



# KOREA TODAY

9

Juche 107  
(2018)

# The Tower of the Juche Idea



The tower is a monument to the greatness of the immortal Juche idea authored by President Kim Il Sung. It was unveiled in April 1982 on the 70<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of the President.



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President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il accomplished immortal feats in state building, developing the DPRK into a socialist country that is independent, self-sufficient and self-reliant in national defence, and Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un is ushering in the heyday of building a powerful socialist country.



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**Front Cover: Cheers of the people**

*Photo by Ra Jin Hyok*



**Back Cover: Ryomyong Street at night**

*Photo by An Kang Rim*

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# Seventy Years under Banner of Independence



**Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un inspects the completed Koam-Tapchon railway in May 2018.**

**I**T IS 70 YEARS SINCE THE DEMOCRATIC People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) was founded. Though not long, the DPRK's was a history of severe struggles to brave through unprecedented difficulties and trials in sharp confrontation with imperialism and dominationism, for example, a three-year-long fierce war, the postwar rehabilitation and the Arduous March decisive to the rise and fall of the country. Dauntlessly overcoming all the difficulties by itself it has now developed into a power.

The Korean people take pride in having built theirs into a dignified socialist state on the strength of their faith and will surmounting harsh and complicated ordeals no other countries have ever experienced.

## **Eternal President of DPRK**

The DPRK was founded 70 years ago, but the basis for nation building began to be laid during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle (1926–1945) organized and led by President Kim Il Sung.

He created the Juche idea, the idea of independence, in June 1930. On the basis of the idea he put forward an original line on the building of power. And

in March 1933 he established a people's revolutionary government in District No. 5, Wangqing, a new style of government, at Sishuiping in the Gayahe guerrilla zone, Wangqing County. It was based on the worker-peasant alliance led by the working class, and relied on the united front of the broad anti-Japanese forces. Later similar governments were set up in all the guerrilla zones along the Tuman River, thus ensuring the people in the zones an equal life free from exploitation and oppression.

In September 1948 the DPRK was founded with the idea of independence as its guiding ideology and on the basis of the experience in the building of independent power. The country has since carved out its path in an independent way.

It completed the cooperative reorganization of agriculture, a campaign to transform the private economy into the collective one, to suit the actual conditions of the country and in the interests of the Korean people. Until that time the cooperative reorganization of agriculture was considered to be possible only after achieving industrialization in a country that had failed to go through the industrial revolution. It was the prescription of the existing theory and experience of other countries. ►

► The President, however, viewed that realization of agricultural cooperation depended decisively on whether peasant themselves regarded it as their vital need and whether there were the force capable of carrying it out, not on the level of the technical equipment of agriculture. And he ensured that the undertaking was completed in four to five years after July 1953 through an experimental stage and the stage of general introduction. This was a new mode of cooperative reorganization of agriculture.

Once the Soviet Union found fault with the DPRK's line on the building of an independent national economy, and forced it to join the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, a tool under its own control. When the DPRK refused to do so it put pressure on the country in various ways.

In July 1956 Kim Il Sung, leading a DPRK government delegation, paid an official goodwill visit to the Soviet Union. When he met Khrushchev, he logically explained the DPRK's firm will to build an independent national economy, saying: My country is devoid of the machine-building industry, so if we take part in international division of labour we'll only have to supply the member nations of the CMEA with raw materials; then we'll have only empty tunnels left, and we'll always have to ask others for help; this will lay burden on your country as well.

In the 1980s some socialist countries enforced "reform" and "restructuring" in the economic field, privatizing agriculture and introducing the market economy. But the DPRK resolutely rejected it, and, during the Third Seven-Year Plan period (1987–1993), increased industrial production at the annual rate of 5.6% on average by relying on its own economic management systems including the Taean work system and the agricultural guidance system created by the President.

The country laid strong foundations for independence, self-sustenance and self-reliant national defence advancing along the road of independence pioneered by him, and is still advancing along the road vigorously.

By virtue of his outstanding exploits, Kim Il Sung is held in respect as the eternal President of the DPRK.

### **New Mode of Politics**

The history travelled by the DPRK was not all plain sailing, and the 1990s in particular was a time of severe trials decisive to the destiny of the country.

Socialism collapsed in many countries in the world. Availing themselves of this, the allied forces of imperialism and the renegades of socialism turned the spearhead of attack against the country. Their schemes to isolate and stifle it became more vicious after July 1994 when the President passed away. To make matters worse, it suffered severe damage from consecutive natural calamities for several years. As a result the country's independence and existence hung in the balance. At that time mass media of the

world commented that it would be a miracle if the country maintained its existence.

On January 1, 1995 Chairman Kim Jong Il inspected the Dwarf Pine Post of the Korean People's Army (KPA). It was his first field guidance after the demise of the President. It was a historic event that demonstrated the Chairman's determination and will to overcome the prevailing difficult situation and accomplish the socialist cause of Juche pioneered by the President by relying on the KPA. From then on the unique Songun politics was administered on a higher level in an all-round way in the country.

Earlier in August 1960 the Chairman started his Songun-based revolutionary leadership with his inspection of the Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105<sup>th</sup> Tank Division. From the late 1960s and the early 1970s he administered Songun politics while giving direct guidance to the army, thus enhancing its revolutionary spirit, organization and combat capability.

Songun politics is a mode of politics that presents military affairs as the most important of all state affairs, and defends the country, revolution and socialism by strengthening the People's Army in every way, and consolidates the motive force of the revolution and accelerates overall socialist construction with the army as the core, as the main force. It is a mode of politics he created by relying on the President's idea and line of giving priority to arms, to military affairs, and enriched and developed as required by the changed situation.

With Songun politics administered on a full scale, a new state machinery with the National Defence Commission as its pivot was established in the country, state investment in the sector of national defence increased and the combat ability of the army remarkably improved, thus firmly ensuring the security of the country.

In December 1994 an enemy helicopter intruded into the territorial sky of the country only to be shot down by the KPA at a single shot. Concerning the incident the enemy state, yielding to the DPRK's pressure, sent a "memorandum of understanding" officially assuring that it would take measures for preventing the recurrence of a similar incident. In mid-July 1997 when the enemy suddenly shot at KPA soldiers on patrol along the Military Demarcation Line on the central part of the front, the KPA blew away the relevant enemy MP post immediately.

KPA soldiers also made breakthroughs in many important sectors of the national economy including agriculture, power supply, coal mining and rail transport.

Through their life-and-death struggle they finished by June 1996 the Anbyon Youth Power Station project although the scale was more than twice that of the West Sea Barrage, the geological structure of the construction site was very complicated and the conditions were unfavourable. The indomitable fighting spirit displayed by the soldiers rapidly spread across the country.

The people in Jagang Province built or reinforced ►

► nearly 30 small- and medium-sized power stations by themselves in a little more than six months, thus ensuring the supply of electricity for production at the local-industry factories and heating of the local residents' houses. Those in South Hamgyong Province built the Kwangmyongsong Salt Works in Kumya Bay on the east coast of Korea by harnessing nature in the spirit of self-reliance and fortitude for three years. A revolution was launched in potato farming in Taehongdan County, Ryanggang Province, while the people of Yonan County, South Hwanghae Province, and Janggang County, Jagang Province, created a model of double and triple cropping, which they had not dared to do earlier. Meanwhile, the CNC technology began to be introduced in the national economy, and in August 1998 the country launched its first artificial satellite Kwangmyongsong 1 successfully.

In those days the Chairman was on an endless journey of on-site guidance with super-human energy. During his field guidance in Jagang Province from January 16 to 21, 1998 he covered a distance of over 2 400 kilometres, and from January 1995 to the end of 2002 he inspected over 980 KPA units and their subordinate units and establishments related to the armed forces.

One January day in 2003 the Chairman, during a talk with some officials, recalled the period of harsh trials. Mentioning that a foreign figure he had met not long before said he could never know what had enabled the country to win the showdowns with the allied forces of imperialism, he said he had told him that it is a trait of the Korean people to stand more strongly against anyone who continues to oppress them.

Back home the foreign figure issued a comment entitled *Political Mechanics of Korea* in which he wrote: Like the Third Law of Newton, the more pressure outside forces put on them the stronger the Korean people become, and the greater the military threat by outside forces the stronger the Korean people's striking power. This is "political mechanics of Korea" defined by Chairman Kim Jong Il of the National Defence Commission.

### **Number One Strength of the DPRK**

Every country attaches importance to unity of its people because the people constitute the basis of the state and the country develops by dint of their united efforts.

The DPRK has already realized the single-hearted unity of society and is developing it onto a higher level.

Regarding *The people are my God* as the fundamental ideal in the building of the Party and the State, the country regards the requirements and interests of the people as the basis of all its lines and policies, and as the starting point of State activity.

In September 2012 the Sixth Session of the 12<sup>th</sup> Supreme People's Assembly adopted the law on enforcing universal 12-year compulsory education, and last year the State budgetary expenditure for public health increased by 13.3% as compared with that

of the previous year. Now policies and State investment for the benefit of the people are continuously increasing.

In recent years there mushroomed modern edifices for the people, for example, Changjon Street, Unha Scientists Street, Mirae Scientists Street, Pyongyang Baby Home, Pyongyang Orphanage, Songdowon International Children's Camp and Rungna People's Recreation Ground. In 2016 and 2017 Rason and the northern area of North Hamgyong Province, seriously damaged by floods, turned into socialist paradises in a short span of time.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un is firmly determined to make sure that the Korean people live as happily as anyone else in the world while enjoying the highest quality of civilization at the highest level, and it is his invariable will to work with devotion to realize the noble intention. He examined over 1 390 designs of Ryomyong Street scores of times, made sure that the designing, building work and completion of new streets and structures and those to be renovated were done thoroughly for the convenience and in the interests of the people. And he had all State resources concentrated on stabilizing as soon as possible the life of the flood victims, and travelled by air and sea and crossed passes to visit the afflicted areas so as to take measures for clearing away the aftereffects of the calamities.

His politics of prioritizing, respecting and loving the people and his devotion to its implementation is arousing absolute support for and trust in him from the Korean people. And the single-hearted unity by which the leader and the people share a single ideology, purpose and moral obligation is giving rise to miraculous exertion.

On May 30 the Koam-Tapchon railway bridge across the Sokjon Bay in the East Sea of Korea was opened. The construction of the bridge, the first of its kind in Korea, was very difficult as the builders had no experience in such a project in the rough sea. They, however, managed to finish it in three years through an indomitable, heroic struggle.

The single-hearted unity whereby the leader takes loving care of the people and the people absolutely trust and support him is the first strength of the DPRK. With this strength the country has risen up as a strategic state, and is now developing dynamically.

A newspaper of the Democratic Republic of Congo reported: The single-hearted unity of Korea by which the people are rallied rock-solid around the illustrious Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un is boosting the profile of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by dint of unprecedented strength and miracle. All the soldiers and people of the country are devotedly defending their leader who is safeguarding the sovereignty and dignity of the country, the security and destiny of the nation. The might of their single-hearted unity serves as the motive force that supports Korea as an invincible superpower. Korea is in the limelight of the world as real superpower.

*Sim Chol Ok*

## Story Associated with History of the Republic

### First Deputy of the People

**I**T WAS WHEN THE FIRST DEMOCRATIC election was enforced in Korea.

When the election day was coming nearer, all constituencies across the country conducted the work to nominate candidates for the election of provincial, municipal and county people's committees.

The mass rally held in the then Samdung Sub-county, Kangdong County nominated Kim Il Sung as a candidate for the election of the South Phyongan Provincial People's Committee. To bring the news to him, two representatives went to Pyongyang.

When they met the leader in Pyongyang, one of them, charmed by his personality, said unreservedly that the elderly and other residents in the sub-county wanted to come to see him.

Then Kim Il Sung expressed his thanks for their wanting to come to see him, saying that in fact he first should go to meet the elderly, and added that he would surely meet them if they came.

The next day the sub-county's more than ten representatives including elderly persons, workers, peasants and students came to meet him. With a bright smile the President told them that he would devotedly work to live up to their trust and expectations.

The Korean people's confidence and trust in him were clearly demonstrated in the first democratic election.

### On Birthday of the Republic

September 9, 1982 was the 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. That day Chairman Kim Jong Il sat side by side together with veteran anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters and officials.

The fighters were long faithful to President Kim Il Sung. Looking affectionately at them, the Chairman said: Today is the day when the Korean

nation had the head of state for the first time in its history, the day when the fatherly leader [Kim Il Sung] was elected as the head of state.

Then, emotional reminiscence shone in the eyes of the veteran fighters who had traversed the long path of revolution led by the President from the anti-Japanese struggle.

The Chairman went on to say: The leader became the head of state in his 30s. It's easier said than done. Only the leader could do it. We should work hard to lighten his burden, defend his exploits and keep the tradition.

Indeed, the birthday of the Republic was the day of the greatest jubilation when the country had the President as its first head of state, and the praiseworthy course followed by the Republic just constituted his noble lifetime.

### Spirit of Loyalty and Obligation

One April day in 2012, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un had a talk with senior officials of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK). He was going to discuss with them the issue of holding up Kim Jong Il as the eternal Chairman of the National Defence Commission to be put on the agenda in the session of the Supreme People's Assembly that would follow a conference of the WPK.

He referred to the Chairman as great leader, peerless patriot and benevolent father of the people who, with absolute loyalty to President Kim Il Sung and ardent love for the people, had devoted his all solely to the prosperity of the country and the happiness of the people. And he said in earnest that the Chairman's lifetime was the most brilliant one with few parallels in history, and that he was a great man who had accomplished immortal exploits for the Party and the revolution, and the country and the people true to the noble intention of the President.

Listening to him, the senior officials were impressed by his noble spirit of loyalty. □

## For Peace in Korean Peninsula and World at Large

**I**NDEPENDENCE AND PEACE are a long-cherished desire of the Korean people. The situation in the Korean peninsula and its vicinity, however, was always on the brink of war for a long time—against their desire. In particular, 2017 was a typical year that witnessed the extreme danger of a nuclear war in the peninsula. With the beginning of this year, the situation in the Korean peninsula and its surroundings changed dramatically.

### First Foreign Visit—Mega Event

In March last, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un paid an unofficial visit to the People's Republic of China, which marked his first visit to foreign countries. It was conducted in a lightning way on his initiative.

Early this year he made a crucial proposal to improve inter-Korean relations on the occasion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Winter Olympics to be held in south Korea and took unprecedented, exceptional measures aimed at creating a favourable atmosphere of reconciliation and cooperation in the Korean peninsula. And when the world was focusing attention on the situation in the peninsula and making prediction of its prospect in its own way, he made a lightning visit to China.

It was an unexpected event nobody had imagined. The world's major media reported Kim Jong Un's visit to China

immediately, describing it as a “surprising visit beyond expectation” and “first foreign visit at a delicate time.”

The visit served as an important occasion to carry forward the precious tradition, which was formed with blood by the Korean and Chinese peoples, as required by the new era. At the banquet held in honour of him, Kim Jong Un said that his visit had given him another opportunity to comprehend how precious is DPRK-PRC friendship, a priceless legacy bequeathed to them by the preceding leaders of the two countries and a treasure shared by the two peoples. He also noted: For long years the Korean and Chinese peoples supported and cooperated closely with each other, shedding blood and dedicating their lives to their joint struggle. Real life has taught them that their destinies are inseparable. They are now clearly aware that, for these two brotherly neighbours with only rivers in between, a climate of peace and stability in the region are vital, yet securing and defending them is costly.

All the ceremonies welcoming him were held on the highest possible level, and Chinese President Xi Jinping invited the Korean leader to a special luncheon in a family atmosphere and had a candid and meaningful talk with him in a cordial atmosphere—breaking the conventional practice.

This meant that the Chinese side attaches great importance

to Korea, which has attained the strategic position, and has an intention to play a leading role in guaranteeing security in the region through strategic and tactical cooperation with the latter. Both sides expressed their will to further expand and strengthen cooperation and collaboration between them. They exchanged constructive opinions on important matters concerning the management of the prevailing situation in the Korean peninsula and reached agreement in views, providing a favourable atmosphere for regional and global peace.

Indeed, it was a successful visit conducive to peace and security not only in Korea and China but also Northeast Asia and the rest of the world. In June he visited China again.

### Historic Panmunjom Summit and Its Impact

On April 27, Kim Jong Un, Chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea and Chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission, met Moon Jae In, President of the Republic of Korea, in Panmunjom.

Until four months ago a danger of war was hanging over the Korean peninsula, and Panmunjom had been symbolic of the 70-odd-year-long national division and inter-Korean confrontation. So, the inter-Korean summit at Panmunjom was a great event causing a surprise as well as admiration. All the Korean compatriots

► in the north, south and abroad could hardly repress the swelling emotion and excitement when the top leaders crossed freely hand in hand the demarcation line between the north and the south and proclaimed the Panmunjom Declaration, signaling the start of a new history of peace, prosperity and reunification in the Korean peninsula.

Praise for Kim Jong Un was great enough to state that “Chairman Kim Jong Un has presented a seasoned image of his as a self-confident and openhearted international leader” and that “Chairman Kim Jong Un has captivated the south Koreans.”

In his New Year Address 2018 Kim Jong Un set forth a line of making a drastic turn in inter-Korean relations in order to thaw the relations frozen in the constant danger of war and make this year a year of historic change for the cause of reunification. Actually, he unhesitatingly took such special measures as broadmindedly opening all frozen channels between the north and the south for the successful Winter Olympics in south Korea and sending a high-level delegation and an art group. Busy as he was, he saw the performance of south Korean entertainers on their visit to Pyongyang.

In particular, he chose Panmunjom, symbol of acute political and military confrontation between the north and the south, as the venue of the summit meeting, and made a great and courageous decision to go to the House of Peace in the southern area. And he signed the historic Panmunjom Declaration, a thoroughgoing peace instrument which declared

that the Korean nation should no longer be subjected to the misfortune of war by outside forces.

The adoption of the declaration laid a valuable cornerstone for removing mistrust and confrontation between the north and the south, actively promoting the development of bilateral relations and opening up a new heyday of peace and reunification in the Korean peninsula.

### Epoch-making Event

On June 12 last, the first-ever DPRK-US summit meeting and talks took place on Sentosa Island, Singapore. This signalled the first step towards reconciliation for the first time in over 70 years—a period of conflict and antagonism since the division of the Korean nation.

To prevent war and safeguard peace in the Korean peninsula, which is the hottest spot in the world with the constant danger of a nuclear war, is an urgent matter in keeping global peace and security. The DPRK-US summit meeting and talks were arranged thanks to the firm decision and will of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un to put an end to the hostility between the two countries and open up a new future for the sake of global peace and security.

Over five thousand reporters from around the world watched the summit meeting and talks. They reported that “The DPRK-US summit meeting, which had been imagined in fantasy, was held successfully,” that “It was one of the rarest events in the modern history,” that “The world

hopes the summit will lead to global peace and security,” that “The June 12 Joint Statement with four articles was adopted,” and that “The DPRK and the US made a promise to establish a new relationship.” The world media, and governments, political parties and organizations of many countries commented that it was an epoch-making and historic event.

At the summit Kim Jong Un said that they were once hostage to the past and had their eyes and ears covered by ingrained prejudice and practices, but that they had braved it out, and that they are now there at the new starting point. He also added that the world would witness a remarkable change.

From this significant remark the world understood his extraordinary decision and his noble sense of responsibility for global peace.

*Rodong Sinmun*, organ of the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea, wrote:

“Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un has accomplished immortal exploits for the times and humankind—he arranged the DPRK-US summit meeting and talks that nobody had dared to imagine, and made public the historic joint statement. Now all the Koreans bear in mind a great belief and optimism that the independent reunification and peace and prosperity will surely come when they follow the Supreme Leader holding him in respect. They have also keenly felt once again that the greatness of a country and a nation does not depend on the size of territory or population, but on its leader.”

*An Nam Hui*

## Independent Economy and 70 Years

LAST CENTURY THE world’s general view of Korea was that the country had no more than hoes and matchlocks. But today’s Korea holds its place among the rank of artificial earth satellite manufacturers and launchers. This is inconceivable apart from the reliable economic power. The following is about the country’s history of economic construction.

### Independent Economy— Unfamiliar Term

*While depending on others’ aid without having our own asset, we can never escape such a lot as a man in debt who is so far a slave, and therefore, we should build our own economy with our own strength.*

This was the principle of economic construction President Kim Il Sung put forward in the building of a new country.

When Korea was liberated from the Japanese imperialists’ military occupation on August 15, 1945, its economy was very pitiable thanks to colonial lopsidedness and deformity. Its machine industry, for example, was deformed in all aspects such as its proportion of the industrial output, its composition, the self-supply rate of its machinery and its technical condition. Even that feeble economic foundation was completely destroyed during the Korean war (1950–1953).

At this juncture, the President laid down a line of building an independent national economy from scratch. It was what others had never done. The preceding working-class theory on economic construction had no term

of independent national economy. The originators of Marxism actually showed no concern for the matter as they expected that the socialist revolution would start and emerge victorious simultaneously and successively in most countries of the world. As a result, the preceding theory, because of the contemporary and historical conditions, could not reflect the practical requirement of the era in which socialist economic construction takes place with the nation-state as a unit. Consequently, it could not treat the issue of an independent national economy.

The comprehensively-developed and modern technology-equipped economic structure relying on domestic resources and based on heavy industry—this was the feature of an independent economic structure clarified by the President. It meant the way of true self-reliance to build the economy by relying on one’s people’s own strength and wisdom, not the strength and technology of other countries.

According to the line, the Korean people accomplished the task of industrialization in a brief period of 14 years and made by themselves all things needed for production and construction, including tractors, trucks, water pumps, excavators and electric locomotives. All the achievements of the young industrial country struck the world with admiration.

In April 1965, the Indonesian president, in his speech delivered at the third session of the provisional People’s Consultative Assembly of Indonesia held in the presence of Kim Il Sung, said

with admiration that when some socialist countries failed to solve the issue of agriculture or industry in economic development, only Korea developed its economy to its liking, developed both industry and agriculture and built an independent economy, thus being subordinate to nobody. And he definitely expressed his will to change his country’s policy to the building of an independent national economy.

### Economy under Economic Sanctions

The economy under the economic sanctions—this can be another term characterizing Korea’s economy.

Such was the fact indeed.

It was in the 1980s when an oxygen plant was being manufactured in the country for the first time in its history of machine-building industry. At that time other countries with a long history of machine-building industry and advanced science and technology, did not dare to manufacture such a plant. The working class of the country, however, buckled down to the manufacture of the plant by themselves as it was badly needed for economic development. The narrowest bottleneck in the project was that they had to make a heat exchanger, the core of the plant, which they had never seen before. As to import, no country was willing to sell it. So Korean workers and technicians made the exchanger by means of vacuum process with their own effort and technique, thus pioneering a new path in manufacturing such a



▶ plant. Many similar examples can be cited; machine tools equipped with CNC technology; UHP electric arc furnace, an acme of steel industry; artificial earth satellite; and Juche-oriented steel, fertilizer and vinalon production processes.

All these were the achievements the country made with its own strength and technology amid the worst economic hardships and blockade. The secret of the success was the spirit of self-reliance and the mode of creation by which to take the responsibility for all problems relating to one's destiny and solve them independently. The spirit and mode have served as an almighty solution

to problems in any case, and any economic sanctions led to naught before them.

Today even in the Western countries hostile to Korea people cry with one voice that it is impossible to control the country with a stick of sanctions because it has long paved the way for making a living.

The self-supporting economy—this is the true image of Korea's economy advancing amidst the manifold economic sanctions.

**Self-development First,  
Invariable Motive Force**

Korea is resounding with the

slogan calling upon the people to achieve final victory of the revolution under the banner of self-development first. The spirit of self-development first is the revolutionary spirit of strengthening the motive force of a nation and opening up the path ahead of it by relying on its own efforts, technology and resources, and the form of struggle for applying it is self-reliance and fortitude.

The Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held not long ago discussed the issue of accelerating the advance of the Korean revolution by concentrating all efforts on socialist

▶ economic construction, and the core of it is to push ahead with the economic construction by dint of self-reliance however the situation may be changed.

In recent several years Korea has upheld higher the banner of self-development first as the revolution and construction have advanced and solid foundations have been laid in all sectors. In 2016, it succeeded in putting the earth observation satellite Kwangmyongsong 4 into orbit with its own strength and technique, established model Korean-style systems of unmanned production and bred new high-yield varieties of grains suited to the actual condi-

tions of the country. In a few years many factories and industrial establishments attained a high goal of modernization at an amazing rate unimaginable in the past, and are boosting production by relying on their own efforts, technology and domestically-produced raw materials. Thus things of Korean make are being produced from different kinds of foodstuffs and daily necessities to new types of modern trucks, tractors, trolley buses, planes and underground cars.

This inspires in the Korean people confidence in their own strength, love for their own things and optimism about their future.

So the Korean people firmly believe that they are sure to win final victory when they grasp their destiny in their own hands and increase their capability for self-development despite any hardships. The 70-year-long history of the country shows that the Korean people, who have pioneered the path for the building of the country by dint of their capacity for self-development and opened an avenue for prosperity by relying on their own efforts, will achieve the eternal prosperity of the nation by dint of the great motive force in the future, too.

*Ri Kum Chol*



# Precedence to Upgrading Equipment

**T**HE TAEAN HEAVY Machine Complex has made strenuous efforts to modernize large-sized equipment as required by the developing reality and brought about successes in the endeavour.

When I met Choe Sung Ryong, general manager of the complex, he said, "Having set a long-range goal of making all large-sized machine tools CNC-based, my complex is striving to the end. Recently, we've made tens of large- or extra large-sized machine tools CNC-based. This makes it possible to raise their

machining accuracy, ensure their normal operation and bring about innovations in the production of generating equipment and ordered equipment." These achievements were the result of the efforts of its strong scientific and technical force, he added and told the following story.

What should be done first to improve the quality of generating and ordered equipment as required by the developing global trend and process curved surfaces of parts with various complicated profiles was to decisively equip the existing large-sized machine tools with CNC technology.

So the complex put it as a primary task and accelerated it from over ten years ago, thus putting many machine tools on a CNC basis. Then one day, while acquainting himself with the state of production,

Choe noticed that a workshop was conspicuously backward in production figures though it had modern CNC-based equipment.

Soon he went to the workshop to see what mattered. The problem was that its large-sized machine tools weren't working properly making rejects or stopped frequently. They could correct some elements but not imported ones like servo drive system.

It was an important matter that should not go unnoticed in modernizing all the machinery of the factory. He now felt that if they failed to solve the problem by themselves, it would cause a great hindrance to the modernization of the complex.

Having made up his mind to solve it by relying on his own technicians, he organized development teams mainly with the members of the technical development section force and divided research assignments among them.

The complex's college and engineering technology institute actively helped them with their work. Thus they collectively

► solved lots of problems arising in succession one by one by their own science and techniques.

At last they developed a new servo drive system to suit the condition of a drive chain structure without making a big change in the structure of the existing large-sized machine tools.

In addition, keeping in close connection with the State Academy of Sciences, they developed CNC devices and servo actuators and solved a number of scientific and technical problems, thus laying a solid material and technical foundation for making the complex modern, scientific and IT-based further satisfactorily.

Vice chief engineer Kim Kwang Sik said, "We've learned a lot in the course of modernizing the large-sized machine tools. And we've realized that we could do nothing without science and technology."

*Pak Un Yong*

Equipment are upgraded to increase the quality of products.



# Unrivalled Impetus to Economic Progress

**A**N ENERGETIC CAMPAIGN is sweeping the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to accelerate the economic construction using science and technology for the engine. State affairs are all directed to proper employment of science and technology in the effort to develop the economy and improve the standard of living.

## Engine of economic construction

This is a new era, that is, the era of IT industry, when the socio-economic development is determined by science and technology.

In the past the main capital of economic development was manpower and natural resources, but now the knowledge resources, or the sci-tech resources, have taken

up the position of main productive capital since science and technology are making progress by leaps and bounds with its role rising higher and higher.

The Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) set a far-reaching plan to make the masses of the people learn science and technology and develop them into technical personnel and intelligent talent as required by the IT era, and has been paying primary attention to the effort to carry it out.

The Sci-Tech Complex was opened on Ssuk Islet in the picturesque Taedong River on January 1, 2016. Comprising ten indoor exhibition areas and an outdoor exhibition area, a lot of e-reading rooms, the children's dream hall, the cutting-edge science and technology hall, and the like, the

complex is a grand house for all people's learning. With the establishment of the complex which serves as the hub of dissemination of science and technology and information service that offers opportunities for overall and systematic study of domestic and international advanced science and technology, the WPK has attained a firm foundation for helping people to learn science and technology and disseminating and exchanging sci-tech information on a mass basis.

On the basis the Party advanced at its Seventh Congress in May 2016 the line of building a sci-tech power, a new strategic line for radical development of science and technology. In accordance with this line certain tasks were set to conduct a vigorous

► campaign to surpass the cutting edge in the sci-tech sector and make science and technology play the role of engine in the economic construction.

The determination of the Party to boost the economic construction using the engine of science and technology was clearly manifested later in the new strategic line adopted at the Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Party in April 2018. At the meeting the Party made a review of the victorious completion of the Party's line of promoting economic construction and the upbuilding of the nuclear forces simultaneously, and advanced a new strategic line of directing all-out efforts to the socialist economic construction. To the end the Party suggested specific directions and ways to make epochal progress in science and education which are the foundation of the State and the cornerstone of the national power.

As in the past the Party will consistently maintain the line of preserving the national dignity by dine of science and technology, that is, through the policy of making all people well versed in science and technology and building a talent power. It will also continue to pursue the policy of pushing economic construction on the strength of science and technology.

## Wind of science and technology advances future

A strong wind of science and technology has recently been sweeping the whole country under the guidance of the WPK, resulting in a lot of gains in the effort to bolster up the economic progress by making the national economy Juche-oriented and modern. Outstanding achievements have come in the field of information technology, nanotechnology and bioengineering which are the core and basic technologies for sci-tech development. Newly developed were the PLC system which can be applied effectively to large production processes in different

sectors of the national economy, the scanning tunnel microscope which is a latest type of nano-size measurement equipment, and the nano-size particle analyser. The production of avermectin which is in the highlight as biopesticide of the 21<sup>st</sup> century has got on the industrial basis. Besides, the scope of application of basic technology like the one of gene analysis and the one of life information is expanding, while the research into the cloning of body cell and the one into clone individual are making headway.

The image of Korea that is marching forcefully towards a sci-tech power has also been projected through a number of launches of artificial earth satellites. In August 1998 the nation put Kwangmyongsong 1, its earliest satellite, into orbit at one try. Kwangmyongsong 2, a trial communication satellite, went into orbit successfully in April 2009, Kwangmyongsong 3-2 in December 2012, and Kwangmyongsong 4 in February 2016 which is an earth observation satellite.

A strong campaign has been going ahead to bring the national economy to a more Juche-oriented, modern, IT and scientific basis. The workers, scientists and technicians in the metallurgical sector established the Juche-based system of producing iron using oxygen blast furnace while those in the machine-building industry succeeded in developing a nine-axis turning centre which is a high-performance machine tool for the flexible manufacturing system. An acrylic paint production process with the annual capacity of thousands of tons went online at the Suncheon Chemical Complex. Sci-tech problems have been solved at Juche fertilizer producers in Hungnam and Namhung, further cementing the foundation of chemical industry of the country's own.

A bright prospect has been opened for improvement of the living standards as well. The completion of the gasification project at the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex has laid a solid basis to boost the nitrogen fertilizer pro-

duction nearly four times. High-yield grain and vegetable species which are strong against drought and blight have been bred and their cultivation methods have also been established. Meanwhile, techniques have been developed to mass-produce ear shell and short neck clams, a satellite information-based system for fishing ground search established, and the development and introduction of the techniques of growing salmon offshore and different kinds of fishes in the cage net have laid a firm basis to make fish farming scientific, intensive and industrial.

Korea has pushed the effort to make all people well versed in science and technology, thus training a legion of scientists and technicians. Thanks to the WPK's policy of attaching importance to education and talent, the universal 12-year compulsory education system and an all-people study system have been in operation. The well-regulated system of education from general up to higher education is functioning, making a great contribution to the training of talent.

Kim Il Sung University, Kim Chaek University of Technology and other major universities have turned into hubs of research, information, data service and distance education, giving impetus to distribution of sci-tech information and exchange. Workers of more than 1 200 industrial establishments including the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex are enrolled on the distance learning courses of universities. The Grand People's Study House, the Sci-Tech Complex and some 2 000 sci-tech learning spaces set up across the country are fanning the wind of learning science and technology and the flame of creating new technology.

All the recent achievements stand for the validity and vitality of the WPK's line of making all people well-versed in science and technology and building a talent power by using science and technology for the engine of economic development.

*Choe Sol Mi*

Working people in all walks of life and youth and students prepare themselves into persons of knowledge at the Sci-Tech Complex.



# Pride of Researchers



**T**HE POMOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF THE Academy of Agriculture is making success in research projects for the development of the country's pomiculture.

## For Future Orchards in Northern Part

The members of the species preservation laboratory of the institute set a goal of making the whole country full of fragrance of fruit blossoms.

Accordingly, the researchers established a system of breeding fruit trees while developing lots of new species of fruits whose taste, fragrance and weight per piece are incomparably superior. The system makes it possible to obtain solid, virus-free seed trees to protect orchards from varieties of diseases that endanger fruit culture, and ensure stable yields. It thus guarantees the prospects of development of the country's pomiculture.

The researchers were not content with this. So Kwi Nam, head of the laboratory, says, "Now it is our important task to solve the problem of overcoming the regional differences in the development of the country's fruit culture. We have to develop much more species resistant to cold as soon as possible."

Kim Hye Yong, Kim Chun Myong and other researchers started the necessary research. But various problems arose. Sometimes the grafted trees they managed to develop for several years became useless overnight owing to unusually severe cold. Still, they were firm in their determination to spread fruit trees across the country. After painstaking efforts they finally succeeded in developing new species capable of ensuring stable yields even in regions with low temperature like the northern part of Korea, and their field culture test was also successful.

On the basis of the success they are intensifying a research project for expanding the area of orchards in the northern part.

## Fruit and Root

Dr. Ri Thae Nam, 67, has been studying new species of fruit trees for more than 30 years. During the period he developed lots of species of fruit even in size, high in yielding ability and strong in resistance to diseases. This made a great contribution to the development of the country's pomiculture.

Not long ago he developed a new species of pear free from the demerits of existing species. The new pear is characterized by soft flesh, rich juice, high saccharinity and long storage life. Now he is striving to obtain a gene source for breeding new species, and develop highly productive species.

It is his firm determination to live like a root for ▶

▶ the creation of orchards where all kinds of fruits thrive.

Besides, the institute invented a technique of cultivating high-yielding dwarf apple trees, succeeded in the research into a system of fertilizing fruit trees on the basis of leaf analysis, developed an agricultural chemical which is made from a by-product from copper smelting instead of expensive copper sulphate, and made success in the research on a sci-tech programme to increase the average per-hectare yield of apples by a large margin.

It also conducted the prediction of harmful insects in a more scientific way, thus helping prevent the

damage from armillariella peel rot of apple in time last year.

Kye Ryong Gil, head of the institute, says, "Sometimes it takes decades to breed a single species. The achievements of my institute are attributable to the enthusiasm of my scientists. We are determined to become a foundation for the development of the country's pomology, and supports of fruit trees. We'll further accelerate the breeding of fine species by means of a method based on advanced bioengineering, and find lots of ways to widely spread the species, thus making a contribution to turning ours into a land of fruits."

*Kim Chol Ung*

## Researches are made to develop pomiculture.



# World-famous Geneticist Kye Ung Sang

THE SEVENTY-YEAR-LONG HISTORY OF the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has a story about a true life of a scientist. The scientist is Kye Ung Sang, the first to be awarded a doctorate in the country.

## Wanderer

On December 27, 1893 a baby was born of a peasant's family in a secluded mountain village of Jongju City, North Phyongan Province. It was Kye Ung Sang who left a clear trace in the world of sericulture. His family kept their livelihood by selling charcoal. Finding him growing clever, the family set their hope on him. Attaining his years of discretion, he had an ambition to become a man of making a great contribution to the Korean people with science while seeing his home folks deprived of their country and trampled upon by the Japanese imperialists.

With a decision to continue his study after graduating from the village school, he left for Seoul. He earned his school expenses by cleaning a race-course and delivering newspapers. Suffering from cold and hunger while living in a garret, he managed to graduate from a middle school with the highest honour.

Then Kye went across to Japan, where he was enrolled at the faculty of sericulture of a university after many hardships. He also graduated from the university with the highest honour and became a postgraduate. In his days at the graduate school he issued some valuable essays on silkworm genetics, physiology and anatomy, thus achieving fame in Asia. However, Japan refused to acknowledge his talent for he persisted in keeping the spirit of a Korean without being assimilated as Japanese.

Since then his life as a wanderer started. He wished to continue silkworm research in a place of which Japan did not take control. In April 1930 he followed his Chinese colleague to Sun Yat-Sen University in Guangzhou, China. But he could not avoid the Japanese tentacles of aggression stretched out to the continent of Asia. And those who were avid for his ability took him to their laboratories. They all tried to make him serve them alone alluring him with money. But he strongly rejected their demand.

He moved to Hanoi, Haiphong, Hongkong and Kobe of Japan with a hope that the day would come when he would research in his homeland for his



country and people. But everywhere he went he only suffered from neglect, contempt and oppression as an intellectual of a colony. So he wrote in his life story, "Scientific research was my only happiness, and I enjoyed some fame. But I was really nothing but a wanderer at the time when I had no embrace to take care of me."

## Pillar of New Country as well as Scientist

On August 15, 1945 when Korea was liberated Kye was in south Korea. Earlier, in 1939 he returned home with his new strains of silkworm eggs concealed in his luggage for the sake of Korean sericulture like Mun Ik Jom, a patriotic civil officer of Koryo (918–1392) who spread cotton seeds for the first time in the country. In the post-liberation days he still found it impossible to realize his intention of doing research for his nation as far as he was in south Korea.

At that time change was made in his destiny. In October 1946 President Kim Il Sung, who valued his patriotism, saw to it that he was brought to north Korea for the purpose of developing Korean sericulture. The first time he met the geneticist, the President listened to what he said about his tearful past. And mentioning that Koreans had long wished to live in tile-roofed house with silk dress on while eating boiled white rice and meat soup, he entrusted him with the job of providing the people with silk dress. Thus the geneticist began to work as a pillar of the country as well as a scientist.

## National Intangible Cultural Heritage (22)

# Silkworm Raising

ACCORDING TO HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS, sericulture in Korea developed along with agriculture in primitive times. Images and patterns of silkworms are carved on the bottoms of the earthenware from the relics of the Neolithic era and the Bronze Age. This testifies to the country's long history of sericulture.

Everywhere in Korea from the shores of the Amnok and Tuman rivers in the north to Jeju Island in the south there grow lots of silkworms' fodder plants including mulberry, bristle-tooth oak, *Salix stipularis*, tree-of-heaven and *Evodia officinalis*, etc. By using these plants, Koreans raised the Korean Third Moulting Silkworm and other kinds of silkworms and made clothes with silk reeled from their cocoons.

Sericulture was further developed in the period of Koryo (918–1392) after that of Three Kingdoms (277 BC–935) and *pidan* or silk fabric was well known for its elegance, lightness and toughness.

In particular, Nyongbyon in North Phyongan Province, Tokchon in South Phyongan Province, Kumya in South Hamgyong Province, Munchon in Kangwon Province, Sangju in North Kyongsang Province, and mountainous areas in North Chungchong Province and North Jolla Province were widely known as cocoon and *pidan* production bases.

Oak silkworms were widely raised from the

late 17<sup>th</sup> century and the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. In the 1930s the way of raising castor silkworms was disseminated in some farming houses and later widely introduced.

People used to produce cocoons individually by raising silkworms with wild fodder. Then the developing economy and the rapidly increasing demand for silk fabric required the increased production of cocoons, the raw material of the fabric.

Therefore, silkworm fodder bases were built up and a silkworm eggs production and supply system was established. New kinds of silkworms and mulberry trees were developed and introduced. Measures were also taken to protect silkworms and their fodder from the damage by varieties of harmful insects.

Meanwhile a new sericulture technique has been disseminated, helping increase the cocoon production year after year. Sericulture is largely divided into hatching of silkworm eggs, brushing of newly hatched larvae of silkworms, rearing of young silkworms, rearing of grown silkworms, putting silkworms to spinning and harvesting cocoons. Typically, mulberry silkworms, oak silkworms and castor silkworm are raised.

Silkworm raising is registered as National Intangible Cultural Heritage No. 59 in Korea.

Rim Ok

From then on his scientific research rapidly developed. In 1946 he developed a lot of highly productive silkworm species strong in resistance to diseases while giving lectures and doing scientific research at Kim Il Sung University, the country's first university. On the basis of his firm scientific conviction and research findings he defended his gene theory against mixed hereditarianism and environmentalism that were hindering the development of biology and agricultural production, thus making a contribution to the development of genetics and biology. On the basis of his genetic research data on characteristics including colours and shapes of silkworm eggs, silkworms and cocoons, he explained that all organisms inherit no characters caused by environmental changes, but those by genes. He also recognized the presence of

genes in chromosomes as a phenomenon of related inheritance and made the first chromosome map for 7, 12, 15 chromosomes of silkworms. And he was the first in the world to succeed in breeding a new castor silkworm species that winters in the temperature zone. Meanwhile, he wrote many books including *Rearing of Tussah* in 1954 and *Rearing of Castor Silkworms* in 1958.

The country put him forward as a hero and patriotic martyr in recognition of his many scientific achievements for the sake of his country and people.

Those who love reading his books say in unison that all lines of the books reflect his fair insistence on his scientific findings, and the truth that though science has no frontiers, Korean scientists have their own socialist country.

Kim Chol Ung

# Korea Seen through Education System

A UNIVERSAL FREE COMPULSORY education system is in force throughout Korea.

## Land of Learning

Korea's is, in essence, a universal compulsory education system. All measures the State takes for education, including the composition of the education system, the distribution of educational institutions and the introduction of free education, are based on the principle of helping everyone learn.

In the past the country established a democratic education system, and on the basis of the system, pushed ahead with the nationwide introduction of compulsory education stage by stage.

Despite difficulties after national liberation on August 15, 1945 the country put efforts in building schools and colleges first, and gave top priority to the solution of the problems of pencils, teachers and textbooks. In November 1945 there was established the Education Bureau. One year later the education system was legally fixed through the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea's adoption of Decision 133 "Regulations Concerning the School Education System of North Korea and a Measure for Its Enforcement."

Meanwhile, the construction of schools were accelerated, and thus the number of primary schools increased from some 1 300 before liberation to more than 3 200 for three years from 1945 to 1948, and the percentage of school attendance jumped from 58% to 94.3%.

On September 10, 1949 the Fourth Session of the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) adopted and proclaimed the Law on the Enforcement of Universal Compulsory Primary Education to be executed from September 1950. The implementation of the law, however, was temporarily suspended owing to the Korean war (June 1950–July 1953).

After the war the country rehabilitated the ruined schools, and made preparations for the enforcement of compulsory primary education. In August 1956 the education started to be enforced nationwide followed by the introduction of universal compulsory secondary education in 1958, universal 9-year compulsory technical education in 1967 and universal 11-year compulsory education in 1975.

At present strenuous efforts are made to further develop the educational work as required by the era of IT industry. In September 2012 the SPA ordinance on the enforcement of the universal 12-year compulsory education was proclaimed, which began to be introduced across the country in April 2014. The system covers one-year pre-school education, five-year primary school education, three-year junior middle school education and three-year senior middle school education.

The pre-school education is aimed at teaching children the ABC to get school education, and the primary school education is to give them the basic knowledge of nature and society so that they are prepared to get secondary education properly.

Three-year junior middle school teaches children general secondary basic knowledge, and three-year senior middle school perfects their general secondary knowledge and teaches them basic technical knowledge which can be used in reality.

Korea has now become a land of learning, a land of education, where the rising generations can learn what they want and translate their hopes into reality according to their aptitude under the system of universal 12-year compulsory education.

## Land of Free Education

Soon after liberation the country started to enforce free education stage by stage. At that time the country was in difficult economic conditions. It, however, did away with all sorts of education fees including monthly school tuition which was a legacy of the Japanese imperialists' slave education system, and set up a popular unified tuition system.

Children of poor workers and peasants and children whose families had more than five pupils each were exempted from paying tuition, and the range of the exemption increased gradually.

On September 1, 1947 State scholarships began to be granted to students of universities and colleges in accordance with a decision of the People's Committee of North Korea, and in March 1949 a measure was taken to increase the number of grantees of scholarships to more than 80% of the students.

The endeavour to enlighten the people and open up a broad avenue for the development of national education continued even in the Korean war, which

caused the harshest ever trials to the DPRK less than two years after its birth. Still, a war victim relief commission was organized to solve the problems of food, clothes and dwellings for the victims and at the same time schools and nursery schools for bereaved children, orphans' primary schools and orphanages were built across the country so as to bring up war orphans at state expense.

In the postwar days universal compulsory primary education and universal compulsory secondary education were given free of charge. In March 1959 the DPRK Cabinet adopted a decision on general abolition of tuitions, and thus completely free education began to be introduced on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the following month. This enabled everybody to study free of charge at all educational and public edification institutions including pre-school education institutions, universities and graduate schools.

Experiments, practice, extracurricular activities, tours of study and camping are under way completely at state expenses, and schoolchildren and students are supplied with textbooks, reference books, school things and uniforms at moderate prices under the system of State payment.

Meanwhile, the country is increasing the investment in education systematically, and a nationwide campaign is under way to improve educational conditions and environments. In keeping with the increas-

ing number of schoolchildren and the developing reality school buildings, laboratories and practical training bases are being renovated, and public edification facilities are under construction through State investment.

There are branch schools in remote mountain villages and on islands as well, their number running up to one thousand and several hundred. Some 500 of them enrol less than 20 pupils each, and around 100 have less than 10 schoolchildren each.

In 2017, the year of science and education in Korea, more than 100 new school buildings appeared across the country including Buildings Nos. 3 and 4 of Kim Il Sung University, and over 10 000 classrooms turned multifunctional.

Recently the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace, the Kangwon Provincial December 6 Children's Camp and many other public edification facilities have been renovated, and the Sci-Tech Complex and similar all-people study bases have appeared, making a contribution to the education and edification of the rising generations and the working people.

Thanks to free education based on State investment, Korea has now turned into a land of talent with millions of intellectuals, a country capable of making and launching artificial satellites with its own resources and technology.

*Kim Son Myong*

Children on their first day at school.



## My Country



**M**ERITED SCIENTIST KIM Jae So is an academician and professor of Kim Il Sung University. As a researcher he is a veteran teacher of rich teaching experience and the highest authority on economics in Korea. He has been faithful to the education of the rising generation and made a contribution to the development of the country's economics for over 50 years. His life teaches people the truth that a giant tree depends on rich soil.

He was born in Unnyul County, South Hwanghae Province in 1938. Unfortunately, he has never seen his mother's face. At the time the country was groaning under the military occupation of the Japanese imperialists (1905–1945). And his mother already had a number of little children, and was unable to look after another child. So she abandoned him. Feeling pity for the baby crying outside while sucking his finger, a tenant farmer adopted him.

When he attained his years of discretion he was eager to study. However, his poor adoptive parents could not afford to send him to school. After seeing him learning letters by the ear outside the window of a classroom they sent

him to a family capable of buying enough food for themselves. Though young, he was full of sorrow as he had to eat another's salt and do all domestic chores in return for their sending him to school.

On August 15, 1945 the country was liberated, and a turn was made in his destiny. The door of learning was open to all as he wished, and he could learn without worry. After graduating from a middle school, he was enrolled at the economics faculty of Kim Il Sung University. In the year when he began to attend the university the country was at a turning point in its history. A line of socialist industrialization was advanced for the purpose of developing the backward agricultural country into a socialist industrial country equipped with advanced industry and agriculture. From 1957 to 1960 its gross industrial output value annually increased by 36.6%. The industry rapidly developed and its scale widened, which required able economic officials to manage the new economy. This made him think that it was more important to train economic officials for the future of the country than to work in the economic sector. After he became a teacher he witnessed the economy of the country develop at an amazing speed. The socialist industrialization was accomplished in 14 years, and the independent economy of the country enabled the people to overcome the Arduous March in the 1990s successfully, and made it possible to satisfy the requirements and needs in their economic life. Busy as he was as a teacher he exerted himself to complete research projects for economic development while

creating a theoretical support for economic management method.

He never lost his enthusiasm in his old age. When he was on the other side of seventy he pioneered the new subject *Sci-tech Economics*. In the last 10 years he wrote and compiled textbooks such as *Basis of Economic Theory* and *Juche-oriented Political Economy* and reference books including *Questions and Answers on Economic Theory*, *Price Theory* and *Methodological Problems in Formulation of Economic Strategy*, and issued essays like *World Financial Crisis and Its Cause*.

He has written over 20 textbooks and 50-odd reference books and issued 100 treatises. He has hundreds of disciples including over ten doctors who play an important role in accelerating the development of the national economy.

He was promoted to department head and then dean of a faculty. He also became a doctor and then a candidate academician before becoming an academician of economics in 2015. Meanwhile, he was awarded the titles Professor and Merited Scientist.

This year he celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. He says, "I could never have dreamed of pride of life like today unless the country took care of and put me forward. I, once a begging boy who had wished to learn, harboured dream of becoming an academician while studying on scholarship and annually provided with new school uniform at the highest educational institution in the country. It is really my mother."

He is still dedicating himself to scientific research.

Rim Ok

## Note of Visit to Wonsan University of Agriculture

**T**HE WONSAN UNIVERSITY OF Agriculture takes a large share in introducing scientific, intensive and modern methods of farming in Korea. It celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 1 this year.

### Leading University of Agriculture

The situation of Korea was pitiable when it was liberated from Japan's military occupation on August 15, 1945. Everything was in short supply and destroyed owing to Japan's 40-odd-year-long military rule and ruthless plunder.

The Korean people, however, turned out resolutely for the building of a new country. At that time scientists and technicians were needed at every place. In particular, it was an urgent issue to rear agricultural technicians as peasants constituted the overwhelming majority of its population. So, in July 1948 the People's Committee of North Korea adopted Decision No. 157 on setting up an agricultural college with the agricultural faculty of Kim Il Sung University as its parent body. According to the decision, the Wonsan University of Agriculture, the first of its kind in Korea, was established on September 1, 1948, followed by the establishment of agricultural colleges in Hamhung, Chongjin, Sinuiju and all other parts of the country, and they began to train agricultural scientists who were needed for the development of its agriculture including agricultural production and animal husbandary.

The Wonsan University of Agriculture laid its own solid material and technical foundation during the periods of the fierce Korean war (June 1950–July 1953), the postwar rehabilitation and the grand socialist construction. And it always took the lead in solving scientific and technical problems arising in agricultural affairs. Today it has a college of agronomy, 10 faculties including those of agrobiolgy, agricultural chemistry and horticulture, over 30 curriculums and 40-odd departments, a practice field of more than a hundred hectares, a soil-based pollution-free greenhouse and a biological engineering laboratory equipped with latest GM equipment.

With the beginning of the new century the university's education level further improved. Some time ago it built a modern eight-storey building with a total floor space of about 9 000 square metres and changed over 100 classrooms into multifunctional e-classrooms. And it is striving to improve the quality and method of teaching in keeping with the need to put education on a modern, scientific and practical basis.

Prof. and Dr. Ri Min Chol, president of the university, says, "In the future, too, my university will wage a brisk drive for going beyond the cutting edge as required by the era of IT industry so as to fulfill its mission and duty as the country's leading agricultural education institution in training talented scientists and technicians and putting agriculture on a modern and scientific basis."

### At Education and Science Exhibition Hall

I visited the university's education and science exhibition hall to learn about the successes it had achieved in developing agricultural science and technology in the past 70 years. The hall was in Building No. 2, and I met Paek Hyon Su, vice-president of the university at the entrance of the building. Saying that he was waiting for me, Paek led me to the exhibition hall on the ground floor.

Inside the hall, my eye was caught by a board hanging on its front wall. It generally introduces the university's achievements. When I was reading the numbers and data on the board, Paek explained that the hall comprehensively showed hundreds of scientific and technical achievements gained by the university since its inauguration.

Then we looked around all other exhibits. There were new species of high-yield grain seeds suited to the climatic and soil condition of Korea, a kind of cherry elaeagus with high-resistance to harmful insects, a pollination-free cucumber and a pig of a Pyongyang breed. Spectacular in particular was a tomato-grafted matrimony vine. It was edible and effective in the treatment of diseases as it contains different vitamins and many medicinal ingredients. According to Paek, it was attributable to the effort of Ryang Kil Hong, a researcher who specialized in the science of breeding.

According to him, Ryang explored all parts of the country to find out a medicinal plant appropriate to crossing with tomato. After painstaking efforts he selected matrimony vine to cross with tomato, and it took over ten years to succeed in cultivating the tomato-grafted matrimony vine with high medicinal efficacy and edibility. Producing the vine Ryang had said that he was quite satisfied with the fact that he had done another good thing for the people, Paek added.

This made me keenly feel the sincerity of the university's teachers and researchers who are dedicating themselves to the agricultural development of the country and the improvement of the people's living standards. ▶



▶ Paek also said that in the last years his university made many sci-tech achievements, for example, breeding of new species of mulberry silkworms, development of method of double rice-cropping and invention of a multi-layer ploughing and furrowing machine. Their advance towards the cutting edge would continue as before, he added.

I left the exhibition hall picturing the country's more beautiful and happier tomorrow as the fruit of the teachers and researchers' devoted efforts.

### University Surrounded by Green Foliage

The university is situated at the foot of Siru Peak in Songchon-dong, Wonsan.

Since establishment it has preserved and managed the surrounding ecological environment and done afforestation and greening work in a far-sighted way. It makes it a rule to have students plant trees in commemoration of their entrance to and graduation from it. This serves as an opportunity for students to cultivate the spirit of treasuring every single blade of grass and every single tree. Together with this, the university encouraged tree-planting practice among students as required by its mission of teaching knowledge on afforestation and horticulture, and protection and management of forests, thus making the undertaking lead to educational practice.

Now the university has a forest of over 100 ▶

**Students prepare themselves into the experts in agricultural science.**



▶ hectares with hundreds of thousands of trees of 700-odd species. Around the university are growing wild vegetables including leopard plant and angelica tree and over 100 sorts of medicinal herbs such as wild insam (ginseng) and matrimony vine. Growing there are also lots of wild edible fruit trees like pine-nut tree, chestnut tree and walnut tree and many fruit trees including persimmon tree and peach tree whose annual yields are great. Moreover, over 150-year-old Wonsan Kumsol (*Sciadonitys verticillata*) and eight other state-designated living monuments add to the significance of the ecological environment protection and of the afforestation and greening work. The area is inhabited by many species of animals such as musk, badger and raccoon dog, and birds, and carp, char and other fishes live in ponds around the university.

It is steadily putting much effort into protection and multiplication of the animals and plants and education based on the work. It strictly prohibits hunting, timbering and collection of wild vegetables and medicinal herbs in its vicinity, takes a thorough measure to prevent forest fire and conducts the work to protect the environment from destruction and degeneration in a far-sighted way. Especially, it uses the fauna and flora around it to teach the students wide knowledge on nature and biota of Korea, protection of ecological environment and use of forest.

Today the university is visited by many foreign delegations and tourists as well. They say in unison that it just looks like a gigantic natural botanical garden.

*Kim Son Myong*





# Dream of “Health for All” and Public Health System

**SOME TIME AGO A KOREA** Today reporter had an interview with Kim Hyong Hun, vice-minister of the Ministry of Public Health.

**In May this year the 71<sup>st</sup> World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization was held in Geneva, Switzerland, on the theme of “Universal Health Coverage (UHC),” and I think the theme is really significant in health improvement of humankind.**

You’re right. The UHC constitutes the main content of the UN’s health-related goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It reflected the common will of the international community to realize the dream of “Health for All.”

**I think that project can be successful when it is supported by competent medical workers, sufficient medicines and the State’s investment in the public health sector.**

Certainly. What is more important is the unshakeable political will of a certain country responsible for its people’s health. The UHC can practically contribute to people’s wellbeing only when it changes from money-based service to man-centred one.

Free medical service was introduced in our country from January 1947 after its liberation from the Japanese imperialists’ military occupation in August 1945. Since then white- and blue-collar workers and their dependants benefited from the service at the State expense. In 1952 when the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950–July 1953) was at its height, the DPRK Cabinet Decision No.

203 “On Introducing Universal Free Medical Care System” was adopted at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Meeting of the Cabinet, and the system began to be introduced on January 1, 1953.

It was not an easy job to introduce the universal free medical care system at the State expense in the grim days of war decisive to the destiny of the country. But such a measure was taken for the sake of the People’s Army soldiers and the people in the front and rear who were fighting devotedly for their victory in the war.

In the postwar days the economic conditions of the country gradually recovered, so the country began to introduce a complete and universal free medical care system in February 1960.

**The popular character of the system can be found in the State’s legal, institutional, financial and material enforcement measures concerned, I think.**

The Socialist Constitution and the Public Health Law of the DPRK specify that the State provides every citizen with the benefits of complete free medical service, and they have the right to free medical treatment. Accordingly, the country has provided all the citizens with free medical care irrespective of sex, age, occupation and residence. All sorts of medical services are free of charge such as diagnosis, examination, treatment of wound, operation, sick call, transport of emergency case, inpatient treatment, use of medical facilities and equipment, dental treatment and prosthesis and assistance at childbirth. And preventive treatment such as health checkup and inoculation, and the



travel to and from sanatorium are also free of charge. While getting hospital treatment people are supplied with social subsidies and food under the social insurance and social security system of the State. The system of free medical care enables people to get benefits from the State equivalent to two months’ wages each every year.

**I’d like to know more about the health care system.**

Every ri (dong), the lowest administrative unit, has a people’s hospital or a clinic, and every district (county) has a people’s hospital from cities to industrial quarters, rural and fishing villages and forestry workers’ villages. And medical workers are distributed rationally according to the number of population so that all people have necessary medical care in time.

Each ri people’s hospital or clinic brings all medical services closer to residents, including sick call, on-the-spot treatment, check-up and health care for chronic invalids. Factories, enterprises and mines have clinics and hospitals, and first aid stations are inside pits. Deep-sea fishing boats also have medical equipment.

Meanwhile, modern pharmaceutical and medical apparatus factories, city and county pharmaceutical factories, and medicinal

herb farms have appeared across the country, and each province has a medical college or a similar institution. This fully ensures universal free medical care.

State measures were already taken in the 1960s for prevention of diseases and protection of people’s health.

The State regards it as an important part of its popular policy for improvement of the people’s living standards and prophylactic medicine to maintain the principle of rationally laying out residential districts, production facilities and sanitary and service establishments for the good of the environmental conservation and the people’s health. The preventive medicine-oriented medical service system is in operation, and public health workers are waging dynamic activities to prevent and cure diseases in time in dongs and neighbourhood units, and at agencies and enterprises they are in charge of.

When bird flu, SARS and other infectious diseases endangered the people’s lives across the world, the country carried out hygienic and anti-epidemic work and inoculation positively so that none of its citizens was affected by those diseases.

It has a system under which doctors are in charge of a certain number of households. The section doctor system which has been enforced since the early 1960s is a system of looking after residents so as to prevent the outbreak of diseases; it is a medical service system which offers special treatment to residents in time by bringing the special service closer to the lowest administrative unit. The main emphasis is placed on having doctors visit residents to learn about their health condition and take necessary measures beforehand. So, it is a common occurrence in the country that doctors go to see patients instead of patients going to see doctors.

Special concern is shown for the protection of the health of women and children. A well-organized obstetrical and gynaecological service system is in force from the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital to all provincial maternity hospitals, obstetrical and gynaecological departments of city and county people’s hospitals and obstetrical department in ri people’s hospital.

And women are allowed 240 days for their maternity leave. A special subsidy is granted to a woman with more than three children, and in case of a woman with three babies, a system is in force to allow her to retire temporarily from occupation while being supplied with food for 4 to 12 months after childbirth as she requires. And premature infants and multiple births are brought up in incubators until they weigh 4 kg, under the care of doctors and nurses.

There are nurseries and kindergartens in all urban and rural communities, so that the newborns grow up in the nurseries under the care of doctors in charge, and have weekly checkups until when they are one year old, and then monthly checkups until they go to primary school.

**Now I see the health care system of Korea is a true public health care system fit for the dream of “Health for All” under which the issue of the people’s lives and health is free from economic calculation. And I think it is the government’s invariable will to further improve the universal free medical care system for the people.**

Yes, and a typical example is the fact that modern hospitals built each every year including the Okryu Children’s Hospital and the Ryugyong Ophthalmic Hospital in recent five years despite economic difficulties are now providing high-level free medical service to the people.

In 2017, the State budget for public health increased by 13.3% compared to that of the previous year. This resulted in many successes in the field of public health care. Last year, in particular, a great success was made in the improvement of the public health indices relating to the goal of the sustainable development such as increasing the average life expectancy, rate of assistance at childbirth and the rate of vaccination, and reducing infant mortality and death rate of pregnant women and nursing mothers.

This year the State budget expenditure increased by 5.1% as against that of last year, and the investment in the health sector by 6%. In his New Year address of the year, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un stressed the need to apply the popular character in public health service in a thoroughgoing way, and boost the production of medical equipment and appliances and different kinds of medicines. During his visit to the Pyongyang Pharmaceutical Factory he took measures for state investment in normalizing medicine production and renovating pharmaceutical factories along modern lines.

This year, the third one for carrying out the five-year strategy for national economic development, we are making dynamic efforts to modernize pharmaceutical factories and medical appliance factories, expand the information-based integrated management of hospitals, introduce advanced methods of medical services, put Koryo medicines on a more scientific basis and cope with outbreak of any diseases more satisfactorily.

We will further strengthen the people-centred socialist health system so as to realize the supreme ideal of “Health for All” and make an active contribution to global health care and promotion of mankind’s welfare. □

# First Minister of Public Health



**I**N HIS REMINISCENCES *With the Century* President Kim Il Sung recalled, “**One of the first Cabinet members of our Republic was Minister of Public Health Ri Pyong Nam. He was a famous doctor and a conscientious patriot, engaged in medical service as a pediatrician since the pre-liberation days.**”

What kind of man was Ri Pyong Nam whose memory the President held so dear?

## Reason for Becoming Paediatrician

Ri Pyong Nam was born on December 9, 1903 as the second son of a family engaged both in farming and in practising traditional medicine in Songgo Sub-county, Chonan County, South Chungchong Province. The members of the family numbered nearly 20, and they lived in a single room while maintaining a hand-to-mouth existence day by day. So Pyong Nam was so weak in infancy that he could not walk until he

was over four.

He was very clever in his childhood, and all other members of the family placed their hope on him. They toiled and moiled to pay his school expenses, and with the money they made he was able to attend the Kyongsong Imperial University.

In the university days, however, he suffered unbearable humiliation and insult as a Korean. Most of the students were Japanese. Only less than 30 of the 160 students in his year were Korean. Every day and every moment he was subjected to insulting and discriminating contempt from Japanese teachers and students, so he joined a reading club and read leftist books with avidity. But he could hardly find out any way to save the nation from its miseries and misfortunes. Then he studied hard with a determination to prove the Koreans’ true merits with his attainments. Thus he graduated from the university with the highest honour, and attained the physician’s qualifications. Nevertheless, he was given the job of a second assistant whose salary was very low.

Meanwhile, at his home, his wife had five children. But three of them died of illness as she could not feed them in poverty. There remained only a son and a daughter. So he had chosen to major in paediatrics.

## His True Country

After their military occupation

(1905–1945) of Korea, the Japanese imperialists had many false things made public in an attempt to stamp out the Korean nation. Some of them argued that Koreans anthropologically belong to an inferior race, and others were aimed at proving the theory of “Koreans and Japanese being of the same ancestors and the same root” while maintaining that they are the same. Yet other treatises were atrocious and unreasonable enough to provoke the wrath of God and man as they were immersed in chauvinist thinking against the Korean nation and were geared to justifying the Japanese imperialists’ vicious schemes to obliterate the nation. Unable to tolerate them Ri studied and analysed the detailed constitution and physical aptitude indexes of young Koreans and made public the treatise *Study of Young Koreans’ Constitution and Physical Aptitude*, which proved the physical advantages of Koreans, in 1940. And he went across to Japan to have the treatise pass at Kyushu University and win a certificate of medical doctorate. The treatise was perfect scientifically and theoretically, so the Japanese could not but acknowledge it. This, however, made him expelled from the university. With the help of some of his friends, he established a private paediatrician’s in Ragwonjong, Seoul, and engaged himself in medical service. Over the years he joined the struggle against the Japanese imperialists.

After liberation of the coun-

try he offered active material and moral support to the patriotic movement for democracy.

At that time a turn was brought about in his destiny. In August 1948 a meeting of south Korean representatives for the election of south Korean deputies to the Supreme People’s Assembly (SPA) was held in Haeju before the founding (September 9 of the same year) of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK). Taking part in the meeting as a representative from Jongno Ward, Seoul, he met and received important instructions from President Kim Il Sung. He later participated as a deputy in the first session of the SPA of the DPRK held in Pyongyang and was appointed the first Minister of Public Health.

Now he strenuously pushed the work of improving the seriously backward health services, the aftermath of the Japanese imperialists’ nearly-half-a-century-long barbarous colonial rule, and introducing free medical services across the country.

During the Fatherland Liberation War (June 25, 1950–July 27, 1953) he organized and carried out wartime health services as the vice chairman of the rear relief commission directly under the control of the military commission. Later he took responsibility for and carried out both public and military health services in the front and the rear. In 1955 he began to work as Minister of Public Health and chairman of the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of Korea. In 1960 he became vice director of the then Korean Academy of Medical Science.

His aforesaid treatise and many others were presented to symposiums at home and abroad, making a contribution to the development of the country’s medical science.

The President said in his reminiscences *With the Century*: “**He came to Pyongyang from Seoul to attend the April North-South Joint Conference. At our request he became the first Minister of Public Health**

**of our Republic. He was distinguished by his warm love for children and great skill in dealing with them.**

“**The pediatrician always carried a small toy bell in his pocket to soothe crying babies. By jingling the toy bell several times, he could calm crying babies, who were suffering from recurrent disease and examine them easily. Thanks to humorous looks which outdid any clown, and various jocularities which would make anyone burst their sides with laughing, he flattered his baby patients and treated them in an instant. This great skill always gained him respect and friendship from his patients.**”

The paediatrician was of the opinion that a man who does not love children should not apply his stethoscope to their chests.

When he passed away the country put him forward as a patriotic martyr and placed him and his wife in the Patriotic Martyrs Cemetery.

*Pak Yong Il*

## Efficacy of Honeyed Water

**H**ONEY MIXED WITH cold water is very good for health. When you put a teaspoonful of honey into a glass of cold water, you can get a 30-percent solution of honey, which is nearly similar to blood plasma in composition. The

solution is absorbed into the body rapidly and completely.

If you drink honeyed water, you can get rid of a chronic cold in the nose and bronchitis.

It also helps treat intestinal obstruction and normalize the function of the large intestine.

For the purpose of prophylactic treatment, you had better drink a glass of honeyed water on an empty stomach in the morning. And you should drink it at a breath. Only then can it be better and faster absorbed through the stomach and intestines into the blood.

When you rub your face with honeyed water, it makes the skin smooth and soft. □

# High Enthusiasm for Sports

**K**OREA IS PAYING attention to development of mass sports as well. Every year sports meetings of amateurs and enthusiasts take place by sector, unit and region, filling the country with enthusiasm for sports.

The 5<sup>th</sup> sports games of public health workers was held from April 19 to May 1 this year. Its events included volleyball, basketball and amusement games. All the events were done in the mode of league match. The Pyongyang Maternity Hospital won every event, thus taking first place in total.

When Kim Yong Nam, chief secretary of the non-permanent mass sports association of the hospital, was asked how the hospital could win the competition again like it had won the previous one, he said, "All the members of my hospital like sports, and they are able to play more than one sport. Today's success is attributable to their high enthusiasm for sports and their making sports mass-based and part of everyday life."

Some years ago Kim was busy

making preparations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the aforesaid competition. One day he organized a volleyball match between the players of his hospital and those of another hospital to improve their players' skills. While watching the match on his seat he happened to hear a conversation between two men. One man said, "Volleyball is really an exciting game, so I'm going to learn it. What about you?" Then the other said, "It's interesting to see but it's not easy to learn it. So chess is fit for us doctors." ▶

▶ Kim regarded their dialogue as criticism for him. He repented of his mistake. He used to organize such a match only with players. As a result, some people of the hospital neglected sports arguing about the special characteristics of their job, and never tried to learn sports.

*I have to make all people enjoy playing sports,* he thought. So he decided to organize games to be participated in by everyone. He, however, had no idea how to

organize such games.

One day, on his way home, he saw a sports lottery stall. *That's it,* he thought. *Let's organize the sports games the way any person from each department and section is selected like in holding a lottery.*

Such games took place, and prizes were awarded to winning teams. This inspired the losers with a strong desire to win, and all other members of the hospital tried to learn sports. Thus the hospital was full of enthusiasm for sports. In the course of learning from one another, they further consolidated their collective unity and harmony, and made more achievements in their work.

Yong Nam says, "We felt that the mass sports activities make people full of optimism and joy, encouraging them to work more enthusiastically in good health for tomorrow. We'll organize mass sports activities in various ways and forms so as to help all the workers make a contribution to the society and the collective in good health."

*Pak Yong Il*



# Sweat Behind Win

ONE DAY IN MARCH I WAS PASSING by Pyongyang Indoor Stadium on the way to a place for news coverage, when I saw sportspersons whose left breast were printed with patterns of the DPRK flag doing exercises. Then I heard their coach calling, “Yong Mi, lift the leg higher. Right!” I came to a halt. *Yong Mi? Is she the girl who won a gold medal in Asian Wrestling Championship 2018?* With this thought I asked the coach about the girl. I was right. The coach’s name is Kim Kuk Song, and he introduced himself as a wrestling coach of Pyongyang Sports Club. Kim said, “Yong Mi won victories in not only the Asian Wrestling Championship but also previous national and international competitions. She is a wrestler of experience.” Then he told me the following story.

One day in the year when Yong Mi was 14 she, after school, went to a sports club to see her mother who was working as cook at the club. The girl had seen athletes training many times while following her mother in her childhood. Now she stopped at a training room where women wrestlers were in training. *There wasn’t a women wrestling event*, she thought. Out of curiosity she asked her mother about it. The mother replied it was a new event. Watching the women wrestlers training, the girl had an urge to try and do wrestling. Having read her mind her mother told her that it seemed to be easy to do but was not easy in practice. Still, Yong Mi, the youngest child of the family, said, “I can stay with you all day when I do wrestling, and I can get over hard train-



ing eating what you make.” Then she went directly to the coach to ask him to admit her. Her mother had intended to have her taught sports. But now she was surprised by the sport of the daughter’s choice. Still, she agreed to the child’s determination.

Even though she was the youngest among women wrestlers, Yong Mi trained assiduously. As a result she participated in the 44kg-category women’s wrestling event of the Mangyongdae Prize Sports Contest. However, she failed in the first match. That day she wrote in her training diary as follows: I failed in the match because I had not trained hard thinking that I’m better than others. I’ll never forget today. Only more sweat in training enables me to win.

She set a higher goal of training and trained intensively. That year she took fifth place in the same event of the DPRK Championships, and third place at the Sports Contest for Pochonbo Torch Prize the next year. Since then she always won gold medals in the following contests. After she made good successes in some international competitions she was preparing for Asian Wrestling Championship 2018. Kuk Song had his charges rest after training. While coming back to his bedroom after he carefully examined various training plans for preparation for the championship, he happened to hear Yong Mi’s voice coming from the training hall. Opening the door of the hall silently he found the girl training ordering herself, “Again, again” in an effort to perfect her technical movement. He knew she had been training hard to attain a higher goal every day. Now he told her to stop there and have a rest for the next day. Then she said, “Now my rivals, too, must be training without resting in order to win the championship. How can I be a winner if I sweat less in training than them? I’ll surely display the honour of the country in the coming championship as well.”

And she kept training. Thus, she won gold medal in the women’s 53kg category of the championship by defeating a Japanese rival in semi-final and a Mongolian rival in the final with overwhelming margins.

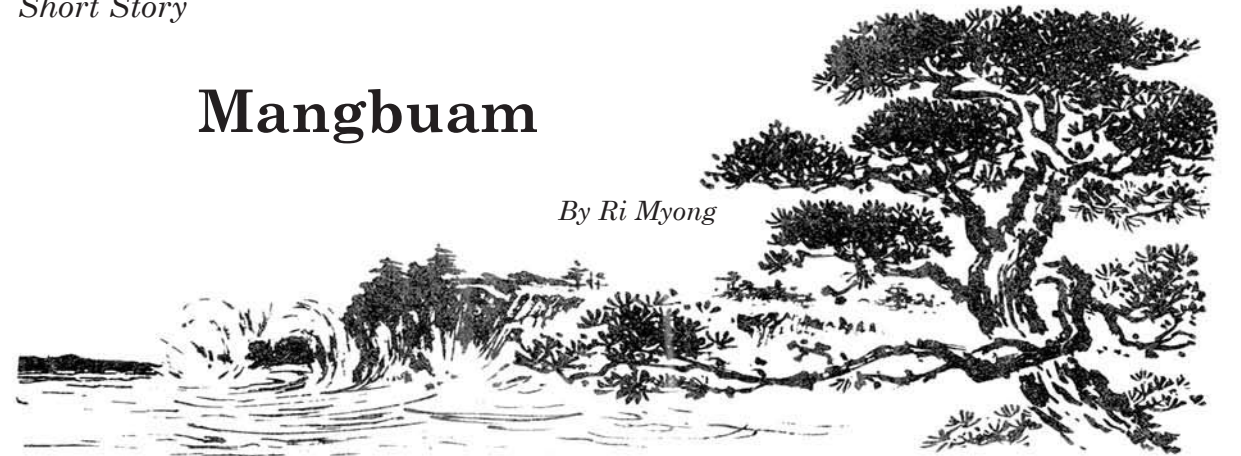
Finishing his story, Kuk Song said that another contest would be held soon, and hurried to the site where his charges were training.

*Pak Yong Il*

## Short Story

# Mangbuam

By Ri Myong



(Continued from the last issue)

YE RIM’S LEAPING HEART felt oppressed by the uncontrollable excitement, and her eyes got dizzy. Now she thought highly of U Jin who was living so conscientiously while holding the land so dear. And she felt herself miserable now that she knew she was wrong when she believed that she could be faithful to her country simply by singing of it with her lovely voice.

She found herself fully sympathizing with U Jin’s feelings, and yet she could not understand why she was regarding the central stage alone as the “fertile soil” where she could develop her talent fully and why she failed to avoid the temptation.

Suddenly she felt lonely. Strange enough, the surroundings seemed empty to her. Abruptly U Jin’s winter shoes on the shoe chest in the hallway caught her eye. She had put them deep into the chest as it was not time for him to put them on. *Why did he put them out on the chest again?* She thought. Doubtfully she stood up and went to the chest. Salted by seawater the black shoes had turned whitish. Looking abstractedly at the shoes, she recollected the scenes of her losing face in the presence of Choe Il. U Jin had been always leading a plain life without seeking luxury and vanity

at all. She, however, had regarded his worthwhile life as “rusticity,” the memory of which now heart-breakingly brought bitter tears to her eyes. It seemed that U Jin put out the shoes to put on, but went somewhere on other shoes that night.

Ye Rim felt lonesome again as if everything valuable around her had disappeared. Anxious to know where U Jin had gone, she shook her son out of his sleep.

“Wake up, Hong Chol.”

The boy sat up, rubbing his eyes.

“Where is your daddy?”

“At Mangbuam.”

“Why there again?” asked Ye Rim.

“The radio said some time ago that a strong wind would blow tonight,” replied the boy.

Ye Rim thought it possible. At the same time she doubted it because it was a holiday. The silence of the room was abruptly broken by the son’s clear voice.

“Look, mum! That flower over there. Daddy told me to give it to you when you are back. He said it is the flower you like most,” the child said, pointing towards the window. Only then did Ye Rim notice a white flower in a vase on the sill. It was a snow lily. She recollected the spring day that had gone like a dream. That day U Jin fetched a snow lily, cutting his way through cold waves, the

flower in his lips, in order to give pleasure to her.

“Gee! Daddy said he would take me to the theatre and bring the flower to you,” the boy grumbled.

“That’s enough,” Ye Rim pleaded.

She seemed to burst out sobbing in an instant, and sprang up covering her mouth with her hand. She opened the window. In the darkish gray sky, inky, rainy clouds were floating northwards hurriedly.

## 5

That night Ye Rim eventually went to the Mangbuam area by train. The wind was not up yet. The coast was silent and was in darkness as if it were afraid of the impending windstorm.

Ye Rim stepped along the shore looking for U Jin—it was quite long since she did it last. Past events flashed through her mind. The memorable sandy beach had felt hot under the blazing sun, and the shore had fired her young heart with burning enthusiasm.

It was one summer day of the year after Ye Rim was assigned to the provincial art troupe after graduating from the conservatory. Previously she had been in the locality for itinerant artistic perfor-

▶ mance, and she could not contain her leaping heart at the thought of the Mangbuam of mystery she had pictured even in a dream. *Are the snow lilies still in bloom? It was really a virginal flower, and its fragrance was soft. By the way, what is he doing now? He must have gone to Pyongyang as the windbreak might have grown so much.*

Recollecting that unusual meeting with U Jin, Ye Rim came to the spot at a run after her colleagues went swimming somewhere. The coast under the scorching sun was the same as before, along with the seaweed waving in the blue water, flocks of seagulls in the sky and the rock rising sheer from the water. Now she noticed somebody moving about on the spur of a hill not far away from her. It seemed that a person of leisure was dipping up with a net. She stepped up to the place, and found the person clearing out a ditch. A straw hat was swaying on the bent back of the person, who, by chance, straightened and saw her. She now recognized U Jin. His face was tanned almost black, and his unusually white teeth were shining with a smile. Her heart leaped with joy, and she took a step closer to him.

"You're still here," Ye Rim said first.

"The saplings you helped me plant at the time have died of seawater," U Jin explained.

"Well, then?"

"Now I have to plant other trees. This time I am going to plant them after removing the seawater."

Ye Rim then noticed ditches dug out in rows here and there on the wetland overgrown with reeds. U Jin's unknown effort struck her with admiration.

U Jin smiled an awkward smile.

"Did you come for an art performance again?" He asked.

"Yeah," Ye Rim replied. She

wanted to say something more, but didn't know what to do. Then the sight of the rock caught her eye.

"Ah! Mangbuam! She is still waiting for her man," Ye Rim exclaimed with giggles.

"The faith can't be changed," U Jin responded with a laugh.

"Do you think the snow lilies are in bloom?" asked Ye Rim.

"Of course! Perhaps they are now at their best," U Jin answered.

"I wish to see them close at hand," Ye Rim said.

"Do you? But I haven't got any boat. My boss has just gone angling on it," U Jin said, his simple face clouded with anxiety. Then, afraid that he would do the same as before, Ye Rim quickly said, "It's alright. I can swim. Let us swim there together."

They swam across to the rock. As soon as she saw snow lilies in bloom on the rock, Ye Rim beamed.

"How beautiful!" she exclaimed.

The flowers inspired their hearts with love for each other. Receiving a snow lily held out by U Jin, Ye Rim inwardly said, "Yes, I want to be always with you like this. I don't want to become such a miserable woman, like Mangbuam, waiting for her husband."

Ye Rim had wanted to live with U Jin invariably like that. This night, however, she was wandering about to see her husband like the miserable woman. She absentmindedly looked across at the rock standing clear in the darkness. The sound of waves came from there, making Ye Rim's heart ache like the wailing of the woman floating about in the dark blue sea looking for her lost husband. Why did the "woman" have to undergo the agony of separation from her husband? It was because they had no true country of their own that could protect

them. Ye Rim, however, was in the country of her own that was taking good care of her. Still, her mind was preoccupied with her self alone, leaving no space for her country. The life of Ye Rim, who seldom concerned herself with the country, already turned her into a living Mangbuam.

Afraid that she might lose U Jin forever if she failed to find him that night, Ye Rim rushed madly to the breeding ground. She found a bonfire burning up there. By the fire U Jin sat asleep leaning against a mound. Ye Rim looked breathlessly at him. His face turned earthy brown in the light of the fire. He looked like an earthen sculpture. It seemed that even in his sleep he was hearing the whispers, and calling, of the earth. Perhaps he was asleep embracing all things pleasant, sad and bitter in the land. His image made Ye Rim tremble and remember him saying that the life of those who did not keep in their mind the country where they were born, grew up and lived would succumb to a temptation leaving their land in turmoil. With tears of repentance welling up in her eyes, Ye Rim called him in a low voice.

U Jin opened his eyes instantly. The innocent eyes grew wide for a moment, and shone with joy.

"What has brought you here?" he asked.

"I am afraid you will catch a cold if you fall asleep like that," Ye Rim said in anxiety.

"I was not asleep. I was hearing you singing with my eyes closed. You sang *My Country*, didn't you?"

"U Jin," Ye Rim burst into tears and threw herself into his arms.

The man and wife remained still hugging each other tightly while whispering about the beautiful future of the land.

*The end*

## Song of the Proclamation of the People's Republic and Its Composer

THE SONG CREATED IN 1948 is still sung together with the history of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The famous song was composed by Pak Han Gyu.

### Life in Foreign Country

In 1919, deprived of their country by the Japanese imperialists Korean refugees crossed the Tuman River. Among them was a baby carried on his mother's back. It was Pak Han Gyu who later developed into a famous composer.

Since his childhood, he felt phenomena artistically. Called child prodigy he learned to play the violin without a teacher. And with an ambition to learn more he went across to Japan, where he was enrolled at composer course of a private music school. However, life in the alien land only made him experience the sorrow of a stateless man as well as that of a penniless person. At the time the Japanese imperialists forced Koreans to change their names into Japanese ones.

One day the head of the instruction department of the school pressed him to change his name. With rising anger, he shouted, "My name is Han Gyu." However, he could no longer go to school because of the incident. Back to China he wandered from place to place shouldering his violin as he could not get a job. Then he was drafted for forced labour. Only after liberation of the country on August 15, 1945 could he become free from toil and toil.

### Proclamation of People's Republic and Song

The country saw to it that he worked as a violinist of the State Symphony Orchestra. The reality of the country full of people's joy made him thrilled with creative inspiration. In September 1948 the DPRK was founded. This was

a great event for the Korean people as they had a true independent and sovereign state, and they were full of joy at the fact that they became able to lead a new life in a new society under the banner of the Republic.

The historic event excited Han Gyu who had keenly experienced the sorrow of a stateless nation. He wrote music for the words of the song written by Kim U Chol. The music fully reflected the excitement and delight, and the call to build the Republic into a powerful people's country.

The song was the fruit of his enthusiasm as a musician, and it was as good as his pledge to the country. The cheerful, hopeful, comprehensive and solemn piece also reflected his love for and pride in the Republic, his blessing to its future and his devotion to it.

The creation served as an opportunity for him to display his talent as a musician explosively.

### Enthusiast

The musician created excellent pieces of music in succession while mixing himself with the people in the field. Typical of them are *Cantata to Marshal Kim Il Sung*, the wartime songs *Song of Coast Artillerymen* and *Nobody Knows and the song An Accordionist Has Come*.

He created over 70 pieces of music until the year of 1960 when he was awarded the title of Merited Artist. He was a musical composer with a marked individuality and an enthusiast. Those who worked with him recall, "He was a cheerful, ardent and friendly man of humour."

The individuality of his music is characterized by a combination of powerful rhythm, explosive resonance and lyrical melody.

His creative activities were idiosyncratic. His interest in the ensemble of string instruments was unusual. He had a violin, a viola,



a cello and so on at home.

One day some students of the instrumental music department of a conservatory visited Han Gyu at his home, when he proposed to have a string quartet, taking up his violin. After it he proposed to have another programme—this time a piano trio.

Pak was well versed in literature and linguistics as well. His theory was that you can hardly write good music without literary knowledge. He had a voluminous poetic exercise book. When his friends visited him he would show it to them, enthusiastically reciting poems sometimes. So he was strict with words of songs. And with his good knowledge of foreign language he translated foreign songs. He also trained a lot of reserve composers.

He was buried in the Patriotic Martyrs Cemetery as he left a remarkable trace in the history of Korean music.

It is over 20 years since he passed away. Still, people cherish the memory of the talented composer while frequently singing the songs he composed.

Along with his famous pieces of music he is always alive in the people's memory.

*Rim Ok*



## Family of Doctors

**T**HERE IS A FAMILY OF doctors in Neighbourhood Unit No. 9, Haepit-dong No. 2, Hoesang District, Hamhung City, South Hamgyong Province.

### Happy Family

Kim Sang Ryong, head of the family, was born as the eldest son of a poor tenant's family before liberation of Korea from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation (1905–1945). In his childhood, he was unfortunate. When he was seven, his parents and two younger brothers died of an epidemic that swept through their village. So he could not help wandering streets begging. Whenever he suffered every kind of humiliation

and insult he tearfully yearned for maternal care and a happy family.

Only after the country was liberated could he go to school and realize his dream to become a doctor. To him, the country was just a mother and family that enabled him to have the real taste of life.

So, when the Korean war (June 1950–July 1953) broke out, he volunteered to go to the frontline.

Later, in October 1951 when

the war was at its height, the country saw to it that student soldiers were sent back to universities to learn again, and he was allowed to study at the then Pyong-

**Kim Sang Ryong** (centre).



yang University of Medicine.

After graduating from the university, he became an urological surgeon of the South Hamgyong Provincial People's Hospital. Since then he has devoted all his life to medical service for over 60 years so far. Now he is a professor, doctor and authority on medical science.

His wife Ri Chae Hui, once a scholar of medicine, worked as a vice-director in charge of technical affairs of the Hamhung Railway Bureau Hospital. Now she is 83 years old. She says, "My husband often says: We are really lucky, because you and I and our children and grandchildren graduated from universities free of charge under the benevolent socialist system, and people hold ours in respect as a family of doctors. Where can we find a family as happy as ours?"

### Woman Doctor's Joy

The second daughter Kim Jin Suk graduated from the Hamhung University of Medicine. Now she is doctor of the South Hamgyong Provincial Dental Hospital. As an able orthopedist, she is held

**Third daughter Kim Myong Suk** (right).



in respect and affection by people.

Ko Myong Suk, a woman in Hoesang District, had been an aphasic for 13 years because of her congenital laryngeal malformation. After receiving treatment from Jin Suk, she became able to speak well. Ri Chan Sop in Jongphyong County of the province had his seriously bruised face skin and bones brought back to the original state by her treatment.

She finds pleasure and happiness in helping people enjoy the delight and beauties of life again.

### "Good Friends"

The third daughter Kim Myong Suk is working as a pharmacist at the Hamhung Mannyon Koryo Medicine Factory since graduating from the then Hamhung College of Pharmacology.

Her daughter Ri Hyang Mi is doing the same job as her at the same factory after graduating from the same university. Last year both of them enrolled in the Pyongyang Medical College Online of Kim Il Sung University.

Not only in their workplace but also at home, they always

**Second daughter Kim Jin Suk**.



think of ways to make the Koryo medicine production modern, IT-based and scientific. One is a considerate mother and the other is a lovely daughter at home, and "good friends" in the research for the promotion of people's health.

### Continuing the Family Tradition

The youngest and only son Kim Yong Il graduated from the Hamhung University of Medicine. After finishing the postgraduate course he also became a urological surgeon at the Provincial People's Hospital. At the time his ambition was to become an authority on urologic surgery like his father. As his lifelong goal is to master medical science, he married Jong Kyong Hui, one of his fellow students who was well known as a brilliant student in the university days.

Their son Yong Jin is a second grader of the same university of medicine. He says, "I'll follow in the footsteps of my grandfather and father, firmly inheriting the tradition of our doctors' family."

*Kim Son Myong*

**Son Kim Yong Il** (right).



# Girls at Tree Nursery

**Y**OUNG PEOPLE OF KOREA turned out in response to the Workers' Party of Korea's call on the whole country to take an active part in the campaign for reforestation. Among them are members of a youth workteam of the Forest Management Station of Sinyang County in South Phyongan Province.

## Change

Ri Sin Ok, head of the youth workteam, was a worker of the Sinyang County Foodstuff Factory. In January 2015 she volunteered to work at the forest restoration site. She had seen a lot of young people volunteer to work at similar sites, and decided to keep in step with the trend of the times. Thus, she became a tree breeder. Kim Un Suk, Sin

Ok's mother, had encouraged her, saying, "It's a good idea. But it is not an easy job for you to grow trees as you have been engaged in the production of foodstuffs. And the country shows concern for the work. So you have to exert yourself lest you should be a burden to the others."

The daughter then expressed her determination to the factory, and some days later she was transferred to the abovementioned company. Though unfamiliar with the new job, she strove to master it in such a way that she became as good at growing trees as veteran breeders in less than a year. She was always an innovator in producing saplings, and her name was always seen on the noticeboard. Two years later she was appointed head of the youth workteam.

A panorama of the tree nursery.

## Enterprising Girl

Kim Chun Hui, head of sub-workteam No. 1, is known as an enterprising and assiduous girl. She never lags behind in work or allows her sub-workteam to fail to fulfil its target. In September 2015 the sub-workteam was tasked with producing saplings suited to the climatic and soil conditions of the Sinyang area, including those of larch, pine-nut tree, red pine, red maple and black chokeberry. The target was 1.5 times higher than that of the previous year. They had to confirm a necessary wide site and prepare a new place for seed treatment and a reagent tank. Some of them expressed their worry that they might fail to fulfil the task by themselves small in number.

Chun Hui then appealed



Innovations are made in sapling production.

to them, saying, "The country decided to restore the forests in a decade. When we spend every year fruitlessly we can't be referred to as youths who support the country. If we work looking forward to the day when the

mountains would turn into thick forests of trees we planted, it will invigorate us. Let's fulfil the task by our own efforts."

Though facing some unexpected problems, they managed to lay out the seed treatment place and build a reagent tank twice larger than the previous ones by helping and leading one another. The next year they overfulfilled the annual target by 20%.

## Our Disseminator

Jang Il Sim is a disseminator of science and technology and leader of recreation party in the youth workteam. A science and technology study session is held every Thursday morning, and Jang plays an important role in the session. She spends the previous night trying to grasp new knowledge about forestry so as to give other members a lesson the next day.

The lesson is combined with multimedia. The girls say that they are excited as they become good at breeding saplings after learning at the sci-tech learning

space to grow seeds, treat seeds, make seeds sprout, join saplings and store saplings.

Jang organizes a recreation party after the day's work. All members of the workteam merrily dance to an accordion and a guitar. This helps them reduce their fatigue from the work, they say.

And she meticulously taught newcomers the methods of growing saplings, making seeds sprout, treating seeds, etc., and thus they developed into good sapling breeders in less than a year.

Kim Pyong Sop, manager of the station, says, "Members of the youth workteam are in their twenties on average. But as the saplings grow, the young people grow in mind. It is not long since the workteam was formed, but they never fall behind in producing saplings. I believe that mountains in our county will be thickly covered with trees thanks to the efforts of such young people."

Sim Chol Yong



# Amateur Riders

SEVERAL YEARS HAVE passed since the Mirim Riding Club was opened. Some time ago, I had a chance to meet amateur riders there.

## Popular Rider

Mun Hyok is a researcher of the Pyongyang Observatory, the

help of the instructors of the riding club, he learned accurate riding postures and various equestrian skills, and acquired knowledge of horse and riding in the room for dissemination of knowledge of riding.

Soon riding became a part of his life. Whenever he is tired from his research work, he goes to the

ly displayed his excellent riding skill.”

The DPRK Equestrian Association admitted him.

## I'll Have My Second Son Learn Riding

Pak Se Hun, a student of the Sagok Junior Middle School, Tae-



State Academy of Sciences. He is 31 years old.

It was at the Central Zoo that he became curious about horse. When he was 12, he went to the Central Zoo to meet his brother who worked as a breeder at the horse house. At that time he envied him his skill in handling horses. Since then he often went there and became attached to horses.

Then he was very happy to hear the news that the Mirim Riding Club was completed. With the

club to ride a horse which helps him recover from his fatigue in a moment and hit on a novel idea.

At the Spring Amateur Riders Competition of this year, he took first place in the amateurs' race, and was recognized as a popular rider. The chief secretary of the DPRK Equestrian Association says, "The secret of success in riding match is deep understanding of one's horse and good communication between the rider and the horse. And they are Mun Hyok's forte. In this competition, he ful-

donggang District, Pyongyang, is also an amateur rider.

His kindergarten and primary school teachers often told his mother that he didn't confidently say what he had already known for his poor ability of expression. So she always worried about his timidity. One day she heard the news that a youth and schoolchildren's extracurricular riding circle would be organized in the Mirim Riding Club. So she had his son attend the circle at the thought that he might foster courage if



► he learned riding. Since then he developed day by day beyond his mother's expectation. Learning to ride, he grew brave and cheerful to the surprise of his teachers. And he was always followed by his classmates.

In the Autumn Amateur Riders Competition held in 2017, he took first place in the pony riding amusement game which required quickness and correct judgment, and this year he won another victory in this event.

When asked about the secret of the victory, he said, "When I began to ride, I was afraid. But while keeping riding I grew con-

fidant in myself, courageous and competitive."

Looking at him with satisfaction, his mother inwardly said, "I'll have my second son learn riding."

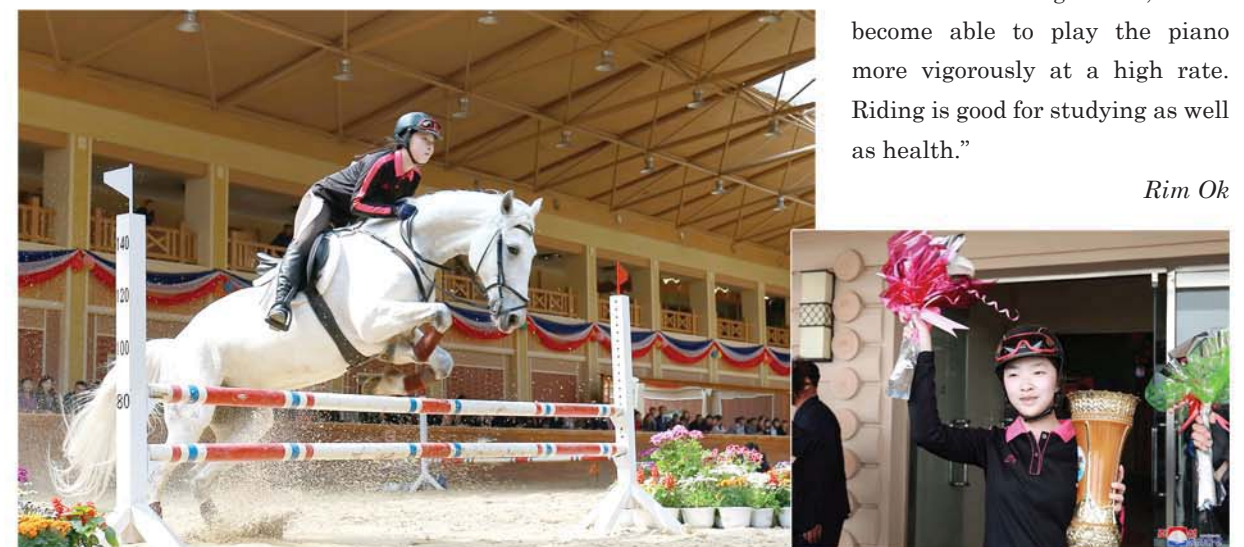
## Music and Riding

Ho Ye Gyong is a pupil of Kumsong Secondary School No. 2. She is learning the piano. She is very sensitive and clever, and mastered the skills of riding in

a short span of time. Her riding skills are very good and her postures are rhythmic.

She was the youngest girl rider in the Spring Amateur Riders Competition. She says, "I like a steeplechase most. When I received the trophy, I was really glad. I have unusual feelings while riding. The clatter of the horse's hoofs sounds like musical rhythms. When I am running on horse, I experience rapture which I am wont to feel playing the piano. Since learning to ride, I have become able to play the piano more vigorously at a high rate. Riding is good for studying as well as health."

Rim Ok







# Children's Palace

FROM OF OLD KING'S RESIDENCE WAS called palace. There still remain such palaces all over the world as witnesses of history. Their masters squandered a huge sum of money on them so as to show their power.

However, Korea has palaces solely for children, and they are leading as happily as the kings.

## Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace

The palace looks like a mother embracing her children with open arms. The sight of the palace attracted me like a magnet. Ryom Yun Hak, director of the palace, said, "Our palace is a base for extracurricular education and edification of pupils. At the proposal of President Kim Il Sung it was built as a perfect palace for the kings [children] under the guidance of Chairman Kim Jong Il. And the respected Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un saw to it that it was refurbished on modern lines as required by the new century."

The palace consists of the eight-storey main building and a four-storey annex with a total floor space of over 105 000m<sup>2</sup> and a total area of over 214 000m<sup>2</sup>. It has 140-odd rooms for circle activities, a gymnasium and a swimming pool. Pupils from different schools across the city of Pyongyang uses the

palace to conduct various extracurricular activities in compliance with their wishes and abilities, thus consolidating what they learn at school and learning more than one skill.

### "Private Shower Room"

The palace is equipped with everything for the convenience of pupils. Among them is a "private shower room" which Korean dance circle members are proud of. Their circle room is furnished nicely enough to be envious of by professional dancers. Near the circle room is the shower room solely for the members of the circle who perspire heavily in training. The shower room is equipped with a water heater, and they can take a hot shower in winter. So they take pride in having the shower room, and train hard to master dancing movements and techniques. Other circles also have such shower rooms.

### A Story Heard in Swimming Pool

In the swimming pool of the palace, I met instructor Pak Yon Ok, who said, "It is said that the facility that can adjust the distance of the length of swimming pool to 50 or 25 metres is very expensive. In other countries, I heard, such a facility can be seen



Schoolchildren participate in different extracurricular activities according to their wishes and aptitudes.



▶ only in a swimming pool for national team members."

She went on to say: Though the height of over three metres from the 10m diving board to the ceiling was more than enough for children, the country saw to it that the height of the ceiling was raised to suit the international standard. The raised height was only tens of centimetres.

Now I heard the quiet rolling sound of the clear warm water. The swimming pool was fixed up so that it could be used for international contests, and the children would not come out of the water, the instructor added.

All the children I saw anywhere in the palace were full of joy.

### Dormitory Full of Joy

After looking round a science building, an art building and a gymnasium, I headed for the L-shaped four-storey dormitory of the palace. Its entrance hall was decorated with different colours and various sculptural ornaments to children's liking, and children were joyfully playing on round chairs. Attracted by the sight, I did not notice Kim Jong Hun, manager of the dormitory, until he came very close. To him I said, "I really wish to be a child again." Then he said, "Every visitor to the dormitory say the

same as you," before guiding me to a refectory with a seating capacity of several hundreds on the ground floor. It was cosy and clean brightly illuminated by sunflower-shaped lights hanging from the ceiling.

Then I heard singing from the first floor. So I went upstairs, and the singing came from room No. 209 where there were staying pupils from the Haeun Primary School in Haeju City who came to Pyongyang for art performance. I asked them about their impressions of the dormitory. They promptly said, "It's wonderful," "It's better than my house," and "I want to keep staying here." They were sorry to fail to express their feelings better. The more I talked with them the more glad I was.

The entire dormitory was full of cheerful laughter and happy singing. I became excited as if I were in the world of a fairy tale. Every visitor to the palace, I was told, say that they feel as if they were 20 or 30 years younger as they are with happy children. Indeed the palace is the most wonderful place in the world, I think.

Children are honest. So they do not conceal their delight and happiness. When they become adults they will recollect their happy childhood, and they will create their beautiful future for the country.

*Pak Un Yong*

# Cultural Heritage under Better Care

**A**KOREA TODAY REPORTER HAD an interview with vice-director Ro Chol Su, department head Jang Myong Ho and assistant department head Pak Hong Chol of the National Authority for the Protection of Cultural Heritage.

**Protection of cultural heritage is a long-standing national concern of Korea, I think.**

Ro Chol Su: Right. After the country's liberation from Japan's military occupation on August 15, 1945, survey and collection of cultural heritage and its preservation and management in good order became a matter of national concern. In a less than two months after founding of the Republic a special organization was set up to take charge of protection and management of the national heritage of culture.

In 1985 Presidential Decree No. 35 of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea "On the Careful Preservation and Management of Cultural Sites and Relics" was proclaimed. The decree stipulated State measures and ways to improve the work of preserving and managing cultural heritage such as the establishment of a system of responsibility for preservation and management of the cultural sites and relics and setup of April and November each year as months for the protection of cultural sites and relics. It has displayed its great vitality decade after decade.

**In recent years I have witnessed successes in protection of tangible heritage.**

Pak Hong Chol: From 2015 to 2017, sites of the early Palaeolithic era were unearthed, and many relics and remains of national value were dug; they include remains dating back to the primitive and ancient ages of Korea, the world's first metal type, mausoleums of kings including that of King Sukjong, the 15<sup>th</sup> king of Koryo, a large-size cluster of tombs belonging to different ages, and the site of salt production of a medieval Korean state which existed between AD 37 and around the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century before being annexed to Koguryo.

In March 2017, a historical book *Jungbomunhon-bigo* was translated and published. It treats politi-



Ro Chol Su.



Pak Hong Chol.



Jang Myong Ho.

cal, economic and military systems and culture of the ancient and middle ages of Korea item by item in a chronological order. Profound studies of national classics have been conducted. Besides, a lot of books introducing historical sites and relics and folk customs have been published. Together with this, more and more tangible, intangible and natural heritage has been discovered and collected. In the course of this, mural tombs of Koguryo and several historical relics in Kaesong were registered as world cultural heritage. All these successes are inconceivable apart from a firm foundation laid in the sector of cultural heritage preservation.

**I think that foundation means a professional State machinery and atmosphere established in the whole society.**

Ro Chol Su: Today the National Authority for the Protection of Cultural Heritage is the central leadership organ for protection of the national heritage of culture. It organizes and guides the work in a coordinated way to excavate, protect, manage, deliberate, evaluate and register cultural heritage. The authority also has cultural heritage protection management bureaus and cultural heritage protection management stations at all levels under it, thus realizing its nationwide guidance to protect cultural heritage. And non-permanent committees for

the protection of cultural heritage are in operation, which involve the leading officials in the relevant power organs, judicial and procuratorial organs and working people's organizations in all provinces, cities and counties as well as in central agencies.

A well-regulated system is also working to put the protection of cultural heritage on a scientific footing in keeping with the developing reality. At present there are the Korea Agency for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in Pyongyang, and provincial agencies for the protection of cultural heritage across the country, which are functioning as research institute and advisory organ. They are conducting researches on the historical sites and relics, scenic spots, natural monuments and intangible cultural heritage while pushing ahead with the work to establish compre-

▶ hensive database to put the protection and management of cultural heritage on the IT basis.

**Would you tell me more detailed facts about how the nation's valuable heritage is looked after?**

Jang Myong Ho: My country is dynamically waging the campaign to find out not only tangible heritage but also intangible cultural heritage, spiritual and cultural wealth, and develop the traditional culture throughout society. *Ssirum* (Korean wrestling) which was registered on the list of the national intangible cultural heritage can be cited.

Kim Kyong Chan, a department head of Kim Il Sung University, is a researcher specializing in the tradition and history of *ssirum* and plays the role of adviser to help keep its traditional peculiarity in modern life. O Chang Bok, vice-president of the Korea University of Physical Education, studies and develops technical skills of *ssirum* suited to the physiological character of the Koreans to apply them in matches. And Ju Chang Yong, a worker of the Sinam Cooperative Farm in Ryongchon County, North Phyongan Province, is the eldest of a family that has produced *ssirum* aces for three consecutive generations. He is passing his skills on to the young people to let them carry forward the *ssirum* tradition of the Ryongchon area.

Meanwhile, the Korea *Ssirum* Association, a general administrative organ relating to *ssirum*, and the Sports Science Institute, hold the responsibility for dissemination and organization of matches and exclusively conduct the work to sustainably develop *ssirum*, the nation's praiseworthy heritage.

In recent years, with the annual organization of the National Inter-Provincial Games, the contest between provinces in the *ssirum* event is getting fiercer, encouraging the social concern in *ssirum*.

Over 100 items of excellent cultural heritage have been registered in the country, and 11 objects have become national intangible cultural heritage these days. Some of them are the Kyongsong sand and hot spring therapy, folk song *Yangsando*, shuttlecock game, bean-curd making, ceramics manufacture skill, art of lacquering and method of playing the *kayagum*. The newly registered intangible cultural heritage enriches the treasure house of cultural heritage, enlivening the national sentiments and flavour throughout society.

**The protection of cultural heritage in Korea is developing further in cooperation with the international community, I think.**

Ro Chol Su: Different programmes like joint studies and seminars on cultural heritage are now going on. Survey and excavation of the Kaesong Fort were conducted with the French School of Asian Studies

for eight years, and the Exhibition of the DPRK-France Joint Survey and Excavation of the Kaesong Fort took place two years ago. Exchange and cooperation are in full swing. The government of Germany rendered sincere cooperation for three projects including the Kwanum Temple in Kaesong. This serves as a valuable model in respecting foreign culture and deepening mutual trust.

We will further improve the protection and registration of cultural heritage and strengthen solidarity with international organizations to present the diversity of the world culture and actively contribute to verifying the creative ability of humankind. □

## Ryonju Ponds

**R**YONJU PONDS MEANS TWO PONDS Located in Okryu Valley, Kuryong Pool District in Outer Kumgang of Mt. Kumgang. The ponds lie side by side like two blue beads strung together, so they are called Ryonju Ponds. The upper pond is smaller than the lower. The upper is six metres wide, ten metres long and six metres deep, and the lower is nine metres wide, 30 metres long and nine metres deep.

Ryonju Ponds came into being by ablation of glaciers that moved down the valley for a long period of time. Situated on a white broad and flat rock, they are filled with clean blue water which overflows. They add peculiar beauty to the landscape in harmony with a waterfall, a ravine, rocks and forests and geographical features of mountains flanking it. A flat rock sits on the upper edge of the ponds across the valley, and Ryonju Falls flowing down to the ponds looks like a hung unwound roll of silk.

A high cliff stands north of Ryonju Ponds, and Kuryong Pool lies 400 metres south of the ponds. Kuryong Pool looking like a big stone mortar is 13 metres deep. Legend has it that once nine dragons lived there to defend Mt. Kumgang. Hence the name Kuryong Pool.

Ryonju Ponds are preserved and managed as Natural Monument No. 417.

Kim Chol Ung

# Mt. Myohyang

(Continued from the last issue)

**M**T. MYOHYANG REFLECTS all the beauties of nature including mountain, stream, rock, animal and plant and seasonal tint. In particular, Sangwon Valley, Manphok Valley and Piro Peak area are known as the best spots for their outstanding beauties.

## Sangwon Valley

The Sangwon Valley covers Pobwang Peak and the southern slope of Oson Peak. At a place halfway up the valley, over 500 metres above sea level, stands an old Buddhist hermitage called Sangwon Hermitage. Hence the name Sangwon Valley. The valley is known as one of the best spots in Mt. Myohyang since it offers a blend of a luxuriant forest, majestic waterfalls, blue pools, mysterious rocks and peaks including Inhodae and Pobwang Peak, and several ancient buildings such as Sangwon Hermitage and Pulyongdae.

Ryongyon Falls in the ravine is a tilted waterfall, which is the most magnificent and beautiful of

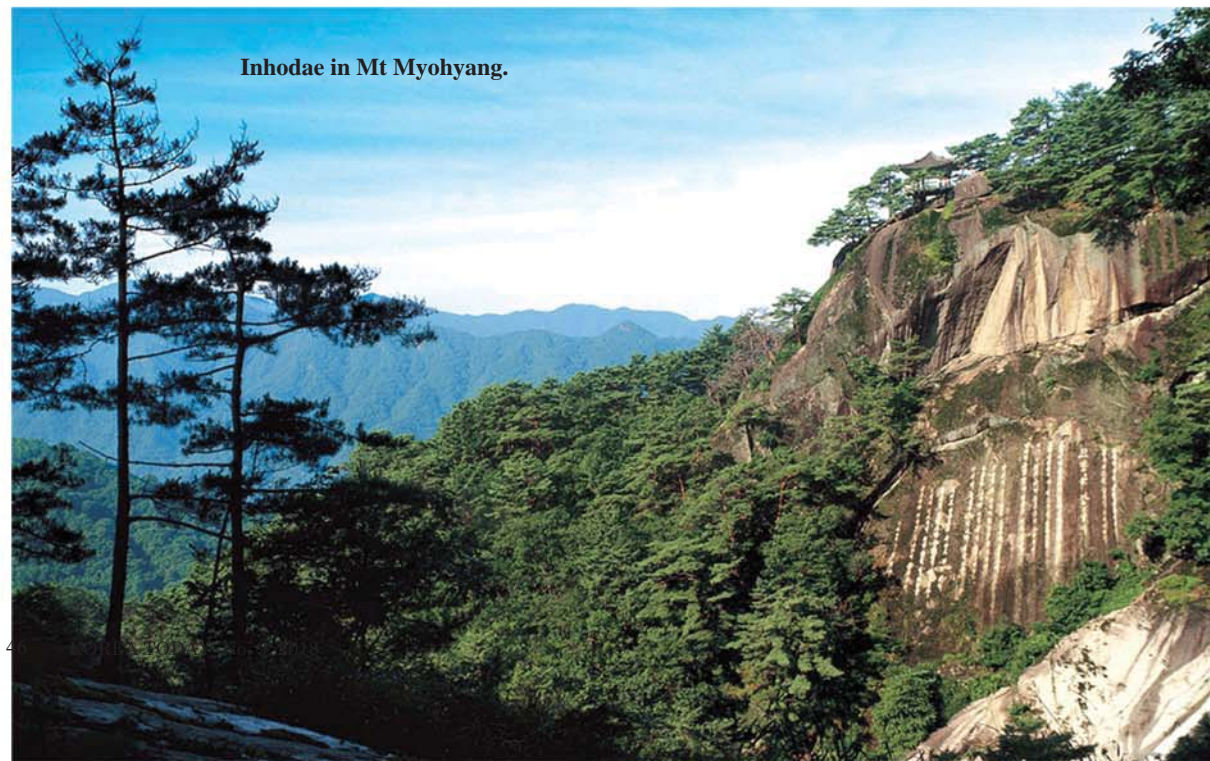
the many falls in Mt. Myohyang. Its name originated from the wonderful Dragon Pool above it. It is 84 metres high with 105 metres of watercourse. The water from under Pobwang Peak passes the Dragon Pool (3 metres across and 1.5 metres deep) and runs down over a rock, resembling a dragon spiraling upwards or a roll of white silk fluttering. Coupled with the myth-ridden fantastic-shaped rock Inhodae and the venerable Sangwon Hermitage, the falls makes a beautiful scenery.

Inhodae is a rock on a precipice just opposite the Sangwon Hermitage. It has a legendary tale that a large tiger, seeing some people trapped in the face of a cliff beside Ryongyon Falls, showed them their way up to the Sangwon Hermitage. Hence the name Inhodae (Kind Tiger Rock). Inhodae affords a bird's-eye view of the peaks and ravines in the mountains. Among them are Oson Peak where five heavenly men turned into stone fascinated by the wonderful scenery of the Sangwon Valley after coming down to take home the fairies who had descended to see the scenery in the daytime but forgotten to re-

turn after dark, and Jamdu (Silkworm Head) Peak where it is said celestial silk raiment was made for fairies.

Inhodae also overlooks Sanju Falls whose falling water looks like rains of pearls, Ryongyon Falls resembling a white dragon ascending into heaven through fog, Chonsin Falls looking like a roll of white silk hanging down from heaven, and the time-honoured Sangwon Hermitage nestling among the thick foliage. So, the Korean ancestors referred to the enjoyment of those three falls from Inhodae as *Inhogwanphok*, and as one of the eight scenic wonders of Mt. Myohyang.

When you climb 3 kilometres from the Sangwon Hermitage, there is Pobwang Peak (1 388 metres above sea level). It adjoins Oson Peak on the east and Kwanum Peak on the west. Some of the rocks on the peak look like a giant standing upright lifting up his iron fists or a monster having an eye on prey. Other rocks resemble running deer or flying cranes. Indeed, the rocks on Pobwang Peak are all of strange shapes, so it is called Manmulsang, or the Myriad-shaped Peak, of Mt. Myohyang. ▶



Inhodae in Mt Myohyang.

# Under Banner of Independence, Peaceful Reunification and Great National Unity

**K**OREA WAS DIVIDED into the north and the south by foreign forces over 70 years ago, which was the worst disaster of the nation. The two sides have since been confronted against each other politically and militarily, leaving a tragic history of antagonism and enmity. In order to put an end to this national misfortune and tragedy, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has made every effort, regarding national reunification as the supreme task of the nation.

## Three Charters for National Reunification

To make one Korea again is the internal affair of the Korean nation, which should be settled by the concerted effort of the nation. This is the consistent stand of the DPRK.

In June 1949 when the danger of war was scudding over the country and on June 7, 1950, just before the war, it made a proposal for holding general election throughout the Korean peninsula, establishing a unified supreme legislative body and calling its session in Seoul (in south Korea). In this way it did all in its power to avoid the war on the Korean peninsula and reunify the country in a peaceful way.

Later its proactive and strenuous efforts brought about the publication of the North-South Joint Statement in July 1972, ▶

whose keynote is independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity. Earlier on August 6, 1971, Kim Il Sung, President of the DPRK, proposed holding broad negotiation—meeting at any time with all political parties, social organizations and individual personages of the south side including the ruling Democratic Republican Party. Meeting a south Korean delegation on their visit to Pyongyang (north Korea) in early May 1972, the President said that if national reunification was to be achieved the two sides had to hold negotiations and adopt fundamental principles which might serve as the cornerstone for the solution of the reunification question. And he put forth his long-considered idea of three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity, and made a logical explanation of them. The head of the south Korean delegation gave a full consent to the idea and pledged to adopt the principles as the foundation and follow them faithfully. This finally developed into the North-South Joint Statement with the three principles as the core, which was simultaneously made public in Pyongyang and Seoul on July 4 that year.

Later at the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea in October 1980 Kim Il Sung made a proposal for founding the Democratic Federal Republic ▶

of Koryo (DFRK). The DFRK would be a unified federal state with a national government to be established on condition that the north and the south recognize and tolerate each other's ideas and social systems, a government in which the two sides are represented on an equal footing and under which they exercise regional autonomy with equal rights and duties. And at the fifth session of the ninth Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK in April 1993, he announced the 10-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country, in which he stated that those with strength devoting their strength, those with knowledge giving their knowledge and those with money donating their money, all should make a tangible contribution to the reunification of the country and the development and prosperity of a reunified land, thus putting an end to national division and displaying the dignity and honour of the reunified 70 million fellow countrymen to the world.

In 1981 the Third World Conference for Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea took place in Algeria, attracting 118 delegations (including 80 Party and government delegations) and delegates. It gave full support to the proposal of founding the DFRK and adopted an appeal and press release on bolstering international solidarity ▶

▶ Pobwang Peak overlooks the Kuryong River which meanders round the Yaksandongdae of Nyongbyon, one of the eight scenic spots in North and South Phyongan provinces and Jagang Province, on the southwest; it

also commands a view of the seat of Hyangsan County, built cosily in the national style, on the west along with high and low mountain ranges spreading in the areas of Unsan and Tongchang counties in the distance. And it commands

a distant view of the steep, craggy Rangnim Mountains stretching far like the ribs of a fan, and a close view of the industrial city of Hui-chon on the north.

(To be continued)

► campaign for the establishment of the DFRK. The follow-up international signature campaign for support of the 10-Point Programme drew heads of state including the presidents of Guinea, Palestine and Burundi, MPs, mayors and people from all walks of life—1 730 million people from over 150 countries in all.

The three principles of national reunification, the 10-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country and the proposal of founding the DFRK—the three charters for national reunification—indicate the just, fair and realistic way to reunification and prosperity of the country.

### **June 15 Joint Declaration Opens Era of Reunification and Prosperity**

On June 13-15, 2000, the year that marked the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the country's division, Pyongyang witnessed the first-ever summit meeting and talks between the north and south, resulting in the announcement of the historic North-South Joint Declaration. The document stipulated that the north and the south agreed to solve the question of the country's reunification independently by the concerted efforts of the Korean nation responsible for it, and that they, recognizing that the low-level federation proposed by the north and the commonwealth system proposed by the south for the reunification of the country have similarity, agreed to work together for the reunification in this direction in the future. Issues of humanitarian and economic cooperation programmes and matters of cooperation and exchanges in the social, cultural, sports, health, environment and other fields were also specified in the declaration.

As to what should be the core of the joint declaration to be drawn out, President Kim Dae Jung of south Korea suggested stipulating

in it such specific projects as laying military hotline and forming a joint economic committee.

Chairman Kim Jong Il said that there were already a number of documents the north and the south had agreed on, and that the point was that they had not been implemented properly. Stating that the document they were going to make this time should be something that would offer a new hope and optimism about reunification to the 70 million fellow countrymen at the threshold of the 2000s, he proposed presenting a new declarative, purposeful and hopeful document this time while discarding old leftovers yet maintaining principles as required by the new century. In this sense it was essential this time to declare the intention of achieving the country's reunification through the nation's own effort in the 2000s under the joint ideal of *By Our Nation Itself* while abolishing the legacy of the old age, he added. This was how the ideal of *By Our Nation Itself* was adopted as the core of the June 15 Joint Declaration.

This marked the beginning of change of the old time of distrust and confrontation between the north and the south into that of reconciliation and cooperation, and the opening of the time of national reunification and joint prosperity. Following the publication of the Joint Declaration, multiple layers of dialogue and contacts including the north-south ministerial talks took place, easing the military tension between the two sides and pushing multilateral cooperation and exchanges. The temporary road was opened between Kaesong in the north and Munsan in the south in February 2003; a ceremony took place to connect the east and west coastal railways between the north and the south in June 2003; a trial running of trains along the railways in May 2007; and the Kaesong Industrial Park and Mt. Kumgang tourism projects were accelerated through joint efforts.

The north side's teams and cheering groups participated in

the 14<sup>th</sup> Asian Games in Pusan, south Korea, in the autumn of 2002, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Universiad in Taegu, south Korea, in August 2003, and the Sports and Cultural Festival for National Reunification and Peace in Jeju Island, south Korea, in October 2003. Under the One Korea flag players from the two sides entered the venue of the opening ceremony of the 15<sup>th</sup> Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, in December 2006. North and south entertainers gave joint artistic performances and concerts while historians of the two sides had seminars in Pyongyang, Seoul and Mt. Kumgang resort, and joint data exhibitions and photo shows.

Chairman Kim Jong Il received a press delegation of south Korea on their visit to the north on August 12, 2000. He arranged a luncheon for them and posed with them for a souvenir photograph. During the reception a delegate asked the Chairman when the country he thought would be reunified. Looking round the people present on the occasion, Kim Jong Il said explicitly: The time of reunification depends on how the north and the south are resolved. Our decision and our endeavour to join efforts of our nation itself will determine whether reunification comes sooner or later.

In addition, delegates of south Korean political parties and groupings and over 40 personages from all strata attended the celebrations of the 55<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea; in 2005 the north, south and overseas Koreans commemorated the fifth anniversary of the publication of the June 15 Joint Declaration and the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of national liberation without any distinction between governments and NGOs—the first ever happening since the country's division. Members of separated families and their relatives in the north and south reunited in Pyongyang, Seoul and Mt. Kumgang resort on more than a dozen occasions.

The summit meeting and ►

► talks between Chairman Kim Jong Il and south Korean President Roh Moo Hyun took place on October 2-4, 2007 and the historic document titled Declaration for the Development of North-South Relations, Peace and Prosperity was adopted. It was a practical programme of the June 15 Joint Declaration, which set specific targets and tasks to further develop north-south relations and achieve peace and common prosperity through concerted efforts of the Korean nation itself.

With the adoption of the declaration the atmosphere of reconciliation and cooperation between the north and the south got on the upswing and a bright prospect opened for one Korea.

All the Koreans, whether they are in the north, south or abroad, look back with deep emotion on the June 15 era when they were making headway towards national reunification and prosperity singing the song *We Are One*.

### **Change from Symbol of Division to That of Peace**

Panmunjom had been symbolic of division and confrontation between the two sides of the Korean nation. It witnessed the conclusion of the Korean Armistice Agreement, and it beholds the demarcation line between the north and the south.

On April 27, 2018 Kim Jong Un, Supreme Leader of the DPRK, crossed the line to go to the House of Peace in the south side's area of Panmunjom. There he met south Korean President Moon Jae In and had talks with him. The summit talks resulted in the adoption of the Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Reunification of the Korean Peninsula. The declaration specifies that the north and the south affirmed the principle of national independence that the destiny of the nation must be decided by the nation itself, and agreed to thoroughly implement

inter-Korean declarations and all agreements already adopted. It also stipulates that the two sides will take proactive measures for putting into practice the issues agreed at the summit talks. Besides, it stipulates matters of working for national reconciliation and unity, multilateral cooperation and exchanges, travels and contacts, easing of the acute military tension on the Korean peninsula, removal of the danger of war, and laying of a durable and stable peace mechanism on the peninsula.

Since early this year the north side has made a proactive effort to get rid of mutual mistrust and create an environment favourable for national rapprochement and reunification. In his New Year Address Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un declared that the north side would open its doors to anyone from south Korea, including the ruling party, for dialogue, contact and travel, if they sincerely wished for national concord and unity. He also stated that the north was willing to dispatch its delegation to the Winter Olympics to be held in south Korea for its successful opening and adopt other necessary measures.

Thanks to his proposal for improvement of inter-Korean relations north-south high-level talks took place on January 9, and the north side dispatched a high-level delegation, entertainers' group, sports team, cheering group, Taekwon-Do demonstration group and press group to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Winter Olympics. The sportspeople of the north and the south entered the venue of the opening ceremony of the Olympics hand in hand flying the One Korea flag amidst the playing of the Korean song *Arirang*. Shouting the slogans "We are one," "National reunification" and "Come on, our players!" the north side's cheering group, together with the south Korean compatriots, demonstrated to the world the strong spirit of the nation to become one and live together peacefully sharing the inseparable blood relations.

On March 5 this year Kim Jong Un received a south Korean presidential mission on their visit to the north, where he reiterated that it is the north's consistent and principled stand and his own firm will to make concerted efforts to advance the inter-Korean relationship vigorously and open a new chapter for national reunification to win admiration of the world by pooling the efforts of the Korean nation itself. Later he made sure that practical measures were taken for the opening of the north-south summit meeting.

This is how the Panmunjom Declaration was adopted, which announced the end of the history of national division and confrontation and heralded the advent of a new era of peace and reunification.

On May 26, Kim Jong Un had another meeting and talks with President Moon Jae In who came to the Thongil House on the north side across the demarcation line at Panmunjom, which the Supreme Leader had crossed 29 days earlier. The top leaders agreed that both sides should trust and care for each other and make joints efforts to ensure that the Panmunjom Declaration reflecting the unanimous desire of all nationals would be implemented as early as possible. They also agreed to hold the north-south high-level talks and further accelerate the programme for talks in various fields including those of military authorities and the Red Cross societies. They were unanimous that they would meet frequently in the future to promote dialogue and pool wisdom and energy.

With this Panmunjom has been freed from the ill fame of symbol of division and confrontation and earned the title of symbol of peace, which witnessed the beginning of a new start of improving inter-Korean relations on the strength of the concerted efforts of the nation and which ushered in a new era of reconciliation and unity.

*Kim Won Sik*

