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A Plenary Session of the WPK Central Committee Held

The Second Plenary Session of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was held in Pyongyang on October 7, Juche 106 (2017).

Chairman Kim Jong Un of the Workers' Party of Korea presided over the session.

The plenum was attended by members and alternate members of the WPK Central Committee and members of the WPK Central Auditing Commission, with senior officials from the WPK Central Committee, ministries, national agencies and local governments at all levels and other officials from major industrial establishments present as observers.

Following items were on the agenda;

1. Immediate tasks to be tackled under the prevailing situation

2. Organizational issue

Chairman Kim Jong Un delivered a report on the first agenda item.

He took stock of the complex international situation surrounding the DPRK and pending issues before specifying present Party activities to cope with the situation, direction of economic development, and strategic tasks and ways in this regard.

Noting that our cause is invincible as we have the solid foundations of an independent economy provided by President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, an army of scientists trained by the WPK, the army and people imbued with the revolutionary spirit of the Party and the fighting tradition of self-reliance, he called on all the people to work hard to win the final victory of the revolution, united more closely behind the Party Central

Committee.

The plenary session adopted a decision on the first agenda item.

It discussed the organizational issue as the second agenda item.

The Second Plenary Session of the Seventh WPK Central Committee presided over by Chairman Kim Jong Un marked a turning point in hastening final victory in the building of a socialist power and the accomplishment of the cause of the Juche revolution by dynamically mobilizing the whole Party, the entire army and all people in the general offensive to carry out the decision of the Seventh Congress of the WPK under the unfurled banner of the great Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism.

Article: Kim Thae Hyon

FRONT COVER: Working people, youth and students dancing merrily, proud of their being blessed with great leaders and Party down through generations
Photo: Ri Kwang Song

Pictorial KOREA is published in Korean, Chinese, Russian and English.



A national meeting is held to mark the 20th anniversary of Kim Jong Il's election as General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea

Eternal Victory and Glory of the Workers' Party of Korea

Amid the vigorous campaign to demonstrate the mettle of Mallima in the building of a powerful socialist country the Korean service personnel and people celebrated the 20th anniversary of the election of Kim Jong Il as General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea in October.

A national meeting took place on October 8 at Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang.

The meeting brought together over 100 000 people of all backgrounds, who were filled with boundless yearning and respect for Chairman Kim Jong Il, the symbol of mightiness of the ever-victorious Workers' Party of Korea and eternal Sun of Juche, as he victoriously led the WPK and the Korean revolution for over half a century and thus laid eternal foundations for the prosperity of the country and the nation.

Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice-chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission and vice-chairman of the WPK Central Committee, delivered a keynote speech, titled, *Victory and Glory Are Always in Store for the Workers' Party of Korea Which Holds Kim Jong Il in High Esteem as Its Eternal Leader.*

The meeting fully demonstrated the revolutionary zeal of all the participants to translate into reality the patriotic intentions of the great leaders to build a thriving country, holding Kim Jong Il in high esteem as eternal leader of the WPK and implementing thoroughly the important tasks Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un advanced at the Seventh Congress of the WPK.

That day similar meetings to mark the anniversary took place in provinces, cities and counties across the country.

Working people, youth and students in Pyongyang gathered at Kim Il Sung Square on October 8 to enjoy a gala evening, *We Will Hold Chairman Kim Jong Il in High Esteem for Ever.*

They expressed their heartfelt respect for the Chairman who laid lasting foundations for the building of a revolutionary party of Juche and demonstrated to the whole world the prestige and might of socialist Korea through his unexcelled ideological and theoretical activities and energetic leadership.

The gala evening fully manifested their unshakeable faith and will to support the respected Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un and carry out

the cause of the Juche revolution, the cause of the WPK, pioneered on Mt Paektu.

Fireworks displays took place in Pyongyang and other provinces, highlighting the celebrations.

Meanwhile, people of all backgrounds visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun where the great leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il are preserved in their lifetime appearances, bronze statues of the leaders on Mansu Hill, and statues and murals bearing their beaming images in all parts of the country to pay their highest tribute.

Marking the events, there were photo shows, national oratorical contest and other celebrations.

Article: Kim Hyon
Photo: Hong Kwang Nam, Ri Kwang Song



Working people and students enjoy a gala evening, *We Will Hold Chairman Kim Jong Il in High Esteem for Ever*, in celebration of the anniversary



Photo show *Workers' Party of Korea Shining with the Name of the Sun* and stamp exhibitions at the Korean Stamp Museum and the stamp exhibition hall



A dazzling display of fireworks lights up the nocturnal sky over Pyongyang to mark the occasion



2017, A Year of Victories

The year 2017 is coming to a close, leaving an indelible mark in the history of Juche Korea which is advancing under the unfurled banner of socialism.

This year all the service personnel and people across the country worked hard, making brilliant achievements in their efforts to bring into reality without fail the lifetime wish of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il for building a thriving country.

Fully demonstrated was the might of single-mindedness of all the service personnel and people, who firmly trust and follow only the Workers' Party of Korea which works to build a socialist paradise on this land by administering the politics of respecting and loving the people in the vortex of history.

Political events of all kinds including the celebrations of the 105th anniversary of the birth of the President and the 75th birthday of the Chairman fully manifested the stamina of Kim Il Sung's nation and Kim Jong Il's Korea which is building a socialist power under the leadership of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, holding the great leaders in high esteem for ever and adding brilliance to their immortal exploits.

The flames of the all-people general onward march flared up in all sectors of the national economy this year, a year of key importance in carrying out the five-year strategy for national economic development set forth at the Seventh WPK Congress.

The recent Second Plenary Session of the Seventh WPK Central Committee clarified the principled stand and a revolutionary strategy to open a broad avenue to the building of a socialist economic power by building up the strength of the self-reliant national economy, firing the revolutionary zeal of the people throughout the country.

In the midst of the heightened spirit of Mallima in all sectors and units the

electric power industry sector stepped up technical upgrading of all equipment to operate them at full capacity and pushed the construction of the Tanchon Power Station and other projects to build new power generating capacity. The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex and other units in the metallurgical industry sector pushed forward with the projects to establish iron and steel production lines based on locally available raw materials and fuel.

The coal-mining industry sector satisfied the increasing need of coal in various sectors of the national economy, and the machine-building industry sector mass-produced high-performance machinery and custom-built equipment.

Modern factories sprang up and quality products were produced in the light industry sector, and the material and technical foundations of the fishing sector were strengthened and much more fish supplied to the people. In the agricultural sector, though hit by a long spell of worst-ever drought, scientific farming methods were positively introduced to increase grain, fruit, mushroom and vegetable production.

Ryomyong Street was built in an imposing and magnificent fashion in the area of the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the supreme temple of Juche, exalting the valiant spirit of socialist Korea and new streets and villages sprang up across the country.

Steady progress was made in the building of a civilized socialist nation.

Amidst the nationwide, public campaign to give a facelift to scientific and educational facilities and environment this year, the year of science and education, Pyongyang Primary School for Orphans, Hamhung Primary and Middle Schools for Orphans, Hoeryong Schoolchildren's Palace and Yonphung Lake Children's Camp were inaugurated. Strict measures were



Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un acknowledges the cheering crowds in April Juche 106 (2017)



People march past as they powerfully demonstrate the spirit of Kim Il Sung's nation, Kim Jong Il's Korea, which is dynamically advancing towards a powerful socialist country, single-heartedly united around Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un



Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un cuts the tape to inaugurate Ryomyong Street in April Juche 106 (2017)



Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un gives on-site guidance at Ryuwon Footwear Factory in October Juche 106 (2017)

taken to make people fully enjoy the benefits of free medical care system in the public health sector. With the country alive with laughters and joy all the year round, well over a hundred institutions, factories and enterprises won the titles of model sports units. Sportspeople added honour to the country with fine scores in international events like the 20th Taekwon-Do World Championship

and the 29th Summer Universiad. Performing artists of the State Merited Chorus, Moranbong Band and Wangjaesan Art Troupe conducted novel and enterprising artistic activities to usher all service personnel and people into the era of Mallima, making the whole country vibrant with life and energy. But all things did not go smoothly this year.

The US and its vassal forces grew ever more undisguised in their attempt to check the victorious advance of socialist Korea, and their outrages to completely block its economic growth and improvement of the people's living standards reached a new high. Though the dark cloud of nuclear war loomed larger in the Korean

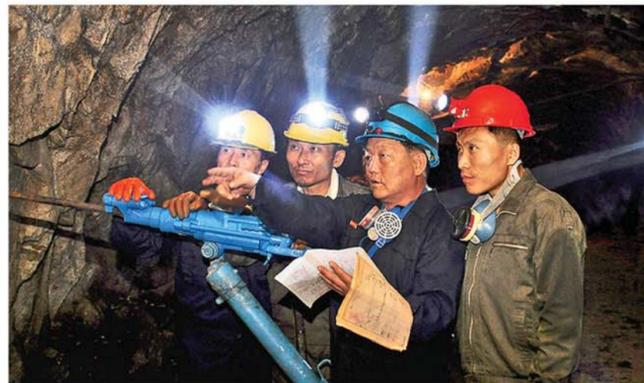
peninsula due to the incessant acts of provocation for war of the hostile forces, the officers and men of the Korean People's Army maintained full combat readiness and scientists, technicians and workers in the munitions industry sector steadily improved the national nuclear force, thereby firmly defending peace and security in the peninsula and the rest of Northeast Asian region.



Ryomyong Street, the Pyongyang Bag Factory and other light industry factories helpful to improving the people's livelihood have been built magnificently to demonstrate the valiant spirit of socialist Korea



A production boom has been brought about in machine-building and metallurgical industries and other economic sectors in spite of mounting sanctions moves of the US and its following forces



Ko Kyong Chan-led Hero Workteam of the April 5 Pit at the Kumgol Mine under the Komdok Mining Complex and many other units have carried out their annual national economic plans far ahead of schedule in a dynamic drive to create the Mallima speed

Mega events that occurred in the DPRK this year did not come of their own accord, nor were they a godsend.

The eye-opening events which lifted the dignity of the country to the top level owe much to the outstanding wisdom, matchless courage, adroit strategy and indefatigable self-sacrifice of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

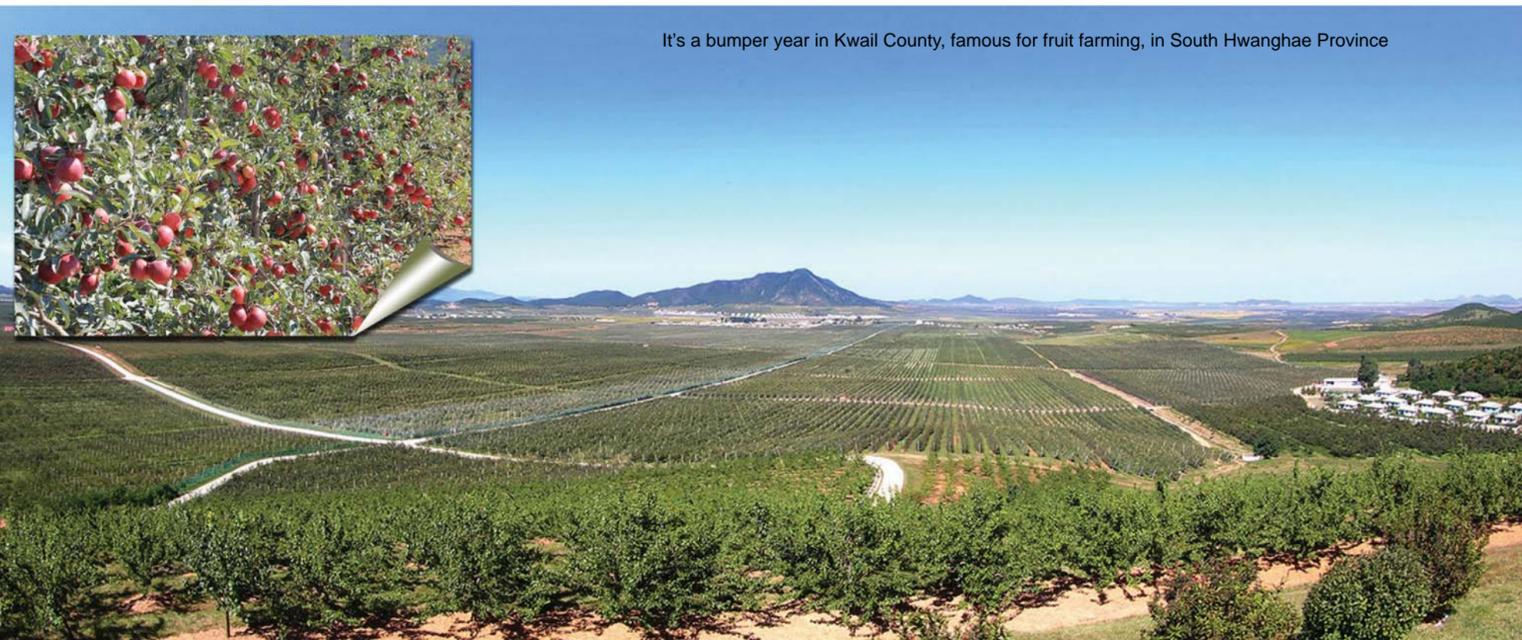
The world's progressives raised voices of admiration and support to the DPRK which follows the road of independence, Songun and socialism faithfully, frustrating the "sanctions resolutions" and anti-DPRK moves of the imperialist allied forces and other riffraff by dint of the infinite strength of single-mindedness and the spirit of self-reliance and self-development.

Proudly looking back on the year, all the service personnel and people advance towards the hopeful future, full of confidence in victory, keeping in mind the truth that their future is rosy as they are led by the Supreme Leader.

Article: Choe Kwang Ho



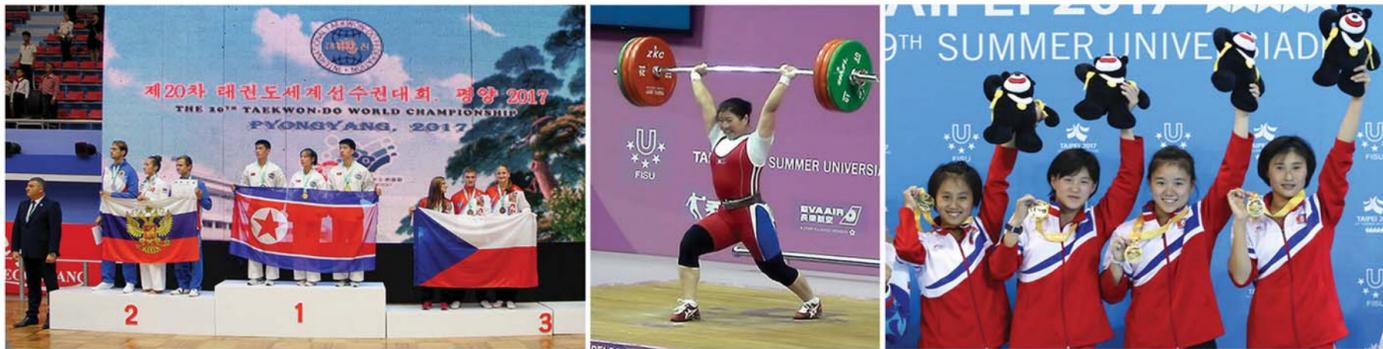
First damming up has been finished at Section 3 in the second stage project of Honggondo tideland reclamation



It's a bumper year in Kwail County, famous for fruit farming, in South Hwanghae Province



Primary and middle schools for orphans and sanatoriums for war veterans have been built across the country



Athletes have exalted the honour of the country with gold medals at international games like the 20th Taekwon-Do World Championship and the 29th Summer Universiad



The DPRK has emerged as a nuclear power of Juche and world military power as the defence science sector made the March 18 and July 4 revolutions and the triumphant ICBM launch on July 28 according to the Workers' Party of Korea's plan for building the strategic nuclear force



Entertainers of the State Merited Chorus, Moranbong Band and Wangjaesan Art Troupe inspire all the people to the building of a powerful socialist country by dint of novel and innovative artistic activities





The Monument to the Victorious Battle of Pochonbo

Immortal Exploits in Laying Eternal Foundation of Revolution

Whenever December comes round, the Korean service personnel and people look back with deep emotion upon the immortal exploits of Chairman Kim Jong Il who laid an eternal foundation for the completion of the cause of the Juche revolution. This year they are greeting the sixth December since the Chairman passed away, with more fervent yearning for him amid the drive for building a powerful socialist country on the strength of self-reliance and self-development and single-hearted unity.

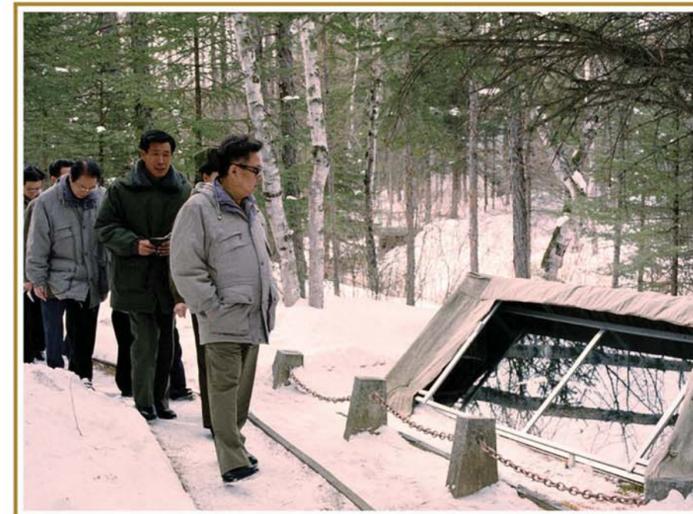
The Chairman regarded the defence and embodiment of the revolutionary traditions of Juche established by President Kim Il Sung as a fundamental

issue decisive of the destiny of the Party and revolution, and led wisely the efforts to this end in the whole period of leading the revolution.

In June Juche 45 (1956), he embarked on a study tour of revolutionary battle sites in the Mt Paektu area, which marked the beginning of education in revolutionary traditions through such tour and a turning point in defending and developing the traditions. His tour helped the whole country establish a correct viewpoint and attitude to the revolutionary traditions, and it was followed by such education through tours of revolutionary battle and other sites and the work to turn this area into a powerful base for the education.



Chairman Kim Jong Il providing on-the-spot guidance for the construction of the Lake Samji Area Revolutionary Battle Site in March Juche 98 (2009)



Chairman Kim Jong Il looking round the Mupho Bivouac in March Juche 89 (2000)

The Chairman fully clarified matters of principle and tasks to be tackled in the work to protect and add brilliance to the traditions of the Workers' Party of Korea in his immortal works like *Let Us Develop the Revolutionary Traditions of Juche down through Generations*, and led the efforts to uninterruptedly intensify the undertaking as required by the times and developing revolution.

Under his wise leadership, a drive involving the whole Party and society



Chairman Kim Jong Il making the rounds of the Mt Ongnyon Secret Camp in May Juche 90 (2001)

was pushed to collect, pigeonhole and systematize all data on the President's revolutionary history and revolutionary sites and museums were built across the country, thereby turning the whole country into a school for education in revolutionary traditions.

During study tours made amid nationwide and society-wide enthusiasm service personnel, working people and students keenly realized how the Korean

Service personnel, working people and students harden their resolve to add eternal brilliance to the revolutionary traditions of Paektu as they visit the Korean Revolution Museum and make study tours of revolutionary battle sites



revolution was started and how the bright future of the Juche revolution was shaped, making up their mind to carry forward the revolutionary traditions of Paektu.

The Chairman put forth the militant slogan *Let us produce, study and live like the anti-Japanese guerillas!* and made sure that the revolutionary traditions were applied in all sectors of socialist construction and in all aspects of social life, with the result that the whole country brimmed with the revolutionary working spirit and way of life.

In the 21st century he visited the revolutionary battle sites in the Mt Paektu area on many occasions to point to the need to refurbish, preserve and manage better the revolutionary sites and intensify education through them. And he showed great concern for the work to invariably add brilliance to the revolutionary traditions of Paektu in the new century, too.

Thanks to the ideological and spiritual assets for eternal national prosperity the Korean people have become able to be a people of strong ideas and faith and make miraculous achievements in the revolution and construction generation

after generation.

The immortal exploits of Chairman Kim Jong Il who reliably inherited the revolutionary traditions to exalt the honour and might of Juche Korea and lay a solid foundation for the victorious advance of the Korean revolution, will shine forever along with the brilliant future of the socialist country that will thrive under the leadership of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

Article: Hong Jong Mi



Chairman Kim Jong Il inspecting a unit under the Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105th Tank Division of the Korean People's Army in January Juche 99 (2010)



Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un talking to an officer of a unit under direct command of the Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105th Tank Division of the KPA in January Juche 101 (2012)

Developing into an Impregnable Unit

Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105th Tank Division of the Korean People's Army is proud of its history adorned with the immortal exploits brilliant commanders of Mt Paektu made for the development of the KPA.

Chairman Kim Jong Il, shouldering the responsibility for the destiny of his country and nation and defending their sovereignty and dignity, continued his endless journey to military units throughout his life. His visit to Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105th Tank Division on August 25, Juche 49 (1960) marked the start of his Songun-based revolutionary leadership.

That day Kim Jong Il who accompanied Kim Il Sung on his inspection of the division told officials that the service personnel should hold high the slogan, *Let us defend with our very lives the Party Central Committee headed by the respected Comrade Kim Il Sung!* He also specified such tasks and ways in strengthening the combat capability as intensifying combat and political training and taking good care of weapons and technical equipment.

Afterwards, he visited the division several times, gave detailed instructions on the employment of tanks in modern warfare and necessary tactics, and explained the orientation and ways of training tankmen into competent personnel, thus developing the division into an invincible tank division capable of defeating any formidable enemy.

On the morning of New Year's Day in Juche 101 (2012) the KPA

Supreme Commander Kim Jong Un visited the guards division as his first official inspection.

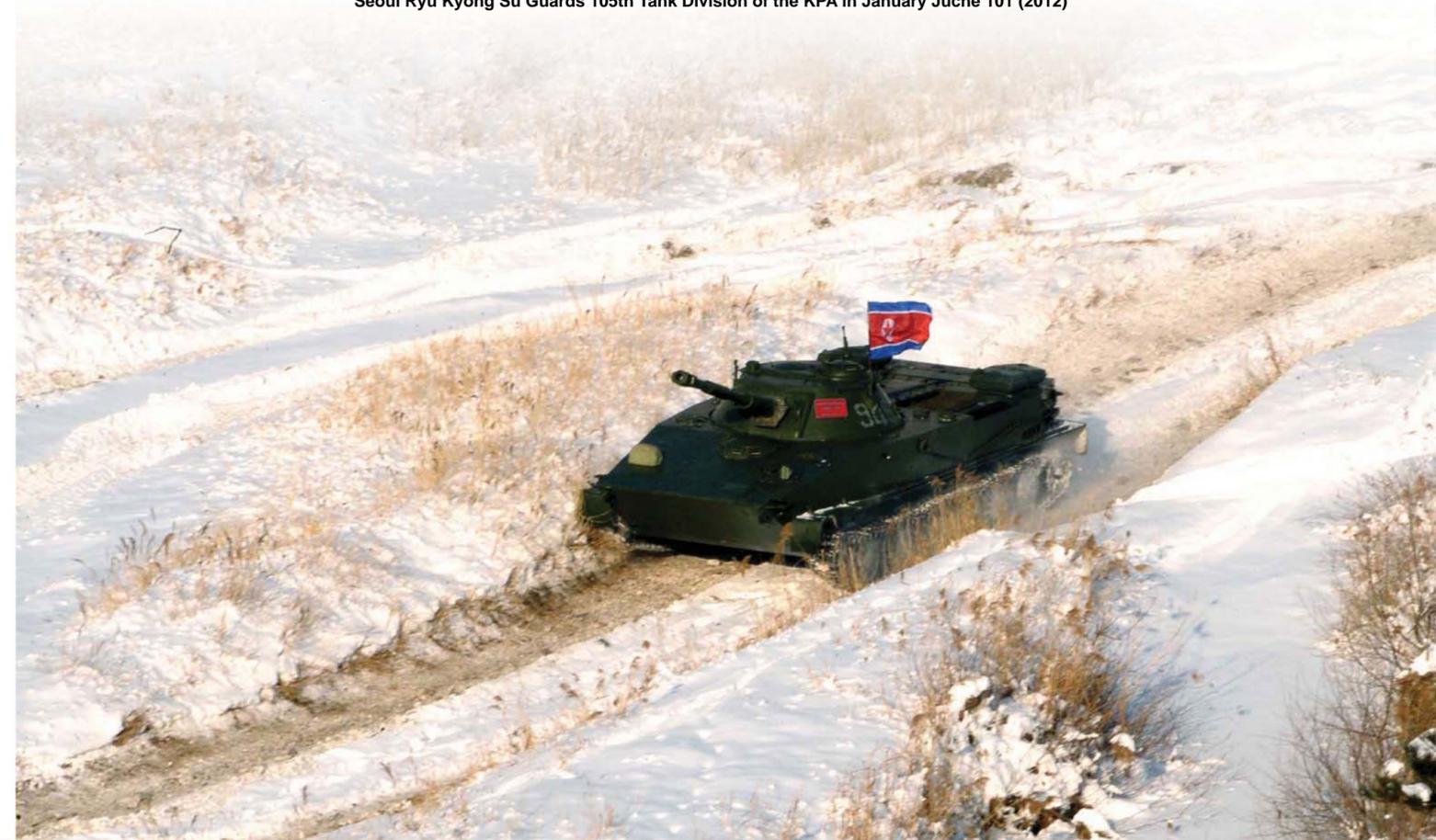
Shaking hands with the commanding officers, the Supreme Commander said he had come to see them, who must have spent the days in tears of blood after losing Chairman Kim Jong Il.

That day while looking round several places at the unit, he stressed that the service personnel should be fully aware that they could perform with credit the noble mission for the country and people in wartime only by intensifying training in peacetime and thus conduct intensive training in a revolutionary way and amid fierce flames as the anti-Japanese guerrillas had done on Mt Paektu.

Kim Jong Un implanted in the hearts of the service personnel unshakeable faith and will to share the destiny with comrades-in-arms who were trained by Chairman Kim Jong Il throughout his life, and accomplish the cause of the Juche revolution, arm in arm and shoulder to shoulder with them.

Being proud of its history adorned with the leadership exploits of brilliant commanders of Mt Paektu associated with the division, all the service personnel of Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105th Tank Division are striving to build up their capacity in an all-round manner through intensive training.

Article: Kim Chung Bok



Brilliant Life

The Korean service personnel and people are greeting the centenary of the birth of Kim Jong Suk, the anti-Japanese war heroine, amid the vigorous struggle to build a thriving socialist country.

Kim Jong Suk dedicated her life to the accomplishment of the cause of the Juche revolution, lived as the most faithful bodyguard of Kim Il Sung, and carried on the lineage of the Korean revolution.

On December 24, Juche 6 (1917) she was born into a poor peasant's family on Osan Hill, Hoeryong, North Hamgyong Province. Hers was a patriotic and revolutionary family. Setting out in her early days on the revolutionary struggle led by Kim Il Sung, the sun of the nation, she joined the Korean People's Revolutionary Army and took part in the anti-Japanese armed struggle until Korea was liberated on August 15, 1945.

Always believing in the greatness, validity, veracity and vitality of Kim Il Sung's revolutionary ideas, lines and policies, she cherished the noble loyalty to the leader and the spirit of defending the leader unto death as an element of her unshakeable faith, the criteria of all her thoughts and practices and her lifelong motto, and staunchly safeguarded his ideas and lines.

Defending the security of Kim Il Sung and taking responsible care of his health were her greatest mission and most important duty. Therefore, she guarded Kim Il Sung death-

defyingly not only in ordinary times but even in fierce battles, herself becoming a human bullet and shield. Typical battles were those at Hongqihe in March 1940 and at Dashahe in early summer of 1940.

Kim Jong Suk accepted the orders and instructions of Kim Il Sung as the most sacred and displayed boundless devotion and a self-sacrificing spirit in implementing them unconditionally and thoroughly.

When she was given a task of making 600 military uniforms by Kim Il Sung in the autumn of Juche 28 (1939) to ensure the success of the large-unit circling operations, she accomplished the task ten days ahead of schedule. She also fulfilled the task of laying solid mass foundations for the revolution in the homeland and in the border area along the Amnok River at the highest level.

After Korea was liberated Kim Jong Suk devoted herself to implementing the lines of building the Party, state and armed forces put forth by Kim Il Sung.

She directed deep concern to consolidating the primary Party organizations, awakened women to turn out in the building of a new Korea, and assisted Kim Il Sung in drafting the platform and constitution for the unified government to be established.

She also paid great attention to developing the Korean People's Revolutionary Army into the Korean People's Army, a modern regular army, upholding the intention of Kim Il Sung.



Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Suk during the anti-Japanese armed struggle [March Juche 30 (1941)]



Birthplace of Kim Jong Suk at Hoeryong



Pistols Kim Jong Suk used during the anti-Japanese armed struggle



The Sokjon Tailor Shop where Kim Jong Suk organized the Singalpa branch of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland and a Party group



The trees bearing the slogans Kim Jong Suk wrote at the Chongbong Bivouac



Young Kim Jong Il with his parents in March Juche 36 (1947)



Kim Jong Suk attending the second graduation ceremony of Central Military Academy No. 1 together with President Kim Il Sung and young Kim Jong Il in October Juche 37 (1948)

One of the greatest exploits she performed was that she brought up Kim Jong Il to be the successor to Kim Il Sung, brilliant sun of the era of independence, who would carry forward the cause of the Juche revolution.

Kim Jong Suk who devoted her life to achieving victory in

the cause of the Juche revolution will be remembered for ever in history as a paragon of revolution and woman general of Mt Paektu.

Article: Kang Su Jong



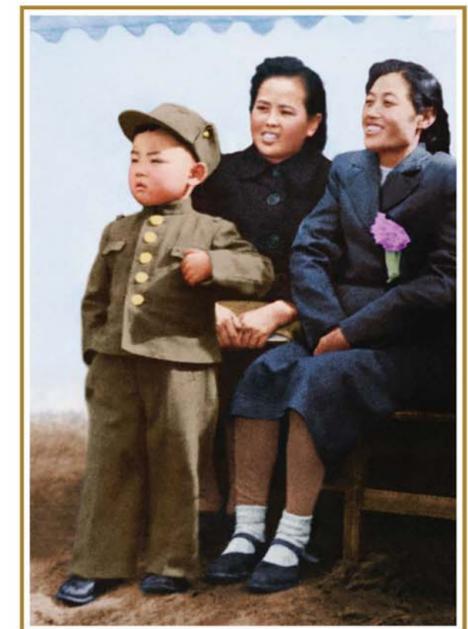
Kim Jong Suk among local women's union officials in September Juche 36 (1947)



Kim Jong Suk taking part in the election to deputies in March Juche 38 (1949)



School uniforms of Mangyongdae Revolutionary School are also associated with the noble intention of Kim Jong Suk



Kim Jong Suk attending the inaugural ceremony of Mangyongdae Revolutionary School together with young Kim Jong Il in October Juche 36 (1947)

Cement Production Boosted



The Sangwon Cement Complex, a giant cement producer in the DPRK, is boosting production.

Since its inauguration in April Juche 78 (1989) the complex has made tangible contribution to carrying out the policies of the Workers' Party of Korea.

This year, critical to implementing the five-year strategy for national economic development, it brought about an upsurge in production.

It set up a process of igniting kilns by using locally available lignite and anthracite and producing refractories, putting a stop to the import of heavy oil.

On the basis of analysis of massive amounts of latest data, the technical staff developed over a hundred facilities like pressure blower and dust collector, and key materials like briquette binder with the help of researchers from Kim Chaek University of Technology.

The Sangwon Limestone Mine, an affiliate of the complex, excavated a vertical tunnel to cut short the long hillside transport route, saving a considerable amount of fuel and making possible to mass-cut limestone.

With the cement revolving furnace, large-size calcinatory, limestone mine and refractories factory going into top gear, the complex registered an all-time high in production this year.

Article & photo: Ri Myong Guk



The complex has surpassed the peak year level in cement production this year by operating equipment at full capacity



NEW-MODEL TRACTORS ARE MANUFACTURED

True to its proud tradition of manufacturing a tractor for the first time in the DPRK by displaying the spirit of self-reliance, the Kumsong Tractor Factory is seething with a new-model tractor production.

It set the goal of launching serial production of new-model 80hp tractors this year that is of key importance in implementing the five-year strategy for national economic development, and pushed ahead with the work of perfecting

production lines and producing spare parts in a three-dimensional way.

Its working people upgraded equipment like vertical milling and spline grinding machines into CNC machines by their own efforts and technology to secure a high accuracy in processing and increase in production. At the same time, they completed the standardized designs in conformity with the topographical conditions of the country's rural areas by simultaneously carrying out designing and manufacturing of jigs and equipment.

Precedence was given to the production of accessories including rotators and stators of hydraulic steering.

The casting workshop actively introduced innovative techniques so as to lower the production costs and increase the actual casting rate, and boosted production of transmission cases, clutch casing and other casting products.

Precision of the parts was ensured in the automation workshop by its stern observation of the standardized designs.

The assembly workshop where various parts were assembled on the flow line was buzzing with the roaring sounds of tractors on trial.

The factory is stepping up the manufacture of new-model tractors in its vigorous efforts to implement the decisions of the Second Plenary Session of the Seventh Central Committee of the WPK.

Article: Pak Pyong Hun
Photo: Ri Kwang Song





Thread check room



Submerging process

Silk-reeling workshop

Boom in Silk Thread Production

Jagang Province is well known for sericulture, and the Huichon Silk Mill in the province is leading the way in local economy.

The mill always ensures a full operation of all facilities despite the harsh economic sanctions by the US and its followers.

In order to economize materials and fuel and improve quality and productivity, it attaches importance to the strict observation of standard regulations in operating machines and good maintenance of them while channelling efforts into automating the production processes and upgrading the facilities.

The introduction of an innovative facility to unravelling cocoons has raised the efficiency to over 98%.

An integrated production system has been applied to the cocoon boiling process and more than 20 technical ideas have been translated into practice, cutting the fuel consumption by over 25% and increasing the output of high-quality silk threads 1.5 times.

With its annual production plan fulfilled at 130% as of early October, the mill has set a higher goal.

Article: Pak Hun
Photo: An Chol Ryong



Re-reeling workshop

Socialist Education System Guaranteed by Law

The Socialist Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea stipulates the education system in its articles from 43 to 49 of Chapter Three.

The education system in the DPRK is composed of the universal compulsory and free education, study-while-you-work system, and pre-school education.

All the people in the DPRK have access to the universal compulsory education.

The universal 12-year compulsory education now in force in the DPRK provides the rising generation, until they reach working age, with complete secondary general education. It comprises one-year preschooling, five-year primary school course, three-year junior middle school course and another three-year senior middle school education.

As it is based on a scientific education system and is free in a thoroughgoing way, the comprehensive 12-year compulsory education brings up the new generations to be stout pillars of the country who are knowledgeable, morally sound and physically strong by giving fullest play to their aptitudes and talents.

In the DPRK where the state assumes full responsibility for education of the people the education system is completely free.

The state took measures to enforce free education immediately after the country's liberation (August 15, 1945) in spite of its difficult economic

situation, and introduced a universal free education in Juche 48 (1959) in which educational work at all educational institutions was conducted at state expense.

Accordingly, all the children and students studying at educational establishments at all levels, from kindergartens to universities, are given education free of charge, and university students receive scholarships. All sorts of social education are also available gratis, and education for officials and working people at state expense.

In the DPRK those working in various fields of society are engaged in a certain kind of learning without halting their production activities or leaving their jobs.

The study-while-you-work system comprises online university and factory, farm and fishermen's colleges, and those involved in this system are students and, at the same time, producers and serving officials.

With the establishment of a distance education system as required by the developing times, Mirae digital libraries and other sci-tech learning spaces have been set up across the country to make all the member of society raise their level of scientific and technological knowledge, rendering a great contribution to developing theirs into a talent power.

Thanks to the system of bringing up and educating children at nurseries and kindergartens at

state and public expense established in the DPRK, all the children are giving full play to their aptitudes and talents and growing up happily and brightly.

The Korean people, enjoying the benefits of socialist education system guaranteed by law, are learning to their heart's content and preparing themselves fully for the building of a socialist power.

Article: Kang Su Jong

Photo: Ri Myong Il



The DPRK channels great efforts into pre-school education as well

Schoolchildren grow up to be the pillars of the country with profound knowledge, sound morality and physical fitness, enjoying the benefits of universal 12-year compulsory education



Students prepare themselves to be competent personnel, receiving scholarships from the state



Working people acquire profound scientific and technological knowledge at colleges under the study-while-you-work system as well as at sci-tech learning spaces





Happy Life at Sinchang

A drive along the Sariwon-Haeju Road, passing by Lake Jangsu, an artificial lake in Sinwon County, South Hwanghae Province, will present a picturesque farm village to the right of Haeju City.

This cosy and neatly-arranged residential area along the foot of a hillock is the newly-built seat in Sinchang-ri, Sinwon County.

In October Juche 35 (1946) President Kim Il Sung visited Sinchang-ri together with young Kim Jong Il and anti-Japanese war heroine Kim Jong Suk to acquaint himself with the living conditions of local farmers and instructed them how to improve their living.

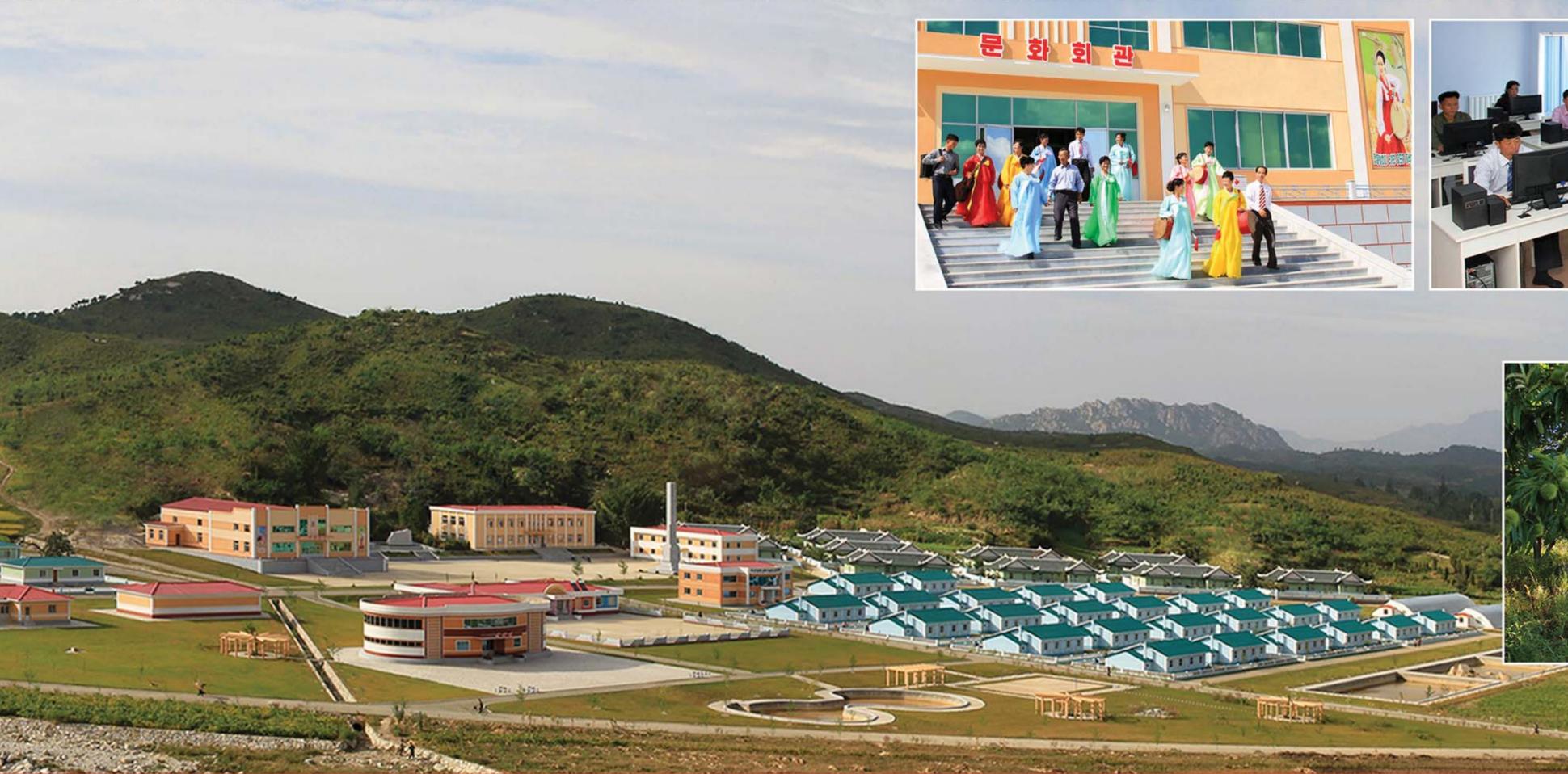
With a firm determination to turn their community associated with the leadership exploits of the peerlessly great persons of Mt Paektu into a socialist paradise, officials

and builders of the province and farm workers of the ri turned out for sprucing up the seat in line with the requirements of the new century.

In a little over a year, they built scores of farm houses, Sinchang Health Complex with comprehensive public service amenities, an agricultural sci-tech learning space, a fish farm, and vegetable greenhouses. They also built a new bridge across the Kuam Stream and dykes on its banks, and completely refurbished the Kuam Branch of the Sinchang Senior Middle School, kindergarten, nursery, polyclinic, hall of culture, shop and others.

Full of great excitement and joy of having created cultured living conditions on a par with urban living, the local farmers work hard to increase agricultural production.

Article & photo: Kim Yun Hyok



The farm village is furnished with educational, health and cultural facilities including a hall of culture, agricultural sci-tech learning space and kindergarten



Teacher on Remote Island



Han Hye Yong

On the sea west of Cholsan County, North Phyongan Province, is the Pansong Islands consisting of Jang, Chaek, Won and Suun.

Suun was named thus as its inhabitants carried drinking water from the land in the past.

But this remote island where only the sound of waves is heard has a school for children.

It is a branch of the primary school attached to the Teacher Training College under Phyongbuk University.

Han Hye Yong is the only teacher on the island, and she has taught the children of lighthouse keepers over the past four decades.

In October Juche 63 (1974) the state took a measure to build schools on islands with lighthouses, for the people there missed their children studying far off on the land. As a result a branch school was set up on the island in September Juche 66 (1977).

Han, a girl teacher at the principal school at the time, volunteered to teach there.

There at the branch, she devoted her all to impart a great stock of knowledge to the students with the mind to train them into future pillars of the country.

She got married to a discharged soldier who, having heard of her sincerity, came to settle on the island.

She often burnt midnight oil making teaching aids and procured stuffed specimens, story books and reference books as she frequented the land.

As children on islands lacked in knowledge about natural things, Han built a plant plot and forest as teaching aids in spite of unfavourable weather and other conditions on the island. She together with her students planted and grew trees including clammy locust, cryptomeria, oak, maple and linden in order to instil into them ardent love for their country.

In recognition of her long years of devotion to younger generation, the state

awarded her Kim Il Sung Youth Honour Prize and called her to the Eighth Congress of the Korean Children's Union, the 13th National Conference of Educational Workers, the Third National Meeting of Mothers, National Meeting of Heroes and other state-level meetings.

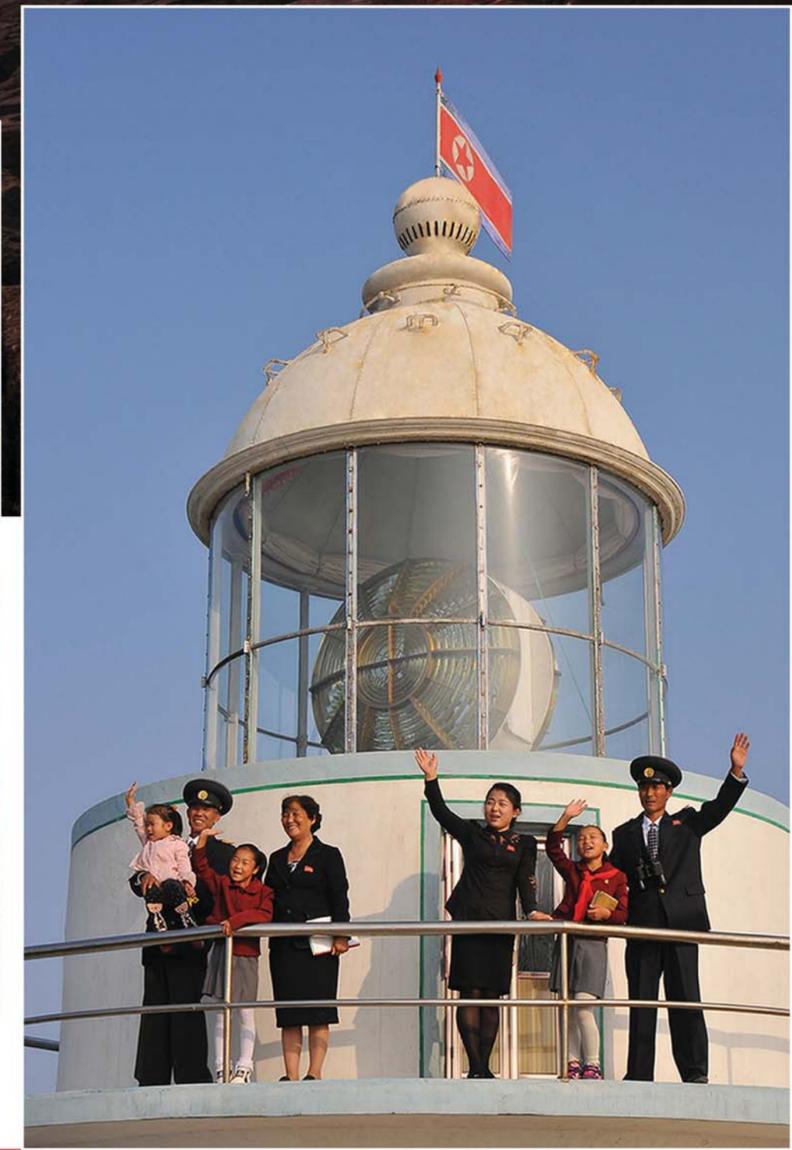
Last September she was honoured to have a photo taken with Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

With the honour in mind, she is still devoting herself to teaching the island children.

Article: Pak Pyong Hun
Photo: Hong Kwang Nam



She implants love for the country into pupils while teaching them a wide range of knowledge



Decades Devoted to Medical Treatment

The locals say Kim Ju Jin, researcher at the clinical medicine institute of the South Hwanghae Provincial People's Hospital, is a man of



Kim Ju Jin, Prof, PhD and Merited Doctor, during surgical operation (second from right)

passionate enthusiasm. He, despite his advanced years, devotes his all, tireless energy, sincerity and great knowledge, to his career, medical treatment of patients and development of surgery.

Over the past several decades since he began his career as a doctor, he has so far performed more than 5 600 surgeries and saved over 1 100 serious cases from the jaws of death.

He was born the eldest son to a tenant farmer in Kokku-ri, Riwon County, South Hamgyong Province, when Korea was under the Japanese military occupation, and lost his father at the age of six.

He began to work in his childhood to help his mother, but he could not do farming on their land nor earn enough food and money for learning as they had no country and land of their own.

The country's liberation on August 15, Juche 34 (1945) brought him all he wanted.

As the country proclaimed Agrarian Reform Law, his family received several thousand square metres of fertile land free of charge and he became a student.

He was happy, but he often thought of his father who had died without having a dose of medicine. So after graduating from the middle school he wished to enter the then Pyongyang University of Medicine. He studied hard at it, and after graduation he worked at the South Hwanghae Provincial People's Hospital



Giving students a clinical lecture

as a surgeon, head of surgical department, deputy-director for technical affairs, and director. He is now a researcher at the same hospital. Over the past 55 years he devoted his enthusiasm and sincerity to improving public health. And in the period he introduced over 30 operation methods, trained dozens of doctors to win academic degrees or titles and wrote many books and reference books

including *Surgical Encyclopaedia* and *Abdominal Surgery*.

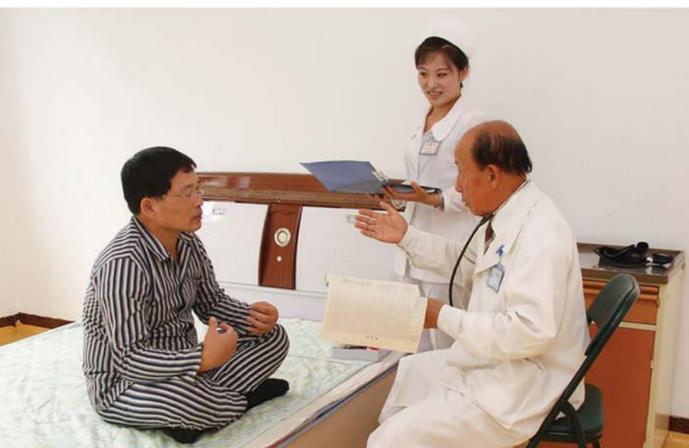
He was awarded a wrist watch bearing the name of President Kim Il Sung and many state decorations, the titles of Merited Doctor, Professor and PhD.

In February Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un sent him a birthday party

spread to congratulate him on his 80th birthday.

Still he is putting his heart and soul into his job to support the country's public health policy.

Article: Kim Son Gyong
Photo: Ri Myong Il



Devoting his all to the treatment of patients with passion



At home



The 15th National Korean Costume Show

The 15th national Korean costume show that ran in Pyongyang in September on the theme of "Our Cloth, Our Clothes" showcased the development of dress culture made in conformity with the aesthetic sensibilities of the times in the DPRK that is building a civilized socialist power.

The show brought together more than 700 pieces of traditional clothes, including casual and holiday wear, wedding dresses and children's clothes, and 50 odd pairs of traditional leather shoes presented by professional tailors, experts, students and housewives across the country.

Such traditional costumes as *paji* (trousers) and *jogori* (jacket) for men, *chima* (skirt) and *jogori* (jacket) for women, *jokki* and *paeja* (waistcoats for men and women), *magoja* (jackets worn over upper garments), *tangui*

(women's ceremonial suit), and *turumagi* (Korean overcoats) caught the eyes of people.

The costumes on display were highly appreciated, as they gave bright and elegant impressions while satisfying the tastes and aspirations of the Korean people, and preserved national identity while conforming to modern sense of beauty by dint of developed processing techniques.

Conspicuous in the show were leather shoes in various kinds.

During the show there were fashion shows, a lecture on the making of traditional clothes and experience sharing.

Article: Kim Ok Gyong

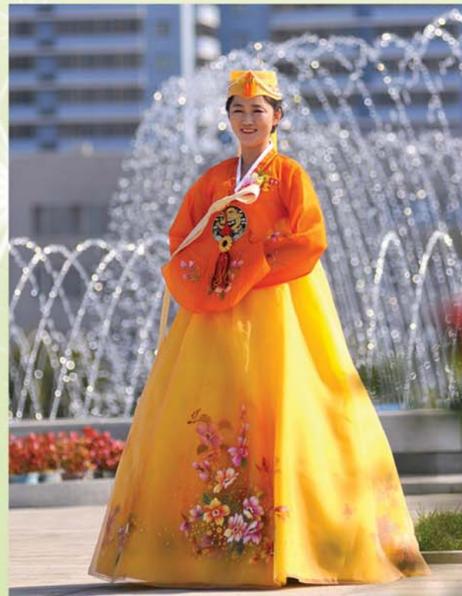
Photo: Choe Won Chol



Traditional clothes on display are popular with visitors as their shapes, colours and patterns meet the aesthetic sense of the times while preserving national characters



Awarding ceremony



Exhibited traditional costumes





Disabled Persons Realize Their Hopes

Everyone has his or her hope. They, however, cannot bring their hope into full bloom without the embrace to tend them. I am going to say about the embrace of love that takes care of us disabled persons to bring our hopes into full bloom.

... .. This is the first part of the notes "Home of Hope" written by Jo Sol Hyang, a physically disabled person. As a polio victim, she has been confined to a wheelchair since her childhood, but thanks to the benefits of state policy to protect the disabled and social concern she learned to her heart's content and became a member of literary group of the Korean Art Association of the Disabled. In her work Jo expressed her emotional feelings that the disabled persons in the DPRK do not worry about their future thanks to the grateful socialist country that brings their hopes into full bloom.

Not only Jo but other persons with hearing, visual, locomotive and other impairments are enjoying their happy and worthwhile life, provided with jobs according to their aptitudes and likings, under the state protection and social concern.

Reading room for the disabled persons at the Sci-Tech Complex provides favourable conditions for them to have access to a variety of information.

The disabled persons learn and practise tailoring, woodworking and others at the special schools.

Kim Sung Il at the Korean Art Association of the Disabled, though he has a hearing impairment, is making violins with keen visual and touching sensitivities. His products are favoured by professionals.

The disabled persons take an active part in sports and artistic activities.

Not only those bereft of one arm or leg but also those with no arms or paralyzed legs play table tennis, swimming and archery, and they win medals



Persons with disabilities lead a pleasant and fulfilling life according to their aptitudes and hobbies



in Paralympics and other international sports games.

Those with music talents improve their artistic abilities under the guidance of instructors of the Association and take part in artistic performances, evoking great admiration of the audience at home and abroad.

When the Pyongyang exchange group of persons with disabilities toured Britain last May and gave their performances, the audience, deeply impressed to see those with disabilities giving full play to their artistic talents, said they hardly believed they were persons with disabilities.

At present the disabled persons in the DPRK are realizing their hopes to the full, feeling the delight in life.



Article: Kim Thae Hyon
Photo: Choe Myong Jin



The Pyongyang exchange group of the disabled is highly acclaimed by the audience in London, the UK, in May Juche 106 (2017) for the high artistic skills of performers



