatuses to learn advanced skills.



Coach Hong Chol Jin.

Hong says with a confidence, "Though they are different in age and career, all of them are trying to learn football. Soon they will grow as football players representing the disabled of the DPRK."



A friendship match in Sydney, Australia, in 2015.





Captain Pak Hyon Chol.



Player Kim Hyo Il.

judo for a year at a sports school in Moranbong District. He used to go to watch football matches in stadiums and watch football games played in the playground of his school with envy.

Now he is very happy with the football association of the disabled formed. He can play football to his heart's content like the ordinary people. He swears, "I will try to attain a high skill with much sweat in training. Though we lost the game last year, I will help display the honour of our country in the coming international game without fail."

Although they use sign language to communicate their intention and feelings, they have strong team spirit and a high sense of organization. Their superb tactics and skills, indefatigable fortitude and perseverance leave a lasting impression upon the spectators.

Sim Chol Yong

► **Captain Pak Hyon Chol**

Pak Hyon Chol has led the soccer team as its first captain. Since his childhood, he was very fond of football, but couldn't get on well with other children for his functional disorder. He never dreamed that the State, reading the feelings of the disabled, would organize a soccer team of the dis-

From Judo to Football

Kim Hyo Il is a player who scored the first goal in the friendship football game with an Australian team last year. He is 18 years old, but he is attracting attention of his team for his high sensitiveness and agility in soccer.

When he was child, he learned



abled and admit him as member of the team.

Moreover, the State saw to it that he was admitted into the football team and participated in the friendship game with a counterpart team of Australia held in Sydney, Australia, last year. Putting down his impression on paper to tell it to his mates, he decided to repay the benefit of the Workers' Party of Korea by playing football well.



Spectacular Scene on Pothong River



Kim Tong U (*first left*) and **Kim U Son** (*third left*).

WALK ALONG THE POTHONG RIVER meandering through Pyongyang, and you can see people doing exercises in a park with sports facilities.

The Puksae Sports Park, situated in Moranbong District, was full of people even in the morning. A park keeper, Ri Myong Hui, said to me, “Passers-by often stop to enjoy a spectacular scene of my park.” I could see familiar faces among the elderly people who had just finished limbering up. They were Kim U Son and Kim Tong U living in Sosong District, Pyongyang. They took first place in table-tennis doubles in the Spring Table Tennis Tournament for the Disabled and Amateurs 2016 held in May last. Kim U Son works as writer and director in the youth hall of the Ministry of Railways. He said he had never thought of such a life until years before—he had only exerted himself in his work. He had once gone to hospital for his slight indisposition, when he had been diagnosed with arrhythmia. His doctor in charge from the local clinic called on him for treatment every day and proposed that he play table tennis. So he started playing table tennis. Some days later he felt a little better both physically and mentally. As he became healthy he could make success in his work. Based on his experience, he created works including the poem *Elderly Table-tennis Player* and the witticism *Sports Power Is in View*. His works became popular among people as they reflected realities.

One day, he met Kim Chang Ho, his middle school mate, in a table-tennis court in a park in Sosong District—it changed his life. Kim Chang Ho came to know that U Son was playing table tennis for health and rendered him active help, saying, “I’ll help you.” Kim U Son honed his technique under Chang Ho’s guidance. His skill improved together with his health index. His doctor in charge was glad to see his checkup result.

Kim U Son participated in table-tennis singles of the Table Tennis Tournament for the Disabled and Amateurs held in 2013 and took second place. With confidence, he again participated in the Spring Table Tennis Tournament for the Disabled and Amateurs 2014. Twenty players who had qualified in their respective districts took part in the singles event. Taking advantage of his experience Kim defeated his rivals one by one. He had the final match with a player from Moranbong District, who could not be easily beaten: he was 77; he had taken second place twice and won the top honour once in earlier events. However, Kim played with composure and won first place. That year, he celebrated his 70th birthday. At that time he sang the song *Let the Time Go*.

Later, Kim U Son challenged the doubles event. His partner was Kim Tong U living in the same district. Kim Tong U had retired from his work and stayed at home, sometimes playing table tennis in a table-tennis court in front of his home. His technique attracted Kim U Son. The pair participated in the doubles event in the Spring Table Tennis Tournament for the Disabled and Amateurs 2016 and won first place by defeating all their opponents with quick passes and skilful drives. They also participated in sports events held in celebration of the International Day of the Elderly. On the day every year sports games and art performances are held and public catering establishments and welfare facilities offer special service to the elderly people.

With the elderly people who remain vigorous in the era of happiness as well as the youths, the morning scenery on the bank of the Pothong River is beautiful as a picture.

Kim Il Bong

In the Seawater Swimming Bath

SOME DAYS AGO WE VISITED THE UNHA Seawater Swimming Bath located in Pothonggang District, Pyongyang.

The tile-covered walls of the building and the plate *Unha Seawater Swimming Bath* with a picture of rippling water as its background gave us cheerful and emotional feelings, and we had an urge to jump into water at once.

A guide, named Ri Sol Hyang, received us warmly. Following her we entered a hall adjacent to the swimming pool, and we could see a number of girls gathering there—they seemed to have just finished swimming. At a glance we could see that they were sports players. Introducing themselves to us as volleyball team members of the Sosong District Juvenile Sports School, they talked in an excited voice that after swimming there they were relieved of the fatigue from the training and now feeling energetic, and that they were glad to be able to swim in the seawater in Pyongyang far from the sea.

Now we stepped into the swimming pool which had a picture of a winding river. There were men and women of all ages enjoying themselves with merriments of all hues. Some boys and girls were swimming across the pool and children in floats beating the water with all their limbs and their parents relaxing themselves in the water enjoying the sight of their children. It was quite a spectacle.

An old woman came out from the water and seated herself on a chair. She seemed relieved of all troubles. In a complacent voice, she said, “Recently so many facilities have gone up for the people’s cultural and recreational enjoyment. The Rungna Dolphinarium, the Munsu Water Park, and this Unha Seawater Swimming Bath are some of them. Some people ask me what kind of tonic I have these days, and I tell them about this swimming pool.”

Kang Kyok Sung, a pupil from the Pukso Primary School in Taedonggang District, came up to me, his head alone out of the water surface, and said, “I ►

Working people enjoy themselves.



► heard a lot about the beautiful sea of our country from my teacher and I also often see it on TV. So I've been eager to go to see it. Today I'm very happy to be here, swimming in the seawater with my grandma."

We also witnessed such spectacles in the treatment rooms of low and high temperature next to the swimming pool.

Those rooms are divided into pine, salt and ochre-using ones to be chosen by customers as they like for their suitable remedies. They can either lie or sit on the floor.

In the pine room An Hyong Jong, a worker of the Jangsu Koryo Medicine Factory, told us, "These rooms are helpful for treatment for neuralgia, arthritis and hypertension. Recently I suffered from neuralgia. But after swimming in the seawater and treatment in these rooms one by one, I feel jaunty and refreshed and my problem has vanished."

Coming out of the room, we were attracted by the staircase where people laughing and roaring with pleasure were ascending and descending. We went upstairs. It was a sunbathing place. We saw some women building a sand castle lying on their belly against each other in the sunlight coming through the skylight. A gravel ground was spread section by section by the sand beach suited to the people's likings. A doctor of a district hospital was piling the sand on his belly, legs and arms while explaining to the people around about the particular chemical and biological properties of seawater and how the three factors—seawater, sand and sunlight—are good for health. Hearing him the people said that it was a wonderful time, that they felt they were ten years younger, that they never imagined themselves swimming in the seawater and lying in the sand from the East Sea of Korea in downtown Pyongyang, and that no other country in the world could provide such a place for the well-being of the ordinary people.

Cha Kum Hyang, manager of the establishment, said, "To help the people enjoy the best culture on the highest level is an important policy of the country. My facility is also part of the policy and benefit of the country. I know we'll be prosperous."

The merriments from the swimming pool were ringing louder.

Kim Un Chol

Chonjo Spring

RECENTLY THE NEWLY DISCOVERED Chonjo spring water is gaining a soaring popularity among the people. "I drink the Chonjo spring water and use it to make boiled rice and soup. I feel energetic and healthy." "When I used this spring water to make kimchi, its taste came to be better and its fresh quality lasted longer than ever." "When I drank this spring water for over two months, I found it specially efficacious for treatment of different diseases like diabetes and colitis." These are some comments of people in Pyongyang and provinces, who are seeking good health by drinking spring water.

Chonjo spring is found in a deep cave in Mt. Koryong in Ryongchon-ri, Sangwon County, North Hwanghae Province, over 40 km southeast of Py-



ongyang. According to geological experts and divers, this spring water gushes from the depth of far more than 25 metres. What is striking is its great volume of water. The residents in the Chonjo village, who have lived there from generation to generation, call the water "clear water" giving a wonderful energy. Many of the villagers are over 90 years old, and they are still doing farming in good health.

Some time ago the relevant researchers found out the secret of the wonder of the water. Their analysis showed that it is fewer-molecular water which is quickly absorbed in the body to accelerate ►

Water—Tremendous Popularity



pass through. The research brought him Nobel Prize. The normal water like those from wells and taps is generally known to be 16-24 (110 Hz) in terms of degree of association. The WHO defined that only the fewer-molecular water whose association has no more than 5-8 molecules in each group can be called the health drinking water. On the basis of analysis of the environmental hygiene institute under the Academy of Medical Science of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Chonjo spring water was examined by Beijing University and the analysis-based measurement and experiment centre of Shanghai Fudan University in China by means of nuclear magnetic resonance spectrum half-breadth. The Chinese analysts were surprised that Korea has such a quality water. It was certified that Chonjo spring water is fewer-molecular water of 72 Hz (its degree of association is 5-7), when the waters in world renowned areas of macrobians are usually 80 Hz. Drinking this spring water in Pyongyang foreigners say that it tastes similar to Evian water in France. The artificial fewer-molecular water returns to the more-molecular water again in hours or days, but Chonjo spring water preserves its property for scores of years. Experts estimate that the challenge of Chonjo spring water to best health drinking waters of foreign countries will change the balance of demand for fewer-molecular water in the world.

This spring water is sold wholesale in the nano-technological goods exhibition hall of the State Bureau of Nano Technology in the Unha area, Pothonggang District, Pyongyang, directly supplied by the Chonjo Spring Water Factory. In the hall is also given technical information on the pharmacological actions and use of Chonjo spring water.

Kim Un Jong

- ▶ the metabolism of cells and acts as antioxidant to inhibit the accumulation of peroxide, retard aging and prevent cancers. It is because there are nano channels in the cell membrane, which allows only fewer-molecular water to come in. In 2003 a foreign scientist proved using a microscopic camera that the cell membrane has channels as small as two nanometers which only fewer-molecular water can



Korean Piano Prodigies

IN MAY LAST THE 24TH INTERNATIONAL Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition for Children and Youth was held in Szafarnia, Poland, and the high virtuosity and artistic ability of the piano prodigies of the DPRK struck the juries and experts with admiration. The foreman of the jury of the competition and piano professors and experts from different countries unanimously said that the rendition of the Korean prodigies left deep impression on them, and that all the DPRK competitors had won the prizes at the contest.

Ma Sin A, World-famous Pianist

Ma Sin A, 13, is well known not only in her country but also in the world musical circle. She began to learn piano at the Kyongsang Kindergarten. She distinguished herself as piano talent from the outset. She got the knack of understanding the musical sense at once when it took others several years, and she had unusual musical talent of playing those musical pieces which even adults find it hard to play.

When Ma was seven years old, she was admitted at the central music school of Tchaikovsky Moscow State Conservatory of Russia, and when she was nine, she appeared on the stage of a concert, a national event held in Moscow in celebration of the 10th founding anniversary of the Moscow international ►

The 24th International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition for Children and Youth.





Ma Sin A.

► music hall. Later she participated in international piano concours, contests and concerts in Kazakhstan, Russia and Germany dozens of times, winning a high praise. When she won the 4th International Franz Liszt Piano Competition for Young Pianists in Weimar, Germany in 2014, piano professors and experts of Germany, Austria and Finland said in unison that they had trained and seen so many pianists, but none of them was as good as young Ma Sin A of the DPRK who played piano pieces excellently and skilfully at her young age which require high presentation, and that she was really fantastic.

Ma came first in the recent Chopin piano competition, winning the best performance award of the contest, the best performance award of Chopin's Mazurka offered by the Gyorgy Ferenczy Foundation, Hungary, and other prizes. And she was invited to play at the international piano contest and piano concert in Moscow and Budapest. She not only demonstrates her unparalleled talent in piano but also registers excellent performance in all subjects. Now she is studying at Pyongyang Music School No. 1 of Kim Won Gyun University of Music. She says, "Whenever world music experts applaud me calling Ma Sin A of Korea, I feel proud of being Korean. I'll surely become a wonderful musician who will add to the glory of my country."

Han Su Ryo, Promising Pianist

Han Su Ryo learned piano from Merited Teacher Kim Hyang Suk of the Kyongsang Kindergarten which has produced many music talents. When she was two years old she saw piano for the first time.

She sat at it all day long, hitting the keyboard. Her mother thought it a simple fun. When Han was selected to enroll at the Kyongsang Kindergarten, all her family was in surprise. Her grandma, carrying her granddaughter's admission notice with her, boasted of her to other people.

Han's father is an officer of the Korean People's Army and her mother is an ordinary worker. Her mother says, "When my daughter practised on the piano she used to play the piano far into the night. Whenever she had some difficulties she would shed tears for anxiety. The head of the kindergarten and teacher Hyang Suk said my daughter was good at piano, but I wouldn't believe them. But when I heard she had registered good records at the recent competition (the 24th International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition for Children and Youth) I was awake all night. I extended my thanks to our country which found my daughter's talent to cultivate."

Han made good records at the abovementioned competition, and she was the youngest participant since its inauguration. She, however, overwhelmed those who were two, three and even four years older than her. Her artistic rendition and virtuosity were really amazing. Kim Hyang Suk says, "Han is a



Han Su Ryo.

cheerful character. She has good kinesthetic sensation and fine musical sensitivity. Her innocent and cheerful character is evident in her performance. Her forte is to play the piano briskly and skilfully. I am sure she will be a world-famous pianist."

Now she is studying at Pyongyang Music School No. 1 of Kim Won Gyun University of Music.

Rim Ok

Baby Homes and Orphanages Newly Built

SOME TIME AGO A KOREA Today reporter interviewed Pang In Chol, head of the Orphans' School Office, the Ministry of Public Health. Excerpts:

In recent years in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea baby homes and orphanages have been newly built or rebuilt one after another in a modern way. I want to know about it.

In our country, the Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children guarantees the work of bringing up the parentless children. Baby homes and orphanages are built and in operation in all provinces and municipalities at state expenses. In recent years baby homes and orphanages have been newly built or renovated radically to improve the living conditions and environment for children's nursing and teaching. Our respected leader Kim Jong Un on his visit to the Pyongyang Baby Home and the Pyongyang Orphanage in February 2014 said that they should bring up the parentless children well as honest and upright people. He proposed to erect new buildings for the baby home and orphanage on the beautiful Taedong River. And he gave an instruction that baby homes and orphanages should be built or refashioned in all provinces and municipalities as required by the new era, and took necessary measures. Thus the Pyongyang Baby Home and the Pyongyang Orphanage were built in a little over four months with all conditions provided for children's nursing, intelligence development and physical training. In October that year our re-

spected leader visited the baby home and orphanage and looked into every nook and cranny. On the New Year's Day last year he visited the Pyongyang Baby Home and the Pyongyang Orphanage again soon after he delivered his New Year address. He saw the children's New Year performance before having a photo taken with all of them. Later, baby homes and orphanages including those in Wonsan were newly erected across the country in a short span of time.

I hear that baby homes and orphanages have been built in a modern way.

Let me take the Pyongyang Baby Home and the Pyongyang Orphanage for example. They have more than 250 rooms including those of nursing, education, exercise, intelligent game and treatment—each room has necessary things for children's nursing, education and living. As far as the intelligent game room is concerned, it has lots of illustrated fairy tale books, and hundreds of items for intelligent games, such as the toy bricks. There are outdoor and indoor wading pools and the water temperature of the indoor wading



► pools is always 33-34°C all the year round. Tables and chairs suitable for children's physical conditions, all sorts of articles of furniture and cooking utensils are provided in the dining rooms and kitchens. There are also the medical, surgical and dental wards and a barbershop. Children's favourite fairy tale pictures were attached to the walls of all living rooms and corridors and the spiral staircases. Each compartment of clothes and shoe wardrobes and every bed has pictures of animals like tiger, deer, roe deer and rabbit so that the children put their clothes and shoes in their favourite compartment and choose the bed with their favourite picture. Outside there are a tricycle course and a traffic park which are not only the

children's playground but also the teaching place to make them follow the traffic rules and morals.

What about the children's nursing and upbringing?

Deep attention is paid to the work of building up the staff of the baby homes and orphanages, and to management of children's nutrition and supply of materials. First of all, excellent graduates of relevant colleges and cooks are assigned to the baby homes and orphanages. Foodstuffs including meat, fish and eggs are supplied to the orphans on a preferential basis, and a system is in operation to supply nutritious foods, fruits, confectionary, learning things and toys in good time. For example, children at the Haeju Baby Home and the Haeju Orphanage in South Hwanghae Province

gained a weight of up to 1-1.3 kg and grew more than 0.8 cm tall on a monthly average.

On the occasion of the International Children's Day this year, a number of officials and people in every province and municipality visited their local baby homes and orphanages to congratulate the children there. They were deeply moved to see the children play athletic games and intelligent games.

After looking round the Wonsan Baby Home and the Wonsan Orphanage, the staffs of the foreign countries' missions to the DPRK said: The baby home and orphanage are really the best in the world; only the DPRK's socialist system can take good care of the orphans; Korean children are the happiest and the future of the country is rosy and bright. □



Advancing Bright Future

JWAWI-RI, SUAN COUNTY, NORTH Hwanghae Province, used to be famous for buckwheat noodles in the past, but now it is well-known to the whole country as a model socialist community with amenities of modern life. Chief engineer Kim In Chan of the Jwawiri Cooperative Farm says to the visitors who are surprised to see a modern mountain village as good as an urban one, "We knew we had to develop ours into an admirable community with our own efforts."

A small-sized power station which was built by their efforts meets the local demand for electricity. In the days of Arduous March in the late 1990s the villagers started the power station construction project. At the time, as others did, the biggest problem of the community was the short supply of electricity. Earlier, they had been supplied with enough electricity by the state. Now they made up their mind to build a hydroelectric plant suitable for the local features, using the mountains and rivers and completed the project on the Wira Stream finally. They recollect with deep emotion the days of the construction project, including a story that they broke the established idea that the construction project was impossible without cement and made good use of the raw materials which are richly found in their place to build a dam.

Last year they decided to refashion their village as required by the current century on the occasion of the 70th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea, and rose as one. As they had got well aware of their power through the power station project, they were high-spirited and ambitious. They suc-

cessfully completed the project of 81 blocks of dwelling houses in three months, instead of the expected period of one year, modelling their community on the construction design of the Jangchon Vegetable Cooperative Farm, Sadong District, Pyongyang, which is widely known to the country as model farm. The county administration gave assistance in supplying materials and manpower. Moving to their new blue-tile-roofed houses with several rooms in which the methane gas is used for cooking and heating, the villagers felt proud of their life and work based on their own efforts.

In April last they finished the project of building 61 blocks of houses and public establishments like the hall of culture and the people's hospital on the occasion of the Seventh Congress of the WPK. A month later the news of their moving into new houses and inauguration of public establishments were broadcasted on TV, and the whole country came to know the community.

Now the farm has a lot of visitors who want to learn from their fighting spirit. The senior official of the farm says, "Happiness is never far away. When we develop our workplaces and villages with our own hands, we'll be able to enjoy a happy and civilized life earlier."

With a confidence that they can do anything when they hold fast to the banner of self-development first, they are making their community better relying on their efforts, technique and resources.

Kim Yong Un



Image of My Son

ONE DAY OVER 20 YEARS AGO, I RECEIVED a letter. It was from Pak Yong Chan, identified as a military PO Box. Feeling rather strange I read it. Pak wrote that he was one of my son Myong Jun's comrades-in-arms, that Myong Jun had been an everybody's favourite soldier, that he (Yong Chan) had heard from Myong Jun about me and my husband and kept respect for us for long, and that he would take care of us on behalf of Myong Jun, my only son who had died at a post of national defence. I felt thankful for his letter.

Later one day in late 1996 Yong Chan came to my place, instead of his home town where he had his family and relatives. Now he became our son. He began to work at a library of the State Academy of Sciences, which meant the beginning of his social life. He always suffered the lack of time for work, and yet he devoted his sincere heart to us. From of old it was said water and love only flow down, but the reality since he joined us was that my husband and I were only under his devoted care.

A dozen years ago I almost gave up my life after I was diagnosed as having an incurable disease. My husband had already died and I did not want to be a burden to any people anymore. But Yong Chan remained firm and steady. He took me to a number of hospitals carrying me on his back and all the while asking me if I minded his sweating back. One day he heard that the gall bladder of some bird was a special cure of my disease. He got it from somewhere and sat up until dawn when the gall bladder was said to have the greatest effect. Then he took out the gall bladder for me. And when I felt an appetite, he readily went a long way to get something for a special food for me.

Such a sincere heart of his became the elixir of my life. In the days of his devoted care for me a good many people around, including his colleagues, came to know about us. A girl, moved by his laudable practice, visited me at my house and told that she would also be my *daughter*. Soon she married Yong Chan. The local officials were first to congratulate them on their marriage and brought me tonics and necessities of life on holidays. And when winter was near at hand, young workers of the library brought a



Pak Yong Chan and his family.

great heap of firewood and did everything to help me live in comfort. I was also very thankful to my neighbours for their warm care, who never failed to share special dishes with me. And whenever Yong Chan visited his parents and brothers in his hometown, they were anxious to give me whatever assistance they could, telling him to take good care of me on behalf of them. Now Yong Chan's mother often dials me to inquire after my health, calling me *Yong Chan's mother* kindly. Whenever he sees Yong Chan, a teacher of his alma mater, proud of his old student, advises him to go his way steadfastly without giving up halfway. Yong Chan's old secondary schoolmates and comrades-in-arms are also reliable support for him.

My son Myong Jun is still alive in my mind, the image of him saying goodbye to me when he left for his military post. Talking to him in mind I say, "Myong Jun, I can see you in the image of my dear Yong Chan and other kind-hearted people. I live in a grand family. All the people in this country are no less than blood relations."

*Kang Yong Nyo,
Neighbourhood Unit No.17,
Kwahak-dong No.1,
Unjong District, Pyongyang*

Corn Pasty

WHEN PASSING THE Okryu Restaurant situated in the picturesque Taedong riverside, I saw a crowded stand. When I went up to the stand with curiosity, I heard a woman ask the saleswoman for two pieces of corn pasty, which sounded strange to me. I know some foods made from corn, such as corn cake, corn pancake, corn jelly, corn noodle, etc., but the corn pasty was a strange word.

At that time Om Song Nam, chief of the public catering section of the Okryu Restaurant, who was standing in front of the stand,

time an idea flashed across her mind. *Why don't I make the pasty with cornflour?*

As soon as she returned to the cookroom of the restaurant, she made various shapes of dough with cornflour and fried it. However, it didn't work as she wanted. After repeating it several times, she finally found out how to process cornflour, how to cook it, how to control heat and how to fry.

The next day she told her colleagues about her opinion. Everyone agreed with her to make various kinds of corn pasty. Thus, they made some kinds of pasty stuffed with chicken, pork and eggs. Kang Un Gyong, a fresh cook, made corn pasty garnished with melon and lobster.

Thanks to their efforts, their corn pasty gained favours of the jury and participants for their unique taste and high

nutritive values at the 21st cooking festival held in celebration of the Day of the Sun last April. The yellowish corn pasty stuffed with different ingredients such as meat, eggs, mushroom and carrot, which look appetizing and can be made easily at home, won the top award.

More and more people come to the corn pasty stand as the days go by. Kim Song Chol who lives in Changjon-dong, Central District, said, "I often come here. The corn pasty looks nice. It tastes good and smells pleasant. All my family like it and it's my grandson's favourite food. He likes the egg-corn pasty best."

Ra Song Ryong, pupil of class 4-4 of the Changjon Primary School in Central District, said, "Everyday I take corn pasty with my friends on my way to and from school. I'm never tired of it. I like chicken-corn pasty best."

Pak Un Yong



said, "True to the measure of the State to develop the people's eating habit, we developed the corn pasty and have offered it to the people. I find everyone likes it very much." Then he told me a story.

One day a few months ago, on her way back home, Paek Kun Sil, cooking workteam leader of the Okryu Restaurant, saw some people eating wheat pasty with relish at a pasty stand. At that



His Heart

By Pak Yun

(Continued from the last issue)

THE MILITARY BAND struck up the dirge. Cold snowflakes were falling all over the post. Rim Sin Hae was standing stunned, his eyes turned to the photo of his smiling squad leader, in a black frame, set on the altar.

All of a sudden bitter sorrow attacked his heart, when he remembered it was the only photo the deputy squad leader Jon Sang Chol had collected by rummaging the sack and album the previous night.

Rim had been watching the valley where the wire entanglements sprawled, when puppet south Korean troops suddenly had opened fire from the rowan grove. Rim's squad leader had thrown himself to shield him with his stout back, before returning fire. When the shoot-out had lulled the squad leader, laying on the knee of the deputy squad leader, had opened his eyes slowly and looked up into Rim's face. Then he had mumbled, "Sin Hae... I intended to work hard when I go to medical college. You take my books in memory of..."

His large teeth had been shining in the evening light. Beside the squad leader near the trench primrose flowers had been scattered about, the dried roots thrown out of the ground. Rim had felt his heart torn. "Squad leader..."

The squad leader had seemed to be trying to smile to his men. But the moment his smile had been taking shape, his breathing

stopped.

Two years later Rim left for medical college with the books in his sack which his squad leader had treasured.

The blow came from nowhere. Rim was standing absent-mindedly, holding a recent medical magazine in his hand. It had been brought by his wife who was a teacher at a secondary school. For over half a year since the break of his research team he had been buried in his research at home after his daily work. He had no time to turn to newspapers, magazines or any other things.

An essay on the first page of the thin magazine was about the idea to pioneer a new field of development of Koryo medicine on the basis of molecular biology. Apparently it was written with a considerable insight in various angles, and yet the core was just what Rim had conceived. It was almost a copy of his paper in terms of mode of evolution method, framework, research system as well as content.

Probably our department had hastily made public the research theme in favour of us, Rim thought.

There was not the writer's name under the title, however. Rim felt sorry and was afraid to see the end of the essay. If he turned over another page he might see the name of the writer at the end of the essay.

Through the days of difficult and protracted scientific research, his heart became stiffened like iron and he became terribly composed. Some people commented

he was of an impatient disposition but he was a man of great tenacity who could gaze at a small amount of medicinal material for three days without any drinking.

No. If the theme of our research became known to the academic world under anyone else's name and if anyone was interested in it, that would be an important thing. That would be what we have to regard as a happy event. For what am I so anxious? I am small-minded! Rim told himself.

One late evening Rim was looking out of the window in his flat of two rooms on the fourth floor of a streetside apartment in Uiam-dong, which was overlooking a trolley bus stop. An old man was walking slowly along the sidewalk strewn with fallen leaves, followed by a woman without any words. He stopped at the bus stop for a moment before resuming his walk toward Hyuam-dong. Abruptly he turned and responded with a light gesture to the woman's goodbye. Then he turned his step. Suddenly the woman returned to herself and ran up to him to hang a bag on his shoulder. Perhaps the bag was barely full for it hardly pulled down the shoulder of the man of a small stature. For a moment a pang attacked Rim wholesale, as if a dull-bladed knife was piercing his heart.

A few minutes before the old man had been in Rim's flat to deliver the data he had collected for decades and, more importantly, the Rim's diaries on experiments that Rim had thought had been lost or taken by Choe

► Jang Su and his group.

"Oh, you..." blurted Rim, holding Kim Chang Sun by his hand in surprise. Kim took out the research data and diaries, his eyes downcast.

"Well," Kim said, "I've brought all of them because I was afraid the trifling essay might discourage you. I know... you were so angry that you were going to burn these papers, weren't you?"

"Mr. Kim," Rim said, "I was greatly discouraged, but thanks to you I'm confident now. I thought I lost a friend. Now I am relieved and encouraged to see you. You are an honest man. I am so happy."

Rim cast a lovely glance at the packet of research paper which Kim had prepared for his whole life.

"I have paid attention to you," Kim said, "since you were a medical student. Don't be discouraged. Since we are Koreans, we should develop the medical art in our own way. I know you are a man of will, intelligence and diligence, and I'm sure you will manage to achieve it. You'd better listen to me, a man of nearly seventy. When you fulfil the task, we Koreans will be stronger."

"Thanks, Mr. Kim. May I say one thing?"

"Sure."

"You won't feel disappointed, will you?"

"Oh, don't mention it."

Rim cast his eyes down. At the moment he sensed something reaching beneath his ears. It was his wife's glance, he knew but ignored it.

"I... am going to start all over again from the point you have finished."

Kim was silent.

"This can't be helped. You have prepared a great asset for your whole life. On the basis of

your asset we have to rise anew. If I manage to do it, it is mostly attributable to your effort but little to my effort. Mine's the tip of an iceberg."

Kim suddenly raised his eyes; it was an uncommon act of his. Kim's eyes were shining brightly. He said, "You did make a proper decision. That's it. I'd be satisfied if only I could help you. You should keep in mind that the fruit you are going to gather by growing the seed is a product of a quite new cutting-edge technology. In the scientific research you should not be overawed by any reputation or humanity."

It seemed another *squad leader* was standing in front of Rim.

"Thank you, Mr. Kim." Rim said.

"But how could you manage the task without a research team?" Kim asked.

"Mr. Kim, there's something nobody has been able to take from me. That's time and my spirit."

"Well, you may come to our hospital. The Party secretary was newly appointed. He used to be an officer and I like him. We talked a lot. I believe we can work together."

Rim stood silent.

"There's one thing I've believed all my life," Kim said. "Our society is comprised basically of good minds. Keep it in your mind."

...

Rim's wife and his second daughter Sol Hui came into Rim's room after seeing off Kim.

"Listen, my dear," the wife said, "Sol Hui says she's singing a song for you."

Rim glanced at his daughter with interest.

"Her school is going to recommend her for the Pyongyang Art School next year. The teachers

from the art school already appreciated her singing," the wife explained, her eyes full of warmth.

"Good," Rim said. *Singing and art of speaking... A lovely dream of the far past had been forgotten.*

Her cherubic round face turning rubicund, Sol Hui sat down on the floor covering her stout white knees with her blue school uniform skirt, and began to play the accordion. The accordion sound from her still clumsy fingers filled the room. Rim closed his eyes. He was afraid to listen to his daughter sing a song—God knew why. He felt his heart likely to become faint. He even dropped his head.

Sol Hui began singing a song.

My daughter, Sol Hui's voice... it sounded smooth, fragile, warm and sorrowful, almost as if wet with homesickness and sadness.

Rim still kept his eyes shut. The foggy shore of the Taedong River near Uiam-dong and the water of the thawing season came across Rim's mind. Two children were playing on the riverside, launching a paper boat as white as the snow around. The small boat with a piece of paper as its sail was unable to take its course for a while just going around. But finally it flinched in the wind and began to go down the stream. *Where would it go? Where would it bring dreams and wishes?* At the moment the boy with disheveled hair was picturing—with his eyes shut—a white steamship cruising across the ocean. Suddenly there came a scream. He opened his eyes, and saw the girl struggling desperately in the torrents of water. "Sin Hae, Sin Hae!" she was crying for help, holding her blue skirt. She must have stepped into the water to take the paper boat before drowning.

(To be continued)

Throw off Shackles of Confrontation

IT IS A UNANIMOUS DESIRE of the entire Korean nation to put an end to the tragedy of division that has lasted over 70 years, and open up an era of reunification and prosperity. The idea of confrontation with fellow countrymen, which checks the national unity and reunification, should be removed in order to terminate the tragedy of division. Though there are different ideologies and systems in the north and the south of Korea owing to the national division forced by the outside forces, it is not a reason for distrust and confrontation between the two sides of fellow countrymen. If one pursues hostility and confrontation for the reason of different ideology and system, the north and the south will never be able to achieve reconciliation and unity.

This year, too, the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as it had done earlier, clarified its stand to overcome the prevailing catastrophic situation in the inter-Korean relations through dialogue and negotiation and took practical measures to this end. In particular, the DPRK earnestly called on the south Korean authorities to overcome the current difficulties and open up a way to improve the relations by issuing a joint statement of the DPRK government, political parties and organizations and making a proposal to hold talks between military authorities of the north and the south, pursuant to a new line and policy of national reunification set forth at the 7th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea. The patriotic proposals reflecting the idea of *By Our Nation Itself* have elicited supports among the south Korean people and the overseas compatriots. And various circles of south

Korea are waging a patriotic struggle for reunification dynamically, chanting "Meeting brings reunification!"

But the answer given by the south Korean authorities was far-fetched assertions such as "denuclearization first and dialogue next," "propaganda offensive devoid of sincerity" and politically-motivated vicious provocations. And their practical response was reckless provocative firing with the mobilization of military thugs. Going against the DPRK's call for rejecting foreign forces and pooling efforts in the idea of *By Our Nation Itself*, the south Korean authorities are kowtowing to the US and kicking up an atmosphere of confrontation with the fellow countrymen in the north. In mid-May last the All-Korean Committee for Implementation of June 15 Joint Declaration held a meeting of the chairmen of its north, south and overseas committees. An agreement was made on holding a joint national function marking the anniversary of the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration this year in Kaesong, and it was made public.

The south Korean authorities, however, scuttled the event touting for "the change of the venue" and "the elimination of political motivation." In June they committed serious armed provocations against the north and conducted frenzied firing drills with the US's occupation force in south Korea by mobilizing an enormous amount of military equipment. Around June 25 (the anniversary of the Korean war started by the US) they mobilized huge troops and conducted field manoeuvres in Kangwon Province of south Korea under the codename of "Memory of June 25." The south

Korean forces intruded into the hot spot in the West Sea of Korea as many as 250 times from January to May. This shows the extent of the south Korean authorities' frenzy for confrontation with the fellow countrymen.

In August last they conducted the Ulji Freedom Guardian exercises, an aggressive war drill against the DPRK, despite the condemnation from within and without, thus aggravating the tension in the Korean peninsula. Clamouring for "diplomacy for pressure on the north" designed to stifle it with the backing of the outside forces, the ruler of south Korea busied herself about visits to some countries in Africa and Americas, begging for their sanctions against and pressure on the DPRK. It is a traitorous act contrary to the nation's aspiration to reunification via reconciliation and unity. Such a policy of confrontation will inevitably invite a catastrophic war.

Today the inter-Korean relationship is at a crossroads of whether to open up a road to improved relations on the basis of strategic thinking and cold-headed judgment on the nation's destiny and future, or to sustain the present disastrous situation. So, the DPRK government clarified that it will make proactive effort to improve the inter-Korean relations radically and open up a broad avenue to independent reunification through dialogue and negotiation, instead of confrontation and war, and is working sincerely to the end.

The south Korean authorities are strongly advised to look at the reality today and the nation's aspiration squarely and reconsider their futile policy of confrontation.

Kim Hyon Ju

Lingering Roars

SEVENTY YEARS HAVE passed since an all-people uprising erupted in south Korea for national salvation against the US's colonial enslavement policy and its stooges' treachery to the nation, but the heroic feats of the uprisers remain brilliant in history.

Although they had been liberated from the Japanese imperialists' 40-odd-year-long military occupation on August 15, 1945, the south Korean people were forced to live again in the colonial slavery due to the US's occupation of the southern half of Korea. The economy was severely damaged, the people were groaning with poverty and absence of political rights, and south Korea turned into a theatre of terror and murder. The pent-up anger of the south Korean people finally burst out like an erupting volcano. On October 1, 1946, thousands of workers, students and other citizens of Taegu staged a protest, shouting "Give us food!" The GIs and armed policemen showered bullets on the peaceful protesters, killing innocent people. The enraged protesters launched a fierce struggle, shouting such slogans as "Hand the power over to the People's Committee!" and "Enforce democratic reforms like north Korea!" and snatched the control of Taegu City at last. The news on the struggle in Taegu was reported all across the southern half of Korea, and the struggle initiated by the workers' general strike developed into the all-people resistance involving 2.3 million

people of all strata. They held demonstrations, strikes, school strikes and mass rallies, before rising in revolt in a self-sacrificing spirit, attacking the reactionary ruling organs like police stations and county offices and punishing the policemen and vicious elements.

The October Popular Uprising of south Korea demonstrated fully the south Korean people's heroic spirit and might, though it was broken by the US and its stooges' bloody suppression. Later the south Korean people put up struggles uninterruptedly to bring into reality the October fighters' desire.

In April 1948 the inhabitants of Jeju Island waged the anti-US struggle for national salvation against the "May 10 Separate Election" which was pushed by the US to rig up a puppet regime in south Korea. In May 1980 more than one million citizens of Kwangju, South Jolla Province, fought bravely with arms in hand, shaking the US's colonial rule and its stooges' fascist dictatorship to its very foundation.

However, the US still maintains its military occupation of south Korea, keeping it under its complete control in all aspects of social life like politics, the economy, defence and culture and cracking down on the south Koreans' anti-US, anti-fascist struggles for independence and democracy. In 1980 the US handed over a huge regular armed force and military equipment to the Chun Doo Hwan fascist clique to put down the Kwangju Popular Up-

rising with arms mercilessly.

The US needs south Korea for its advanced base and logistics base to be used in realizing its strategy for global hegemony and as colony for moneymaking. This is why it puts its hand-raised stooges in power and strengthens its colonial rule as the real master of south Korea.

After Korea's liberation, the US forcibly dissolved the people's committees which had been organized by the general will of the south Korean people and set up a puppet regime with Syngman Rhee, an American stooge, as its chief executive in August 1948. When the regime collapsed as a result of the April 19 Popular Uprising in 1960, the US instigated Park Chung Hee to carry out the May 16 Military Coup and enforced military dictatorship to redress and maintain its colonial rule. In 1979 when Park's Yushin dictatorship was faced with a crisis, the US mercilessly removed Park, who had been an American puppet in power for 18 years, and made a new military junta headed by Chun Doo Hwan through the December 12 military purge. In June 1987 when a popular uprising broke out, Washington staged a farce of announcing the "June 29 special declaration," replacing Chun with Roh Tae Woo's junta.

According to watchdog WikiLeaks the US, in the 2007 south Korean "presidential" campaign, ferreted out through its embassy in Seoul private data and political inclinations of the candidates, election strategies of ►

Broken Dream and Shattered Myth

RECENTLY SOME AMERICAN experts on the Korean issue gave an assessment that the range of the US's choice is decreasing in its policy toward the DPRK. When this was opened to the public, it drew the focus of attention. An international TV broadcast of Russia, quoting remarks of US experts on Korea carried in an American magazine, reported that the position of the DPRK has further consolidated in the international arena in the recent several months, that the US administration should not underestimate the capability of Korea, and that if a war breaks out with the country, it will not be confined to the Korean peninsula alone.

Broken Dream

The United States, which had emerged as leader of imperialism after fishing in troubled waters in the Second World War, put the point of its strategy of world supremacy in Asia, especially in the

Far East, and the core of it was to subjugate Korea and the neighbouring countries so as to make the Pacific as the "lake of America."

The US militarily occupied south Korea in haste in September 1945 and ignited the Korean war in June 1950 which was an extension of the aggressive Far East policy of America. It, however, suffered decisive defeat politically and militarily in the three-year-long war, and had no other choice but to conclude an armistice agreement. Thus, the US's "ABC" war plan to destroy the young DPRK in its cradle through the war and, by expanding it in succession, to dominate China and the vast territory of the former Soviet Union went up in smoke.

Later, masters of the White House have changed consecutively, but the US's ambition of world supremacy to establish domination over the whole Korean territory and conquer the Eurasian continent has never changed

even a bit, and so its DPRK policy has remained immutable. But the persistent pursuance of a hostile policy against the DPRK has resulted in bitter failures and shame alone. Despite desperate attempts, the "theory on possible collapse of Korea in three days, three months or three years," the "soft-landing theory" that Korea would change when the US steadily applied isolation and suffocation, and the "theory on strategic patience" that the latter would surely give up the banner of socialism if the US waited patiently have backfired on the US while giving fuel to the Korean people's anti-US sentiment. They brought about a contrary effect: they propelled Korea towards possession of strong nuclear deterrent that threatens the US.

This has radically changed the asymmetric frame of the DPRK-US confrontation, the one between a non-nuclear state and a nuclear state. As a result, the US's dream of domination of the whole Korea and its neighbouring

the ruling and opposition parties and the flow of the public opinion, and dispatched dozens of election experts to Seoul to mastermind pro-American Lee Myung Bak's election on the spot. During the 2012 "presidential" campaign in south Korea the US replaced its ambassador to south Korea with a "pro-south Korean" figure and sent relevant experts and plot-makers to put Park Geun Hye, daughter of the notorious dictator Park Chung Hee, in "presidency."

At present south Korea is degenerated more thoroughly into a dark society with no elementary democracy and the US's colony thanks to the notorious Park Geun Hye-presided pro-US conservative forces under the American wing. This is why mass media at home and abroad ridicule south Korea, calling it the US's "colony No. 1" and "51st state."

Where there is oppression, there is resistance. The big loss of Park Geun Hye's "Saenuri" Party

in the general election of the "national assembly" in April last is a punishment by the south Korean people enraged at the present south Korean ruler's anti-popular government.

The October spirit of 70 years ago is alive in the mind of the south Korean people and the shouts of the fighters still echo loudly encouraging their struggle for independence and democracy.

Kim Hyon Ju

► countries was smashed completely. Now even in the United States the administration's hostile policy against the DPRK is harshly criticized as "complete failure," "extreme absurdity" and "policy inviting misfortunes alone."

After all, it is clear that the DPRK policy the White House has desperately pursued is nothing but a wild dream and a ridiculous policy that has hastened its own fall. The world public opinion comments in unison that the US is really foolish as it is stubbornly pursuing the wrong DPRK strategy.

Shattered Myth

Before the Korean war the American armed forces had been known as legendary being because they had never been defeated in over 110 wars of overseas aggression they had carried out. After the start of the Korean war the US blatantly talked that the officers of the Korean People's Army "will be frightened" if they heard the US troop's arrival at the Korean front and that the "north Korean army will take flight when they see the GIs."

But the myth of the "mightiness" was smashed in the war. Having suffered severe political and military blows, the US proposed armistice negotiation to the DPRK a year after the outbreak of the war. And on July 27, 1953 it signed the Korean Armistice Agreement. At that time Clark, the then Commander of the US forces in the Far East and Commander of the "UN forces," lamented that he was the first United States army commander in history to sign an armistice

agreement without victory, and Marshall, the former US State Secretary, confessed that the myth was shattered, that it became clear to everyone that the United States was not so strong as others thought, and that it suffered heavy defeat in Korea.

Afterwards, the DPRK-US confrontation has been a continuance of the US's unilateral provocations and the DPRK's hard-line countermeasures, resulting in Washington's consecutive defeat and the revelation of its weakness. In 1968 the US armed spy ship *Pueblo* was captured by the KPA navy while conducting espionage in the DPRK's territorial waters. At that time it threatened Korea by concentrating huge land, sea and air forces in and around the Korean peninsula, but it could not but submit to the DPRK a document in which it made a sincere apology for the ship's act of espionage and hostility, and offered a sure guarantee that it would assure no violation in the territorial waters of the DPRK.

In 1993 the US clamoured for an ad hoc inspection of the DPRK by the International Atomic Energy Agency on the plea of "suspicion of Korea's nuclear development," and it began the Team Spirit 93 joint military exercise. Coping with this situation, Korea took hard-line countermeasures like declaration of a semi-war state and withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. This made the US come to the table of the DPRK-US talks, bringing about the adoptions of the joint statement of the DPRK and the US on June 11, 1993 which committed the two sides to settlement of the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula by peaceful

means, and the DPRK-USA Agreed Framework on October 21, 1994, the gist of which bound the US to provide the DPRK with light water reactors and interim energy alternatives.

In recent years voices of warning the US about its overconfidence are ringing out loudly not only in the world but also in the US itself. In his report on combat capability of the US forces delivered at a hearing of the US Congress Senate military affairs committee the US Army Chief of Staff confessed that if the US is to go to war with military powers such as the DPRK, China and Russia, the US forces' combat capability is not on a due level, and that in the war with the DPRK the US cannot win. Especially, the DPRK's successful launch of surface-to-surface medium and long-range strategic ballistic rockets *Hwasong-10* and its consecutive public demonstration of ultra-modern weapons have aggravated the American uneasiness and horror.

The US, which pretended to be the mythical being over 70 years ago, is falling to ruin, suffering defeat after defeat in the confrontation with the small country of Korea. Now the world political scientists and experts unanimously say that the military power and influence of the US have remarkably weakened, which means the coming end of time of the unipolar world of America and the start of a multipolar world. The US should know that recognition of the present reality and revision of its foolish policy toward the DPRK is a good alternative that may help it avoid the nightmare.

Jong Jin Chol

What Is Japan's Future Like?

NO ONE ELSE WOULD talk of future so often than the Japanese, who like to refer to their country as “beautiful country” and their future as “rosy future.” The international community, however, is deeply apprehensive about the future of this insular nation.

Last year the present Japanese ruler, in his statement on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Japan's defeat in the Pacific war, justified old Japan's overseas aggression as an unavoidable option. Worse still, he argued that “what kind of action is to be defined as aggression should be left with historians' discussion.” This meant reiteration of his consistent stand he had expressed two years before when he said “the definition of aggression remains unresolved.” In the final analysis he wants to beautify his country's crime-ridden past as a “contribution to peace and prosperity.”

In this context, on the absurd pretext of the “threat from north Korea armed with unpredictable nuclear weapons,” Japan adopted new “Japan-US defence cooperation guidelines” and squeezed justification and military condition for its intervention in the emergency of the Korean peninsula through the exercise of the “right to collective defence.” To make matters worse, the ultra-right conservatives' undisguised moves to beautify the past crimes and grab other countries' territory are a great cause of apprehension to the international community. The Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary once claimed that the DPRK's demand that Japan

should reflect on its past crimes and apologize for it is “unilateral.” He spat that they could not accept it, arguing that the DPRK should denuclearize itself first.

It is widely known that Japan's habitual practice is to swear black is white if it accords with its selfish ambition. The aforementioned facts show that the “future” Japan desires to have lies in realizing its dream of “Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere,” which it failed to achieve in the past century.

Last year Japan made an “agreement” with the puppet south Korean regime in which the two sides promised to lay aside Japan's crime of sexual slavery with Japan's making a perfunctory “apology” and “offering” a trifle sum of money for compensation. With this Japan claims that it has fulfilled its duty in solving the past history. It also argues that the international community including the DPRK should stop pressing it hard. And it finds fault with the DPRK, rattling on an issue which has nothing to do with Japan's liquidation of the past. It argues that it will no longer discuss about liquidation of the past unless the DPRK is denuclearized. Japan's underhand intention is to avoid liquidation of the past to the last on the pretext of the nuclear issue of the DPRK. But the crimes committed by Japan against the Korean nation can never be erased or justified in any case. Its past crimes are a stark fact already confirmed by not only Korea but the international community as well, and the voices of reflection of and apology for them are to be heard inside Japan, too.

Today the denial of the past history of aggression has become a state policy of Japan. Claiming that “we cannot leave our younger generations the fate of having to apologize continuously,” the Japanese authorities are launching an undisguised campaign to instill in children the wrong idea that the Japanese imperialists' war of aggression was a “liberation war” and that Japan was not aggressor but “victim.” Together with this, it is talking about its “greater international responsibility” in the world arena showing off its purse. This is the habit of Japan, a political dwarf, mocking the international community. For this Japan is naturally an object of contempt derided by the justice-loving mankind.

To Japan the problem of liquidation of the past is a critical one deciding its mode of existence—whether it would coexist with the international community as a normal state or choose the road of self-destruction while running amuck obsessed with the ambition of militarization. Experts comment that the “beautiful country” advocated by Japan is none other than the camouflage for its “Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere” and that the “rosy future” is just the outburst of its ambition to become the “leader of the East.”

The way for Japan to exist as a member of the international community is to make an unconditional and thorough apology and reparation. The ruling circle of Japan is advised that there is no future of Japan apart from that course of action.

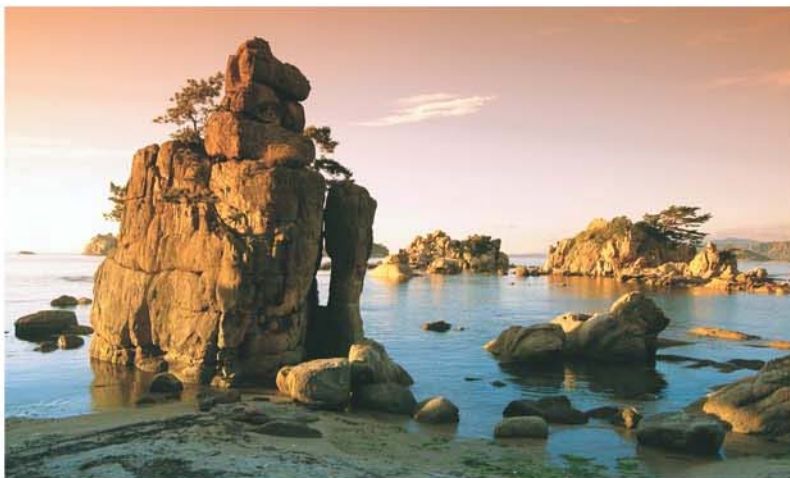
Rim Hye Gyong

Mt. Kumgang (4)

Sea Kumgang

SEA KUMGANG HAS A spectacular scenery as if the unparalleled beauty of Mt. Kumgang moved to the seaside. The wonderful lakescape along the shore, the seascape with whitecaps, strange cliffs and fantastic rocks looking as if they were made by skilled hands, islets in the sea showing off their natural beauty, and the birds flying over them—these all make up a great attraction on the shore, adding beauty to the mountain. The area features such sights as Lagoon Samil, Janggundae, Chungsong Pavilion, Kumgang Gate, and Sagong (boatman) and Chotae (candlestick) rocks.

In Sea Kumgang you can also enjoy the grand and curious spectacles of Outer Kumgang and the scenery of the Nam River flowing to the East Sea of Korea. Sea



Glow over Sea Kumgang.

Kumgang associated with a lot of legendary tales, covers a wide area and boasts of natural beauties including those of peaks, blue sea, seashore, lakes and cliffs.

Lagoon Samil which is a typi-

cal scenery of Sea Kumgang has very beautiful sights going well with calm lake. It was originally a small bay whose entrance was blocked later by a delta in the Nam River's estuary expanding to

Lagoon Samil.



► the sea. Later it came to be filled with fresh water by filling in the route of sea water and drawing the Onjong Stream into the lagoon. It was named Samil (three days) after a story that in olden times a king went there to have a rest for a day but stayed for three days, fascinated by the wonderful scenery. The lake is encircled by 36 peaks like Kukji Peak and hills. The islets in the clear and pacific lake water go well with pine and bamboo woods, looking like a beautiful picture. When you



Waves of Sea Kumgang.

see the lagoon from a peak, it looks like a lake by the sea, but when you are on the lagoon you feel as if it was a lake in deep mountains. There are picturesque sites including Janggundae, Chungsong Pavilion and Kobuk (turtle) Rock in the Lagoon Samil area.

The biggest islet in the lagoon is Wau Islet. It is covered with pine woods, but bamboos are growing in its eastern shore. Originally it was called Song (pine) Islet for some old pine trees. It came to be called Wau Islet because its shape is like a recumbent cow.

To the west of Wau Islet there are several small rocky islets—which are called Tansoam,

Sasonjong and Musondae—with legendary tales. Tansoam consists of several long rocks. Its name originated from a tale that the letters engraved by spirits while on their holiday on a rock in olden times looked red. Sasonjong is a small flat and long islet with a pavilion on it, which is said to have been built in memory of four spirits who had a rest in Lagoon Samil. Musondae, smaller than Sasonjong, looks like a recumbent silkworm. The name came from the tale that in olden times



Manmulsang in Sea Kumgang.

spirits enjoyed a pleasant time dancing. In the northwestern shore of the lagoon is a white beach before a lawn and a thick pine wood.

There two rocks of a similar size stand against each other with a wide and flat rock between the top of the two rocks—this is the Kumgang Gate. The gate is so well-shaped and grand that it overpowers several other Kumgang Gates in the mountain. The lagoon has many kinds of fishes including carp, silver carp, whitebait and variegated carp. It is a people's recreational resort with the Tanphung House, pavilions, a suspension bridge and a boating ground.

Sea Kumgang also has Sea

Manmulsang, Lagoon Yongnang, Hyonjong Rock and other scenic spots.

Fantastic rocks of all shapes which are to be seen in the southern shore of Suwondan are called Sea Manmulsang as they are as beautiful as Manmulsang in Outer Kumgang. The rocks include Sea Kumgang Gate, and those called Jwi (mouse), Nuruk (malt), Koyangi (cat), Tongja (boy), Chaek (book) and Sangiwa (seat of honour). In particular, noteworthy is the Ripsok

(standing rock) which has some old pine trees in its middle part and on its top. Around it are seen rocky Sol Islet with a pine wood, Sagong Rock and Chilsong Rock.

Lagoon Yongnang has a story that a spirit whose name was Yongnang had a rest in the lake; it is surrounded by beautiful hills. Around the half-moon-shaped lagoon are a sand beach with pine trees and full-blown sweet briars, and fantastic rocks such as Tanam and Tanhyol. On a hill by the lagoon is a 5-6 metre-tall and 4-5 metre-round rock shaped like a bell. This is the Hyonjong Rock. Sagong and Pae rocks are also to be seen nearby.

Mun Il Jin

Tea Culture of Korea



Jo Hui Sung (first left).

NOT LONG AGO, A KOREA TODAY reporter talked with Jo Hui Sung, candidate academician, professor and doctor at the History Institute, the Academy of Social Sciences about tea culture of Korea. Excerpts:

I think Korean tea culture has a long history.

Certainly. The Korean nation established and developed original tea culture from of old. They encouraged tea cultivation since the age of the Three Kingdoms (277 BC–mid-seventh century) and enjoyed drinking tea. The history book, *Samguksagi* (Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms) has a record about the origin of tea and customs of drinking. At first it was mainly exclusive property of wealthy classes and Buddhist monks. However, it was gradually popularized to the common people. The habit of drinking tea is depicted in a Koguryo tomb mural as well.

During the period of Koryo (918–1392) the tea culture further improved. At that time drinking tea was indispensable to the table culture. It was treated as an essential course at state functions. The Koryo people developed tea cups and things for its boiling. Jade green tea cups retaining characteristics of Koryo porcelain were widely used. The taste and fragrance felt while drinking tea in a jade green tea cup were more than pleasant. History documents including *Koryosa* (History of Koryo) have detailed descriptions about the development of tea culture.

In the time of the feudal Joseon dynasty the tea culture constantly improved. *Joseon Ponggonwangjo Sillok* (Chronicles of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty) reads that not only the royal family but also the

common people drank tea. At that time the Korean tea culture was on a high level.

What kind of teas did the Koreans enjoy?

From olden times people enjoyed drinking varieties of teas made from different kinds of fruits, roots, leaves and so on that contain a lot of medicinal substances. Insam tea, Kyolmyongja tea and barley tea are typical examples. They were high-grade health drinks made on the basis of deep knowledge about natural ecology and plants gained over the long period of work. Afterwards, the favourite teas of the people included Japanese apricot tea, grape tea, ginger-orange tea, bean tea and jujube tea. Especially, Ogwa (five fruits) tea, Kyolmyongja tea and Jaksol tea—boiled from sprouts of tea plant—were the highest-grade teas and they were rarely to be seen in neighbouring countries.

Generally, tea clears the head, improves the memory and brings mental comfort. If we drink tea regularly for years we can make our hearts strong. Most of the Korean teas contain a lot of medicinal substances good for heart and stomach, so they are very popular. The tea culture of Korea with time-honoured history and tradition is further improving at the moment. Especially Unjong black tea and Unjong green tea were newly developed under the care of the State to be a favourite of the people. In the future the tea culture will continuously improve as tea is not only a table luxury but also a tonic for long life. □



Pigo

AMONG THE KOREAN NATION'S CULTURAL heritage is Pigo (flying vehicle). Seeing the birds flying in the sky, people often thought how to fly like them. Their dream came into reality when a flying vehicle was invented and used for military communications for the first time in the early days of the Imjin Patriotic War (1592–1598) in the late 16th century.

As soon as the Japanese aggression forces attacked Korea by surprise and landed in Pusan, they encircled and attacked the Jinju Fort in South Kyongsang Province. When the 3 800 Korean soldiers were surrounded by as many as 20 000 Japanese invaders, they flew a vehicle from the top of the fort to report to their senior command on the unexpected circumstances. The weather was very fine and the air current was helpful, so the vehicle glided from a high place as far as 12 kilometres carrying a messenger.

The eagle- or crested ibis-shaped flying vehicle was made of wooden framework covered with leather to carry some people. The width of the wings was tens of square metres each, so that it could have great soaring capacity to bear the weight of the ma-

chine and the load. In the centre of the vehicle were installed devices to control wings, a bellows, an air bag to store and send out the air, their control devices, as well as four seats for men to operate these devices. The side and tail wings were controlled with several wires connected to the centre. The vehicle also had wheels under the body so that it could run on the ground.

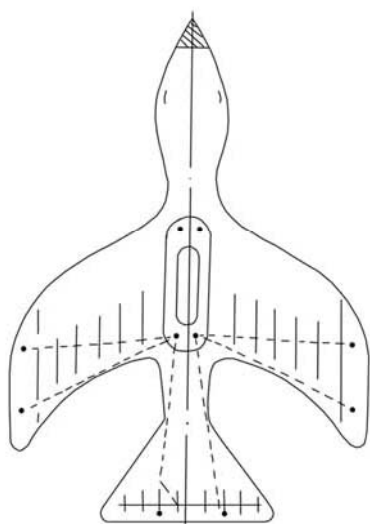
It could fly from a high peak or the top of a fortress. When the gliding began with help of reaction of the wind from the air bag and the wings' operation, it could fly safely under control. As it was no more than a kind of glider, the principle of its takeoff and landing was the same as an ordinary glider.

Pigo was the world's first flying vehicle which carried a man. A similar means was first conceived in a European country between 1845 and 1855, but it ended up in conception.

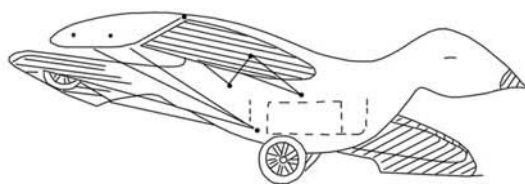
According to a historical record, an official made a flying machine during the Koryo Dynasty (918–1392) and was commended by the king. And there goes a story that shocked by the intrusion of foreign warships, Regent Taewongun during the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392–1910) made sure through the prize contest involving all the eight provinces of Korea that a weapon was developed, which was a kind of airship based on the principles of Pigo. As the feathers of cranes were collected throughout the country to make the airship, cranes were on the verge of extinction.

Pigo, the first glider in the world, is a good memento of the Korean people's talent and wisdom.

Jon Yong Il



The imaginary plane plan of Pigo.



The imaginary side plan of Pigo.

True Laughing Stock

IN EARLY FEBRUARY 1593 when Korea was fighting a war (1592–1598) to repulse the Japanese invaders, Kwon Ryul (1537–1599), superintendent of the Jolla provincial force of Korea, led 2 300 volunteers and government troops to the Haengjusan Fort, 16 kilometres away from Hansong (Seoul at present) while tightening his grip on the Japanese force stationed in Hansong. As soon as he arrived at the fort he ordered his soldiers to repair the fortress immediately because he knew Ukkida, commander of a Japanese unit, would launch an attack soon. Several days passed, but there was no sign of the enemy movement.

One morning, some volunteers went to fetch water from a river by the wall, when they saw two big boxes drifting down. Finding it strange to see the well-wrapped and decorated boxes, they brought them to Kwon Ryul without opening them. Kwon thought hard, sometimes eyeing them carefully and sometimes guessing where they were drifted from. Then he ordered to open the boxes. They were filled with valuable silk fabrics and rare things. Kwon decided they had been sent down by the Japanese in Hansong. He distributed them to soldiers equally and gave a strict order: “If you find any boxes again you

must bring it to me immediately. If anyone disobeys the order or deals with them arbitrarily he will be executed according to the military law.”

His order was passed all over the fort immediately. The next day when the sun was about to set, another big box was drifted down. The soldiers took them out of water and took them to Kwon. All volunteers, government troops and other people from inside and outside the fortress gathered to see what were in the box. When they were waiting for it to be opened, Kwon ordered, without coming out of his room, to pile firewood in the yard—to everybody’s surprise. Some volunteers and soldiers piled firewood in the yard, not knowing why. Then, Kwon ordered to put the box on the firewood and set fire to the wood. The subordinates were reluctant to see the box burn away but they knew they had no other choice but to put it on the firewood as they were told. No sooner had the box been kindled than there came screams from the box—they sounded like the howling of animals. The onlookers looked at one another very surprised and dubious. When the box was almost burnt and fell down Kwon came out into the yard and ordered to rummage the heap of ashes. The

soldiers and other people were all surprised to see human remains of two bodies and swords.

“Oh my God! They are assassins, aren’t they?”

“They must have tried to kill our commander.”

Then all onlookers knew why the Japanese had sent the boxes twice.

All those tricks were played by Ukkida who had been defeated by Kwon in the battle of the Toksan Fort just a year before. Groping for a way to deal with Kwon’s unit in the Haengjusan Fort, he finally devised a plan to attack the fortress after they had killed the Korean commanders including Kwon.

“My Lord,” an old man asked admiringly. “How could you know the enemy’s trick? You have really passed godlike judgment.”

Then, Kwon said, “It’s far from godlike judgment. The foolish Ukkida has made a laughing stock of himself. The first boxes were sent for a bait and the second for hook. How could we be deceived by the foolish Ukkida?”

All people there laughed with him, saying, “Ukkida is really absurd.” “So his father named him Ukkida, ha-ha.” (In Korean Ukkida means making a laughing stock.)

Kang Chol Jin

Sangwon Hermitage

THE SANGWON HERMITAGE, situated in Sangwon Valley in Mt. Myohyang, Hyangam-ri, Hyangsan County, North Phyongan Province, is affiliated to the Pohyon Temple in the mountain. For the three waterfalls of Ryongyon, Sanju and Chonsin merging into one stream, the place opens matchless scenery in Mt. Myohyang. There are no historical records when the hermitage was built. But it is believed to have been built first in the period of Koryo because there are still traces of colour painting peculiar to the Koryo period, and on the ridge beam is written the message that the hermitage was rebuilt in 1580. The monument to the Sangwon Hermitage says that a major overhaul was carried out

in 1794. Later, it was reconstructed as a whole in 1906.

The hermitage consists of the main hall, Chilsong Pavilion, Pulyu Pavilion and Sansin Pavilion. The main hall is composed of tapering pillars with double brackets and double-eaves gabled roof, and its gorgeous painting goes well with the surrounding scenery. The structural character is that an 11-metre-long headrail extends over the Korean-style veranda without pillar in the middle, thus unfolding an open view.

Standing to the east of the main hall, the Chilsong Pavilion is a gable-roofed house, one bay both in façade and side. And the Pulyu Pavilion, situated southwest of the main hall, is a hexagonal building with a spring

inside it. Clear water gushes out in all seasons. The building has triple brackets on the square pillars with a broach roof. Go eastward round the Chilsong Pavilion, and you can see the Ryonggak (the horn of dragon) Rock with two pine trees growing on it. They say the calligraphic writing of *Sangwonam* on the hanging board was written by Kim Jong Hui who was a noted calligrapher in the first half of the 19th century.

The Sangwon Hermitage is valuable cultural heritage showing the marvellous architectural art in the contemporary time. The hermitage and its vicinity are wonderfully arranged for tourists' recreation and mountaineering.

Choe Chol



