



- Yangdok Hot Spring Resort
- Popular Ceramics Exhibition House
- World of Prodigies

# KOREA TODAY

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Juche 109  

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(2020)



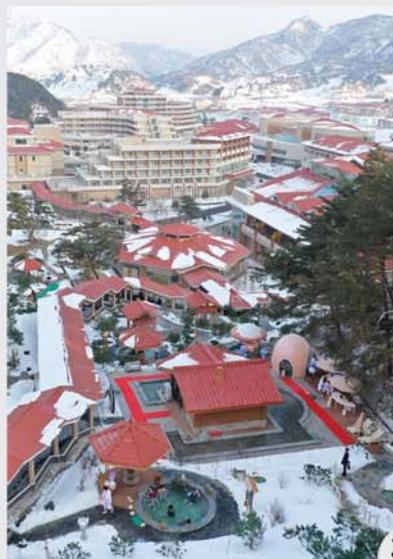
## Silver Ornament

A gift presented to President Kim Il Sung by Kaleda Zia, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in April 1992



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**Front Cover: Yangdok Hot Spring Resort in the morning**

*Photo by Kim Kum Sok*



**Back Cover: Moran Hill in spring**

*Photo by Kim Ji Ye*

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# Yangdok Hot Spring Resort





## Seeing Is Believing

ON THE MORNING OF January 15 my husband and I got on a Pyongyang-Onjong train, bidding farewell to our children. Among the travellers in our carriage were a newly-married couple and another couple with their children. As the train was getting nearer to the Onjong Railway Station, the passengers grew more excited.

On our arrival at the station, buses took us to the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort. When we got off the bus taking in fresh air of the resort sheltered by pine trees, a guide led us to Room 319 in Block No. 5 of a hotel.

Inside the room I drew aside the curtain of the window to look out. Then I called beside myself, "Darling, look at the hill over there. What a wonderful pine wood it is!" My husband also remained open-mouthed as if he were intoxicated by the fresh air.

No sooner had we checked in than we went to the Indoor Spa Baths with a tepid bath, a sunset hibiscus spa bath, a honeysuckle spa bath and so on, all looking like pools in a natural forest. Put up at

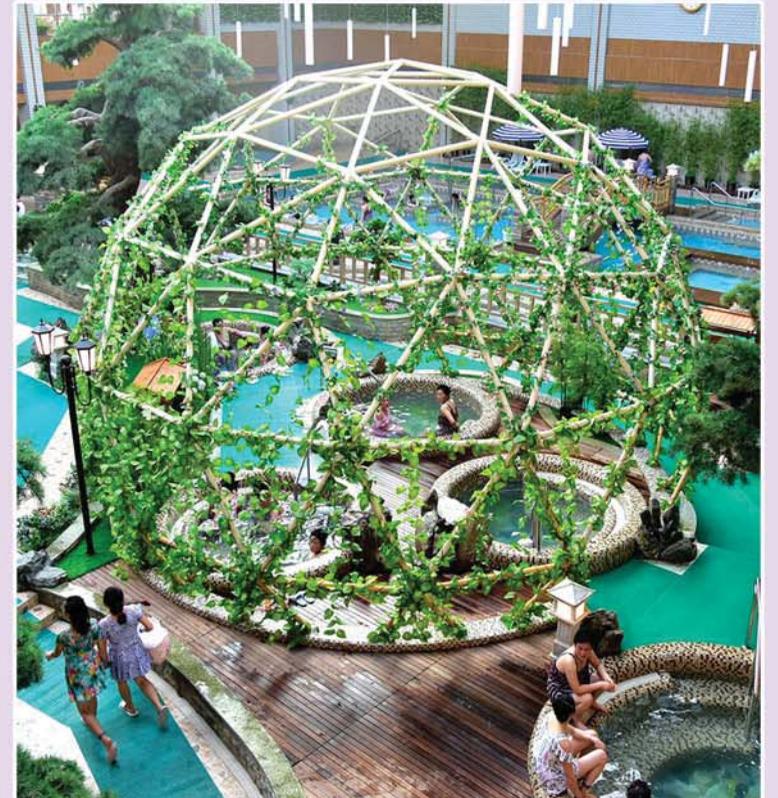
each bath were boards with information on the efficacy and methods of relevant treatment, and each bath had a water temperature display.

I wanted to have a photo taken and looked round for my husband but he was nowhere to be seen. I had to go to a stone-floored sauna, a sand sauna and other saunas until I found him relaxing himself pleasantly under treatment for rheumatism in a mud bath. I got the same treatment, and my waist felt much better.

We also did exercises using different kinds of apparatuses in the fitness room on the first floor, and it was quite refreshing.

▶ The next morning we went to the Outdoor Spa Baths. After changing into special clothes we got there, we entered a long corridor where we were surprised to learn it was not cold at all though it was really winter with the twigs of pines outside the corridor laden heavily with snow. Those who had already passed the corridor were heading for outdoor spa baths.

While bathing in the hot ginkgo leaf, biota leaf, mint and other medicinal spa baths, I was reluctant to



leave the place.

Up the Outdoor Spa Baths where we could enjoy the natural scenery was the Terraced Spa Bath. It was quite pleasant to look down at the surrounding scenery while sitting in the bath.

I was sorry our stay in the resort spanned only a few days. How many days would it take to look round the resort as a whole? We were really reluctant to leave the place.

Even on the train back home I could not contain my excitement because I had been so impressed by the resort.

Not only our children but also our neighbours ask us about our impressions of the resort almost every day. I am embarrassed with their questions because I can hardly give a good account about the place as a whole. I just say, "The Yangdok Hot Spring Resort is very, very good. The scenery is excellent, and you can hardly tell the time when you are enjoying yourself in the wonderful spa baths. There's the saying 'Seeing is believing.' You'd better go to see the resort yourself."

*Hyon Jong Suk, resident of Neighbourhood Unit No. 38, Munhung-dong No. 2, Taedonggang District, Pyongyang*



### ▶ Three Days and Three Nights

At 8 am on January 10 this year I got on a Pyongyang-Onjong train at the Pyongyang Railway Station in the centre of the capital city, guided by the Pyongyang Koryo International Travel Company. I was in the first tourist group to go to the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort.

The train was already crowded with holiday-makers on their way to the resort. Their faces were expressive of their excitement and joy with the expectation of the coming enjoyment.

Soon after I checked in at Block No. 2 in the resort sheltered by pines, I went to the Indoor Spa Baths, where I could enjoy myself in hot, tepid, high-pressure water and some other medicinal baths. What caught my eye in particular were a dozen kinds of spa baths infused with such medicinal herbs as mint, honeysuckle, sunset hibiscus, ginkgo and *Angelica sinensis*. The baths were quite attractive. Especially, the pine needle spa bath was obviously efficacious in promoting blood circulation and treating arthritis, neuralgia, hypertension and insomnia.

I spent the next day all in the Outdoor Spa Baths referred to as a specialty of Yangdok. I felt ▶



▶ an unusual sentiment in the baths engulfed in a hazy fog, a combination of cold midwinter air and steam from the baths. And I could relish both the conspicuous mountain scenery and the uniqueness of the baths that numbered over 30, including a medicinal spa bath, spa bath for couples, terraced spa bath and cottage-style spa bath.

“The Outdoor Spa Baths have a place that is always very popular with the holidaymakers. It is the egg-boiling pool,” said one of the guides there,

inspiring me to go to the pool. I found it shaped like egg. I put some eggs in a chicken-shaped bag, and soaked them in the water. The eggs were half done in 15 minutes and full done in 20 minutes, absorbing medicinal ingredients of the spring water. I cannot forget the special taste of the eggs I ate with appropriate seasonings.

On January 12 I climbed the top of Tae Peak with three fascinating ski slopes. After changing into a ski suit, I toed the line. But as the saying goes ▶



▶ “Talking is easier than doing,” I found skiing hard at first. But with the help of a guide who taught me how to warm up, stop, turn and other basic skills, I could ski down a track to the end.

As darkness began to fall, the resort turned into another world with bright light from windows and the ski slopes looking like three unfolded rolls of silk. Every corner of the area reverberated with pleasant sounds and happy singing until late at night.

The three days and three nights I spent there were not long, but they were enough to let me picture in my mind the brighter future of the country.

*Kim Kwang Sok,  
senior engineer of the  
Moranbong District  
Water Supply and Sewage  
Management Station*



*Photos taken in early January 2020*



# Korean Nation's History of Using Hot Spring

IN KOREA THE HISTORY of taking a spa bath spans thousands of years. It is recorded in the national classic *Samguksagi* (Chronicles of Three Kingdoms) that in the period of Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668) during King Sochon's reign, his younger brothers, on the pretext of sickness, went to a hot spring to enjoy themselves over amusements, that King Onjo of Paekje (late 1<sup>st</sup> century BC–AD 660) saw to it that a fortress was built in a region named Thangjong as there was a hot spring there and had people live there, and that kings of Silla (early mid-1<sup>st</sup> century–935) would go to the Tongnae Hot Spring for recuperation.

In the period of Koryo (918–1392) the spa bath became more popular, and more and more people enjoyed it. And during the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392–1910) public interest in hot spring grew, and thus the survey of the distribution of hot springs was done on a nationwide scale. Treatment efficacy of different hot springs was newly explained, and the hot spring-based therapies were actively explored.

An old book about hot spring-based therapies describes in de-

tail the precautions to be taken while getting in and out of spa bath, hours and frequency of treatment, and the dietary during treatment. The Korean ancestors studied the formation, characteristics and composition of hot spring and the interrelationship between the water and the human body, and discovered that taking a spa bath was especially efficacious in treating different diseases such as digestive diseases, arthritis, neuralgia from various causes, diseases of circulatory and respiratory systems, women's diseases and skin diseases.

The fact that hot spring is close to the people's life can be proved by the names of places in the country. The names having the Korean letters *on* and *chon* are generally associated with hot springs. Some examples are Myongchon County of North Hamgyong Province, Samchon and Paechon counties of South Hwanghae Province, Onjong-ri of Yangdok County in South Phyongan Province, and Onjong-ri of Kosong County in Kangwon Province.

There are many stories related to hot springs. A typical example is the legend of the Talchon (Jongdal) Hot Spring in

Talchon-ri, Samchon County.

In ancient times the hot spring was surrounded by a marsh. In the summer of a year a skylark with a broken leg perched on the marsh and tried to fly again for several days, flapping its wings. At last the bird flew up again with sound legs. With curiosity the local villagers went to the spot to discover that hot water was gushing out from underground. They called this mysterious water Jongdal (skylark) Onchon (hot spring) in the meaning that it had cured the bird's legs. The name of Talchon-ri was originated from an abbreviated word of Jongdal Onchon.

The Sokthang Hot Spring in Onjong-ri, Yangdok County, South Phyongan Province, and other hot springs were put on the list of the country's natural monuments for their excellent pharmacological actions and treating efficacy.

And there are sanatoriums around the hot springs, making a contribution to the improvement of the people's health and their recreational activity, and efforts are now being made to better the hot spring resorts.

*Rim Ok*

## Architecture for the People

IN THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC of Korea the popular masses are creators and enjoyers of architecture. This is vividly expressed by the belief of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un who makes sure that top priority is given to their aspiration, requirement and convenience in constructing even a single structure.

### “We Have Nothing to Spare for Our Women”

When the whole country was sorrow-stricken at the demise of Chairman Kim Jong Il on December 17, Juche 100 (2011), the matter of building the Breast Tumour Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital was temporarily laid aside.

On learning the fact the Supreme Leader sent a strong building force to the construction site so as to push ahead with the project, and took measures to provide preferentially the materials and equipment necessary for the project.

Several months later, he inspected the construction site to acquaint himself with the details of the construction under way, and gave important instructions related to the project.

When the institute was completed he visited it and looked round several places. He instructed that all elements of the institute should be of world class as it was built for the sake of women and said: We have nothing to spare for our women.

Thus, the following morning, lots of equipment and furnishings sent by the Supreme Leader arrived at the institute.

### 113 Scale Models

One day in March 2012 the Supreme Leader called an official to his office. That day he put forth an ambitious plan to build a modern water park for the people in the Munsu area, and clarified its location, and the ways and method of construction.

The next day he learned in detail about the design of the park. Receiving the report from the relevant officials that the construction would be fairly

expensive, he said that the park was for the people, that they should not spare anything for them, and that they should not worry about the cost. Thus, the designing of the park was done in real earnest.

In those days the Supreme Leader examined the scale models at any time—at midnight, in the early morning and on holiday—suggesting novel ideas. Such scale models numbered 113 in total.

One day he saw to it that a steeper slide should be chosen to install in the park, and said that a float-shaped ornament should be fixed on the upper part of a diving platform to be installed in the outdoor pool.

In this way the Munsu Water Park was built wonderfully.

### Supreme Leader's Happiness

In July 2018 the Supreme Leader inspected Jungphyong-ri, Kyongsong County, North Hamgyong Province, with a plan to build a large-size vegetable greenhouse farm for the people of the province. At that time the area was a major military base.

Looking over a vast stretch of lowland there he said that it would be wonderful when a vegetable greenhouse farm was built there, and that he was very pleased when he did things worthwhile for the people one after another. Then he instructed that the farm village should be built well enough to be a model for the construction of socialist rural culture and a socialist paradise good to live and work in, and set forth the general direction for the construction of the farm and the preparation for its operation.

A month later he visited the place again and gave instructions on different matters arising in the construction of the farm and its management after completion.

As a result, 320 blocks of greenhouses, a tree nursery, and hundreds of dwelling houses went up in the Jungphyong area of 200 hectares in merely a little over a year.

*Kim Hyon Ju*

## Fruit of Enthusiasm



A new kind of shuttering is tested in simulated installation.

**I**S IT POSSIBLE TO BUILD HIGH-RISES ON sand subsoil?

In the past 15-storey buildings on that basis were the highest in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Recently Won Song Rim, a laboratory head, and other researchers of the Architectural Science Institute of Pyongyang University of Architecture have erected 20- and 30-storey buildings in the Wonsan Kalma coast resort whose area consists of fine sand subsoil. What they attached importance to was to prevent large boreholes from being filled with sand as they had to drive huge concrete piles into the holes.

They decided to introduce a construction method of argillization to protect walls. It had already been known that the method is an advanced one of laying foundations for high-rise buildings and skyscrapers on weak beds. But the researchers had no experience in introducing the method, so the process of its introduction was not smooth. Though they poured clay solution around boring bars, the walls of the boreholes would fall down continuously. This was because they failed to meet the technical requirements.

They intensified the research to raise the sci-tech level of the construction method, and had the builders thoroughly meet the technical requirement of the method.

One day, when the driving of hundreds of concrete piles into boreholes was under way at several construction sites, they examined the stiffness of the piles already fixed, and found that it was not proper. It might cause a serious result, so they had to remove discovered shortcomings as early as possible and find out a way to guarantee the quality and schedule of the projects.

At this juncture, the teachers of the aforesaid university came there, and they and the research-

ers pooled their wisdom. While surveying the area again, they noticed a fine-sand layer of certain thickness under the surface of the earth around the piles. They conceived the idea that they could disperse the load of building imposed on the piles if they used the fine-sand layer relatively strong in load bearing.

On the basis of the idea they deepened relevant research, making it possible to strengthen the foundations without driving more piles and finish the projects on schedule. In the course of this they invented a new construction method of using reinforcing piles to prevent buildings from leaning.

Their research achievement invigorated the construction, and the projects were successfully accelerated. Besides, during the construction of the Pyongyang Municipal Sports Village and that of a 70-storey apartment building in Ryomyong Street, they introduced a new method of ground-making, thus helping hasten the completion of the projects despite the sand and mud beds of the sites.

*Sim Chol Yong*



A 70-storey apartment building in Ryomyong Street.

## Offensive for Frontal Breakthrough and Increased Production and Economy

**T**ODAY KOREA IS STRIVING TO SMASH straight through the barriers to the advance of socialist construction by dint of self-reliance. And increased production and economy constitute the main link in the whole chain of the endeavour. Increased production and economy are not raised as a problem only in recent days. The Workers' Party of Korea has consistently stressed it since the first day of its foundation. After the Fatherland Liberation War (1950-1953), the Korean people had to start reconstruction on the debris of war. Then the WPK put forward a militant slogan calling upon the people to maximize production and economy. True to the Party's call, the people conducted the struggle for increased production and economy through a mass movement. They broke the old rated capacities and norms everywhere and tapped reserves for increased production and economy. It was at that time that 120 000 tons of steel was rolled from a blooming mill with only a 60 000-ton annual capacity and that 270 000 tons of pig iron was produced with the equipment of only a 190 000-ton annual capacity. The First Five-Year Plan was carried out two years and a half ahead of schedule in terms of gross industrial output value through an all-people struggle. This greatly helped lay the foundation of socialist industrialization.

On important occasions the WPK sent letters of the Party Central Committee to all its members or made public slogans of the Party Central Committee, stressing the need for increased production and economy.

"Let us produce more, practise economy, and overfulfil the Five-Year Plan ahead of schedule!"

"Let us produce more and practise economy, and thus make the already-built economic foundations prove effective!"

Producing more by economizing on all things to the maximum and finding reserves to the fullest extent was an important matter consistently stressed in the whole process of socialist economic construction. Conducting the struggle for economy was regarded as the expression of infinite love for the country and the people. It has been regarded as the work to do in the whole process of socialist construction, not the temporary one needed at a certain stage.

In recent years various steps have been taken to convert the country's economy into an energy-saving one. All sectors and units of the national economy are making efforts to adopt an energy-saving economy in keeping with their actual conditions. Equip-

ment and production processes have been transformed into the labour- and energy-saving ones; energy-saving machinery and equipment have been developed and produced; and the sector of architectural design introduced zero-energy building techniques so as to build energy-saving buildings and streets.

The sector of agriculture has introduced scientific farming methods including water-saving farming, and fish farming has developed into the labour- and water-saving one.

Economy is just being regarded as production and the expression of patriotism. The Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the WPK held in December last year advanced the tasks of raising a wind of emulation drive for tapping reserves and further increasing production and practising economy in keeping with actual conditions of their own sectors and units.

All working people are now encouraged to turn out in a campaign to increase production to the maximum and save as much as possible. Technical innovation is regarded as an immense reserve for increased production and economy. The management of the Pyongyang Trolley Bus Factory boldly believed in its workers and technicians and encouraged them to fully display their creative power, thus turning the factory into a labour- and energy-saving one. The Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory has saved lots of materials by introducing a new technique of vinyl chloride foaming and established a cost-saving production process by substituting materials available in the province for iron cores. And a nationwide drive is under way to learn from such factories and enterprises that have turned into labour-, energy-, cost-, and land-saving enterprises.

Meanwhile, all sectors and units are striving to improve the quality of their products and creations on the principle of giving priority to quality over quantity. This endeavour is waged as a patriotic struggle by the high-pitched enthusiasm and creative efforts of the working people.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un said that if all citizens made efforts to increase production and practise economy to the maximum so as to create more of their own things and save as much as possible, their economy would remain unperturbed and their living standards would be improved, no matter how hell-bent the hostile forces were on imposing sanctions. All the Korean people keep bearing in mind the Supreme Leader's words.

*Ri Jong Nam*



## Old Home at Mangyongdae

THERE IS A THATCHED HOUSE AT THE foot of Mangyong Hill in the capital city of Pyongyang. Around 1860 a landlord in the city at that time built at the foot of the hill a house for a person who would look after his grave. And a man, Kim Ung U by name, moved to this house as he was so poor. He thus became a grave keeper and a tenant. In the 1910s the third and fourth generations of the man's family were living in the house.

One early morning in the spring of 1912 an old man with a drooping beard in a white Korean over-

coat, reached Mangyongdae. He was searching for the best landscape travelling across the country. On Mangyong Hill he saw the clear and blue water of the Taedong River under the cliff, and the Turu and Konyu islets near the hill and the Rangnang Plain in the distance. Captivated by the bird's-eye view of Mangyongdae he said, "It is backed by mountains and near the river, and I have never seen such a place where the water, wind, topography, trees and grass blend well. Indeed, Mangyongdae is the land which will produce a man of distinction."

was as follows:

One early morning Kim Po Hyon was climbing up Mangyong Hill to bring the firewood he had gathered before. On the way he found a beam coming from the hilltop. With curiosity he rushed up to the peak, where he saw a round cushion about two metres in width in a large open space. A dazzling light from it was illuminating the surroundings. What was more surprising was that an imposing boy was decently sitting on it, looking down at Mangyongdae. With an impulse to embrace the boy the old man ran towards him with open arms but fell down on the ground as a leg of his A-frame carrier got caught by a branch of a tree. He sprang up to his feet unaware of pains lest he should lose the boy, but it was just a mere dream.

Some time later the cry of a newborn baby broke the silence of the dawn, resounding through the whole village. It was on April 15, 1912. The fine countenance, bright eyes and resonant cry—the child resembled the boy that Kim Po Hyon saw in his dream. His birth gave an unusual happiness to the grave keeper's house. His great-grandmother, grandfather (Kim Po Hyon) and grandmother never left his side all day long. The great-grandmother called the child Jungson, meaning that she had a beloved great-grandchild as she had lived long. The child's father Kim Hyong Jik named him Kim Song Ju (President Kim Il Sung's previous name), wishing that he would be a pillar of the country.

Kim Il Sung spent his childhood in Mangyongdae. In every place of Mangyong Hill around which the crystal-clear Taedong River meanders and where beautiful flowers bloom in spring there are many things associated with his childhood including the ash tree he climbed up to attempt to catch a rainbow, the Swing Site, the Sliding Rock, the Warship Rock, the Wrestling Site, a spring, the Study-

► At the time when it was rumoured that Mangyongdae would produce a noble man the story of a dream of the grave keeper Kim Po Hyon (son of Kim Ung U) spread among the villagers. The story

Some of relics kept in the home.



► ing Site and the Angling Site.

In January 1925 he left Mangyongdae with two pairs of straw shoes made by his grandfather as he heard that his father had been arrested by the Japanese imperialists while conducting revolutionary activities in Badaogou of China to win back Korea occupied by Japan. To his friends who were reluctant to part from him, Kim Il Sung said: Though I leave this beautiful Mangyongdae while keeping it in my mind owing to the Japanese today, I will be back home again after destroying the Japanese imperialists without fail. The day of their ruin will surely come.

Later the Korean people referred to his journey from Mangyongdae to Badaogou as *250-mile journey for national liberation*.

It took 20 years for Kim Il Sung to return to Korea. With the victory of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle he organized and led the country was liberated on August 15, 1945. However, he visited his home nearly two months after liberation.

On October 14 that year he, after delivering a speech on his triumphal return at the Pyongyang mass meeting to welcome him, took a ferry to cross the river and visited his home. His father, mother, uncle and younger brother had turned out in the struggle to restore the country, but all of them had fallen down in the struggle. So it was Kim Il Sung alone who returned home after all.

In his reminiscences *With the Century*, he wrote as follows:

**“When I returned home after liberation, my grandmother hugged me outside the brushwood gate and pounded me on my chest, saying: ‘How have you come back alone? Where did you leave your father and mother? Did you not want to return with them?’**

**“With her heart bursting with such deep grief, what was my agony as I walked through the brushwood gate of my old home alone without bringing with me even the bones of my parents who were dead and lying in a far-off foreign land?**

**“After that, whenever I passed through the gate of someone else’s home, I would wonder how many members of the family had gone out through that gate and how many of them had returned.”**

At that time *Pyongyang Minbo* carried an article titled *A Revolutionary’s House in Bloom*, which read as follows:

“...Crops were ripening in the field, and the autumn sky was so blue. As it is said that beau-

tiful mountains and streams produce a hero, General Kim Il Sung was born in the picturesque Mangyongdae. Having heard that the General was coming to the place men and women of all ages came out to the village entrance to meet him on arrival.... Embracing, greetings and cheers...The villagers raised a storm of cheers—the cheers of joy and blessings!

“From today Mangyongdae has the honour of being Mangyongdae not only of Korea but also of the world....

“The scene of the day was an epoch-making one and that of historical significance.”

The grandparents of the President lived in the old home in Mangyongdae to the last moment of their life. When some people were struck with wonder that his grandparents carried manure and did straw matting, the grandfather would say: How can I live a life of ease for the reason that my grandson is leading the country? It is said that farming is the basis of everything, and if I do farming well, it will be helpful for his state affairs.

Afterwards, straw-thatched houses were replaced by new modern houses in farm villages across the country. But the old straw-thatched home of the national leader’s grandparents remained unchanged.

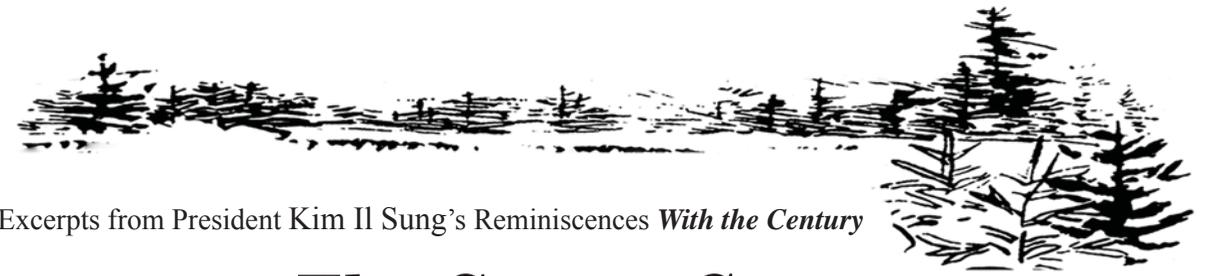
Later some officials built a two-storey house behind the old home at Mangyongdae. Knowing the fact Kim Il Sung took a measure to demolish it. He sternly admonished the officials, saying that it was not suitable to the simplicity of the family in Mangyongdae, and would have bad effect on the people, and that they should be careful not to damage the simple scenery of Mangyongdae again.

As the time went by, the scenery of the place changed much with the appearance of the Korean-style dwelling houses in Namni village, the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School, the Mangyongdae Fun Fair, and so on.

Still, President Kim Il Sung’s old home at Mangyongdae remains as it was; thatch roof, short earthen wall, narrow yard, misshapen jar, and farm implements like a plough.

There is also one thing that has never changed: an endless stream of people visiting the old home. All the Korean people, always remembering Kim Il Sung who shared joys and sorrows with them while always being with them, visit the place again and again. So do the world progressive peoples.

*Yom Song Hui*



Excerpts from President Kim Il Sung’s Reminiscences *With the Century*

## The Secret Camp on Mt. Paektu

**TOWARDS THE END OF August, when the late crop of potatoes was in full bloom, we left the village of Manjiang. The barley in slash-and-burn fields, which had been awaiting the harvest season, had just begun to be reaped.**

We marched southward in silence. All my comrades, ranging from the regimental political commissar Kim San Ho to the boyish orderlies Choe Kum San and Paek Hak Rim, were fully aware of the importance of our advance to Paektu mountain area.

Mt. Paektu was an impregnable natural fortress, so to speak, for its terrain features were so favourable to defence, that even one single man could repel 1,000 attackers. No base was more suited to the expansion of guerrilla warfare than the mountain. Yun Kwan of Koryo and Kim Jong So of the Ri dynasty had fulfilled their heavy duty of national defence and pioneering of the frontier, by basing themselves on that mountain area. On that mountain General Nam I also conceived the high aim of pacifying the country, inscribing his idea in a poetic form on a pumice rock.

Mt. Paektu also provided an ideal fortress for the Korean People’s Revolutionary Army. The

establishment of a new base in this mountain by the revolutionary army to step up its advance to the homeland did not mean that we were abandoning the Manchurian theatre of operation, which had been pioneered with great difficulty. We planned to fight, moving freely around Korea and China from the base in this mountain.

We attached special importance to the mountain as a natural fortress for military action and also as our moral background.

Mt. Paektu, soaring majestically as if the ancestor of this land, is the symbol of Korea and cradle of the 5,000-year-long history of her nation.

The spiritual effect of this mountain on Koreans can be illustrated by the inscription, “Monument to the Dragon God of Heavenly Lake, Guarding Mt. Paektu”, on a rock at the foot of the Janggun Peak, on the shore of Lake Chon. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when the people were feeling apprehensive about the survival of the nation, the monument was erected by the religionists, connected with Taejong faith and Chonbul faith. As the inscription indicates, the people who erected the monument prayed to the Dragon God for the lasting security of the nation.

Their veneration of Mt. Paektu implied veneration of Korea and love for their motherland.

Ever since childhood we loved and venerated Mt. Paektu especially as an ancestral mountain. This was the natural sentiment of the Korean nation. Listening to the stories of Pu Pun No and Ul Tu Ji at the time of Koguryo’s territorial expansion, chanting General Nam I’s magnificent poem, and listening to the accounts of Yun Kwan’s and Kim Jong So’s defence efforts and their pioneering of the frontier, we were deeply moved and fascinated by the forerunners’ patriotic spirit, enshrined in Mt. Paektu.

The mountain, which soared higher and higher in our minds as we grew up, became the symbol of our struggle for national liberation as well as that of Korea.

Our belief that we could only muster all the forces of the nation for resistance and ensure an ultimate victory of the struggle by entrenching ourselves in Mt. Paektu, was derived from our experience of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle during the first half of the 1930s as a natural conclusion drawn from the summary of the struggle.

...

The Sobaeksu valley, reconnoitred by Kim Ju Hyon, Ri Tong

▶ Hak, Kim Un Sin and others, was the first site of the secret camp on Mt. Paektu in the homeland. Mt. Paektu soared approximately ten miles northwest of the valley. About five miles northwest one could see Mt. Sono. Four miles northeast of the valley Mt. Kanbaek rose above a dense forest. The long elevation behind the valley was called the Peak of Saja.

Our arrival in the Sobaeksu valley was a jubilant homecoming after many years of absence. In the historical context of the anti-Japanese revolution, it implied the shifting of our operation centre from eastern Manchuria to Mt. Paektu.

A man's homecoming is a matter of joy for his neighbours as well. But there was no neighbour of ours in the valley lying in the depths of Paektu mountains, from which even "A bird flew away unable to endure the loneliness of the forest," as one poet put it. We were greeted by the sighing forest and murmuring stream. The people in the homeland were still not aware of our arrival in the Sobaeksu valley.

Twenty-five miles south of the place, there were the homeland people who would welcome us warmly, but there were also uninvited guests from the island country, who were aiming their guns at us. If this obstacle had not existed we would have gone to our beloved people and met them in excitement. Fighting the enemy was the only way to meet our compatriots. To fight the enemy, we advanced to Paektu mountain area and began to establish our base in the Sobaeksu valley.

The comrades with me in the valley at that time never imagined that the place would be a fa-

mous historical site, which would attract visitors from the rest of the world.

Without leaving any trace of our movement, we walked up along the water edges of the stream, which was flowing with floating leaves.

Travellers to this place nowadays will never imagine that it was part of a primeval forest half a century ago. The quiet and serenity of the old days have given way to the well-surfaced road, where tourist buses and visitors pass without cease, to the houses for the travellers and travellers' village, as well furnished as fashionable hotels, and to the endless flow of pedestrians and their songs ringing out in all seasons. But in those days we could hardly find a footprint of wild beast in that primeval forest. We were attracted by the exquisite scenery of the valley, which preserved its beauty at the time of genesis and its terrain features, which provided us with a natural fortress.

...

On the day after our arrival I inspected together with other commanding officers, the site of the secret camp, and the sites for barracks chosen by the advance party. I convened an officers' meeting and reviewed our expedition from Nanhutou to Mt. Paektu, debated our task, and then gave assignments to the officers. We aimed to establish the Paektusan Base as soon as possible. It comprised two aspects: the construction of secret camps and establishment of underground revolutionary organizations in the villages around Mt. Paektu.

There were considerable differences in content and form between the guerrilla zone, estab-

lished in eastern Manchuria in the first half of the 1930s and the new Paektusan Base created in the latter half of the decade. The former was a fixed, visible open base of guerrilla warfare, whereas the latter was an invisible revolutionary base, which consisted of secret camps and underground revolutionary organizations, serving as the base of military actions and political activity.

The people in the base in the first half of the decade lived in line with the policy of the people's revolutionary government; the people affiliated with underground organizations in the latter half were under enemy rule in appearance, but in effect acted on our instructions and lines.

Great efforts had to be devoted to the defence of the guerrilla zones in the first half, whereas there was no need to do so in the latter half.

This enabled us to launch guerrilla activity over a wider area. In other words, the change in the form of the guerrilla base meant we could assume an offensive. Therefore, the wider the guerrilla base was expanded, the broader the area of our activity.

...

We intended to expand the guerrilla base, centring on the secret camp on Mt. Paektu, to the wide area of Changbai, and then deep into the homeland along Paekmu and Kaema Plateaus and Rangrim Mountains, and then spread the flames of armed struggle from the northern region to the middle and southern regions of Korea, while at the same time expanding and developing the Party organizations, as well as the united front movement and pushing ahead with preparations

▶ for nationwide resistance.

As the creation of the network of secret camps and laying of the network of underground organizations were burning issues, which our destiny and the victory of the anti-Japanese revolution depended on, we had to direct our attention to the solution of these issues before all else. In the first place, we assigned each unit the task of building secret camps. Kim Ju Hyon was instructed to provide for food and clothing. The two aspects of construction and operation of the secret camps were, in plain terms, our problems of food, clothing and housing.

The recruitment of able assistants for the establishment of the underground network and combat actions to encourage the people to turn out in the sacred cause of national liberation were also important tasks. These tasks were given to Ri Tong Hak's company.

The commanding officers immediately began to carry out their assignments to build the Paektusan Base. Kim Ju Hyon, Ri Tong Hak and his company left us. Many other comrades were also sent away on individual missions to different places. Accompanied by the guards and some members of the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment, I made for Heixiazigou, where we would meet the main body we had parted with at the village of Huanggongdong. Our experiences on our way from the Sobaeksu valley to Heixiazigou were very impressive.

At that time I saw Mt. Sono and the Samdan Falls. The scenery was exquisite. We lost our way and spent a great deal of time in the forest. I still remember our experience at Datuo Hot Spring.

After roaming the forest for more than two hours, unable to find our way, I sent scouts off in many directions. One of them returned with an old man. The old man said that he was living alone on a foot hill of Mt. Paektu and that, on his way back from Manjiang, where he had been to obtain salt and foxtail millet, he met the reconnaissance party. The old man took us to his grass-thatched hut at Datuo. The hut was located by a good hot spring. The water was so hot that the crayfish we had placed there turned red. We took a bath, washed our clothes and cooked crayfish in the hot spring. The Icelanders I watched taking an open-air bath in the depth of winter on television one day reminded me of my own experience at the hot spring.

At that time I talked a lot with the old man. I asked him why he was living in the deep mountain. He said he had been a lowlander, but on seeing the waning stars, had moved to the ancestral mountain.

"If I died a shameful death of an enslaved nation, it would make no difference where I should die. But I wanted to live and die at the foot of Mt. Paektu. My teacher at the village school, who taught me A Thousand Chinese Characters, used to say that the Koreans should live with Mt. Paektu in their embrace and die with it as their pillow. His words were, indeed, a maxim, which should be inscribed on a monument," the old man said.

Following endlessly his narrowed eyes, which were gazing at Mt. Paektu, I solemnly felt as if every phase of his wretched existence were unfolding before my eyes. His words that he wanted to

live at the foot of Mt. Paektu and die with his head resting on the mountain, moved me.

"Well, how do you like Mt. Paektu?"

"Wonderful. Hard as it is to live by growing potatoes and hunting roe, I feel hale and hearty, because I don't have to see the Japanese."

My talk with the old man reaffirmed my belief that Mt. Paektu offered strong moral support for our people. I keenly felt that I was absolutely right to make Mt. Paektu into the strategic centre of the revolution. The old man, who was living alone stoutly in the mountain in his late years, was really patriotic. I regret that I did not ask for his name.

Like the old man Ma in the highlands of Luoizigou, he had many books.

When we were leaving for Heixiazigou after taking a bath at the Datuo Hot Spring, he gave me several story books. Later we built a recuperation centre at the hot spring for the wounded and infirm.

...

By the time I returned to the Sobaeksu valley, after staying some time at Heixiazigou, log houses were built in many sites of the secret camp. The barracks for Headquarters, subordinate units, a printing shop, garment shop, guard house, and checkpoints, had sprung up in the forest.

The doorhandles of the log houses in the secret camp were made of roe-hoofs.

The small roe-hoof handle was engraved on my memory, as if a landmark of a historical period. Since the appearance of the roe-hoof handles on the doors of our "living quarters" on Mt.

► Paektu and the establishment of our home base in the Sobaeksu valley, in other words, the secret camp on Mt. Paektu served as the strategic base of the Korean revolution, as the base for its central leadership.

The secret camp on Mt. Paektu was not only a strategic centre and heart of the Korean revolution; it was also an important operational base, a base of activity, and logistic base.

Many secret bases soon fanned out from this very secret camp to different places in the northern and middle regions of Korea.

...

The secret camp in the Sobaeksu valley was the heart of the network of the secret camp on Mt. Paektu. So we called the camp in the Sobaeksu valley Paektusan Secret Camp No. 1 in those days. Nowadays it is called the Paektusan Secret Camp or Paektu Secret Camp.

...

Mt. Paektu was my “home” during my prime of youth. That “home” contained a large number of my messmates, an incomparably larger number than my family at my childhood home. They stayed with me in that “home”, worked in the rain and snow of Mt. Paektu, and dreamed of today’s homeland.

Not many of the people, who shared weal and woe with me on Mt. Paektu, are still alive. For this reason we could not fulfil early enough the mission of an elder generation to tell the younger generation the revolutionary history of our Party and the results of the forerunners’ struggle, which were imprinted on every fold of Paektu Mountains.

I, too, failed to make the

Paektusan Secret Camp known earlier to the younger generation. The many responsibilities on my shoulders, responsibilities to build the Party, State and Army, burdens of war and postwar reconstruction, did not permit me in my younger days to take time to pay a visit to my home base in Mt. Paektu.

On a number of occasions I told Pak Yong Sun and others to discover during their lives the site of the Paektusan Secret Camp for the younger generation, but even the formerly nimble carpenter and his company failed to find it, although he discovered the sites of the secret camps at Heixiazigou, Diyangxi and Hengshan, which he himself had built, and the camping sites on Chongbong, Pegae Hill and Mupho. But I did not blame them. They had never been to the secret camp in the Sobaeksu valley.

After all, I myself identified the site of the Paektusan Secret Camp, only in my late years. I found some leisure only then and went to the Mt. Paektu area, as I wanted to see the newly-built secret camps in that area. On my way back, I found the terrain round the bridge over the Sobaeksu familiar to me. So I sent some members of the expedition party to the Sobaeksu valley. I told them to climb up the valley until they found a very small piece of grassland at the foot of a crag as high as a hundred fathoms. I emphasized that the valley would not look distinct when seen from outside, because the mountain sides were very close to each other. The forest in that area was so dense and steep until those days, that my senior secretary and my aide-de-camp, who

had been sent to inspect the area to build the Amnok Riverine road for the visitors, lost their way and had a hard time. They were only rescued by the guard company, which had been sent to search for them. It was indeed no less labyrinthian than Mihunzhen. The members of the expedition party and visitors’ group found some trees, where slogans had been inscribed, and then the sites of log houses and camping sites.

In this way the Paektusan Secret Camp came to be shown to the younger revolutionary generation in its original look.

Mt. Paektu is now a school where the second, third, and fourth generations of our revolution learn from the revolutionary spirit of Paektu, cherished by the first generation. A great open-air revolutionary museum has been created on the vast land of Paektu.

With the progress of history the symbolic meaning of Mt. Paektu has grown richer. The mountain began to acquire a new meaning in the latter half of the 1930s on top of its original symbolic meaning.

The “lava” of the revolution to liberate the country, which erupted from the extinct volcano on Mt. Paektu, attracted the attention of 20 million Korean compatriots. Song Yong, a writer who had inspected the places swept by the flames of the anti-Japanese revolution, entitled his travelogue, “Mt. Paektu Is Visible from Anywhere.” As the title indicates, Mt. Paektu has become an active volcano of national liberation, a sacred mountain of revolution, visible from anywhere, since the time when we entrenched ourselves in that mountain. □

## Understanding of the People

TODAY THE PEOPLE ARE regarded as the classes and strata that create material wealth of society and play a progressive role in social development.

But there were no such philosophical categories in the early days of mankind. Originally the word *people* was defined and used as a political and historical term. In the initial stage of formation of class society the word meant the members of the community enslaved by slaveholders and was interpreted as “commoners.” It was interpreted as “free people” under the republican government of ancient Rome. The first concept of the word included the meaning of “the lowest stratum of society” in terms of class and social status. In other words the people were regarded as merely the target of oppression and exploitation by the ruling circles. With the beginning of formation of capitalist society after the middle ages, the forms of its expression changed into “poverty-stricken people,” “dependent people” and “newly-rising civilians” but the words had no difference in essential meaning.

After all the word *people* was interpreted as a concept apart from the exploited working masses. The capitalist class still call the exploited working masses citizens instead of people.

It was only by the Marxist philosophy that the concept of the people emerged as a philosophical concept with the work-

ing class representative of the people, and had the meaning of “makers of history” who contribute to the historical development by playing an incomparably greater role than an individual or a hero.

Marxism viewed the popular masses in the whole of social relations and mainly recognized them as the producer masses and working class connected with mode of production and economic relations. The people, put out of history, were considered in history and regarded as the exploited masses in distinction from the exploiting classes. Thus the people were liberated from the status of being the object of the exploiting classes’ prejudice and slander of all shades.

Marxism, however, failed to recognize the word *people* as the fundamental category of philosophy. The philosophy which regards the word as the fundamental category is the Juche philosophy. The originator of the Juche philosophy as a man-centered philosophical idea is Kim Il Sung, the eternal President of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. Chairman Kim Jong Il turned the Juche philosophy into a people-centred philosophy in the real sense of the word by extensively systematizing the Juche philosophy and developing it in depth. In his treatise *Socialism Is a Science* published in the November 1 Juche 83 (1994) issue of *Rodong Sinmun*, the organ of the Central Committee of

the Workers’ Party of Korea, the Chairman said:

“The masses of the people means a united social community which centres on working people, due to their common demand for independence and creative activity.

“The phrase ‘the masses of the people’ assumes a class character in class society. An exploiter society is divided into the exploiter class and the exploited class, or the ruling class and the ruled class, depending on who owns the means of production and who controls state power. The exploited class, the ruled class, forms the majority of the masses of the people. The class structure of the masses of the people is not immutable. It changes as social history develops. In capitalist society, not only workers and peasants, but also working intellectuals and many other classes and strata which champion and struggle for independence, form the masses of the people. In socialist society, all people are transformed into socialist working people, so everyone is a member of the masses of the people.”

Thus the people could show their true image in the socio-historical course, go down to history as a great image and be firmly put at the centre of philosophical discussion.

Ri Jong Nam

## Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery Tells

THERE IS A REVOLUTIONARY MARTYRS cemetery on Jujak Peak of Mt Taesong, which is one of the eight scenic spots in Pyongyang. In the cemetery there stand busts of over 150 anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters who accomplished the cause of liberating Korea from the Japanese imperialists' 40-odd-year-long military occupation through a 20-year-long struggle. They did not merely defeat the Japanese imperialists who boasted that their country was one of the five military powers of the world.

During the unprecedentedly arduous armed struggle, they expanded party organizations to different regions with the Juche idea as their ideology and laid a strong mass foundation for the party to be founded in the future. Thus they created a basis on which the Workers' Party of Korea could be founded and developed with the support of the masses. This is another exploit of the fighters.

The preparation for the founding of the party was done by the method of forming basic party organizations first and expanding and strengthening them during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

After the first party organization called Society for Rallying Comrades was formed in July 1930, it was expanded to various places. And as the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle was waged with emphasis put on the armed struggle of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army (KPRA), the building of party organizations went on in real earnest under the guidance of the party committee organized in the KPRA.

At that time the KPRA Party Committee played the role of leading the Korean revolution as a whole. It formed party organizations in the army and in Manchuria and Korea, and controlled their activities.

In those days political workers trained in the anti-Japanese armed struggle and small units of the KPRA were dispatched to various places to conduct brisk activities to form party organizations and anti-Japanese bodies and increase their forces.

Kwon Yong Byok, chief information officer of the main unit of the KPRA, took the heavy responsibility of leading the Changbai County Party Committee and went to the enemy-held Changbai area to play a pivotal role in forming party organizations and anti-Japanese mass organizations there. Having settled in Shiqidaogou in the Changbai area, he helped the local people sincerely in their work to win their mind, formed underground party organizations and lower echelons of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland (ARF) in nearly

all the major villages of Changbai County and rapidly expanded their membership.

Kwon and his comrades were arrested by the enemy in October 1937, when he took all the responsibility in order to defend the organizations and save their members. Thus he made sure that many of his comrades were released from custody or put to mild penalties. He died a heroic death on the gallows of Sodaemun Prison, Seoul, a few months before the liberation of Korea. Just before his death he asked his comrades in the prison to help his only son take up the cause he had failed to accomplish.

Pak Tal, as a member of the Homeland Party Working Committee, too, contributed greatly to the expansion of party organizations in Korea and their ranks. By taking a police exam Pak gained the confidence of the Japanese, and turned the areas of Kapsan and Samsu into a seedbed for building party organizations in the homeland. And he dispatched excellent members of the organizations to adjoining counties and provinces to expand the party ranks steadily.

Pak was arrested by the enemy in September 1938 and put to inconceivable torture. His body was destroyed beyond recovery: his backbone was broken and leg bone was crushed. As a crippled man he miraculously survived the hardships of prison life to meet the day of Korea's liberation.

Thanks to the devoted struggle of such vanguard fighters, the network of party organizations and the ARF stretched throughout Korea, far beyond the area of northern Korea, and even to Japan, and the organizations struck strong roots in the Korean settlements in Manchuria as well.

Thanks to the organizational and ideological foundations laid by them, the cause of founding a party could be accomplished in October 1945, less than two months after the liberation of the country.

The tradition of their forming party and other organizations among the masses of all strata while sharing weal and woe with the masses has been invariably carried on, making it possible for the WPK to strengthen and develop into a party forming a harmonious whole with the popular masses like today.

At present Korean people, with bouquets in their hands, visit the revolutionary martyrs cemetery to pay homage to the anti-Japanese revolutionary forerunners. This is another distinction of the scenery of Mt Taesong since the cemetery came into being on the mountain 45 years ago.

Kim Won Sik

## Relying on Domestic Resources



Ju Jong Nam.

SOME TIME AGO A KOREA Today reporter had an interview with Ju Jong Nam, a bureau director of the Ministry of Coal Industry.

**Recently a dynamic work is ongoing in the coal industry sector to open a new avenue for coal production, and I think what is important in increasing the production is to develop new coal beds and pits.**

You're right. We have to find coal beds of rich deposits to increase the coal production. Now coal mines are regarding a great improvement in production as the main link in the whole chain of their work and putting it into practice.

The coal mines in the Suncheon and Tokchon areas are putting emphasis on developing lots of coal beds of large deposits with favourable mining conditions by pushing ahead with prospective tunnelling, and concentrating labour forces and means on the development of new coal beds and pits. The Suncheon Area Youth Coal Mining Complex developed a new coal bed of rich deposit in the Puktanggol district of the February 8 Jiktong Youth

Coal Mine and in the Jolgot area of the Chonsong Youth Coal Mine, and new coal beds have come into use at different mines under the Kyongwon and Kaecheon area coal mining complexes.

Meanwhile, close attention has been paid to the effort to secure sufficient reserve coal beds by giving precedence to tunnelling and raise the capacity of coal mining and transport so as to maximize production in the mines. As a result, coal production has increased rapidly, making it possible to fully provide the coal needed for easing the strain on power production.

**The active introduction of science and technology and increase in the proportion of work done by machines are also important in boosting the coal production.**

Certainly. Scientists of the Academy of Coal Science succeeded in developing and introducing a pneumatic rotating drilling machine, a pneumatic saw for cutting pitwood and other pneumatic face equipment. And the Phyongsong University of Coal Mining Industry organized the work to solve the sci-tech problems arising in the coal industry in a flexible way. The teachers and researchers of the university, in cooperation with the workers in the Inpho Youth Coal Mine, manufactured several new machines suited to the actual conditions of anthracite mines. They also introduced a new kind of explosion gas neutralizer which made it possible to shorten the time of removing harmful gases from explosion.

Besides, they further improved the efficiency of a resistivity CT survey meter with a new function, a radiation survey meter and an infrared survey meter, and helped field technicians master the devices.

And my ministry set it as an important task to improve the coal transport capability of the February 8 Jiktong Youth Coal Mine, the Chonsong Youth Coal Mine and the Jenam Coal Mine, and made scrupulous efforts to carry it out. A thousand and several hundred-metre-long conveyor belt was newly installed in the Puktanggol Branch Mine under the February 8 Jiktong Youth Coal Mine, and the Sochang Youth Coal Mine successfully finished the construction of a belt pit with the help of my ministry and the Tokchon Coal Mining Complex. This has raised the transport capacity remarkably, making a practical breakthrough in coal production.

The maintenance workshops have been arranged to produce efficient equipment capable of increasing the rate of tunnelling, coal mining and transport. This made it possible to provide sufficiently different kinds of accessories badly needed in the mines such as pit car wheels and bearings and pumps.

Today the officials and workers of mines across the country are full of zeal to produce much more coal, keeping in mind that what they can believe in is only their own strength and that they can vigorously promote the development of the self-supporting economy only when they hold higher the banner of self-reliance. □



## Consumer Changes to Producer

at a renewable energy power plant they built by themselves, and sending surplus electricity to the national power grid. We met Jo Son Su, manager of the power distribution station, and he told us it was any citizen's duty to do so. And he led us to the Amnok riverside some distance away from the station. We could see lots of solar panels and wind turbines installed there. Jong Nam Su, an engineer of the renewable energy power plant, welcomed us and told us the following story.

Electricity was badly needed everywhere with the development of the national economy, and it was its workers' unanimous desire to provide electricity as much as required. After a consultation, the officials and engineers there decided to produce electricity by taking the local physiographic advantages. The right place for the installation of solar panels and wind turbines were chosen and the manufacturing of the equipment was propelled. What was most difficult was to manufacture the wings of the turbines.

▶ They had no relevant experience and lacked the relevant knowledge. Still, with the intention to make what little contribution they could to the power production of the country, they formed a research team and finally made the wings with polyester hardened resin with the help of specialists. They, it is said, felt strongly again that they could do what they were determined to on the day when the solar panels and the wind turbines were installed and put into operation.

Now the equipment produce the same amount of electricity as that from two small hydropower stations, and they get economic benefits worth over 730 million won from the solar panels and over 72 million won from the wind turbines.

The manager said confidently they would build a renewable energy power plant with the generating capacity twice the existing. The story enabled us to feel how ardent their patriotism was. The assets of the country like that electricity-producing base are increasing and the socialist economic development is being accelerated thanks to such purehearted patriots.

While looking round the power distribution station, we felt again how inexhaustible the generating capacity of the locality was as well as that of the country.

*Article by Kim Il Bong*

*Photos by Ra Phyong Ryol*



**W**E VISITED THE NORTH PHYONGAN Provincial Power Distribution Station some time ago.

Workers of the station are producing electricity

A renewable energy power plant.



The general control room and the power distribution room.





# POPULAR CERAMICS EXHIBITION HOUSE

DEMAND FOR NARAE-brand sanitary ware and ceramics is on the increase. *Narae* goods can be seen in the Pyongyang International Airport, the Songdowon International Children's Camp, Samjiyon City which has undergone tremendous changes, the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort and other modern buildings across the country.

Some time ago I visited the *Narae* Ceramics Exhibition House in Hyongjesan District, Pyongyang. Saleswoman Ri Chun Hui said the *Narae* ceramics were enjoying popularity for their vivid and beautiful colours and their user-friendly shapes. Then she led me to a spot of

the ground floor where sanitary ware and ceramics were put on display.

What drew my attention in particular was sanitary ware. Ri said, "The *Narae* products have many merits in several aspects. The radiation emissions of the TOTO products are 0.28  $\mu$ sv, but those of *Narae* products are about 0.13  $\mu$ sv, so they are quite safe. In the aspect of price the *Narae* toilet is eight times cheaper than the TOTO product of the same size. And in the aspect of function water gushes out in two courses in the *Narae* toilet, so it uses less water but raises the speed of water flow to the maximum, thus enhancing

the effectiveness of flushing."

She also said that another merit of the *Narae* ceramics is that they are high in whiteness, lustrousness and smoothness, and that last year the ceramics from the *Narae* Ceramics Factory received the December 15 Quality Medal which is conferred on famous goods in the country.

There I met Kim Hwa Suk, a woman who lives in Phyongchon District, and she said that she had been abroad for several years, and that the *Narae* products were more convenient to use than foreign ones.

Now I looked around the first floor where there were on display different kinds of sanitary

ware, and the second floor where there were on display 19 varieties of flower vases of ten kinds. Various illuminations set in the exhibition house were adding to the beauty of sanitary ware and ceramics.

And I came to know that the factory makes articles to order for the customers' convenience and records their opinions. I saw a man who was carefully reading the book that contained the visitors' opinions. He was Pak Song Min, general manager of the factory. He said, "Many units in the country are producing ceramics. What is important in making highly competitive goods is who is the first to make such goods favoured by



the people. Our goal is to make varieties of quality ceramics in keeping with the people's rising level of civilization."

Then I thought that the *Narae* ceramics would be in greater demand.

*Kim Il Bong*



# Nano Cloth Developers

**JONG UN SUN**, A laboratory head of the Nanotechnology Application Research Institute of the Nanotechnology Engineering Branch of the State Academy of Sciences, looked ordinary at the first glance. She was of small build and in a modest attire. Something impressive about her, if any, was her eyes expressive of tenacity. And she was rather taciturn.

When I asked her how many children she had, she said curtly, "A son."

When asked what they were researching on, she unexpectedly began to speak, replying, "We're conducting a research on nano cloth in real earnest."

According to her, the laboratory came into being ten years ago. At the time Jong, once a teacher and chemical doctor of Kim Il Sung University, was appointed head of the laboratory.

She paid attention to nano cloth because she regarded it as important in raising the quality of light industrial goods. Nano

cloth is made by coating cloth with nano material-based solution, and the solution should be different according to the kind of fabric.

In order to develop at an early date nano cloth capable of producing desired effects by using nano materials available in the country, the researchers were busy selecting materials, doing experiments and verifying their effectiveness.

What they developed first was anti-bacterial nano cloth. Clothes made of the material produced no side effect on the human body and were especially effective in preventing and treating skin diseases. The cloth could prevent infection by varieties of bacteria, and such clothes helped a wounded man cut the period of treatment markedly.

Soon afterwards, Jong's team developed super-hydrophobic nano cloth. It does not get wet, and unlike waterproof cloth, it is ventilative. The method of making it was put on the list of national inventions in 2018. Soon

came the development of super-hydrophobic and anti-bacterial nano cloth, which was registered as a high-tech product in 2019, and operating gowns, operating table covers and working garments made of the cloth were favourably commented upon by surgeons, fishermen and food-stuff factory workers. Other kinds of clothes made of the cloth were very popular as outdoor clothes because they did not get wet even in the rain.

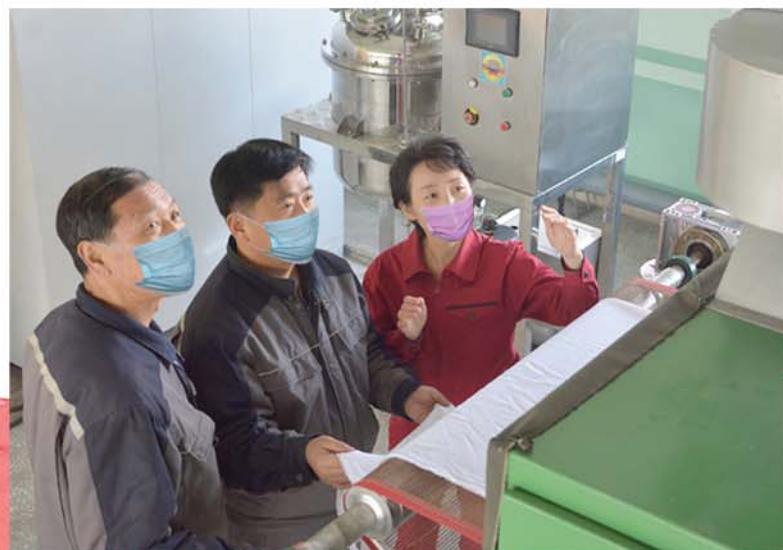
Un Sun was not merely engrossed in developing new products. Together with her researchers, she set up nano cloth production lines. Among them is a supercritical carbon dioxide-based dyeing line which makes it possible to double the quality of dyeing of cloth or thread, shorten the time of dyeing, saving energy and cost by up to 40 percent and reduce environmental pollution.

Now they are pushing ahead with the development of another kind of nano cloth with warming, stealthy, antistatic and anti-wrinkling functions.

She said, "We still have more to do than what we have done. Our goal is to make innovations in the textile industry by developing a variety of nano cloth."

Nano cloth seems to be the same as ordinary ones, but it is excellent in function. Likewise, she looked inconspicuous, but not her enthusiasm.

*Rim Ok*



Jong Un Sun (right).

# Target of Developers



Developers of the CNC needle tube grinding machine.

**A**T PRESENT STRENUOUS efforts are being made to produce and supply medical appliances to the public health sector.

The needle tube is one of them. There are over 20 kinds of the needle tube. As accuracy is required in their processing, the relevant production facility became the exclusive property of a few countries.

Some time ago, the Mechanical Engineering Research Institute of the State Academy of Sciences developed such a facility.

A few years ago, Ri Song Guk, researcher of the institute, went to Kim Man Yu Hospital to get a needle tube-based treatment, and heard that most of the needle tubes were imported from other countries.

The doctor's words weighed heavily upon Ri's mind. *The needle tube is a medical appliance badly needed to diagnose and treat diseases*, he thought. *How long should they depend on imports?*

Then Ri made up his mind to solve the problem. His colleagues positively agreed with him and helped him.

The research was not confined to mechanical engineering alone. As the tubes should vary in diameter, angle of inclination

and length according to the region of treatment, they had to study the characteristics of a living body. What is fundamental to the production of tube is to ensure the geometric dimension of the tips' angle of inclination required by the living body and to process their surface smoothly. Accuracy was required in grinding the tips of the tubes 0.8~2 mm in diameter at the first angle of 20 to 30° and at the second angle of 110°.

Having found the most rational way in the development of a CNC needle tube grinding machine, the researchers conducted the designing of the machine and the development of a tube

grinding program at the same time.

They calculated the grinding power, the rotary motion of the grinding jig and so on before calculating the relevant detailed devices, and established the control system of the grinding machine.

Thus the CNC needle tube grinding machine—which had been planned to make for two years—was completed in a year. It costed two thirds of the imported, and all its processes were automated, making it possible to save time and labour. The machine can process 250 to 350 needle tubes at one time and over 6 000 per hour.

The grinding machine capable of producing needle tubes to meet the international standard was highly appreciated at many exhibitions at home.

Ri says, "The needle tubes are small medical appliances, but we did not think so. As many as one million pieces are needed a year, and it is connected with the people's health, so we thought it was not negligible. Our target is to develop all machines and equipment to produce necessary medical appliances."

*Rim Ok*

A CNC needle tube grinding machine.



# World of Prodigies

**L**AST YEAR SOME CHILDREN WERE IN THE limelight at the 12<sup>th</sup> national contest of the kindergarten children with extraordinary talents.

## Football Prodigy

Ri Sang Gyong from Kaeson Kindergarten in Moranbong District affiliated to the Pyongyang Teachers Training College showed an unusual talent in the sports event. In particular, he registered the record of nine seconds, which was two seconds faster than the previous record of eleven, in the event of dribbling, throwing the ball into a ring and so on while running a distance of 15 metres.

Jon Chun Yong, the boy's teacher, says, "In the outdoor play time all other children soon got bored with football except Sang Gyong. He was engrossed in kicking the ball until I told him to stop. When I asked his parents they said that he loved to play with the ball in his nursery days, and he used to kick the ball with elder brothers or grandpas in the park, and dribble the ball while walking along the street with his mother."

Though Jon was not a football expert, she could not neglect the bud of the boy's gift for playing football. Now she, in cooperation with a football expert, mapped out a teaching plan and a teaching schedule suited to Ri's physical preparedness and psychology, and started to teach him the sport one hour a day. Indeed, the boy was better than those of his age. He learned the dribbling skill quickly. A few months later he could do dribbling 1 000 times



Ri Sang Gyong plays with a ball even at a break.

at a time, and possessed tackling and dribbling as his forte.

Experts commented that his correct, quick and nimble dribbling would enable him to become a football master. His father, an army officer who it is said was very fond of football in his childhood, and his mother, a worker at the Pyongyang Tobacco Factory, hope their son will become a famous footballer.

Today the boy is honing his skills as a footballer.

Kang Jong Hak (left) and Kim Ryong Myong (second right) listen to their teacher.



## Individuality of "Twins"

Kim Ryong Myong and Kang Jong Hak, from Sungni Kindergarten No. 3, Rangnang District, won special prize in the intellectual sector. Now they have completely assimilated the curriculum for the second year of primary school, and can work out applied questions even the second-graders find it hard to solve, and compose children's songs and verses.

Not only at the current contest but also in the whole kindergarten course they ranked the same

► on the emulation graph, and got the Red Stars (for commendation of their good doings) together. Then how could they become "Twin" prodigies?

One day teacher Kim Kum Hui, on her way back home from the kindergarten, happened to hear what the elderly in her neighbourhood unit were saying.

"Ryong Myong's grandma said that her grandson is more interested in the page numbers of the picture books rather than the pictures while reading them."

"And he is said to be an inquisitive child."

Their words made the teacher visit the boy's home. The preschool boy remembered the number of pages of each picture book. What amazed the teacher was that the boy remembered all the numbers that his grandma and parents told him only once at his earnest request. While watching TV he barraged his parents with questions one after another. Seeing him the teacher said to the boy, "If you come to the kindergarten, I can tell you whatever you want to know. How about going to the kindergarten with me?"

In this way he became a kindergartener a few months ahead of his peers. The boy was clever and had a quick sensitivity of phenomena, so when he was taught one thing, he understood two or three. Especially, he loved figures, doing mental arithmetic swiftly. In case of calculating ten figures by four rules of arithmetic, he would raise his hand and give correct answers as soon as the teacher raised questions.



Kim learns how to use the computer from his mother.

Kang frequents the Sci-Tech Complex with the help of his mother.

Kang Jong Hak was different. The teacher's first impression of him was that he was not seemingly a prodigy. However, she happened to regard him anew.

One day when she raised a long four-arithmetic problem, several children raised their hands at the same time. But Kang was calculating inwardly, screwing up his lips.

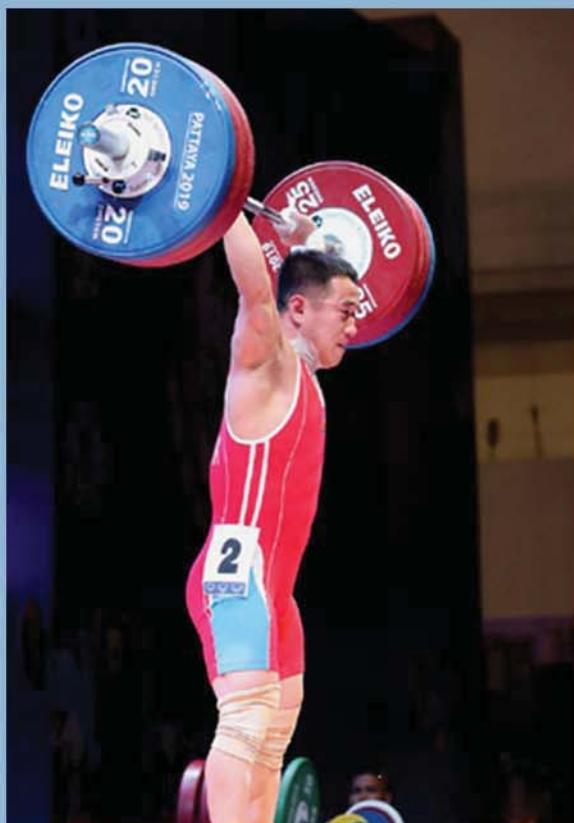
The teacher says, "It is universal psychology of the kindergarten children to raise their hands as someone does. But Kang did not mind it, and gave a correct answer. Many of the other children who raised before him gave wrong answers. That day I came to realize his excellent ability. While calculating the previous figures he remembered the following ones. The potentiality of a prodigy is expressed in memory first, and the boy has high psychological quality as well as potentiality."

When Ryong Myong correctly expresses whatever he sees, hears and feels, Jong Hak expresses only one time in an unusual way. The former can be likened to a clear stream, and the latter to a deep and quiet lake.

Thanks to the effort of the teacher who has a knack of finding out and rearing prodigies, both of them have developed a good intellectual ability. She has trained a dozen intelligent prodigies for ten years.

Article by Rim Ok  
Photos taken by Hwang Jong Hyok  
in December 2019





## RECORD-BREAKING ACHIEVEMENT IN 2019

Chief Secretary  
Kim Kwang Dok.



**L**AST YEAR KOREAN SPORTSPERSONS achieved many successes in international competitions. In particular, weightlifters gained considerably high records. Some time ago a Korea Today reporter had an interview with Kim Kwang Dok, chief secretary of the Weightlifting Association under the Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports.

Recently sports techniques of the country are developing, and good successes were gained in the weightlifting event last year compared to the previous year, I think.

Certainly. Many weightlifters participated and

attained good results in five major international contests such as the 2019 IWF World Weightlifting Championships and the 2019 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships.

Our weightlifters won seven gold medals, twelve silver medals and five bronze medals at the 2019 IWF World Weightlifting Championships held in Thailand in September, and won seven gold medals, ten silver medals and thirteen bronze medals at the 2019 Asian Weightlifting Championships held in Ningbo, China, in April. They also won six gold medals, fifteen silver medals and six bronze medals at the 2019 IWF World Cup held in China in February, and ten gold medals, seven silver medals and four bronze medals at the 2019 IWF World Cup held in Tianjin, China, in December. The total number of those medals won in the events is 198, including 87 golds, 68 silvers and 43 bronzes, almost twice as many as the previous year.

Om Yun Chol, who has established astonishing

records in men's 55kg category so far, participated in men's 61kg category event of the 2019 IWF World Cup for the first time, winning a gold medal in the jerk while Pak Jong Ju came first in total of men's 67kg category. Last year Om Yun Chol, Pak Jong Ju, Choe Hyo Sim and Rim Jong Sim broke the world records. At the 2019 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships Kim Il Gyong, Paek Hye Jong and Kim Chung Guk and other five weightlifters renewed eleven world junior records and eleven Asian junior records, and four world youth records and eight Asian youth records.

Like this our sportspersons broke the previous records through the matches of last year.

**I think such successes are greatly attributable to your association. Could you tell me about it?**

My association carefully selected players and coaches, and made exact demands on them to make all training scientific in keeping with the trend in



Photos by Ri Song Ik

► the development of sports techniques, and conducted the work to improve the coaches' practical ability in different forms and ways.

Meanwhile, the coaches, based on their correct understanding of physical and technical preparedness of the players, set up a realistic training plan by day, week and month, and carried them out exactly. And the researchers, in close contact with the coaches, made sure that all the training processes were put on a scientific footing and that advanced training methods were introduced, thus raising the effectiveness of training.

We also waged a vigorous campaign of learning from and overtaking others and swapping experience, and organized many training, challenge and home-and-away matches so as to kindle a flame of zeal for creating new records. Thus over 60 weightlifters updated more than 40 DPRK records, 30 youth records and 50 junior records at domestic competitions such as the Mangyongdae Prize Games to celebrate the Day of the Sun (President Kim Il Sung's birthday—Tr.). During the competitions, we organized short courses and demonstra-

tions to enhance the coaches' ability.

My association organized 15 short courses for over 190 coaches and instructors during the major domestic competitions. In particular, the Pyongyang Sports Club gave a demonstration under the title of *Support System Program for Weightlifting Instruction and Training, and Its Application* during the Mangyongdae Prize Games held to celebrate the Day of the Sun, helping the coaches have a correct understanding of the problems arising in the application of the program and become able to widely use it.

During such competitions we also organized a short regulation course and referees' course to have the coaches and instructors understand the weightlifting regulations and rules changed in 2019, thus making it possible to successfully hold the 2019 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships in Pyongyang in October of the year.

Not resting on our laurels we will further scrupulously organize preparations for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Olympic Games to be held this year so as to produce many Olympic medallists. □



# I'll Remain a Winner

(7)

Kang Ho Jin

THAT DAY SUN HUI pledged inwardly, "I'll prove myself worthy of this honour and happiness by winning more gold medals." She, however, did not know it would not be an easy job at all. Yet she knew it was the only way for her—a difficult road towards victory. She would have to devote a lot of things to the goal.

At last Sun Hui drew a deep breath and opened the gate feeling as if she were opening that to a new life.

As she entered the training hall, lots of shining eyes were focused on her at once. Then a girl of about fifteen, who seemed to be the captain, shouted in a high voice, "Attention! Mrs Kye Sun Hui, we judo circle members have been waiting for you."

Now Sun Hui realized for the first time who she herself was, and got aware what she should do.

*I'm neither a hero nor a famous athlete now. I should start from scratch as an ordinary coach. I'll find my pride and the value and significance of my life in devoting myself to the development of my country's judo, she thought and vowed to herself: I'll look back no longer. I'll live to win gold medals, only for victory, as I advanced only towards*

gold medals in the past. Without looking back upon the past alone I'll run forward as a person steadily advancing towards victory. Only then will I be able to remain an eternal winner.

## 2. Patriotism and Gold Medal

Sun Hui hesitated for a while because she was at a loss what to say first.

Standing still in a line before her, the little circle members were watching her with twinkling eyes.

*What shall I say first to them before starting to train them as their coach?* She thought. She forgot all the words she had considered all the previous night, and she could not readily say what her husband had meticulously told her to say as greetings before she left home in the morning.

Then she abruptly said, "If any of you can sing 'Patriotic Song', raise hands."

All the circle members raised their hands, and they looked doubtfully at their new coach's unexpected question.

Now she said, "Then let all of us sing the song," and she led the song.

*Shine bright, you dawn,*



*on this land so fair,  
The country of three  
thousand ri,  
So rich in silver and  
in gold you are,  
Five thousand years  
your history.  
Our people ever were  
renowned and sage,  
And rich in cultural heritage,  
And as with heart and soul  
we strive,  
Korea shall forever thrive!*

The training hall reverberated with the cheerful voices of the children.

Having looked round the children for a while, Sun Hui said, "Any of Korean athletes should know the song. From now on we'll start daily training with the song."

The children's eyes were now wider open. Casting a glance at them again, Sun Hui thought of her old coach Pak Chol. When she had begun to attend the judo circle, the coach would make his trainees sing that song before they started training. At that time she did not know why he had done so.

Now, however, she also started her first training of her charges with the song like the first coach of hers.

The song had been imprinted not on her brain but in her mind, and she would instinctively sing it whenever she had the flag of the country hoisted by winning international competitions. Now, while singing the song together with her charges, she looked back upon those days when she won world championship for the first time.

"I don't like it. I won't do without you, Mr Pak," Sun Hui said stubbornly.

Pak Chol deliberately wore a stern look, and rebuked her, saying, "Why do you say you won't do? You're Kye Sun Hui even without me. Go in and continue to train. You're not to be out here as captain."

Nevertheless, Sun Hui would not withdraw, saying again, "If you leave the national team, so will I."

Then Pak Chol roared with rage, "What? You mean you'll leave the national team? Don't be absurd, Sun Hui."

Taken aback, Sun Hui looked him in the face. The broad face was expressive of anger.

"All have praised you, and do you intend to act rashly as you please now? Who on earth is this Pak Chol? Will you die if I do? Will you entrust your life to another?" Pak gasped out still red with anger. Then he went on to say loudly, "Mark my words. Now you have no right to be negligent in training swayed by per-

sonal feelings. It is not me who trained you, but our benevolent country. What is important for you is not to be faithful to your coach but to return the benevolence of the country by winning more gold medals. But you are now giving up gold medals or everything else, aren't you? What's your alternative, then?"

Sun Hui only listened to the coach's reproach without saying a word.

After a while, Pak Chol managed to calm himself down. He lit a cigarette and inhaled its smoke eagerly in silence. After finishing it he hesitated before taking her by the wrist, leading her to a nearby stone bench and saying, "Let's sit here."

For a while he stared at her sitting next to him with her mouth shut closely. Then, in a calm voice, he said, "I'm also sorry to leave you behind. You're the best of the athletes I've trained so far. You've been my pride and joy. And I wish to work as your coach all my life."

Now he gave a heavy sigh before going on to say, "But now you need a more competent coach than me. I know I cannot help you win world championship. This is true though it is hard for me to admit it."

Sun Hui gently raised her head and watched him. There was an agony in his face which had always worn self-confidence and a sense of superiority.

After winning victory in the Atlanta Olympics, Sun Hui won gold medals in many international competitions in succession, including the women's

52kg judo event of the Asian Judo Championships held in the Philippines in November 1997, the Asian Games held in Bangkok in December 1998 and the Asian Judo Championships held in China in June 1999. She, however, had never won the world championship. She took second place in the 52 kg event of the world championships held in Paris in 1997, and third place in the same event of the world championships held in Britain two years later.

Officials in the sports sector had a serious discussion about the fact that she had failed to win the two rounds of the world championships, and concluded that her coach's stereotyped technical guidance was the main cause of her failure.

Pak Chol had been content that Sun Hui won by dint of her physical merits—she was unusually strong and good in balance—and thus he did not put due emphasis on her technical training while putting efforts into raising her physical ability alone. As a result, her techniques failed to develop in an all-round way, leaving her level of competition stagnant.

At first Pak Chol unreasonably tried to refute the argument of the technical officials. He had assumed an air of importance from his university days, and guided Sun Hui from her childhood so that she could win Olympic and many other gold medals. This made it difficult for him to admit that his ability was out of date.

*(To be continued)*

# Promising Sheep Breeding Base

SOME TIME AGO A national demonstration course was given at the sheep breeding base of the Hadan Co-operative Farm in Sinuiju. The participants looked around the four blocks of sheepfolds, an anti-epizootic laboratory, a fodder processing shop, a fodder depot and a silage pit, and they were struck with wonder when they saw a vast stretch of grassland before the base.

“Everything is really wonderful. The prospect of the base is bright. We will learn the experience,” the visitors said. To them Kil Chong San, head of the base, said, “We think the method of solving problems depends on how the managers set a goal and

strive to work to this end.” Now he told the following story.

What Kil put the main emphasis on when he began to build the base was to create an artificial grassland. However, it was not so easy as he had thought owing to some natural conditions. Then some people suggested that it would be OK to make a small pasture as they would be engaged in sire keeping alone. Now Kil said, “This size of grassland would be enough at the moment, but what will you do in the future when we rear sheep for fattening up? We should overcome today’s hardships for the sake of tomorrow.”

To his call all the employees turned out. Regarding the cre-

ation of natural grassland as the major line of their work they expanded the area of grassland and pushed ahead with the work to prepare different species of fodder grass with great vitality and of high nutritive value and productivity. Meanwhile, they paid close attention to how to reduce the feed consumption unit while raising the productivity in cooperation with special organs. And they treated bean straws and dried grass with bacteria and prepared a good deal of silage to use them for winter fodder.

► Kil also focused on a thorough anti-epizootic arrangement. Instead of assigning the task to some veterinarians alone he had all the workers involved in it. To this end he, through daily sci-tech lessons, let them know the diseases sheep were likely to catch due to different causes and conditions, and learn technical measures related to sheep rearing. This made the workers have a high sense of responsibility for their work, and they actively applied their knowledge to practice while understanding well how to rear sheep in conformity with the distance to pastures, grazing hour and seasons. Soon the base got a larger number of breeding sheep and sent them to coopera-

tive farms in the area.

Now the managers and workers of the base, on the basis of their achievements, have set up a high target and are waging a

vigorous campaign to increase the number of lambs.

*Article by Pak Un Yong*

*Photos taken by Ra*

*Phyong Ryol in October 2019*



Breeding sheep are under good care.



A view of a pasture.

# Pioneer of Complex Hand-foot Reflex Therapy

RECENTLY THE MINISTRY of Commerce Sports Club developed a complex hand-foot reflex therapy which is effective for recovery from fatigue and functional recovery, and growth among sportspersons. Based on traditional medicine of the Korean nation, the therapy is favourably commented upon by coaches and sportspersons. The reflex therapy was developed by Kim Song Hui, a researcher of the sports club. With plenty of experience, she has made a contribution to the promotion of health of many workers, peasants, office workers, young people and children across the country for tens of years. The following shows what made her develop the reflex therapy.

One day she happened to see the members of the sports club on their return from field training. Their youthful looks made her feel as if she herself had just returned from exercise together with them. But while examining their countenances one after

another she found them looking very tired. Next day, while seeing them in training, she saw there was no particular progress in their training as she had anticipated. So she tried and treated each of them with reflex therapy but she could not do all of them by herself. She thought and thought and decided to develop a new reflex therapy that anybody could do by themselves. If they were taught to perform the main technical motions of the therapy to music in the form of collective exercise, it would be quite possible. Ra Su Hyang, one of her colleagues, positively helped with her research.

It was not easy to turn each method of the therapy into a motion and set it to a melody. But they finally completed the complex hand-foot reflex therapy in close cooperation with officials in the sector of the arts and those of the sports club. It was applied to the members of the club for several years, and the result proved that the therapy helped

them improve their ability to put their skills into practice in competition and raise their scores, and had good effect on their intellectual development. The reflex therapy done to music stimulated the blood flow, regulated the excitability of nerve cells, strengthened the contractile force of heart and raised immunity. It was also good for the lubricity, accuracy, variety and agility of hand exercises and the development of the functions of the brain. And it helped them recover quickly from fatigue, thus freeing them from sleep disturbance, indigestion, anxiety and a feeling of helplessness, and it was good for the treatment of different diseases such as cold, tonsillitis, cystitis and arthritis.

And it helped young members of the club grow tall, smoothly solved the problem of its members' weight regulation and sharply reduced treatment expenses and the amount of the medical workers' work. As a result, members of the sports club have achieved remarkable successes in competitions.

The therapy won first place in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> national sports sci-tech achievements exhibitions and the 31<sup>st</sup> national sci-tech festival, and it started to be introduced in other sports clubs and juvenile sports schools across the country.

In those days Kim Song Hui succeeded in using the reflex therapy in lavaging the kidney. Thus she successfully treated hundreds of patients who were suffering from kidney stones without operation.

Now she is striving to better the reflex therapy on the basis of the traditional medicine of the nation.

*Sim Chol Yong*

**Kim Song Hui (centre) gives a blood circulation speed control treatment by applying the reflex therapy.**



# Disabled Table Tennis Player

SOME TIME AGO, I WENT to the Chilsong Restaurant for my news coverage and happened to meet a disabled man. He was Han So Ung at the age of 55 this year.

He had previously been a cook of the restaurant, and found greatest pleasure in cooking and seeing people eat with relish the dishes he had cooked. But unfortunately he lost his left arm 25 years ago. It was only six months after he married. What nagged at him was not his physical disability but the thought that he should early give up his dream of becoming a famous cook and live as a disabled man all his life.

Soon afterwards he had a pretty son. Seeing the kid's clear eyes, he made up his mind to become a proud person before his family and colleagues, not a weak man in despair.

Since then his daily schedule changed. He was the first to arrive in the workplace every morning, did his work in a responsible manner and took the lead in doing difficult tasks. He also tried, while learning sports like table tennis, to be a help to the collective.

And reluctant to give up his dream as a cook, he always studied to find the secrets of cooking and often advanced creative suggestions, which helped some cooks produce and present new dishes at a national cooking festival, ranking among the top three winners.

Kim Yong Hui, manager of

the restaurant, said that though he was not a cook, he made a strenuous effort to improve the quality of dishes.

One day in 2013, the manager told him that there would be a table tennis tournament of disabled persons and amateurs according to the radio that morning.

So he went to the gymnasium without stopping and took part in the game, but he failed to come within the top three places. But he never gave up and set a goal of winning the event.

Looking back upon the days, Han says, "I've been to every table tennis court in Pyongyang and known every amateur. After work, I went to the courts, even on Sundays and holidays. Sometimes I was so tired that I was helped home. But I was encouraged by the memory of my colleagues at the Chilsong Restaurant who inspired me to win without fail and the amateurs who readily played against me for training."

One year later, that is, in 2014, he participated in the doubles event of the table tennis tournament of disabled persons and amateurs and took third place. And he took second place in 2015, and first place in 2016. He also took third place in the singles event of a similar tournament of disabled persons.

Last year he won first place in the singles of the table tennis event of disabled persons at the games of disabled persons and amateurs. Now he realized his



**Han So Ung.**

dream. On the honour platform, he said, "Though I was disabled, I am taking part in the social activities like healthy people, and I can play sports well. I wanted to show this to people."

Han, who is still full of vigour, is going to participate in the singles of the table tennis event of amateurs this year. He is an amateur not only in table tennis but also in football. He is fond of consulting with football amateurs and experts as well as seeing such matches.

Now he is respected as a model worker and disabled table tennis winner.

Make your happiness by yourself—this is just Han's motto of life. "There are physical disabilities but I can never tolerate the mental disabilities. The man with a strong mental power can change misfortune into fortune," he says.

*Rim Ok*

## National Dog under Good Care

A COUPLE OF NATIONAL DOG BREEDERS live in the picturesque Mt Taesong area, Pyongyang. They are Hong Yong Il and Ri Hyang Rim, residents of Neighbourhood Unit No. 80, Kammun-dong, Taesong District.

The couple grew Yuwol, belonging to the kind of national dog Phungsan, which took first place in Korea's National Dog Phungsan Show 2019 held in November last year.

Everyday life of the man and wife is inconceivable apart from the national dog. The husband's daily routine starts with running in the morning. Just at 6 a.m. he goes out together with the dog. They run a distance of about two kilometres along the foot of Mt Kobang. Through the exercise, Hong says, they harden themselves physically and deepen their mutual affection.

He says, "It is in winter that there is the biggest difficulty with running in the morning. Yuwol, however, always joins me in the exercise even in the intense cold of midwinter when the temperature falls as low as ten degrees below zero. In the past I bred varieties of pet dogs such as dachshund, poodle, Dalmatian and miniature pinscher. But none of them joined me in the morning exercise in that season. No dog is as strong in resistance to cold and diseases as Phungsan."

Hong goes to work at 8 a.m. He works in the Central Zoo, and in his spare time he reads books, most of which are those on dogs, including *Phungsan Dog*, *Breeding of Pet Dogs* and *Pet Dog Encyclopaedia*.

He is well versed in the breeding of Phungsan



Choe Sol Mi

dogs and preventing and treating their diseases. So, he goes by the nickname of Phungsan dog expert.

It is also his wife's duty to breed the dog well while taking care of her family. She is now busy tending five pups born of Yuwol.

Yuwol is so clever that it understands well what people say and helps a lot with her work, the wife says and adds, "Phungsan also guards the home well. Our home is situated at a hillock with many foxes and weasels. Yuwol reliably protects chickens, ducks and geese from the natural enemies' attack. Phungsan is very clean, too. Her five young, though it is merely one week after they were weaned, are already able to go to stool by themselves."

It is four years since the couple brought Yuwol from Kim Hyong Gwon County (former Phungsan County) of Ryanggang Province, the home of the dog. They have been engrossed in preserving and multiplying pure-bred Phungsan dogs, and thus they have spread over thirty dogs of the kind across the country. They have a plan to spread 100 such dogs across the country by 2025.

Thanks to their efforts the number of the people breeding those dogs is increasing in not only Kammun-dong but also Chongho-dong, Kosan-dong and Anhak-dong and other localities. Lots of people frequent the home of the couple to learn from their experience in breeding Phungsan.

Hunting is also important part of the couple's life because the Phungsan is strong in hind legs and good at running up mountains, and has so keen a nose and sensitive ears as to find games exactly and quickly. More important is that the dog fights its enemy to the last until it wins and that it protects its masters well, the couple says. They attach the greatest attention to walking in their life. Back home after the day's work Hong and his daughter Paek Sol go out for a walk together with their dog. This is a kind of rule for them. The walk takes 30 minutes, and it is an unusually good time for them, when they relieve their fatigue of the day, and plan what they will do the next day.

Like this the daily life of the couple is continuing in a pleasant way along with Yuwol.

## Story of Headmaster



SOME TIME AGO WE VISITED RYONGSAN Primary School in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang. Welcoming us, Ri Chol Nam, headmaster of the school, told us the following story.

In recent years, the school has paid close attention to the introduction of IT into education. Many problems were solved in its education thanks to State investment, but not a few still remained unsolved. Worse still, as it was located in a suburb of Pyongyang, it needed several kilometres of cable to realize IT-based education.

One day a lorry rolled into the school gate. It was loaded with a big roll of cable and many car-

tons. Cha Jin Hwa, manager of the Mangyongdae Shop in the district and its employees got off the lorry. The following explains why they visited the school.

Several days before, Cha had dropped in at the district's People's Committee on business. Then she happened to hear voices coming from the room of the education department in which there was under way a discussion about how to solve the problem of a lot of cable necessary to make the education of the aforesaid primary school IT-based.

Now she was sunk in deep thought. *The more the development of educational work is delayed, the slower the development of the nation becomes. If my children are studying at the school...*

As soon as she returned to the shop, she told her employees the fact and appealed, "We have nothing to spare for our younger generation. Let's help the school." Responding to her call, all the employees proposed to purchase several computers and their fittings. Thus they brought them to the school.

Later, they also purchased the equipment for introducing IT into education of the Hongchon and Ryondae branches of the school.

That's not all. They provided lots of training wear and sports shoes for circle members of Mangyongdae District Juvenile Sports School and sent LCD TVs, computers and cameras to several other primary schools of the district.

They are still making selfless efforts for the development of education.

Sim Chol Yong

## Stone Buddhist Image from Early Period of Koryo Unearthed

RECENTLY A GROUP OF RESEARCHERS from the History Faculty of Kim Il Sung University and the Archaeology Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences has discovered a stone Buddhist image from the period of Koryo (918-1392) in Songhyon-ri, Onchon County, Nampho City.

The stone Buddhist image made by processing white granite is 235cm high, 84-91cm wide and 22-26cm thick. The statue depicts a Buddha standing on a lotus-engraved support. Lotus leaves are engraved in the façade of the support while decorative patterns are inscribed on its upper side. And there is a mortise in the centre of the support to fix the image.

During the excavation, fragments of roof tiles patterned after leaves of fir tree and pottery, iron arrowhead, coins and other relics from the period of Koryo were also found.

Scholars regard the statue as the image of Yaksayorae, as the Buddha tucks a gallipot up in his hands. The results of survey and analysis of the proportional structure and attire of the image, the depiction of the support, and the fragments of roof tiles and the time of their use showed that the Buddhist image was erected in the early period of Koryo, or the early 10<sup>th</sup> century.

The delicately-trimmed stone Buddhist image is put on the list of the relics under preservation. □

# Glimpse of Japan's Plunder of Korean Cultural Heritage

**R**ECENTLY A *KOREA Today* reporter interviewed Kong Myong Song, chief of the Folklore Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences, about Japan's criminal pillage of Korean cultural relics.

**Do you have any idea about the amount of Korean cultural relics kept in Japan?**

There are as many as 30 000–40 000 pieces of Koryo ceramics in Japan at the moment. According to some Japanese sources, the Tokyo National Museum has got 40 000 items of Korean cultural heritage while the Nezu Art Museum keeps thousands of articles of the kind. Large and small museums, colleges and Buddhist temples have on display or keep different kinds of Korean cultural relics, such as ceramics, metalwork, mother-of-pearl work, drawings and paintings, books and types. In addition, many things are in private hands. Altogether, there are hundreds of thousands of items of Korean cultural heritage in Japan.

**They say Japan began to plunder cultural relics from Korea hundreds of years ago. What's the story?**

Japan started an aggression war against Korea in 1592, and stole a colossal amount of cultural remains and relics by the end of the war—which we call Imjin Patriotic War that came to an end in 1598. During the war six detachments of the Japanese aggression forces were charged with the exclusive mission of plundering valuable cultural

things from Korea. Their greatest lust was ceramic articles. A stark piece of evidence is that one Koryo ceramic vessel was worth some 51 200 US bushels of rice in Japan at the time.

Along with ceramic articles, bells, Buddhist images, pictures and whatever was created by the Korean nation were on the list of the things to be taken by the Japanese marauders. Their vandalism caused the disappearance of ancient historical documents cherished by the Korean people for a long time. The Chunchu Hall Archives in the royal palace and similar ones in Songju and Chungju were burnt to ashes during the Japanese invasion—the one in Jonju alone could avoid the pillage. It was also during the turbulent time that a lot of porcelain technicians and handicraftsmen were forcibly taken to Japan.

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the Japanese imperialists put Korea under their military occupation and began to plunder Korean cultural relics indiscriminately and stealthily take them to their homeland.

**The Japanese imperialists' military occupation of Korea following the so-called 1905 Ulsa Five-point Treaty gave rise to rampant plunder of Korean cultural heritage, the extent of which was absolutely unheard of in history, I would say.**

The Japanese adopted quite sinister means to get Korean cultural relics. Soon after they occupied Korea the Japanese

imperialists formed an organization headed by Sekino, a Japanese who was in the cloak of surveyor of historical remains and relics, and carried out an overall expert investigation into the Korean national heritage in the whole Korean land for ten years, thus working out a 15-volumed book. On this basis Hirobumi Ito who was the first Resident-General in Korea proclaimed a decree to find out and collect Korean cultural relics, which became the legal and institutional basis to plunder the cultural heritage of the Korean nation. Ito illegally dug out a dozen truckloads of treasure from the mausoleum of King Kyonghyo, who was the 31<sup>st</sup> king of Koryo. During their occupation of Korea, the Japanese imperialists unearthed more than 200 royal mausoleums and as many as 11 000 old tombs to get a colossal amount of treasure to be taken to Japan stealthily.

Terauchi, the first Governor General of Korea, pulled down a building of Kyongbok Palace, the residence of the Korean king, and moved it to his home town. There he had it restored true to the original model, named it Korean House and put on show lots of Korean ceramic articles, Buddhist images, metal handicrafts, and trinkets.

Besides, officials of the Government General of Korea and many other Japanese under the guise of investigation commissioners, archaeologists and antiques collectors unearthed a huge amount of valuable cul-

tural treasure and took them to Japan. Karube, who stole into Korea under the cloak of archaeologist, dug hundreds of tombs of those who belonged to the middle and higher classes on the yearly basis, which belonged to Paekje, a feudal state of Korea that was in existence from the close of the first century BC to 660. In his interview with a Japanese reporter in 1963 he confessed that he had “unearthed 2 000 ancient tombs of Paekje and learned that they were worth three hundred and tens of millions of yen when I entrusted them to merchants for evaluation.”

**I hear the Japanese are insulting the time-honoured history and tradition of Korea claiming the Korean cultural relics as theirs.**

At the moment the Japanese are praising their ancestors for the plunder, saying it was the “most wonderful cultural campaign.” They keep cultural relics of Korea registered on the list of possessions at the Ueno Museum in Tokyo and publicize them as Japan's “national treasure,” “prime cultural assets” and “principal art work.”

A Japanese scholar once said, “Who is the maker of almost all of those things Japan is boasting to the world as its own treasure and many people around the world praise for their beauty? Isn't it true that they were made by the Korean nation? No doubt even the historians admit the truth. There is no other alternative than to call them Korean treasure.”

**Restitution is a global trend at the moment, isn't it?**

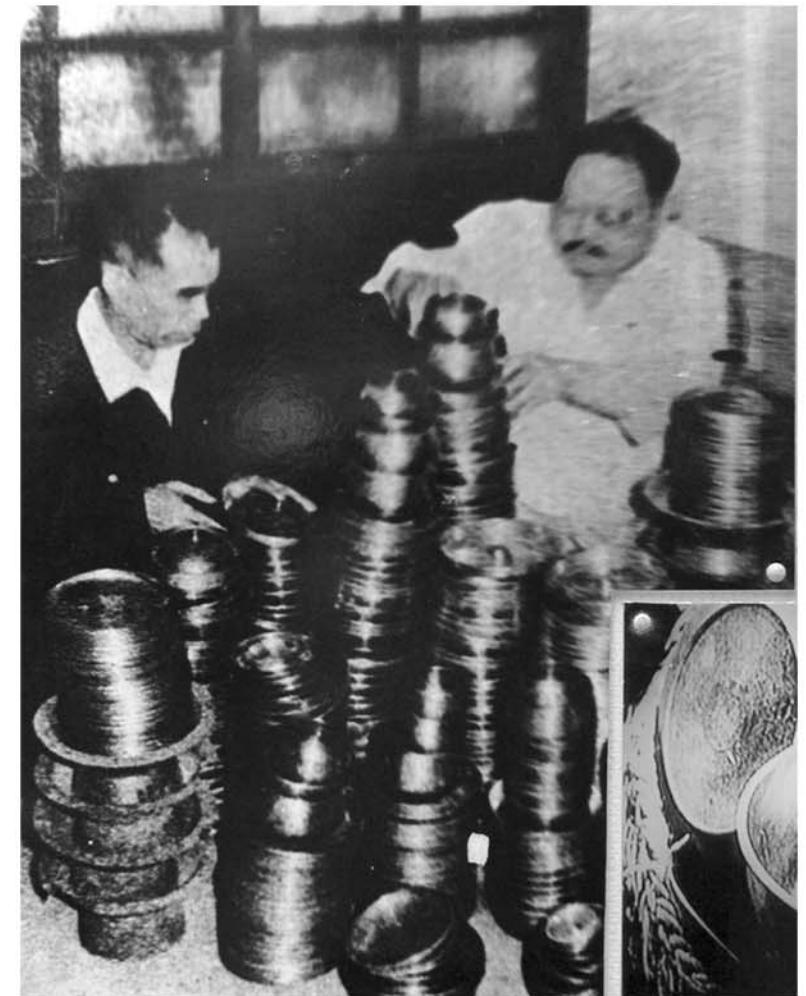
Sure. Last year the UK returned some cultural relics to Ethiopia and France gave back what it took from Senegal in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This is a sign of

the will of the countries not to repeat the past record of crime, and it is also a reflection of the current international trend of pursuing reconciliation and new relationship between nations by settling problems of the past.

Nevertheless, Japan still remains shameless against this reality. Its plunder of the Korean cultural assets is not simply confined to the crime of individual Japanese, but is a extravillainous state-sponsored crime that Japan committed with an intention to clear away the history and culture of the Korean nation by mobilizing the whole government and military authorities.

It is also an unpardonable crime against the international law. Although more than 70 years have passed since its defeat, the insular nation is flatly refusing to admit its past crimes including the plunder of cultural assets. What is more disgusting is that it is embellishing its past, resorting to militarist moves of resurrection with a burning intention of reinvasion. Japan is strongly advised to learn that its record of aggression will not disappear even if it covers it with silk cloth and that the statute of limitations shall not apply to its crime even after the passage of centuries. □

Even brass tableware becomes a target of plunder.



## Sijungho Mud Therapy

THERE IS A LAGOON called Sijungho in Thongchon County, Kangwon Province.

It was originally a bay in the east coast of Korea. Later it was separated from the sea as its estuary was blocked by a strip of sandbank which rose by elevation of the ground and waves. With an area of 2.94 km<sup>2</sup> the lake is 11.8 km round, 3.5 km long, and 0.8 km wide on average, 3.5 m and 0.6 m deep at the maximum and minimum respectively and 2 m deep on average.

The bottom three to four metres away from the shore is covered with mud. The peloid was discovered in Juche 44 (1955)–Juche 45 (1956). The formation of the mud layer took hundreds of years. It came from the accumulation of clay particles carried into the lake by a brook flowing down mountain valleys after their formation through neutralization of the structures and components of ore beds of nearby mountains.

The lake and the sea are linked by a rivulet, and when waves are high, the sea water flows back into the lake. The mud got medicinal effects thanks to the steady ion exchange between the mud and the water of the lake, denaturation and decomposition of organic matters and the repeated process of various ingredients being absorbed into it.

The mud was also influenced by varieties of microorganisms living in the lake. Especially, hydrogen sulfide caused by sulfate-

reducing bacteria changed into iron sulfide through its reaction to iron in the mud, and thus the mud turned ash gray.

The mud consists of about 70 percent of water, 0.14 percent of salt, 20-21 percent of crystalline components, over ten percent of colloidal components, 0.02 percent of iron sulfide and 0.5-1.5 percent of foreign matters.

One litre of the mud solution contains 2.674 mg of minerals in total and 36.5 mg of metasilicic acid. The main ion contents are 723.81 mg of potassium ion and sodium ion, 72.24 mg of calcium ion, 79.67 mg of magnesium ion, 148.11 mg of sodium sulphate ion and 341.6 mg of bicarbonate ion.

The mud of the lake has no smell, is rich in pharmacological ingredients, sticks to skin well never to slip down and cools slowly after being heated, and thus it ensures good conditions

for treatment of diseases such as chronic osteoarticular disorders, chronic hepatitis, chronic cholecystitis and cholangitis, chronic gastritis, gastroduodenal ulcer, chronic colitis, post-traumatic and postoperative after-effects, neuralgia, neuritis, chronic adnexitis, ovarian insufficiency, uterine agenesis and atocia.

Around the lake there is the Sijungho Sanatorium. The mud from the lake is sent to other sanatoriums and hospitals across the country to be widely used for medical treatment.

The techniques of heating the mud, attaching it to skin by adjusting its moisture content, using the solution extracted from the mud to make medicines and so on belong to intangible elements. Thus the Sijungho mud therapy was registered as No. 84 on the list of national intangible cultural heritage.

Rim Ok

Mud of Lake Sijung is used effectively for treatment of chronic diseases. Photo taken in January 2020



## Poetess Ho Ran Sol Hon



HO RAN SOL HON (1563–1589) was a female poet in the period of the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392–1910).

As a child, Ho was clever and unusually pretty, and thus was called female prodigy. It is said that she began to write poems when she was 5.

Her father Ho Yop did not teach her how to read and write. At that time it was not regarded as good to teach women how to read and write. She, however, managed to master the mother tongue by listening secretly to what her elder brothers read, and wrote poems. And she read and wrote more than the brothers.

After marriage, too, she wrote a lot of poems. But she regrettably died at the young age of 26.

She wrote lots of poems in her short life, but the poems failed to be handed down because at the time when women were not encouraged to learn, it must have been impossible to publish poems written by women. Fortunately some of her poems have been handed down thanks to her brother Ho Kyun.

When he was 37, Ho Kyun

was appointed as a government official to guide an envoy of a neighbouring country. While meeting the envoy frequently, he enjoyed writing poems together with the guest. Struck with admiration by his literary talent, the envoy asked him for several writings as souvenirs.

Ho said he had no writings worth mentioning, producing his sister's works before the envoy.

After reading them, the envoy expressed great admiration, and told Ho to let him have them, saying that they were valuable as they were written by a woman.

Back home, the envoy edited the poems and published a book under the title of *Collection of Ran Sol Hon's Writings*.

Lots of people read the book as their favourite. Among the readers was a woman, named Ho Kyong Ran, who followed her father, a government interpreter of Korea, to the neighbouring country to live there.

Kyong Ran, too, was clever from her childhood, and made poems when she was 7 or 8. But as she lost her parents when she was young, she could not return

to her country but had to live with her relatives in the foreign country.

As she grew up she gradually missed her homeland. So she felt the *Collection of Ran Sol Hon's Writings* was as precious as a handful of soil from the country. All the more important was the fact that they were written by her same sex.

Kyong Ran began to write poems after Ran Sol Hon's rhymes. Later her works were edited as a book and published under the title of *Haedonggran*.

Kyong Ran was so impressed by Ran Sol Hon's poems that she went so far as to regard herself as reborn Ran Sol Hon who had already died, and took pride in it. Thus she chose Kyong Ran as her pet name.

She thought that she would die at the age of 26 like Ran Sol Hon had done. So, when she was 26, she said to her relatives, "I'll surely die this year." She, however, did not die that year and the next year. In great disappointment, it is said, she would repeat, "Then am I an ordinary woman instead of reborn Ho Ran Sol Hon?"

Rim Ok

# MT KUWOL (3)

## Scenic Spots in Phaldam Recreation Ground

THE PHALDAM VALLEY has eight pools, hence the name. Now it has changed into a cultural recreation ground. It covers Woljong-ri, Norumegi and Hwajang valleys bounded by Susamthaeryong, Sansong-dongmun, Josadae and Obong. It has many sites of historical importance such as Woljong, Samsong and Phaeyop temples.

Sightseeing and mountaineering in the recreation ground starts from Woljong-ri, Anak County. Woljong Temple was built in 846, and later repaired several times. The structure and style of the temple are fine and well matched mechanically, and it is of significance in studying ancient buildings of Korea.

The temple backs onto Asa Peak which is the fourth tallest peak in the mountain. It is also referred to as the mountain of Tangun, founding father of the Korean nation. The peak rises precipitously from almost level ground, thus looking magnificent. Growing on the peak are pines and pine nut trees, oaks, maples, apricot and peach trees and the Korean pepper bush,

and over five hundred metres up the peak azaleas and royal azaleas grow in crevices of rocks.

The Phaldam Valley is one of the main valleys stretching from Sahwang Peak divided into different branches, thus it is deep and thickly wooded. The valley is a scenic spot where crystal-clear water flows down over bedrocks at its bottom and forms eight pools on flat rocks. A signpost for the climbing route to Phaldam (eight pools) stands at the entrance to the valley. Curious rocks rise jaggedly or form cliffs on the right side of the valley, with the climbing route lying beneath the rocks, and a wide road spreads on the left. The clear water cascades down 100 metre-long layers of bedrock forming the eight pools. A giant rock stands over the eighth pool. And spring water called Chongchun (youth) Spring gushes out from a crevice of the rock, and it is said that one has youthful vigour if one drinks the water.

In the past the scenic spot served as a pleasure resort where only the rich from Nampho, Unryul, Sinchon and Anak enjoyed themselves playing with *kisaengs* (professional entertain-

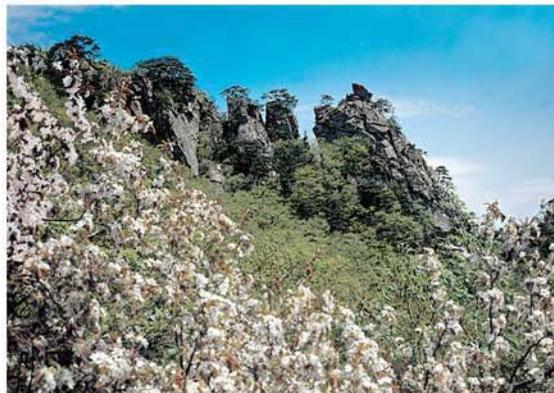
ers). Now it has changed into the people's resort.

There is Unjong Falls above Phaldam. The waterfall, which looks like hundreds of silver beads hanging over a moss-covered wide rock, is very beautiful. On the top of the waterfall there is Lake Unjong, whose blue water inspires people to drink it or plunge into it. Even in mid-summer days the water is very cold. A picnic ground, a dancing ground and a resting place are well arranged around the lake.

The Phaeyop Temple in Mt Kuwol is well-known across the country because it is one of 31 Buddhist head temples in Korea, and it houses rare Buddhist scriptures named Phaeyop Scriptures. If you go up 400 m northwest along the valley from the temple you can see Sesim Falls. Its water flows down rock steps, and there is a pool on each of the steps. The space around the rock is so wide that it is an appropriate place for rest. You feel refreshed by the waterfall, hence comes its name. A little way down from the waterfall there is Ssangthae Falls whose water pours down in two courses.

*Sim Chol Yong*

Hyongje Rocks on Asa Peak.



An old fort site in Mt Kuwol.



Stamps of Yangdok Hot Spring Resort and Jungpyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm

