



KOREA TODAY

1

Juche 110

(2021)

Happy New Year

THE OLD YEAR 2020 THAT LEFT AN indelible trace in the history of the world has given way to the new year 2021.

On the first morning of the hopeful new year we in the *Korea Today* editorial board wish the world peace and stability and every family warmth, good health, happiness and prosperity. We wish all children in the world a brighter future.

Last year passed amid arduous efforts to deal with tremendous calamities such as those by the malignant global pandemic. And the entire world is managing to cope with all challenges and ordeals.

Day breaks after night.

In the new year all the hardships will be over-

come, and beautiful dreams of the world people will come true.

The *Korea Today* editorial board will keep making an effort to introduce extensively and in depth to you the Korean people's endeavour to maintain peace and stability and secure a happier and more cultured life, and the reality of their developing country.

Let us once again wish a happy New Year to the peoples of all countries and our friends for social progress and development, for reconciliation, equality and solidarity between nations and for world peace and prosperity. □





C O N T E N T S

3 Mode of Existence of WPK

Giving top and absolute priority to the people's interests is the invariable mode of leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea.

4 Five Years of Advancement of Civilization

7 Accelerator of Economic Development

8 Steel Production Increases

10 Ansok Tideland Reclaimed

12 Recycling Promoted

14 For the Well-being of the People

15 President Kim Il Sung's Reminiscences

With the Century

Homeland Party Working Committee



8



10

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Front Cover: Steel production is on the increase at the Chollima Steel Complex

Photo by Ra Phyoung Ryol



Back Cover: Rimyong Stream in winter

Photo by Ri Yong Nam

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- 18 Immortal Juche Idea (9)
 Self-sufficiency in Economy
- 19 Veteran Teacher
- 20 Family of Teachers
- 22 Forty-odd-year Career
- 22 Respectable Head of Kindergarten
- 23 Well-informed Manager
- 24 Chon Un Ju, Authority of Koryo Medicine
- 26 *True story*
 Life and Promise
- 28 Nursing and Upbringing of Children Legally
 Guaranteed
- 30 Prosperous Factory
- 31 At Mountain Village
- 32 Mobile Cage-net Fish Farming Encouraged
- 34 For Green Earth
- 36 Family of Stamp Collectors
- 38 Ryonggang Spa Resort
- 39 Standard of Medicine Makers
- 40 Mt Chilbo (1)
- 42 Intangible Cultural Heritage Well Preserved
- 43 National Intangible Cultural Heritage (50)
 Jegichagi
- 44 Dedicated to Keeping National Heritage
- 45 Celebrated Father and Son Painters
- 46 *Janggo* Dance
- 47 Intolerable Policy
- 48 Committed to Common Cause



25



38

Mode of Existence of WPK

THE WORKERS' PARTY OF KOREA HOLDS it as its invariable mode of leadership to formulate its lines and policies by taking the will and requirement of the people into full consideration and solve all problems in their interests.

The WPK has achieved victory and glory all the time over the 70-odd years since its foundation because it has constantly maintained the policy of complete trust in and love for the people while regarding them as the most valuable and powerful being.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un is comprehensively carrying on and developing such a mode of leadership of the Party onto a new higher stage.

On October 10, Juche 104 (2015) the Supreme Leader delivered a congratulatory speech at the military parade and public procession of the Pyongyang citizens held in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the WPK. In the speech he said that the great Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is, in essence, the people-first principle, and that serving the people is the mode of existence of the Party, and called upon all Party members to make selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the great people.

Later, the Seventh Congress of the WPK held in May 2016 put forward the line of applying the people-first principle thoroughly in all aspects of the Party work, and the slogan **“Let the whole Party make selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the great people!”**

After the congress the Party made every possible effort to defend the destiny of the people and give top and absolute priority to their interests and convenience. The inauguration ceremony of Ryomyong Street took place in April 2017, and modern apartment houses were allotted to people free of charge. In the same year many structures conducive to the people's wellbeing went up in succession including

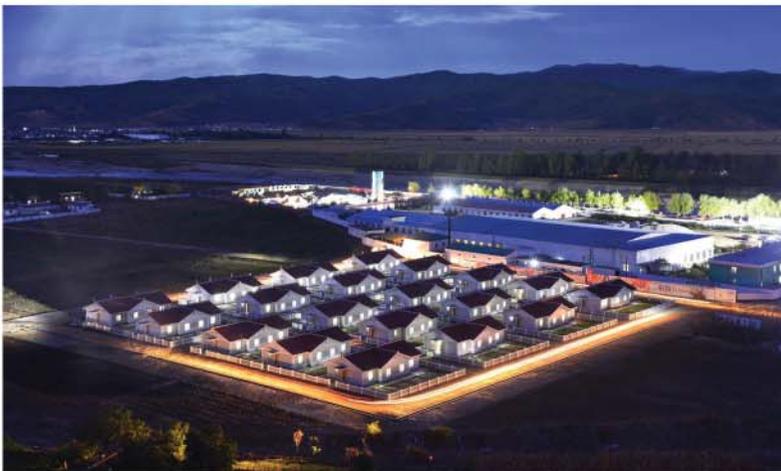
the Pyongyang Bag Factory, the Ryugyong Kimchi Factory, the Kumsanpho Fish Pickling Factory and the Samjiyon Potato Farina Factory.

Thanks to the politics of the WPK that does everything for the sake of the people with priority given to them, the people's trust in the Party has deepened and the harmonious whole of the Party and the people has been consolidated. Last year, in particular, the Party farsightedly took important measures in succession. This enabled the Korean people to keenly feel the vitality of the Party's politics of love for the people, the benevolent politics. In the year a number of meetings took place in the country such as meetings of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, enlarged meetings of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, an emergency enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, a meeting of the Executive Policy Council of the WPK Central Committee and an enlarged meeting of the Executive Policy Council of the WPK Central Committee.

The meetings discussed and decided the issues of checking the inflow of the malignant infectious disease and repairing the damage by floods and typhoons and took relevant measures. As a result, the borders were completely and thoroughly blocked; the state emergency epidemic disease prevention system turned into the top emergency system; food and allowances were specially provided for the stabilization of the livelihood of the residents in the blockaded areas; and Korean People's Army units and divisions of Party members of the capital city were urgently dispatched to the calamitous flood-stricken regions to repair their damage.

Thus the Korean people regard the WPK as their beacon of life.

Kim Son Myong



Residents in an afflicted area cheer for joy over their moving into new houses in November 2020.



Five Years of Advancement of Civilization

THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF Korea is striving to develop the socialist culture.

The Seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea held in May Juche 105 (2016) set it as a major target to build a country where the people will create and enjoy the highest quality and standard of civilization.

It is the WPK's intention and will to make the people powerful builders of socialism who have a wealth of knowledge and high cultural attainments, and provide them with the conditions and environment for leading an affluent, civilized life to their heart's content.

The past five years proved tangibly that the intention is being translated into reality. Under the slogan **"Let us make a leap forward by dint of science and guarantee the future by dint of education!"** education has been prioritized with

epoch-making progress made in the sector: The universal 12-year compulsory education was introduced in an all-round way; colleges, schools, branch schools and kindergartens with fine conditions and environments have appeared; and technical senior middle schools have been newly established to suit the economic and geographical features of relevant regions.

The nationwide sci-tech diffusion network has been established centring on the Sci-Tech Complex, and the online education, a type of the study-while-you-work system, has been under way, thus promoting the work to make all the people well versed in science and technology.

Top priority has been given to education despite the consecutive natural disasters every year. In 2016, when the northern region of North Hamgyong Province suffered flood damage, school things were



Students of the Pyongyang Teachers Training College strive to improve their qualifications in January 2018.

- ▶ supplied urgently to children in the region and schools and kindergartens were built first, ensuring the children's study.

Meanwhile, the material and technical foundation of the public health sector has been further

consolidated and the quality of medical services improved: A real-time infectious disease monitoring and informing system has been established across the country; a telemedicine system has been further improved; and an early diagnostic system based on auricular acupoints has been put in service. And advanced medical techniques such as a method of painless delivery and a single-incision laparoscopic surgery have been introduced, and cutting-edge medical appliances and highly efficacious medicines have been produced. The Myohyangsan Medical Appliances Factory was modernized, and the modern Medical Oxygen Factory, Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital and Samjiyon City People's Hospital went up.

In March last year the construction of the Pyongyang General Hospital started in the Munsu area where the Koryo Medicine General Hospital, the Kim Man Yu Hospital and the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital had already been located. In recent years the Breast Tumour Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital and the Ryugyong General Hospital and the Okryu Children's Hospital have been built in the area. And the construction of the new general hospital will further perfect the area called hospital village as a modern and comprehensive hub of medical services.

Athletes of the country also have made achievements. By winning the gold medal in the 75kg category of the women's weightlifting event of the 31st Olympic Games Rim Jong Sim became a double Olympic gold medalist. And Ri Se Kwang flawlessly performed the movements called after his name at the men's vaulting horse event of the Olympic Games, thus winning a gold medal. In 2016, women footballers of the country took first place at the 2016

A view of Samjiyon City in March 2020.



► FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup and the 2016 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup, adorning the year with two World Cups of the DPRK. They also won the gold medal at the EAFF E-1 Football Championship 2017. Other DPRK players won medals at the Taekwon-Do World Championships, the FINA diving competition and many other international games.

The sector of art and literature created such masterpieces of the era as the grand mass gymnastics and artistic performances *The Glorious Country*, *The Land of the People* and *Great Guidance*, and a lot of books, artworks, songs and theatrical performances which touched the hearts of people, adding to their optimism and vigour.

Modern streets and cities like Ryomyong Street and Samjiyon City have been built, the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort went up, and a number of establishments conducive to the improvement of the people's living standards have been inaugurated including the Sunchon Phosphatic Fertilizer Factory, the Kosan Fruit Processing Plant, the Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm and the Pyongyang Taedonggang Fish Restaurant.

And people in the areas afflicted by the worst ever floods and typhoons and other parts of the country moved into new houses.

The miraculous achievements made in the past five years mean the acceleration of the development of culture in the country.

S u p r e m e L e a d e r Kim Jong Un, addressing the military parade held in celebration of the 75th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea in October last year, stated definitely: Our Party will invariably implement and constantly expand the advantageous policies and measures aimed at improving the people's wellbeing and providing them with greater benefits, and will create as soon as possible the ideal prosperous society our people are dreaming of.

Rim Ok



An operating theatre of the Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital in May 2020.

A view of the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort in January 2020.



Accelerator of Economic Development

THE SEVENTH CONGRESS of the Workers' Party of Korea held in May Juche 105 (2016) set forth an important task for the country to take an honourable place among the ranks of the most advanced nations in the world in the near future in terms of overall scientific and technological strength.

After the congress the state investment in the sci-tech sector and the public interest in the sci-tech development increased. In particular, the work to develop technologies with globally competitive edges took place in the high-tech field. Valuable IT products were presented in the National Exhibition of IT Achievements every year. They were introduced in many sectors and units, making the national economy modern and IT-based on a higher level.

The State Academy of Sciences solved sci-tech problems of great significance in putting production lines on an automatic, intelligent and unmanned basis such as development of a laser optical fibre cutter for industrial use. It also introduced in different sectors of the national economy a process of packing and conveying rolls of paper, a 60-ton automobile weighing machine and an assembly line for separating saplings.

There often took place national sci-tech presentations in the sector of basic science. They introduced widely the research successes achieved in consolidating the theoretical and methodological foundations for the

development of science and technology and pioneering the world-focused basic science fields, and made sure that those successes were applied widely. Especially, hundreds of papers from the sectors of mathematics, physics, chemistry, dynamics, geography and biology have been presented each year.

Meanwhile, the work to make all people well versed in science and technology has been promoted. A nationwide sci-tech dissemination network has been established centring on the Sci-Tech Complex, a multifunctional hub of scientific and technological dissemination, so that new scientific and technological information flows from the centre to the lowest units. In a month after the Seventh Party Congress the visitors to the complex numbered over 123 000, the users of its homepage more than 1 070 000, and the read data over 5 872 200.

Last year the complex secured over 1 800 000 items of scientific and technological data on core basic technologies such as IT, nanotechnology and bioengineering, including molecular biology technology and modern robotics, and the trend in their development, and such data as videos, magazines and scientific reports relating to viral epidemics. These data are disseminated through the sci-tech learning spaces of institutions and industrial establishments, and the agricultural sci-tech learning spaces of cooperative farms. Online education system is in

operation in many universities such as Kim Il Sung University, Kim Chaek University of Technology, Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences, Pyongyang University of Architecture and Pyongyang Jang Chol Gu University of Commerce. This enables a lot of workers and officials to study while working in their workplaces.

The work to train reserve IT experts is going on. Over 190 technical senior middle schools have been set up for the purpose of training IT experts in provinces, cities and counties (districts) as well as Pyongyang. The schools teach the ABC of IT.

Besides, basic science research institutes are also playing a leading role in enhancing the enthusiasm for learning science and technology in the country. The Pyongyang Information Technology Centre developed the Ullim network switchboard rated as one of the top ten IT products. And the Koryo Medicine General Hospital developed a multifunctional medical service support program Koryo Uisul 3.5 for telemedicine service. Provinces, cities and counties are organizing R&D teams which are able to give scientific and technological support for economic development and the improvement of the people's living standards in their regions.

Today all the Korean people, as masters and developers of science and technology, are accelerating the building of a socialist power dynamically by dint of science and technology. □

Steel Production Increases

THE CHOLLIMA STEEL Complex, a leading steel producer in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, is increasing production through collective innovation.

During an 80-day campaign in the run-up to the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of

Korea last year the workers of the complex achieved unprecedented success in production by introducing a technique of improving the steel quality and that of reducing the time of continuous steel casting and by ensuring the balance between all processes from feeding of raw

materials into UHP and other electric furnaces to melting and then casting.

On the basis of the success they set a higher goal and are increasing production steadily through a vigorous mass technical innovation campaign.

Ri Mu Hyon





ANSOK TIDELAND RECLAIMED

THE DEMOCRATIC People's Republic of Korea has long put in a sustained effort to reclaim the tideland. In the course of this, tens of thousands of hectares of tidelands have been reclaimed including those in the Taegyedo, Onchon, Kangnyong and Unryul areas.

In recent years tidelands have been reclaimed in several regions on the west coast, including the Ansok tideland. The rec-

lamation of the Ansok tideland was a huge project that involved the building of a dozen kilometre-long embankment across the rough sea between Ansok-ri and Sokchi-ri of Onchon County, Nampho.

The South Phyongan Provincial General Tideland Reclamation Enterprise took charge of the project. The experienced builders extended the dike 80 or 100 metres every day along

with stone covering. They built embankment No. 1 thousands of metres in length and a half-filtering layer by using the earth from the seabed at low tide, and did the floodgate at the same time by pushing ahead with the cofferdam construction in a three-dimensional way. Though a great deal of piled earth was washed away by the waves which raged owing to seasonal winds, and the adverse weather

▶ and climate conditions continued, the builders accelerated the construction of embankment Nos. 2 and 3 by raising the operation rate of vehicles and increasing the production of rubble stones.

What was the hardest in the tideland reclamation was the final damming. In cooperation with scientific research institutes the builders set the section and length of the final damming

to suit the terrain condition of the tideland, the current velocity and direction of the tide and the ebb, the ground condition and building materials. Meanwhile, they developed and introduced rational construction methods such as the one for preventing the hollowing of the seabed in the final-damming section, and the one for intensifying the rubble stone work and earth filling according to the current velocity

in the section. This ensured the scientific and technical guarantee for the project.

In September Juche 109 (2020) the reclamation of the Ansok tideland was completed three years after the start of the project. Thus there came over 1 400 hectares of new land, which would make a contribution to agricultural production.

Rim Ok





Recycling Promoted

RECENTLY IN THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea *Arirang*-brand injection-moulded boots are very popular for their beautiful colours and shapes and their high quality. The boots are produced by

the Ryongsong Honoured Disabled Ex-soldiers' Injection-moulded Boots Factory. What is amazing is that all of the main materials used by the not-so-large factory are waste plastic.

Recycling—Basic Strategy

What is noticeable inside the factory is the catchword "Waste if thrown out, treasure if used." The phrase implies the factory's basic strategy.

► A process for using waste plastic to make injection-moulded boots was established in the factory in accordance with the strategy.

The factory had previously used plastic to make such shoes. Waste plastic had been also mixed with plastic for the production, but only in an extremely limited amount because it was impossible to ensure the quality of the products if the mixing ratio was exceeded.

It was four years ago that Kim Yun Hwan, manager of the factory, and the workers decided to substitute plastic waste for new plastic material completely for the production of the boots. Because they came to regard waste plastic as useful treasure.

Now injection-moulded boots made from waste plastic are as good as those made from the new one in tensile strength, elongation and lustrousness.

Meanwhile, the factory uses by-products from the production of the boots to make quality

floss, and uses waste plastic and sawdust to make wooden-plastic composite building materials and TV tables. It also uses other waste materials to make plasticizer.

Recently it has begun to produce nice and quality injection-moulded shoes for men using the line it established by itself.

Year after year the factory increases production several times while remarkably reducing the production cost by recycling hundreds of tons of waste plastic and other kinds of waste.

Developing Capacity

The factory's recycling scheme is steadily expanding thanks to its own technical force.

A dozen years ago, when the injection-moulded boots production line was established, it had few relevant technicians, and plastic injection was strange to all the technicians.

Then the factory saw to it that its workers attended a

study-while-you-work course, and that some young workers went to college full time.

Now nearly half of the workers have developed into competent qualified technicians; they invented and made an impact selecting machine, a rotary-blade defibrator, a mould filtration net and so on, and put the waste plastic sorting and treating jobs on a flow line.

Kim Chol Jin, a graduate of Hamhung University of Chemical Industry, made a great contribution to improving the quality of products by developing a plasticizer substitute using waste.

The manager says, "The economic profit from the use of waste plastic is great. What is more important is that the developing capacity of my factory has reached a new high level. And it is steadily increasing."

An Su Yong



For the Well-being of the People

Egg-boiling Pool

ONE OCTOBER DAY IN JUCHE 107 (2018) Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un inspected the construction site of the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort.

After acquainting himself with the layout of buildings through the master plan for the project, the Supreme Leader stressed the need to ensure the construction on the highest level in terms of both architectural aesthetics and convenience, and then headed for an outlet of the hot spring. Hot water was gushing out forcefully with volumes of vapour. Suggesting that they first taste the water the people would drink, he first took a gulp. Dipping his hand into the water whose temperature was over 80°C, he said it was really hot and that it seemed that eggs could be boiled in the water as it had such a high temperature.

After looking round different places of the construction site while giving important instructions on the project, he abruptly suggested going back to the aforesaid outlet to try and boil eggs in the water and headed again for the spot.

While attentively watching an official putting eggs into the water, he asked how long it would take for the eggs to be done. Hearing the reply that it would take 17 minutes, he suggested boiling the eggs for 20 minutes, looking at his wristwatch.

The time passed second after second. He sat on a chair at the outlet to wait until the eggs were done. And suggesting to the officials that an egg-boiling pool be built there on the spot, he said the people would like it.

At last the eggs were done. The Supreme Leader distributed an egg to each of the officials so that they could taste it. Asking them if the eggs were well done, he carefully instructed them to make egg containers. Only then did he leave the construction site.

One year later the Supreme Leader inspected the nearly-completed resort once again, when he suggested installing a cabinet at the egg-boiling pool to keep seasonings containers—it was what no one else had thought of. This is how the egg-boiling pool came into being in the resort.

Sound of Wind on 45th Floor

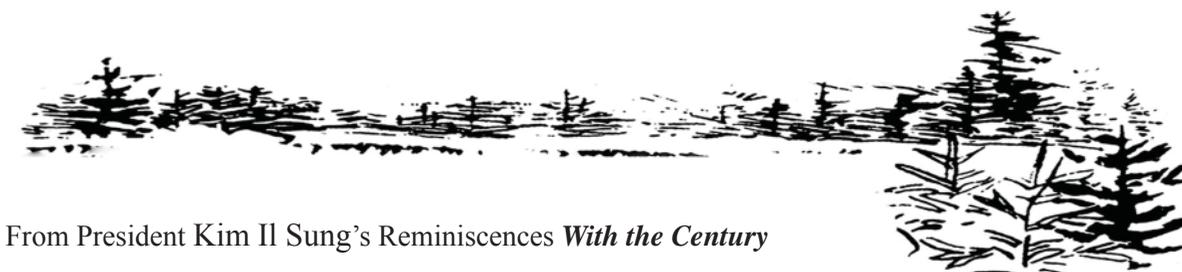
One May day in 2012 Kim Jong Un inspected Changjon Street near completion.

He went up to the top floor of a 45-storey apartment block by lift. While looking round a flat, he went close to a balcony window and opened it. Enjoying a bird's-eye view of the street, he highly praised the builders for having built fine apartments in a short span of time.

Then, having closed the window, he listened to something without letting go of its knob. Feeling between the window frames, he said there seemed to be the wind coming through a cranny somewhere around the window. Telling why there was the sound of the wind, he taught in detail how to deal with the matter. And mentioning that if there was the sound of wind coming from windows, it would be cold in winter and people in the room would not sleep well, he said a measure should be taken to prevent the wind from blowing in.

In another apartment building, too, the Supreme Leader listened if there was a sound of wind in a balcony on a high storey. And while looking round a flat, he noticed a tiny disparity on a wall even the builders had failed to do, and saw to it that a necessary step was taken.

Thus there started the work in all apartment buildings in the street to examine once again if they were perfect enough to ensure the best convenience for the people, and take necessary measures. □



From President Kim Il Sung's Reminiscences *With the Century*

Homeland Party Working Committee

(Continued from the last issue)

AFTER TURNING SAMSU and Kapsan into the seedbed for the formation of party organizations in the homeland, Pak Tal selected hardcore elements trained in these organizations and began to dispatch them to adjoining counties and provinces. Pak Tal authorized them to lay down the foundations for forming party organizations in the areas of their activities.

True to our policy, Pak Tal organized the work thoroughly, so that the delegates took appropriate jobs. When the delegates received certain jobs in designated working places, their identity in the society could be legalized and they could carry out their assignments with credit. In this way they could get rid of the work method of exiles and establish a strong foothold among the popular masses.

Pak Tal sent five or six operatives to Musan County alone.

Chae Ung Ho, chairman of the Anti-Japanese Association of

Sondok-dong, Pochon Sub-county, a subordinate organization of the KNLU, was dispatched to Musan County; keeping in close touch with the political workers, he conducted the fund-raising activities to acquire supplies for the guerrilla army and the work of rallying the masses around organizations, and also stepped up the preparations for organizing a paramilitary corps. Even after the "Hyesan incident", he took refuge in the areas of Yanji and Helong and went in and out of Musan area, perseveringly rallying the forestry workers into revolutionary organizations.

Pak Tal sent Ri Ryong Sul, the chief of the youth department of the KNLU, and Ri Pyong Son to the southern counties of North Hamgyong Province. Through them our policy on the revolutionary movement and the building of party organizations in the homeland was transmitted to Ho Song Jin, one of the leaders of the Red peasant union movement in Songjin. I was told that Ho Song Jin, who had vowed to fight to the

last to uphold our lines, had been as far as Kapsan to meet us but returned in vain. At that time we were in the areas of Linjiang and Menjiang in a bid to remove the aftermath of the "expedition to Rehe".

While promoting the building of party organizations and extending the organizational network of the ARF, Pak Tal also went to great efforts to strengthen the military force of our revolution.

We instructed Pak Tal, through Ri Pyong Son, who had called at our secret camp, to organize a paramilitary corps with the members of homeland party organizations and hardcore young members of the ARF.

Pak Tal used the Self-Defence Corps as the first step in preparations for organizing the paramilitary corps. In those days the Japanese imperialists were expanding the Self-Defence Corps on a large scale under the pretext of "defending the home village". They even supplied them with weapons and trained the corps ▶

► men. Pak Tal believed that the paramilitary corps men, if all of them were admitted to the Self-Defence Corps, could master weapons and win the favour of the enemy and turn their guns on the Japs by rising up all together at the time of contingency. Consequently, Pak Tal, exploiting his position as deputy chief of the Kolchigi Self-Defence Corps, admitted to the corps almost all the paramilitary corps men, whose age coincided with the admission age set by the enemy and helped them occupy key positions there.

He also made painstaking efforts to implement our policy on the formation of the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army of Northern Korea (AJPGANK).

Proceeding from the need to rapidly extend and develop the armed struggle in the area of northern Korea, we proposed the organization of the AJPGANK with members of the homeland party organizations as its core. The wide plateau, north of Machon Range, spreading from Musan and Kapsan to Pujon Range, was an ideal region suitable for guerrilla warfare.

In those days I instructed the comrades active in the homeland as follows: You must organize the AJPGANK; I will select, with special care, excellent guerrilla army soldiers, who can be the leading force of your unit and send them to you; using them as your core, you should expand your unit and train the soldiers.

I appointed Choe Il Hyon of

the 7th Regiment as commander of the AJPGANK and Pak Tal, as its political commissar.

If the unexpected event had not occurred, where Pak Tal and most of the other leading cadres of the KNLU were arrested and imprisoned, the formation of the AJPGANK would have been completed smoothly as planned.

The members of the homeland party organizations gave every assistance to the detached corps, headed by Kim Ju Hyon in its activities, when it was dispatched to the homeland.

Despite the threatening atmosphere, where the Japanese hangmen were making wholesale arrests of members of homeland party organizations and of the KNLU, Pak Tal did not abandon the struggle. He made every possible effort to maintain underground the basic party organizations and organizational network of the ARF, which had already been formed.

Kim Phyong informed me in detail of the trials suffered by members of the homeland party organizations and of the KNLU owing to the "Hyesan incident".

No sooner had I got the information than I sent Ma Tong Hui and Jang Jung Ryol to the homeland. This rescue measure, however, came a cropper, as both Ma Tong Hui and Jang Jung Ryol, who had been wandering here and there to look for Pak Tal, were caught by the enemy.

Next time I dispatched Kim Jong Suk, imbued with rich experience in the activities inside

the homeland, to Taejinphyong. Pak Tal who had been working in Tanchon, Pukchong, Hongwon, Sinpho and other regions on the east coast to expand organizations, returned to Taejinphyong and was reviving the organizations there, which had been in a fix. Kim Jong Suk had encountered many difficulties and hardships before meeting Pak Tal, and reported to me the results of the meeting.

On receiving the report, I sent a liaison team, headed by Paek Yong Chol, to the Kapsan area. Paek Yong Chol had been engaged many times in activities in the homeland, while fighting in the guerrilla army. He had built a secret camp in Ouledong area and had been working in various regions to obtain provisions. However, later on he had been recalled to the unit, after the arrest of Ma Tong Hui and Jang Jung Ryol.

Ever since the first day when Paek Yong Chol's team entered the homeland, it was chased by the police. Indescribable hardships accompanied the team, before it contacted the party of Pak Tal, Kim Chol Ok and Ri Ryong Sul. I gave Pak Tal and his men, who had followed the liaison team to Mt. Paektu, the task of reviving the revolutionary organizations, which had been destroyed, and ensuring a fresh upswing in the revolution in the homeland, and sent them back to Kapsan. On return to the homeland with Pak Tal and his men, Paek Yong Chol worked in Soksinsin region; during

► his work he was confronted by the Japanese police. Shot in his belly, he held his slipping bowels to keep on fighting the enemy until he was caught. The Japanese police made him sit on his knees inside a hollow and forced passersby to throw stones at him to bury him alive, telling them that he was a "communist bandit". The struggle to rescue Pak Tal and the homeland party organizations entailed a lot of effort and sacrifice.

To arrest Pak Tal, the enemy set off informants and turncoats everywhere and combed every hill and mountain, causing a stir.

Pak Tal, as a member of the HPWC, contributed greatly to the building of party organizations and expansion of the anti-Japanese national united front movement in the homeland, thereby helping us a lot. He was virtually the kingpin in building party organizations in the homeland.

Kim Phyong, Kwon Yong Byok, Kim Jong Suk and other political workers also played a large role in stepping up the building of party organizations in the homeland. They formed party organizations and firmly rallied the communists in various areas of northern Korea, such as Sinpha, Phungsan, Rangnim, Pujon, Hungnam, Sinhung, Riwon, Tanchon and Hochon, and Changbai, surmounting manifold difficulties and trials.

Thanks to energetic activities of the vanguard fighters of our party, party organizations

grew rapidly in wide areas of the homeland. Revolutionary organizations were formed one after another in many coal and ore mines, factories, rural areas, fishermen's settlements and towns in South and North Hamgyong Provinces such as Kapsan, Sinpha and Phungsan, in western Korea such as Pyongyang and Pyoksong, and in Yangdok area. In quiet areas, which had been astir with the movements of Red labour unions and peasant unions, they launched again the movements of revolutionary labour unions and peasant unions. The reorganization and reform of former labour unions and peasant unions coincided immediately with the formation of party organizations. The network of party organizations and the ARF stretched over even to the area of central Korea, including Seoul and to the boundaries of Kyongsang and Jolla Provinces, far beyond the area of northern Korea, and expanded as far as Jeju Island and Japan, across the Korea Straits.

The creation of party organizations in the homeland was promoted via close links with similar projects in the areas of Changbai and Linjiang. Party organizations even gained root in the Korean settlements in Changbai, Fusong and Linjiang. They were also expanded in the areas of eastern and southern Manchuria. During the building of party organizations, which gained momentum throughout the whole country and on a nationwide scale, the communists, who had

been active in dispersion, were rallied organizationally and the party leadership further intensified over the Korean revolution as a whole.

A strict party organizational system was established throughout the country, whereby all party organizations worked under the unified guidance of the Party Committee of the KPRA. Following the establishment of a well-organized party organizational leadership system, ranging from the Party Committee of the KPRA, the highest leadership organ, to the cell, the basic organization, an epochal change was effected in laying down the organizational and ideological foundations of a party.

This marked another great achievement in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, and a political victory of no less significance than the victory we had won in military operations launched on the Amnok and Tuman, after basing ourselves on Mt. Paektu. Our bloody struggle to build party organizations became a powerful impetus hastening the day of national liberation, and also provided solid foundations for accomplishing the founding of an independent party.

The Korean communist movement, slighted and scorned owing to factional strife and lack of theory and practical ability, began to blaze its trail dynamically amidst the flames of the anti-Japanese armed struggle.

(The end)

Self-sufficiency in Economy

THE JUCHE IDEA clarified scientifically that in order to maintain and realize independence the popular masses should implement the principle of self-sufficiency in the economy. The principle means rejecting economic subjugation and dependence and building the economy which can satisfy the material demands of the country and people fully by itself and stand on its own feet.

Then what is the need of maintaining the principle of self-sufficiency in the economy?

First, the principle makes it possible to consolidate the independence of the country and live independently.

Social life of people largely involves political, economic and ideological and cultural activities, but the political and ideological and cultural activities are impossible without material conditions. Only when people have food and clothing, can they engage in political life, and to conduct political activities they should have various material means. The ideological and cultural engagement also need material means. This is why the economy is called material basis of social life.

Since the economy is the material basis of social life, the independence of the country and the independent life cannot be defended apart from self-sustenance in the economy. The country dependent on others in the economic realm is bound to

be a satellite of theirs. The nation which is subject to others in the economy cannot be free from subjugation like a person in debt cannot escape the lot of a slave.

Economic self-support is also necessary for one to live by one's own efforts. There exist countries and boundaries on the earth. Such being the situation, each country should build up its economic life by its own efforts. Needless to say, countries conduct trade with one another. However, all the necessary goods needed for them cannot be imported.

At present the global food crisis is worsening day after day. In June last the UN expressed its apprehension that at least 820 million people are suffering from starvation and 244 million of them are children under five. The executive director of the World Food Program said that there is a very practical and dangerous possibility of occurrence of severe famine. This indicates the need to advance along the road of self-sufficiency in food in order to overcome the food crisis.

Besides, a country cannot meet the increasing demand of the people for necessities if it fails to turn most of them out by its own efforts and turns to others for them.

The Juche idea gives a clear answer to the question of how to attain self-support in the economy. In order to implement the principle of economic self-sufficiency, one must build an inde-

pendent national economy. An independent national economy means the economy that stands on its own feet without depending on others, the economy which serves one's own people and develops by relying on the resources of one's own country and the efforts of one's own people.

The validity and vitality of the line of building an independent national economy are proved by the history of development of socialist Korea. When the country was liberated on August 15, 1945 from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation (1905–1945), it was a backward agricultural country with severe colonial lop-sidedness and deformity.

Later, the Korean people carried out industrialization in a matter of 14 years true to the line of building an independent national economy set forth by the Workers' Party of Korea, and manufactured everything needed for the economic construction by their own effort ranging from tractors and vehicles to water pumps and excavators. In 2016 they succeeded in putting into orbit the earth observation satellite Kwangmyongsong 4—this is entirely attributable to the independent economy they have long built up.

Today they are building a socialist power on the principle of self-sufficiency.

Kim Song Il

Veteran Teacher

THE SUN BEGAN TO RISE over the Mirae Scientists Street early in the morning on August 5 last year. A window of a third-floor flat of a block called "sailing ship" opened wide revealing Ho Myong Se, a teacher of Kim Chaek University of Technology Dynamic Engineering Faculty, standing at it.

It was his 80th birthday. Now past events were flooding across his mind. The first was what had happened 57 years before when he started his career as teacher. Finishing his first lecture, he said to the students, "I hope you will become disciples not as good as your teacher but much better than him. I'll move ahead steadily myself."

Through his painstaking efforts he established 13 new subjects, and wrote over 50 treatises and over 30 sorts of textbooks, reference books and books. In the course of this he was promoted to department head and awarded the title of professor and the degree of doctor.

But actually he made more efforts for the good of his students rather than for his own

career.

Now he remembered how he had conducted a research project of national importance by enlisting his students alone. Whenever they were assigned relevant tasks, the students thought they were too difficult for them as they were just students. Still, Myong Se made strict demands on them so that they tried hard to carry out the tasks by themselves.

They read through lots of sci-tech books in the Grand People's Study House, and were engrossed in the research—often deep into the night. At last they found the key.

The old students have developed into authorities on dynamic engineering. Among them is Ri Yong Chan who succeeded Ho as head of the department.

Ho also remembered other students he taught later. Before a new term begins he usually sends each of his students' families a thick letter in which he tells about their performance, characters and health and details of their life. It is not an easy job to write such a letter to



Ho Myong Se.

all the students' families. Yet he feels happy when their parents are proud of their children's development.

Vice dean of the faculty Kim Yong Song, who used to be one of Ho's students over 30 years ago, still talks about the letter. He often says: His benign and kind-hearted care was no less good than what my father could give. In the university days I not only studied but also learned what the genuine character of human being is.

Then Ho would keenly feel that the image of a teacher serves as a mirror of life to his students, and that it is a teacher's duty to train talent for the country. The feeling encouraged

Ho still gives lectures though he is in his advanced age.



Ho's disciples as teachers of the university consult him.





Family of Teachers

- ① Jong Sung Chol (second right) with his family.
- ② Jang Ok Sun tends trees together with her pupils.
- ③ Jong Sung Chol (first left) with his fellow teachers.
- ④ Jong's youngest daughter Jong Un Ha (centre).
- ⑤ Un Ha and her husband teach at the same school.

IN SEPTEMBER 1978 THERE WAS HELD the Second National Meeting of Educational Workers in Pyongyang, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Among the representatives of North Phyongan Province were Jang Ok Sun, teacher of the primary course of the then Myongam Secondary School in Cholsan County, and Jong Sung Chol, teacher of Samsong Secondary School (Samyang Senior Middle School at present) in

► him to continuously develop new teaching methods which could help students understand dynamic engineering with ease.

Though busy preparing for lectures and conducting research, he guided his students in writing their theses for degrees, thus producing a lot of academic degree and title holders.

As the saying goes, "The older one gets, the more vigorous he becomes," he, even at his advanced age, still gives lectures and looks after a class in their study almost every day.

He regards the wealth of his lifetime lies in his disciples instead of his academic degrees and titles.

Now his old students are taking the lead in developing the dynamic engineering of the country.

He also takes pride in having over 20 hero disci-

ples including a triple hero.

The photos of the heroes pasted on the hero notice board and their feats serve as examples that help produce other heroes.

Ho's hero disciples credit him with their hero medals.

...

"Hello, Mr Ho," shouted familiar voices.

Ho looked round to see his disciples offer him congratulations along with bundles of flowers. He now had a lump in his throat at his happiness as a teacher. As befits a teacher of heroes, he pledged inwardly, "I'll devote the rest of my life to the rising generation."

Article by Rim Ok

Photos taken by An Yong Chol in 2020

► Sonchon County.

In the meeting they sat side by side and exchanged their achievement and experience gained in their work. After the meeting they often met at provincial teaching contests. At the contests they competed for first place, but they were friends helping each other. In the course of this they became more intimate, and fell in love. The day they got married, Jong said to his wife, "I hope we will always share the same purpose in teaching the rising generations of our country."

Later, the wife became a teacher of the primary course of the Samyang Senior Middle School, and the man a teacher of the senior middle course of the school. The first couple teachers of Samyang had their own ambition, that is, the one of bringing up all children of Samyang into pillars who would be able to shoulder the future of their home village. To this end, they pooled their effort and wisdom even in working out a single teaching plan. Jang's intelligent teaching plan *Mushroom in My Home Village* was highly appreciated at a national teaching plan exhibition. And Jong's multimedia program *Conception of Unit* and some teaching aids earned him certificates of invention of teaching aids.

To the eyes of their students the couple was not merely teachers. They were as kind-hearted as their own parents. When Jang's student Cha Nam Hyok lost his parents unexpectedly, the couple adopted him. They gave the boy parental affection and implanted in his mind the spirit of patriotism

of his parents who had worked hard and sacrificed themselves for their home town. Thanks to the care the boy has grown up into an official of the county's administration. Besides, a lot of their students have become masters of their home village. Whenever they encounter difficulties, they still visit their old teachers to ask for their advice.

In those days the wife became a department head, and the man the head of the school. They have four daughters. Seeing them grow up the couple had a higher aim of dedicating themselves to the work of training not only the students of Samyang but also all others in the province into fine people. The daughters carried on their parents' spirit of devotion to the education of the country, and volunteered to work at different schools in the province after graduating from a teachers training college. The youngest daughter whom the father loves most has become a department head of a school though it is not so long since she began to work as teacher. And she married a teacher of her school.

Jong Un Hye, the eldest daughter, says, "The image of my parents who have selflessly dedicated their whole life to the training of the younger generation is the mirror of life to us. It is a tradition of my family to be a teacher and add lustre to the career."

Article by Sim Chol Yong
Photos taken by Ra Phyoung Ryol
in June 2020

Forty-odd-year Career



Ryu Jong Ae (right) examines an integrated circuit chip.

RYU JONG AE, 66, IS A TEACHER OF the Materials Science Faculty of Kim Il Sung University. As a doctor and associate professor she has trained a lot of talents including a dozen people with academic degrees or titles. Professor and Doctor Pak Hak Chol, head of the Physics Faculty of the university, says, "It is long since I graduated from the university. But I can't forget the days when I attended Ryu's lectures. They were always vivid and close to reality."

Ryu spared no time in visiting different units such as the university's library and the Grand People's Study House to supplement her teaching plans with the latest data. So her lectures were popular with students not only in her faculty but also in the university as a whole. And she always distinguished herself at the university's teaching contests and the teaching demonstrations in the sector of education.

She has also written a lot of textbooks and ▶

▶ reference books. Her first textbook *Electromagnetism* gave profound scientific theories to explain the problems to be solved in the IT industry, and thus it was highly appreciated. She has written 13 textbooks including *Physics* and scores of reference books such as *Designing of Integrated Circuit* and *Special Experiments of Integrated Circuit*.

Meanwhile, she has put in much effort to conduct scientific research as well. She has presented dozens of treatises including the one on the manufacture of the metal-oxide nano powder by means of a continuous melt-down process which is conducive to the making of artifacts and the domestic production of cosmetics, and the one on some problems arising in the block-mode arrangement of integrated circuit and the designing of relevant wiring.

In July 2011 she received a doctorate and then the Order of Teacher's Honour 1st Class.

Sim Chol Yong



Well-informed Manager

IN RECENT YEARS RI HAK NAM, MANAGER OF the Ryokpho Livestock Farm, is increasing production by putting in efforts to develop science and technology. After graduating from Phyongsong University of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry he worked at a livestock farm in Phyongwon County, South Phyongan Province. It was a dozen years ago that he began to work as manager of the Ryokpho Livestock Farm.

When he was appointed to the post, the farm was having a great trouble with pork production as the growth rate of pigs was low owing to different diseases. Now the manager keenly felt the importance of hygienic and anti-epidemic work. Putting the anti-epizootic work on a scientific basis was a prerequisite for the sustained development of production. And finding out the cause of the outbreak of diseases and the methods of diagnosing, preventing and treating diseases was a matter of crucial importance for the operation of the farm.

Ri himself took charge of the relevant research. With the thought that he had to and could do it himself, he buckled down to the research. In the course of this, he studied the epidemiological features of the outbreak of diseases in weaned piglets, and established methods of differential diagnosis of viruses and those of treating relevant diseases. This made it possible to markedly raise the growth rate of pigs, and lay a foundation for increased production.

The manager's research findings were highly appreciated at the 33rd National Sci-Tech Festival 2018.

Recently he has established a scientific and technical foundation to cope with epidemics which occur due to global warming and the change of ecological environment.

On the occasion of the 75th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea in October 2020 the manager was awarded a doctorate for his successful research on the epidemiological features of the outbreak of diseases in weaned piglets and the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of the diseases.

Though he is around 60, he is redoubling his effort to increase pork production.

An Song

Respectable Head of Kindergarten

HAN JONG OK, HEAD OF JANGGYONG Kindergarten No. 2 in Sosong District, Pyongyang, holds a doctorate. She has pursued her career for over three decades. Recently she has presented a new teaching method which is expected to bring about innovation in the education of preschool children.

It is an already-known fact that the right brain of man has memory 100 000 times greater than the left. In her days as kindergarten teacher Han paid attention to the intellectual development of children and accumulated considerable experience in developing children's cognitive faculty by dint of cards with dots on them, singing and rhythm, musical instruments and picture books. In the course of this she confirmed that remarkable successes could be achieved in the education of children when she applied well the teaching methods suited to the psychology of children, who are fond of playing, in different circumstances.

Actually she let children pleasantly draw pictures, sing and dance and play in a park to suit their sensitive faculty. It turned out to be very effective.

When taking the children to the park she did not merely let them frolic but implanted

in their mind the concepts of number and space. When the children played games, she helped them understand rhythmicity, musical note and time. This enabled the children to memorize more things in a given time, and have an absolute ear, intuitive power and judgment. In particular, the teacher proved practically that the accompaniment of sufficient breathing and rhythm is very effective in letting children demonstrate their individual ▶

Han Jong Ok (centre) makes effort to improve visual aids-based education of children to suit their psychology.



▶ qualities fully.

Once there happened the following episode. In her class there was a girl with an inborn good tone. The child sang well when she was alone but she was reluctant to sing before her classmates. After having understood the girl's characteristic feature Han taught her to practise breathing fully and train while doing rhythmic movements. Gradually, the girl became able to relax and display her imaginative power, and thus she could naturally sing in a clear tone. Later, the child was highly appreciated at a national children's radio music art festival.

Teachers of her kindergarten unanimously say that it is attributable to the application of the proper teaching method that the children of the kindergarten have won first place several times in the musical instrument event of the national art festivals of kindergarten children.

Many of the children in the kindergarten are good at playing the piano, guitar and *kayagum* or memorizing scores of words easily in a few minutes.

Han made public a paper which explains the new teaching method conducive to the intellectual development of preschool children. It caused a great sensation in the sector of general education. This is how she became the first doctor as a kindergarten teacher. Her teaching method has been introduced at kindergartens across the country.

Sim Yong Jin

Chon Un Ju, Authority of Koryo Medicine

AMONG THE MEDICAL workers who have rendered tangible service to the development of Koryo medicine, the traditional medicine of Korea, is Academician, Professor and Doctor Chon Un Ju, teacher of Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences Koryo Medicine Faculty.

“Angel from the Heaven”

In Juche 97 (2008) Mexican newspapers widely introduced the Koryo medical art of Professor and Doctor Chon Un Ju, teacher of Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences, under the title *Chon Un Ju—Master of Korea’s Traditional Medicine*. At that time Chon was giving lectures and seminars on the traditional medicine of Korea in different regions of Mexico including Mexico City and Oaxaca State at the invitation of the government of the United Mexi-

Chon Un Ju lectures on Koryo acupuncture in Mexico in 2008.



can States.

In his spare time the doctor gave the local people medical treatment. He completely restored to health in a few days a patient who was expected to live for no more than a fortnight, and normalized the blood sugar value of the patient with one try of acupuncture. The Mexican people were struck with wonder at Chon’s medical art, calling him “angel from the Heaven.”

The Oaxaca State conferred a diploma on him. Afterwards, agreements on culture and public health were concluded between the DPRK and Mexico at the proposal of the health minister of the Mexican government.

Chon was born into an ordinary railway worker’s family in Onsong County, North Hamgyong Province in August 1942. When he was eight, the Korean war (June 1950–July 1953) broke out. In the ravages of the war countless people got injured or lost their lives. His father, too,

lost his eyes in a bombing raid. Witnessing such heartbreaking reality the boy made up his mind to become a medical worker in the future without fail. Later, he enrolled at Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences as he wished, and became a teacher of the university in 1971 after graduating from it.

Fifty years have passed since then. Over the years he has written over 50 sorts of textbooks and reference books, and more than 190 theses. In particular, he wrote the book *Tongui* (Koryo Medicine) *Paediatrics* in 1979 and the book *Koryo Paediatrics*, a combination of the relevant Koryo medicine and modern medicine, in 2012, thus drawing the attention of the academic circle. He went on to write *Acupuncture and Moxibustion for Children* and *Massage for Children*, pioneering a new phase of Koryo paediatrics.

In the course of this he became a professor, obtained his doctorate and trained many disciples.

In September 2017 he became the first academician of Koryo medicine.

Faithful Supporter

This renowned elderly academician has many nicknames. “Good husband” is one of them. Chon is of the opinion that anybody without affections cannot be a doctor. He loves his wife ardently even in his age around 80. To him the wife, the best graduate of Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences, is his faithful supporter and strict

teacher. She was a paediatrician of a hospital, and greatly helped her husband with his medical treatment, writing of books and research work.

Once Chon, an avid reader, was so engrossed in reading that he was late for the wedding ceremony of his daughter. At that time his wife said to her daughter and son-in-law, “If there were nothing like this about him, he would not be your father. You should be proud of your father.”

He has done teaching and research continuously in good health thanks to his wife’s warm care.

Some time ago the elderly couple celebrated the 51st anniversary of their marriage. At the ceremony Chon said to his wife, “Half of my achievements belong to you.”

The spirit of the veteran scientist who has dedicated his life to the development of Koryo medicine is being carried



Chon is engrossed in writing.

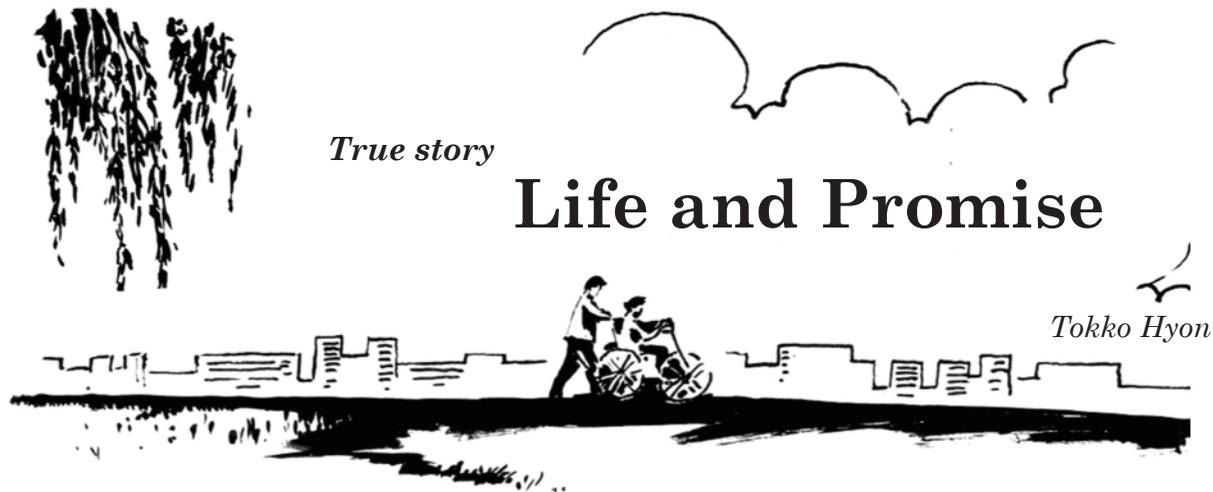
on by his descendants. His son, daughter, daughter-in law and son-in-law are all Koryo medical workers. His eldest grandson Ji Song is a first-grader at the Koryo Medicine Faculty of the aforesaid university. And many other young people who

will carry forward and develop Koryo medicine are studying at the university and other medical colleges.

Article by Kim In Son
Photos taken by Ri Song Ik in September 2020

Chon with his family.





True story

Life and Promise

Tokko Hyon

(Continued from the last issue)

“I’VE NEVER THOUGHT about such a kind of lover, and I’ll not do it in the future, either,” Kil Sun said.

Then I felt my heart beating faster. Still, having set about it, I said straightforwardly, “Kil Sun, I just want to be such a man.”

“What do you mean?” she asked in surprise.

“I really mean I want to love you, nay, I’ve loved you,” I declared.

Kil Sun’s face flushed red. She hung down her head for a while before holding up her face, her eyes seeming to reveal a determination of hers.

She said in a firm voice, “Thank you, Ki Chon. But I think we had better let bygones be bygones. Excuse me, but let me say goodbye.”

Her wheelchair jumped to move as quickly as a rebounding ball as soon as she finished her words.

“Hey, Kil Sun!” I called after her, taking a few steps in my

bewilderment. Then I stopped. Looking at her back as she was gradually receding through the sparsely falling snow flakes, I regretted that I seemed to have astonished her too abruptly.

But I knew I had the reason for it. Until then I only read and saw some scenes of a young man declaring his love to his lover in a novel or film. It was the first time for me to say the word *love*.

And I did read her mind. She must have thought she, in an unusual condition, should never be a burden to others.

Anyhow, there came a start-up—that was important.

One evening after hesitating for several days I headed for her home again on my way back from work. She was at home with her mother alone. I wanted to call her out to meet her alone. But I knew it would cause some troublesome procedures for her again. Judging that I had nothing to keep secret now that I had proposed to her, I said directly

to her mother, “I’ve come here because I want to become your third son-in-law.”

“What? My third son-in-law?” the mother wondered, brightening up in pleasant surprise. Then Kil Sun, seated in a corner of the room, cried, “Ma!” in discomfiture to restrain her.

The mother hurriedly went out closing the door of the room behind her. Kil Sun and I were left alone in the room. Both of us kept silent awkwardly. Then I broke the silence.

“Kil Sun, I’m not good at talking. What is clear, however, is that I intend to have your disease cured by any means. Even if it is not cured after all, I’ll become your legs all my life,” I said.

She said nothing, her face turned away from me.

Looking at her I wondered how such a good-humoured girl could be cold suddenly at the matter of marriage. Well, why are women so shy? ▶

▶ She kept remaining frozen for a good while. Then she turned her face to me. In the reddish lamplight she calmly and coldly looked straight at me. Now she said in a low but clear voice, “First, I really appreciate your care for me, Ki Chon. I’m quite happy to know merely that there is a man like you who wants to love me so much. But marriage is impossible. I’ve never dreamed of marriage. And I still do not do, and won’t do. So I consider marriage as an insult to me.”

“What? Is it an insult?” I cried in astonishment. I felt anger inwardly at the moment.

“What is it then?” she went on to say. “Did you coldly and deeply think about the after-effects of your marriage to a girl like me? How will you be able to do your job properly if you marry a disabled woman like me? Now I’m a burden to the country as I can’t do anything at all. And because of me it might be the same case with you. I won’t be able to bear it.”

Tears welled in her eyes, and trickled down her cheek.

My anger of a few moments before disappeared instantly, and I felt a lump in my throat.

Now I felt more proud of her, and my determination grew firmer because I knew she felt so guilty, unable to do anything conducive to the country even after sacrificing her youth without hesitation to do a good deed.

I can’t marry anyone else

than this girl, I thought. I’ll surely marry her, and I know I am ready to carry her on my back all my life.

I came back home without any agreement but I felt light-hearted.

Life, however, was not simple. When I told my father about Kil Sun that evening, he unexpectedly shook his head at once.

“No. I am against your idea!” he declared.

His words struck me dumb. As you know, my father quite treasured me, his eldest son. In everyday life he was a brusque kind, but I often felt that my growth was associated with his deep affection for me step by step. Especially, since I returned home from military service, he did not merely take me admirable. He showed regard for me, and supported and sympathized with all my opinion unconditionally. So I had intended to tell him about my affair with Kil Sun after a certain relevant agreement. I had never expected he would deny my idea.

I asked him doubtfully, “Dad, you’re a war veteran, aren’t you?”

“Do you mean that as a war veteran I should just get such a girl for my eldest son’s wife?” he retorted, and went into the other room as if there were no room for discussion any longer.

The next day my mother advised me, “I think the girl is laudable. But why did you

choose her? You see all parents want to have good spouses for their sons and daughters they have brought up with so much care. Don’t blame your father!”

As soon as they heard of the matter my eldest and third sisters hurried to my home. They said, “Ki Chon, you’re the eldest son of our family. If you marry such a girl, how do you think she will take care of you and our parents? And you’re a man. There were many girls who married disabled young ex-servicemen, but I’ve never heard that a young man married a disabled young ex-servicewoman. Do you know why? That’s because women do absolutely much more things in family life than men. Why do you think people say, ‘Family depends on woman.’?”

The uncle, I was told, was startled at the news of the matter, crying, “What? Ki Chon must be crazy.”

On the first morning of this year I visited Kil Sun at her home. After exchanging New Year greetings with her family members I left the home. Then her father saw me off to a distance, telling me, “Thank you for your kindness. But how can I take no account of the other family’s son even though I value my daughter so much? Kil Sun and my wife and I think so. As the old saying goes ‘A protracted illness wears out filial devotion,’ you’d better reconsider it.”

(To be continued)



Nursing and Upbringing of Children Legally Guaranteed

THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S Republic of Korea regards children as kings of the country, and this is on a legal basis. This can be proved by the country's law on the nursing and upbringing of children.

In Korea special attention was paid to children since its liberation from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation on August 15, 1945. In August 1946 the programme of the Workers' Party of North Korea indicated the task of giving state protection to mothers and children. And a measure was taken to set up nurseries and kindergartens in urban areas and at industrial establishments and state farms with state funds, and bring up children at state and public expenses. During the grim Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950–July 1953) the state took measures to establish baby homes and orphanages, and protect and rear war orphans.

After the establishment of the socialist system, greater benefits were granted to the nursing and upbringing of children. Nurseries and kindergartens went up across the country, and a colossal sum of state funds was invested in the production of toys and foodstuffs for children.

As the conditions and environment for the nursing and upbringing of children were provided, the Sixth Session of the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK held in April 1976 adopted the Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children. The law was revised and supplemented in March 1999.

Consisting of six chapters and 58 articles the law comprehensively stipulates the matters of principle arising in the nursing and upbringing of children and relevant guidance and management, for example, the

raising of all children at nurseries and kindergartens at state and public expenses. The law provides the legal guarantee to bring up all preschool children at nurseries and kindergartens at state and public expenses.

This makes it possible to treat properly such matters as: construction of nurseries and kindergartens; foodstuffs, clothes, shoes and other supplies for children; special care of mothers with children; children's nutrition; medical service for them; organization and operation of baby homes and orphanages and relevant guidance and management; and providing the homes with necessary conditions. Thus all preschool children receive excellent education under scientific hygienic conditions at nurseries and kindergartens and grow up into persons with sound mental and moral qualities, developed intellectual faculties and good physique.

▶ In the country it is a principle to give the best things to children. A well-ordered system of supply service for nursery and kindergarten is in operation in all provinces, cities and counties for nourishment of children at nurseries and kindergartens. The stations supply scores of kinds of nutritive materials such as soya milk, meat, eggs, fruits, vegetables and confectionery.

Meanwhile, nurseries and kindergartens give children systematic education to develop their intellectual faculties comprehensively, cultivate their emotions and artistic talents and train their physique, and that on an equal footing regardless of occupation of their parents.

In compliance with collective upbringing regulations and hygienic and epidemic prevention regulations they provide children with clean living environment and feed them on varieties of staple food and snacks in conformity with nutritive standard. In particular, they teach children standard Korean, Korean alphabets and calculation during the period of one-year preschool course in order to prepare them well enough to receive school education.

▶ At present the work of nursing and upbringing of children is



A medical worker comes to see a child at home for disease prevention on the Child Health Day in May 2020.

being conducted on a higher level. The Pyongyang Baby Home, the Pyongyang Orphanage and other similar institutions built across the country in recent years are fully provided with necessary conditions and environments, and many kindergartens including the Kyongsang Kindergarten have been spruced up.

Mun Jong Hui, a staff member of the Taesong District Nursery and Kindergarten Supply Service Station, says, "A well-regulated system for materials supply to children is in

operation from the central down to local echelons. This makes it possible to fully supply meat, fish, various kinds of fruits and fruit juices, rice powder, nutritive candy, kelp powder and fruit powder to children in a regular way. And the variety of them is on the increase year after year."

Ri Yun Sin, head of the Ingok Polyclinic in Chongam District, Chongjin, says, "My polyclinic has a detailed record of dates of vaccination done to each child from their birth to their nursery and kindergarten days, and their health conditions confirmed through regular checkups. Babies get a regular vaccination 40 days after their birth. Since then they get different kinds of vaccinations during their growth. If the vaccinations and the medicines of compound nutrients and vitamins supplied to children are calculated in price, the whole benefits they get come to an astronomical sum. And these expenses are fully borne by the state."

Sim Chol Yong

Children are glad to receive *Haebaragi*-brand school things of various kinds in February 2020.





Prosperous Factory

SINYANG COUNTY IN South Phyongan Province is a mountainous inland region. Most parts of the county consist of mountains, except the Sinyang town in the Sinyang Basin.

The county has put in great efforts to make good use of mountains. The result of the effort is to be seen through the following three prides of the Sinyang County Wild Fruit Processing Factory.

The first pride is the position of the factory.

The factory was built on the upper Piryu River in November Juche 56 (1967). The locality was long regarded as a natural stronghold and a best place. It is surrounded by the precipitously stretching Puktaebong Mountains, valleys and cliffs, and the river flows in front of it.

A white sandy beach and a

gravelly field stretch along the river, and all kinds of birds chirp all the year round.

And wild fruit trees adorn the surrounding mountains season after season.

Everyone says the spot is a best place as it has got fresh air, good scenery and, in particular, wild fruits which are the main raw materials of production.

The second pride is water.

The factory uses a spring that gushes out in the vicinity. The water rises from the bank of the river about 50 metres away from the factory. Passing through pararock and granite layers, the spring is good in quality, and rich in various kinds of minerals and microelements including calcium (29.8mg/L) and magnesium (4.5mg/L).

Recently some analyses have been made which showed that

the water is especially efficacious in treating various chronic diseases, and thus it is gaining in popularity.

Ri Chol Jin, a technical officer of the factory, says the wines it makes using the water are incredibly nice.

Sinyang Soju, a kind of wine the factory developed from wild fruit, was rated as excellent at different exhibitions and shows including the national wine and condiment exhibition held in November 2016. This is perhaps why the liquor was registered as a February 2 Product in 2017.

The third pride is the factory's development of science and technology.

Now a trend of the factory is that a mass-based campaign of technical innovation and invention is in progress.

For example, Kim Song Hui, a workteam leader who has worked at the factory for 38 years, made and proposed a lot of inventions and new ideas including the paper *Raising of Product Quality by Low-temperature Filtering in the Process of Distillation*.

In recent years the factory has automated production lines and established an integrated production system by relying on its own technical personnel.

Kim Song Hwan, manager of the factory, says, "We'll produce much more foodstuffs of various sorts such as sweet jelly and candy using various kinds of wild fruits richly available in our locality."

Kim In Son

At Mountain Village

CHONMA COUNTY IN North Phyongan Province is a mountainous area. It has many mountains around 1 000 metres above sea level, including Mt Chonma which rises 1 169 metres above sea level.

The village of Workteam No. 2 in Sinhung-ri is one of the many mountain villages in the county. It consists of modern houses located along the foot of a hill. A clear stream skirts the village.

What is noticeable first inside the district of the workteam is the sight of herds of goats grazing leisurely on hills.

Not only the workteam but also the individual workers raise lots of domestic animals such as cows, pigs, sheep, rabbits, chickens, ducks and geese.

Excrement from the animals is turned into organic fertilizer

to be used to make fields fertile.

The workteam runs a plastic sheeting-covered fish breeding ground where fish are raised using natural water all the year round. The fish include varieties of cold-water fish like char, and catfish that like warm water.

The workteam also has a greenhouse that produces vegetables such as cucumbers, tomatoes, lettuce and crown daisies for the villagers all the year round.

The villagers gather pine nuts, wild pears, chestnuts, tara vine fruit, wild grapes, fruits of *Schizandra chinensis* and pepperbush from mountains surrounding the village so as to increase their income.

In recent years the workteam has increased grain production, thus becoming a high-yielding workteam. It has drained cold water from not a few cold water-

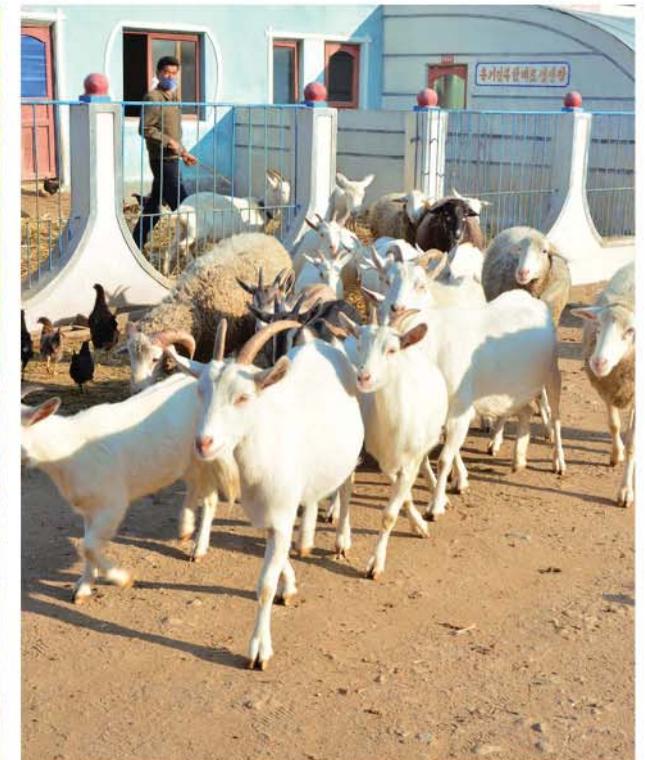
logged fields and frequently carpeted the fields with humus soil, and limed fields of acid soil so as to increase their fertility.

Meanwhile, the workteam has established a system for forecasting crop development and an on-line system of question and answer on farming techniques through the agricultural science and technology information room, making it possible to get forecasts of weather and crop development and answers to sci-tech problems arising in farming and stockbreeding. Thus, the workteam is leading all others of the farm in grain production.

The number of its members who reap good harvests is on the increase.

Kang Myong Ho, leader of the workteam, says, "Now we're as well off as lowland people."

Sim Chol Yong



Mobile Cage-net Fish Farming Encouraged

NOT LONG AGO A KOREA Today reporter had an interview with Pak Man Su, a department director of the DPRK Ministry of Fisheries. Excerpts:

How is the mobile cage-net fish farming going on in the country?

Mobile cage-net fish farming does not involve land, and it is convenient to manage. And it is easy to raise fish in cage-nets. So many countries are introducing this sort of fish farming technique widely. According to data, cage-net fish farming in rivers and streams makes it possible to use less feed than in ponds, in-

creasing the production by 0.9-2.9kg per square metre and their survival rate by 20%.

My country has favourable conditions for developing the mobile cage-net fish farming. It is surrounded by the sea on three sides, and has numerous rivers and streams with high quality water such as the Taedong and Chongchon rivers. Artificial lakes have appeared along with the construction of large and small hydropower stations across the country. And the number of reservoirs is on the increase with the construction of gravitational waterways. Thus we have favourable conditions



Pak Man Su.

for mobile cage-net fish farming.

Accordingly, the preparations for such fish farming have long been made in Pyongyang and all provinces. The relevant units measured the water quality of rivers including the Taedong and Chongchon rivers and lakes in cooperation with research institutes. Besides, the work to set up more than one model unit and introduce their experience widely has been done in each province, and now facto-

ries and enterprises are doing mobile cage-net fish farming on a large scale.

I think the matter of fish breeds and their feed are also important.

You're right. Like in other kinds of fish farming, securing a good breed of fish and supplying their feed is the main link in the chain of increasing the production in cage-net farming as well.

We are now breeding fry of a good breed adapted to the country's natural conditions in numbers and supplying them to fish farms. And we are making efforts to disseminate widely the world trend in the development of cage-net fish farming and the achievements of model units.

Meanwhile, we see to it that the use of natural feed is maximized and that by-products from the fishing industry and waste

bones of domestic animals are used to make floating feed. And earthworm and water fleas culturing grounds have been created to produce the necessary protein feed.

Research institutions are working hard to learn how to reduce the amount of per-unit feed.

I hear not a few enterprises are increasing fish production by dint of mobile cage-net farming. Could you tell me about it?

The Taedonggang Fish Farming and Seed Fish Production and Supply Company in Pyongyang is producing several kinds of fish including carp, Ryongjong Fish and catfish and supplying them to primary schools, kindergartens and hospitals in the city.

North Hamgyong Prov-

ince has set up mobile cage-net fish farming grounds in Lake Jangyon and the Phalhyang Reservoir in Orang County, equipped with an integrated control system which can monitor and control feed supply, temperature and pH in real time, thus raising the fish production.

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, which is bound on a tributary of the Taedong River, has created in the tributary a mobile cage-net fish farming ground where they can grow different kinds of fish. The underwater monitoring of the ground and the feeding are controlled automatically. The fish produced are supplied to the workers.

Many other companies have got such fish farming grounds and are increasing the production stage by stage. □



For Green Earth



Kim Kon Su.

TODAY THE RAPID DESTRUCTION OF natural environment and the abnormal climatic phenomena endangering the existence of mankind are arousing serious concern all around the world. The damage from global warming, desertification, air, river and sea pollution and destruction of forest and land resources amounts to astronomical figures.

To cope with such grave challenges and obstacles mankind is taking the road to green development, for example, the development and use of green architecture, green foods and green energy, and increasing the investment in the undertakings. In December 2015 the Paris convention on climate change was adopted amidst the growing international interest in the protection of ecological environment.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has long endeavoured to protect environment. It has undertaken large-scale land rezoning projects and river improvement projects in a planned way.

In October Juche 103 (2014) the country established the Korea Green Fund (KGF). Since its early days the fund has supported the future-oriented activities for the safety of mankind and the earth dynamically.

In particular, it has attained some success by intensifying the financial, material and technical support for the work to afforest and landscape all mountains in the country and turn them into orchard. The State declared a reforestation campaign as a war to improve nature, and took measures to wage the campaign more actively. Modern tree nurseries have been built across the country and a vigorous tree-planting movement has

been underway.

The KGF has intensified its support for the Pomology Institute of the Academy of Agricultural Science, thus helping it cultivate and register scores of good species of fruit trees on the State list over the past years. Thanks to its positive activities many research and production units have acclimatized different saplings of high economic value such as black chokeberry and sea buckthorn, and achieved success in spreading them widely.

Meanwhile, the fund has consistently been supporting the work to promote the green campaign in the economic and environmental fields, including sustained tapping of green energy, effective management of land, forest and water resources, building of green industry such as green food production, saving of natural resources and construction of a cycle economy, and prevention of environmental pollution. It also puts emphasis on the training of green experts to lead the green industry and the education to improve public awareness of consumption.

► The fund has widely publicized such activities through its annual bulletins and website, and highly appreciated and treated preferentially relevant donors in different forms and ways, such as the issuing of certificates and commendations and the travel to tourist resorts in the country. Thus the domestic and foreign interest in all work and activities of the organization is growing day after day.

At present the KGF is strengthening cooperation with different organizations and individual figures in the world in order to ensure sustained economic development, clean ecological environment and civilized living conditions, and the relevant possibilities.

It is the KGF's invariable policy to promote green development and ensure the development of human society and the bright future of the coming generations through international cooperation.

We are redoubling our effort for the prosperity of the Korean nation and mankind, and for the clean and green earth.

*Kim Kon Su, director of the Secretariat of the Korea Green Fund
Photos taken by Ra Phyoung Ryol
in September 2020*



A discussion goes on about green architecture technology at the Green Architecture Technology Company.

► A view of Ryomyong Street as a green street.





Ri Kwang Son with his daughter and grandson.

Family of Stamp Collectors

A FAMILY OF STAMP COLLECTORS lives in Ryomyong-dong, Taesong District, Pyongyang.

The head of the family is Ri Kwang Son, an associate professor of Kim Il Sung University. He has been collecting stamps for over 30 years.

During his days at the then Sariwon City Kyongam Senior Middle School Kwang Son was well known as a maths genius. After graduating from the school he was enrolled at the aforesaid university in 1982 as he wished. In the university days he worked hard to expand his world of knowledge while reading the letters that his parents, relatives and friends wrote to him to encourage him in study. He treasured the letters that reflected their expect-

tations of him. He received too many letters to keep them in a trunk. He was sorry he had to get rid of the letters, so he tore the stamps from the envelopes, and pasted all of them on leaves of a notebook.

Looking at the stamps that filled the book as a whole, Kwang Son was amazed to see the enormity and profundity of their contents: The stamps reflected the reality of the developing country and its history, geographical features and customs. Now he came to know that stamps are not merely certificates of postage payment, and gradually acquired a taste for collecting stamps.

In the process of learning from other stamp collectors how to collect, arrange and preserve

► stamps, Kwang Son became more attached to stamp collecting. He did not mind a long journey to get even a single stamp.

He kept collecting stamps even after he began to work as a teacher at the university and got married.

Picturing the developing country in his mind while seeing the stamps he had collected one by one, he is happy to know that he lives in the great era of creation, and gets more determined to dedicate all his life to the education of the rising generation, he says.

Kwang Son has 50 stamp albums containing over 4 000 kinds of stamps. What he presented at the national Korean stamp collection exhibition and a similar show held every year was always rated as excellent. His 300 odd stamps were highly appreciated at the Korean Stamp Show held in celebration of the 75th

founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea last year.

His various stamps drew the attention of many visitors in an international cultural exchange festival held in Tianjin, China, in June 2006 and 2007.

He is a member of the Philatelists Union of Korea and an honorary member of the Russian National Academy of Philately.

Seeing the stamps he collected, his children came to know better about the country and grew up with their dreams and hopes. All of them, too, are enthusiastic stamp collectors. His daughter, Ri Un Jong, has collected over 2 000 kinds of stamps, and his son, Ri Jin Hyok, over 1 000.

Among the teacher's old students are also scores of stamp collectors.

Pak Un Yong

The stamp collector examines his stamps.



Ri takes part in the Korean Stamp Show held in celebration of the 75th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea in October 2020.





Ryonggang Spa Resort

“I FEEL TEN YEARS YOUNGER WITH THE Spa bath. I think I have got back my youth.” “I feel like coming here every day.” These are some of the expressions of the local and foreign visitors to the Ryonggang Spa Resort.

Natural Treasure

Of all the hot springs and mineral waters in Korea the Ryonggang hot spring has the greatest mineral contents. As a chloric spring containing bromine ion and radon, the spring rises through Archaean granite-gneiss rocks. The temperature is 55°C.

Descriptions of the spring are to be found in Korean classics like *Tonggukyojisungnam* (Handbook of Korean Geography), which was compiled in 1481, and *Sinjungdonggukyojisungnam* (Revised Handbook of Korean Geography) that was issued in 1530.

For its effectiveness in treating hypertension, arthritis, neuralgia, neuritis, backache, surgical aftereffects, women’s diseases, chronic gastritis, chronic colitis and skin diseases, the spring was listed as State Natural Monument No. 34.

Sindok mineral water used in the Ryonggang Spa Resort is also a natural monument. Rising in

Mt Sindok not far away from the resort the water is well known at home and abroad for its effectiveness in medical treatment of the digestive system and health improvement at large.

The dishes served in the Ryonggang Spa Resort are cooked with the Sindok mineral water, which is also supplied to the shower, bathrooms and the swimming pool.

Spectacular is the scene of white herons alighting in the pine groves around the resort which is no less good than a botanical garden. In the evening you can see many customers taking photographs of flocks of the herons, which have been registered as natural monument, sitting on the pines.

There are a lot of pheasants, roe deer, squirrels and other kinds of animals and birds, and they often visit the yard in front of the accommodation building.

The local air contains over 20 anions per cubic metre, so it feels quite refreshing—you may feel like taking it home if possible.

Located near the coast of the West Sea of Korea, it is mild in winter and cool in summer.

For the fresh air, beautiful scenery, sweet water and unique spa bath, the Ryonggang Spa Resort is surely a natural treasure which offers you both physical and spiritual health.

Regular Customers

Kim Jong Ok, resident in Neighbourhood Unit No. 15, Pothonggang-dong No. 1, Pothonggang District, Pyongyang, became totally numb in an accident and had a few stem cell transplantation on her brain, but in vain. Miraculously, she got conscious one month after she entered the Ryonggang Spa Resort last year. And three months later she got to walk by herself, and finally got well enough to return home in good condition.

There are a lot of visitors who bid farewell to their walking stick at the resort, which they had had to rely on.

The caressing water, relaxing environment, local specialty of roast clam and warm hospitality are what makes you feel relieved of your pent-up fatigue.

The resort is also easy to travel as you can get there by car, train or boat. It is some 85km away from Pyongyang, so it takes an hour and half by bus.

There is Phyongnam Onchon railway station 500 metres away from the resort, and Nampho port is not so far, either.

This is how they become regular customers once they visit it.

There are a lot of foreign customers and overseas Koreans who go on a holiday to the resort regularly. Some of the foreigners apply for a visa to the DPRK simply to stay at the resort.

As it helps you get both physical and spiritual health, the popularity of the Ryonggang Spa Resort is booming with each passing day.

Article by Rim Ok

Photos by Ra Jin Hyok

People get treatment for recuperation.



Standard of Medicine Makers

THE PYONGYANG PREVENTIVE Medicine Factory is well-known for its production of highly efficacious medicines. Recently it has developed dozens of kinds of medicines such as *Meselchongdam* Tablet, *Artemisia messerschmiditiana* and Chlorophyll Capsule against Hepatitis, and Lightyellow Sophora Anticancer Injection, gaining public favour from the users.

The biological products development laboratory of the factory regards it as a standard to develop all medicines to suit the constitutional features of the Korean people. The *Meselchongdam* Tablet can be cited. They set a goal of using raw materials richly available in the country to develop the medicine to act obviously as an anti-oxidant and be highly efficacious for removing poisons and treating liver dysfunction.

In the course of comparative analysis of the previous technical indices and production methods they found out shortcomings of the already-developed medicines for treating liver diseases. In close contact with researchers in the relevant sector they discovered ideal compounds which can raise absorption rate of the medicine to the maximum and expand the range of its pharmacological action. Thus, they succeeded in developing the medicine for treating liver dysfunction.

As the medicine is dozens or hundreds of times stronger than vitamins A, C and E in antioxidation, it is recognized as good for removing different kinds of poisons and treating gallstones, gall bladder epistasis and arteriosclerosis.

Ri Kum Ok, a 63-year-old woman living in Neighbourhood Unit No. 15, Phalgol-dong No. 1, Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, says, “The medicine is very effective in treating not only chronic hepatitis and toxic liver dysfunction but also fatty liver and choleresis disorder. Recently I was diagnosed as with weak liver function. After starting to use the medicine, I have had a healthy complexion and other nice effects.”

In April Juche 108 (2019) the developers of the *Meselchongdam* Tablet received the certificates of invention and patent of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

Later, based on the standard, they developed several kinds of medicines, thus winning similar certificates.

Sim Yong Jin



A panoramic view of the mountain.

MT CHILBO (1)

COVERING AN AREA OF 250km² in the northeastern part of Korea, Mt Chilbo is often called “Mt Kungang of North Hamgyong Province” for breathtaking views of ravines, forests and seaside.

Legend has it that the mountain is called Chilbo (seven treasures—gold, pearls and others—in its bosom but, actually, it was named so in the sense that it is a beautiful and invaluable

mountain with peaks, fantastic rocks, ravines, waterfalls, pools, forests and seaside scenery.

The mountain’s peculiar scenic beauty comes from the combination of the majestic quality of the mountain, wonderful

▶ views of valleys and seashore scenery. And its changing scenes add to its peculiar scenery as a celebrated mountain

When thick fog serenely fills the valleys from the sea in the early morning, one feels as if one was entering the Dragon King’s Palace, and the faintly looming peaks in the belt-shaped clouds winding along the foot of the mountain come into sight mysteriously like living giants near and far.

Found in the valleys are waterfalls, pools and an endless variety of flora, making the scenery vary according to seasons and weathers.

Korean ancestors called the mountain by different name for each season: “Kkottongsan” (flower mountain) in spring, “Rogumsan” (verdure mountain) in summer, “Hongasan” (red-leaved mountain) in autumn

and “Solbaeksan” (white-snow mountain) in winter.

The mountain boasts favourable physiographical conditions and a wide variety of habitat. It provides habitat for mammals such as bear, raccoon dog and badger, birds such as eagle owl, thrush and black-naped oriole, amphibians, reptiles, insects and freshwater fish. The waters off Sea Chilbo are rich in marine resources.

The mountain has scores of species of trees that are of great economic value, including pine, larch and oak; dozens of medicinal plants such as wild insam, forest asiabell and rhododendron; nut pines, *Schizandra chinensis* and other wild fruits; *songi* mushroom, osmunda, bracken and many other species of edible herbs.

Among the natural monuments under well preservation

in the mountain area are the Pyongyang chestnut tree in the Kaesim Temple, Kojin pine tree and Phojung pine tree.

Songi mushroom in the locality ranks first among Korea’s edible mushrooms, in terms of taste, smell and medicinal value.

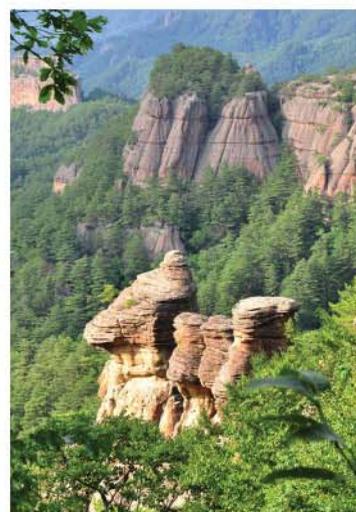
UNESCO put the Mt Chilbo area on the list of world biosphere reserves.

The mountain abounds in historical relics and remains which are illustrative of the Korean ancestors’ wisdom and architectural skills—town walls, mountain walls, buildings and tombs. All the peaks and scenic spots in the mountain carry interesting legends, which will entertain tourists all along.

The Hwangjin hot spring and other hot springs are to be found there, which are favourite haunts of the sightseers.

Pak Yong Il

Fantastic rocks in Mt Chilbo.



Intangible Cultural Heritage Well Preserved

WHAT IS IMPORTANT IN maintaining and adding lustre to the history and tradition of a nation is to preserve actively its intangible cultural heritage which is its spiritual and cultural wealth that has long been created and carried on, like traditional customs and social conditions. A Korea Today reporter had an interview with Pak Mu Song, senior staffer of the Korea National Heritage Preservation Agency about the matter.

I would like to know about how the work started to preserve intangible cultural heritage.

It was in the early 1950s that preserving of intangible cultural heritage was advocated for the first time. At that time some north European countries asserted that not only tangible heritage but also intangible heritage should be preserved positively as they were part of the valuable assets of humankind, which were created by the human brain. This assertion spread to Southeast Asia, the Pacific region and South America gradually. And it swept the rest of the world in the 1990s. So the 32nd UNESCO assembly held between late September and mid-October 2003 officially adopted the "Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003".

What is the ideal of the convention?

The main ideal of the

convention is to find out, preserve and develop all intangible cultural heritage created by mankind so as to facilitate diversity and sustained development of human culture, promote social unity and ensure equality and reciprocity between nations.

What about the relevant work in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea?

The work has long been conducted in depth under the State's concern and support. Now the necessary management system and legal foundation have been provided, making it possible to control and guide the work in a unified way on a nationwide scale. In Juche 97 (2008) my country joined the aforesaid convention. Now there came into existence the intangible cultural heritage department in the then National Authority for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, and the post of senior staffer who specializes in the work in each province, city and county. In 2012 the existing DPRK law on cultural relics preservation was renamed the law on cultural heritage preservation with the contents relating to preservation of intangible cultural heritage added to it.

On the basis of the law my country has conducted the work to preserve intangible cultural heritage in an active way. The folk song *Arirang*, the kimchi-making custom and the national sport *ssirum* (Korean wrestling) were put on the world intangible



Pak Mu Song.

cultural heritage list in 2014, 2015 and 2018 respectively.

Besides, over 120 items were put on the list of national intangible cultural heritage including the Korean style of roofing, the technique of silk production and beekeeping. And a dozen were put on the list of local intangible cultural heritage including the method of cooking Pyongyang *onban* (meat soup with rice in it), one of the four major dishes in the city, and the stone sauna and Samdaem sand bath long handed down in the Kaesong area.

Could you tell me your future plan?

It is our plan and intention to find out, supplement and develop cultural heritage of diversified themes and sectors such as social customs, working life, traditional medical art and dishes, and ways of life.

Last year, as part of the undertaking, we added *Rogui-hongsang* (a light green jacket and a crimson skirt) and ancient time acupuncture to the Korean dress custom and acupuncture which had already been put on the list of national intangible cultural heritage, and did mung-bean jelly to the custom of making mung-bean pancake, renaming it the custom of using mung beans.

We will further promote the work to preserve intangible cultural heritage in order to keep carrying on the history and tradition of the nation. □

National Intangible Cultural Heritage (50)

Jegichagi

JEGI IS A KOREAN shuttlecock made of a brass coin or an iron piece with a paper fringe or hair fixed on one side. *Jegichagi* is a game to see who kicks the shuttlecock up more times with the instep without letting it fall on the ground while displaying tricks.

The game has a long history. *Pakthongsaonhae* published in the early 16th century tells that "*Jegichagi* is played in midwinter."

It was played much in winter as it requires much quantity of motion and thus helps warm and train the body even in the cold weather. It spread widely in the period of the Three Kingdoms (Koguryo, Paekje and Silla) and the period of Koryo. In the feudal Joseon dynasty it diversified in playing form and method. *Tongguksesigi* (a book dedicated to the recording of regular annual events and folklore data of Korea in the first half of the 19th century) reads as follows: Young people and children play with something like a bullet, which has pheasant feathers attached; two people stand face to face and try to see whose legs are stronger while kicking it up without letting it fall on the ground, and the one who makes more kicks in succession is recognized as the winner.

The shape of the shuttlecock changed with the passage of time. Typical were the one made with a brass coin or an iron piece fixed with a strip of *chamji* (traditional Korean paper), coloured thread or fabric, and the one made with a lump of lead and a coin-size piece of hide with fur. Such fringes are attached to the shuttlecock so that it falls down slowly because of the air resistance, thus hitting the instep correctly.

Over the long period the game has changed in the way of playing. In general, however, it is

still played the way one stands on one foot and kicks up the shuttlecock with other foot in succession or kicks it up with one of the feet alternately, and demonstrates different skills. As for the mode of playing the game, it is played individually or in groups. And a certain number of kicks is set beforehand to see who reaches the target first, or a certain period of time is fixed to see who kicks it up more than others in the time.

The shuttlecock weighs merely 10 to 20 grams, but one should control his strength to keep kicking it up without letting it fall on the ground, and move his foot skilfully while controlling his whole body all the time. The game is good for training muscle

and the body as one has to maintain the balance of his whole body with one foot while kicking up the shuttlecock with the other foot.

The game is good for children to cultivate mental concentration power and correct judgment on the falling of an object.

As it is interesting and unique in way of playing the game is still popular with children. It is a commonplace to see them play the game in schools, parks and villages.

The game was put on the list of national intangible cultural heritage in May Juche 107 (2018).

Article by Rim Ok
Photo taken in May 2019



Dedicated to Keeping National Heritage



Jong Kil.

PYONGYANG HAS VENERABLE RELICS such as pavilions and castle gates which date back to several hundred or thousand years ago. They are under the care of faithful keepers of the Pyongyang Municipal National Heritage Preservation and Management Company.

Kim Sun Hyang (right).



Tanchong Expert

Jong Kil was good at drawing and had a great interest in history from his childhood. This inspired him to work for *tanchong* (red and blue painting) art after he left school.

For the past 35 years Jong has made steady effort to create such paintings of value as national treasures as required by the principle of fidelity to historical truth.

In order to possess a high skill of *tanchong* painting he went to college while working, and conducted relevant research.

He knows when and how *tanchong* was done on each of the old architectural edifices in Pyongyang because they are all associated with his effort.

Tanchong patterns are quite diverse, and scores of kinds of such patterns are used to decorate even a single building. Jong is so well-versed in the painting art that he can tell when a building was built at a single glance at its painting patterns. He, however, makes it a rule to try and reproduce designs of the relevant patterns before starting to do such painting.

“My country has a long history of *tanchong* pattern decoration. It is diverse, and there is a systematic art for it. It requires a high sense of responsibility and profound knowledge to replicate the wisdom and talent of our ancestors,” he says.

He frequents the architectural relics associated with his effort to pay heed to what their visitors say. Whenever he hears them expressing their admiration for the exquisiteness of such paintings, he feels unusual pride in his job.

“Can I See You Again?”

Kim Sun Hyang has been working as keeper of historic relics for 12 years. She used to look after the Taedong Gate, the Ryongwang Pavilion, the Pyongyang Bell and the Sungnyong Hall. Now she is in charge of relics on Moran Hill.

Not a day has passed without her looking after the relics. Whenever it rained or blew hard she hurried—even at midnight—to see if the relics were safe.

Originally, it was because of her son that Sun Hyang chose the job. She managed to have the son only ten years after marriage. So she treasured him so much. Every day he played at the Ryongwang Pavilion near their home. Now Sun Hyang wanted to keep the pavilion clean by herself.

Celebrated Father and Son Painters

RI NYONG WAS A famous painter of Koryo in the 12th century. In 1124 mountains were tinged with beautiful colours as autumn went on. When the blue sky gradually became more distant and mountains were tinged with red, Ri accompanied government officials going as envoys to a foreign country across the West Sea of Korea.

Learning that Ri was well versed in painting, the king of the country asked him to give painting lessons. In those days Ri painted *Ryesonggangdo* to the king’s special order.

One day a party took place in a palace, where there stood lines of gilded-tile-roofed houses, to appreciate Koryo painter Ri Nyong’s painting.

After the host and the guest exchanged glasses of wine and the atmosphere began to show signs of excitement, the king had Ri’s painting brought.

After taking a good look at the painting, the king said, “The forest of masts (in the picture) seems to be reminding me of the sound of a prospering trade port. The picture is really a true masterpiece. It seems that I

look at a lively port itself rather than a picture.” Then he turned his eyes to Ri, asking, “What is the model of the picture?”

“It is Pyongnando, a large port to the southwest of Kaegyong, the capital city of my country. The port is situated at the estuary of the Ryesong River where it runs into the West Sea. So I named the picture *Ryesonggangdo* to represent a wide range,” Ri replied.

“Hm, the name, too, can be said to go well with the content of the picture,” the king agreed.

After a while, he went on to say, “Recently, many painters have visited my country accompanying envoys of their countries, but I’ve never seen a painter as excellent as you in artistic skill. You’re really an outstanding painter. Thank you very much for your trouble to teach our people the art of painting and leave a masterpiece this time.”

The king, praising Ri time and again, offered him rare dishes and presented lots of silk fabrics to him.

One day, back home, the king of Koryo sent for Ri Nyong, and the latter went to the royal

palace.

“What do you think of this picture?” the king asked Ri. “This is a present a foreign merchant gave me one of these days. I accepted it as he said it is regarded as a famous painting in his country.”

“It is my picture that I painted when I was in the country a few years ago,” Ri said calmly without any sign of surprise.

“What an absurd joke it is!” the king reprimanded.

“Please tear the paper on its back and look, Your Majesty,” Ri implored.

Opening the back of the picture, the king discovered Ri Nyong’s sign and seal printed on it.

From then on the king admired Ri Nyong’s art of painting, and treasured him very much.

Ri Nyong’s son Ri Kwang Phil, too, won the king’s favour as an unusually talented painter. The king had his ministers compose poems, and had Ri Kwang Phil put the poems into pictures.

The father and son carried considerable weight in the country at the time.

Rim Ok

▶ Gradually she began to feel a new sense of reward from her job. Her workplace was frequented by not only her son but also other people, young and old, men and women all alike. Brides and bridegrooms visited the place to have photos taken, and overseas Koreans and foreigners came to see the relic, admiring the Korean nation for the wisdom and talent. Some of the visitors asked her to explain about the relic.

Now she found her work precious, and she started to read history books in libraries. And through consultation with relevant experts of the Academy of Social Sciences she broadened her knowledge of history. Thus she became able to give

interesting lessons about the history of the relics and their architecture as well as relevant general knowledge and anecdotes.

Visitors were so impressed by her stories that they would ask her, “Can I see you again later?”

She became familiar with visitors from all walks of life.

She says, “The visitors appreciate my work, and say they want to meet me again. Their words reflect their expectation of me. My job is not merely to look after the relics but a worthwhile job to defend and add lustre to the history and culture of my nation.”

Rim Ok



Janggo Dance

JANGGO DANCE IS ONE of Korean folk dances. *Janggo* (hourglass drum) is a national percussion instrument with a long history. Musicians playing such drums are depicted in mural paintings of tombs from the period of Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668).

Janggo dance was mostly part of folk entertainments like the peasant dance. Afterwards, it gradually developed into a separate programme for its original dance movements.

At first, *janggo* players were mostly men, so the dance was performed by men but later women joined it. Male dancers performed vigorous, liberal and bold movements, and female dancers gentle, elegant and nimble ones.

When the dancer performs various movements, striking at fast beats both soundboards of *janggo* with a stick in one hand, the dance becomes more attractive.

The main movement of the dance is drum-beating. It is usually played by beating the left and right heads and the drum body. There are normal beating and reverse beating in *janggo* beating. The normal beating is to beat the right head with a stick held in the right hand, and at the same time beat the left head with the left hand (or a hollow stick). *Janggo* dance is based on different tunes and variations of rhythm in combination with various dance rhythms, presenting ingenious techniques of the dance.

As the dance incorporates various movements harmonizing with merry rhythms, it is regarded as inherent folk dance of the Korean people.

The unique rhythms and techniques of *janggo* dance have further developed to suit the modern tastes. Thus it is performed in such dance pieces as the solo dance *Janggo Dance* and the group dance *Yangsando*. And its merits are widely introduced in creation of different dance pieces.

As the folklore tradition is being carried on and developed admirably, *janggo* dance is not only performed by professionals but also enjoyed widely by ordinary people at present.

Kim Tae Song

Intolerable Policy

THE JAPANESE REACTIONARIES are now resorting to all sorts of schemes to undermine the foundation of Chongryon (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) for national education instead of performing their duty to ensure national rights for the Koreans who are resident in Japan owing to the aftermath of its past colonial rule over Korea and for their children.

The moves of the Japanese authorities with a constitutional sense of rejection against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Chongryon were more undisguised in the 2010s.

In April 2010 the Japanese authorities, arguing absurdly that the education at the schools of Korean residents in Japan does not accord with that of Japanese high schools, intentionally excluded the Korean schools from the list of objects fit for the high school support system.

With the beginning of 2013 they saw to it that an article by which Korean schools are fit for the support system was entirely deleted from the enforcement regulations of the law on the eligibility of high school support. This was followed by Kanagawa and Saitama prefectures and other local autonomous entities' stopping the supply of subsidies to Korean schools.

In March 2016 the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology sent all local authorities a notice ordering them to reexamine the supply of subsidies to Korean

schools, thus keeping the measure for discrimination against the schools in force.

In 2019 the preschoolers' classes of Korean schools were excluded from the objects fit for the system of "free infant education and childcare."

Such inhuman acts of national discrimination became more blatant this year in the face of the pandemic that is a threat to the life and safety of mankind.

On March 10 last year, while supplying masks to old people's sanatoria, nurseries and kindergartens in the city, the Saitama municipal authorities excluded preschoolers' classes of Saitama Korean Primary and Secondary School from the objects of eligibility for getting masks, saying that distributed masks might be resold.

On May 10 last year, despite the situation in which a state of emergency was declared owing to the extended spread of the malignant infection, Japanese rightist thugs gathered in front of Korea University and hurled vicious invective, holding posters and placards reading "Korea University is murderous" and so on.

All this is an expression of Japan's deep-rooted hostility against Korean residents in the country.

Not content with the misfortunes and sufferings old Japan inflicted on the Korean nation, the Japanese authorities, overwhelmed with an ambition of reinvasion, are madly trying to stamp out Chongryon, and oppressing Korean students and

children in the country. This is arousing great indignation from the Japanese people as well as officials of Chongryon and Korean residents in Japan.

A campaign is going on for one million signatures in demand of the application of the system for "free infant education and childcare" to preschoolers' classes of Korean schools in Japan. And all parts of the country are resounding with such shouts as "Don't infringe the Korean school students' right to education!" and "Ensure the right to learn for all children!" day after day.

The Japanese people are actively showing solidarity with the Korean residents while denouncing the heinous hostility of the Japanese authorities who are engrossed in inhumane atrocities against the Korean nation while justifying their past crimes.

The Nagano Prefecture People's Assembly in Support of the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea and other Japanese organizations and figures joined the signature campaign of Korean residents in Japan, saying, "We feel quite shameful as Japanese about the Japanese government's act of excluding Korean preschoolers' classes when everyone is paying the excise."

The Japanese authorities' reckless moves to undermine the foundation of Chongryon for national education are absolutely intolerable.

An Nam Hui

Committed to Common Cause

THE DEMOCRATIC People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Cuba are far away from each other geographically. They, however, are close and fraternal countries as they are invariably advancing along the road of independence and socialism.

On January 1, 1959 the Cuban people overthrew the pro-US dictatorship regime and achieved the victory of socialist revolution for the first time in Latin America. From then on the Korean people have extended full support and solidarity to the Cuban people in their struggle to defend the gains of the revolution against the imperialists' uninterrupted aggressive manoeuvres, military threats, economic blockade and acts of sabotage and subversive activities. The Cuban people, on their part, have rendered full support and encouragement to the just struggle of the Korean people advancing along the road of socialism vigorously without the slightest vacillation and submission in the pressure and sanctions of imperialists.

The solidity and invincibility of the bilateral friendship have been consolidated by the leaders of the two countries. In March 1986 President Kim Il Sung met Fidel Castro Ruz on his official goodwill visit to the DPRK and had talks with him sev-

eral times. The President also gave a splendid banquet and ensured a rally of Pyongyang citizens in honour of the Cuban leader, demonstrating the invincible might of the friendship and unity of the peoples of both countries.

In February 1992 President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il met a delegation of the Party, State and military force of the Republic of Cuba, strengthening the bonds of bilateral friendship. In September 2015 and in November 2018 Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un met Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez who paid a visit to Pyongyang. They made a firmer resolve to add lustre to the tradition of fraternal and militant friendship and unity developed between the DPRK and Cuba on the road of struggle for independence and socialism against imperialism.

Today the Cuban people are firmly defending the sovereignty of their country and socialism and pushing ahead with the revolution and construction successfully while frustrating the imperialists' moves of isolation and suffocation against the country under the correct leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba and the State headed by Raul Castro Ruz and Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez. The Korean people are truly pleased

with the success of the Cuban people, and earnestly hope they will achieve greater success in safeguarding their country and revolution against the moves of hostile forces within and without and in accomplishing the cause of justice for socialist construction in the future, too.

The DPRK and Cuba are geographically far away from each other, but the two parties and peoples' noble internationalist spirit and revolutionary obligation based on socialist ideology and ideal are solid. Last year the two countries celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the bilateral diplomatic relations significantly. In his congratulatory message to the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and the President of the Republic of Cuba, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un said that he is confident that the strategic and comradely relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries will further develop on the road of common struggle for independence and socialism against imperialism.

A joint stamp publication ceremony took place in Havana, Cuba, in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Kim Il Bong

World's First Iron-clad Ship

IT WAS IN THE EARLY 15th century that Korea started to build the turtle ship, the world's first iron-clad ship. In 1413, craftsmen and seamen of the country pooled their effort to build a turtle ship on the basis of the existing shipbuilding technology, and tested its performance in the Rimjin River.

Shaped like a turtle, the ship was 35m long, 11.8m wide and 5.2m high, and it was the most powerful warship around the world at that time. It was equipped with different powder cannons, and its deck was covered with iron plates, bristled with daggers and augers to prevent the enemy from setting foot on. The seamen could fight in the ship. Its speed was very fast, and it was built in a structure favourable for both defence and attack. It had ten oars on each side, and the sails were easy to pull down or set up if necessary.

The turtle ship was stout and stable. This is obvious from the fact that during the Imjin Patriotic War (1592–1598) the Japanese invaders said that "as the ship was all covered with iron, the Japanese cannons can hardly break it."

The ship was used to employ various effective tactics such as encircling the enemy ships and piercing through them to strike against them, and concentrating fire upon the enemy ships at a time to burn them to ashes. From its turtle head-shaped bows it could emit suffocating smoke that came out from burning sulphur and niter to create a smoke screen to hide the moves of the ships of the Korean fleet and drive the enemy ships into a confusion, and prevent the enemy from approaching the turtle ship or climbing it up for a hand-to-hand battle.

The turtle ship demonstrated its might during the aforesaid war. Admiral Ri Sun Sin of Korea

destroyed 26 of over 50 enemy ships with powerful gunfire from turtle ships in the sea off Okpho on May 7, 1592. With the turtle ships he vanquished 12 enemy ships with fire attack in the sea off Sachon, and the flagship and 30-odd retreating ships of the enemy in the battle at Tanghang Port. In the battle off the Hansan Island the turtle ships under Ri's command sank all the 59 besieged ships of the

enemy force aboard 73 ships, except 14 which had fled.

With the sweeping victory off the Hansan Island as a turning point the Korean fleet came to hold the command of the sea, frustrating the aggressors' scheme of "simultaneous advancing of naval and land forces" and changing the war situation in favour of Korea.

Sim Chol Yong



