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Order of Democracy



Chairman Kim Jong Il received Order of Democracy from the House of Representatives of Colombia on January 12, 1995.



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On the strength of his Juche-oriented military idea, strategy and tactics Supreme Commander Kim Il Sung of the KPA defeated the US imperialists, who unleashed the Korean war relying on their numerical and technical superiority.



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Front Cover: Working people visit the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun

Photo by Ra Phyong Ryol



Back Cover: Chonhae Peak in Mt. Myohyang in summer

Photo by An Kang Rim

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Against All Odds

HAVING LONG SOUGHT to invade the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the US started a war against the country all of a sudden at 4 a.m., June 25, 1950, Sunday.

Just before the war broke out, Johnson who was the Defense Secretary at the moment said definitely that the war would come to an end within several days. Talking to assistant director of the UP news agency, Syngman Rhee, the then puppet president of south Korea, said he was sure that they could occupy Pyongyang within three days. Meanwhile, Kim Sok Won, who was a division commander at the time, made bombast that when the attack started against the north they would be able to have breakfast in Haeju, lunch in Pyongyang and dinner in Sinuiju.

Absurdly elated at the assurances, the GIs and puppet south Korean forces intruded into the north one or two kilometres all across the 38th parallel, describing the Democratic People's Republic

of Korea as a "smaller Korea" and the Korean People's Army as a "tiny communist force," and arguing that the war would be a piece of cake, a pleasant journey and a battle that would come to an end within 72 hours.

The international community was quite worried about the future of the DPRK which was less than two years old. At the moment the DPRK leader Kim Il Sung put forth the strategic policy of destroying the enemy by swift manoeuvres and continuous strikes, and completely liberating the southern half of Korea before the US imperialists could throw large aggressor forces into the Korean front.

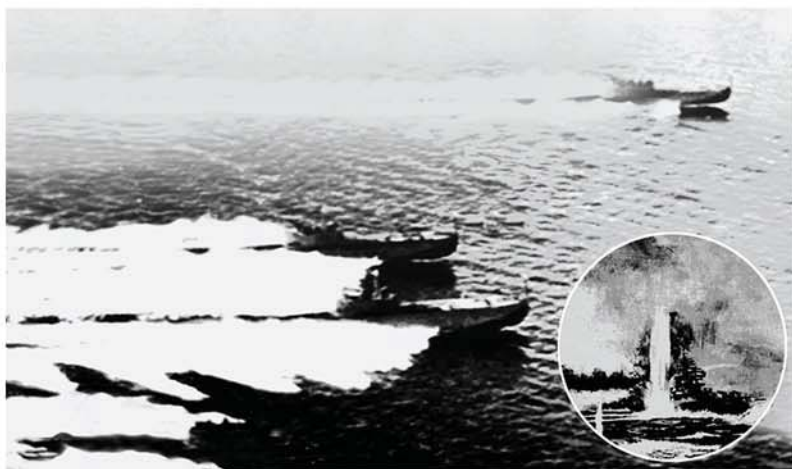
When the enemy started the war, their land force consisted of eight puppet south Korean divisions, and four divisions of the American Far East forces stationed in Japan—12 divisions in all. If the US imperialists, seeing the forces still insufficient, were to hurl their aggressor troops from the mainland into the Ko-

rean front, it would take them one month or one month and a half. This meant a critically weak point in terms of military operations, which the invaders could not foresee or anticipate.

As ordered by Kim Il Sung, the Korean People's Army repulsed the enemy in the expansive areas along the 38th parallel the day the US imperialists started the war, and switched over to counteroffensives. The main thrust was directed to the western front where there was a concentration of the enemy's main forces and operational and strategic objects along with the greatest density of fire. In order to liberate Seoul the KPA concentrated 26 percent of its infantry, 37 percent of its artillery, 37 percent of its tanks and all its flying corps in the main thrust spanning 42 km tantamount to 13 percent of the 320 km-long front. In this way the KPA got superior to the enemy two times in infantry and 1.4 times in artillery. Taking advantage of the superiority, the KPA units in the main thrust area ►

The KPA soldiers frustrated the enemy's offensive and switched over to the immediate counteroffensive.





Torpedo boats of the KPA Navy sank the heavy cruiser USS *Baltimore*.

- ▶ liberated Uijongbu, the northern gate to Seoul, on June 26 and completely took control of Seoul no more than three days after the war broke.

Even the enemy lamented that three fourths of the 100 000-strong south Korean army were missing. Shaking off their fear about the future of the DPRK, the international community was struck with wonder at the eye-opening development. Referring to the tide of war changed by KPA Supreme Commander Kim Il Sung through an immediate counteroffensive, a foreigner said, "This is something that has no parallel in the history of any war in any country around the world. This is really a miracle. The Americans could not foresee it at all."

Now the US imperialists began to hurl huge numbers of their aggressor troops into the Korean war. The first to arrive was the Smith Commando of the US 24th Infantry Division that boasted of its being "ever-victorious" and "elite" troops. The mouthpieces of the enemy asserted that however brave and stubborn the People's Army might be, it would be helpless against the ever-victorious US troops. But when the commando, much vaunted by the US Eighth Army, was annihilated in less than two hours of the battle, the Pentagon top brass lamented that nobody had imagined that

the north Korean army had such a military knowledge.

The KPA's startling achievements came not only on land but also in the sea and the sky. The KPA navy sank the enemy's heavy cruiser *Baltimore* called a floating island and damaged a light cruiser, with only four torpedo boats in the sea off Jumunjin. Even bourgeois press wrote that the sinking of a heavy cruiser with torpedo boats was a miracle instead of a battle.

The Korean pilots who had a career of only 40 hours of flight fought bravely against the American foes who had a career of flying over 1 000 hours during the Second World War. In early July 1950 they shot down 13 enemy planes including a B-29, called bulwark in the sky, and F-80 jets, while damaging a dozen ones.

Through a large number of successful operations and battles including the Taejon liberation operations which serve as a model of the modern battle of encirclement, the Andong liberation battle, and the Raktong River crossing in a short span of time, the KPA liberated more than 90 percent of the south Korean territory and over 92 percent of the local population.

As the situation on the front was plunged into a hopeless state, the US mobilized all its land, sea and air forces in the Pacific region, and went so far as to ship into the Korean front some of its

Mediterranean Fleet, warships in reserve and armies of its vassal nations.

Coping with the numerical and technical superiority of the enemy, Kim Il Sung advanced original tactics that were suitable for the Korean topographical conditions and the Koreans' physical builds. Some of them were the formation of a second front behind the enemy line with a combined unit of the regular army, the tunnel warfare that was unheard-of in the history of war of the world, different types of positional defence warfare, assault, snipers' team activity, aircraft hunters' team activity, tank hunters' team activity, mobile artillery activity and independent machine gunners' team activity. All smart and singular stratagems and tactics such as the night action, the mountain warfare, the combination of large and small unit actions, and that of the guerrilla and regular modes of warfare drove the enemy into the miserable destiny like the setting sun.

A correspondent of the former Soviet newspaper *Pravda* who had witnessed the war noted in his writing: "I, too, witnessed for the first time in my life the tac-

▶



An aircraft hunters' team.

- ▶ tics of using the direct-firing guns, which I had known were employed in plain areas alone, by pulling them up to heights to smash the enemy bases, and that of neutralizing the enemy's technical superiority based in tunnels. The stratagems and tactics initiated by Kim Il Sung were the combination of the guerrilla and modern fighting techniques which the European men of military arts and the American strategists styling themselves as masters of modern warfare could hardly imagine. They were all attributable to Kim Il Sung who had got rich experience in guerrilla warfare and based himself firmly on the reliance of the people and his soldiers.

There have been, and will be, no parallels. With the passage of time I was convinced that the US would never be able to win the war."

Now the cheers of the killer commanders of the US who had called the Korean war "a kind of blessing," changed into helpless screams.

After signing the armistice agreement, Clark, Commander of the US Forces in the Far East and third Commander of the UN Forces, admitted, "Judging from the fact that our enemy remains stronger and more threatening than before without being destroyed, we are no better than the loser."

A general of the US confessed



Tunnel warfare.

that the Korean armistice meant an unprecedented submission of the US instead of victory, and the enemy's win. Syngman Rhee lamented that the signing of the armistice agreement with the 16 nations' defeat against the "tiny communist army" was an unparalleled disgrace to his "state."

On July 27, 1953 there was a brilliant firework display in Pyongyang, capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in celebration of the victorious war in which the nation had shattered the myth of the US imperialists for three years against all odds from the outset of the war.

Kim Ye Ryong



The KPA soldiers celebrate their victory.

Exploded Myth

AT 10 A.M. ON JULY 27, 1953 the Armistice Agreement of the Korean war (1950–1953) was signed at Panmunjom in Korea.

The United States had mobilized for the war one third of its ground forces, one fifth of its air force, most of the Pacific fleet, troops from 15 vassal states, the south Korean puppet army and the Japanese militarists totalling over 2 million.

A Russian figure, who was a special correspondent during the war, said: The war between the Soviet Union and Germany (1941–1945) and World War II (1939–1945) were those between large forces, and between the Allied Powers and the Axis Powers, but the Korean war was the one against common sense between a huge force dreaming of “world supremacy” and a new-born army, and the confrontation between the allied forces and an individual country.

But who won the Korean war?

Smith, Commander of the Smith Commando who encountered with the Korean People’s Army for the first time at the Osan line on July 5, 1950, said in his reminiscences of battle that he believed that the Korean war would leave the first record of ignominious defeat forever in the war history of the US, and that he was confident that his prophecy would not be wrong in the least.

Smith’s prophecy came true. Soon after the Korean war a Western military commentator contributed an article to *New York Times*, part of which reads: It was Wall Street warmongers’ irretrievable mistake that they looked down upon north Korea at the beginning. Was it weak? No, it wasn’t. As the whole course of the war showed it was a strong

country which fought on the basis of extraordinary strategy and tactics and everchanging art of war though it was inferior in armed equipment. The US generals should have belatedly paid due attention to the fact that their rival army Commander Kim Il Sung was a master of guerrilla warfare with rich experience.

As the war was prolonged the US mobilized eminent “strategists” and “tacticians” of its own and the West such as Truman, Eisenhower, Dulles, MacArthur, Ridgway, Walker, Clark, Van Fleet and Taylor. All of them did and mobilized everything possible, but failed to rescue America from the declining destiny.

MacArthur, Commander of the US Forces in the Far East and the UN forces, lamented that the prestige of the US had never hit the bottom like this since its founding. Ridgway, Commander of the UN forces, said that the United States should not forget the bitter mistake and lesson it suffered in the Korean war and at the armistice talks. Bradley, Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, admitted that to be frank the Korean war was a tremendous military disaster, and the wrong war at the wrong place, at the wrong time and with the wrong enemy. Taft, former general of the US army, said that it was very obvious that the US was defeated in Korea, and that there was no army in the world capable of repelling [the Korean People’s Army]. Marshall, the former US Secretary of State, said that the myth exploded to atoms, and that the US was not so strong as others had thought her to be. Clark, Commander of the US Forces in the Far East and the UN forces who signed the

armistice agreement, said that he felt a sense of defeat, that *war without victory* was a term not recorded in America’s history, that the success of the north Korean army was attributable to General Kim Il Sung’s efficient command, that the General was the commander who fought against the Japanese army for many years until its defeat in World War II, and that his name was gaining respect from all Koreans, and becoming a symbol of patriotic deeds in Korea.

As to his impression of the Korean war Gomes, former President of Portugal who had participated in the war as chief of staff of the Portuguese army stationed in Macao, said: The operation plan of the US at that time was made through several discussions by scores of generals who were chiefs of staff and military experts of the West on America’s side. But General Kim Il Sung frustrated it by himself. I witnessed it with my own eyes and understood that he was the only brilliant military strategist and great commander in the world.

An American book wrote: In view of history the US was accustomed to winning war by simply dispatching one or two prestigious generals, but the Korean battlefield was a tomb where US generals were buried. Supreme Commander Kim Il Sung of the north Korean army was a young general in his thirties, and his outstanding stratagem and art of command made the US drink a bitter cup of defeat. This is just a shameful tragedy of America.

The Korean war which brought about the tragedy of the US ended like this.

Kim Ye Ryong

Road of Justice

I WAS A YOUNG MAN WHO had just turned 20 when I left my hometown Seoul. More than a half century has passed since then, and now I am 85. What is still alive in my memory for the long period of 65 years is the time when I fought against the US imperialist aggressors during the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950–July 1953).

Three days after the war broke out, Seoul was liberated by the powerful counteroffensive of the People’s Army. The city seethed with emotion and excitement. With a strong sense of justice, I volunteered to join the People’s Army together with my fellow student activists in the city. In the grim days of the war I experienced a lot through bloody battles with the enemy.

It was on October 15, 1950, that our unit passed the range of Mt. Thaebaek overcoming difficulties and hardships to cross the 38th parallel. At that time we thought that when we crossed the parallel it was the end of our retreat. But we were told that the enemy went up northward beyond the parallel. We were in bewilderment at first. Then the assistant battalion commander in charge of cultural work made an inspiring speech before us with great excitement, calling on us to go to Pyongyang where General Kim Il Sung was. We all responded to him, shouting “Let’s go to see the General. Let’s advance towards Mt. Paektu!”

When passing Phyonggang in high spirit, we met a delegate vested with full authority sent by the supreme headquarters. After having the unit stand in line the delegate solemnly informed us of the order of the Supreme Commander [Kim Il Sung] and instructed us to march to the then Karyoju, Ichon County to join the unit of the second front. Embracing one another and shedding tears we cheered in choked voices,

“Long live General Kim Il Sung! Long Live!”

The General knows us, we thought. As we are to be taken into the embrace of the General, our victory is unquestionable.

We changed our course in Phyonggang and marched to Karyoju, Ichon County, Kangwon Province, where we were reorganized into the 6th Separate Regiment under the direct control of the 2nd Corps. Thus our arduous retreat ended there. We ambushed the foes on Pokhwa Pass and struck those squatting in Kosan. We left Seoul to go to Sangju via Taejon, went to Tangjin through Taejon again and advanced to Kongju, Umsong, Wonju, Rinje and Ichon. From Ichon we advanced southward back to Seoul and switched over to positional defence warfare until the day of our victory. In the course of this my yearning for and trust in the Supreme Commander became my strong mental mainstay. About the middle of November our unit was tasked with checking the enemy’s transport of manpower and munitions on Pokhwa Pass, so we took a position there. The summit of the pass nearly 1 000 m above sea level was already piled up high with snow, and trees there were small as the wind was so strong, all leaning southwards. We, in the summer uniform we had worn when marching southward in mid-summer, were on ambush duty and raided the enemy in the cold.

Entering December our unit was to advance to the open land of the Sinkosan area. In mid-December we met on a field of Sinkosan members of the 38th Infantry Division who came down along the valley of the Taeryong Mine. They said that they were from Kanggye and that they brought padded winter clothes sent by the Supreme Commander for the units at the second front fighting in the enemy rear. We were very thankful for their travelling hun-



dreds of kilometres to convey to us the clothes associated with the care of the Supreme Commander. Having changed into the new clothes and sewed the red shoulder straps neatly I felt a lump in my throat at the thought that the Supreme Commander was invariably taking care of us. Then we advanced southward with redoubled courage.

After the war ended, I was enrolled at Kim Il Sung University as I wished. I have been working as a teacher of the university since my graduation from it. I have done sci-tech research work as much as I can do in the spirit of doing what my comrades-in-arms, who kept beautiful dreams in their mind, wanted to do. Thus I have become academician, professor and doctor, and I am now enjoying a happy, worthwhile life.

I have great-grandchildren. Seeing them grow up healthily without feeling envy I think of my comrades-in-arms who sacrificed their youth and lives in the fierce battles. The hopeful future they had pictured in a dream are now cultivated by the present generation under the wise leadership of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

Acad., Prof. and
Dr. Kim Yong Hwang
of Kim Il Sung University

Women Were Also Combatants

AFTER LEADING THE Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950–July 1953) to victory, President Kim Il Sung made a radio address to the entire Korean people on July 28, 1953. He said:

“When they provoked a war in Korea, the US imperialists thought that the Korean people would not dare to match their military technique, particularly their air force. They calculated that they would conquer our people by dint of their military technique.

“They, however, also made big blunders in this regard. With military technique, they could neither conquer the Korean people nor frighten them. As the Korean war shows, superior military technique is by no means the sole factor for victory in a war. Technical superiority alone is not enough to win the war.

“One of the most important

factors for victory in war is the political and moral state of the army and the people, and the fighting spirit of the people at the front and in the rear. This the enemy failed to see; it is their main weak point.”

During the war there was no difference between the front and the rear in Korea. All the Korean people turned out as one in the struggle against the US aggressors regardless of sex and age.

“... A single grain of rice you gather means a drop of blood for us soldiers at the front. I wish you to perform feats of labour on the sowing front.” This is part of a letter a soldier at the front wrote to his wife in the rear during the war. How did rural women in the rear respond to such a call during the war?

The Korean people still remember the struggle of women peasants of the then Junghung-ri, Kaechon Sub-county, who took

the lead in the plough woman movement in the wartime. The manpower and draught oxen of the village decreased to over 200 and one third respectively owing to the slaughter and plunder by the enemy. So it was no easy job for the women of the village to sow all fields in the ri. They, however, did not give up.

During his talk with peasants of South Phyongan Province in March 1951 Kim Il Sung said:

“The struggle for food is a struggle for the country and for victory at the front. ‘Let not an inch of land lie idle and let us produce even a single grain more!’ should be the militant slogan of our peasants.

“This year’s sowing means fighting on a front. A failure at this front would mean a defeat in the war and a success at the sowing front means a victory in the war.”

At that time what was most

► difficult in the countryside was to secure labour since young and middle-aged men went to the front with only women, elderly people and children left.

Women of the aforesaid village volunteered to hold the ploughs in place of their husbands and brothers who had gone to the front. And as instructed by the President the women formed ox-sharing and labour-exchange teams, and turned out in spring ploughing. Among the women was Kim Rak Hui, a bobbed girl, who was the first to volunteer to handle a plough. Rak Hui would fall out of balance while ploughing the field with the heavy tool yoked to an ox. But she knew that if she did not rise the field would be left idle and they would fail to send rice to the front. So she rose again and again to hold the handle of her plough.

It was unprecedented in the countryside for a woman to hold the handle of a plough as it was difficult even for a man to do so. But Rak Hui’s deed was followed by lots of other women who became masters in handling ploughs. Despite the enemy planes’ ferocious bombing, they assiduously kept ploughing and sowing their fields even under the moonlight, the backs of the oxen and theirs camouflaged with leaves.

The November 22, 1951 issue of *Rodong Sinmun*, the organ of the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea, carried an article under the headline “Hardy Country Girl Kim Rak Hui’s Struggle for Increased Agricultural Production.” Part of the article reads: “True to the teaching of the respected leader General Kim Il Sung that the struggle for food is a struggle for the country, she struggled hard and thus got a record high yield of over 10 tons of rice per hectare by growing cold-bed, dry-bed and waterfield rice seedlings, a rare thing in this area.

“... Reviewing this year’s pre-

cious fruit of labour she threshed and selected well-ripened rice, and presented 87 straw-bags of rice to the State as agricultural tax in kind. She also presented 29 straw-bags of new rice to the respected leader as a gift to express her sincere gratitude for his leading the Korean people and her to the victory of the day.”

Kim Tuk Ran, a resident of Thaecheon County, who was the first woman deputy to the People’s Assembly in Korea, also developed into a woman master in handling a plough along with a lot of other women in the county. At first she found the draught oxen refusing to obey the women as if they thought nothing of them. So she had strapping women in the villages wear men’s clothes and straw hats when taking up the ploughs and imitate men’s voice when shouting to the animals. The animals gradually began to obey the women. And the Handure Plain resounded with the women’s singing of *Song of Ploughing* a verse of which reads as follows:

*O, the land given by our
General.
Eruhwa teruhwa, let us till to
the last square inch.*

Over 3 650 and over 2 690 women in North and South Phyongan provinces respectively became masters in handling the tools in 1951 alone. Among the women was Yu Man Ok, the first plough woman on the Orori Plain: Yu had lost a dozen of her family members including her husband and blood relatives to the US aggressors. Changing her sorrow for their death into retaliatory spirit, she strenuously tended over 5 000 *phyong* of land single-handedly and thus reaped a high yield of 9 tons per hectare.

Meanwhile, women in Cholsan County and in the then Rowol Sub-county, Sinchon County, managed to sow 100 hectares of

paddy field in time in spring after carrying on their backs over 6 500 tons of manure—which could be done by more than 100 oxen in over 40 days—to spread in the fields and tilling them with hoes.

*Last spring when you were
away from home
I was busy to be the first
to plough the field.
The craters made by
enemy bombs were filled up
And the millet is in full ear.*

This is a verse of a song that rural women loved to sing during the war. As their proud singing resounded in the rear the heights at the front resounded with gun reports of victory for the Korean people.

A national conference of model peasants was held in January 1953. Part of the report to the conference reads: “...Last year drought made it impossible for some regions to secure the State-planned area of paddy field to be transplanted with rice seedlings. All peasants of [the DPRK], however, sowed a greater area of dry field than planned so as to increase the total area of sown paddy and dry field by 2.7 percent, and reaped an unusual bumper crop.

“The total amount of crop harvest in 1952 increased by 13 percent as compared with that in 1951. This means an increased yield of 340 000 tons as against that of the previous year, and 130 000 tons more than that of 1948, the peak year in our country, and it is a marked boost from the highest production level before the war. As a result a foundation has been laid for better supply of food to the front and the rear.”

Thanks to such peasants not even a square inch of paddy and dry field was left idle in Korea during the war although the land was in flames and gunfire.

An Chol Ho



Women turn out for the spring ploughing.

Bright Smile of Supreme Leader

ONCE RUSSIA'S INTERNET HOMEPAGE *Patriot Moscow* carried an article which reads:

"The world frequently sees the beaming Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un on TV and newspapers. His smile infinitely fascinating the people is associated with his love for the people and posterity of his country. And it reflects his serenity as a strong man convinced of their final victory in their showdown with the US. Now the world sees the more prosperous future of Korea in the self-confident smile of the Supreme Leader who is leading the building of a powerful socialist nation."

Smile of Ardent Love

On New Year's Day in 2012 Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School. As to this *Minjok Thongsin*, the internet newspaper of Korean residents in America, reported: When we saw on TV Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un embrace the children of the school who were shedding tears of emotion, have a souvenir photo taken with them and question them kindly in the mess hall while stroking their heads, we felt as if he were just their own father."

It was on January 1, 2015 when the Supreme Leader visited the Pyongyang Baby Home and the Pyongyang Orphanage. Mentioning that in October of the previous year he had promised the children that he would come again on the New Year's Day, he said that he thus came there to keep his promise just after finishing the New Year address. Recognizing the Supreme Leader, the children, before their nurses and teachers had time to check them, ran up to him to be taken into his arms, calling "Father" or "Fatherly Marshal." Holding the children clinging to his sleeves the Supreme Leader said that all the children had become plump and healthy, and were clever, and that he was really happy to see them celebrate the New Year's Day with bright smiles on their faces.

On his visit to the family of an ordinary industrial worker or an office worker who had moved to a new dwelling Kim Jong Un looked around its rooms including the living room and wash room and had children seat on his knees, having a conversation with the family members unreservedly. He personally poured wine into the glass for them and offered them the food he had brought with him. When he left, he gave them the gifts he prepared. When visiting the home of a newly-married couple, he acquainted himself in detail with the state of their living condition,

asking them if their parents had come to see them and if television was good there. And he promised that when they had a baby, he would drop in again while passing Changjon Street.

Whenever the Supreme Leader visited factories, enterprises and other places, he, with a bright smile on his face, shook hands with workers and scientists who threw themselves in his arms, inquired in detail about their life and congratulated them for the fruit of their work. The Supreme Leader's smile knows no affectation. It reflects the warm affection of the leader who treats the people with respect. So the Korean people entrust their destiny and future to him. He never thinks of himself apart from the people, and he finds pleasure in providing them with happiness and defending it.

In September 2015 Kim Jong Un visited the flood-afflicted region of the northernmost tip of the country. He said that he hardly got to sleep with the thought of the flood victims in Rason City who were left homeless, and that he came there thinking he would feel at ease only after looking round the rehabilitation site. Mentioning that the Korean people are the best in the world who are firmly believing in and following the Workers' Party of Korea invariably even though time passes and generations change, he said with deep emotion: Without forgetting even a moment the trust and expectation of the fine people we should dedicate ourselves to the future happiness of the people, and support them, whom the great leaders (President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il) entrusted to us, as faithfully as we do the leaders.

As he is endowed with love for the people the Supreme Leader always wears a bright smile of ardent love whenever he meets the people or sees their happy looks.

Smile with Composure

A foreign news agency, in an article entitled "The Victory Supreme Commander Kim Jong Un Won with Courage and Grit," reported:

From the beginning of the year the US and south Korea waged a gun fire exercise and all sorts of drills based on simulated war against north Korea while slandering and debasing its supreme dignity. However, Supreme Commander Kim Jong Un, in a big sunny smile, was unperturbed, and brought their manoeuvres to naught with his visit to a nursery and a kindergarten and the functions to celebrate the

- ▶ 66th founding anniversary of the Korean Children's Union. An old saying goes that laughter is the strong's. The image of the Supreme Commander smiling brightly among the children is the acme of serenity.

Powder-reeking war exercises of the enemy were conducted annually in and around the Korean peninsula in a planned way, aggravating the local situation to the extreme. Then, Supreme Commander Kim Jong Un was not in the supreme headquarters, but unhesitatingly went out to the frontline posts including Panmunjom to be with soldiers. He said that the battle was done by soldiers, not by gun and cannon and that he was most pleased when he was with soldiers, and looked round their barracks, mess hall, wash-cum-bathroom, greenhouse and animal shed to learn about the living condition first. In the barracks, he asked about the room temperature, saying that he would feel at ease when he saw the soldiers in sleep, and that he enjoyed the smell of sweat of soldiers after a long time. He went on to say with great satisfaction that he felt relieved of fatigue seeing them sleeping soundlessly.

The Supreme Commander, without concern about his personal safety, was aboard a 27hp wooden boat to go to inspect the units defending Jangjae and Mu islets no less than seven kilometres away from the enemy's Yonphyong Islet, and the soldiers there threw themselves into the cold sea water to see him off when he left those islets, wishing him good health.

In April 2014 the First Conference of Pilots of the Korean People's Army was held for the first time in the history of the KPA. At that time the Foal Eagle joint military exercises were at its height in south Korea, and the large-scale Ssangyong combined landing drill started. Meanwhile, the largest scale Max Thunder general air drill was planned to be held aimed at an overall air strike against the DPRK. The enemy itself made it public that it was an exercise under the simulated condition of a real war to strike the fighters and major strongpoints of the north.

So it was unimaginable to call all pilots of the KPA to Pyongyang. The Supreme Commander, however, said with a smile that there was no problem, that all the pilots should take part in the conference, and that he would defend the sky of the motherland. When he delivered a concluding speech, he named a woman pilot's new-born son as he had promised during his inspection to her air unit some time before.

As it has Supreme Commander Kim Jong Un who, always in a sunny smile, refers to KPA soldiers as his comrades-in-arms, the KPA is demonstrating its might as a powerful army capable of smashing any enemy at a blow.

Kim Ye Ryong

Warm Thanks



I HAVE BEEN HERE IN PYONGYANG 16 times to participate in the April Spring Friendship Art Festival. This time I found the festival very impressive because the audience was warm and everything was well organized. I created a song about the Juche idea and presented it to the festival. Somebody who does not know the Juche idea cannot make such a song. I have a great aspiration for the Juche idea because I know what Juche is. I am a student of the Juche idea. So it was easy for me to express the idea.

During the festival I went to see different places in Pyongyang. I visited the National Gifts Exhibition House and Mangyongdae. The exhibition was very impressive. There I understood how the Korean people respect their great leaders. I also went to see Mangyongdae, the birthplace of President Kim Il Sung. There I felt everyone have to come to this place, the most sacred and holy place for the Korean people.

I would like to express thanks to the organizing committee of the festival for the wonderful arrangement of the festival and to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un for his close care of us.

Adamos Katsantonis, President of
the Famagusta Musicians Association
and Vice President of the European
Piano Teachers Association, Cypress

Ake

On the Road to Military Buildup

“I Don’t Regret It When I Spend My Time with the Soldiers”

ON JANUARY 21, 2012 WHICH FELL ON the height of the winter cold of the year, Kim Jong Un, Supreme Commander of the Korean People’s Army, inspected a company of the army.

After appreciating the simple singing of the soldiers in the company’s education hall, he dropped in at the technical instruction hall. There he understood the principle of the operation of a training apparatus and said it was well devised and highly practical.

The Supreme Commander also looked into a bedroom of the soldiers. He noted that it was important to keep a good temperature in the bedroom in winter and that the officers had to work hard to ensure a normal temperature in the bedroom in winter as was required by the rules. He spread one of the blankets on the bed and felt it carefully. Hearing that the newly supplied blankets were so thick and soft that the soldiers were very fond of them, Kim Jong Un wore a warm smile, saying he felt happy to hear that.

The next leg of his visit was the company’s washroom. Quite pleased to see a tank filled with steaming-hot water, he said happily that the soldiers would like it very much to use the warm water when they would otherwise shudder at the thought of having to use cold water to wash their face and limbs in the cold winter. He was so happy that he stayed there for a good while enjoying the sight.

Hours passed, and it was getting dark outside when he got out of the barracks. One of his accompanying officials told him anxiously that he was very late. But the Supreme Commander told him it was all right and that he wanted to look into the mess hall as well even if he was late. Then, he said, **“I like it best when I am among the soldiers. I don’t regret it when I spend my time with the soldiers.”**

“The Supreme Commander Is There for the Sake of the Soldiers”

One early morning in mid-August 2012 Kim Jong Un called the commander of a military unit located on the southwestern front. He said he wanted to inspect the then Mu-do Defence Unit that belonged to the commander’s unit. The commander hastily disagreed with the idea saying the islet was a very dangerous place. The islet

still retained the traces of the Yonphyong-do artillery duel. Worse still, the US imperialists and the belligerent south Korean military were going to launch the adventurous Ulji Freedom Guardian joint military exercise in a few days. Such being the situation, it was not without reason for the commander to worry about the intention of Supreme Commander Kim Jong Un to inspect the dangerous islet which was no better than a powder magazine close to a fire.

Nevertheless, the Supreme Commander would not give up his inspection of the islet. When he and his party got to a port hours later the dawn was breaking, the bluish light driving away the darkness. Even when his entourage told him there was nothing but a small fishing boat of 27 hp available there and that they could not let him go aboard it, Kim Jong Un said there was no reason for him to avoid travelling on the boat when fishermen and soldiers did it. Urging them to get on the boat without any needless worry, he stepped onto the boat, leading the accompanying officers.

Soon it got light, revealing the sea on all sides. Kim Jong Un, pointing to a dark shape far ahead, asked the commander of the unit, **“Is that Yonphyong Islet?”**

“Yes. The long stretch of islet over there is just Yonphyong Islet,” answered the commander and explained about the islets near the Yonphyong. “That islet over there which looks like a horse saddle is Kalli Islet that stands by the maritime boundary. And that islet beside the Kalli is Jangjae Islet.”

For a good while the Supreme Commander studied the islet, before asking again, **“What kind of unit do we have there?”**

The commander gave a relevant answer.

“Then, I have to inspect the Jangjae-do Defence Company first, which is closer to Yonphyong Islet,” decided the Supreme Commander.

But all his party stood resolutely against his decision, arguing that the Jangjae was far more dangerous than Mu Islet.

Reasoning that there were the soldiers on the Jangjae whom he loved the most and that how sorry they would be if they heard that he did not visit their islet when he visited Mu Islet, Kim Jong Un stated, **“I know I should visit wherever there are my soldiers however dangerous it may be. The Supreme Commander is there for the sake of the soldiers.”**

Ri Song Chol

Juche Idea, Revolutionary Doctrine of Independence (7)

Principle of Putting Main Stress on Ideology

ONE OF THE PRINCIPLES PRESIDENT Kim Il Sung explained for the masses of the people to maintain in their struggle to hew out their destiny is to place the main stress on the ideology of the people in the revolutionary struggle.

President Kim Il Sung said:

“Remoulding the ideological consciousness of people is the most important problem for success in the work of any sector in socialist construction.”

Long ago Kim Il Sung saw human consciousness as the key attribute that makes man the supreme and most powerful being in the world, and expounded the great role it plays in the revolutionary movement.

Consciousness mirrors the requirement and interest of people, so it controls and governs all their activities. Needless to say, something like the socio-class position of people has influence on their activities, but there is always the agency of their ideological consciousness.

Working with many people from the propertied class who left indelible impressions on his memory throughout his life, Kim Il Sung confirmed in reality that which class’s interest people work for is determined by what class’s ideology they have.

He clarified that the resolution and fighting spirit people display in the revolutionary struggle also depend on the level of their ideological consciousness.

As soon as he launched his revolutionary struggle Kim Il Sung derived the decisive factor of the victorious revolution from the people’s ideology and consciousness. Based on the principle he set it as the fundamental guideline in the revolutionary struggle to put the main emphasis on the ideology of the people.

On his visit to Korea in March 1992 the managing editor of the Japanese newspaper *Asahi Shimbun* met President Kim Il Sung who was going to celebrate his 80th birthday. Saying that the President had led the Korean revolution and made a great contribution to the world revolution for more than 60 years, he asked what matters had concerned him most in those years.

Recollecting his life emotionally, he said that what he would like to stress was that those who struggle to realize the independence of the popular masses should concentrate on raising the level of the people’s ideological consciousness of independence. He said:

“That man is the master of everything and decides everything is the basic principle of our Juche philosophy. Of course, the objective conditions and the environment have a major effect on shaping man’s destiny, but it is always man

who plays the decisive role. When I say that man plays the decisive role, I mean that, ultimately, it is his ideological consciousness that plays the decisive role. The importance of man’s development of his creative ability in enhancing his role has often been emphasized, but little attention has been paid to the fact that his ideological consciousness has a more important effect on enhancing his role. A man’s creative ability is defined by his ideological consciousness. A man can work creatively to meet his desire for independence because he has the ideological consciousness of independence. Just as the development of man’s creative power is unlimited, so the development of his ideological consciousness of independence is unlimited.”

He continued to say:

“In the struggle to overthrow the outmoded social system, it is important to have the idea of opposing exploitation and oppression; after the establishment of the socialist system, it is important not only to oppose exploitation and oppression but also to adhere to socialist collectivism that enables the masses, with a high degree of consciousness of being the masters of their state and society, to struggle together, cooperating with one another as comrades. When they lack a high level of this consciousness in a socialist society, the popular masses cannot fulfil their responsibility and role as the masters of the state and society....”

Referring to the special role of the ideological consciousness in the socialist system, the President made a truly meaningful remark:

“Burglars may break into a house without a master. Likewise, an anti-socialist current from outside may flow into a society without masters, and anti-socialist elements may grow within that society. This can explain the fact that socialism crumbled in some countries which had been following the path of socialism.

“Having witnessed the unexpected events that have taken place in the international arena over recent years, we have all the more keenly felt that ideology is the lifeblood of socialist society and that nothing is more important in the revolution and construction than raising the level of the masses’ ideological consciousness.”

The statement meant a historic confirmation of the scientific accuracy and truth of the Juche idea that stipulates the people’s ideological consciousness of independence as the fundamental factor of the socio-historical development.

When people arm themselves with a new ideology they will develop into a new kind of people, and this will give rise to a new kind of material wealth ►

► and a new type of social relationship. Ideology brings about the growth of people and causes new changes in society and nature in a better way for the sake of humanity. The construction of society with the main stress on the development of productivity inevitably degrades the thinking and activity of man to the appendage to money, but the revolution with the main emphasis on ideology develops masses of the people into true masters and a new kind of man, thus working historic miracles.

In October 1990 President Kim Il Sung, talking with a delegation of the Socialist Workers' Party of the United States on their visit to Korea, said:

“The imperialists are now waging a war without bullets in accordance with their strategy of ‘peaceful transition’ and are attacking socialism.... Some people have already been ruined, others are retreating and yet others have given up socialism and are surrendering to the enemy. It can be said that the socialist movement is now undergoing trials. However, there is no need to be discouraged because of this.

“We have sung the song *The Red Flag* since the time of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. This song reads in part: ‘Let cowards flinch and traitors sneer; we will keep the Red Flag flying here.’ As the words of the song indicate, revolutionaries will firmly unite and continue the revolution to the last, even though cowards may go their way.”

Since it gives birth to a new kind of man, the revolution can create everything needed despite all sorts of unheard-of ordeals. The revolution just means a struggle to make a new kind of man, and this substantiates the importance and vitality of the principle of attaching the foremost attention to ideology.

Ri Jong Nam

Reverence for Great Men across the World

IN APRIL LAST GRAND Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia exhibitions took place in many countries on the occasion of the 106th birthday of President Kim Il Sung, founding father of socialist Korea.

A Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia exhibition was held in a grand manner in front of the statue of Kim Il Sung in the campus of Jilin Yuwen Middle School, China. On display were 60 pots of Kimilsungia and over 200 pots of Kimjongilia surrounding a model of the President's birthplace at Mangyongdae, along with diplomas the flowers had won at different exhibitions earlier and picture albums about the flowers.

The exhibition was participated in by over 3 000 Chinese figures and Korean residents in China including the deputy director of the Jilin provincial foreign affairs office and the deputy chief secretary of the Jilin Municipal People's

Government.

In the opening speech the general manager of an economic trading company in Jilin said: Comrade Kim Il Sung was a great leader ever known in history who was born as the sun of mankind on April 15, 1912 and devoted his all to his people with “The people are my God” as his lifelong motto, and a peerlessly great man all peoples hold in reverence. The immortal flower show held on the occasion of the Day of the Sun (April 15) in Jilin which is associated with Kim Il Sung's activities and honoured with the great Comrade Kim Jong Il's visit will be an important occasion in further strengthening the ties of friendship between the peoples of the two countries, he stressed with deep emotion.

The news of the flower show immediately spread across China through website weibo, and netizens posted in succession their



A scene of the Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia exhibition held in Jilin, China.

► impressions under the titles such as “Long Live Comrade Kim Il Sung!”, “Long Live Kimilsungia!”, “DPRK-China Friendship Will Last Forever,” “Warm Welcome to the Celebration of President Kim Il Sung's Birthday at Jilin Yuwen Middle School.”

Similar exhibitions took place in Dandong and Dalian, China. Visitors to the exhibitions said, “President Kim Il Sung is always alive in our memory,” “This visit makes me know well about the history of development of China-DPRK friendship,” “I wish China-DPRK friendship will last forever like the blue water of the Amnok River,” and “I wish China-DPRK friendship will be invariable and the two countries will be prosperous.” And many of the visitors took home pots of Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia, fascinated by the flowers.

The immortal flowers Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia won the gold prize and diploma at the

15th China Azalea Show held in Sichuan Province, China.

A Kimilsungia exhibition took place in Jakarta, Indonesia, in April last marking the 53rd anniversary of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il's visit to the country and the 53rd anniversary of the naming of Kimilsungia. Over 200 pots of Kimilsungia were on display on the exhibition stand against a screen depicting Kim Il Sung's birthplace at Mangyongdae illuminated by the rising sun over Kimilsungia flowers. Works of Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il and Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, books and magazines about Kimilsungia—over 300 in all—were also on display there.

The exhibition was participated in by over 100 Indonesian figures and people including the president, vice president, teachers and students of Bung Karno University. The president of the university said that it is espe-

cially the duty of the coming generations to further develop the friendship between the two countries sealed by their preceding leaders. He pledged he would strive to make sure that the younger generations including the students of his university invariably take over the will of the older generations.

A Kimilsungia exhibition was held in Guinea in the same month. In the opening speech the vice-chairman of the Guinean Kimilsungia-Kimjongilia Association said that Kimilsungia had already spread from Konakri as a base to Senegal, Mali, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire and Nigeria, and that the flower would do across Africa as a whole through West Africa. Kimilsungia praising the great man who illuminated the way to be followed by mankind with the rays of Juche would be in fuller bloom along with the era of independence, the vice-chairman added.

Sim Chol Yong



The immortal flower Kimilsungia won the gold prize and diploma at the 15th China Azalea Show.



The immortal flower Kimjongilia won the gold prize and diploma at the 15th China Azalea Show.

Benefit of Science and Technology

IN ALL SECTORS AND UNITS of the national economy they say science and technology is the shortcut to development of the independent economy. The Sunchon Cement Complex alone has securely relied on science and technology in perfecting the structure of the independent economy by establishing Juche-oriented production processes and obtaining raw and other materials and equipment from local resources. The policy is bringing a huge benefit.

A typical example is the development of heat-and-abrasion-resistant cement, one of special kinds of cement. As heat-resistant concrete binder, it is used in lining thermal equipment including boilers of thermal power plants and cement kiln condensers. The complex had depended on import of expensive alumina cement which is typical heat-resistant cement.

Hong Song Chol, a senior engineer of the complex, recalls, "When we used the imported cement to make the inner wall of the kiln it didn't last even

► a week, and we had to repair it in a fortnight. So the cement production was often interrupted."

The managers, scientists and researchers of the complex decided to develop the necessary cement using local materials by enlisting their own efforts and technology. They were lucky to be helped by other scientists. They came from the cement laboratory of the silicate engineering institute of the State Academy of Sciences. Jong Myong Chol, Merited Scientist and head of the laboratory, met the complex managers and said, "I think it is an important matter not only for solving sci-tech problems but also for laying a foundation to contribute to development of the independent economy. We have to work in concert to produce our own special cement."

The scientists undertook a research project to make effective use of slag from the blast furnace of ferrous metal plants. They paid deep attention to the slag-alkaline cement that is very powerful in heat resistance. Finally, they set a target of using the slag-alkaline cement as substitute of alumina cement, and pushed the project strongly. They solved different sci-tech problems, for example, the one of fixing a proper degree of fineness of slag which would affect the cement strength. What is noteworthy is the development of additives to improve heat resistance and strength of the slag-alkaline cement. Now they achieved the technology of Korean style to produce heat-and-abrasion-resistant cement for a substitute of expensive alumina cement, and also solved sci-tech problems that arose in establishing necessary production processes at the complex.

The complex put primary efforts in adopting the research

success. As a result they succeeded in producing heat-resistant concrete using slag-alkaline cement which is stronger than alumina cement. Thus, a sure foundation was laid to produce heat-resistant cement necessary for normal operation of thermal power plants. With this the cement industrial sector finally put an end to the history of importing expensive alumina cement, thanks to the workers and scientists of the complex.

The complex is putting efforts in solving sci-tech problems to strengthen independence and Juche-orientation of cement production. An intensified research project is to realize non-oil kindling by using anthracite. The managers of the complex make a detailed schedule for operation of

the sci-tech learning space to help everyone become versed in their respective sectors and become masters of modern science and technology good enough to apply it into practice. Valuable technical innovation ideas have been produced through the mass-based technical innovation movement, and developed into successful production.

Ri Kyong Ho, deputy chief engineer of the complex, says, "There is no miracle apart from science and technology—this is the truth we have learned. We'll stand in the van in the effort to accelerate development of the independent economy by following the line of giving precedence to science and technology."

Kim Il Ryong

New Type of Electronic Scalpel Developed

IN KOREA A NEWLY DEVELOPED ELECTRONIC scalpel is drawing the attention of surgeons. It is simple in handling, highly reliable and capable of fully functioning for many purposes. Usable even in low voltage it can be easily handled as its functions are displayed on LCD.

The main merit is that it can easily cut living tissues safely, and especially char the cut surface at the same time through adjustment of high-frequency current, thus reducing the loss of blood. And it costs far less than similar devices.

According to the introduction of the scalpel in practice the loss of blood in the cut part was small, which made it possible to easily discriminate between internal organs and tissues and reduce the time of operation and the period of the patient's recovery after operation.

All surgeons who have used the scalpel unstintingly praise it for being easy to handle and capable of helping perform any difficult operations properly. It is said that the new electronic scalpel is high in value of introduction as it can be used in not only general operations but also micromanipulation such as orthopedic operation and neurosurgical operation. □



Masters of Sci-tech Successes



far-infrared insulating firebricks using ashes of rice chaff they were always seen together with a lot of workers. Thanks to concerted efforts with workers, they found out a suitable way of materials preparation and a rational mixing rate in consideration of the actual condition of the factory. They ascertained technical qualities and methods of manufacturing the kind of firebricks. When I said that the two friends were just the makers of the success, they said,

“The number of our friends is increasing. They are the workers who finished different online colleges. We understand one another well, and the workers sometimes produce quite ingenious ideas. We have nothing to fear because we have a lot of friends.”

Master of Factory

“We can be good at our work only when we are versed in science and technology. So it is useless to look for particular makers of sci-tech successes,” said Jong Un Chol to me after he had finished his speech at the forum. I knew he was a heating worker.

When the factory set a technical innovation target of producing the abovementioned firebricks needed for overhaul of furnaces including the annealing furnace and the timber drying ovens, Jong was the first to support the project. He suggested a clever idea of cutting the production cycle by decreasing the firing time suited to the actual condition. Thanks to his



Friends

The head of the industrial experiment laboratory and Ri Tong Nam, an engineer, went to college together, so they are always seen together. However, a closer look at them lets you know they often meet to discuss sci-tech problems. This purpose united them with the same mind.

Some time ago, however, they began to change their mode of meeting. When they were developing

Production of textile fittings is on the increase.



Persevering Woman Scientist

IN FEBRUARY A CEREMONY WAS HELD AT the People's Palace of Culture to award February 16 Sci-tech Prizes. Some of the awardees were scientists of the Electric Power System Institute, Kim Chaek University of Technology, who had solved sci-tech problems arising in establishing a system of controlling and managing high-speed gondola of the Masikryong Ski Resort. Among the scientists was Doctor Choe Yong Hui, a woman researcher of the institute, in her early fifties. The February 16 Sci-tech Prize is the highest award to scientists who have made unusual sci-tech achievements in Korea.

Choe is a persevering woman with great confidence in herself, and people are very curious about her. It was not long after she began to work at the institute in 2004 that Choe launched her effort to solve problems in the field of electric power system operation. At that time an iron works was suffering a lot of troubles in production owing to serious fluctuations in voltage. In the course of investigating the factory in detail, she found its power compensation system unstable. So she started the research to develop a voltage stabilization system for the factory. In close connection with the technical officers of the factory she, going through difficulties, established a system for supplying power to the factory in keeping with its actual conditions—the one for computer-based control of the electric furnace's voltage vacillation compensation device. This earned Choe the February 16 Sci-tech Prize for the first time in 2006.

Her career was not smooth, though. In 2005 she was engaged in establishing a power management system at the Sukchon County Power Distribution Station. After the relevant test failed repeatedly an officer of the station asked her if it could be successful. Then she replied, “Of course there are twists and turns. But if we give up how can we be called scientists? Why can't we do what other countries did? We must definitely establish a way of managing power



by means of the economic power-line communication mode fit for our actual conditions. This is the most appropriate way to solve the problem of power shortage in the country and make effective use of electricity produced.” And she intensified the research and finally succeeded in completing the way of managing power by means of the county power-line communication mode.

In January 2014 she won another prize for developing a CNC-based load power management system for the power distribution stations of Jagang and South Phyongan provinces. Her third prize came when she developed the integrated production control system for the Huichon Power Station in 2016 and the fourth for distinguishing herself in establishing a system of controlling and managing high-speed gondola of the abovementioned ski resort.

Besides, she has written lots of treatises, reference books and textbooks greatly conducive to the education.

She is still engrossed in the endeavour to develop science and technology of the country, and this deeply impresses other scientists in the country.

Sim Chol Yong

idea, the factory put the furnaces in regular operation while saving a lot of money and decreasing the power consumption. Now the production of textile fittings went up to a high level.

Jong said to me that his factory has a lot of workers who have innovative ideas. He continued, “These

days nobody readily says he is a master. They know those who are not well informed of science and technology do not deserve being called masters of the factory. All my fellows share this idea.”

Kim Chol Ung

People Challenging Limit

SOME TIME AGO I visited the education and science achievements exhibition of Kim Il Sung University, and one exhibit stopped my step. It was a DNA amplification device called PCR device, which is recognized as of a cutting-edge grade in the field of life science and technology. There I determined to call on the developers in the Biological Engineering Department of the Life Science Faculty.

One day two years ago, after summing-up of the day's work, Pak Hyong Bom, head of the aforesaid department, was looking carefully at a chip on his hand. It was several months since the department had decided to develop with its own effort the PCR device capable of synthesizing genes and analysing transgenic organism. But the manufacture of the device faced a bottleneck owing to that chip. It was a fast cooling chip to momentarily raise or lower temperature to the required level. *Do we have to import this?* he thought.

Another several months passed without finding out a way.

Researchers of the Biological Engineering Department.



One day Pak had a chance to visit a machine-building factory, and he inwardly hoped to find out the secret of the chip there. He returned to the university as a man quite different from what he used to be before. Seeing his smiling face members of his research team guessed he found out the secret at last.

"Let's make a DNA device without using the fast cooling chip," Pak said to their surprise. He continued to say that they had tried to know the secret of the chip and make the same chips alone. But the workers of the factory he had visited were thinking of an electric motor without using silicon steel sheet, an imported material, he added.

It was an acknowledged formula that the silicon steel sheet should be used as an iron core in the manufacture of the electric motor, so his words were like a fantasy to the researchers. Pak, however, said that all scientific inventions developed from imagination, and that as they were determined to develop the amplification device of *their own* in the true sense of the word, the repeat



A PCR device.

of others' technology could not be referred to as development and creation.

Now the direction of the research changed totally. Through painstaking study the research team conceived an idea of changing temperature by means of air circulation, and finally succeeded in making the PCR device without using the fast cooling chip.

That is not all. When they were working on effective treatment of tumour by discovering pathogenesis of tumour through the study of mitochondria, they were faced with a difficult task of analysing mitochondria on the level of molecule. This time, too, they solved the problem with a unique method, and established a scientific evaluation criterion of sensibility of medicines for tumour. This ensured a scientific foundation to make a remarkable turn in treatment of tumour by correctly choosing different kinds of anticancer medicines to suit the constitutions of the patients and the conditions of their diseases.

Pak says, "We do not deny the optimum and maximum conditions clarified by the scientific formulas. But we have another formula except them, that is, we are the scientists of Korea."

Ri Kum Chol

Nano-biological Growth Promoter

RECENTLY THE RESEARCHERS of the Agricultural Nanotechnology Institute of the Academy of Agricultural Science have developed a new nano-biological growth promoter. It is a new kind of inorganic promoter which has a good effect on the growth and fructification of crops.

In the past, people's concern about water, the fruit of nature, was not great. Since it was known that when water is processed in a certain way it fulfils a special function, the study of water has become one of the cutting-edge research projects in the world. And as the study has changed from that with the main emphasis put on its quality to that of its degree of association, many researchers are striving to get fewer-molecular water low in degree of association. This is because fewer-molecular water can easily penetrate cell membrane and produce various effects on metabolism of an organism.

Three years ago So Kwang Ho, a section chief of the institute, went to a cooperative farm on business. A farm worker said to him, "You're a nanotechnology researcher, so you would like to see small things. But farming imperatively needs a lot of things in large quantity, for example, water. I heard fewer-molecular water is good for man, and I think the water will be good for crops."

The worker's words impressed the researcher.

It usually takes electrical and other energies to change the associate structure of water molecules

to get fewer-molecular water, typically, magnetized water, reduced water, electric-field processed water and electrostatic water. However, it was impossible to apply those methods to all the water for use in farming.

There was another method, that is, activation of water molecules by far-infrared radiation. In the past there were some kinds of far-infrared radiation materials performing such functions. But those materials needed a high temperature of above 100°C to perform the functions. In case of introduction to agricultural practice a new material should be developed which performs far-infrared radiation function in sunlight at least.

Difficulties and bottlenecks cropped up, but So and other researchers of the institute managed to make a new nano-functional composite material which

radiates far-infrared ray in normal temperature. The material was mixed with water at a ratio of 1:30 000 000 in the field, and the activated water brought many more nutrients to help improve metabolic function in plant corpus and raise the rate of fertilizer absorption of crops. The nano material needed to be consumed in the whole period of growth of crops per hectare was only 0.1 gram. As a result, the cost of biological growth promoter needed for one hectare of paddy field was reduced to 1:10 000 times as compared with that of previous promoters.

So says, "Farm workers say that we are men of great ability turning flowing water into treasure. But this time we have made another step forward. The reality and people are our school and teacher."

Kim Chol Ung

Profound research is under way to develop a new kind of nanotechnological product for agricultural use.



Future Heroes Grow

RI CHOL MIN SENIOR Middle School in Central District, Pyongyang is the alma mater of Ri Chol Min, a hero of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

When Ri was attending the school its name was Pyongyang Ryonhwa Middle School. After graduating from the school he joined the Korean People's Army (KPA). In face of an unexpected danger while carrying out a combat mission he sacrificed himself to rescue several of his comrades. In June 2002 the country awarded the title of Hero of the DPRK to Ri, renamed his school the present one and erected his bust in front of the school building.

Looking back upon the days when Ri was attending the school, headmaster Pak Ryong Nam says: "Hero Ri Chol Min was good at both studies and organizational life. He had an unusual love for his mates and school. One day, during a sports lesson, one of his classmates suddenly collapsed, when Ri immediately took the boy on his back and rushed to

the school's hospital. But for Ri, the boy would have had a big operation. The other day, during an expedition to the revolutionary battle sites in Mt. Paektu, Ri carried his friends' knapsacks to help them complete the difficult march."

The school puts much effort in making sure that its pupils learn from the spirit of the hero. The opening ceremony of the school year starts with new pupils putting bundles of flowers before the bust of the hero and listening to the explanation about his feat. The ceremony serves as an important opportunity for the pupils to take pride in learning at the alma mater of the hero.

Every national holiday the pupils have a meeting with the hero's mother who says, "You cannot perform a heroic feat merely out of an impulsion. It comes only when you love even a tree and a blade of grass and your friends from childhood."

Meanwhile, the school makes it a rule for its pupils to visit the hero's grave on the founding

anniversary of the KPA (February 8), the anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War (July 27) and the anniversary of the hero's death (January 10). And it organizes a meeting for reading compositions, an oratorical contest, a picture show and so on, all of which are about the hero's love for the country and his spirit of defending the country.

Regarding national defence as the supreme expression of patriotism, many of the graduates from the school have joined the army. Their units often send letters of thanks to the school, noticing that the graduates have set an example in combat and political training, and the school organizes a meeting to read out the letters to the pupils. In the course of this the pupils come to regard it as their duty as well as their hope to become heroes. This is proved by a writing pasted on the noticeboard of the school—it was made by Kim Il Jin of the graduating class of the school. It reads in part:

"All pupils of my school are now firmly determined to become human bullets and bombs to defend our respected Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un by learning from Hero Ri Chol Min's example. How could I be behind them as I have often written poems inspiring them to heroic feats? All my seniors who have joined the KPA after finishing school pledged to exalt the honour of their alma mater by becoming heroes. I will follow them and surely become a hero as a soldier of our respected Supreme Leader."

Now it is a principle of the pupils to regard it as their duty, instead of hope, to become a hero.

Sim Hyon Jin



Pupils learn the spirit of the hero.

Couple of Educators



IN RECENT YEARS, YOUNG SCIENTISTS IN their twenties and thirties of Kim Hyong Jik University of Education are bringing about many achievements in their educational work and advanced scientific research. Among them are Ho Chung Hyok and his wife Jong Un Gyong, teachers of the faculties of life science and mathematics respectively.

Eight years ago, they became postgraduate students after graduating from the university. At that time they were full of determination to break through the cutting edge over the world. Chung Hyok set it as his research task to develop a new nutrient that could help sportspersons give full play to their physical capability and make remarkable achievements in competitions, and Un Gyong decided to develop an educational support program for improving the students' intellectual faculties.

Though different in major field of study, they are one and the same in mind. They always spent hours in research together at the library of the university or the Grand People's Study House. Their unusually affectionate chats and their steps on the way back home were all directed towards science and the things for the future of the country. Their common desire for learning and tireless enthusiasm, at last, made themselves attached to each other, which bore great fruit.

Two years later, the man developed the new nutritious material for sportspersons *Tauricam*, and the woman *Teaching Practice Evaluation Support Program 1.0* and *Numerical Mathematics Education Support Program* which were highly appreciated at the national exhibition of youth's scientific and technological successes held in 2014.

After marriage, they kept devoting all their wisdom and efforts to the educational and scientific research work. Chung Hyok succeeded in rearing Loach of Pyongyang breed, a new kind of loach which grows fast and whose weight increasing rates are five times higher than the native. His wife won first place at a national teacher training universities' teaching contest, displaying her ability once again. Later she drew the attention of the academic world by presenting treatises on Symplectic Geometry, which is regarded as the most difficult subject in mathematics.

They have won scores of diplomas and certificates of registered sci-tech achievement at such festivals and exhibitions as the national exhibition of youth's scientific and technological successes.

Now they have become twin pillars of the university who can compete with veteran scholars. Though with short career and poor experience, they developed so much thanks to the devoted support of Ho's mother Jang Son Suk. Jang works as a department head of the basic science faculty, Korea University of Physical Education. She is a veteran educator who has trained lots of heroes, People's Athletes and Merited Athletes, including the pommel horse king Pae Kil Su, the DPRK Hero Jong Song Ok, the quadruple world champion judoist Kye Sun Hui and People's Athlete Ri Myong Hun.

She always encourages her son and daughter-in-law, saying, "An educator should take genuine pleasure and pride of life in their disciples' growth and achievements to exalt the honour of the country. So it is important for us educators to possess a high ability. Students' ability depends on their teacher's, I think."

Back home from work, she is wont to give them advice on their problems arising in improving their teaching and making the education practical, modern and IT-based and those in their research work, and takes care of them in such a way that they can be engrossed in educational and research work.

So Ho and his wife hold her in high esteem as not only their mother but also their senior and teacher. The couple has a four-year-old pretty daughter named Ye Jin. They say they hope to train the daughter to become an educator like the grandmother and them.

Choe Sol Mi

Efforts Put in National Instrumental Music

RECENTLY THE ADMINISTRATORS and teachers of Hamhung Musical Art School are making a remarkable success in education by putting efforts in instruction of national music. Especially, the department of national instrumental music is paying great attention to the work of helping pupils grasp the advantages and characteristics of national instrumental music.

Four years ago Jon Mi Hye, appointed as head of the department, got a new eye to view the work of her department from a new angle. *Instruction of national instrumental music is very important for the development of the national instrumental music of the country. But some teachers of the department derive the prospect of musical development from vocal music and individual abil-*

ity alone. Based on her judgment Jon made sure that national instrumental music was encouraged on different occasions like skill presentations while the teachers applied proper techniques of performance in their guidance of practice. She herself created and applied to her lessons some new teaching methods including the one of using the pedal in *yanggum* playing.

The teachers of her department launched a campaign for creating music pieces for instruction of national instruments. They arranged dozens of songs—*Nostalgia, The Snow Is Falling, People's Blessing, Dancing Rungna Islet, Song of Mt. Kumgang* and *I Will Be the First Flower to Herald Spring*, which is the theme song of the feature film *The Fourteenth Winter*—into solo, ensemble, *oun-*

gum, yanggum and *kayagum* pieces.

The teachers deeply studied expressive means and performing methods of national music including national melodies and rhythms, and then explored effective methods of instruction to introduce them into their teaching. Not only did it greatly help pupils to grasp characteristics of national music and apply it to their performance but also improved the efficiency of the ensemble instruction.

Also, the department made positive efforts to develop national instruments including *kayagum, sohaegum* and *janggo*. Mun Chung Song, a *janggo* teacher, was awarded a technical prize for his original idea about *janggo* tuning. Last year a lot of teachers of the department received certi-

The school trains folk musicians.



Efforts are made to improve national instruments including *kayagum, sohaegum* and *janggo*.

► cates of registered new teaching methods and certificates of new devices while many became October 8 Model Teachers.

The teachers' high ability found expression in the high academic achievements of the pupils. The school took first place several times in the national schoolchildren's individual art contests. In

the national instrumental event of the contest held last year the school was highly rated by the participants for high skills and marvellous presentation of songs—*Feeling of Wrench, Together with Him, Thunder over Jong Il Peak* and *The Sound of the Cowbell*—played with *yanggum, oungeum, kayagum* and *taehaegum*. It took

first place in total rankings.

Conscious of being teachers who are charged with the mission to hand down the national music, the teachers are devoting their wisdom and enthusiasm to the rearing of a greater number of reserve entertainers of national music.

Ri Sun Nyo



Modernization of Education Gathers Pace



UNJONG DISTRICT, PYONG-
yang is attracting the public attention for its educational work. Recently all schools in the district have been renovated in a short period, and all educational units made a lot of successes. Some time ago I had a chance to have a talk with Ri Ok Bun, chief of the educational department of the Unjong District People's Committee, Han Kyong Ho, headmaster of Wisong Junior Middle School, and Han Myong Suk, headmaster of Unjong Primary School. Excerpts:

I am greatly impressed from the deep attention your district attaches to education.

Ri Ok Bun: We know education is very important work related to the country's prosperity and the nation's future. It is a particularly important task in my district because it includes the Unjong Science Park that has the State Academy of Sciences.

In 2014 our respected Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un

visited Wisong Primary School in my district. He said that as the school enrolls the children of the scientists of the State Academy of Sciences it can be called educational centre of reserve scientists. He noted that since the revolution is an undertaking to be done from generation to generation the rearing of reserve scientists should also be done that way. His words made us fully aware of our duty as educational workers.

The whole district including educational officials, those in direct charge of education and people from related units turned out to create a social environment favourable to education. Officials took charge of schools, got information on schools through regular visits of classes at work, and solved problems in time, which schools found difficult to do. School-supporting organizations regularly understood the actual conditions of the schools and provided them with necessary facilities and materials for education

and administration.

As a result all classrooms of the schools and kindergartens became multifunctional, and computer lessons and education through experiments and practices got updated. The District Teachers' Refresher School became functional as information management centre and on-line education base, effecting a big stride in improving qualifications of educational officials and teachers in the district.

I heard Wisong Junior Middle School has a high ability.

Han Kyong Ho: My school was built at the same time with Wisong Scientists Residential District. It has a good educational condition and environment, as it was set up under the deep care of the State. Even though we have a good educational condition, it would be impossible to bear fine fruit if people in direct charge of the educational work were not qualified. My school made sure that teachers improved their ability while developing original and

► superior teaching methods, bearing in mind that pupils' ability depends on the teachers' qualifications. Meanwhile, they developed their ability to put IT facilities to practical use. Emphasis was put on the effort for all teachers to get versed in their subjects while obtaining the ability to teach one or two adjacent disciplines and learning a lot of general knowledge.

Consequently, a lot of teachers obtained the Certificate of Registered New Teaching Method and the Certificate of New Teaching Aid, and became an October 8 Model Teacher. In 2016 and 2017 two teachers won top honours in the national seminar on new educational methods.

Teachers' high ability led to their pupils' higher ability. Over the past two years pupils of my school took first place in district contests and examinations of mathematics, composition, ora-

tory, poem recitation, and geographical knowledge. The rate of enrollment of my pupils at schools of higher grade is much higher than other schools'.

I can see development of the district educational work through the educational environment. I think you have a lot to tell me, Mrs. Han, in this respect.

Han Myong Suk: Good educational environment is nourishment for the formation of fine emotion and psychology of the children. It further has effects on their intellectual development and formation of their personality. So, last year we renovated our school by ourselves in a short period of a month. Those who visit my school say in admiration that the country school has changed as good as urban ones and that there is left little vestige of its former appearance.

While renovating the school

we prepared good visual aids to make the whole corridor like a hall of technical and common knowledge. Through collective discussions the teachers prepared all the visual aids well enough to afford educational help and cultural refinement. With the help of the supporters, all the classrooms are equipped with TVs, IP cameras, real object projectors and other IT facilities. Now they are all completely multifunctional. The playground has all kinds of sports facilities and a swimming pool was newly built. We have a good teaching garden and nice welfare facilities including the barber's and bathhouse, which are in good operation.

Teachers are creating a lot of clever teaching methods while pupils are improving their ability noticeably. Now my teachers and pupils and their parents are relishing the happiness they have created by themselves. □

Wisong Primary School in Unjong District.



What Mass-based Technical Innovation Brings About



Scrupulous arrangements are made to increase the production of medicines.

THANKS TO THE POPULAR State policy Korea has a lot of pharmaceutical manufacturers that contribute to improvement of public health. Among them is the Mannyon Pharmaceutical Factory well known to Korea and different foreign countries.

O Phil Ju, general manager of the factory, says, "My factory began operation some thirty years ago. Our typical products are insam tea, insam essence, natural insam in honey, ginkgo leaf tea and tiger-bone alcoholic remedy for arthritis. They are popular at home and abroad because they have Kaesong Koryo insam as the main ingredient."

From olden times insam cultivated in the Kaesong area was renowned as important medicinal material—it makes human organs strong, activates immune functions and removes physical and mental tiredness. The general manager explained that the factory is mass-producing over 80 kinds of Koryo medicines using Kaesong Koryo insam and other natural materials richly available in Korea, and that thirty kinds of

them are exported to foreign countries.

Kim Chol, chief engineer of the factory, says, "Foreigners who used our medicines say that they are very effective in treating endemic diseases and obesity. Now they are in great demand. My factory is encouraging all the employees to join the campaign of introducing latest sci-tech achievements into Koryo medicine production." Then, he told me the following story.

Some years ago the general manager, on his return from a conference of health workers called by the Ministry of Public Health, fell into deep thought. The conference had decided targets of production of Koryo medicines and development of new products. He knew it was difficult for the factory to reach the targets with the existing capacity and technical forces. Soon he organized a meeting where he made a detailed arrangement for launching a mass-based movement of technical innovation.

First of all, a scrupulous plan was made to put the operation of

the sci-tech learning space on a regular routine. Technical study sessions were organized twice a month, and technical officers were appointed as teachers to give lessons on shop floor problems. The active development of the workers' creativity went along with the popular technical innovation movement aimed at technical remoulding of the production process. As a result main equipment including an air purifier was newly developed or reconstructed.

Meanwhile, the factory pushed ahead with the work to update existing products and introduce processes of new products. It held sci-tech exhibitions, prize contests for medicine-making techniques and discussions of new techniques so as to develop the technicians' and workers' creativity and ability steadily. At the same time it launched a competitive emulation of swapping experience, learning from one another and overtaking others between workshops while combining production closely with technical innovation. This led to an increased content of Koryo medicine extracts, ultrafine processing, and thorough sterilization. Thanks to the policy of encouraging the workers to the full while attaching importance to science and technology, the factory overfulfilled its targets year after year.

The Vitamin B17 Injection and the Hwanggumayon Anti-bronchitis Capsule developed by the factory were awarded patents of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Last year celery extract, anti-hepatitis celery tablet, protoporphyrin injection, protoporphyrin capsule and other medicines were developed, thus contributing to improvement of the people's health.

Pak Un Yong

Busy People

“IS THAT THE EMERGENCY department of Kim Man Yu Hospital? Here is an emergency case.” This kind of call is made at any time. Well experienced in emergency care with the history of over 30 years of Kim Man Yu Hospital, the medical staff of the emergency department often go to the patient's house in their ambulance. They spend busier time than others, because they have to deal with patients of different symptoms in serious conditions. Sometimes they find themselves leaving the hospital for another call as soon as they return after bringing the patients whose life hangs in the balance back to life. Since the hospital is a central one the department has to deal with patients not only from Pyongyang but also all over the country.

One day Han Song Il, head of the department, received a phone call on his way back home. It was about a worker in Phyongsong City, South Phyongan Province in a critical state due to an accident. When he arrived by ambulance at the spot he found the patient in the most critical state—he was unconscious with compound injury. After first aid he was rushed to the hospital. He came around seven days later and completely recovered through dozens of days of treatment.

Sick calls are not all that make the doctors busy. They have emergency cases at the hospital at any time. One day at two a.m. a patient in a critical condition was rushed to the hospital. He was Jo Sung Ho, a worker in Phyongsan County, North Hwanghae Province. He was in the third degree of shock with compound

injury—serious brain contusion, backbone fracture, costal fracture, pneumothorax, and crush face. There was hardly a hope of his resuscitation. At the time doctor Ri Kwang Chol, writing a history sheet of the patient, asked, “Do we have any of his family members here?” The reply was: “He lost his parents at 12. I didn't inform his wife as she is going to have a baby one of these days. I am here for her.” It was the general manager of the patient's workplace. Listening to him, the doctor told himself, “The patient lost his parents when he was a child, and I can't let his child become a posthumous child.”

Modern medicine diagnosed him as nearly dead, but doctors immediately launched a battle to bring him back to life. An intensive care team including 20 doctors and nurses was organized for his treatment. All kinds of necessary medicines were administered. The patient came to in ten days. Hearing that medical workers including his doctor in

charge and nurse had looked after him day in and day out, he, even in artificial respiration, wrote “Thank you” on the palm of the head of the department with his finger. He had no idea that medical consultation was held every day and varieties of examinations including CT were carried on scores of times while expensive medicines were used for him. It had seemed inevitable for him to be a vegetable or disabled person but he recovered fully in some 60 days and happily hugged his pretty baby in his arms.

In recent years alone a lot of patients recovered miraculously thanks to the medical staff—a woman in Pyongyang who was almost dead due to critical sepsis; a researcher with critical tetanus whose life even his parents gave up their hope for; and a worker from Jagang Province who had fallen into a stop of respiration. Seeing patients recover, the medical workers feel proud of their work. They are always spending a busy time.

Rim Ok

First-aid treatment.



Inheriting National Martial Art

SOME TIME AGO I VISITED THE SOUTH Hamgyong Provincial Taekwon-Do Club, which is located at the foot of the picturesque mountain of Tonghung.

When I arrived there, Yun Chang Gol, head of the club, welcomed me, saying, “It is only ten odd years since my club was established, but it is well known across the country as it has produced lots of famous Taekwon-Do practitioners.” Then he guided me to a noticeboard hung on the front wall of the entrance hall.

Pasted on the noticeboard titled “Meritorious Taekwon-Do Practitioners from South Hamgyong Province” were over ten photos of familiar Taekwon-Do practitioners including People’s Athletes Jong Hwi Song and Kim Pom Mi who displayed the honour of the country at the Taekwon-Do World Championship three times and a photo of Jo Tae Won, a master

of *paduk* (go) who won international fame. Seeing the photos, I could understand a bit the laudable history of the club.

Now Yun led me to training room No. 1, where junior men and women trainees were engrossed in physical training. Seeing them with pride, Yun said, “The Taekwon-Do practitioners of my club are now intensifying their training to improve their skills and tactics of Korean style for the purpose of enriching the orthodox martial art of Korea.”

Some trainees were striking targets with bare hands and feet jumping over various obstacles. Yun then said, “Taekwon-Do is a martial art of checking a rival’s attack or attacking them with hands and feet, and the relevant competition consists of pattern, power, sparring and forte events. Taekwon-Do has 24 patterns from Chonji to Thongil, and each of them consists of many technical movements.”

Intensive training is under way to hone Taekwon-Do techniques and tactics.



There I met Chae Hyang Rim and Pak Yun Gyong, women Taekwon-Do practitioners who just smashed their targets by side kick and fist blow. I recognized them as those who had participated in the Jongilbong Prize national youth and schoolchildren’s Taekwon-Do championships held in 2016 and 2017, Chae taking first place and Pak second and third places in individual sparring and first-grade pattern events. Chae said that she would improve her fortes—strong side kick and fist blow so as to take part in international competitions as well. And Pak said that her forte is turning-side kick by dint of counterblow, that she, however, failed to take part in this year’s competition owing to a little wound and that she would win first place in the next year’s competition without fail by training hard.

Now we went to training room No. 2, where some trainees were in training under the guidance of their



Kim Hong Bok and the trophy she won in the *paduk* (go) of the Mangyongdae Prize National Martial Art Championships in celebration of the Day of the Sun.

coaches. There I met head coach Ho Yong Thae, who said that Taekwon-Do movements numbering as many as 3 200 are good for the people’s health and greatly help refresh their mentality and train their perseverance and will, that Taekwon-Do is a self-defence art to help people acquire the noble mental and moral traits and that the martial art shows well wisdom and valour of the Korean people who have long hated and struggled against injustice with a noble sense of morality.

The training rooms were fully equipped with training facilities. This enabled me to know how much effort the club was putting in training the players.

Next we dropped in at the go training room, where teenage trainees were engrossed in training. Yun said that Tong Ji Hyang, a 27-year-old go instructor there, had begun playing go at the age of 10 and participated in an exchange competition held abroad at the age of 13.

Among her trainees was Kim Hong Bok, a nine-year-old girl. According to Tong, the girl had begun to take part in autumn provincial go contest at the age of six and taken first place for the following three years and ranked among the first three winners in several rounds of the national children’s go contest.

“By keeping training hard I will take part in international competitions as well as those at home,” the girl says.

With the belief that the national martial art would be further developed by their efforts, I left the club.

Sim Hyon Jin



Story Is Not Over

SOME TIME AGO I VISITED the Pyongyang Sports Club for coverage.

After looking around newly-built training areas and its dormitory, I went to its general training hall not so far from the sports club. On the way, I met a girl weightlifter, who volunteered to guide me to the hall.

At the first glance, she looked ordinary in manner and words. Her name was Pak Ryong Ju, and she was 17 years old. What surprised me was the fact that she had won two consecutive victories with new records while participating in the women's weightlifting event of the 54th National Sports Meeting of Juvenile Sports Schools and other national juvenile weightlifting competitions.

When Ryong Ju's father was young, he was also a sports person. And he anchored his failed hope on his son and daughter. He named the daughter Ryong Ju wishing she would support the country with sports if the son failed to do so.

The father was very strict with her. When Ryong Ju was five, he had her chin a hundred times a day without condition.

It was in the year when Ryong Ju entered a primary school. Among her classmates, there was a boy who looked down upon girls.

So she always intended to teach him a lesson. One day she challenged him to have an arm-wrestling match with her. She won the first round. But the second and third rounds ended in her defeat because she lost heart as the boy struggled determinedly after his defeat in the first round.

Having heard the story in the evening, the father told her, "Don't try to solve a problem between the classmates by force. But if you decided to play fair, you should win in any case by managing the match in a bold way." Then he told her about Pak Yong Sun, a table-tennis queen, who had taken first place by optimistically reversing the circumstance of the match with the last ball and displayed the mettle of the country. Her father's story deeply impressed her.

When Ryong Ju was eight, her father died of sudden illness. But she never stopped physical training true to his intention. She, however, had no idea of what sport she would be fit to do.

In the year when she was twelve, she had a chance to follow her mate to the weightlifting training room of the Tongdaewon District Juvenile Sports School where the mate was practising in the sport. Thus she tried to hold a barbell for the first time. Her posture was never awkward. And her well-muscled body attracted the

attention of Ri Un Sim, the then women's weightlifting coach of the school.

"Do you want to do weightlifting?" Un Sim asked.

"I will do anything to display the honour of the country," Ryong Ju answered. Then Un Sim managed to persuade Ryong Ju's mother to allow her to do the sport. The coach told the mother, "Ryong Ju is precocious mentally as well as physically. If she begins to do weightlifting, she will soon be outstanding as a weightlifter."

Un Sim's expectation was not wrong. A few months after starting to do weightlifting, Ryong Ju took first place in a Pyongyang municipal elimination match for participation in the National Sports Meeting of Juvenile Sports Schools.

At last we arrived at the general training hall before she finished her story. And I wanted to know about her former records, her life as a weightlifter and her future plan.

But she said good-bye explaining that she should go to carry out her training plan of the day without fail. I stood still for a while seeing her off, picturing her future image as a young woman weightlifting star.

Chae Kwang Myong

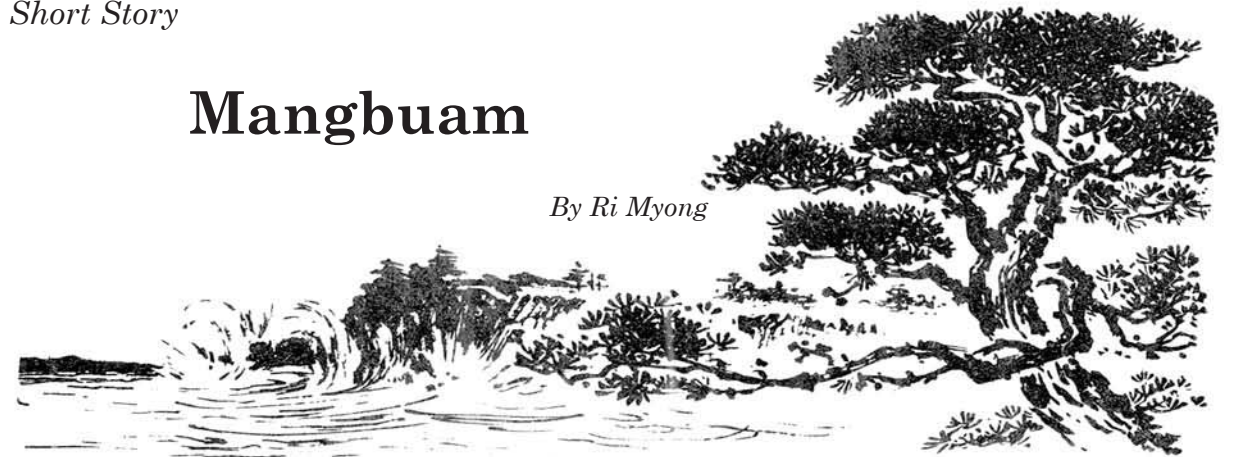
Pak is engrossed in training with an ambition to become a weightlifting star.



Short Story

Mangbuam

By Ri Myong



(Continued from the last issue)

YE RIM WAS SURPRISED to hear the voices of her husband and son coming from inside the room. *How is it that he is here?* She wondered. *He must be still on holiday.*

She felt as if she were in a dream because she found her husband and son staying in the home which she had thought would feel empty. Now the fatigue from the long journey vanished all at once.

Ye Rim usually became mischievous when she found herself pleasant. Now she, assuming a deliberately serious and deep tone of voice, exclaimed, "What are you doing here in the home without its master?"

Her son's eyes popped at the sight of his mother, and he ran out of the room as fast as a bullet. And her husband, who had been hanging a framed picture on a wall, looked round with wide-open eyes. Unable to hide her pleasure any longer, Ye Rim laughed, lifting her son up above her head.

"Alas! Why didn't you inform me of your coming?" U Jin asked.

Ye Rim giggled, saying, "I thought you were still in the holiday camp."

"Dad came back last night, bringing that picture of Lake Samji along with him," the kid said, proudly pointing to the landscape of the lake newly hung on the wall. Inscribed with the words *Holiday Souvenir* on the bottom, the picture made the previously

dull room look graceful.

"Is the holiday over?" Ye Rim asked.

U Jin only smiled an awkward smile without answering. Ye Rim gave up asking again although she wanted to know what had happened. She felt it all right anyhow. The home was in an amicable atmosphere after a long time. She kissed her son on the tender cheek and forehead in succession as if to try to fully relish the warm family atmosphere. The kid giggled. Meanwhile, Ye Rim read U Jin's face, which was clean with the former bushy whiskers shaved off. There was no look of disappointment she had noticed when they parted.

Has he really returned to a normal life because he is tired of the Mangbuam area? She thought. *But why didn't he spend the holiday to the last?*

Now, suppressing her continually rising doubts, Ye Rim hurried to the kitchen and prepared a lunch table with varieties of tinned foods she had brought with her from Pyongyang. She wanted to have a pleasant talk with her husband and son over lunch they would have together after a long time.

"I saw you in the holiday camp," U Jin said first, sitting at the table. He meant he had seen Ye Rim singing on TV. He seemed quite pleased with an awkward smile playing about his lips and in his eyes.

"I met an acquaintance in the

holiday camp, and he recognized you. So I was afraid that he would tell others about it," U Jin said.

"Why? Perhaps you men think you may lose your face when your wives are in public life," Ye Rim joked with laughter, the parts around her eyes glowing with red. She felt a lump in her throat at his sincere satisfaction with her success. She knew he seldom expressed such a feeling with affectionate words like others should do. Now Ye Rim realized that U Jin had felt proud of her inwardly. Abruptly she felt she could now discuss carefully with him about a plan of the new life she had been anxiously yearning for. And then she even felt happy as if the new life had already started.

"By the way, why did you come back in the middle of the holiday?" asked Ye Rim.

"It's alright," U Jin said casually.

"Oh dear, this is your first holiday, isn't it?" Ye Rim said regretably.

"In fact I went on holiday to see larches in the thick forests of Mt. Paektu," U Jin began to explain. "The larches there are resistant to the cold and salty soil. They, however, do not grow fast instead. But larches in lowland areas grow fast though they are not highly cold-resistant. And I decided to raise trees that are strong in resistance to the cold and fast in growth by hybridizing the two kinds of larches. So I took the pollen of the lowland larch with me to the holiday

► camp, and I was lucky to find the local larches breaking their anthers. You know I can't miss the opportunity. Moreover, the hybridized pollen should be sent to the culture laboratory of the main institute in order to develop them into seeds quickly. I could come back only after I managed to persuade the director of the holiday camp to allow me to do."

"Oh, my, is that why you have been to the holiday camp?" Ye Rim exclaimed.

"I am going to finish treating the pollen with a reagent today and send them to the main institute tomorrow," U Jin added.

"Then, why don't you go to the main institute yourself to experiment with them," Ye Rim entreated.

U Jin opened his eyes wide, and Ye Rim felt nervous.

"Do you think it's a thing to be done in a day or two? And what would become of Mangbuam if I left it? And I was very worried that crooked pines would be planted there in the area while I was away for the holiday," U Jin said.

Ye Rim could hardly stir with downcast eyes. The wave of happiness she had felt now disappeared completely. She had thought her husband returned to a normal life. But he still did not forget Mangbuam. And she found him more sincere and enthusiastic about his research. Her mood began to darken. She was reminded of what had happened in the previous days.

"If we give up again the trees we have raised with care for several years, how can we make up for the time, labour and investment wasted? Do you think the law of the State will tolerate it? It's time to make a big decision. I mean we have no other choice but to plant crooked pines. You know the species grow well anywhere on the east coast of our country," the director of the Mangbuam branch institute said to U Jin when he was visiting him at home the day when Ye Rim left for Pyongyang to participate in the vocal solo con-

test. Then U Jin argued, "Groves of crooked pines could hardly be large enough for windbreak, and they are of little economic value. Though it might be troublesome we should find out and raise species of trees fit for the Mangbuam area."

"That sounds good, but we don't want to dance to your tune anymore! I have had enough of your persistence!" the impatient director roared.

The angry voice of the director seemed to be still ringing in Ye Rim's ears. *Because of such stubbornness*, she thought, *he is still at a standstill. Man's stubbornness and conservatism become obvious when they have run out of wisdom and resources. A conservative man is likely to be accustomed to living within his own narrow bounds, and thus he undoubtedly regards the narrow world as an absolute standard. Such a man finally goes to ruin.*

Ye Rim was now in despair at the thought that if the stubbornness made U Jin keep remaining in the Mangbuam area it would be both the ruin of him and her failure to make further progress in her career. U Jin's faithfulness had made Ye Rim attached to him, but she had never imagined that the obstinacy expressed by his faithfulness would become an obstacle.

When U Jin went into his study soon after dining, Ye Rim felt tired as if her whole body were collapsing. Her dream of a new life suddenly disappeared. *Artiste held in affection by the people and her husband going to and from work at the academy of sciences*—all this was nothing but merely a fancy she had harboured. Now she felt hatred for herself because she had stupidly been in a false dream, and at the same time, could not help but regard her husband as a dullard who did not know the fertile soil where he could realize his lofty ideal of life with ease.

Ye Rim then looked about for her son on whom she wanted to lean her body that seemed to be

sinking into the floor. The boy, however, was seen nowhere in the room. And she noticed him through a door opening of the study where he was concentrating his attention on his father engrossed in an experiment with large and small reagent bottles. The sight sent a chill to her heart as if she were standing on a precipice. The man, in spite of himself, was making even the mind of the innocent child attracted to Mangbuam. Springing to her feet she went into the study, and snatched the kid by the sleeve, shouting, "What are you doing here?"

Clink! A glass bottle tumbled down off the desk by the sleeve of the child. Dumbfounded, U Jin was looking at the broken pieces of glass.

"You poor little thing, why are you here making a trouble?" U Jin yelled, slapping the son on the calf. Ye Rim took a good bite of her lip as if she herself were whipped.

The child burst out crying. Ye Rim, who had been trying to check her tears, shook her shoulders.

"How can you be like this?" She protested. "I know you have so far had troubles trying to complete the research without enjoying a normal family life. I, however, don't think it is easy as you think. Don't you know what kind of person you are?"

Ye Rim's sudden protest perplexed U Jin for a moment. His face gradually turned ashen with a frown on it. He tried to be prudent rubbing his hands together.

"Do you want me to give up all?" U Jin asked.

"I don't mean it! I only think the condition of the main institute is good for breeding of trees for a windbreak of the Mangbuam area, and you can complete the research quickly there. Who would blame you for doing so when it is for the same purpose?" Ye Rim entreated.

"Do you really think so? Aren't you more concerned about my, your or our family's livelihood than the Mangbuam area?" U Jin asked.

(To be continued)

A Day of Chairwoman

KIM YONG BOK'S DAILY routine starts from "morning walk."

One early morning she left her house in working clothes for farm fields.

It is 25 years since Kim started to work as chairwoman of the management board of the Mangyongdae Vegetable Cooperative Farm in Mangyongdae District. She always carries a small "treasure notebook" in her pocket, and she does not fail to write the state of fields and the change of growth of crops on it. At the same time she draws up scrupulous farming schedule by day, week, month and quarter on the book. Only after looking around paddy and dry fields and vegetable fields the chairwoman went to the management board office.

At 8 a.m. she organized in her room the detailed daily work based on her field survey—adjusted allocation of labour and machines, and the direction and procedure of the daily work. Then she went to the sci-tech learning space the farm built by itself. There she and the farm's technical staff including the chief engineer and the officer in charge of technical affairs had a regular video meeting with teachers and researchers of the Life Science Faculty of Kim Il Sung University via the State computer network, on the theme of "Introduction of Modern Science and Technology in the Agricultural Sector."

Kim's son Jon Chol, a postgraduate student, also participated in the meeting. He is a reliable assistant to her mother. The chairwoman had previously developed and applied advanced farming methods such as organic farming using mud snail and dry paddy field horizontal ploughing, with the help of her son. It is the son's ambition to follow in her footsteps after finishing the postgraduate course and contribute a large share to the improvement of the scientific and intensive farming. The meeting also discussed problems related to the operation of the sci-tech learning

space for farm workers and the introduction of the latest science and technology.

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon Kim left her office for Vegetable Workteam No. 3. The workteam is the one where she started to work as a member of the farm over 40 years ago. For this reason she takes more care of it. The members of the workteam were now manuring the vegetable field. Among them was Yong Sil, the youngest worker of the workteam who was engrossed in the work. Yong Sil was assigned to the workteam a month ago. Sitting by her Kim carefully taught her how much manure was needed per plant and how to bury manure. Correcting Yong Sil's manner of work and wiping sweat off her face Kim said, "If you wish to have a bumper crop you should devote your heart and soul to farming. Though the land cannot speak, it can read the cultivator's mind."

"Devote heart and soul!"—this is Kim's lifelong lesson and creed. That day the workteam overfulfilled the task of giving manure it had planned by 30%.

Now it was six o'clock in the evening, and the farm workers were on their way back home. The chairwoman, however, went to the home of Ri Tu Chil, 93, who is the elder in the farm. "Oh, our chairwoman has come. I am just wait-

ing for you," Ri said.

Since Kim became a deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly 20 years ago she has acquainted herself with the livelihood of her workers after work and solved their knotty problems. So all the workers of the farm call her "Our deputy" and "Our chairwoman."

"Is there any problem in your life?" Kim asked.

"Nothing. I have no worry about food and clothing. No inconvenience at all. You've striven hard for the sake of us farm workers. To me you are like my own daughter. Now it is my habit to wait for you every evening," the old man said from the bottom of his heart.

"Don't mention it. It is duty for us deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly."

Then the chairwoman said that his long life meant both the happiness of his family and the prosperity of the farm, and stressed that he should pay special attention to his health care against the sultry weather. Only then did she leave the house. And she continued with her visit to other farm workers asking them if they were short of rice, subsidiary food or firewood. Only after knowing that they all had no problem she headed for her house with the thought that she devoted another day to the workers.

Kim Son Myong

Kim Yong Bok (left) learns about the state of fields.



Kumok Maize Products Exhibition Hall

THE KUMOK MAIZE Products Exhibition Hall, located in the Munsu area, Pyongyang, is visited by lots of people

effect that maize is as valuable as gold, Pak Yong Gil, a staff member of the exhibition hall, says, "It is said that maize is rich in nutri-

sponge maize cake—each of them has its special flavour.

The instant maize noodles are peculiar. Instant noodles are



Various kinds of maize products.



every day.

The exhibition hall is a comprehensive maize products production and service centre, which consists of a factory that produces various maize products, a shop that sells such products and dining rooms and a tea shop where maize products and tea are served.

Scores of Kinds of Maize Products Are Produced

The factory produces more than 80 kinds of maize products. The word *kumok* is added to the name of the exhibition hall to the

ents, but digests poorly."

The Korean people have long regarded maize as the king crop for dry fields. Maize is more nutritious than polished rice and wheat. But it could not be completely absorbed because it was not processed properly.

But the maize products from the exhibition hall are tasty and highly digestible as the grains are pulverized and modified by modern facilities after their husks and germs are removed. The products from the factory include maize noodle hash, cold maize noodles, maize bread, maize biscuits and

made of wheat in other countries, but the aforesaid factory produces similar noodles with maize readily available in the country. And the noodles are seasoned with bean paste-based condiments to the Korean people's liking. The factory also produces beef, chicken and pork flavour instant noodles.

Popular Maize Products

The exhibition hall is a four-storey building. On the ground floor the maize products are served to the visitors, who are surprised to see varieties of

maize products.

On the first floor there are dining rooms where there are served tasty and highly nutritious processed maize foods like cold or warm maize noodles, roast maize dumplings stuffed with minced pork and nourishing sugary pop-maize. Ri Kyong Hui, a maid on the floor, says that all the dishes are good for preventing diabetes, arteriosclerosis and aging, thus attracting the mid-aged people and the elderly.

The nutritious maize tea served on the third floor is very popular among the customers as it is tasty and conducive to digestion. A woman resident from Phyongchon District said, "My children like jelly maize cake very much, so I bring them here very often."

An old man from Sosong District said, "The taste of nutritious maize tea is very peculiar. It reminds me of a time when all my family sat around in a room and

ate boiled fresh maize with relish. I am so glad that we can relish foods made with maize gathered much in our country."

General Manager Kang Chol Su of the exhibition hall says, "We're now striving to produce much more maize products as required by the people's ever improving material and cultural life."

The exhibition hall is frequented by lots of people.

Rim Hye Gyong

Maize products and foods are popular with customers.





At a Cottage.



A Pasture in the Evening.



A Dancing Girl.



Early Summer.

Ri Ji Hyon and His Works

RI JI HYON IS A competent artist at the oil painting production unit of Mansudae Art Studio. He has so far painted lots of portraits and landscapes.

His father Ri Jong Su was also an artist. So Ji Hyon was fond of drawing in his childhood. One day of the year when he was four, his father was surprised to see a picture of flowers the son had drawn with crayons. Though the picture was immature, the flowers and leaves were quite vivid.

Since then Jong Su paid attention to his son. The father often said, "Painting is an art of showing the beauty of man and nature. As man can't live apart from nature, it can be said that painting is a peculiar and charming realm that makes people optimistic and emotional. So you should draw even a single picture which can make people pleasant and emotional."

Ji Hyon began to learn the

ABC of drawing from his father. And in his primary and secondary school days, he attended the art circle and presented many works, which were highly appreciated by the teachers for their being superior in vividness and art of drawing to those by other members of the circle.

In his days at the Pyongyang University of Fine Arts, he presented lots of works at the relevant show held every year. His works including *My Alma Mater in the Morning* and *A Student* well reflected the characteristics of the age on the basis of his unique art of painting, and thus they were highly appreciated frequently.

In creating even a single work, he strove to make the painting suit the taste and emotion of the people. And he spent much time understanding even a single object. He always carries a handbook on which he often writes down briefly how to turn an object into a painting, for example, how to depict

the object, and what colours and materials to use. The handbook is thus of great help to him.

Now, as a professional artist of the Mansudae Art Studio, he always keeps his criterion. His paintings are excellent in truthfulness and colour.

The oil painting *At a Cottage* he recently created is clear in composition and vividly depicts the diligence, simplicity and sincerity of a farm woman who wipes sweat off her face while pounding red peppers in a mortar. It also depicts formatively and artistically the contemporary and rural living environment including a fence made of maize stalks, a broom and a kimchi jar standing against the fence, hens and ducks pecking at feed and a child playing with a puppy.

Another oil painting of his *A Dancing Girl* ensures sharp contrast between the background of the stage and the dancer and her rhythmical curves, thus giving an

► effect of solidity. In addition, he created lots of landscapes including *Mirae Scientists Street in the Evening*, *At Hyangsan Stream*, *Early Summer*, *A Pasture in the Evening*, *On Upper Stream of Amnok River*, *A Forest*, *A Lake in the Evening* and *Botanical Garden in Summer*, all of which make the spectators feel as if they were in the places.

He has created many works as valuable as national treasure, including *Breaking the Dawn of Revolution* that depicts President Kim Il Sung in his revolutionary activities in his early years, and *Giving a Helping Hand to a Farm Worker's Family* and *Looking at the Family Book* that also depict the President. All the works were awarded certificates of merit and medals at the national art exhibitions.

As he has created dozens of such works, he was awarded the May 16 Prize, a high-grade commendation to be awarded to artistes and artists, in January last.

Sim Chol Yong



Ri Ji Hyon is creating a new work.



Different Services on Hand

SOME TIME AGO A KOREA TODAY Reporter had an interview with Mun Tae Gil, vice president of the Korea International Travel Company.

I was told that your company is doing various kinds of tourism.

Surely. Having a number of guides who can speak different languages, and several means of transportation like coach, plane and excursion ship my company is offering diversified services suited to the tourists' liking, for example, those for New Year's Day celebration, skiing, surfing, cycling, sightseeing by air and water or steam locomotive, and that for architecture fans.

From twelve o'clock midnight of the New Year 2018 many foreign tourists enjoyed themselves at Kim Il Sung Square together with our people seeing a firework display. And they also saw ice sculptures presented at the Pyongyang Ice Sculpture Festival 2018. They also enjoyed skiing at the Masikryong Ski Resort in winter. And the 29th Mangyongdae Prize International Marathon held in April this year included the event for marathon fans, which was participated in by many tourists.

Now the number of tourists who want marathon sightseeing is on the increase. Besides, sightseeing

by public transportation means such as trolley bus, tramcar and underground car, and that by the steam locomotive run between Chongjin and Kyongsong of North Hamgyong Province are very popular.

It is not long before the beginning of the hottest period of summer in Korea, and I think sea bathing is recommendable in the period. What's your programme for the period?

Of course many tourists want sea bathing. My country has a lot of resorts favourable for sea bathing, and tourists can enjoy sea bathing, surfing and excursion on board at different bathing resorts including the Songdowon Bathing Beach and the Majon Resort. In particular, the Wonsan-Mt. Kumgang tourist zone has the Ullim Falls, Mt. Kumgang and Masikryong Ski Resort. At the Ullim Falls you can hear the thunderous sound of water falling, see ravine beauty, and do sea bathing and surfing at the Songdowon beach. At the Masikryong Ski Resort tourists can do mountain race and cycling, and climbing. And they can spend time at the celebrated mountains in Korea such as Mts. Myohyang, Chilbo and Kuwol.

I heard the tourists who visit Korea have a deep interest in Korean folk customs.

Living as a homogenous nation from ancient times the Korean people created their unique folk customs and are maintaining and developing them. The tour-

► ists experience the unique culture of our nation while learning the Korean language, getting Koryo medical treatment and so on. The Kaesong area in particular has many historic relics and remains showing the nation's tradition and culture. Here tourists can see ancient Korean-style buildings and have a taste of contemporary food. And they can go to see the concrete barrier, a symbol of the national division, and Panmunjom where the armistice agreement of the Korean war (1950-1953) was signed. So the area wins popularity as a peculiar tourist attraction in the country and enables tourists to have a better understanding of it.

I know that the tourists, who have been to Korea, say they will come to the country again. Right?

Generally, it is said that repeat in tourism is as good as death.

So to speak tourists do not go back to the place to which they have been. But many tourists, who have been to our country, feel that they had a mistaken idea about its reality. For example, during a morning walk, tourists see our people walk with composure and smile, and say that our country is stable very much and the people seem to have nothing to worry about, contrary to the West's propaganda. And seeing women wear the Korean *chima* (skirt) and *jogori* (jacket), and children folk attire on national holidays and folk holidays they say with great admiration that our people maintain their national tradition well. Meanwhile, their curiosity grows stronger as they see Pyongyang and other areas of our country change for the better day after day and full of youthful vigour. Consequently, many tourists come back to our country to enjoy themselves at the various tourist resorts while having a deep understanding of it. □





Meetings of the Women's International Democratic Federation are held in April 2018.

I Knew Korean People Well

THIS TIME WE LOOKED around hospitals, educational institutions and museums, tourist souvenir shops and general shops for citizens in Pyongyang. We thus came to know a lot about Korea. We can understand that the Korean people are enjoying a dignified and happy life. We saw science, education and culture developing in the country while looking round educational information institutions, research institutes and the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace. During our stay in Korea we heard the news that Korea led by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un declared its decision to stop nuclear test. And it declared that it would use

its already possessed nukes only to defend itself. As we are here in Korea at this time we came to know well about the independent and peaceful Korean people. Especially, we could see women work in all sectors including the military, science, education and the economy. I think they hold high social positions. Surely, women have the high and perfect possibility of promotion in a socialist society. I highly rate the leading activity of the Socialist Women's Union of Korea to make the Korean women take a leading position in the society. I can leave Korea with joy, for I successfully finished the meeting and had a new experience and



understanding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Thanks.

Lorena Peña,
WIDF President

Lorena Peña
WIDF President

I Was Greatly Impressed with Korea

I WAS GREATLY IMPRESSED with Korea. I live in a country filled with falsehoods. In Korea I witnessed the Korean people full of conviction of victory of their cause and the view of value by which to hold man dearest in the world and have everything serve man. And I was greatly impressed by the educational system and teacher training system of the country. What is most important is that I found all the Korean people full of confidence, and that I felt their strength. I will always be with a powerful Korea which is advancing forward against imperialism.

Everything I felt meant a happy life. False propaganda about Korea spreads in my country, but on the contrary I felt everything is stable and peaceful in Korea. I will leave with a very happy mind, and back at home I

will make effort to have my people have a right understanding of Korea as a model of socialism.

I came to know once again that the Socialist Women's Union of Korea had done a lot of things and felt that the women's union is a firm support for the development of the country. And I saw how much Korean women's economic and social rights have been improved. At the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital I realized that the State bears full responsibility for care of women's health, though many women in other countries are dying of illness and that the country holds women in respect. And I also came to understand the importance of women's participation in the state building and activity. In a word, I could see the Korean women enjoy a happy and stable life while struggling steadily for all their rights.



Long live the Democratic People's Republic of Korea! Long live the Korean women!

Gloria Ramirez, Vice President
of the Women's International
Democratic Federation

Gloria Ramirez
Vice President FIDH
para America y el Caribe

We Learned a Lot

WE ARE PLEASED TO visit Pyongyang Teachers Training College during our stay in Pyongyang. We've learned a lot about how Korea prepares the teachers. We are very much impressed by the methods that are used for the preparation of teachers—right from the technology used and also from the practical skills. We are more impressed in the last room we visited. They were teaching morals in the family. They were preparing the teachers to teach how to look after the children who have no parents. So we are very impressed by the method of preparing teachers to cultivate the spirit of being parents. We are very impressed by the methods that are used for the preparation of teachers. They are very practical. We are going to take

this knowledge to our country (Namibia) and talk about how to teach, how to prepare our teachers and our classrooms to be linked to human behaviours.

What we learn in Korea is about the women's unity in the



sense of patriotism. We are very much impressed by the strength in the women. They love their country, and their [Workers' Party of Korea]. This meeting Korean women have organized for us is a very good organization and the reception we have got since we arrived is a very good reception. We also learned from them how to organize meetings like this. We wish them very well and express our solidarity with Korea and the women. In any way we need to support each other to fight a struggle and overcome the blockades and sanctions that are imposed to Korea and progressive countries in the world.

Eunice Ipinge,
WIDF Vice President

Eunice Ipinge
WIDF Vice President

Tracing Back into History



Archaeologists investigate the South Gate of Kaesong in cooperation with the French School of Asian Studies.

AT PRESENT WE LIVE IN THE CUTTING-AGE Era creating something new day after day. On the contrary, some people are tracing back into history.

They are the members of the archaeological excavation party of the Korean Central History Museum. They have so far unearthed lots of historical sites and relics while exploring high and low mountains, valleys and fields.

It was when they tried to excavate mural tombs dating back to Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668). In order to discover more Koguryo murals regarded as valuable cultural heritage, they went to Taesong District, Pyongyang, thinking that they might discover new Koguryo murals in the area where some Koguryo mural tombs had been already excavated.

They looked round every nook and corner of the area time and again. And they would repeat the survey of the places, which they previously did, on their backward journey. They did not ignore even a blade of grass and a single stone. In the course of this they discovered pieces of a mural.

At last they managed to find out another Koguryo mural tomb in Taesong-dong. Though there was not a mound and ceiling, pictures of four deities were painted on the walls of the tomb and all-gold accessories like a necklace were unearthed.

And one day they were informed that a resident

in Thaesong-ri, Kangso District in Nampho City, discovered some painted pieces of stone. They soon embarked on the excavation. At last they unearthed a tomb that was confirmed as that of the 9th King Michon of Koguryo.

Once they searched Samsok District, Pyongyang, for more than ten days. But they could never get a clue. Having given up their plan, they decided to return. And they dropped in at a dwelling house to ask for some water to drink. When the elderly head of the house came out with a bowl of water, a member of the excavation party asked him, “Are there any unregistered historic sites and relics here in this area?”

The elderly man replied that there was something like a grave on the hill behind his house.

Soon they followed him to the place where they discovered a mural tomb on the east slope of the hill called Mt. Chongryong two kilometres northeast of the seat of Jangsuwon-dong. Though much of its mound had slid away, its shape remained intact. Its walls were seriously broken, but a picture of the mythological turtle—the one symbolizing the God of the North—drawn on the north wall was still in the original state.

In the course of arranging the floor, they found out lots of mural pieces and bier traces. Some murals from the period of Koguryo had been already unearthed in the area, including the Sasin (Four-Deity) Tomb in Honam-ri.

The excavation of the mural tomb considered to date back to the mid-5th century after Koguryo moved its capital to Pyongyang, made it possible to prove that the area is the place where Koguryo mural tombs are concentrated, and helped increase the archaeological data capable of disclosing how the pictures of four deities emerged and changed.

The excavation team also unearthed metal types in Manwoltae, Kaesong City, a site of a royal palace in the period of Koryo (918–1392). On the basis of the fact that a single metal type on display in the Korean Central History Museum had been discovered around the Manwoltae area by a boy in Kaesong, they surveyed the area and found out another metal type in 2015 and four more in 2016.

By surveying the South Gate of Kaesong in ►

Metal types unearthed at Manwoltae.



An Ryong Bok

THE HISTORY OF THE PATRIOTIC STRUG-
gles of the Korean people to safeguard the nation's dignity and sovereignty at the cost of their lives has a record on An Ryong Bok (around the late mid-17th century), an ordinary fisherman, who defended the Ullung Island and the Tok Islets on the eastern tip of Korea.

One summer day in 1693, An Ryong Bok and 40-odd other fishermen from Ulsan drifted to the Ullung Island by heavy seas. The island, neighbouring the Tok Islets, was very famous for its beautiful scenery and rich stock of resources. It was often ransacked by the Japanese invaders during the Imjin Patriotic War (1592–1598). To escape their murder and pillage the islanders left their native place. Gradually the island got uninhabited, and fishermen from Kangwon and Kyongsang provinces landed there for fishing or a break during the voyage from time to time.

Availing themselves of it, the Japanese began to get their aggressive claws into the Ullung Island and Tok Islets. They had previously intruded into Korea only to withdraw after suffering wholesale deaths owing to the Korean people's righteous patriotic resistance. Later the Japanese invaders infiltrated into the East Sea of Korea again, running amuck to realize their failed old dream. At that time they called the Ullung Island “Takeshima” and the Tok Islets “Matsushima” at their own discretion. They even suggested to the feudal Korean government that they make a survey of “Takeshima” in 1614 and 1615. The Korean government entrusted the Magistrate of Tongnae to firmly declare that “Takeshima” meant the Ullung Island of Korea and that foreigners' “survey” was intolerable. But availing themselves of the Korean government's disadvantage of failing to exert its influence over the remote islands the Japanese desperately schemed to take the two islands.

It was right at the time that An Ryong Bok and his party anchored at the Ullung Island and encountered Japanese invaders. The Japanese were so insolent as to pose as the master of the land, asserting that the Ullung Island belonged to Japan. An (he was good at Japanese) was infuriated. He made up his mind to defend the national territory for himself. Despite a person of the low social standing, he went to the Oki Island of Japan with Pak O Dun to negotiate with the local ruler.

An demonstrated that the Ullung Island belonged

to Korea without doubt and strongly condemned the illegality of the Japanese intruders. The Japanese ruler knew he could hardly bring An to submission, and transferred him to Japanese Hoki Province (western region of the present Tottori Prefecture). The governor-general of the Hoki Province tried to buy him over with wealth, but in vain. An turned down the conciliatory trick, and managed to win from the Japanese chancellor and the governor-general of the Hoki Province the assurance that the Ullung Island belonged to Korea.

An reached Tsushima on his way back home. Then the crafty lord of Nagasaki and the ruler of Tsushima distorted their intrusion of the Ullung Island and invented a false case of the Koreans' “invading” Tsushima, demanding that the Korean government make “apology.” In fear of disclosure of their crime they detained An by force for 90 days. But his just struggle compelled them to let him go back to his country.

On returning home, An went to the government office in Tongnae, made a detailed report and submitted a proposal on defending the Korean territory. But the feudal government gave no reply. On the contrary it took a passive attitude.

Now An and other patriotic Koreans turned out to defend the Ullung Island and the Tok Islets. In 1696 An and his party went to the Ullung Island again only to see Japanese squatters there for the second time. Feeling guilty, the Japanese excused themselves for being lost on their way to Matsushima (Tok Islets). An declared angrily, “Matsushima is just the Usan Islets (Tok Islets), and it also belongs to Korea,” and forced them out of the island. Then he immediately sailed to Hoki Province and disclosed the crime of the lord of Tsushima in front of the governor-general of the province. The governor-general assured him that he would prevent his people from landing again on the Korean islands illegally. Later Japan informed the Korean government that the Ullung Island and the Tok Islets were the Korean territory for sure and dared not intrude the islands.

The islands, part of the territory of the Korean nation, are associated with the Korean people's patriotism and the history of their resolute struggle to defend their territorial sovereignty.

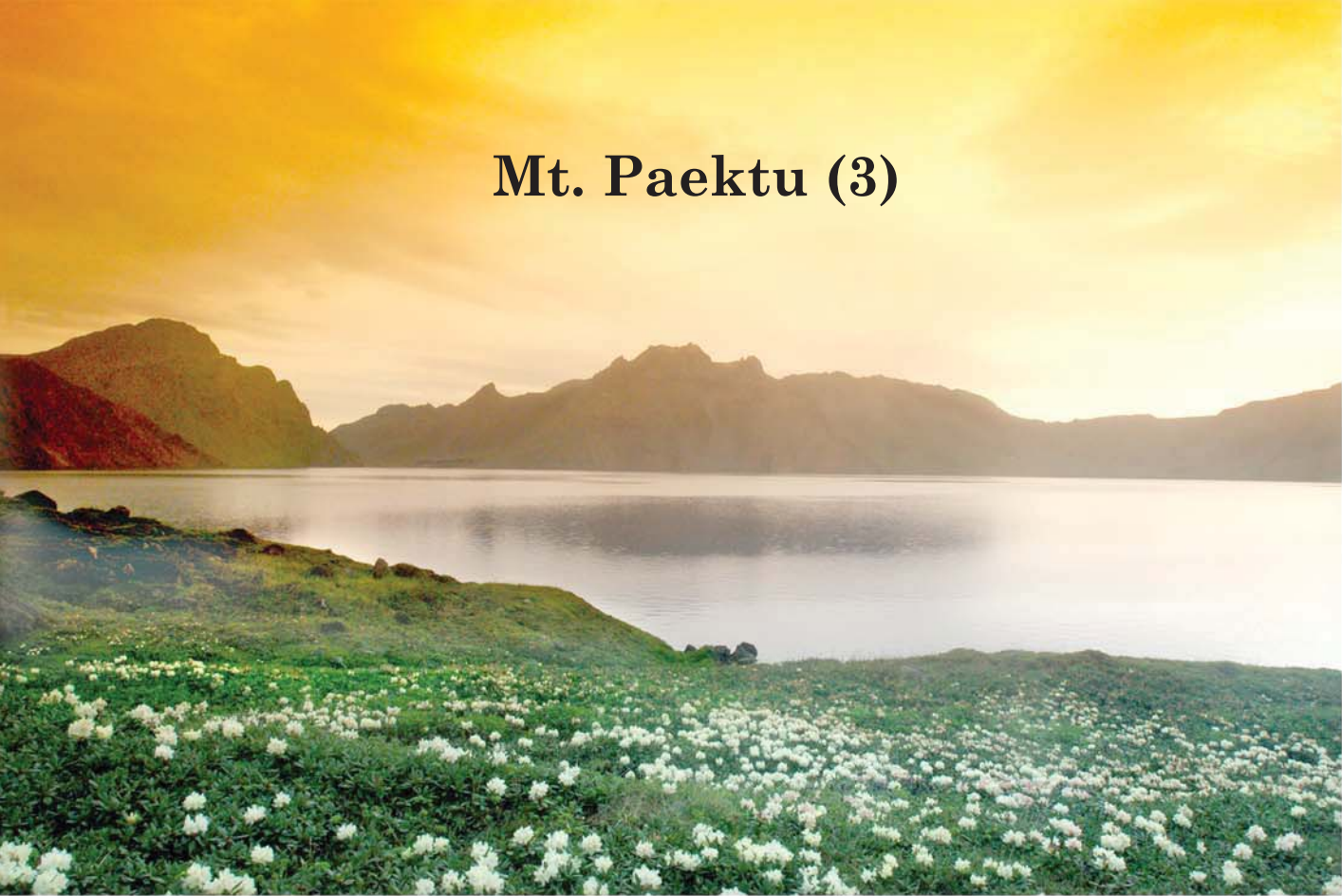
Sim Chol Yong

► cooperation with the French School of Asian Studies, they clarified the city's history of development. They are very glad and shed tears of pleasure when they unearthed even a little piece of ancient tile or porcelain.

They say, “Today or tomorrow is inconceivable apart from yesterday. We take greatest pride in providing materials of history which can show people wisdom and talent of our nation.”

Rim Ok

Mt. Paektu (3)



Diverse Fauna and Flora

THE AREA OF MT. PAEKTU, AS AN ALPINE region connected with the Asian continent, has a peculiar fauna adapted to its severe climate and unique geological and geographical environment. There are lots of rare and beneficial animals including sables, otters, tigers, leopards, musk deer, deer, red deer, antelopes and brown bears.

Distributed in the area are birds, animals, reptiles, amphibians and fishes. The species of the birds

number over 200. The area has only a small number of seasonless or winter birds for its very low temperature and unfavourable feed conditions in winter. A large number of summer birds fly to the area and propagate themselves there as the environment for their living becomes multifarious and favourable in summer. The feathered tribe designated as state natural monument are Ussurian black grouses living on the shores of Lake Samji and at Taehongdan and so on. Those under special protection are Burmese button-quails, *Strix uralensis Pallas*, hawk owl,

Some of animals and plants in Mt. Paektu.



National Intangible Cultural Heritage (20)

Method of Making *Riganggo*

AMONG THE NATIONAL INTANGIBLE cultural heritage of Korea is the method of making *Riganggo*, one of famous liquors peculiar to the country.

Rigango is a traditional liquor of Korea made by mixing Soju Wine with pear which is famous in Hwanghae Province and ginger in a peculiar way. Its name is a combination of letters meaning pear and ginger.

Historical classics including *Tongguksesigi* describe *Riganggo* as famous liquor in Korea along with *Kamhongno* of Pyongyang. *Riganggo* is cream-coloured refined wine based on a harmonious combination of Soju Wine and sweet and fresh

flavour of pear and delicious and somewhat fragrant taste of ginger, and it is very good for health.

Residents of Hwanghae Province have long made and drunk *Riganggo* during meals. The method of making the liquor is as follows.

Prepare distilled Soju Wine as crude liquor by fermenting starch-bearing material and malt. Then wrap pear and ginger juice in a piece of silk cloth, and put it and honey in the liquor. Now heat it at a low temperature.

The method of making *Riganggo* is further improving thanks to the State's policy on preserving national cultural heritage.

Kim Un Jong

► Manchurian cranes, white-napped cranes, mallards and striated swallows.

To be found in the area are common adders and *Tachydromns amurensis*, *Rana temporaria*, bell toad and newts whose species are of wide distribution and are most plentiful among the reptiles and the amphibian animals.

Dozens of species of fish live in the area. Besides, 1 800 species of invertebrate animals are distributed in the Mt. Paektu area.

The Mt. Paektu area is also very rich in flora; their species number more than 2 700. The flora consists mainly of such boreal trees as *Abies nephrolepis*, *Picea jezoensis*, *Picea koraiensis* and larch trees, etc.. What is peculiar is that the area has more species relatively fast in speed of distribution than other areas. In the plants of lower order the proportion of mushrooms is the highest and the higher plants like *Majanthemum bifolium*, *Erigeron thunbergii* var. *glabratus* and rhododendron that were acclimatized to the alpine conditions after the glacial epoch constitute basic plants.

What is also peculiar to the distribution of flora

in the area is that there are distinctive differences between species of plants distributed on the top and side and at the foot of the mountain, and in the valleys.

The shores of Lake Chon are covered all over with layers of mosses that are multifarious in colour—blue, white, grey, etc.—and 20 to 30 centimetres thick, producing a peculiar alpine landscape. The lakeside flora is characterized by not only distribution of varieties of species but also peculiar looks. Most of the plants are small; some species of herbaceous plants are 50 cm in height but all the others are 20-30 cm in height.

Below 2 000 m, which is the forest line of Mt. Paektu, there spreads an endless gigantic primeval forest, forming a sea of primitive trees. Under the influence of climatic condition the flora of the mountain changes into forest zone, bush zone, alpine steppe zone and lichen zone while going up towards its top. Thus, in the Mt. Paektu area one can see nearly all plants belonging to the temperate zone, the subarctic zone and cold zone.

Yun Sin Yong

True Nature of “Model in Human Rights”

THERE IS A COUNTRY which refers to itself as a “model in human rights” in the world and poses as such. It is none other than Japan.

In the international arena Japan dances to the tune of others embarrassedly, and readily plays the role of a pawn in finding fault with “human rights” situations of other countries and fabricating “human rights” resolutions.

But the data are made public in succession which show that Japan’s such behaviour is just the product of the craftiness peculiar to the country to conceal its poor human rights defects and realize its dishonest political purpose. Some time ago Japan’s newspaper *Yomiuri Shimbun* disclosed the data telling that acts of maltreatment of disabled persons in the country are on the increase, and that the number of similar cases reached over 2 500 in 2016. It also mentioned that the offenders are the victims’ family members and the employees of old people’s homes and businesses.

Protecting the disabled is a legal and moral duty of a state and society and an important criterion by which to assess the level of a given country’s civilization. In Japan, however, disabled persons are the first victims of the law of the jungle that prevails in the

society. The country has a law on removing discrimination of the disabled, but it is as good as a blank sheet of paper. Though it signed the treaty of rights of the disabled approved in the UN General Assembly in 2006, Japan put off adopting the aforesaid law on the pretext of its domestic affairs. Only a few years ago did it cook up the law roughly for the purpose of going smoothly through the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics to be held in 2020. The data from the newspaper show that such a law cannot play its role properly.

Actually, the number of the disabled persons suffering from maltreatment keeps increasing across Japan. In 2016, a Uematsu, 26, rushed into a facility for protecting the disabled in Kanagawa Prefecture, and killed 19 instantly and injured 26 using a lethal weapon, crying out that the disabled should die. This incident is a clear example showing what Japan’s measure for protecting the disabled is like.

That is not all. On March 2 this year a man named Hunato beat his five-year-old daughter to death in their flat in Tokyo-to (metropolis). It is said that he did so because she was not obedient to him. Home violence is further prevalent in the country. In Otsu,

Shiga Prefecture, the fact that a 50-year-old man choked his father with an electric wire was disclosed giving rise to public criticism. In Saitama Prefecture, a 46-year-old eldest son murdered his parents and brazen-facedly informed the police that he had killed his father and mother, shocking the public. In January this year a 52-year-old man in Akita Prefecture poured petroleum on his mother to burn her to death, and a 74-year-old man in Nerima District, Tokyo-to (metropolis), choked his daughter. Such hair-raising atrocities are occurring one after another in Japan. This shows that it is a backward country in terms of human rights, and a violator of human rights.

The reality proves that the former Japanese army which committed extra-villainous inhuman crimes against not only the Korean people but also other peoples in Asia and its descendents who are doing all kinds of wrongs to hide their forerunners’ crimes for scores of years, far from making apology and reparation for the crimes, have a thread of connection between them.

The Japanese politicians should bear in mind that denial of history leads to the repeat of the same case.

Kim Kyong Hui

Manse Pavilion in Mt. Myohyang

MANSE PAVILION IS AN attic-type building situated in front of Pohyon Temple in Mt. Myohyang. The pavilion was built in the last days of Koryo (918–1392), and was later rebuilt several times.

During the Korean war (1950–1953) the building reconstructed in 1765 was burnt down by the US imperialists’ barbarous bombing, and a large bronze bell that had been hanging from the beam of the pavilion demonstrating its artistic beauty disappeared.

In 1979 the pavilion was restored to the original state in the Koryo style of architecture, and now it serves as a recreation ground for the working people. It is 23.04 metres widthwise and

11.52 metres lengthwise.

It is said that the pavilion previously housed a large bell weighing nearly 960 kilograms to be rung in the morning and two large drums to be beaten in the evening.

The pavilion is a fine old structure characterized by a unique shape and representative of a feature of architecture in the period of Koryo. Built on a hillside it has a different number of floors in the front and rear, the front with two floors and the rear with one.

The columns of the pavilion bulge in the parts at the height of two fifths from the bottoms, which is typical of Koryo’s technique.

The decorative brackets beneath the eaves are those that cannot be seen in similar build-

ings from the period of the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392–1910).

The decoration of the ceiling is expressive of an old structural form. Like other buildings from the period of Koryo, the ceiling was designed in such a way for the rafters to be exposed so that its inside as a whole was not hidden, every part of it carved beautifully.

In the back yard of the pavilion there are a 13-storey octagonal pagoda, which shows the extent to which the stone architecture of Koryo developed, and the Taeung Hall, the main building of Pohyon Temple.

The pavilion is a great help to studying the architecture of Koryo.

Ri Chol Ung



