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Order of the Sun

Chairman Kim Jong Il received the Order of the Sun from the President of the Republic of Namibia in March 2008.



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CONTENTS

We Are the Happiest in the World	3
For the Future	5
Kim Jong Suk Nursery	6
Flower Buds Open	8
A Blessed Boy	9
The Future Masters Are Growing	10
<i>For the liberation of the country</i>	
Flames of Pochonbo	12
<i>On the occasion of the 70th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea</i>	
The WPK's Supreme Principle	14
Priority to Ideological Work	16



Front Cover: Children celebrate the International Children's Day

Photo by An Chol Ryong



Back Cover: Lake Tongchon in Mt. Taesong

Photo by Ra Chung Hyok

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Mother's Life	17
More Seafood for the People	19
New Mushroom Farm	20
Maebongsan-brand Shoes	22
Mechanical Researchers Exert Themselves	24
Fancy into Practice	25
Teacher Training, Matter of Crucial Importance	26
Images in the Book of Impressions	28
A Girl Marathoner	29
Table Tennis School	30
I Have "Hands," Too	31
War Veteran's Note	32
Inheriting Patriotism	34
"We Aren't Blind"	35
Fast-reading Master	36
Ryonggang Spa	37
<i>Short Story</i>	
After Many Years	38
Mt. Paektu Seen From Lake Chon	40
Korean Industrial Arts (2)	42
Poet's Loss of Words Over Pyongyang	43
Painter Jo Sok	44
Contrary to June 15 Joint Declaration	45
Is the US Going to Repeat History?	47
70 Years After Defeat	48

We Are the Happiest in the World

OUR PARTY'S GOAL IS TO make our people and children enjoy the happiest life in the world. The slogan "We are the happiest in the world!" encourages us to do difficult tasks with pleasure. This is a quotation from what the national leader Kim Jong Un said. *We are the happiest in the world*—this is an intensive expression of the Workers' Party of Korea's noble policy of loving care for the younger generation and the future of the nation.

In retrospect, the Korean revolution was the one for the posterity in some way or another. Kim Il Sung, eternal President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, did his best for the sake of the rising generation, maintaining that his generation's efforts for the children would decide their view of their seniors scores of years later and the more care they took of them, the more prosperous, civilized and beautiful their country would be in the future. In the difficult days of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle when the guerrilla bases were burnt to ashes and they had no provisions, Kim Il Sung took every possible measure to keep the children from hunger and the cold. He readily spent the whole sum of 20 yuan of money—that he had received from his mother Kang Pan Sok and kept along—on the clothes of the Children's Corps members in Maanshan. During the days immediately after the national liberation (August 15, 1945) when numerous urgent problems faced a new Korea, he first solved the pencil

problem for the children. After the Korean war (June 1950–July 1953), he saw to it that schools, kindergartens and nurseries were built first of all and that primary and secondary compulsory education systems were enforced so that all the children studied to their heart's content without paying any tuition. Even when the country was suffering from an acute shortage of paper, they were supplied with new textbooks of the best-quality paper every year.

"The best things to the children"—this was a steadfast principle the President maintained in whatever difficult and complicated situations over the whole years of his leading the revolution and construction. He made the famous remark that children are the king of the country.

Kim Jong Il, eternal General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, loved children very much. In the arduous period of Korea in the 1990s, he put forward the slogan "Let us live not merely for today but for tomorrow!" with an idea that one should devote his all to the prosperous future of the country and the happiness of the coming generations even though one might not have an enjoyable life. In fact, in so much difficult a period, soya milk was invariably supplied to the children, and the sounds of the children at school and their merry songs were heard throughout the country.

Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il's devotion to posterity is going on invariably thanks to the national leader Kim Jong Un. On the occasion of

the lunar New Year's Day in 2012, he went to see the children of the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School. (It was set up in October 1947 after the national liberation as an educational establishment to bring up the children of the revolutionary martyrs as sound reserves of the national cadres. It was under close care of Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il and the anti-Japanese war heroine Kim Jong Suk.) The teaching staff and the children of the school were moved to tears when Kim Jong Un said that he was there at the school to celebrate the holiday, which was the first after the demise of Chairman Kim Jong Il, together with the students of the school like their father. He went to the school again on the occasion of the 68th founding anniversary of the Korean Children's Union and had photos taken with the teachers and students and saw the children's volleyball and basketball matches in the newly-built gym in celebration of the children's holiday of June 6.

The Pyongyang Orphanage and the Pyongyang Baby Home also tell of his loving care. On his visit to the Pyongyang Orphanage on June 1, 2014, he well wished the children celebrating the International Children's Day. Merry laughter of the children make a bright country, he said asking the teachers to take good care of them with parental affection so they grew up healthily without any sorrow from being parentless. Earlier in the outset of the year, when he went round a marine products freezing facility ►

▶ newly built by a unit of the Korean People's Army, he personally calculated in his handbook how much fish would be required annually to supply a daily ration of 300 grams of fish to each of those staying in baby homes, orphanages, orphans' primary and middle schools and the nursing homes throughout the country. On the spot he issued an order of the KPA Supreme Commander to set up in the army a fishing station to supply fish exclusively to all the orphanages and nursing homes.

When the Pyongyang Orphanage and the Pyongyang Baby Home were built as excellent homes of the orphans on the bank of the Taedong River, Kim Jong Un was so pleased that he visited them on the first morning of this year to enjoy the day together with the children.

In this way the orphans, who

were the synonym of sorrow and misfortune from of old, are now called the beloved children in the Songun era. The leader and the children are tied with such kinship. As his hands patting their cheeks feel so warm and his voice asking about their health condition and age sounds so kind, the children like to cling to him, saying, "Please hold me in your arms." They write him letters to tell their full marks in studying and good things they do.

A lot of monumental structures which have been built in recent years, too, are attributable to his love for posterity. Looking round the Songdowon International Children's Camp, he said that architecture should embody in it the principle of giving precedence to convenience, aesthetic needs and view to posterity, and that all structures should be built on the highest possible level to

reflect the Party's view of posterity and represent the future of the country.

There are many structures embodying his view of posterity, including the Pyongyang Children's Department Store with the children's playing quarters, the Munsu Water Park with the children's water tank, the Mirim Riding Club with an indoor riding ground where the children ride on dwarf horses, the Masikryong Ski Resort with elementary and middle-level trails for children and the Okryu Children's Hospital with a fairy-tale environment.

Kim Jong Un visited the Pyongyang Children's Foodstuff Factory in December last year. There he said that whenever he saw the milk vans run along the streets of Pyongyang, he pictured the children enjoying the soya milk and felt relieved of all fatigues, and that the managers and workers of the factory should increase production well aware that the merry laughter of the children make a bright country.

Meanwhile, he made public his immortal work titled *Let us glorify ours as the country of education and a power of talents by bringing about a revolution in education in the new century* and took the initiative in adopting a DPRK Supreme People's Assembly ordinance "On enforcing the comprehensive 12-year compulsory education" in order to prepare a firm legal guarantee for the children's learning in the country.

The Korean children are now growing up more healthily, intelligently and spiritedly under his great care.

An Song Duk

Schoolchildren enjoy camping at the Songdowon International Children's Camp and the Masikryong Ski Resort.



For the Future

The Blessed Little Painter

ONE YEAR PRESIDENT KIM IL SUNG met O Un Byol before seeing the schoolchildren's New Year performance. O Un Byol was strained as she was drawing a picture in front of the President. She was calmly drawing a yellow and ruddily ripened peach on a white paper. At this moment, an official told the President that she was 9 years old and had won an international children's prize picture contest. At this, the President said, "**She is a good painter for her age of nine. I read the newspaper report that she won first prize at the International Children's Fine Art Exhibition.**" Seeing her fine strokes of the brush, the President encouraged her with "**That's it, that's it.**" Finally, she completed her picture and, holding the picture courteously, said in a ringing voice, "Fatherly leader, here is a golden peach that makes a man live 1 000 years." The President, taking the picture, said, "**Oh, a golden peach, is it? You've done well! Thank you, thank you!**" With this, he pressed her to him, patting her on the chubby cheeks, head and shoulder. That day he met O Un Byol and several other little talents and posed for a souvenir photograph with them. Then he told them over again to study hard and went off to see the New Year performance.

New Kinds of Amusement Facilities for Children

One day Chairman Kim Jong Il asked an official what kinds of amusement facilities were going to be installed in the then Munsu Funfair. The official answered that umbrella-style rotary chairs, moving rotary disks, space flying plates, rotary seat swings and the like would be set up. At this, the Chairman asked again if new kinds of facilities could not be set up for the children who were fond of new things, adding that we should fix new kinds of amusement facilities to meet the psychology of children. After that, new up-to-date amusement facilities—whose operation processes were more refined in a sci-tech way and whose control system was designed by cutting edge tech-

nology—such as moon flight planes, twin rotary disks, flying rotary disks and turning sledges were set up. Then the Chairman asked the official what he thought about the Munsu Funfair. The official who was quite satisfied with the new facilities of the place answered that he had nothing peculiarly to think about. Then the Chairman said that he wanted to have the funfair refurbished in the Korean way and that there was no reason that only the motion play apparatuses should be set up in the funfair. He added that a 4-D cinema should be built for the children to enjoy flight in the air by riding the play facility outside and experience the exciting feelings of a journey to the moon, space flight and diving in the sea inside the cinema. After that he learned in detail the problems arising in the construction of the 4-D cinema and took necessary measures for it. After the completion and inauguration of the cinema, it was visited not only by children but also by adults so it was packed to overflowing everyday. When this was reported to him, he said he was glad to hear that our children were taking delight in the cinema, and that they would surely make more splendid inventions in the future.

A Little Kid Playing "Doctor"

In July 2012 the national leader Kim Jong Un paid a visit to the Kyongsang Kindergarten. When he entered the overall playroom on the first floor, the children were lost in playing. He said in delight that the playroom was well fixed to meet the children's fancy. Then he looked in at the hospital playroom where a little girl "doctor" in a white overall with a stethoscope round her neck was examining and treating a kid "patient." The "doctor" was attended on by a white-clad little "nurse." Seeing them the leader said that the hospital playroom was fixed up just like a real one and that the children played doctoring quite well. He went up to the little "doctor" and patted her on the cheek and, rolling up his sleeve, asked her to have a look at him. The little "doctor" applied the stethoscope to his arm. Looking at the "doctor" affectionately, the leader smiled brightly. □

Kim Jong Suk Nursery

NOT LONG AGO WE visited Kim Jong Suk Nursery in Moranbong District, Pyongyang. We were met by head of the nursery Ri Yong Ok who said, "This is a weekly nursery serving the convenience of busy mothers who may be artistes, journalists and doctors." Entering the hall of the nursery after the children who finished the morning exercise and were walking into the building to the organ tune, we saw a wall painting of animals singing with music books and "samcholli" and "kkulbol" printed pencil and crayon models.

We entered Class No. 2. Our eyes were caught by children folding up and putting their jackets into chests. Nurse Hwang Hae Ok said that the children were becoming possessed of discretion to cast a wastepaper into the wastebasket and put toys back to their places after playing with them. Just then, a woman doctor came into the room. Accustomed to medical examination, the children bared their chests before her stethoscope and strove to be the first to show their

teeth and throats. Seeing them doctor Kim Hwa Sil said all of them were healthy and free from illness under the preventive care of daily check-up with due attention.

After medical examination, the children enjoyed the snack time drinking soya milk in the room full of toys. Hae Ok said that the soya milk supplied every day

helps them grow up fast. At this moment, a kid called Kim Yong Song who drank his milk ahead of others ran up to her and pressed her to add another red star to his column of the diagram entitled "Who Is the Tallest?" on the wall. To our question as to what it was all about, the nurse answered, "This emulation graph is to indicate with a red star that a child's



► weight and height have reached the standard by the age at the regular measurement. Last

building a tower, a house and a ship, and on the other, making a pencil, socks, a gun and a plane

to the music room, where a team of children was dexterously playing the accompaniment of a merry song. We were struck with wonder at the excellent sound detection and sight reading abilities of children. Head of the nursery Ri Yong Ok said the children could receive early musical education at the Kyongsang Kindergarten after this nursery.



Then we looked round in turn the indoor wading pool, indoor all-round playroom and outdoor playground equipped with beautiful slides and swings of various types, and then the kitchen. Cook Ri Chun Hwa told us, "The nutritious foods quicken the growth of the children. Perhaps this is the reason why their mothers, when seeing the children healthier and stronger a week later, would say half in joke that they can hardly make out their kids."

As we were leaving the nursery, we seemed to see the blessed children now taking a midday nap after lunch, dreaming a beautiful dream.

Kim Un Chol

with colour papers. Some of them were playing a counting game with flowers in their hands and others were having the game of guessing the names of fruits. Seeing them, nurse Kim Sun Bok said, "For the children with strong curiosity, this is an important place to realize the reasons of things through practice."

The ceaseless sounds of the xylophone and reed organ led us

month Yong Song failed to reach the standard. So we have paid special attention to his nutrition, and his is now up to normal."

The next place we visited was the intelligence playing room, where an assembly play was at its height. On one side, children were



Flower Buds Open

THE TAEDONGMUN KINDERGARTEN IN Central District, Pyongyang, is famous for little talents. Especially, it has brought up a large number of young musicians including violinists in the past years.

Not long ago it drew public attention by training a child composer, which was unprecedented in its history. Her name is O Yun Jong.

When Ri Hye Yong, a teacher of the kindergarten, met the child for the first time, she thought that she was going to train her as a violinist, considering her hands and other physical merits. But Yun Jong began to become naughty.

One day she was interested in a mini-music player she had taken from home behind the teacher's back, when she made a mishap in operation to the surprise of all the children in training. The other day she hummed by making a tune of the children's twittering. She learned new songs very easily and sometimes taught them to her friends voluntarily. In a word, she was more interested in appreciating music and singing songs rather than playing the violin. Her teacher thought if the girl had a talent for vocal music. But the idea disappeared when Yun Jong seemed engrossed in quiet training in the senior class.

One of those days something unusual happened. After the hearing exercise, Yun Jong came up to the teacher with her exercise book to have her sight reading checked. At that time Hye Yong noticed some strange musical notes in the margin of the book. Soon her face glowed with pleasure. It was only a simple and humble melody, but it came under the rules of composition and was full of children's romance and soft and warm sentiments. As it was in bad handwriting, she couldn't read it all, but she was sure that Yun Jong had been moving her songs from her mouth to the music paper while she was quiet.

Now Hye Yong started to teach her the rules for composition while giving her violin lessons. To her surprise, Yun Jong never felt bored and sucked knowledge to the full as if cotton sucks water. She correctly guessed two or three once she learned one. The teacher made increasingly exact demands on her to make musical pieces of her feelings she got from her actual life. In this course the child made a great stride in her musical skill and thinking ability. When she heard from her teacher that those who take care of the trees and flowers in the kindergarten are just



patriots and that they should all become such a kind of people, she wrote and composed the song *Grow up Fast* which says the children's mind grows up along with the trees.

Seeing her friends enjoy themselves on the facilities in the playground of the bright kindergarten and eat delicious seasonal fruits and fish and drink soya milk, Yun Jong thought her kindergarten was a kingdom of children. When she understood that all those things were arranged under the care of the national leader Kim Jong Un for the new generation, new words and musical notes occurred to her for a song that sings of happiness of the children. At last a collection of her works of music entitled, *We Grow up Under the Warm Care of the Fatherly Leader*, was completed and presented to the leader. It describes the happy life under the warm care of the leader and the determination to study hard. Hye Yong was very excited and happy.

Receiving her book, Kim Jong Un was very pleased that another music talent came from the Taedongmun Kindergarten and sent a well-wishing message to the six-years-old, a little promising composer.

An Son Yong, mother of Yun Jong who attends primary school now, says, "None of my family members has ever been in the music. I was not sure about my daughter when she entered the Taedongmun Kindergarten. I was still doubtful when I heard she had written and composed songs. Reading her collection again now, I feel that it is natural for all flower buds to open into full bloom to show off their unique beauty when they grow up in a sunny and fertile land."

Kim Chol Ung

A Blessed Boy

ONE DAY NINE YEARS AGO SOME YOUNG boys were playing football in a school playground. One of them scored two goals by dashing to the opponent goal with skilful dribbling. He was Pak Won, a second-year pupil of Kim Song Ju Primary School in Central District, Pyongyang. The sports teacher of the school who had been watching the game came up to him as soon as the game was finished, and addressed him. "Well done. Don't you want to learn football in the football group?"

In the evening Won told his parents about the teacher's advice and spoke of his intention to enter the football group. His parents delightedly agreed. Won had been fond of playing with a ball since he was a kindergartener. Once he, playing with a ball, had broken the window pane of the teachers' room. Recalling the happening, his father said, "We're obliged to the teacher. We only thought you a naughty boy. You should try hard to become a good football player."

Taking the opportunity Pak Won took the first step of the football career. He was sensible enough to get the knack from a single hint. In addition, he mastered what he was taught within the day. One day he didn't come back home till late at night. His mother went to the school and found him lost in dribbling exercise in the playground. When she asked him to come back home, he said, "Mother, I didn't finish my task today. My teacher says that I should finish the day's task within the day to become a good player." What is more, he finished all the school years with honours by working hard at his subjects as well as football.

According to a state measure, every middle school organized the football class the year when Won went on to middle school. At that time he was admitted into the football class of the then Pyongyang Ryongwang Secondary School. Thanks to the guidance of his football instructor Choe Jong Ae, his performance improved day by day. He fully displayed his attainment such as the gap pass and mid- and long-distance kick in the football matches of secondary schools in Pyongyang. One day in September 2012 he came back home after the day's training, when he unexpectedly met the national leader Kim Jong Un just in his house. The leader called on his family to

congratulate them for their move into a new flat in Changjon Street built in a modern style. He kindly asked Won how it was that he was home so late. Hearing the replay that he had been to the football group, the leader was so happy. Then he asked the boy if he was a good footballer and jokingly challenged him for a game. He was kind enough to wish him good luck to be an excellent player. Before saying good-bye, he asked Won again sincerely to study hard and learn football well. That day Won renewed his determination to become a football ace as the national leader asked.

Two years ago his father fell seriously ill. In his deathbed he said, "Ours is an ordinary family in this country. However, the state gave us, a worker's family, a modern flat for nothing and found out your talent and is fostering your ability though your parents didn't know it. I wanted to work hard to repay the state benefit, but I know I can't do it any more. I hope you will become an excellent football player without fail and repay the country's benefit."

Several months later the boy was enrolled at the Korea University of Physical Education.

Kim Yong Sun

Pak Won (first right) trains himself in football.



The Future Masters Are Growing



SOME TIME AGO WE VISITED THE Wisong Primary School in Unjong District. The five-storeyed school building that is located in the modern Wisong Scientists Residential District is decorated with various kinds of tiles. “My school opened at the end of last year. It is well equipped for education,” said the headmistress Ri Hyang Wol welcoming us at the gate.

First of all, we looked into the 1F classroom guided by the mistress. A scene of some birds alighting on an electric wire by flocks appeared on the TV screen. All children were engrossed in addition: a pupil was calculating on his finger and another one was writing something on the notebook. “How many birds are there on the electric wire?” asked the teacher. The children handed up saying, “Here, here.” We spoke highly of the children, when the headmistress said that her school gives all lessons using visual aids and that all the fifty-odd classrooms are equipped with cameras for education, TVs, video players, radios, fire alarms and so on. She went on to say that the national leader Kim Jong Un



instructed that the classrooms should be developed as multi-functional ones to put education on the IT basis, when he visited the school in October last year. Listening to her we headed for the indoor swimming pool. The blue water in the swimming pool went well with various colours of tiles, giving a warm yet refreshing impression. The pupils of Class 3B were having a test of breaststroke they had learned in the earlier lesson. They had to cover 50 metres, which meant making a round trip of pool. Wang Kang Jin, who finished the test first, said, “Several months ago I was not good at swimming, but now several hundreds of metres of swimming is no problem because I had swimming lessons twice a week and had exercises after school.” The headmistress said that the ►

► school has all conditions for regular operation of the swimming pool.

Now she guided us to the first floor saying that her school has a fitness hall as well, where they can do all kinds of exercises. The hall has a floor space of about 700 square metres and is equipped with facilities including those for table tennis and basketball. The basketball stand is made to suit the statures of the children. The physical education lessons are given in there as well as after-school exercises. Listening to the mistress say that many pupils were learning basic techniques of their favourite sports such as football, basketball, and table tennis, we went over to the network control room. The network-based instruction system is controlled by a new education support program introduced. Among the scenes of lessons was that of the compositions lesson of Class 3A. We visited the classroom on the second floor. The pupils were reading out their compositions under the unanimous title of "Hope." A pupil named Ko Ryo Chol presented: "I boast of my father to my friends. He is a scientist treated preferentially by the state, so he received a modern apartment in the Wisong Scientists Residential District. But he always says, 'It is a sign of the trust of the state in us scientists.' He tells me to become a scientist to repay for the state benefit. So I decided to work harder to

become a good scientist like him." All the pupils expressed their hopes: some wished to be world-famous athletes, some famous musician, and so on.

Next we stepped into the IT study room for the teaching of basic techniques of computer and the nature study room that has numerous stuffed specimens and samples, a globe and various visual aids. When we were leaving the rooms, we heard the merry sound of singing. The pupils were singing a song to the organ played by a teacher in the music and dancing room on the fourth floor.

*Blue is the sky and light is my heart
The sound of an accordion rings out
far and wide...*

It was the song *We Are the Happiest in the World* that all the Korean people are fond of and take pleasure in singing. We naturally felt happy. At the moment the radio announced it was time for exercise. We followed the pupils out to the playground that was covered with artificial lawn. Admiring the bright and cute faces of the pupils doing rhythmic gymnastics to the music, we left the school with the hope that they would grow as future masters of the country.

Jo Song I



Flames of Pochonbo

(Excerpts from President Kim Il Sung's reminiscences With the Century)

AT DIYANGXI, SHIJIUDAOGOU, CHANGBAI County, we grouped our forces for the advance into the homeland, and dressed all the soldiers in summer uniforms.

The marching force, dressed in the new uniform that had been created at the cost of so much blood and hardship [of our comrades-in-arms], left Shijiudaogou in early June 1937, and marching by way of Ershidaogou, Ershiyidaogou and Ershierdaogou reached a place within a hailing distance of Mt. Kouyushui.

Our unit stayed at a village near Mt. Kouyushui for a while, then ascended the slope of the tableland at dawn on June 3. The rolling ridges of the fatherland seemed to be greeting us.

We crossed the Amnok on the night of June 3.

A strange tension gripped my entire body, not leaving me till the last member of the unit was safely across. The border was said to have been tightly guarded by the enemies with four cordons, for the original three had been found to be unsatisfactory. There were as many as 300 police stations and substations in the northern border area, manned by repressive, highly mobile forces several thousand strong. The Hyesan police station had a special border-guard force to check the advance of the KPRA into the homeland. Okawa Shuichi, the then commander of this force, confessed in later days that it had been the best of the units, whose main mission had been to take "punitive" action against the guerrilla army.

The enemy had dug out trenches and built artificial barriers, such as earthen walls, barbed wire and wooden fences, around the buildings of police substations and agencies in the border areas, and in some vital places they had either set up observation posts or dug out communication trenches. The police guard forces of North Phyongan Province were equipped with airplanes and two motorboats equipped with machine-guns and searchlights. It seemed as if they were determined to detect the stirring of even rats and birds, to say nothing of human movements. It was further reported that the guard force in North Hamgyong Province also had a motorboat ready. We had information that the police insti-

tutions by the river had been getting supplies of machine-guns, searchlights, telescopes and helmets. Under such circumstances it seemed almost impossible that one could make an advance into the homeland, especially a large unit.

The strict watch along the border, however, could not hold us back.

On the morning of the next day we got ourselves ready for battle in the forest of Konjang Hill.

After dark we descended Konjang Hill. Entering Pochonbo, the unit dispersed in several groups and occupied designated positions.

I took up my command post under a poplar tree that stood at the edge of town. The distance from there to the police substation, one of our major targets, was no more than 100 metres. It is a tenet of street fighting that the command post is seldom located near the street, as mine was at the time. Yet this can be said to be one of important features of the Battle of Pochonbo. My commanding officers had advised me to locate the command post a little farther from the town, but I had declined, for it was my earnest desire to be where I could see every move of the fight at all times and be able to throw myself into the battle if it was necessary.

At 10 p.m. sharp, I raised my pistol high and pulled the trigger. Everything I had ever wanted to say to my fellow countrymen back in the homeland for over 10 years was packed into that one shot reverberating through the street that night. The gunshot, as our poets described, was both a greeting to our motherland and a challenge to the Japanese imperialist robbers whom we were about to punish.

My signal started a barrage of fire destined to destroy the enemy's establishments in the city. The main attack was directed at the police substation, the lair for the policemen of this region and the citadel of all sorts of repression and atrocities. ...The town turned upside down in an instant. Orderlies came running to the poplar tree one after another to report to me of the developments of the fighting. To each of them I stressed that no civilians were to be hurt.

Soon fires began to flare up here and there. The subcounty office, post office, forest conservation office, fire hall and various other enemy's administrative centres were engulfed in flames, and the streets

► were floodlit like a theatre on a gala night.

People began to gather on the street from every corner. When they first heard the gunshots, they kept indoors, but later, when our agitators began shouting slogans, they came pouring out in a throng. Poet Jo Ki Chon described the scene by saying, "The masses swayed like a nocturnal sea." The line was quite apt.

Looking round the crowd, I found their eyes, as bright as stars, all focused on me. Taking off my cap and waving my uplifted arm, I made a speech stressing the idea of sure victory and resistance against Japan. I concluded with the words: "Brothers and sisters, let us meet again on the day of national liberation!"

When I left the square in front of the subcounty office, which was a mass of flames, my heart felt heavy and full of pain, as if pierced with a knife. We were all leaving a part of ourselves behind in the small border town as we marched away, and the hearts of those left behind wailed silently as they watched us go.

On climbing up Konjang Hill, the entire unit did something unexpected: The marchers broke up suddenly without my orders and started picking up handfuls of their native soil to put in their packs.

As we recrossed the River Amnok, we made the following pledge to ourselves: "Today we are leaving after striking one town, but tomorrow we will attack hundreds of towns, thousands of towns. Today we are leaving with only a handful of earth, but tomorrow we will liberate the whole country and shout out cheers of independence!"

The Battle of Pochonbo was a small battle that involved no large guns, aircraft or tanks. It was an ordinary raid, which combined the use of small arms and a speech designed to stir up public feeling. It produced few casualties and none of us was killed in the battle.

The significance of a war or battle is determined not only by its military importance but also its political importance. I believe that those who know that war is the continuation of politics pursued by different means can easily understand why. From this point of view, it can be said we fought a very great battle.

The battle was a triumphant event in that it dealt a telling blow to the Japanese imperialists who had been strutting around Korea and Manchuria as if they were the lords of Asia. The People's Revolutionary Army struck terror into the Japanese imperialists by suddenly striking one of their bases in the homeland, where the Government-General had vaunted over their security, and destroying one of

their local ruling machines at a stroke. To the Japanese, this blow was a bolt from the blue, proved by the confessions made by the then army and police officers, who said such things as, "We feel as if we had been struck hard on the back of the head," and "We feel the shame of watching the haystack we had been carefully building for a thousand days go up in flames in an instant."

There was no doubt whatsoever that the outcome of this battle would make a great impact on the world: Korea, a lesser nation that had once exposed the crimes committed by Japan and begged for independence at an international peace conference, suddenly revealed itself to possess a revolutionary fighting force capable of dealing merciless blows at the army of Japan (that boasted of being one of the five world powers), a force that swiftly broke through the "iron wall" built by the Japanese imperialists and dealt a crushing blow of punishment to the aggressors.

The Battle of Pochonbo showed that imperialist Japan could be smashed and burnt up, like rubbish. The flames over the night sky of Pochonbo in the fatherland heralded the dawn of the liberation of Korea, which had been buried in darkness.

Dong-A Ilbo, *Joseon Ilbo*, *Kyongsong Ilbo* and other major newspapers in the homeland all reported the news of the battle under banner headlines.

The battle was also headlined by the Japanese mass media, such as *Domei News*, *Tokyo Nichinichi Shimbun*, and *Osaka Asahi Shimbun*, and Chinese newspapers, including *Manchurian Daily*, *Manchurian News* and *Taiwan Daily*. *Pravda* and *Krasnoye Znamya*, not to mention *TASS* of the Soviet Union, also gave liberal space to this battle. One shot fired on the frontier of a small colonized nation in the East amazed the whole world. Around this time *Pacific*, a magazine published in the Soviet Union, carried an article under the headline, "Guerrilla Warfare in the Northern Area of Korea," which dealt in detail with our struggle against Japanese imperialism.

The greatest significance of the Battle of Pochonbo is that it not only convinced our people, who had thought Korea was dead, that this country was still very much alive but also armed them with the faith that they were fully capable of fighting and achieving national independence and liberation. Not surprisingly then, this battle had an enormous impact on the people of Korea.

The conflagration that illuminated the night sky over Pochonbo lighted the path for all conscientious people and patriots of Korea in search of a more genuine life. □

The WPK's Supreme Principle

SINCE IT WAS FOUNDED the Workers' Party of Korea has made consistent efforts to improve the people's living standards regarding it as its supreme principle in its activity.

The chronicle of the WPK consists in careers of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il who founded and led the Party. They devoted all their life to the endeavour to provide the people with richer and more civilized life. The country has such slogans as "Let's obtain meat from grass!" "Let's change all the mountains into golden ones!" "More meat and eggs to the people!" and "More cloth to the people!"—which were popular in the days of the socialist construction

In each period of history when those slogans were chanted, the people's life was further enriched and flourished. At WPK congresses and plenary meetings the President set forth the policy of simultaneously carrying on economic construction and defence upbuilding, made public the classic work *Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in Our Country* and proposed the ten long-term objectives of socialist economic construction, while clarifying detailed ways and methods to radically improve the living stan-

dards of the people. The President made untiring efforts to improve the people's living in order to materialize the people's desire to live high, feed well and dress well, considering such a community just the people's paradise.

He gave primary attention to the food problem of the people. Boosting the agriculture was the most important thing in solving the problem. From the beginning of the 1970s he pursued the agriculture-first policy. Addressing a plenary meeting of the WPK Central Committee, a national conference of the agricultural workers, a consultative meeting of leading officials of the agricultural sector, a consultative meeting of the agricultural scientists and the like, he summed up the experience in farming and talked about specific farming affairs of the country, presenting essential tasks to be done in farming and indicating ways to implement them.

Meanwhile, he ceaselessly gave field guidance—travelling all across the country from the Yonbaek Plain to the Paektusamchholli Plain—and suggested novel ideas to complete cultivation techniques and farming methods. He arranged experiments across the country and studied farming method himself.

He even grew several crops himself in the experimental plot in the garden of his house to find out biological characteristics of the crops that nobody had ever noticed and the relevant farming methods. He made a comprehensive integration of the agricultural workers' creative wisdom and experience and the latest achievements of the agricultural science. This was consummated as the Juche-oriented methodology of farming which is an advanced and scientific system of farming methods suited to the actual conditions of Korea. With the establishment of the Juche-based methods of farming the nation came to have a solid scientific and technological guarantee for boosting the agricultural production year after year in defiance of any geographical or climatic disadvantages.

Along with this, meat processing factories, condiment factories and other foodstuff factories, orchards, fish farms and offshore culture farms went up throughout the country as well as textile mills and other light industry enterprises. The housing project has made progress so forcefully that the housing problem has been nearly solved in the country.

Kim Jong Il, eternal General ►

► Secretary of the WPK, put his heart and soul in the effort to make the Korean people enjoy as happy life as anyone else in the world. In the mid-1990s the country had to undergo the hard time called Arduous March due to the imperialists' economic blockade. Factories stopped operation and the people had to tighten their belt. The Chairman made sure that changes were brought about in the agricultural sector, particularly in seed revolution, potato farming, double cropping and soya bean farming in order to solve the food problem. Saying that he could hardly have a sound sleep until the people were well off he continued his way of on-the-spot guidance.

His forced march of field guidance sustained the Korean people in their creative efforts to translate their aspirations and ideals for a rich and civilized life. His field guidance was largely related with the projects having pivotal significance in improving the people's living condition. The leader visited light industry factories like textile mills, silk mills, footwear factories, cornstarch factories and foodstuff factories, cooperative farms, modern stock-breeding farms, poultry farms, saltworks, fish farms, fruit farms, and cultural and welfare service facilities.

In 2009 the country succeeded in sturgeon breeding in a fish farm, which had been built under the leader's initiative when the country was in great difficulties.

(He had inspected it several times.) In June that year the Chairman visited it, when he said that he was determined to make his people the richest in the world and that they are entitled to have such world-famous delicacies as sturgeon dish. Then he added that now he renewed his resolution to do good things harder for the sake of the people and that "everything for the people" was the fundamental principle of his work and the goal of his life. This is only one of the many stories of its kind. The leader was very pleased to hear the people enjoyed a happy life. He gave on-the-spot guidance to 14 290 units, travelling 669 844 kilometres, which is equivalent to travelling around the earth 17 times.

First Secretary of the WPK Kim Jong Un set forth the improvement of the living standard of the people as the main target in the endeavour of the new century of the Juche era, and is doing all he can to realize the lifetime wishes of the President and the Chairman. Today in Korea the people's dream and ideal are translated into reality according to the plan of the supreme national leader Kim Jong Un to provide the people with all conditions for material and cultural needs for happy life, true to the behests of the President and the Chairman. Some typical examples: the Kalma Foodstuff Factory, which is an archetype of the fish processing base, the apartment houses for the teachers of

Kim Il Sung University and Kim Chaek University of Technology which befit the image of a civilized socialist nation, the Rungna People's Pleasure Ground, the Ryugyong Health Complex, the Breast Tumour Research Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, the Mirim Riding Club, the Masikryong Ski Resort and the Okryu Children's Hospital.

In his 2015 New Year Address the national leader mentioned that it is necessary to make the people-first principle run through the whole of Party work as appropriate for its nature as a motherly party and that Party work should focus on improving the people's living standards. Indeed, this year he made public the classic work *Let Us Expedite the Construction of the Livestock Farming Base in the Sepho Area and Bring about a New Turn in Developing Animal Husbandry*, and visited the Kumkhop General Foodstuff Factory for Sportspeople, the Pyongyang Municipal Mushroom Farm, the Ryuwon Footwear Factory, the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory, and the construction sites of the Mirae Scientists Street, the Pyongyang Municipal Nursing Home and the Sci-tech Complex, when he suggested specific tasks and methods to improve the people's living.

The Korean people are convinced of their bright future thanks to the wise leadership of Kim Jong Un.

Yom Song Hui

Priority to Ideological Work

THE ETERNAL GENERAL Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, Kim Jong Il, formulated the revolutionary idea of President Kim Il Sung as the Party's guiding ideology and developed the WPK into the Juche-oriented revolutionary party that relies on uniformity in ideology and leadership.

In the 1960s the Korean revolution faced with the task of pressing urgency to develop the Party into the political general staff that models the whole society on the President's ideology and leadership. Kim Jong Il, working at the Party Central Committee from June 1964, gave an important instruction that the Party should maintain the establishment of the President's ideological system as the basic line of the Party work and wisely led the work to conduct the education in the monolithic ideology of the Party on a higher level. In addition, he energetically worked to develop the Juche idea, the President's revolutionary idea, enough to meet the demand of the developing era. With a deep insight into the demand of the developing era and revolution, he formulated the Juche idea as Kimilsungism and declared the modelling of the whole society on Kimilsungism as the supreme programme of the WPK in 1974. Under his wise guidance the Party successfully imbued the whole society with the President's ideology by giving top precedence to ideology and intensifying the education of the Party members and other working people in the Juche idea.

On June 19, 1995 he published an immortal classic work *Giving Priority to Ideological Work Is Essential for Accomplishing Socialism*, thus further enriching the theory on ideological work. He concretely delineated

the significance and importance of the ideological work in accomplishing socialism and all theoretical and practical matters related to the ideological work and gave full play to the spiritual exertion of the masses of the people to turn adversity into favourable condition. He summed up the spirit of devotedly defending the national leader, the spirit of resolutely carrying out his instructions and the spirit of heroic self-sacrifice displayed by the People's Army as the revolutionary soldier spirit and made it the primary means to propel the building of a thriving socialist nation on the strength of the great army-people unity based on uniformity in idea and manner of struggle.

In those days the Kanggye Spirit was born and the Torch of Songgang and the Torch of Ranam flared up, bringing about a new upsurge in the socialist construction. A good deal of monumental edifices went up for the building of an economic giant and the improvement of the people's living standard, creating a wonderful socialist scenery. The WPK's policy of keeping the feet firmly planted on the Korean land while looking out over the world and breaking through the frontier of science and technology has been implemented, thus making a success of the industrial revolution in the new era and paving a shortcut to the building of a knowledge-based economy. In addition, such events as that the DPRK won the position of the nation that manufactures and launches artificial earth satellites have been brought in numbers.

Kim Jong Il steadily developed the style and method of ideological work in consonance with the changes of the reality. He set out specific tasks ranging from the one of firmly establish-

ing the Party's monolithic system of leadership in the ideological work to the one of launching a mass ideological remoulding campaign and spearheaded the efforts for their implementation. As a result a radical change was made in the manner of work of all officials and Party members.

Now it is the officials' style of work to proactively explain and disseminate the Party's ideas and intentions to the masses and effect fine results in implementation of the Party's policies by mixing themselves with the masses. The work with people, or political work, is going more profoundly as a matter of dealing with their thoughts and feelings, and the people's demand and benefits are taken into absolute consideration. So the Korean people love to call the WPK their mother, and work faithfully true to the Party.

The invariable principle of giving priority to ideological work that Kim Jong Il had maintained throughout the years of his revolutionary leadership is being steadfastly carried on by the national leader Kim Jong Un. He formulated the revolutionary idea of the President and the WPK General Secretary as Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism and declared the modelling of the whole society on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism as the Party's supreme programme. In addition, he convened the Eighth Conference of Ideological Workers of the Workers' Party of Korea to initiate a revolutionary ideological offensive. Under the wise leadership of the national leader Kim Jong Un who is faithfully carrying forward the idea and cause of the great leaders the Korean people's socialist cause is advancing forward victoriously.

Ho Kwang Sop

Mother's Life

(Continued from the last issue)

MY MOTHER [RI KWAN Rin], holding the hands of my sister and me, told us about her happy life under the benevolent care of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il. She said, "There is a saying goes, 'Leaves fall and cover the roots.' This means that the aged return to their home. I think the roots here mean the motherland. In the past when we were stateless, we lived subjected to national humiliation, and fought against the sworn enemy. Today's happy life is not a wind-fall. I fought for the national cause together with the pioneers of the independence movement. I rendered not much of service, but when I look back on my past life, I feel I have lived an honest life until now. I didn't betray my country and comrades or tarnish the national dignity. And I remained clean-handed without embezzling even a penny of the funds for independence movement raised by desperate efforts of the people. All my comrades know this. During the independence struggle, I was in charge of logistic materials and funds, but I never used them for my private purpose, and placed them at the disposal of the organization. Contrary to this, the capitulationists and especially many heads of the independence army fled abroad with the money hard-collected by the people. They only paid lip service to the independence movement, but behind the scenes, they sought after indolence and survival and got rich by stealthily engaging in business. Even now I can hardly contain my indignation. My country is a mother to me

and I'm a daughter of the people. I was to be buried in the alien land, but by grace of President Kim Il Sung, I can now see the blue sky of my country, hear the merry singing of people and breathe the same breath with it. So, now I have nothing to regret. This is what I have wished all the time. I know my life is numbered. I wish you hold a simple funeral for me. Don't spend much money on vain ostentation and don't erect a tombstone. I don't want any honour and fame. Don't inter my body in fertile land but just cover me with earth. I wish you send all the valuable gifts from the President to the museum. As both of you have families, you should earn your own living. I believe you'll do everything you can for the friendship of the two peoples without forgetting your origin in any trials and difficulties. I wish I could meet the President once more, but now he must be busy. Our country will surely be reunified, and our people will enjoy welfare and a happy life generation after generation."

My mother uttered her words in a faint state. She enjoyed the greatest happiness in the embrace of her motherland and met her children before death. At 12:30 of October 30, 1985 she died at the age of 88. Receiving the sad news of her death, we left Xi'an by air the next day under the deep concern of the officials of our enterprises, leading officials of the foreign affairs office of the province and the officials of the Korean embassy in China, and arrived at Pyongyang via Beijing.

On November 1, 1985, a memorial service for my mother was held with the participation of over 100 people including the members of the funeral committee, cadres

of central organs, many public figures of the city of Pyongyang and her relatives. By her bier were laid a wreath sent by the President and the wreaths from the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Administration Council and social organizations, and a wreath and a letter of condolence sent by the Chinese embassy in Korea. At the memorial service, Secretary Ho Jong Suk of the WPK Central Committee delivered the memorial address praising the deceased for the services she had rendered to the national cause of independence movement. The funeral was held at the Patriotic Martyrs Cemetery in Sinmi-ri, Hyongjesan District. Vice Premier Jong Jun Gi presided over the ceremony and Ho read the farewell address. The body of my mother was laid in peace in the cemetery.

President Kim Il Sung honoured her by taking measures to lay her in peace on the hill of eternal life alongside other patriotic martyrs who had performed immortal exploits for the country and the people in the past. My mother who had spent her days without regrets in the embrace of her beloved country in the close of her life will now remain for ever in the memory of all people and coming generations. This is precisely an eternal life. After my mother's passing, the WPK and the government of the DPRK paid deep attention to our life so that we might come to Korea every second year to visit mother's grave and meet our relatives.

In April 1992 I was invited to visit Korea. So, I travelled to Korea with my sister and my daughter Zheng Xi and attended the celebrations of the 80th birthday of President Kim Il Sung. ►

► April 20 was the happiest day for us. The President who had invited us to Korea honoured us by personally meeting us. We presented him with the gift we had prepared with our whole hearts, and then we had the honour of posing for a souvenir photo with him. The President consoled us for the misfortune of losing our mother due to illness. He kindly told us to come to Korea every year to visit the grave of my mother as we must be missing her much because she was lying in Korea. At the banquet he asked us about our living condition in detail. Then he personally put dishes in our plates and poured wine into our glasses. It was so great an honour for us that we did not know what to do with ourselves. After the banquet the President came out to the hall to see us off. We never thought that would be our last sight of him.

On the early morning of July 8, 1994, President Kim Il Sung passed away and his great heart of love for the country and the people stopped beating. So, a giant star fell from the sky. We sent a telegram of condolence to the Korean embassy in China in deep mourning for his demise. In July 1997 my son Zheng Wenzhi and I went to Pyongyang to attend the memorial service on the occasion of the third anniversary of the demise of the President. The ceremony held in the square of the then Kumsusan Memorial Palace was attended by Chairman Kim Jong Il, cadres of the Party and the state and representatives of all social sections. After paying my respects to the President in his final resting, I came out of the palace and stood in the square, where I saw two large slogans: *The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung Will Always Be with Us!* and *Let Us Arm Ourselves Firmly with the Revolutionary Ideas of the Great Leader*

Comrade Kim Il Sung. The slogans showed the firm conviction and will of the Korean people to revere the President for ever and accomplish his revolutionary cause to the last.

October 30, 2005 was the 20th anniversary of my mother's death. I received a letter of invitation from the Korean embassy in China to visit Korea to attend the memorial service for my mother under the scrupulous care of Chairman Kim Jong Il. So, I made a journey to Pyongyang with my son Zheng Wenzhi and daughter-in-law Chen Ningning. The memorial service was held at the Patriotic Martyrs Cemetery on October 29. It was attended by the cadres of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Korean government, anti-Japanese war veterans and her relatives living in Pyongyang. Wreaths were placed before the tomb. The memorial address was to this effect:

"In her earlier days Ri Kwan Rin became a member of the Korean National Association under the guidance of Kim Hyong Jik, an outstanding leader of the anti-Japanese national-liberation movement, and engaged in the anti-Japanese struggle. After the liberation of the country President Kim Il Sung visited North Phyongan Province and went to her home town to find her out though he was busy with state affairs. He dispatched people several times to different areas of Northeast China to locate her. When she returned home in her 80s, he praised her highly for her patriotism. He saw to it that all possible medical care was taken for her health and personally visited her in her sickbed. The President recollected her in his reminiscences *With the Century* to be a bold and strong-willed woman, the first woman in Korean history to stride across the Paektu Mountains backward and forward. Chairman Kim Jong Il

took special care of her after she returned home. He arranged for a new house to be built for her at the best site and, in particular, assigned a doctor, a nurse, a cook and a chauffeur to look after her in view of her advanced age and poor health. Highly appreciating her feats in the independence movement of Korea, the Chairman took steps to award her a gold watch bearing the name of President Kim Il Sung, an order and a diploma of merit, and to provide her with good clothes and living necessities. So, she spent her later years in happiness. When she died, the Chairman appraised her as a patriotic martyr and saw to it that her body was laid in peace in the Patriotic Martyrs Cemetery. Though he was very busy with his work, the Chairman did not forget the 20th anniversary of her death and ensured that the memorial service of historical significance was held for her."

...

I, on behalf of my family, wrote a letter of thanks to Chairman Kim Jong Il who, despite pressure of Party and state affairs, did not forget my mother who had died 20 years before and called us to Pyongyang and arranged for the memorial service to be held at the Patriotic Martyrs Cemetery in grand style. Today the descendants of Ri Kwan Rin living in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, China, make a large family. In her lifetime my mother ardently craved for the reunification of Korea and prosperity of the nation. I have no doubt that her lifelong desire will be realized without fail. Civilized and prosperous socialist Korea, reunified and powerful, will surely rise high in the east of the world.

*Xi'an
December 2010
Zheng Yubin*

More Seafood for the People

SOME TIME AGO A reporter of Korea Today had a talk with Pak In Gon, bureau director of the Ministry of Fisheries. Excerpts:

Can you tell me about the marked increase in fish production in recent times?

In the past our fishing boats were barred from going out to sea by the economic blockade of the US and its lackeys and various other obstructions. This kept fish production very low, preventing an ample supply to the people. In compliance with the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea to adorn the board of every household, the People's Army had large catches of fish, supplying them to the orphanages, baby homes, orphans' primary and secondary schools and old people's homes. After the example of the army, the fishery stations on the east and west coasts braced themselves up and made rich hauls, furnishing the orphanages, baby homes and orphans' primary and secondary schools with hundreds of tons of fish on New Year's Eve to their great joy.

I've heard that in February last the ceremony of opening the fishing season in the West Sea of Korea was held. Was it not

contrary to all precedents?

This year we set a higher target than before and have been vigorously striving for its realization since the beginning of the year. The fishery stations on the west coast regarded 250 days of fishing operations out on the sea as the main factor for increasing fish production and got through with the winter repairs of fishing boats and preparation of fishing implement before the set time. Especially the Hanchon Fishery Station in South Phyongan Province, based on their experience in building fishing boats of Tanchung type by themselves last year, set the target of finishing the preparations for fishing by January and completed the repairs of hulls and engines and hurried up net making work in the cold weather. The Mundok Fishery Station accelerated the repairs of the boats and the modernization of equipment so as to employ various fishing methods, and the Phyongwon Fishery Station achieved greater successes in the repairs of ships by applying more rational methods. In such circumstances, we did away with the old conception that fishing boats could not be sent out to sea before March and held the cere-



mony of opening the fishing season in mid-February. What is more, many fishery stations on the East Sea of Korea vigorously carried on the work of making the nets lighter to raise productivity and stepped up the remodeling of all fishing boats to make them fit for all kinds of fishing operations. In addition, all ships have been fit out with shoal detectors to catch fish with ease. Since the beginning of this year, preparations are steadily under way for the deep-sea fishing. With the preparations for fishing operations completed ahead of schedule at the fishery stations on the East and West Seas of Korea, good hauls have already been made since March. Before long, the WPK's intentions to have plenty of seafood served on the tables of all households will be translated into reality. □



New Mushroom Farm



A NEW MUSHROOM FARM HAS BEEN built on the outskirts of Pyongyang. Covering a building lot of 24 800 square metres with a total floor space of 9 560 square metres, the Pyongyang Municipal Mushroom Farm produces savoury mushrooms by industrial and intensive methods.

The farm comprises the main production building and outdoor arch-shaped block. The main production

building has many rooms such as culture rooms for cultivating fungi in bottles, growing rooms producing hundreds of tons of mushrooms in a year, and rooms for control, inoculation, moulding and technical preparations. The outdoor block consisting of six sections (one section covers 600 square metres) produces mushrooms by using substrate.

The farm is fully equipped with the integrated ▶



- ▶ system of production processes from raw material feeding to forwarding and the management information system. The farm solves the substrate problem by using corn cobs and conducts research work to find out a substitute.

Inspecting the newly-built farm in January, the national leader Kim Jong Un said it should efficiently carry on its production and business activities to benefit Pyongyang citizens in practice. And he urged that all provinces, cities and counties should build modern mushroom production bases like the Pyongyang Municipal Mushroom Farm and work hard to secure proper species of mushrooms and fungi suitable to their local features and introduce advanced science and technology in their operations.

The farm cultivates various kinds of mushrooms and supplies them regularly to the citizens.

Jo Yong Il





Maebongsan-brand Shoes



THE WONSAN LEATHER Shoes Factory in Wonsan City, Kwangwon Province, Korea, recently underwent renovation keeping up with the times, and is now producing different kinds of

shoes suited to the tastes and aesthetic needs of the consumers. The products for men and women, young and old, are winning the public favour for their smart styles, light weight and high

quality.

Kim Kyu Song, a resident in Kalma-dong in the city, says, "In the past people didn't like the factory's shoes because they were heavy and were of the same style. ▶



► But now there are shoes of different styles, patterns and colours. And they are quite light. We say they are smart enough to deserve the brand 'Maebongsan.'"

In fact, the products of the factory draw the public attention because their trademark is named after Mt. Maebong which is associated with the feats of the Korean soldiers and other people who won victory against the US imperialist aggressors in the Fatherland Liberation War.

The technicians and workers of the factory pooled their efforts and wisdom to improve the design of soles to meet the latest requirement of the times and scientific and technical standards. When they produced the first trial products, they had a panel discussion about them with would-be consumers. Meanwhile, emphasis was put on making shoe designs to suit different shapes of feet. Particular attention was attached

to the manufacture of children's footwear true to their psychological favour; rainbow-coloured shoes, ribbon-decorated shoes and other kinds were developed for every season thanks to collective wisdom and efforts. In the process of this a 3D-based designing process was established for a dozen models of shoes, so it became possible to produce diversified, multifarious and multicoloured shoes.

Along with this, the factory found out a rational ratio of raw materials and modernized an injector, thus laying a foundation for making light and high-quality soles. The uppers production process was updated with the introduction of a computer-aided pattern printer. Equipment in the shoemaking flowline improved technically to suit the

factory's actual condition, thus earning substantial profits.

Kim Jong Hye, a cutting worker, says, "Working in this palatial factory I renew my determination to make more better shoes for our people." Her mind is shared by Kang Won Hui, operator of the computer-aided pattern printer, and U Jon U working in the shoemaking shop.

It is a resolution of all the workers to make their Maebongsan-brand shoes as famous as Mt. Maebong, pride of their country, by working hard with the sense of devotion to the people.

Sim Chol Yong



Mechanical Researchers Exert Themselves

ONE DAY WHEN I WENT to the Pyongyang Hosiery Factory for news coverage, I found some teachers and researchers from the Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering preparing the final test operation of a new machine they had developed. I asked what kind of machine it was. "It's a sock-inserting machine," one of them told me, but the name of the machine sounded strange to me. Now they told me the following story.

One summer day two years ago, Choe Tong Il, head of the machine-designing institute of the university, was in the Pyongyang Hosiery Factory giving practical lectures on the spot. There he was stuck in the processes where many of the jobs were regarded as to be done manually alone. Choe was conscience-stricken to know there were still many things they had to address in the factory. He was particularly worried over the sweating girls working in a high temperature. Until that time the job of fixing socks to frames for heat treatment after dyeing had been regarded as something that could

not be done by machines. *Can't we put the job into a mechanical process?* Choe thought hard. And he delved into existing documents, but found no data about mechanization of the job. Some countries decided it as unprofitable.

Skilled workers of the factory, too, were dubious about the result of the effort to mechanize the job although they knew it would be good if it was successful. Even a cursory thought was enough to judge it would be a complicated task to design and manufacture all the elements and parts of the machine. The teachers and researchers of the university, however, agreed on Choe's idea and buckled down to the task. The pooling of their wisdom solved one problem after another.

The most difficult problem was what kind of mode was to be adopted for the operation of the machine. At first, they tried to turn over the socks by means of pincers shaped like a human hand. But in picking scores of socks and putting them to the frame at a time, the machine missed many socks.

Failures repeated. One day

one of the researchers put forward a novel idea. But if they were to replace the pincers-type mode with a rubbing one, they would have to make a research all over again. All were hesitant, when Choe told them, "It is obviously needless to make the machine when it is considered from the point of manufacturing cost alone. But we know we are going to make it. Why? Because it is needed in the actual condition. We are not to be grudging about dedication of our energy and effort to the task."

The researchers redoubled their effort. A researcher worked through the night to make a perfect design of the machine by building on the basic idea. Another researcher conceived a new device to prevent the socks from folding in the course of attachment to the rubbing board. Yet another researcher went to a machine factory where he indefatigably worked day and night to make a part which needed high-precision processing. Their persevering endeavour brought about the manufacture of a sock-fixing machine in two years.

The final test working began amidst the tense watch of the researchers and workers. At last it proved successful: scores of socks were turned over at a time and placed on the frame uniformly to the great admiration of all the people. The head of the relevant workshop thanked Choe, who replied, "I think we've done what we ought to do as scientists of this country which is in the frenzy for completely unmanned processes. We'll exert ourselves harder to do our duty as scientists."

Ri Song Chol



Fancy into Practice

RECENTLY MA SONG SU, aged 58, researcher of Kim Il Sung University Faculty of Life Science received a WIPO award and a gold medal for his flax-bean nutrition capsule. Developed for the purpose of treating mastopathy and breast cancer in its initial development, this functional health food is now continuously expanding its treatment sphere: it is miraculously effective in getting rid of liver troubles, cleaning the pancreas and the cardiovascular system, removing serious joint aches and even improving facial beauty.

In his university days, Ma noticed the increasing number of cases of breast cancer while searching information. He made up his mind to write a paper about it and studied hard. The title of his paper was “Study on the pathogenesis of breast cancer.” In the course of making a closer study for his paper just before graduation, he came to know that mastopathy is one of the main causes of breast cancer.

Travelling a foreign country on business in 2001, he met some cases of breast cancer and realized that such cases were not a few in the world and that mastopathy easily changes into breast cancer. Then he set out on a long way of developing a substantial material to treat mastopathy, instead of writing a paper. Until that time, all medicines targeted on this disease were just those made to treat cancer. Their manufacture demanded rare materials, whether they were based on Western or traditional Koryo modes. Ma thought it would be impossible to meet a great demand of so many cases. As he made wider-ranging research, he

made up his mind to develop a medicine using ubiquitous plants rich in his country. At the time some people shook their head in denial, saying that it was nothing but a fantasy to develop a fighter against such precancerous diseases as mastopathy from ordinary plants. Nevertheless, Ma did not give up. His strenuous efforts attracted more and more people.

His first attention was directed to the cause of mastopathy. He was sure that disclosing the cause would lead to the development of the medicine. It had been known that the cause of mastopathy was the excessive accumulation of estrogen. However, the root cause of the accumulation had been mentioned in ordinary sense. He thought that if it was identified correctly and a material was found out for its containment, he would succeed in making a breakthrough in his research.

He had already extracted effective substances from flax and buckled down to the work of finding out a new material which is able to improve the effectiveness of a new medicine in an all-round way when combined with flax. In the course of this, he made a conclusion that the new remedy should be made in the form of health food, not medication. He believed that would comprehensively and organically manage the five causes of excessive production of estrogen, unlike previous medicines that dealt with them individually. It would also comply with the global trend.

This was why he chose everything like grains, vegetables and fruits—people have them usually—as subjects of his study. He made tireless efforts to find out highly effective physiological ma-



terials to be used in treatment. In 2008, after painstaking efforts, he proved that soya bean, which is acknowledged as a nutritive food, has a lot of active elements good for treatment of mastopathy. He condensed the substances extracted from the soya bean mixed with several other effective elements. This preparation turned out to have a comprehensive function of removing the excessively accumulated estrogen in the body as well as preventing such an accumulation. He simply named it the flax-bean nutrition capsule.

This health food he newly developed was introduced in many medical establishments including the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, bringing about more than 90% of recovery. It earned a quick fame, and was registered as a DPRK patent in 2009.

Whenever he was advised to write a paper, Ma used to say, “My invention is for all mothers, wives and daughters. It can never be for my personal honour. I’ll continue to work heart and soul to further improve this health food.”

Ri Kum Chol

Teacher Training, Matter of Crucial Importance

THE WONSAN UNIVERSITY OF Education, situated in Wonsan, Kangwon Province in Korea, is one of the competent establishments in the country that train middle school teachers.

In this era of knowledge-based economy, the university is drawing up the contents of instruction in a rational way in keeping with the requirements of the developing situation in which the universal 12-year compulsory education is in force, and further improving the scientific standard of the normal education.

Scrupulous arrangements are made to develop the creative talent of the students to the full by introducing new achievements in the field of advanced basic sciences and IT communication technology into the real instruction. Attention is also paid to the work of assessing the students' intellectual ability scientifically.

In addition, the contents of lectures improve as demanded by the current time, and new subjects are established so that the students can get wide-

-ranging and deep-going knowledge according to their aptitude and desire and adjust themselves to reality. The university also radically changed methods of education to increase the students' capacity for study, creative application and scientific research.

Introduction of a new subject *Processing of Educational Information* is one of the examples. This subject gives pedagogical principles and methods to treat various educational information through ▶



► mathematical calculation and physical measurement and by IT communication facilities, and then make optimum analysis and assessment of the results. It studies theories and methods of how to deal with various educational information for educational purposes.

On the other hand attention is paid to the improvement of teachers' qualifications. Teachers are obliged to acquire two or three foreign languages. This arrangement helps the teachers get first-



ture at a national meeting of teachers of universities of education. Many other teachers wrote teaching plans, essays and reference books and made teaching aids applicable to education. As a result, the university came first in total in the first national seminar on education and science in 2012, ranked top and second in the national contest of educational software in 2014, and still more teachers acquired the Certificate of New Registered Teaching Method and won the title of the October 8 Model Teacher.

Besides, new subjects such as *Study of Educational Control and Science of Physical Education* were created, and a number of programs such as those for distance learning, physics simulation and electronic engineering simulation were developed.

The faculty of physics invented a general-purpose display of electromagnetic wave properties which presents vivid images of reflection, refraction, diffraction, transversal and standing waves of the electromagnetic waves. Classrooms have been made multi-functional, for which a provincial demonstration was organized in March last.

Meanwhile, the university press publishes teaching materials and reference books for teachers and students, contributing to their work for improved qualification.

Kim Kyong Hui, president of the university, says, "Training teachers is vitally important to the future of the country. We are going to put our instruction on a more scientific basis and make a new turn in training teachers."

Sim Yong Jin

hand contact with scientific progress around the world and write their teaching plans with a greater discrimination.

Due concern is attached to proper evaluation of teaching plans. Along with contests for teaching plan writing in faculties and departments, all teachers examine and assess each other's teaching plan, which enables them to learn from each other and set a new target.

And meetings often take place to review lectures given and swap achievements and experience earned in instruction, which help the teachers single out points of practical importance to be considered in giving lectures. The teachers are also assimilating knowledge of related subjects so they could cope with any problems that might crop up in lecture.

This is paying off huge profit: one of the teachers worked out sophisticated, IT-based teaching plans of practical use and carried out a demonstration lec-



Images in the Book of Impressions

THE OKRYU CHILDREN'S Hospital committed to the service for the children's health management and improvement has a cardiovascular surgery department famous for their cardiac operation. Jo In Su, chief of the department, always wears a smile welcoming his patients and first offers a red-covered book to their parents. It contains notes of impressions written by children or their parents when they left the hospital after surgery there. Leafing through the pages, their faces turn bright.

Dream and Smile

Ten months ago my daughter Un Jin, born in Tanchon City, South Hamgyong Province, was diagnosed as a case of congenital heart disease just one month after her birth. This expelled smiles from all my family members. Even in fitful sleep after daily anxiety, we had a dream of Un Jin playing merrily with smooth breath. One day we heard from the TV that the Okryu Children's Hospital had gone up newly for the exclusive treatment of the children.

I took Un Jin to the hospital. From the moment her operation was arranged and she was brought into the operating thea-

tre, every second felt so long to me. Three hours passed, and the moment I saw Un Jin after the surgery I was surprised. I was told the operation was successful and that the head surgeon had donated his blood to my baby, who was now breathing smoothly. Seeing her breathing normally, who could say she had had an ailment? I pinched my flesh, and knew I was not in a dream. Now my daughter got the image that I had kept in my dreams. With this my family regained smiling faces.

We are awfully thankful to the doctors.

I Think I Will Become a Marathoner

I'm Kim Jong Ryon, and I go to kindergarten. As I was more and more panting for breath and my face got dark purple, my dad and mum were very worried. Gradually I felt weak and tired. At the sports meeting my friends all had a good time and had dancing, but I only sat with an envy of them. But after my operation at this hospital I'm strong. I like this place. In my room there are a TV set, a refrigerator, a fan, beds and a toilet, so it's like my home. And in the corridors there are playgrounds,

so I love to play. The pictures on the walls are funny. The doctors often ask me what I want to eat, and they are always with me to look after me. One day some doctors asked me what I'd do when I was grown up. When I answered they were surprised. (I answered them I'd be a marathoner.) They laughed heartily, saying they hoped I'd be a famous marathoner. Today I'm leaving here and I'll come here again with a gold medal on my breast.

Telephone Call

I am grandfather of Jong Kye Il living in Konguk-dong, Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang. When my daughter-in-law told me her son was going to have an operation on his heart, I asked her to call me after the operation. It seems I was as anxious as ever in my life, expecting a call every moment in front of the telephone. I felt as if I were in the operating theatre myself.

The telephone rang four hours after, and my heart throbbed. "The operation is a success, father. All's normal," my daughter-in-law told me, and I could hardly contain my tears.

One hour later the telephone rang again. Grippled with apprehension I tried to guess what might have happened to my grandson. I took up the telephone, when my daughter-in-law told me that all the organs of my grandson were in a normal function and that he was put under strict watch in the intensive care room. She also told me about the doctors: the cardiovascular surgeons were good at complicated congenital heart diseases as well as simple congenital heart troubles; they topped the rank of cardiovascular surgery for the experience and techniques of their own; they kept my grandson under post-operation examination, observa-



A Girl Marathoner



KIM HYE GYONG, A marathoner of the Pyongyang Sports Team, won two women's titles at a time in January last—at the 15th Asian Marathon Championships and the 2015 Hong Kong Marathon held in Hong Kong, China. It was beyond the expectation of the spectators.

When we asked her the secret of her victory, Kim showed her diary.

October 2, 2014

The 17th Asian Games Women's Marathon marked an important occasion for me seeking to become a champion of the world women's marathon. However, in this race I could not rank among the top three, far from winning it. Tears welled up, and I was beside myself with disappointment. But the tears didn't give me any consolation or relief. It was not till then that I knew the value of the tear—it is no use crying over failed attempt. I reflected on my endeavour. How was it that my record fell lower in the real race than in exercises when the distance of marathon is equal for all

the marathoners? My bad condition and the different competing environment were no problem. The problem is the lack of will and endurance. I should wipe out today's bitter sense of failure through practice, not by shedding tears. I'll work fiercely to attain a strong will and endurance. I'll redouble my effort.

October 24, 2014

The drizzle that began last evening was still falling this afternoon. I was running the training course in spite of the rain, when one of my shoes came off at the point of 28 km. At the moment the bitter lesson from the marathon race a month before flashed into my mind. *If this were the real race, then...* When I came back from the exercise, blood was oozing from the heel as well as from the toes. But I felt rather pleased than painful. I remembered the coach's words that for the athlete training means steady progress to the victory.

November 22, 2014

Today my coach scolded me severely, although he is usually taciturn and seldom rebukes trainees. He said, "Don't you know the rules? How many times have I told you that rest is also necessary for the improvement of the techniques and physical ability?" The coach must have noticed that I do exercise alone at night. However, I felt proud: I am not tired even if I jump up and down thousands times with scores-of-kg-weighting barbell on my shoulder; I feel no pain though my shoulders are bruised. I'm afraid my enthusiasm would flag if I stop sweating. Perhaps the task I set

myself is no burden.

January 25, 2015

The runners were toeing the line for the 15th Asian Marathon Championships and the 2015 Hong Kong Marathon. Among them were world-famous athletes and most of them were bigger than me. I was more or less nervous. But I was firmly determined to win without fail by running persistently to the end with the thinking that this was only the continuation of my training. I was reaching the limit leg that the marathoners called "barrier of death." I was almost out of breath and sometimes was feeling dizzy as well. "What is the reason? Can't I pass this leg? Sure, I can. Cheer up," I said to myself, in my mind, moving ahead metre by metre desperately. At the moment the images of my teacher and villagers who had seen me off to the entrance of the village when I left for my sports team after growing up in the countryside flashed into my mind. What is more, I seemed to hear my coach crying, "If you collapse now, all your efforts will be a vain attempt, and you are not to recede even a step back. The most eligible athlete is the winner of the contest." I fancied as if my friends were waiting for me at the finish line, those who sincerely wished me victory. My spirit shot up. Seeing the flag of our Republic rise over the dais of honour, I could not but shed tears. The tears meant my ecstasy of joy and my sense of satisfaction over the reward for the great expectation.

Jo Yong Il

► tion and treatment so as to prevent any trifling problem; they asked not to be worried about Kye Il as good medicines and nutritious foods were supplied to

the patients free of charge thanks to the state policy.

Today I'm very happy to see my grandson leave the hospital in good health.

After reading the book of impressions, the patients' parents say, "I'm assured and convinced."

Ri Chung Ho

Table Tennis School

UNTIL EIGHT YEARS AGO the table tennis team of the Ryongbuk June 9 Senior Middle School in Taesong District, Pyongyang was far from the top three places in the ranking even in the district. The situation changed, though, when Choe Chun Ae who had learned table tennis at the then Pyongyang School of Physical Education came to teach at this school.

She drew up a new training schedule of the table tennis team that several sports teachers had taken turns to manage in the earlier years. The team switched over to a special mode of training from general exercises to learn basic techniques. All the processes of the training including warming up were carried on to the rhythms of merry songs. Even basic techniques like forehand stroke and drive were learned in constant movements, not in a fixed posture. Dealing with a volley became a major training method. The parents of the students were pleased that their children were in as hard a training as famous table tennis players.

The table tennis team got more and more virile. A year later, they advanced to the semi-finals in a national students' table tennis contest, but no more. Seeing Choe and the students disappointed, headmaster Kim Jong Chol said, "You can hardly expect to be perfect from the outset. In fact, you achieved a great success this time. All the teachers and students of our school are encouraged by your achievement. They say they learned the truth that nothing is impossible to a willing heart. We believe you'll finally win."

Choe tried hard to draw lessons and experience from the past matches and organize the training in a more rational way. With the help of other teachers she searched for various training methods and knacks and drew up new tactics of competition. At last she found out some problems to be solved in managing her team and acquired innovative methods of instruction watching the trend of table tennis in the world. The school frequently organized itinerant training and matches with other schools' table tennis teams

to improve the students' techniques and courage. The teaching staff built a new, larger table tennis gym and prepared better tables, rackets and other materials by enlisting the help of the parents of the trainees.

Amid such an enthusiasm, the team won a national students' table tennis tournament in 2009. From then on, the school recorded six consecutive victories until last year. This success was followed by many other achievements: the teachers and students ranked high at many national contests. They say they tried to emulate the table tennis players' achievement in exalting the honour of the school.

Many of the students were selected by several sports teams after graduation.

These days not only the students of this school but also those of other schools and even pupils in the district frequent this school to learn table tennis. The school is now well known across the country as the one with an excellent table tennis team, and it is called "table tennis school."

Choe Chun Ae says, "Many people think highly of my school. But I want to call my school 'table tennis school' when all of my trainees add glory not only to the school but also to the country as famous table tennis players Kim Hyok Bong and Kim Jong did."

The school is now managing the table tennis team more scrupulously hoping to lead its success to the national honour.

Kim Yong Ok



I Have “Hands,” Too

I WAS BORN OF A peasant family in present-day Ryonghung-ri, Anju City, South Phyongan Province, on June 13, 1943. Two years later my country came to be free from the Japanese military occupation in August 1945, and my village was filled of joy and excitement like others. In the liberated country where the people are the master of everything, I was enrolled at the then Ryonghung Primary School when I reached the school age. At the time I didn't expect my hope for learning would be dashed.

The US imperialists unleashed the Korean war on June 25, 1950, and intruded into my village during the period of strategic temporary retreat of the Korean People's Army in October. Most of the villagers evacuated, and only a few were left in the village, including my parents and several relatives in my house, for the enemy blocked up our northbound way with tanks. Some time later some “peace-keeping corps” rascals swooped on my house and began to beat my father at random on the absurd charge of keeping a gun. Then one of the hooligans cut off an ear of my father with a bayonet when he protested. Blood gushed out like a fountain. My mother took my fallen father into the room, when the enemy stepped in to kick him so hard on the back that he was severely injured in his back. He had already joined the Workers' Party of Korea in 1946 and worked as deputy chairman of a Party cell in the village, taking the lead in the agrarian reform in which to confiscate land from the landlords without compensation

and distribute it to the peasants gratis. The “peace-keeping corps,” who had borne our benevolent system a deep-rooted grudge, beat him recklessly under the false charge that he had got a gun. At about 9 p.m. they came to my house again and took my father by the leg to draw him along to their den.

My elder cousin worried that all of my family could be killed, so he carried the rest of my family in an oxcart to a hideout in a deep valley in Yaksandongdae. Three days later when we ran out of food, my mother went back to our house to get food but failed. Saying that she had failed because the enemy was rampant in the village, she asked me to go and get food for she believed they would let me alone because I was very young. We never expected that it would cause my life's distress.

When I arrived home and stepped into the yard, I heard someone call me. I looked back to see one of the “peace-keeping corps” rogues I had seen days before in my house. He was there with two Yankees. Shivering with the terrible memory of the other day, I came up to the Yankees and begged to let me go. However, they kicked me away. So much frightened, I took the door-ring to enter the room. At this juncture, a gun report rang and blood spurted out of my right hand. When I tried to take the ring again with my left hand, another



bullet hit my left hand. I fell down unconscious.

My mother, who had followed me feeling uneasy, saw me fall down. She was infuriated and protested for the brutality. A Yankee struck her hard on the head with the rifle butt. When a group of villagers came up and furiously shouted to save me, the Yankees promised to save me. Then they put me in a truck and drove out of the village. They went to a so-called “institute,” which I learned later was established for the purpose of murder. Instead of treating me, the Yankees cut off my arms there. When my maternal grandmother appeared there, they yelled to take me—I was still in coma—and my fallen arms. That was how I lost my hands forever.

As I grew up I firmly swore vengeance and worked hard to learn writing with my foot and the stump of one of my arms. The country made sure that I, a cripple, learned at primary school, a technical school of agriculture and the then Sinuiju University of Education, and my classmates always took good care of me in studying and living. After graduation, I worked hard at my

War Veteran's Note

RODONG SINMUN, THE organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea dated March 22, 1953 during the severe Fatherland Liberation War carried a note of visit to the front contributed by a member of a central people's delegation. Part of it reads:

"I think I have to make mention, first of all, of the wonderful front-line band and the instruments used by the band. The instruments include the violin, viola, cello, mandolin, guitar, small drum and harmonica... All the violins of the front-line band were made by the soldiers themselves out of the pines gathered on the heights where they are fighting. The guitar was made of the paulownia wood from Height 1211... The hair of the violin bow came from the military horses. I am afraid this kind of account is likely to leave behind it an impression as though they were insignificant instruments. Surely, the readers are advised to know they are in no way handicraft for simple fun.

"And it is important to mention that all the 30-odd members of the front-line band are ordinary

soldiers who have learned to play the instruments in the break of the battles. Of course, these instruments were made to exact sizes for good resonance, and yet the volume of the sound is unavoidably low as the bows are all substitutes. If the people in the home front and foreigners see these instruments and know they were all made by the soldiers in the front, they would, I'm sure, be overwhelmed with admiration for the high cultural attainments and creativity of the soldiers of the People's Army."

Here's a note written by a war veteran, which is kept in the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum.

The amusement party of the company on Jikdong Pass opened with a song and ended with a song night after night. The soldiers' morale rose higher and higher with each passing day, fighting against the enemy in the daytime and singing songs at night. This made us anxious for the want of musical instruments. Singing was not the only thing we wanted for amusement. My company didn't have even a harmon-

ica. The only way to get musical instruments was to make them by ourselves.

I hastily went to the company headquarters and told about my determination. At that time I had no experience in instrument making, or any talent about it. What we had was no more than a big saw and an ax. Nevertheless, I did not give up my determination to try it out. Earlier when I was a child in Pusan, I had a little played the mandolin obtained by my elder brother, and seen different kinds of stringed instruments when I was working my way through school. This was the only assets in my possession.

Under full support of my company comrades, I was all engrossed in making an instrument. Nothing on the height was irrelevant to me. One day the cartridge of a 45 mm anti-tank shell caught my eye. I took it and studied it from different angles, and now I knew I could make the sound-board of a Korean fiddle with it. I went to the arms repair shop of my regiment and had it cut to a proper size. Then I got a broken rifle-clearing rod. I heated it in the fire, put it on a hard rock and

► job, and in the course of this I was admitted into the Workers' Party of Korea and honoured with the title of Labour Hero. My husband, a Korean People's Army officer, and four children and all the villagers were my "hands."

Hoping that my children would take revenge on the enemy without fail, I named my first daughter "Kim Poksu," second daughter "Kim Ha" and the last

daughter "Kim Rira." The joining of their names means "We'll take revenge." And my son was named "Kim Won Dae" with the meaning of taking vengeance generation after generation.

Standing in the van of education in class awareness, I ask the coming generation to fight against the enemy with no illusion about them.

Recently I wrote a long note

entitled "I Have 'Hands,' Too." This book denounces the US imperialists who ignited the Korean war and inflicted extravillainous crimes on the Korean people, and lets the progressive people around the world know what a happy life I have enjoyed under the benevolent socialist system.

*Ri Ok Hui,
Guide at the Central Hall of
Education in Class Awareness*



Exhibits of the optimistic life of the KPA soldiers during the Fatherland Liberation War.



▶ struck it with a stone to make a 10 cm-long knife. Then I ground it on a stone to make a sharp edge. Using the knife, I cut a small wild-walnut tree to make a neck. And I cut an ash tree into pegs. The holes were made with a heated iron rod. The bow stick was also made of the ash wood. I asked a horsekeeper for horse hair to make the bow hair. And the resin was got from the pine tree, which was boiled over the fire and poured into cold water through a sieve for purified mass.

The problem was the strings. I racked my brain over how to solve the problem. Now I collected telephone lines and used them to fill the four lines, like the violin. Then I painted the pine resin on the hair, and crossed the bow across the strings for trial. Surely, there came the sound. I jumped for joy, shouting, "Got it! I got it!"

But the sound was extremely weak. It was an unavoidable condition because the soundboard and rib were small. I put the fiddle to my chin and tried some pieces of music. I could perform any tune that was simple—*Arirang*, *Yangsangdo*, *Nodul Riv-*

erside and the like. Needless to say, my performance got a big hand from my comrades at the evening amusement party. Although it was a coarse and ill-shaped instrument made with an ax and a self-made knife, it meant a great means of cultural recreation at the time.

"It's surprising you've made a musical instrument in the ashes. It's really wonderful of you!" called out the deputy regimental commander for political affairs when he saw my product.

A few days later three soldiers who had something of carpentry skills were attached to me—a measure to make front-line instruments in numbers. A smithy was laid and necessary tools were obtained. Trees that had been broken in bombings were cut to certain sizes and dried. In this way we manufactured three violins, three mandolins and three guitars—all in the spirit of self-reliance. A front-line band was immediately organized.

From that day on I taught how to play the instruments to the members of the band in the trenches on Jiktong Pass. The

stringed instruments were combined with drums, large and small, and flutes. Some programs like chorus, small chorus, solo and poem recitals were included in the performance.

My band then got on a way of itinerary performance for all the battalions of my regiment. We went beyond the limit of the regiment to go round my division and corps.

In the latter half of the year 1952 my unit manoeuvred towards Wonsan. My band beat drums and played the flutes to encourage the soldiers on the march.

Then, the soldiers unanimously said they were never tired however rugged pass they were going up. That was our pleasure and worth of life.

In 1953, the last year of the Fatherland Liberation War, my band had the honour of participating in the art festival of service personnel.

After the war came to an end in our victory a national conference of combat heroes took place, for which we gave our performance in congratulation of the victorious war.

Later the writer worked at the Pyongyang Musical Instrument Factory for many years. He closed his note by the passage that the most honourable chapter of his career was the days when he joined the volunteers corps in July of the first year of the Fatherland Liberation War and fought bravely on Height 1211 which the enemy called "Heart-breaking ridge" and where he had made the first front-line musical instrument with his own hand.

Sim Chol Yong

Inheriting Patriotism

THE SUPREME NATIONAL leader Kim Jong Un gave on-the-spot guidance to the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill in December 2014.

Walking round the compound of the factory regardless of the biting cold, he praised that it had well done the work of landscaping. At that time, an official, pointing to the chief engineer of the factory, told that efforts had been directed to the landscaping since the chief engineer's father began to work as general manager of the factory.

Looking at the chief engineer affectionately, the leader made a meaningful remark that his was a really patriotic family that were working for the factory generation after generation.

The ex-general manager Ri Sang Hyon is now dead, but he is still alive in the workers' memory as he did a lot for the factory.

Ri worked as general manager of the factory since 1970. Guiding

the management as a whole, he directed great attention to the establishment of cultured ways in production and life. According to his proposal, resting places were built here and there in the factory and good species of trees—persimmon trees, fir trees, *Meta-sequoia glyptostroboides* and magnolias—planted in numbers, making the compound refreshingly green and the persimmon trees were heavily laden in autumn. All the persimmons were supplied to the nursery and kindergarten of the factory. In this course, the workers got attached to their working place and took good care of it.

President Kim Il Sung visited the factory in 1974 and was very satisfied that it was furnished and laid out very well. He praised it was an honour factory.

After that, Ri was honoured to pose for souvenir photographs with President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il several

times.

Still now, the workers recall that he was a faithful official of the workers and a man of humanity and honesty.

In his lifetime, he often told his children to always work their fingers to the bone for the country and proposed his first son Ri Yong Gun (now he is the chief engineer of the factory) to learn the textile engineering at the Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry. Yong Gun, who had been born in the factory hospital and looked after by the factory's nursery and kindergarten, accepted his words very gladly after finishing the military service. After graduation, he learnt a lot working at the production site.

In this course, he has grown up as chief engineer via the posts of staff member of the production department and head of the technical affairs department. Only a year has passed since he was appointed as chief engineer. He is now accelerating the work to modernize the production processes and improve the quality of the goods on the strength of science and technology in keeping with the requirements of the developing reality.

As a result, all kinds of cloth produced at the factory are popular with the consumers for their high quality. "We will furnish our factory very well by emulating the patriotism of our parents and seniors, and contribute to the improvement of the people's living standard," says Yong Gun.

Sim Yong Jin

Ri Yong Gun (*second right*).



“We Aren’t Blind”

WHEN A DELEGATION OF THE WORLD Federation of the Deaf visited the Kwangmyong Publishing House in Sungho County, North Hwanghae Province, they wrote their impression, reading, “It is an unimaginable thing in other countries that the blind sit together with normal people to do jobs of editing and writing for publication. We haven’t seen the disabled persons work in state organs. What’s more impressive is that all the blind in the publishing house have learned at college.”

Since it published *Kim Il Sung’s Selected Works* Vol. 1 on February 28, 1962 as its first mission, the house has released many Braille books, which serve as close companion of the blind. The magazine *Our Life* alone introduces laudable deeds of those working in factories of the blind, matters the readers are interested in, and common knowledge about healthcare and the like. The magazine *The Handbook of the Amateur Artists* introduces songs popular among the Korean people and wide-ranging data on how to play popular musical instruments.

Everybody well knows how much it torments when they cannot see. But confident in their own ability, the publisher staff are making strenuous efforts to do good jobs for the sake of society and their collective.

Once the linguistics faculty of Kim Chol Ju University of Education arranged an on-spot correspondence course for the factory and gave mobile lectures to the students in the publishing house. At first the teachers were very worried about the physical disability, but the blind students were fervently engrossed in the study with a desire to learn even one more thing. Their zeal to learn how to write articles and improve the quality of publications struck the teachers with wonder. At the graduation ceremony held in the publishing house with a large attendance, journalist Kim Ju Song said, “We extend thanks to our beneficial system that affords us a bright view.”

There are Merited Journalists and Associate



Professors in the publishing house, and some of the staff members were honoured to participate in the 8th Conference of the Journalists Union of Korea in 2001 as delegates.

The life of the employees is optimistic and cheerful. An editor is a famous guitar player, and a good soloist is also there. When asked if it was difficult for him to learn the guitar, Kim Yong Hak replies, “It was really a hard job. But I knew I can do anything like the ordinary people do if I’m determined. I found it pleasant.”

In December last year Kim’s couple went for regular holiday at the county holiday camp. Their stay was the focus of the camp life. Around the time the “human rights issue” of the country was put on the agenda in a UN meeting due to the US’s high-handedness, and a European country was debating a matter of the disabled of Korea. In a recreation party, when Kim was playing the guitar cheerfully, his wife Pak Yong Suk recited a poem she had written herself, which sang that her couple, though blind, enjoyed a proud life as members of the society under the socialist system which holds man dearest. She closed her poem by chanting, “We aren’t blind.” The holidaymakers sent cheers not only to them but to all the staff of the publishing house.

Kim Hyon Ju

Fast-reading Master

LAST YEAR A GIRL student drew great attention of the jury in the 6th national fast-reading contest (general education sector). She won the top prize by memorizing 940 numbers, 300 words and 200 binary digits respectively in every 15 minutes. She is Kim Ji Ye of Pyongyang Middle School No. 1.

Kim Jong Sun, chief of the fast-reading laboratory of the school and initiator of fast reading in the country, says, “Two years ago Ji Ye came to see me. She said she stood sixth or seventh in her class’s rank, and that she was making little progress. I began to give her fast-reading instruction and she soon developed a good memory. She broke the national record at the 5th national fast-reading contest (general education sector) and won the gold medal.”

Fast reading-based work demanded strong will and responsibility, Ji Ye recalls. Some students made false reports on the results of fast-reading training as the amount of memory increased to an unbearable extent. Some teachers regarded it as unavoidable practice among the students going through the fast-reading instruction. Whenever Ji Ye was exhausted, her father, working for a football association, gave a pep talk, saying, “Only when you overcome difficulties, can you have the joy of success. The present time of IT industry demands versatile talents. You ought to

meet the expectations of your teachers.”

Ji Ye made strenuous efforts to carry out high-level tasks proposed by her teacher. One day, at a break, the teacher came to see her stay alone in the classroom when other students were all out for a rest. When she asked to have a rest, the girl replied, “Today you gave me a task to remember 45 words in two minutes. But I remembered only 40 words. I’m going to have a rest after finishing the task.”

To improve her concentration she sometimes did exercises in the noisy street. One day an official visited her school and proposed her a contest to remember words. At the time she displayed her higher ability than him by memorizing 50 words in 125 seconds. Such painstaking efforts made her get the knack of fast reading.

Literature teacher Kim Chol Ryong comments, “Ji Ye gets a quick understanding and makes an extraordinary analysis of the content of a literary work as a whole.”

She saved much time of studying social subjects that need a lot of time of learning by heart and paid more attention to her weakest subject *physics*. In this way she became the best student in her year. By reading a large number of books, she was known as a student with all-round knowledge. Her classmates recommended her as their music



introducer as she was the first to learn new songs. The school put her forward on the stage of “Our School’s Pride.”

Her experience fueled the fast-reading enthusiasm among the students. On learning that she had won the national fast-reading contest, many university and college students called her on the phone or met her face to face to share experience and opinions. Ji Ye said, “During the fast-reading instruction I realized the value of time. One minute and even one second I neglected in the past have become very priceless to me. I can now acquire much knowledge over the time.”

She hopes to be a doctor. With a firm determination to master English and Chinese in her school days, she works hard at the foreign languages—even on her way to and from school. She also has the goal of mastering Latin and German when she goes on to university.

Her fast-reading teacher Ri Ha Yong says, “I am sure she will be an excellent doctor if she majors in medicine.”

Rim Ok

Ryonggang Spa

THE RYONGGANG SPA IN ONCHON County, Nampho, is always swarming with people. Fresh air, dense forests with white herons flying over and the unique landscape are adding beauty to the resort. The place is renowned for the hot spring before anything else.

The locality is subject to the influence of oceanic climate. The hot spring contains bromine ion, radon, and so on whose content of minerals is one of the highest among hot springs and mineral waters found in Korea.

It is efficacious for treatment of hypertension, arthritis, neuralgia, lumbago, aftereffects of surgical operation, women's diseases, chronic gastritis, chronic colitis, dermatitis, etc.

The Yesongsan Spring Water, which is a typical one of the Ryonggang Spa, is favourably commented upon by the people as it has a special virtue for the treatment of the digestive system and health improvement.

Nestling in thick forests, the resort has cosy and modern buildings in which rooms are furnished with full bathing conditions. Also available there are facilities for sports and amusement games and other

leisure activities.

Beautiful surroundings are conducive to treatment. From early spring to late autumn all sorts of flowers are in full bloom as in a botanical garden, good species of needle- and broad-leaved trees growing exuberantly and various kinds of fruits giving off an enticing scent.

For its wonderful environment and excellent conditions the spa attracts many people at home and from abroad.

A member of a Swiss tourist group said, "We have had an enjoyable time in an oasis of peace situated in the beautiful forests. This is just a paradise for physical and mental refreshment."

The spa is now crowded with people for its excellent remedial effects.

Rim Sang Jun



After Many Years

By Ri Hui Nam

(Continued from the last issue)

“LOOK WHAT HAS happened,” the senior official of the mine criticized. “You’ve invited this shame on yourselves because you’ve put the trucks to overuse in an attempt to make a record.”

Jong Gu could hardly make any excuse. He was more than embarrassed. He had no other alternative but to place his hope on people like Kyong Hun.

“Now everything depends on you,” said Jong Gu to Kyong Hun one day in a mine car on his way home. “The point is the trucks that are in operation. I know there are only a few, but if they bear two shares each, it will tide us over. Of course, that’s not so easy, but we’ve got no other way out. We’re in a fix.”

Kyong Hun sat still with his head lowered—like a man found guilty.

“This isn’t anything left to your choice. And it isn’t anything you may leave to others’ responsibility. You’d better think everything depends on you. It’s something related to the honour of our workshop. This is my earnest request to you.”

Jong Gu was serious, but Kyong Hun’s mouth would not open—shut closely like a gate to a fortress. Jong Gu felt rather ominous about the prospect.

But that turned out to be futile worry. Kyong Hun began to brace himself up as was asked by Jong

Gu—thankfully enough to Jong Gu. He cut the 30-minute time of repair of his truck down to ten minutes despite the strict rule of work of his own. Always making haste he went to the workplace ahead of others and left home the last of his colleagues.

His usually mild eyes were glaring with something like anger, and his oval face wore something serious and resolute that could be expected from people who are determined to sacrifice themselves.

The volume of ore transport began to rise sharply. Like a sub appears over the surface of the sea, Kyong Hun’s work started to show him up.

“It’s surprising, Kyong Hun,” everyone praised him. The entrance to the heavy-duty truck company was pasted with a big notice reading “Ri Kyong Hun of Truck No. 87 Fulfils His Task by 170 per cent!”

“Thank you, Kyong Hun,” said Jong Gu one day, grasping him by the hand warmly, his eyes a little moist. Kyong Hun turned his face away without any reply.

It was one of those days that Ok Gum, wife of Kyong Hun, appeared at the workplace with a very worried look. After marriage, she had given up the statistician’s work and become a nurse at the baby nursery. Of course, Jong Gu had no clear idea of how she had got married with Kyong Hun after such a long time of attraction. His only knowledge was that Kyong Hun proposed to Ok Gum the day

when she asked to put a big bulletin on Kyong Hun’s conscientious act on the noticeboard of the workshop. Strangely, that must have sealed their relation of love.

“What’s brought you here?” Jong Gu asked her.

“I wonder something may have happened to my husband,” she said, making a frown as if she had a serious problem to worry about. They were standing in a spacious yard of the heavy-duty truck company. Broken trucks were standing here and there and some of them were noisily grumbling under repair.

“He’s quite strange these days,” Ok Gum said. “He seldom speaks at home and often falls into thinking hard, his face getting haggard and his eyes sinking day by day. I’m afraid something serious is likely to happen.” She dropped her eyes slightly, trying to hide the deep-rooted apprehension whirling in her heart. As if putting stress on her evasive apprehension, the tiny round mole on her chin seemed to have turned blacker. (It also looked additive to her beauty.)

Jong Gu chuckled, although he knew he might sound impolite. “Don’t be worried,” he said. “Kyong Hun is undergoing a period of good pains. I’m sure he’ll be a different person. Look at that over there, the noticeboard at the entrance of the company.” Jong Gu pointed towards the entrance proudly. A sheet of notice praising Kyong Hun’s achievement came in sight, particularly the figure of

▶ 170 in a red stroke on a light blue background. “He is dedicating his all to that,” Jong Gu said, “and the whole company is admiring him.”

The woman’s eyes got wide open. Her long lashes stood up erect and a beam of apprehension and fear was coming from below them. It seemed all her worries pent up in her heart were flooding the eyes.

Jong Gu could not understand her expression. He knew she had been always worried about her husband’s lagging behind others in work. But now she was restless to see his honourable achievement. Why?

At the meeting for the review of the month’s production, Kyong Hun was given the top assessment. “Kyong Hun has saved the face of our workshop this month,” Jong Gu began to lavish compliments on Kyong Hun just in the room in which the previous head of the workshop had once rebuked Kyong Hun seriously.

“It’s really great. The company decided to give Kyong Hun a big appreciation—including a citation and a prize. That’s a due appreciation.” Jong Gu was so vehemently talking that his voice sometimes sounded croaking.

“Just shut up, will you?” Kyong Hun cried, jerking himself up all of a sudden in the corner of the room. “I’m rather embarrassed to hear such a compliment. I hope you won’t play such a game any more.”

The whispering voices hushed all at once, and an unpleasant silence set in.

“This month I did much work and won fame, but I don’t know what will happen next month. I’m quite worried. The flimsy honour

we got is the result of the excessive operation of our trucks. I’m afraid I’d fall terribly short of my target from next month—despite my citation. I can hardly stand this. I insist on making innovations on a regular basis instead of trying to achieve lop-sided innovations.”

Kyong Hun furiously cut the air with his clasped fist and sat down. His chair grated, making an unpleasant noise. His face was red as if dyed, and his usually mild eyes turned gloomy.

Jong Gu stooped frozen for a good while without any words. His lips were hardened agape and his eyes were wandering here and there as if looking for something in the room. It was quite an unexpected pass. He had never expected such a blow from his friend. *How could he drive me into such a corner of shame?*

After the meeting Kyong Hun resumed his original mode of life. The “sub” that had appeared on the surface for a moment disappeared deep under the sea. After making a complete repair of his truck he busied himself mending other trucks of the workshop. This eased the strain of the workshop.

Jong Gu received a good lesson. Now he seemed to know how he should work as leader of the workshop. His way of work began to change, but he found himself refusing to go to see Kyong Hun and beg a pardon. Then he was enrolled at the University of National Economy on the mine’s recommendation.

Jong Gu could not remember how he had parted with Kyong Hun. Perhaps there had been no impressive things about their

farewell. Thereafter, he had not heard of his friend. The memory of the old days subsided in the numerous pages of the everyday life, and the days of oblivion continued—for 15 years.

3

The gentle and monotonous sounds of the train wheels kept resounding through the powerful dash ahead in the night. The girl next to Jong Gu was still dedicating herself to reading. Dedicating oneself is always a good and beautiful thing.

The young couple were fast asleep. The woman was still resting her head on the shoulder of her husband—as if longing for a caress. It seemed the couple were anxious to lean to each other even in sleep. It was a true image of honesty.

Truth comes to light through the passage of time. It is the last thing to be left in oblivion for good. It was the same with Kyong Hun.

On his visit to the mine, Jong Gu went to see the chief engineer of the heavy-duty truck company at his house, who had used to be the head of his workshop. He found his old boss the same as he had been—his hoarse voice and rough features like the iron ore.

The two talked of their old days and friends over the table.

“I’d rather say Kyong Hun has somewhat changed,” Jong Gu said.

“Not somewhat but surely, he has become a man of everybody’s admiration,” corrected the chief engineer, and began his story.

(To be continued)

Mt. Paektu



Seen From Lake Chon



Korean Industrial Arts (2)

Woodcraft

KOREA HAS A LONG history of woodcraft. In the Neolithic era (the 7th millennium B.C.-early 3rd millennium B.C.), the ancient Koreans made various kinds of simple woodworks with boards to meet the needs of their life. This is evident from the fact that boards were unearthed from Dwelling Site No. 14 of the Pomuikusok Remains in Musan and Dwelling Site No. 14 of the Odong Remains in Hoeryong, all of them being Neolithic remains in North Hamgyong Province.

The ancient wooden artefacts include table, tray, cup, basin, plate, spoon and other pieces of tableware. Pipha-shaped daggers, sheaths of narrow bronze daggers and other kinds of weapons were also dug up. A delicate wooden dagger and its lacquered sheath with five joints excavated from a grave in Ryongchu-dong, Ryongsong District, Pyongyang, testify to the high development of wood-

craft at the time.

The woodcraft was further developed in the times of the Three Kingdoms (Koguryo, Paekje and Silla). Old records and mural paintings of the tombs of Koguryo (277 B.C.-A.D. 668) testify to the high level of development of woodcraft in the Koguryo period. Various shapes of tray, table and the like painted in several tomb murals including those showing scenes of dance and *ssirum* (Korean wrestling) were widely used until the late Middle Ages. This proves that the table and tableware suited to the tastes and likings of the Korean people had already been made before that time. The remains of Taedonggang Bridge, a 375-metre-long and 9-metre-wide wooden bridge laid between present Taesong and Sadong districts of Pyongyang across the river show the developed level of woodcraft in the Koguryo period. The bridge was built without using pieces of iron like nails and cramps, but only by

strongly wedging up all big and small joints of its main body, pillars, railings and so on. Such high techniques were used not only in building bridge, tower and house but in making objects of woodwork throughout the Middle Ages, and handed down to the posterity.

The developed woodcraft of Koguryo exerted influence on the fraternal countries—Paekje (the late 1st century B.C.-660) and Silla (the early mid-1st century-A.D. 935), and it provided the foundation for the development of woodcraft in the later times. Typical of the relics showing the development of woodcraft during the Three Kingdoms is Okchungjuja (Beetle-shaped Pitcher). Made by the Paekje craftsmen in the mid-7th century, it comprehensively represents the delicate and elegant methods of woodwork, metalwork, architecture and pictorial art of those days. It is the oldest of the world's remaining woodwork.

Woodcraft was developed to a ►



Poet's Loss of Words Over Pyongyang

RENOWNED KOREAN poet Kim Hwang Won (1045–1117) lived in the time of Koryo (918–1392). He wrote a great many poems about natural beauty as he travelled through scenic spots of the country.

One summer day, when he was in Pyongyang, he climbed the Moran Hill and stood on the Pubyok Pavilion to enjoy the view. Looking down the clear and blue water of the Taedong River meandering along the Chongnyu Cliff and the Walled City of Pyongyang and the fogged Tongdaewon, he only stood enraptured at the scene for a while.

“Oh, what a wonderful scene it is! I've never seen it before,” he was greatly impressed.

Hearing that a well-known poet had come to Pyongyang, many local government officials and scholars hurried to the Pubyok Pavilion and requested him to write a marvellous poem about the scenic beauty of Pyongyang.

Reading the words hanging on the pillars and ceiling of the pavilion, he made a grimace, because

none of them was good enough to depict the scenic beauty of Pyongyang vividly. Kim told the spectators to throw away all the words as he was going to make a poem about Pyongyang's beauty.

Then he leaned against a pillar with an arm and was lost in thought for a good while. At last he asked for a brush. Then he took it up and began to scribble words to everyone's attention.

*A river meanders along the
long wall.
Hills are standing east of
the plain.*

He wrote in a rush, but suddenly seemed to be unable to go on. With the brush in his hand, he looked down the pavilion for a time, then turned to the silk again, but still found it hard to go on. When he looked down at the Taedong River far away from the Pubyok Pavilion, he felt as if he stood in a pavilion of the Dragon King's Palace rising over the sea; when he looked across at the fogged Tongdaewon, he felt as if he stood against the handrail of

Heavenly Palace over the cloud.

He found it beyond the bounds of his intelligence to describe such wonderful scenery with only a few words of poetry. Hours passed, but he was unable to continue excepting two lines. Perspiration ran down his face ruining the silk, and the spectators began to desert him one by one.

Soon the sun set and the pavilion was flushed with evening twilight. Finding himself alone, the poet snapped his brush in two and wept bitterly. “My talent is too poor to describe the scenic beauty of Pyongyang.” He lamented hopelessly far into the night and left Pyongyang.

After that, the local people hung the couplet he had managed to produce on a pillar of the Pubyok Pavilion, and later moved it to today's Ryongwang Pavilion.

This was not only because it was a particularly good poem, but also because they wanted to tell and retell the story of the beautiful landscape of Pyongyang, which had baffled even the descriptive powers of a famous poet. □

► higher level in the Feudal Josen Dynasty (1392–1910) after the Koryo dynasty (918–1392). In this period, woodwork, varied in their kinds, included bureau, square table, bookcase, dressing table, chest, box, tray, basin, wooden pillow, wooden hand lantern,

paduk (go) board, wooden wild goose, cupboard, spool and other sewing things, and painting set. The woodworks were decorated by using various methods and materials like metal, paper, mother-of-pearl, lacquer, skin, bone and fish scale.

Today the woodcraft of Korea is contributing admirably to the Korean people's material and cultural life by closely combining national peculiarities and modern tastes according to the state policy of preserving the national heritages. □

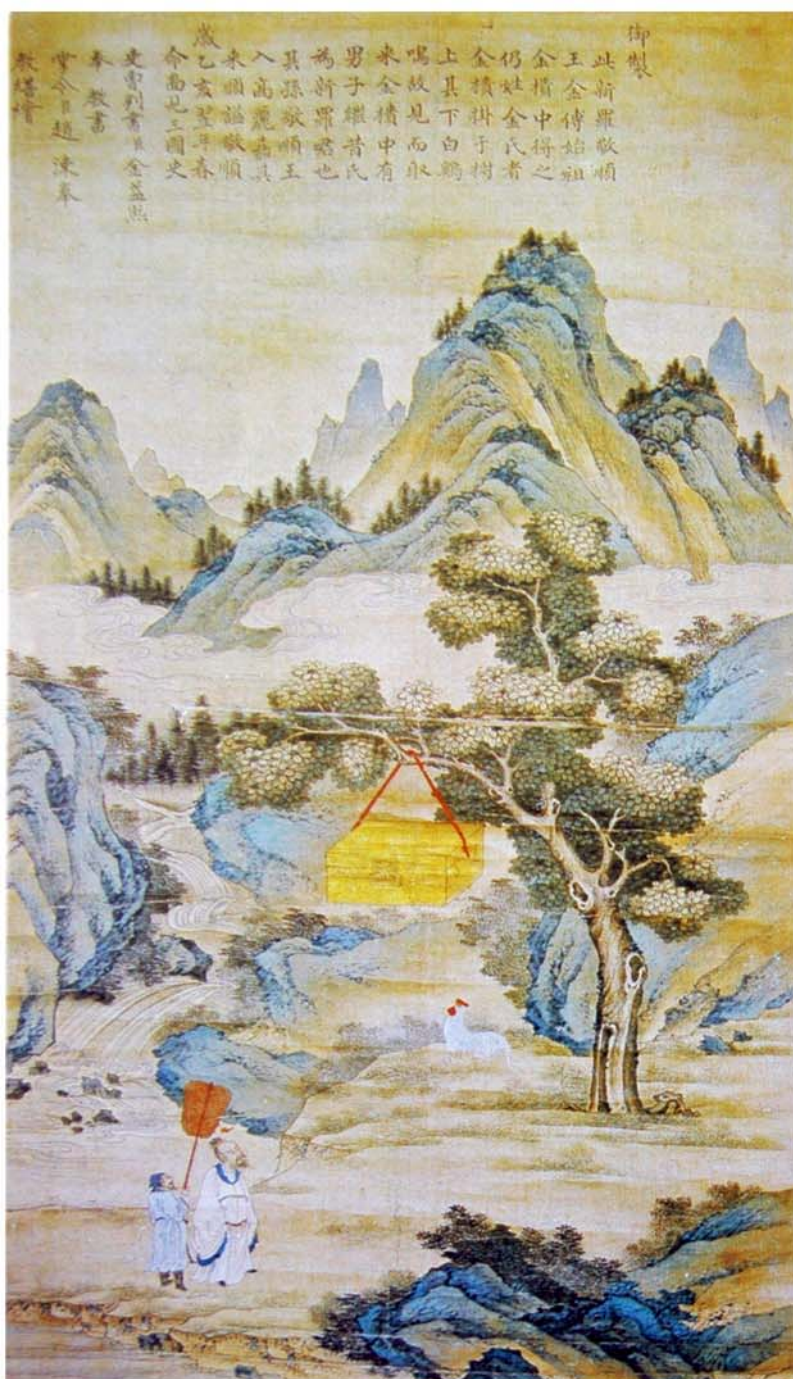
Painter Jo Sok

JO SOK WAS A PAINTER who lived during the Feudal Joseon Dynasty (1392–1910). He was fond of reading from his childhood, and as a grown-up, surprised people with his pro-

found learnings. He was upright and true to his principles. He was good at writing poems, and was a skilled calligrapher and a master-hand at painting landscape, flowers and birds, especially magpies.

His best-known painting is *The Gold Chest*. It originated from the tale contained in the *Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms* (12th century) and the *History of the Three Kingdoms* (the late 13th century) that Kim Al Ji, the ancestor of the Kims of Silla (the early mid-1st century–935), was born out of a gold chest. The painting depicts a scene in which the clouds shroud the side of a hill with a gold chest resting on the bough of a tree in the woods and a white cock crowing under it and Minister Ho lured to the place by a light in the woods looking up at the chest. Though the painting was based on an old tale, it shows the scenic beauty of Korea. Dealing with a peculiar subject, the painting shows vividly Jo Sok's masterly skills of colouring. His other works include *Landscape, Summer, A White Heron, Flowers and Birds, Two Birds on the Tree* and *A Magpie on the Old Tree*, which are kept in the Korean Art Gallery.

Along with Ri Jing and Kim Myong Guk, Jo Sok is known as one of Korea's three famous painters of the 17th century. □



Contrary to June 15 Joint Declaration

FIFTEEN YEARS HAVE passed since the historic June 15 North-South Joint Declaration was made public. The north-south summit meeting that was held in June 2000, for the first time after Korea was divided into two parts, and the ensuing adoption of the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration marked historical events which made a breakthrough in the 55-year-long inter-Korean relations of war and confrontations and opened up a new era of reconciliation, cooperation and reunification. The declaration received warm welcome by way of statements, resolutions and different documents adopted at international meetings like the New Millennium UN Summit Meeting and the 55th session of the UN General Assembly.

The current of north-south dialogue, exchange and cooperation, however, lost its energy and a vicious cycle of confrontation returned in the Korean peninsula in 2008 when the pro-US conservative camp took power in south Korea. This was entirely attributable to the pro-US ruling circles in south Korea flatly refusing to implement the joint declaration while pursuing the confrontation policy against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

First of all, they, kowtowing to the US that divided Korea into two parts and has been the main obstacle to the country's reunification, have pursued a vicious policy of confrontation against and strangulation of the DPRK, instead of trying to solve inter-Korean problems in accordance with the nation's common interests by consulting with their

compatriots.

The June 15 North-South Joint Declaration has an article that the nation's reunification issue should be solved independently with concerted efforts of the Korean nation. This reflects the nation's common demand and desire to solve the reunification problem independently with the nation's own efforts and with no foreign interference, in view of the fact that they were divided into north and south by foreign forces and that the main obstacle to reunification is the foreign forces.

Maintaining that the country's reunification should be solved independently by the Korean nation itself, the DPRK declared in January last that it believes that it is possible to resume the suspended high-level contacts and hold sectoral talks if the south Korean authorities are sincere in their stand towards improving inter-Korean relations through dialogue, and that there is no reason why they should not hold a summit meeting if the atmosphere and environment for it are created. It is the DPRK's steadfast attitude that there is nothing impossible for the Korean nation to do when they join hands.

On the contrary, the south Korean rulers, obedient to the baton of the Americans, find fault with the DPRK's self-defensive nuclear deterrent and missile launching exercises and openly argue that they won't have any dialogue until the DPRK gives up the nuclear deterrent. Having decided that the DPRK is their arch-enemy, they take Key Resolve, Foal Eagle and other joint military drills with the US mili-

tary every year to invade the DPRK. Their submissive stand became evident when they indefinitely postponed the return of the south Korean puppet army's wartime command control that had been scheduled to be transferred from the US in 2015.

These acts are contrary to the spirit of independent reunification specified by the June 15 Joint Declaration, and to the effort of the DPRK to carry it out for reconciliation and good will. They are flunkeyist and treacherous movements to help the US fish in troubled water and reduce the Korean peninsula to the hottest spot of fratricidal war.

Meanwhile, the present south Korean conservative regime advocates unification of systems of the north and the south, contrary to the reunification mode proposed by the June 15 Joint Declaration. In the declaration both sides acknowledged that the north's idea of low-stage federation and the south's one of commonwealth have something in common and stipulated in the declaration their intention to push the effort for national reunification along the line.

If one side forces its own system on the other when there exist different ideas and systems in the north and the south, it would surely cause confrontation between the ideas and systems, which will lead to war. That was why both sides agreed in the joint declaration to solve the reunification problem in a peaceful way by founding a federal state on the basis of acknowledging one another's idea and system. The DPRK already announced its will not to compel the south side to

- ▶ accept the north's people-centred socialist system though it is the most advantageous. There have been many similar publications of the north's policy of peaceful reunification as is prescribed in the June 15 declaration.

Nevertheless, the south Korean regime, clinging to the scheme of unification under the liberal democratic system unilaterally, will not recognize the DPRK's ideology and system, and hatches plots to stifle it. The top executive is engaging herself in mud-slinging, spearheading the south Korean version of the "campaign for human rights in the DPRK" instigated by the US. The south Korean ruling conservatives brought up the absurd "human rights issue" of the north to the UN to have sanctions imposed on the DPRK. Under their patronage ultra-conservatives are openly spreading DPRK-smearing bills north of the Military Demarcation Line, that is, in the proximity of the

north and south military forces.

Owing to its pro-US flunkeyist and unilateral policy of unification of systems, balanced development of the nation's economy through the economic cooperation and wide-ranging cooperation and exchange in the fields of society, culture, sport, healthcare, environmental protection and so on have all been stagnant despite the agreements stated in the joint declaration.

The south Korean rulers, putting forward the DPRK's nuclear renunciation as precondition for inter-Korean dialogue, enacted a law on blocking all channels of dialogue and cooperation between the two sides and are now misleading the public opinion by describing the earlier vivacious exchange and cooperation as something beneficial to the north alone.

The reality shows that as long as the present rulers are in office in south Korea, it is impossible to successfully carry out the June 15

North-South Joint Declaration and ensure the peace in the Korean peninsula and the security of the nation.

This was why the DPRK called upon all the Korean people in the north, south and abroad to frustrate treacherous acts of the American stooges and open up a new era of peace, stability, independent reunification and prosperity in the Korean peninsula this year on the occasion of the 70th anniversaries of national liberation from the Japanese military occupation and the national division.

There may be turns and twists, but they are transient. Going for reconciliation, cooperation and reunification between the north and the south is the nation's common desire and a law of historical development; and this is a trend of the time the DPRK firmly believes no one can check.

Kim Hye Gyong

The south Korean people denounce the preemptive strike exercise against the DPRK.



Is the US Going to Repeat History?

NOW THE KOREAN PENINSULA IS continuously in a tense situation in which a war might break out at any moment. This context has been on along with the 70 years of confrontation between the DPRK and the United States. Everybody knows that when a war breaks out in the Korean peninsula, it will flare up into a nuclear war and spread to the world.

The Korean people already suffered damages of the three-year Korean war, so they well know how valuable peace is. A peaceful environment is all the more important to the Korean people at present as they are directing their major efforts in improving the living standard and building an economic giant. Hence, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has done its utmost to prevent war and remove the tense situation in the Korean peninsula. A typical sign of its effort is the proposal for peace talks it made to the US in 2013. However, the sincere endeavour of the DPRK has not yet borne tangible fruit due to the consistent anti-DPRK hostile policy of the United States.

In January last the US formed the staff of the combined division in cooperation with the belligerent south Korean military, which is now in full operation. Its mission is to remove the nukes and missiles of the DPRK in case of emergency and carry out such special tasks as "special civil operations in the areas of the north." Along with this, the US conducted again the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle joint military exercises—aimed at "occupation of Pyongyang"—with the south Korean puppet army from early March, aggravating the situation in the peninsula to the extreme.

Meanwhile, the US is recently running amuck for an anti-DPRK human rights racket. By instigating its stooges it is making hasty propaganda of the DPRK's human rights situation while taking human scum—who fled their country after committing crimes—here and there to give false testimony, thus misleading the world opinion. And it was so mean as to railroad an anti-DPRK "human rights resolution" at the Third Committee of the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly in 2014. By this it seeks to injure the international prestige of the DPRK and create favourable atmosphere for international pressure on the DPRK, which it believes would be helpful to justify its war of aggression.

The US is now the stumbling block to the inter-Korean dialogue as it is instigating the south Korean puppets to war and confrontation against the DPRK. In January last the DPRK made an exceptional proposal of crucial importance to the whole nation to join efforts to open up a broad avenue to independent reunification this year marking the 70th anniversary of national liberation. Scared at this the US immediately issued a presidential executive order to apply additional sanctions on the DPRK on the absurd pretext of the cyber attack on the American Sony

Pictures Entertainment. The White House, politicians, brass hats and US parliamentarians trumpeted their attempt for consecutive "additional sanctions," overall "pressure" based on all possible means, "re-designation as sponsor of terrorism" and "isolation" from the international financial system.

Timing with it American strategic nuclear bomber flights, nuclear-powered submarines and other means of nuclear strike stole into south Korea from time to time and aggressive forces gathered stealthily in and around south Korea. Needless to say, those iron-fisted policies have thrown a wet blanket over the atmosphere of the inter-Korean dialogue and cooperation and instigated the pro-American south Korean regime to put up confrontation with their compatriots in the north. The US, regarding a second Korean war as *fait accompli*, has made war preparations systematically, and now is seeking a chance to detonate war. It is an invariable strategy of the US imperialists to make up for its defeat in the past Korean war by force of arms and seize the control of the whole Korea.

In June 1950 the US incited the south Korean puppets to provoke the Korean war. But they suffered ignominious defeat and signed the armistice agreement for the first time in its history. The then chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff Bradley lamented that frankly speaking, the Korean war was a huge military disaster and that it was a wrong war fought against the wrong enemy in a wrong place at a wrong time. In fact, the defeat of the US in the war was not a mere strategic and tactical mistake but a due result of its hostile policy against the DPRK. The US, however, refused to draw any lessons from the war but continued to commit moves of provocation of a new war century after century, making matters from bad to worse.

To cope with this development the DPRK declared its firm stand through the statement of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army in March last that it would bring earlier the final ruin of the US imperialists by conventional war of Korean style if they unleash a conventional war against it, through powerful nuclear strikes of Korean style if they ignite a nuclear war against it and by preeminent cyber war of Korean style if they attempt to "bring down" the country by cyber war. It is a firm stand of the DPRK to completely wipe out the root cause of disturbance in the Korean peninsula and the world by thoroughly destroying the US imperialists if it dares to trigger off another Korean war.

The US is strongly advised to make a reasonable review of the Korean war which inflicted defeat and humiliation on it and the 70-odd-year DPRK-US confrontation. It had better choose to discontinue reckless moves of war provocations and renounce the anti-DPRK hostile policy.

Kim Il Bong

70 Years After Defeat

SEVENTY YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE Japanese militarism that had done indescribable harm to the Asian peoples under the name of “Greater East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere” was defeated. History never forgets the atrocities perpetrated by Japanese barbarians on the peoples of the countries they invaded. Even to this day, the victimized peoples are suffering from the traumas inflicted by the Japanese.

After defeat (August 1945), Japan vowed to the world never to start an aggressive war again, and adopted the peace constitution. Later its politicians like Murayama and Kono made statements acknowledging the past crimes of their nation. The world has been waiting for Japan to admit and repent of their sinful past. However, the “abnormal air current” in the Japanese ruling circles shows that they have deceived and fooled the international community. Instead of acknowledging and seriously reflecting on their past wrongdoings and making reparation for the damage done to the peoples of other countries, the Japanese authorities have tried hard to gloss over the past crimes of their nation and build up a military power of it to embark on the road of invasion again.

While in the past they sought to realize their sinister designs with the crafty tricks peculiar to the Japanese, today they are openly denying their sinful past. Last January a group of 8 749 Japanese politicians and scholars including Diet members and university professors collectively denied the Japanese army’s crimes of sex slavery. The Japanese army’s sex slavery crimes that they are so desperately trying to cover up are most infernal unethical crimes beyond compare even in the history of imperialist wars of aggression. The Japanese rascals established the sex slavery system to find women for their soldiers just like supplying ammunition to the army according to the perverted military logic of “keeping up the troops’ fighting efficiency,” and hunted up 200 000 Korean women by forcible drafting and kidnapping and violated them as sexual playthings, only to kill most of them cruelly in the end. However, the Right extremist forces of Japan are distorting and denying the Japanese troops’ atrocities such as their sex slavery crimes confirmed by the testimonies of the survivors and numerous documents. In addition, they are instilling the militarist view on history and revanchism in the coming generation.

In this atmosphere, Japan’s Ministry of Education and Science gave a permission to cross out the parts of high school textbooks describing the sex slavery crimes of the Japanese army. Consequently, such terms as “comfort women for the army” and “forcible drafting” have been deleted from the textbooks of modern history and political economy. In Japan the history textbooks that beautify and justify their past wrongdoings have increased nearly ten times in comparison with ten years ago. Japan’s history distortions have gone beyond the boundary of covering up and cutting back and come to the stage of overall distortion and overall denial under the support and patronage of the authorities. Japanese politicians unhesitatingly make reckless militaristic remarks that the judgments of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East were “not right decisions” and sophisticate preposterously that Japan “liberated” the Asian countries from under the yoke of Western powers during the Second World War. The political ambience of Japan that covers the political circles, the educational community responsible for the upbringing of the rising generation and the press world that should represent social justice and conscience is marked strikingly by obstinate negation of the past crimes.

What is more, the Japanese government has been arming the Self-Defense Forces with a huge amount of funds. It allotted nearly ¥ 5 000 billion for defence expenditure in the 2015 budget, a record high defence fund. Hastening the rearmament of the Self-Defense Forces at the cost of a huge amount of money, Japan is persistently attempting to invent a legal excuse for overseas invasion. The Japanese constitution lays it down that the Self-Defense Forces may be called out and allowed to use arms only when there is an armed attack or a clear danger of military attack. In July last year, however, Prime Minister Abe took forcible action to adopt a decision allowing the exercise of “the right to collective self-defence” by craftily perverting the interpretation of the constitution and is conspiring to realize its legalization this year.

This is the path trodden by Japan over the 70 years after its defeat. In conclusion, Japan has lived for 70 years constantly swearing revenge behind the peace constitution.

Choe Kwang Guk

Simwon Temple

THE SIMWON TEMPLE lies halfway up Mt. Jabi, a beautiful mountain in Yonhan County, North Hwanghae Province. It consists of the Pogwang Hall, its main building, the Chongphung Pavilion in front of it flanked by the temple dormitory and a monument. It is not clear when the temple was founded. The main building was rebuilt in 1374 on a large scale and repaired several times later. This is one of the oldest wooden

buildings along with the Ungjin Hall of the Songbul Temple in Sariwon City, North Hwanghae Province and the Pogwang Hall of the Simwon Temple in Pakchon County, North Phyongan Province. The temple represents well the architectural characteristics of the Koryo period. The pillars of the Pogwang Hall are potbellied, a typical type of the Koryo period, and put the Phosik ridge on them. This ridge is one of the oldest ones in Korea. The building is

more magnificent with the front doors on both sides engraved elaborately with cross stripes and the peony and lotus flower-patterned middle doors. The building was colourfully painted again in the 18th century, but some parts of it still retain the subtle and heavy colours of the Koryo period. Now the Simwon Temple is preserved in the original state.

Rim Sang Jun

Haewoldang Cemetery of Buddhist Priests.



Pogwang Hall.



