



**YOUNG PEOPLE OF KOREA
IN KIM JONG UN'S ERA**

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Foreign Languages Publishing House
DPR Korea
Juche 108 (2019)

PREFACE

History and tradition of a country or nation cannot be handed down by themselves simply because that country or nation is large in territory or population or has vast wealth.

It is young people who succeed the history and tradition of the forerunners and add brilliance to them.

The problem of young people has a very important bearing on the destiny and future development of the country and nation.

Young people are sensitive to the new, are enterprising and love justice and truth.

Their position and role in society, however, depend on how they are treated and trusted.

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea young people are, as their predecessors were, the most vigorous of the social forces, a powerful force that propels social progress.

This book introduces the DPRK's current policy on young people and the feats they have performed in the van of the times.

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1. TRUST

Development of the Youth Organization

For Youth Work

Rebirth of the Youth Shock Brigade

Message of Congratulations Sent from the Front

An Epic Is Born

To Add Eternal Glory to the Feats of Youth

Ten-out-of-Ten Show

Greatest Trust

1. TRUST

Young people propel the social development—this is the view of the DPRK government and the Workers' Party of Korea which lead them to fulfil their role and mission.

They love and trust young people so that they can continue to follow the path travelled by the preceding generations of the revolution and fully demonstrate the resourcefulness and gallantry of the youth on all fronts of national defence and socialist construction.

Development of the Youth Organization

The Ninth Congress of the Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League, held in Pyongyang in August 2016, adopted a decision on renaming the youth league Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League as a reflection of the matured demands of the development of the Korean youth movement and of the unanimous wish of all the members of the organization.

The renaming of the organization was a great event that proclaimed that the Korean youth movement is the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist youth movement and laid solid foundations for developing the youth league into an eternal organization of the great leaders.



Kim Jong Un conferring the flag of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League at the Ninth Congress of the Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League (August 2016)

The youth league was named after the great leaders at a meaningful time when a phase of making a leap forward in implementing the revolutionary cause of Juche was being opened up and the youth movement was greeting its heyday of development. This was a clear demonstration of the fact that the youth league had further developed ideologically, spiritually and organizationally. The youth league has now become an invincible vanguard that, guided only by the great Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism in its activities, fights for modelling the whole society on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism.

This was a demonstration of the people's wish that young people, under the unfurled banner of the great Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism, will creditably perform their missions and duties in the efforts for hastening the final victory of the revolutionary cause of Juche.

The proud realities of Korea, in which young people are opening the bright future of their country and nation as creators of the spirit of the Paektusan hero youth symbolic of the era, are a brilliant fruition born of the great Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism.

For Youth Work

The government of the DPRK spares nothing for the sake of young people with maternal affection.

On January 19, 2014, Chairman Kim Jong Un of the State

Affairs Commission of the DPRK summoned a senior official of the Central Committee of the youth league and said: I trust in our young people; I am steadfast in my resolve to train them all into successors to the revolution, into the young vanguard of the Workers' Party of Korea.

On the evening of the 23rd of the following month he summoned the official again. In the morning he had made a phone call to him, and in the afternoon he had taken him on his trip to the Songdowon International Children's Camp, which was being renovated. He now gave detailed instructions on bringing up young people to be more wholesome and stout. On hearing the problems arising in the work of the youth league, he took on the spot measures for resolving those problems, saying he would have any problems arising in youth work resolved without fail.

Under his concern and expectations, the youth movement is gaining momentum in its development.

Rebirth of the Youth Shock Brigade

On May 16, 2015, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un came to the venue for a photo session with the participants in the Second National Conference of Exemplary Young People of Virtue. As he came up to the political instructor of the 1st Battalion of the 12th Brigade of the High-Speed Youth Shock Brigade, the political instructor said to Kim Jong Un, "Dear Marshal, we



Kim Jong Un with the participants in the Second
National Conference of Exemplary Young
People of Virtue (May 2015)

will exalt the honour of our High-Speed Youth Shock Brigade, whose name you made it possible to be glorified.”

There was a moving story behind this pledge.

The High-Speed Youth Shock Brigade, which was formed on May 16, 1975 on the initiative of Chairman Kim Jong Il, built many monumental structures—Wangjaesan Revolutionary Site, International Friendship Exhibition House, Grand People’s Study House, Ore-dressing Plant No. 3 at the then Komdok General Mining Enterprise, Northern Railways, Kwangbok Street, etc, thus creditably fulfilling its duty and mission as befitting the young vanguard of the Party.

Chairman Kim Jong Il valued this shock brigade, as it was performing heroic feats at the sites of grand socialist construction. He raised it as a regular and militant labour force which stood at the forefront of the effort to implement



the Party's plan for socialist economic construction and as an excellent revolutionary school that trained young people into a dependable vanguard for the Party in the worthwhile struggle. He once said that it was the source of strength and pride for the Party to have such a faithful group as the youth shock brigade.

However, owing to this or that reason, the High-Speed Youth Shock Brigade seceded from the youth league in the early 2000s.

Kim Jong Un ensured that the shock brigade sustained its revolutionary features as a powerful construction unit under the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League; he took measures for restoring its name and attaching it again to the youth league in order to defend and glorify the Chairman's immortal exploits.

The shock brigade, born again, is now creditably performing its honourable duty and mission as the young vanguard of the Party by building many monumental structures.

Message of Congratulations Sent from the Front

On August 27, 2012, the participants in the Youth Day Celebration Conference received a message of congratulations from Kim Jong Un who was inspecting army units on the frontline.

A few months ago he had taken steps for celebrating Youth



Kim Jong Un with the participants in the Youth
Day Celebration Conference (August 2012)

Day in grand style, and given guidance over the preparation of celebration events.

In his message he said: From the far-off frontline, I extend warm congratulations and militant greeting to all the participants in the Youth Day Celebration Conference and to other young men and women across the country who are greeting Youth Day in the first year of the new century of the Juche era with feelings of boundless joy and excitement. ...Our young people are devoting the precious youth to several major projects, including the construction of the Paektusan Songun Youth Power Station and the reconstruction of the Northern Railways, which the Party has entrusted solely to them; this demonstrates how truly admirable and praiseworthy they are. I want to seat them on golden cushions and pluck stars from the sky for them so that the world will envy them.

On his return from the inspection trip, Kim Jong Un had a photo taken with the participants in the conference and enjoyed a concert with them.

An Epic Is Born

On October 3, 2015, Kim Jong Un participated in the inauguration ceremony of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station. Looking at the young people standing in solemnity on the auspicious occasion, he began to deliver a speech.

“Dear trustworthy young vanguard,”



Kim Jong Un delivering a speech at the inauguration ceremony of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station (October 2015)

He had many words to speak first in praise of the young people who had built the power station braving all manner of trials. What filled his mind was an unshakable trust in young people.

During his first visit to the construction site of the power station in April 2015, he praised the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade for creating a legendary tale of heroic youth in the Mt Paektu area, saying that he was very delighted as if he had won the world. He continued that the youth league should be strongest of all other units in organization, discipline and fighting efficiency, and only then will the Party, the army and the country become strong.

The shock brigade members were working with devotion in response to the Party's appeal for completing the project by October 2015 to mark the 70th anniversary of the Party. They were his spiritual buttress and unyielding fulcrum.

On September 13, he visited the construction site again, just before the inauguration of the power station, and said: I was told that you have built the dam for Unit 1 of the power station before Youth Day, so I planned to come here and congratulate you. Because of the tense situation, I could not do so. Even though I was not here amid fierce confrontation with the enemy, my thoughts remained with you who were working hard to build the dam for Unit 1 of the power station by Youth Day in hearty response to the Party's call.

He went on to say: I have come to the entrance of water



tunnel No. 2 but I cannot enter it now because its intake was completed. I wanted to enter it as it is permeated with the precious blood and sweat of our young people. The dam for Unit 2 and the water tunnel No. 2 are the precious fruition of the patriotism of our young people, who have waged a hard struggle to conquer nature in severe cold. So any part of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station should never be neglected.

Keeping his trust in mind, the shock brigade members grew stronger and were united more firmly, fulfilling their tasks creditably; while building the power station day and night, they constructed also a village for the people living in the area to be submerged; after mapping out a long-term afforestation plan, they introduced tree seeds of new species and planted



trees and flowers in the power station area. On receiving the report on their deeds, he said that the way of work of the youth shock brigade members and soldiers demonstrated as it was the ennobling world of loyalty of our young people who were implementing every Party policy to the letter.

After delivering the speech, Kim Jong Un cut the ribbon, declaring the inauguration of Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station. That night, he looked at the sky over the power station, which was aglow with dazzling fireworks, and said: As I was looking at the fireworks display, I came across the poetic verse *The strength of the youth hot like fire as if it were their patriotic blood and sweat.*

Reciting the extempore verse, he continued: Poems should be written about the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station. They

should tell that the power station is linked with Mt Paektu, the cradle of revolution, and the height of its dam represents the patriotic loyalty cherished by the young people of Paektu. The dam looks like a castle of young people safeguarding the Party. The dam's shape can serve as the theme of a poem.

During his first visit to the power station a few months ago, he said on the dam for Unit 1, **“Oh, the heroic spirit and feats of Paektu youth who rush ahead along the course of**

the Korean revolution set by our Party, sailing with the blizzards of Paektu!”

This was how the epic poem *A Legendary Tale of Heroic Youth of Mt Paektu* was created, which gave a great encouragement to the shock brigade members when they were working day and night to built Unit 3 of the power station.

Kim Jong Un visited the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station for the fourth time on April 22, 2016. He praised the



young builders for completing the three units of the power station by demonstrating to the whole world the indefatigable spiritual strength and inexhaustible might of the Korean young people. He then went over a collection of compositions, sketches, drawings and photo albums prepared by the shock brigade headquarters.

He commented that the drawing, titled, *We Can Even Raise the Earth When We Are Trusted by Our Marshal*, was very impressive.

An official told him that the youth shock brigade members built the dam for Unit 3, with the faith and courage that they could even raise the earth when they were trusted by the Marshal.

Kim Jong Un said: As we have such excellent young people, we have no fortress unconquerable. If they raise the earth, then I will turn it.

To Add Eternal Glory to the Feats of Youth

In September 2015 Kim Jong Un visited the construction site of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station. At that time the construction of the room for education in revolutionary exploits was underway in the observation area of Unit 1 of the power station.

After acquainting himself with the progress of the construction work, he had the room transformed into an

exhibition hall and named it Paektusan Hero Youth Exploits Exhibition Hall, saying that the young builders' exploits constituted a precious asset that would go down in the Party's history.

In the following month, at the inauguration ceremony of the power station, he highly praised the young builders for creating the charging spirit and culture of young people, which constitute a precious asset for the country's youth movement.

He continued: When the ranks of young people across the country are brimming over with this spirit and culture, as pure as the limpid water of Lake Chon and as straight as the larches on Mt Paektu, the Paektusan youth power will grow ever stronger. Our Party intends to erect a monument to the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade members here and an exhibition hall highlighting their feats so as to hand down their achievements to posterity. Then everyone who comes on a study tour of the revolutionary battle sites in the Mt Paektu area can learn from the spirit and culture of the young people of Paektu.

True to his ennobling intentions, the Paektusan Hero Youth Exploits Exhibition Hall was built in a splendid fashion.

On April 22, 2016, Kim Jong Un visited the power station again, upon receiving a report that the builders completed the projects for Unit 3 of the power station, the lower part of the dam for Unit 1 and the renovation of the Paektu Youth Sanatorium.

That day, looking round the Paektusan Hero Youth Exploits Exhibition Hall, he said: In our country there are many rooms for education in revolutionary relics but this is the one and only place exhibiting young people's feats.

Standing by the exhibition house, one can see the Monument to the Feats of Heroic Youth across the dam. The monument is associated with Kim Jong Un's affection



for the proud young people.

One day, when the construction project of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station was in full swing, Kim Jong Un was going over a design of a monument to be set up at the power station. According to the design, the monument had some letters carved at the upper centre of the plinth and the emblem of the youth league embossed on it.

Not happy with the design, he said: Rather than the emblem of the youth league a medal of the Hero of the DPRK should be embossed on the monument to be erected in the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station. This will help all the people have a good understanding of the heroic feats performed by our young people in the Paektu area.

Then he wrote the name of the monument in his handwriting and fixed the location of the monument.

The monument still tells the Supreme Leader's warm affection for young people.

Ten-out-of-Ten Show

On September 9, 2015, Kim Jong Un saw the performance *Songs of the Youth Following the Sun* given by the Central Youth Artistic Motivational Team. After the performance was over, he told officials that prioritizing young people was an urgent requirement for the times and the revolution.

He commented on the performance: The Central

Youth Artistic Motivational Team has staged an excellent performance. It is pulsating with the spirit of the times. It shows that the 70-year-long history of our Party is a period during which it has prioritized young people and built ours into an invincible youth power. It is a ten-out-of-ten show that sensitively reflects Party policy and contains all I want to tell the young people. It is the best of the performances given by artistic motivational teams so far.

He added that the Central Youth Artistic Motivational Team, as the microphone and bugler of the Party, should give performances that would contribute to training all the young people into elite Kimilsungists-Kimjongilists and conform with the intentions of the Party Central Committee.



That day he instructed that the team's divisions should be dispatched to the field to give performances and conduct motivational work simultaneously. He also said that new, smart uniforms should be made for its members, more creative workers assigned to the team and their qualifications improved.

Greatest Trust

One December day in 2014 some ten young people applied for admission to the shock brigade that was charged with the construction of a gravitational drainage tunnel between Chonsong and the Songsan River. They said they were repenting of their wrong past.

The project was aimed at draining underground water from the Chonsong Youth, Ryongdae and other large coal mines in South Phyongan Province without using 20 000 kW of electricity, 50 motors and pumps.

For several years a shock brigade of young people in the province was conducting the project that involved connecting many pits by digging a waterway tunnel with a combined length of several thousand metres.

One of the new applicants said:

“Allow us to form a separate unit and call it Kil Yong Jo Youth Shock Brigade. We know our unit does not deserve to be named after Hero Kil Yong Jo. Please help us redeem ourselves and live a worthwhile life like the hero who is still

remembered for his self-sacrificing spirit displayed in the last 25 seconds of his life.”

This was how the Kil Yong Jo Youth Shock Brigade was born.

Kim Jong Un was very pleased to hear that the young people with an undignified past decided to turn over a new leaf and volunteered for the tunneling work. On one February day in 2015 he called a senior official of the provincial Party committee and inquired about how the shock brigade was organized. He told the official that the Party organizations should inspire the young people with patriotism, take good care of them and help them to become dignified pioneers of the times. Learning about their patriotic deed, I feel as if our Party won the world, and I ask you to convey my greetings to them, he stressed.

Upon being told about what Kim Jong Un had said, the young people all shed tears of gratitude. They summed up their daily work with a feeling of yearning for Kim Jong Un. As they kept in mind the Supreme Leader’s trust in them, they never flinched from doing the tunnelling in the face of frequent cave-ins or the gushing out of underground water.

2. BRILLIANT FEATS

**Creators of the Spirit of the Times
and Beautiful Deeds**

**Advance Group in the Grand March
for Economic Construction
For the Development of Sports**

2. BRILLIANT FEATS

As a saying goes, there is no weak soldier under the command of a distinguished general. A great statesman who prioritizes young people can train a large contingent of young warriors.

Young people in the DPRK are rallied firmly behind their leader and they create the spirit of the times to add lustre to the great Kim Jong Un's era.

Creators of the Spirit of the Times and Beautiful Deeds

With a Do-or-Die Determination

The construction of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station was a large-scale, challenging project as it involved a struggle against the worst-ever natural and geological conditions. For example, the Chonsu area where Unit 1 of the power station sits was out of the way. Lying about 1 000m above sea level, it was home to primitive forests. To make matters worse, due to the intense cold, the period available for concrete tamping in a year was only five or so months. As its name implied, the area was hit by torrential rain several times a day, causing the Sodu to overflow and turning the land into a quagmire.

It was about 120km from Chonsu to Hyesan and over 100km to the Paegam Youth Railway Station, the nearest railway station from the area. For this reason, the laying of narrow-gauge railways and the construction of relief road extending over 20km should be undertaken simultaneously. Such a project was unprecedented in the history of the construction of hydropower station in the country.

However, the youth shock brigade members made a firm resolve to build the power station on their own. They built dams and dug waterway tunnels inch by inch, breaking rocks and moving mountains in the face of the harshest conditions. When even the means of transport were frozen due to the intense cold, they transported building materials on sledges of various sizes.

Fully aware of the country's situation, they renovated a cement plant whose production had been falling off, melted iron to produce steel and manufactured a small train.

Science and technology were the key to making active progress in the construction work. The young builders learned to have an in-depth knowledge of geology, surveying, architecture, meteorology, hydrology, forestry, hydraulic engineering, mechanical engineering and electrical engineering. They found solutions to technological problems by themselves. Thanks to these talented people's creative wisdom, a lot of labour, materials and funds were saved and the project went full steam ahead.

With the Spirit of the Blizzards of Paektu

In late October 2014 Kim Jong Un climbed Mt Paektu braving howling snowstorm. Wind speed reached nearly 30m per second. On Janggun Peak, the highest point of the mountain, he hardened his determination to bring forward the day of final victory.

He said:

“The revolutionary spirit of Paektu, the spirit of the blizzards of Paektu, is an ennobling spirit our service personnel and people must cherish till the end of their lives and the most precious spiritual wealth they must never exchange for anything in the world. As long as we live in this spirit, there is nothing to fear and nothing is impossible.”

He continued to say: If Mt Paektu, the root of all other mountains in the country, stirs up, the whole land will vibrate. We should go along the road of revolution to the end, cherishing the blizzards of Paektu that hardens our revolutionary faith and illumines the ways for achieving final victory.

The spirit of the blizzards of Paektu is an unyielding offensive spirit of braving obstacles and difficulties and a staunch fighting spirit of rising up no matter how often one may fall and fighting it out.

On April 19, 2015, Kim Jong Un climbed the sacred mountain of the revolution again, and hardened his resolve to accomplish the Korean revolution in the spirit of the blizzards of Paektu. He then went straight to the construction site of the

Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station.

He recalled how much General Kim Jong Il had been concerned about the construction project. The officers of the shock brigade felt remorseful since they had not completed the project. But Kim Jong Un praised the shock brigade members for carrying on the project in spite of the icy cold.

That day he specified ways for stepping up the construction.

He said that young people were entrusted with many major construction projects in the country, stressing that they should be standard-bearers and vanguard in building the monuments of everlasting significance.

He took radical steps for speeding up the construction of the power station—making scrupulous arrangements by the on-site combined headquarters, stepping up political work and the socialist emulation drive to give free rein to the inexhaustible strength of the youth shock brigade members. He also pointed to the necessity of intensifying political work at the construction site to make it seethe with enthusiasm for conquering nature, maintaining close cooperation between the service personnel and civilians and enlisting the entire Party and the whole country in the project.

Rodong Sinmun, dated April 20, carried the news of Kim Jong Un's field guidance at the construction site of the power station and a new song, titled, *We Will Go to Mt Paektu*.

With this as a momentum, many more young people volunteered to work at the construction site.



Kim Jong Un giving a field guidance at the construction site of the then Paektusan Songun Youth Power Station (April 2015)

Legendary Tale of Heroic Youth

When Kim Jong Un issued an order on building Units 1 and 2 of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station by the 70th anniversary of the Party, the shock brigade members took it as an expression of his trust in them; they never doubted the possibility.

Dam building was a great challenge. Given the average annual rate of concrete tamping over the past decade, it was estimated to take eight years. And at the maximum daily rate, it would take two years. But a little more than 120 days were remaining until the completion date set by the Supreme Leader.

The shock brigade members were determined to complete the construction project by the set date and at the standard demanded by the Party. They worked day and night with extraordinary willpower.

They performed at lightning speed a huge amount of work tantamount to what they had done in the previous ten years, and built Units 1 and 2 of the power station by the 70th anniversary of the Party.

In October 2015 Kim Jong Un attended the inauguration ceremony of the power station and stressed that the shock brigade should harden their resolve to build on the successes already gained and make a continuous offensive, continuous advance, to effect one innovation after another. And he ordered them to build Unit 3 of the power station by the Youth Day (August 28) the following year.

In hearty response to his order the shock brigade members launched a strenuous campaign. Upon publication of the resolution of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea on convening the Seventh Party Congress, they pledged to build Unit 3 before the opening of the congress.

Resounding at the construction site were such slogans as “Let us build Unit 3 of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station before the Seventh Party Congress!” “Let us demonstrate once again the heroic spirit and mettle of Paektu youth!” and “Let us enter the finish line of May ahead of others!” Artistic motivation teams became more active, and heavy machines were operated at full capacity.



Amid a socialist emulation drive, cofferdams were built in less than ten days, and concrete tamping for the impervious cores and building the dam started on January 13, 2016.

Even though the concrete mixer could not be operated, the shock brigade members overfulfilled their daily quotas by two or three times, thus finishing concrete tamping on the dam's impervious cores on March 24.

They also made rapid progress in the dam construction. About 12 000 cubic metres of the dam was built in 24 hours from 2:00 p.m. on March 19. At the final stage of dam construction the means of transport could not be used because



of the narrow space but the young builders carried 3 500 cubic metres of sand and stone within 11 hours.

Thanks to the strenuous efforts of the hot-blooded young people, the dam was built on March 31. Unit 3 of the power station was built in less than six months, a gift dedicated to the Seventh Party Congress.

Kim Jong Un praised the young builders, saying that the trustworthy Paektu youth completed the construction of Unit 3 of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station before the Seventh Party Congress, four months before the date set by him. He added that just like previous year, they created a new legendary tale of heroic youth on the land of Paektu where the Juche revolution had started.

Under the Banner of Self-Reliance

It was in the freezing season in the Mt Paektu area that the shock brigade members launched the construction of Unit 3 of the power station. They lacked experience in building a hydropower station in winter, but they were fully determined to carry out Kim Jong Un's instructions by relying on their own efforts.

The staff of the Central Electric-Power Designing Institute helped modifying the design of spillway to save large amounts



of mortar and steel without doing 12 000 cubic metres of bedrock excavation. A method was developed of using concrete instead of clay in building the dam's impervious cores to save labour and materials and reduce the period of construction.

Amid a mass-based technical innovation campaign the shock brigade members introduced new reasonable schemes including the one of using locally available rocks.

As a protection against the severe cold they set up coverings where the dam and power generator room would be built, using logs, waterproof canvas and PVC sheeting. The covering for the dam was more than 200m long, and this makeshift

structure was suitable for concrete tamping in the dam's impervious cores and building the dam.

Providing the builders with living conditions was a bottleneck, in addition to the unfavourable natural environment and the huge amount of work.

It was difficult to build barracks and obtain firewood. To the shock brigade members, the biggest headache was how to bring cereals and subsidiary food from the lowland areas. The roads were in poor conditions, and it was hard to transport even the building materials.

They decided to resolve the problem of subsidiary food by cultivating vegetables and soybeans on their own.

The locals dissuaded them, saying that vegetable farming was impossible as the soil was composed of pumice layers and summer was relatively short as compared with the long winter.

The young builders reclaimed the fields with a total area of 300 hectares, covered them with several hundreds of truck loads of compost to improve the infertile soil in the Chonsu area. Then they cultivated bok choy, radish, pumpkin, kidney beans, chilli, sesame, soybeans and maize.

They also built bases for growing bean sprouts and mushrooms, processing cereals and raising domestic animals. In addition, they built a restaurant as large as the Okryu

Restaurant in the capital city, a hospital furnished even with operating theatres, as well as a sanatorium, fishing pond and boating ground.

On April 19, 2015, Kim Jong Un looked round the sanatorium and praised the young people, saying that the dining hall was good and its indoor temperature was high as compared with those at the several units he had visited. At the bathhouse he said jokingly that it seemed that it was better than the Changgwang Health Complex or the Ryugyong Health Complex in Pyongyang. Seeing a mural painting of a larch forest in the recreation hall, he commented that it was very good. He also praised the shock brigade members for laying out fishing pond and boating ground behind the sanatorium.

The vigorous struggle of the young people brought remarkable changes to the land of Chonsu, once known for its sparse population and raging wind.

An Unforgettable Story

In January 2010 the power-generating machines for the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station arrived at the port of Chongjin.

The port was about 260km away from the power station on the Paengmu Plateau. It was a challenging task to transport

the heavy machines, each weighing scores of tons, to the construction site. January was one of the coldest months in the Mt Paektu area, and they had to cross the steep mountain paths through Chayu, Kam and Samchon passes.

The ice begins to melt in May, so the inauguration of the power station would have to be delayed for nearly half a year. The shock brigade members turned out in the campaign to transport the machines along the 260km-long course. Each unit of the shock brigade took charge of a certain section of the route. They dug up frozen soil and spread sand or weathered gneiss over the roads. The local residents in Chongjin, Puryong, Musan, Taehongdan and Paegam were surprised to see the roads in mid-winter.

A convoy of trucks and trailers moved slowly along the roads starting at the port of Chongjin despite the severe cold of minus 30°C. It managed to negotiate the numerous turns on Chayu Pass and then Kam Pass in Musan.

On Samchon Pass, the gateway to the Mt Paektu area, a trailer began to slide back. The rotator on it rolled down a snowy slope.

The officers and other members were caught off guard by this accident, girls bursting into tears.

They all knew that the workers at the Tae'an Heavy Machine

Complex had burnt the midnight oil manufacturing the equipment and the crewmen braved violent waves on the West and South seas in mid-winter to transport it.

At this moment, an officer shouted, “This road leads to Mt Paektu. It is impossible to lift the rotator. We have to dig earth beneath it to make room for the trailer.”

They rose up. They began to break a road to the place on the slope, where the rotator was lying; they worked day and night. After two days, they succeeded in bringing the trailer to the slope along the road and loading the rotator onto it.

A Unique Invention

By the close of December 2011 the on-site combined headquarters of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station decided to set up a log bridge. Rails were planned to be laid on the bridge for a small locomotive to run. This wooden structure would be placed in front of the dam for Unit 1 of the power station, and used for the transport of mortar. It would help towards saving steel, cement and aggregate as well as time.

In case of building a concrete bridge, large amounts of steel, cement and aggregate would be needed and fuel might be wasted. And May was suitable for building a concrete bridge, so the construction would be delayed for 120-odd days.



Some objected to this idea, arguing that the wooden piers were rickety.

As a matter of fact, it was by no means easy to set up a log bridge on the Sodu River amid the biting cold. But the unprecedented cold, heavy snow and snowstorm could not break the will of the young people to build the power station at all costs. They dug the frozen earth, laid the pier foundations and carried logs. In this way the bridge was built in 60 days. Then rails were laid with a total length of 220m and a small locomotive ran on them, carrying mortar to the dam for Unit 1 of the power station.



In April 2015 during his visit to the construction site, Kim Jong Un saw the log bridge. He praised the shock brigade members, saying they were laudable and such a structure could be invented only by the young builders who strove to economize on cement and bring the completion date earlier.

“Girl Mother”

Among those who took the floor at the Second National Conference of Exemplary Young People of Virtue held in May 2015 was a 20-year-old girl, called Jang Jong Hwa. She was known for taking maternal care of orphans in Kangson.

At the age of 18, after graduating from a secondary school, she decided to take care of orphans. It is not easy for such a girl to care what the Party and the state worried most, and it is more difficult for her to bring up orphans. For her, bringing the orphans up was not a simple matter of feeding them and helping them wear clothes.

She had to become a model of integrity, an excellent, selfless person.

She began to learn how to restrain herself from pursuing her personal interests. Thanks to her assiduous efforts, maternal affection and selfless devotion became part of herself.

When the conference was over, Kim Jong Un met Jang and some other exemplary young people before a photo session. He spoke highly of her for devoting her all to the parentless children. In the letter of thanks sent to the conference he said: The laudable deeds of the 20-year-old “girl mother,” who is looking after seven orphans with maternal affection in the prime of her life, move all the people.

Nobody imagined that Jang, the youngest of the participants, would be raised to such great prominence, along with the uncommon title of “girl mother.”



Kim Jong Un said: The word “girl mother” can be coined only in our country. Such a beautiful deed cannot be witnessed in other countries.

Having left the capital city of Pyongyang to work at the remote power station construction sites, cooperative farms, fishery stations and new development sites, volunteered to teach at schools in hard-of-access mountain villages and far-flung islands, donated their blood and skin unhesitatingly to others and become eternal life companions of honoured disabled soldiers, young people of the country like “girl mother” regard doing beautiful deeds for society and the collective as a high honour and pride in youth.

Advance Group in the Grand March for Economic Construction

A Strong Wind of Innovation

In the run-up to the Ninth Congress of the Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League, young people across the country launched a campaign for collective innovation and socialist emulation.

In hearty response to the order by Supreme Commander Kim Jong Un, the service personnel, who had been seconded for the construction of Ryomyong Street, built the framework of a 70-story apartment in a matter of 74 days. They did so with a firm resolve to complete the construction project till the date set by the Party and at the standard demanded by it.

The High-Speed Youth Shock Brigade launched a socialist emulation drive among its units, thus completing the



framework of the apartment blocks under its charge in 70 or 80 days.

Numerous young people volunteered to work at night at the construction site. In cooperation with the members of the youth shock brigade, they performed a large amount of work in a month, carrying 3 000 cubic metres of debris and aggregate and 180-odd tons of cement.

Other young people in the capital city stepped up the shock brigade movement and played a leading role in renovating Kim Il Sung Stadium, the Central Hall of Workers and container workshop of the Ryongaksan Spring Water Factory.

In the period between the day of launch of the 200-day campaign (a drive for increased production between June 1 to December 15, 2016) to the day of opening of the Ninth Congress of Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League, the number of workers who fulfilled their plans for two, three and four years reached 17 000.

Young people across the country strove to emulate the working spirit and style of their revolutionary forerunners who had performed shining exploits in answer to the Party's appeal in every grim decade of the Korean revolution. The members of the Cha Kwang Su Youth Shock Brigade and the Kim Hyok Youth Shock Brigade at the Tukjang Youth Coal Mine, Sochang Youth Coal Mine, Jenam Coal Mine and Wolbong Coal Mine completed their plans for the 200-day campaign by August 10, before the above congress of the youth league.

Scores of weavers and silk-reel workers at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill and Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill carried out their two- and three-year plans. Three girl workers at the Sariwon Textile Mill carried out their four-year





plans by operating three times more weaving machines.

Over 120 young workers at the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory and Ryuwon Footwear Factory overfulfilled their yearly plans.

The young workers at the Chollima Steel Complex repaired a diesel locomotive by obtaining 200 or so accessories and named it *Chongnyon* (Youth–Tr). And those at the Ryongsong and Ragwon machine complexes manufactured heat pump, compressor, hydraulic excavator and other machines, all named *Chongnyon*.

The young workers at the Hamhung Woolen Textile Mill also produced a high-pressure dyeing machine during the 200-day campaign under the uplifted banner of self-reliance and named it in a similar fashion. They volunteered to manufacture it as part of the effort to establish a new dyeing process. This multi-functional machine made a great contribution to lowering the cost of production.

The young people at the Sonbong Fishery Station in Rason remodelled a fishing boat into a modern 275hp vessel and

named it *Chongnyon*. And many other fishing vessels with similar names were commissioned one after another, and this example was generalized across the youth league organizations in the country.

In June 2016 young people at the Haeju Trailer Farm Machine Factory and other plants in South Hwanghae Province launched a collective innovation campaign to produce new types of farm machines. As a result, dozens of threshers for sub-workteam and motor-driven deep-soil fertilizer distributors were produced and named after *Chongnyon*. These are associated with the patriotic endeavour of the young people for the comprehensive mechanization of the rural economy.

The name *Chongnyon* can also be seen on the trolley buses remodelled by the young people in Nampho. Students and other young people in the country conducted the do-good-deeds campaign to supply 1 000 spare parts and materials to the Kumsong Tractor Factory; thanks to their youth shock brigade movement, four *Chongnyon* tractors were produced.

The young people in the passenger traffic sector in Pyongyang made over 9 000 parts of 30 kinds and repaired dozens of buses, trolley buses and trams by December 2015, naming them *Chongnyon Jonwi* (Young Vanguard–Tr).

In the Campaign to Go Beyond the Cutting Edge

The Korean young people are conducting a brisk campaign to go beyond the cutting edge in the field of science and technology.

A Korean scientist in his thirties was chosen in 2015 as TWAS young affiliate, and later was appointed as a member

of an international institute noted for its prestige in the field of theoretical physics.

A young scientist at the railway science branch of the State Academy of Sciences distinguished himself in developing a subway train. As for his resolve to beat the world, he said: The key to going beyond the cutting edge is science and technology. We have conducted intensive research to develop a subway train in our own fashion. Cherishing the same passion and spirit of national self-respect, we will make redoubled efforts to resolve problems arising in ensuring the serial production of the train. Thereby, we will demonstrate once again to the world that the scientists and technicians of Juche Korea can scale the peak of the latest science and technology at a go.

Young Korean scientists and technicians have made



proactive efforts to push back the frontiers of science and technology true to the appeal of the Party, the motherland and the era.

In 2015 they managed to develop a Korean version of DCS.

To develop a Korean version of DCS presented itself as a matter of great importance in making the production lines automated and intelligent and developing the country into a knowledge-based economy.

Such a significant task was fulfilled by the young scientists in their twenties or thirties at the industrial information institute under the State Academy of Sciences.

A young scientist established an integrated production system at the Pyongyang Catfish Farm, and was highly praised



by Kim Jong Un. The majority of those who were awarded national academic degrees and titles in 2015 were young scientists in their twenties or thirties.

The students of Kim Il Sung University won medals and awards at the national program contests of university students and at many international program contests online. For example, at the ACM-ICPC Asia Preliminary Regional Contest held in November 2015, the Korean students won two gold prizes, two speed prizes and a trophy in all. The contest was divided into a regional division involving 201 teams and another involving 197 teams from over 120 universities in Asia.

Many young workers and students have rendered a tangible contribution to building an economic giant with their scientific and technical research achievements. The members of the High-Speed Youth Shock Brigade developed effective tools to save manpower, materials and time and improve the quality of construction. A young worker in Rason invented a modern drying furnace conducive to preventing environmental pollution and creating a clean atmosphere for production.

A National Treasure Presented by Two Students

A few years ago, two Korean students—a boy and a girl—compiled *Illustrated Book of Original Colours of the Fruit Species*. Such a book with coloured illustrations can be found in only a few countries that boast of an advanced level of fruit farming.

The relevant institute in the country had not ventured to publish such a book as it demanded too much effort and time. Hundreds of fruit species occur across the country and their ripening periods vary according to their varieties. And it is difficult to see all the ripen fruits where they grow.

It took several years for the students to complete this book.

The book contains data about 303 varieties of 15 species of fruits, including apple, pear, peach, plum, apricot and grape, as well as 1 891 coloured pictures.

People praised the students for presenting such a book of national significance; more surprising for them was the fact that those who had compiled the book were young people in their twenties and thirties. Those who knew the academic, educational, historic and national significance of the book for the development of fruit farming in their country paid high respect to the two students.

In mid-January 2016 Kim Jong Un spoke highly of the students for compiling the book of great academic value.

To Hard, Challenging Sectors

Upholding the Party's plan for grand economic construction the Korean young people volunteer to work at difficult and labour-intensive sectors, especially coal and ore mines and power station construction sites, and at the major economic sectors including metallurgical industry, rail transport and agriculture. In these sectors they perform laudable feats of labour.

In 2015 alone, 830 of them volunteered to work at such important economic sectors as coal and ore mines and cooperative farms. Numerous young people organized youth shock brigades and went to the hard, challenging sectors. Young people in North Hamgyong Province went to work at the fishery stations to unfold a new history of “gold sea.” A lot of young people in South Hwanghae Province and other parts of the country decided to work at coal and ore mines and cooperative farms.

Among these volunteers is Kim Kyong Ryol who was born in Pyongyang. He spent his childhood and graduated from a secondary school in the capital city. After being discharged



from the army he attended a university and became an official at the Central Committee of the youth league.

Pyongyang was so dear to his heart but he made up his mind to work at a coal mine, far away from the city. His determination was not something made on the spur of the moment. His heart was burning with a firm resolve to prove worthy of the Party's benevolent care for him. One day he was told that the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade members pledged to build Unit 3 of the power station before the Seventh Party Congress. On January 1, 2016, listening to Kim Jong Un's New Year Address, he decided to leave the capital city and work at the Tukjang Area Coal-mining Complex.

Among the young coal miners, there were some who had broken away with their undignified past and made a new start of their life.

On February 14, 2015, praising the youth shock brigade members in South Phyongan Province who had decided to wipe the slate clean and volunteered to work at a coal mine, Kim Jong Un sent them greetings in his capacity as the then First Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and had them participate in the Second National Conference of Exemplary Young People of Virtue. With a determination to train themselves into dignified masters of the times and live up to their Supreme Leader's trust by increasing coal production, they are now playing a pivotal role in boosting production.

Some 20 girls at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill



overfulfilled their yearly quotas of the national economic plan for 2016 by April, and more than 270 others, their plans for the first half of the year by the same month.

The fishing grounds on the East and West seas are brimming over with youthful vigour. The girls of the fishing vessels, named, *Daughters of the Workers' Party of Korea—Young Women Heroes*, carried out their yearly plans ahead of schedule. Over ten *Chongnyon* fishing vessels at the Nampho, Hanchon and Kamapho fishing stations put fishing on a scientific footing, overfulfilling their plans for 2016 by July.

As young people stand in the vanguard of the general offensive for economic construction while raising the fierce flames of great leap forward and innovation, the whole country is seething with enthusiasm for a production upsurge in all economic sectors.

In the Major Thrust Area for Socialist Economic Construction

In response to the demand of the times that young people should play the core role on the agricultural front, young farmers are stepping up the youth workteam and sub-workteam movements to carry out their yearly plans for cereals production.

Some 2 370 workteams and sub-workteams overfulfilled their production plans for 2015 and donated a large amount of cereals to the country out of patriotism.

Members of the youth sub-workteam at the Taechu Cooperative Farm in Anak County applied 25 tons of organic fertilizer per hectare in all fields. They transplanted rice seedlings in all fields under their charge despite the severe shortage of water, and secured enough sources of water by



building a waterway by their own efforts and obtained motors and water pumps. Thanks to their devoted efforts, the sub-workteam overfulfilled the cereals production plan for 2015 by 4 per cent.

Members of the youth sub-workteam at the Tongnyon Cooperative Farm in Hoechang County set an ambitious goal of producing *hukposan* fertilizer to carry out the cereals production plan. In the drought season they dug wells in several places and, when manure was running short, they carried it from several places of the county town, 16km away from their village. This was how they overfulfilled the cereals production plan by 23%.

In this way, young farmers are defending the socialist agricultural front.

For the Development of Sports

Undying “Torch”

The Hwaepul (Torch) Sports Club under the Central Committee of the youth league was formed on the initiative of Kim Jong Un.

On July 24, 2013, the players and coaches of the club’s Football Group A wrote a letter to him after they took the first place in the Pochonbo Torch Prize Games.

The letter read in the following vein: You named our sports club Hwaepul in the sense that it should spark enthusiasm for

football across the country. Bearing in mind your love for and trust in us, we ran in the stadiums, achieving the victory. We are firm in our resolve to make redoubled efforts to add more brilliance to our club.

Kim Jong Un read this letter and sent the following reply:

Be an undying “torch” that sparks enthusiasm for football across the country!

Kim Jong Un

July 24, 2013

On July 31, a week later, the Football Group A played against the April 25 team in the Supreme Leader’s presence.

Kim Jong Un said that he would support Hwaeppeul and



pose for a photograph with the players if they won.

When the match was over, he congratulated the Hwaepul players for winning the match and posed for a photograph with them.

The players and coaches of the club, feeling gratitude to his love and trust, wrote another letter to him. Kim Jong Un sent the following reply to their second letter.

I wish you better successes in your future games.

Kim Jong Un

August 14, 2013

Greatly inspired by his trust in and expectation of them, the football players of the club are playing the leading role as

befits the undying “torch” that sparks enthusiasm for football across the country.

Female Football Aces

The DPRK women footballers won the EAFF Women’s East Asian Cup held in July 2013, came first at the 17th Asian Games in 2014 and won the EAFF Women’s East Asian Cup again in 2015.

To take the 2015 EAFF Women’s East Asian Cup held in Wuhan, China, as an example, all the matches were battles; the team of the host country and other rivals were tough. To make matters worse, it was sultry with the average



temperature being over 30°C.

However, the DPRK team managed to defeat all of the them, becoming the winner of the Cup.

As the DPRK team made three consecutive wins, the world grew curious about the secret of this momentous victory.

Korean women footballers developed their courage under Kim Jong Un's benevolent care. Before their departure for the tournament, he watched their match and encouraged them. He posed for a photo with the players who had won gold medals in the 17th Asian Games and world championships as well as their coaches.

He once said: The winners in international competitions are patriots; I feel refreshed at the news that our players won gold medals in international competitions, even if it is reported when the day breaks.

When seeing the teary-eyed players standing on the winners' podium, he would shed tears, too.

With his love and trust in their mind, the women footballers took part in the matches, pledging to win, and endured the torrid heat and serious injuries to lift the trophy of the 2015 EAFF Women's East Asian Cup. The awards for top scorer, best player and best defender were all won by the Korean players.

When they returned home, Kim Jong Un greeted them at the airport.



Kim Jong Un greeting at the airport the women
footballers who won the 2015 EAFF
Women's East Asian Cup (August 2015)

Exalting the Honour of Their Country with Gold Medals

Entering the new century of the Juche era, *Rodong Sinmun*, organ of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea, carried dozens of articles about Kim Jong Un's activities concerning the development of sports. Over 20 of them were about the matches he watched, those played by sportspersons, working people and students.

The DPRK young sportspeople have won medals and prizes at international competitions to add glory to their country and raised its specialist sporting techniques to a higher level.

Kin Hyok Bong and Kim Jong won the mixed doubles title at the 52nd ITTF World Championships, and Ri Song Gum, Rim Un Sim and Kim Su Jong snatched gold at the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships held in 2014.





COVER STORY BY ANDY POTTS

KOREAN SENSATION STUNS THE CHINESE

By Andy Potts, photo Ramez Ghanawi

There was a huge shock in the women's 10m platform diving as unknown North Korean youngster Kuk Hyang Kim emerged from nowhere to produce a gold medal performance.

The event turned into a battle between the consistent and the spectacular as Kim edged out Chinese youngster Qian Ren and Malaysia's Pandelea Rinong thanks to a fantastic final round under the most intense pressure.

To put that achievement into some perspective, North Korea had never won any World Championship medal until two days ago. China, meanwhile, had defending champion Ye Jie Si in contention here and had picked up at least two medals in this event in the last two championships. Kim, by contrast, was in her first international competition — emerging, almost literally from nowhere, to take the top prize.

"I started diving when I was 12," she said. "I was in high school and I combine my studies and training. I train for five hours a day — two in the morning and three in the afternoon — and I do major acrobatics in a day."

Kim is a Chinese diver. Chen Ruolin is a Chinese diver. Chen Ruolin is a Chinese diver. Chen Ruolin is a Chinese diver.

In this event, I hope that we will meet in future and I can try to beat her."

During the medal ceremony, Kim surprised many by giving a military style salute as her country's anthem was heard for the first time ever at a FINA World Championships.

"I wanted to show my great appreciation for our national leader, Kim Jong-il," she said. "When I go back to Korea all the people will come onto the street to welcome us home."

Kim began with an indifferent dive but produced two impressive efforts to climb from 10th to 10th of the leaderboard after three rounds. That got the crowd right behind her but there was a heart-stopping moment in round four when the 16-year-old's performance slipped slightly and put the gold in jeopardy.

A below-par attempt in round four seemed to open the door for Ren and her fellow Chinese competitor Ye Jie Si, the pre-competition favourite for medals. Si, in particular, was a consistent performer. She rarely dived but produced reliable

scoring throughout the competition until the vital final moments.

Kim was down in third as the trio went into the final round, with all three attempting a 3.5 back somersault 1.5 twist pike — the toughest dive on the program — to conclude.

And the Korean nailed it, weaving the judges with a superb leap that earned a 9.4 and vaulted her back into the gold medal spot.

The Chinese girls could not follow it — 16-year-old Ren later admitted that she was a bit nervous after witnessing Kim's fantastic finale — and Rinong squeaked in to take bronze ahead of Si. The defending champion finished without a medal after scoring a disappointing 22 in her last dive.

Rinong, who tried to fame with a bronze medal in London in 2012, spoke of how diving has grown in Malaysia since she won the country's first Olympic medal away from the badminton court.

"The Malaysian government really supports its sportsmen, especially our divers which is new in London," she said. "I can see how diving has improved in our country and a lot of youngsters have come to the sport. All of the athletes are very talented."

Ren, meanwhile, reflected that her earlier age was not the reason for her



Diving: Women's 10m platform

397.05		Qian Ren
348.00		Ye Jie Si
335.05		Pandelea Rinong

COVER STORY BY ANDY POTTS

Kim Kuk Hyang in her teens took the first place in the women's 10m platform diving at the 16th FINA World Championships, the DPRK's first world champion in this event. Kim Hye Gyong won gold medals at the 15th Asian Marathon Championships and the 2015 Hong Kong Marathon.

Ri Se Gwang took the first place in the men's vaulting horse at the 46th FIG World Challenge Artistic Gymnastics Championships held





in Britain. Om Yun Chol, two-time world champion, set a new record and came first at the 2015 World Weightlifting Championships, thus demonstrating the honour of the country.

Ri Se Gwang won gold at the 31st Olympic Games held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in August 2016, after winning gold at the previous Olympic Games, and Rim Jong Sim took the first place in several international weightlifting competitions including the 30th Olympic Games.

Successes the young sportspersons achieved in international competitions have become source of joy and courage for all the Korean people.

**YOUNG PEOPLE OF KOREA
IN KIM JONG UN'S ERA**

Written by Choe Un Ok

Edited by Pak Song Il

Translated by Mun Myong Song

Published by Foreign Languages

Publishing House, DPR Korea

Issued in August Juche 108 (2019)

No.1982121

E-mail: flph@star-co.net.kp

<http://www.korean-books.com.kp>



DPR Korea
Juche 108 (2019)

