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Silver Vessel

Gift presented to President Kim Il Sung from Norodom Sihanouk, king of the Kingdom of Cambodia, in April 1994



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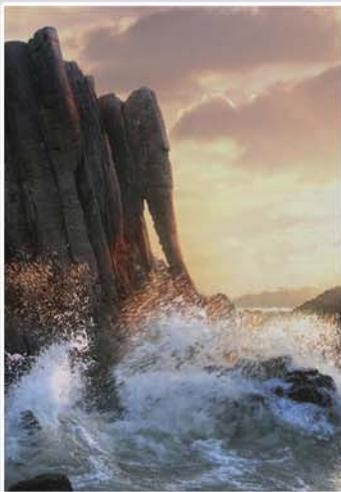
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**Front Cover: Kumsusan
Palace of the Sun**

Photo by Pyon Chan U



**Back Cover: Waves of
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Photo by An Kang Rim

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Nature of WPK

ON JUNE 7 LAST THERE was held the 13th Political Bureau Meeting of the 7th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The meeting discussed four items including the one of developing the chemical industry in a far-sighted way. Another item on the agenda was the issue of improving Pyongyang citizens' living standards.

The meeting pointed out specific problems to be solved immediately in improving their living conditions, and discussed and decided powerful State measures for solving housing and other problems related to the people's living conditions. This is aimed at opening the way to improved standard of living of all the people by radically improving Pyongyang citizens' life first.

At present the hostile forces' moves against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have reached an extreme, and the country is focusing all efforts on the anti-epidemic campaign to check the inroads of the worldwide epidemic. Still, the WPK decided to take new measures for the citizens' living, including the one of building houses at huge State expense. This shows how much importance the Party attaches to the people's living.

Improving the people's living conditions is one of the most important concerns of the Party. Since it began to lead the revolution, the Party, regarding it as the most important matter to take full responsibility for the people's lives, health and safety and their material and cultural life, has always been unstintingly devoting everything to the promotion of their well-being.

This is clear when you review what the Party's Political Bureau discussed and decided earlier this year.

The enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau held in February discussed the issue of taking and enforcing top-class anti-epidemic measures to prevent the rapidly spreading worldwide epidemic from coming into the country, and the issue of taking measures to accelerate the construction of houses in the capital city and provinces. Another meeting of the Political Bureau held in April adopted the joint resolution of the WPK Central Committee, the DPRK State Affairs Commission and the DPRK Cabinet "On taking national measures more thoroughly for protecting the lives and safety of our people from the worldwide epidemic."

Like this, the WPK regards it as the most important matter to realize the aspirations and requirements of the people and promote their interests, and is working hard for its implementation.

Now the worldwide epidemic, which even the advanced countries in terms of public health services have failed to check, has not yet reached the DPRK, and the people are leading a stable life in the country. This is thanks to the national emergency anti-epidemic measures taken for preemptive blockade in compliance with the resolute decision of the WPK.

In April, for even more thorough measures, the Party decided to completely block the boundaries and territorial air and waters of the country until the pandemic is completely put under control in the anti-epi-

demical aspect without any danger of further spread, and set this year as a year of adjustment and took steps to drastically adjust or postpone the major construction projects planned to be done this year.

It is the policy of the Party that it cannot make the slightest concession on or take risks with a matter related to the lives and safety of the people and that it will not only block the boundaries completely for one year but also take a stricter special measure for the sake of the people.

The WPK is consistently pursuing the politics that attaches importance to the people because its political idea is the people-first principle.

The principle is to regard the people as masters of the revolution and construction, rely on them and serve them devotedly.

In the country the slogan "Everything for the people and everything by relying on them!" is the fundamental principle and mode of the Party and the State in their work, and the Party is taking strict measures against infringement on the dignity, rights, requirements and interests of the people.

The Party regards the people as divine, and regards it as its mode of existence to serve them devotedly—this is the original people-friendly nature of the Party.

Thanks to the people-first principle the Party and the masses are a harmonious whole, the only one of its kind in the world, and they are constantly making miraculous achievements even in the worst conditions.

Yon Chung Hyok

Independence— Invariable Banner of DPRK

THE KOREAN REVOLUTION STARTED AND has advanced under the banner of independence winning victory after victory.

The pioneer of the revolution was Kim Il Sung, eternal President of the socialist Korea. He originated the Juche idea that man is the master of his own destiny and has the power to carve it out, and waged an arduous armed struggle against the Japanese imperialist aggressors relying on the Koreans' own efforts, thus achieving the historic cause of national liberation. What runs through his Juche idea is independence. As the guiding idea of the times, it has since brought about amazing creations and changes in the revolution and construction.

The Korean people still remember how the people's government came into existence in the guerrilla bases, a form of liberated area, during the anti-Japanese armed struggle in the early days of the 20th century.

As the contemporary Korea was a semi-feudal colony, the question of power was generally accepted as something to be considered after liberation. But Kim Il Sung knew that the people were eager to live a worthwhile life befitting a human being with the power in their own hand at least within the boundaries of the guerrilla bases. So he decided to set up a model government in the guerrilla bases, which was to be patterned after in the country after it was liberated.

The point was what type of government to choose. Some earlier or existing forms of the working-class government were the commune and the Soviet government, which were accepted in all countries as universal.

Kim Il Sung considered the standard of government form from the view of what the people wanted and how much the government could champion and defend their interests. Understanding that the Koreans were anxious to have democratic freedom and equality as well as national liberation, he decided that the government in the guerrilla bases had to be of a comprehensive form, unlike the commune or the Soviet type, so that it could represent all people who made up the motive force of the revolution.

Thanks to his original policy a new form of govern-

ment, called the people's revolutionary government, was established in the guerrilla bases. It served as the prototype of the people's government to be established in the country after liberation, that is, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea which was founded in September 1948.

After liberation on August 15, 1945 the Korean people steadfastly followed the road of their own choice at each stage of the revolution and construction, typically the building of a new democratic Korea, the victorious Fatherland Liberation War in the 1950s and the socialist construction, thereby erecting a strong socialist country which is independent in politics, self-sufficient in the economy and self-reliant in national defence.

Kim Jong Il, eternal General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, led the Korean people's patriotic struggle dynamically along the road of independence and creation under the banner of Juche orientation. During his revolutionary leadership spanning dozens of years, he solved all problems concerning the revolution and construction in accord with independent policies in the interests of the Korean revolution and in the Korean way to suit the reality of the country.

When socialism ran into setback in some countries, he wrote and made public a number of works such as *The Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party* and *On the Fundamentals of Revolutionary Party Building*, pronouncing his view that if ruling socialist parties had solved all problems from the independent stand as befitting masters of the revolution in their respective countries to suit the reality of their countries and to meet the demand of their own people, there would not have been a successive collapse of ruling socialist parties and socialist system. He stressed the need always to approach all matters with confidence in the Korean way in conformity with the actual condition of Korea to meet the demand of the Korean people.

The country had a hard time of economic difficulties in the mid-1990s, which was later dubbed as the Arduous March and forced march. In this situation, too, Kim Jong Il urged reliance on the nation's own economic foundation in any condition to develop the economy and improve the living standards of the people in the Korean way. Rely on our own effort and develop the economy with our own effort—this was the line he maintained.

Under his leadership a dynamic campaign was launched across the country to make a breakthrough for economic revitalization even at the cost

of further tightening the belt.

Medium and smaller power stations were built to solve the power problem by tapping local resources, and foundations were laid to bring the backbone industries of the national economy back to life. Double or treble cropping, land rezoning, construction of poultry and fish farms were some of the nationwide efforts to go through the economic bottleneck.

Thanks to his wise guidance the nation successfully wound up the Arduous March and forced march and jumped into the stage of building a powerful socialist country.

In his historic policy speech at the first session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un declared that building socialism with self-reliance along the revolutionary line of independence consists in the fundamental principle of state building to be invariably adhered to by the DPRK.

True to the ideas and instructions of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, he regards the people's demand and interests as the cornerstone of all lines and policies and starting point of State activities.

At the fifth plenary meeting of the 7th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea in late December last year he advanced the revolutionary policy of launching an offensive for a frontal breakthrough in compliance with the prevailing situation and the developing revolution. This means a proactive measure to further increase the nation's internal strength with self-sufficiency and self-reliance as the motive force.

At the moment the Korean people are giving fuller play to their spirit of national independence and national self-existence under the banner "Let us smash straight through all the barriers in the way of our advance!" While the enthusiasm for mass innovation and mass emulation is rising, a sweeping campaign is going on to make better and more things more quickly and use them economically by practising the way of maximum increase and maximum economy. Everyone is making a meritorious life in the ongoing offensive for a frontal breakthrough with the confidence in their own things and the determination to achieve prosperity with their own effort.

As patriotic endeavour is what everyone regards as worthwhile and is sustaining the whole society, socialist construction in Korea is going full steam ahead.

An Song Duk



Independence in Politics

THE JUCHE IDEA NOT ONLY PRESENTS AN entirely scientific philosophical outlook on the world and view of social history, but also clarifies guiding principles of applying them in the practice of the revolution and construction.

What is fundamental of the principles is to adhere to an independent stand and what is of paramount importance in this respect is to maintain independence in politics.

Maintenance of independence in politics contains two ideas. One is upholding national independence and sovereignty, and the other is administering the government of defending national interests and relying on the national efforts.

Explanation of the need to adhere to independence in politics must be begun with what politics is.

People have led a political life for long but the so-called politicians in all ages and countries had no correct understanding of what politics is.

In former days the reactionary rulers and their mouthpieces regarded politics as governing the populace, or as a tool for ruling the people. Some people argued that the populace had to be ruled by law and others insisted that the populace be ruled by virtues. This clearly reveals the stand of the reactionary rulers trying to put the people under their control.

The Marxist theory shed a new light on the conception of politics. Marxism understood that politics was a tool for class domination and, on this basis, considered that politics was a product of class society and that extinction of classes would lead to the end of politics. And it held that in order to implement politics for the masses the working class had to abolish the old exploiting system and seize power.

How, then, does the Juche idea understand politics?

Based on a new man-centred world outlook, the Juche idea regards politics as a social function of organizing and commanding the activities of people in a coordinated way in the common interests of a class or society. In addition, the Juche idea put

forth a new conception that politics is not associated with class alone. Thus, it makes it clear that politics is necessary in the classless society as well.

The elucidation that politics is a social function of regulating and controlling the activities of people in common interests of a society and continues to exist in the classless society, is the reason why the Juche idea is a completely unique idea.

Since politics is a social function of regulating and controlling the position and role of all social members in a coordinated way, it is a sector that is of decisive significance for social life. Therefore, only when people become masters of politics, can they become masters of society and satisfy their demands and interests. And only when they are masters of politics, can they become masters of the economy, culture and other sectors of social life.

The need to adhere to the principle of independence in politics emanates from such essence of politics.

Another reason why independence should be maintained in politics is that the issue of the struggle to realize independence of the masses of people is dependent on political independence.

By nature, revolution is a difficult and complicated undertaking. Today the people are waging a struggle for their independence in the face of the incessant aggression and interference of the imperialists. Such being the situation, if political independence is not maintained, revolution cannot be carried out.

This is clear from the fact that the socialist system collapsed in succession in East European countries.

The history clearly shows that if they dance to the tune of others without independence in politics, they would make a mess of their revolution.

Maintenance of independence in politics is a serious matter relating to the destiny of each country and nation, and only when independence is firmly maintained in politics can they conduct politics of defending interests of masses of the people.

Kim Hyon Ju

In Pursuance of Independent Economic Development

“Self-reliance Is the Only Way Out”

ON JANUARY 27, JUCHE 105 (2016) Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill. He made the rounds of several places of the mill before stopping at a barotor machine in the processing workshop.

The machine, which was developed by teachers and researchers of Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry, consumed much less dyeing liquid and water than earlier machines, so its energy consumption was considerably small with far less effluent coming from dyeing. And it was possible to put a roll of cloth into the machine as a whole, thus it could save cloth by 20% while further increasing productivity.

After hearing an official's explanation the Supreme Leader wore a bright smile on his face, saying that it is good to make things by themselves, and that self-reliance is the only way out.

He expressed his great satisfaction that it was good to have made the barotor machine with

their own efforts and technology by dint of self-reliance.

Standard of Modernization

On July 29, 2016 the Supreme Leader visited a factory.

In the general control room he learned about the factory's integrated manufacturing system. Seeing a general interface of the system displayed on a large screen he asked about the operation principle of a raw material feeder and a device which finds out a position of a broken thread. An official replied that raw materials were automatically supplied through an automatic sensor according to the daily amount prescribed by the central control room, and that the LED light was on at the position where the thread was broken. He added that workers liked the system. The Supreme Leader said that what the workers comment good after they try it is a truly successful modernization, and that the factory had to preferentially modernize what the workers would like to.

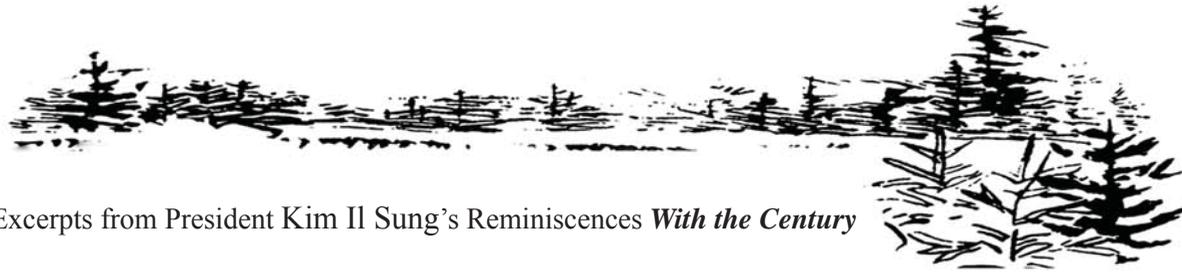
“Then I Will Raise Cheers”

On October 28, 2016 the Supreme Leader visited the Ryongaksan Soap Factory. Stepping into the warehouse of the factory he saw boxes of detergent piled up. He said that he was satisfied, and that it seemed he was relieved of the pent-up fatigue right away to picture the people who would be pleased to use high-quality detergent manufactured by the factory.

Then he said that it was merely an initial step, and that when the factory churned out detergent sufficient enough for the people by using raw materials available in the country, then he would raise cheers.

He continued to say that as he had emphasized before the core of making the detergent industry Juche-oriented was to use locally available materials in production, and that the factory had better raise cheers when it mass-produced different kinds of detergent favoured by the people.

Pak Un Yong



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

The Man from the Comintern

IN APRIL 1933, WHEN OUR struggle against the Leftist deviation was at its height in the guerrilla base, Tong Chang-rong came to see me in the company of a middle-aged man dressed in *dabushanzi*. The man appeared like a gentleman and had a gentleman's manners. Seeing me from a distance, he smiled and raised his hand above his head in a gesture of greeting. His eyes were shining in such delight, I might have taken him for an old acquaintance of mine.

On shaking hands with him, however, I found him to be a stranger. But strange to say, I still had the feeling that this stranger was an old acquaintance. So I received him kindly, with a smile.

This mysterious guest was Manchurian provincial party committee member Pan, an inspector from the Comintern. Just as Wei Zheng-min used to be addressed as Old Wei, this man was addressed as Old Pan. Pan is the Chinese pronunciation of his surname. According to Chinese custom, an elderly or respected person was given the title "Old," which was used as a polite way of addressing him. Few people called him by his real name Ri Ki Dong or by his nickname Pan Qing-you.

Inspector Pan was renowned

as a revolutionary and party worker among the communists in Manchuria.

I first heard of Pan from Wang Run-cheng. When Pan worked as secretary of the Ninggan county party committee after the September 18 incident, Wang Run-cheng was a member of the committee for information under him. Wang said that he was put in charge of information on that committee on Pan's recommendation, and he was very proud of the fact. According to him, Pan was a veteran who graduated from the Huangpu Military Academy, participated in the uprising at Wuchang and the northern expedition in China, and studied in the Soviet Union. He had also been the secretary of the Suining central county party committee. Wang said that he had been charmed more than once by Pan's noble qualities and keen understanding.

Wang's respect for him was quite exceptional.

Hearing about him from Wang, I was delighted at the fact that able revolutionaries like Pan were working in our local areas.

Though I was grateful to Pan for acknowledging east Manchuria as the centre of the Korean revolution, I felt somewhat ashamed to hear it. I wondered

what impression he would be given by the Leftist abuses in the guerrilla zone when he witnessed them. Of course, I had previously known almost nothing of his political ideas and attitude. Though he was a man of broad political perspective and rich experience in the struggle, he could not always be expected to oppose the Leftist trend unreservedly.

His appearance in Wangqing provoked different reactions among the inhabitants.

Those who, regarding the Leftist Soviet line as the Comintern's policy, had placed themselves at its beck and call, thought that Old Pan would support their position, and that his appearance would, therefore, be a good opportunity to apply sanctions against the proponents of the line of the people's revolutionary government and brand them as Rightists, so that they would no longer dispute the form of government.

On the other hand, those who, denouncing the Soviet line as Leftist, had worked all along for the establishment of a new form of government in accordance with the line of the people's revolutionary government, watched Old Pan's every action closely, apprehensive that their anti-Soviet position might be rejected by him or that, in the

▶ worst case, they might even be punished in the name of the Comintern. Many of them foretold that Pan's visit would complicate the situation in the guerrilla zone, which had just begun to shake off the grip of the Soviet line.

The former group was in triumphant mood; the latter was in a state of mental defeat. Both attitudes sprang from the fact that they regarded the Comintern's authority as absolute. The Comintern, which was capable of disbanding a party or trying a man for his crimes, seemed as awesome to them as an international supreme court. They thought that the Comintern could redeem or destroy the fate of a revolutionary as it pleased.

Pan's appearance placed a strain on the guerrilla zone. I, too, could sense the strain in the atmosphere at every moment.

The attitude which Pan would take towards those of us who had supported the line of the people's revolutionary government against the Soviet line of the Comintern and denounced the Soviet measures as Leftist abuses was a matter of serious concern for us.

I thought it fortunate for our revolution that the Comintern had sent its representative to east Manchuria, where the people were groaning under the yoke of Leftist high-handedness. At a time when the advocates of the Soviet line and the line of the people's revolutionary government were arguing with each other over who was correct, Pan's appearance would initiate a decisive phase by his supporting or rejection of the different lines.

Nobody had yet given any assurance that the Comintern would support our position.

I saw to it that Pan stayed at old man Ri Chi Baek's house, the largest one in Macun, and spent some ten days talking with him in the front room of the house.

Our conversation naturally turned to the issue of Soviet power, which had been occupying everybody's attention in Jiandao. I was honestly eager to hear Pan's opinion of the Soviet government to which the people had turned their backs, at which they had spat, and from which they stood aloof.

"Old Pan," I said casually, "what is your impression of the guerrilla zone you have looked around on your first visit to Jiandao?"

"I would like to pay my respects to the people of Jiandao and the revolutionaries who have built a wonderful society on this barren land," Pan said in a loud voice, unbuttoning and opening the front skirts of his gown. "The people here have done a lot of work and endured tremendous hardships. But I must say that it is a matter of great regret that an unwelcome spectre is hovering over this marvellous land."

From his emotional tone, I could tell that he was greatly excited.

"A spectre? What do you mean by that?" I asked.

He picked up a large pinch of cut tobacco from the pouch which old man Ri Chi Baek offered and began to roll a thick cigarette.

"I mean the Leftist Soviet line. It is pulling down the tower which has been built by the strenuous efforts of the people of Jiandao. I can't understand this at all. How is it possible for the revolutionaries of Jiandao, who pioneered the Manchurian revolution, to take leave of their senses to such an extent?"

"To tell you the truth, I find the Leftist deviation so upsetting that my hair may turn white."

"How can they be so blind and stupid?... I talked with them, and they were totally ignorant of the Soviet government in Russia. Comrade Tong Chang-rong is a man of rich fighting experience and gentle character...."

"What a preposterous mistake! It is clearly no accident that letters of complaint were addressed to the Comintern. You have had plenty to worry about, I expect."

He glanced at me in commiseration.

"I wouldn't mind personal distress, no matter how great. My heart ached at the sight of people who were suffering under Leftist high-handedness."

Pan puffed at his cigarette nervously and continually, as if to give vent to his anger.

"I have encountered a stroke of good luck in the midst of misfortune, which is that the line of the people's revolutionary government was born of the soil overgrown with Leftist weeds, the government which enjoys the people's support and will save our revolution from the crisis. Comrade Kim, a short while ago I informed Comrade Tong Chang-rong that your proposal is marvellous."

"Do you mean to say that you also support the line of the people's revolutionary government?"

"If not, why should I have said so to Comrade Tong Chang-rong? He has also expressed his support for the line. He seems to have been strongly impressed by your statement that anything the people like is good. Let us now work better, with firm confidence in ourselves."

► Pan grasped my hand in an unconscious but significant gesture, and then released it.

In this way the Comintern's support for our line on the people's revolutionary government was confirmed.

Pan said it was a remarkable success for us to have gained the freedom of activity of the guerrilla army by forming a special detachment and improved relations with the national salvation army of the Chinese nationalists. He encouraged us revolutionaries in east Manchuria to follow up this success.

Saying that our line on the people's revolutionary government was basically in accord with the line of the revolutionary masses' government proposed by the Chinese party, he explained the Chinese line briefly.

The Chinese line proposed a new and clear strategy on the Manchurian issue, centring on the switchover of their political line. It had been formally issued in the name of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, but was in fact drafted by the Comintern. It could be said, therefore, to represent the will of the Comintern.

Their idea of forming peasant committees as organs of rural government attracted our attention. The proposal was that the peasant committee should manage relations between the peasants and the guerrilla army, supplying food to the army and organizing armed self-defence guards on a routine basis, and that the party should ensure that hired farm hands and poor peasants become the leading force in the peasant committee, and thus rally the masses of middle peasants around them.

In other words, the Comin-

tern had recognized the irrationality of the Leftist Soviet line in the question of political power, and had acknowledged the need to replace it with a new form of government. After all, this was the confirmation of the correctness of the line of the people's revolutionary government which we had proposed.

However, Inspector Pan was very concerned about the name of the peasant committee. Although peasant committees were better suited than Soviets to the situation in Manchuria, he said, a policy which was orientated towards the hired farm hands and poor peasants would not be able to rally the broader masses behind them. He stressed that the people's revolutionary government was an improvement and advance, a type of united front which was capable of rallying all sections of the population—workers, peasants, students, intellectuals and others—who were opposed to the Japanese. He said he would express this opinion in a letter to the Comintern and the Manchurian provincial party committee.

“What does it matter whether we call it a peasant committee or a people's revolutionary government? All that is required is to satisfy the people's desires. A people's revolutionary government will do in a place where we can put up such a sign, and a peasant committee will do where a committee is more suitable, won't it?”

In this way, I tried to calm the inspector's anxieties, but he was still not at ease.

“You are right in general, but the name of the government must cater to the people's preferences. In any case, I must bring the matter to the Comintern.”

Pan's appearance in east Manchuria at a time when we were

struggling with complex problems requiring prompt solutions was welcome. My acquaintance with him was one of the most significant events in my life. It was a good thing that there were people in the Comintern who understood us and supported us. His statements that the ranks of the Korean communist movement should be renewed with trained hardcore elements who had not been infected with factionalism, and that a party of the Korean people should be established produced an especially strong impression on me. His advice encouraged me and strengthened my sense of independence in thinking and in practice. Had it not been for his influence and comradely encouragement, it would have been impossible for me to fight effectively, even though I risked my life, in defence of the Juche spirit of the Korean nation and our revolution at a time when the struggle against the “Minsaengdan” was being conducted in such a dreadful manner.

Pak So Sim introduced me to Marx's *Capital*, Shang Yue taught me the *Dream at the Red Mansion*, and now Inspector Pan had given me sincere support, encouragement and sympathy and so strengthened my conviction that Koreans must not forget Korea.

In all history of my revolutionary struggle against the Japanese imperialists I never discussed the fate of the Korean revolution and the political line of this revolution so enthusiastically, sincerely and so seriously as I did with Inspector Pan. He was a rare theoretician, with an unshakable commitment to the revolution.

Had he been alive to work with us when we advanced to the area of Mt. Paektu in command

► of large forces in the latter half of the 1930s, he could have made many theoretical and practical contributions to the solution of the difficult problems facing the Korean revolution.

My acquaintance with Pan opened my eyes to the vital need for a theoretician capable of guiding and steering the practical struggle, in addition to the man of practice who was also important in the revolutionary struggle.

Following our unforgettable discussions at Xiaowangqing, Pan became my most intimate friend and comrade. Although he was more than twenty years older than me, we forged a relationship as friends and comrades in a matter of ten days, and this friendship and comradeship were as intimate as those of ten years duration. But they were not cemented by any material or personal interests. This exceptionally warm friendship was derived from a common, long-cherished desire for the liberation and freedom of Korea and from a shared way of thinking and aspiration to independence in all matters.

The depth of a friendship cannot be measured by the length of its duration or by the number of conversations. A long period of association does not necessarily indicate a deep friendship, nor does a short period of association mean friendship is shallow. The essential thing is the viewpoint and attitude one maintains in approaching man and his destiny, in approaching one's nation and its destiny. Depending on this viewpoint and attitude, the warmth of friendship may be redoubled or it may cool. Love for man, love for one's fellow people, and love for one's country are the touchstone

of friendship.

When Inspector Pan was leaving Xiaowangqing, I saw him off on horseback as far as the boundary between Wangqing and Hunchun Counties. Because he limped a little, I had seen to it that he could travel on horseback.

During our ride we talked a lot, and during a two days' stop-over at the village of Shiliping, we discussed a host of subjects, including the international communist movement, our relations with the Chinese party, and matters relating to the Korean revolution at the present and in the future. We also made firm pledges to one another.

The subjects we discussed at the time would be good material for the plot of a novel. Ri Pom Sok's military academy was in that village, the O Jung Hwa's family were taking refuge there.

Pan even touched on his own family life. He said his wife was only half his own age. I don't remember exactly whether he called her O Yong Ok or O Pung Ok.

I asked him why he had only married when he was over forty.

“Ha, ha!” he laughed, “no need to ask why. I did not have the charm a husband needs, so girls stayed away from me. Who would ever love a lame man like me? If it were not for Madam O, I might have remained an old bachelor.”

He seemed to have been born with a low opinion of himself.

We chatted and laughed, sitting in a grass field near the village of Shiliping, and deepening our friendship.

Pan said that he had become deeply attached to Wangqing, and regretted parting with me. His next destinations were Hunchun and Helong.

“Comrade Kim, I will carry your image in my memory all my life. I am very happy to have met you in Wangqing, Comrade Kim Il Sung,” he said, with a serious look, his eyes brimming with tears, his hand squeezing mine, as he crossed the border.

“So am I. I am most fortunate to have met you, Comrade Pan. Frankly, I don't want to bid you farewell.”

“How could I wish to part? I wish that after this journey I could come to east Manchuria with my wife and work hand in hand with you, Comrade Kim. I am outdated in some ways. A little stained.... Please be Korea's Ho Chi Minh.”

With these words, Inspector Pan took his leave of Wangqing. When he was some distance away, he turned round and raised his hand above his head. Looking at his hand as I had when I first met him, I felt as if a long time had passed. The details of his expression seemed to have been imprinted on my eyes to remain there for decades.

Feelings of loneliness and sorrow at parting from a man with whom I had forged a friendship in so short a time gripped my heart as he looked back at me, and I wondered why the farewell was so sad. Pan was smiling, but he, too, looked sad. His smile lay heavy on my heart. If he had not smiled, my heart would have been much lighter. He left me, wishing that he could return but died in Hunchun and we never met again.

When I heard the news, I locked myself up in the front room of Ri Chi Baek's house, where Pan and I had discussed the revolution and the meaning of human life, and wept over his death all day long. □

Guinean People and President Kim Il Sung

TODAY THE KIM IL SUNG AGRICULTURAL Institute in Guinea is playing a pivotal role in the agricultural development in my country and West Africa.

A helping hand

My country has fertile farmland of 1.3 million hectares, and 85% of the population is engaged in farming. It also has a favourable climatic condition for farming, and sufficient water resources with a dozen rivers including the Niger and their tributaries.

Our farming, however, was in a woeful state until the early 1980s. As the country had a poor irrigation system, the rainy season just meant the farming season. In the season we dug up fields with hoes, planted seeds without applying fertilizer or manure and left the fields without removing weeds until harvesting in autumn. As a result, the yield of rice and corn was 500 to 600 kg per hectare, and one ton at the most. As a result, 30-40% of the population suffered from famine. The annual import of food totaled 700 000 tons.

At this juncture, in August 1981, there was held a symposium of the non-aligned and other developing countries on increasing food and agricultural production in Pyongyang.

President Kim Il Sung met ministers of agriculture from African countries who attended the symposium, and had a consultative meeting with them for the development of agriculture in Africa. At the conference the President said:

It will be wrong to think that all problems will be solved by themselves just because we have held the Symposium of the Non-aligned and Other Developing Countries on Increasing Food and Agricultural Production and adopted a declaration. Any declaration will be meaningless and will remain a mere piece of paper if we do not take organizational steps to put it into practice.

He also said that it was important to accelerate the development of agricultural science and technology in order to rapidly develop agriculture in the countries in East and West Africa, that it was advisable to set up an agricultural research centre for East Africa in Tanzania and the one for West Africa in Guinea, and that he thought it was necessary to set up an experimental farm in each country where an agricultural research centre was not established.

And the President took measures to send ten Korean agriculturalists to Tanzania and Guinea respectively, and three to five to the experimental

farms that would be established in other countries.

Opening up new era of scientific farming

The inauguration ceremony of the Kim Il Sung Agricultural Institute in Guinea took place on January 13, 1982, 135 days after the Pyongyang consultative meeting. Thus an agricultural science research base began to be built in a mountain village of Kilissi in Kindia 160 km away from Conakry.

The building of the institute, an agricultural science exhibition house, a laboratory and an experimental farm went up next year despite the difficult conditions such as the tropical heat of over 40°C and infectious diseases like malaria. This was followed by the construction of two small multi-tier power stations and 20 cosy modern dwelling houses in the village which had had only huts. The Kilissi River which would overflow in the rainy season flooding paddy and dry fields and villages was improved, and an irrigation channel, a pumping station and a water tank were built.

Now the agricultural research started in real earnest in my country. The agriculturalists from Korea and my country devoted all their wisdom and effort, and thus harvested 4.9 tons of paddy rice and 5.5 tons of corn in the first year after the drastic change.

By 1990 we had developed different high-yielding seeds of rice and corn and introduced double cropping.

We also improved the technique of crop cultivation with a proper combination of modern farm machines and draught animals, and established an irrigation system.

The new kinds of paddy rice from my institute spread to many African countries such as Senegal and Mali. In 1993 alone the success and experience gained in the rice and corn cultivation had been introduced in over 360 farms in my country. This opened up a new era of scientific farming in Guinea.

My institute has so far made a lot of achievements in agricultural science and technology, true to the instructions of President Kim Il Sung. It has bred 24 good kinds of rice, and CK-4 enjoys great popularity as its yield is 11 tons per hectare. The total grain yield of my country has increased remarkably—it was 800 000 tons in 2000. My country is still striving to attain self-sufficiency in food.

Banou Keita, former director of the Kim Il Sung Agricultural Institute in Guinea

Seventy-five Years of WPK (7)

WPK and Building of Socialist Power

IT IS THE WORKERS' PARTY OF KOREA'S strategic goal to build a powerful socialist country whose national power is enormous and where everything thrives and all the people live as happily as anyone else in the world. It was also a noble intention and desire of President Kim Il Sung, founder and leader of the WPK, and Chairman Kim Jong Il, eternal General Secretary of the Party.

Kim Il Sung put forth lines and policies for the Party to play properly the role of the strong general political staff to lead the Korean revolution to victory at each stage of the revolution and construction, and wisely led the effort for their implementation. Founding the WPK on October 10, 1945 as the first work after the country was liberated from the military occupation of the Japanese imperialists on August 15, 1945, the national leader defined it as the political line of the Party to build a prosperous and powerful democratic sovereign and independent state.

He opened up the path of building a new country after liberation by kindling the flames of patriotism through his historic speech on his triumphant return, in which he appealed for the building of a new, democratic Korea with those with strength giving strength, those with knowledge offering knowledge and those with money donating money. Thanks to his wise leadership the people-centred socialist country, independent in politics, self-sufficient in the economy and self-reliant in national defence, was built in a short span of time.

The mid-1990s was a hardest time in the Korean revolution. When socialism collapsed one after another in several East European countries, the imperialists and reactionaries raised "cheers," crying the Cold War terminated and that "a new era of peace" would begin with the "end" of socialism. They uninterruptedly resorted to vicious politico-military pressure, persistent economic blockade and ideological and cultural disintegration moves against Korea. Earlier, they had only schemed to put the country under their control by occupying it militarily, but now they pursued a sinister aim completely to isolate and stifle it in all fields of politics, defence, the economy, and ideology and culture in an attempt to eradicate it from the earth.

So the WPK and the Korean people were faced with the task to safeguard their socialist country from the moves of the imperialists, and give full play to the advantages of socialism.

At this juncture Chairman Kim Jong Il overcame severe trials and opened the way to building a thriving socialist country by kindling the flames

of patriotism in his letter in which he appealed to all the people to work energetically and with one purpose to make their country, their motherland, ever more prosperous.

He made sure the People's Army performed the leading role well in socialist construction, and remarkably developed the defence industry so as to attain a military guarantee for building a powerful socialist nation.

The Songun politics administered by the Chairman was the main mode of socialist politics which brought about the dawn of building a powerful socialist country. He saw to it that the independent stand was firmly maintained in all fields of politics, the economy, defence and culture while all things were carried out after the nation's own decision and a great revolutionary upsurge was effected in socialist construction by believing in the people and by dint of their strength.

He also set forth the line of economic construction in the Songun era in which priority was given to the defence industry while developing light industry and agriculture simultaneously, and vigorously encouraged the entire nation to this end. Thus, a solid material and economic foundation was laid for the building of a strong socialist nation.

Chairman Kim Jong Un of the WPK made public his classic work *Let Us Step Up the Building of a Thriving Country by Applying Kim Jong Il's Patriotism* on July 26, Juche 101 (2012). In the work he said: Our Party is going to establish a new milestone in building a thriving socialist country by stoking the flames of patriotism with Kim Jong Il's patriotism as the initial spark. This is our Party's unshakable will and determination.

The Supreme Leader put forward the line of marching straight along the road of independence and the road of socialism, and the idea of hastening final victory through a revolutionary ideological offensive, thus encouraging all the people to unite firmly behind the WPK and turn out as one in the struggle to build a thriving socialist country. At the Seventh Congress of the WPK he put forth a blueprint of building a powerful socialist country, and this year he presented the revolutionary slogan to smash straight through all the barriers in the way of advance.

Today the Korean people are marching forward dynamically towards final victory with a conviction that they can build a thriving socialist country successfully as they are following the Supreme Leader's leadership faithfully.

Ri Jong Nam

VICTORIOUS FATHERLAND LIBERATION WAR MUSEUM

THE VICTORIOUS FATHERLAND Liberation War Museum on the picturesque Pothong River was opened on the occasion of the

60th anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950–July 1953). Covering a total area of 93 000 m² the

museum has the Anti-Japanese Armed Struggle Hall, the Regular Armed Forces Building Hall, the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War

Hall, the Chinese People's Volunteers Hall, the International Support Hall and other halls, and an open-air weapons exhibition ground. □

Photo taken in July 2019



Chongjin Bus Factory

THE CHONGJIN BUS Factory is one of the factories making a big contribution to passenger transport in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Trial Car

A small car maintenance shop went into operation in Chongam District, Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province on September 1, Juche 34 (1945) soon after the liberation of Korea from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation on August 15, 1945. It was the Chongjin Automobile Repair Factory, the predecessor of the present factory.

In the early days the workers and technicians of the factory managed to solve the problem of insufficient equipment and parts, and repair broken cars in the province. During the fierce Fatherland Liberation War (1950-1953) and the postwar rehabilitation of the national economy, the workers of the factory always played a big role in ensuring transport in the province.

Entering the 1960s the demand for transport in the province increased with rapid economic

development and the improvement of the people's livelihood. Especially, the demand for passenger transport rapidly increased. To solve the problem the factory set a goal of producing different vehicles as well as parts needed for repairing cars, but it was not easy. Not a few people said that it was premature for the factory to produce vehicles.

However, workers and technicians of the factory managed to make a trial trolley bus by pooling their wisdom in April 1969. This made all the employees of the factory confident that they can do anything when they are determined.

Change of Factory

The production of the trial trolley bus was followed by the production of scores of trolley buses in 1970. This made it possible to open the bus line between Haean and Sabong of the city.

The factory produced a lot of trolley buses by 1987, thus helping introduce bus lines in Chongjin and Kim Chaek cities and in Onsong County. The fac-

tory received letters of thanks from Kim Chaek City, Onsong County and so on, and those of congratulation from different regions.

Meanwhile, its material foundation further strengthened. A modern tram car assembly shop and a traction motor assembly shop were set up, a □-shaped steel moulding machine was developed, and efficient assembling jigs were introduced. On the basis of this the factory made a trial tram car in July 1990 followed by the production of 30-odd tram cars, thus contributing to improving the public transport in Chongjin. Hwang Kwang Il, general manager of the factory says, "We proved through practice that we can do anything when we rely on our own strength and technology."

Today the factory has changed into a comprehensive vehicle producer based on its own strength and technology.

"We Serve the People!"

In April 2020 the factory manufactured a new-type trolley bus. Painted on one side of the



► bus is the slogan "We serve the people!" This is the invariable principle of production and business management of the factory. This is how it is able to specialize in the production of different kinds of vehicles for passenger transport in the city and the province.

The new-type trolley buses

with seats of improved shock absorbers are now popular with the local people, and they are running along the streets in the city.

Ri Song Min, a resident in Songphyeong District, Chongjin, says, "These buses are pleasing to look at and convenient to use. In particular, I'm very pleased to

take the buses made by our own workers."

The factory has set a higher goal of satisfying the demand for transport services in the province in the near future by increasing the production of different vehicles, and is striving to that end.

Kim Son Myong

New Recycling Technique Developed

NOT LONG AGO, SCIENTISTS of the State Academy of Sciences developed and introduced a new technique of recycling the lignite ash from thermal power stations. As a valuable achievement, the technique is aimed at directly adding such ash to concrete in a certain ratio to be used in construction, thus making it possible to reduce the consumption of cement and raise structures' strength and resistance to freezing.

Generally, low-heat portland cement is used in the construction of hydraulic structures such as a power station dam. If lignite ash is added to the cement at 15 to 20%, it is said, the strength of the relevant structure further increases with the passage of time as compared to using the cement alone.

Application of the technique into dam construction makes it possible to save cement by 20%, reduce manpower and power

consumption and ensure the structure's strength and resistance to freezing sufficiently.

The technique also helps raise the construction speed and turn lignite ash previously left useless into useful material. As it can bring a huge economic profit in the construction of hydraulic structures, it is favourably commented upon at the Tanchon Power Station and other power station construction sites.

Pak Thae Ho



Growing Enthusiasm for Increased Production

THE FIFTH PLENARY Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held last year advanced the tasks for raising a wind of emulation drive for tapping reserves, further increasing production and practising economy in keeping with actual conditions of individual sectors and units, and making all sectors and all units give precedence to improvement of the quality of their products and creations on the principle of giving priority to quality over quantity.

Now the work to implement the tasks is going on dynamically in all sectors and at all units of the national economy. In particular, the light industry sector, holding fast to recycling as an important undertaking, is propelling the campaign to diversify mass consumer goods in terms of kind and shape and improve their quality.

The textile industry sector is making efforts to turn fabric production processes into labour-, power-, and land-saving ones, recycle scrap cloth and waste fibre, and develop new products. The Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill has set up a workable technical development plan for increasing the quality

of goods and developing new products. It is waging a vigorous mass-based technical innovation campaign to develop products good enough to satisfy the demand and suit the liking of the consumers. Its technicians and workers pool their creative wisdom and strength, thus weaving high quality fabrics such as terylene rayon material for suits, printed cotton and gauze fabric.

The Songyo Knitwear Factory developed an artificial hair fabric knitting machine and a starching machine with its own resources, and established a line for its production. The hair fabric is favourably commented upon by the public as it fully meets quality indexes such as the intensity of hair fixation, abrasive hardness, elongation suited to different uses, and heat insulation. By using this fabric the factory is increasing varieties of goods including blanket, quilt and children's vest.

Meanwhile, the Hamhung Woollen Textile Mill has further improved the wool fibre-based cloth production process, thus producing quality overcoat fabric. And the Pyongyang Hosiery Factory developed various socks of strong tenacity with steriliz-

ing and antithrombotic actions.

The footwear industry is accelerating the work to develop different adhesives and stabilizers needed for production using domestic materials and technology, and produce new kinds of shoes. The Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory has introduced a laser cutter-based decoration method into production, and solved technical problems arising in enhancing the flexibility and elasticity of soles with raw and other materials available in the country, making it possible to improve the shape and quality of different shoes.

And the Pothonggang Footwear Factory and Ryuwon Footwear Factory developed a pneumatic foaming device, and applied various methods into production such as direct injection, thus producing scores of kinds of lighter spring and autumn sports shoes. Over 280 varieties of shoes have been developed so far at the footwear factories across the country.

The establishments in the light industry sector are waging emulation campaigns to develop and produce famous goods favoured by everyone.

Pak Yong Il

Popular goods are produced in numbers amidst the emulation drive for increased production.



Family of Educators through Three Generations



U Song Chol (centre) discusses a teaching method with his children.

PEOPLE ARE UNSPARING of their praise for the family of Dr and Assoc. Professor U Song Chol, department head at Phyongsong College of Medical Sciences. It is not merely because his family has been working in the educational sector through three generations. It is expression of the public sympathy and support for their noble mentality and ardent aspiration.

Grandfather's request

Song Chol's father U Jun Guk was one of the first people who wrote textbooks on methods of normal education. Before the liberation of Korea from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation on August 15, 1945, he was born into a poor tenant

family. Though he was very clever in his childhood, he could not afford to go to school because his family could not keep body and soul together.

Only after national liberation could he realize his dream of learning. The day he left for Kim Il Sung University as the first student of his family at the age of 16 in 1948, his father told him earnestly, "We have received the land thanks to the peerless patriot General Kim Il Sung and now you've become the first student of our family. Everything seems to be a dream. You must study hard to repay the benefit of the country."

During his university days, Jun Guk was engrossed in studying and became an honour student. When the Korean war

(June 25, 1950–July 27, 1953) broke out, he stopped learning and went to the front. While he was serving as a war correspondent, the country took a measure to recall college students from the front and let them resume their learning.

So he returned to his university. Later he became a teacher after graduation as he desired. Since then he had devoted all his wisdom and enthusiasm to education. He always told his disciples and children, "Today's happiness and bright future can hardly be thinkable apart from our country's care. So you should try to be a person needed by our country."

Motto of family

The request became the motto of Song Chol's family. True to his father's intention, he volunteered to serve in the army and then enrolled at Phyongsong College of Medical Sciences after discharge from the army.

He looked ordinary and mild, but his brilliant mind and fervent academic passion were noticeable. Soon he distinguished himself as the best student and promising talent, attracting the attention of his teachers and other students.

Promising Model Teachers

► After finishing the college course, Song Chol chose to be a teacher at his college, who was worthy of public respect, like his father. Through his tireless enthusiasm, he got an academic degree in less than a year, and later became an October 8 Model Teacher and a department head.

His ability and qualification as educator were fully displayed in a lecture on paediatrics held at the request of the Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness (IMNCI), an international organization.

He has presented over 90 essays on medical sciences and education to scientific magazines, and addressed national academic seminars and public presentations of experience dozens of times. He has also written and published over 20 reference books and textbooks including *Handbook of Clinical Paediatrics*, *Folk Remedy of Children's Diseases* and *Handbook of Synthetic Medicines*. He has received dozens of certificates of educational, scientific and technological achievements.

Having solved the problem of how to treat infectious diseases caused by bacteria with resistance to some antibiotics like penicillin, which is one of the urgent problems in the clinical practice, he published his doctoral thesis. In this

course, he had the honour to attend the national conference of scientists and technicians and the 14th National Conference of Teachers.

Inheriting the family tradition

U's two children finished university courses with honours. They are competent teachers who were awarded official commendations from the Education Commission.

His daughter U Jong Sim, 37, who works as a department head at Phyongsong University of Coal Mining Industry, is recognized as a talent. His son Yong Sop, 31, who also works in the educational sector, has already won the master's degree in two fields though it is not so long after graduating from university. Not resting on their laurels, the two are devoting their wisdom and enthusiasm to education like their grandfather and father.

Whenever they are praised as family of talent with academic degrees and titles, and as family of teachers, Song Chol says, "Good crops can come only from the rich soil. We take it for granted that we, who have grown up in the fertile soil of the country, work faithfully for the good of society and the collective."

Pak Yong Il

Jo Myong Sun.



Kim Mi Hyang.



Jon Hyon Hwa.



THERE ARE NOT A FEW model teachers in Ragwon Primary School, Pothonggang District, Pyongyang. Among them are Jo Myong Sun, Kim Mi Hyang, Jon Hyon Hwa and Pak Son Hyang, all fresh from Pyongyang Teachers Training College.

It is merely four years since Jo Myong Sun began to work at the school. Always wearing a warm smile, she strives to develop new teaching methods. In the course of this she conceived an amusing multimedia-based teaching method titled *Why is it hard to find out?* and introduced it in the nature subject of the fifth grade, which helps pupils cultivate concentration. The teaching method is as follows:

Raise the question, "Why is it hard to find out animals in a forest?" and let pupils themselves come to the conclusion, which may be that animals can protect themselves if the colours of their bodies are similar to the surrounding environment.

The method was highly appreciated at the Pyongyang municipal teaching contest of new teachers.

The teacher also invented such methods as *Showing the Change of the Appearance of the Moon in the Form of a Game*, *Finding Out Polaris by Using the Great Bear* and *Distinguishing the Change of Temperature According to Colours (red, black and white)*. She thus received several certificates of registered new teaching method two years after beginning her career as a teacher.

Kim Mi Hyang has a knack of giving lessons. After her pupils became second-graders, she noticed a boy being unusually engrossed in studying multimedia programs alone while trying

to ignore other studies. So the teacher often let him see such programs, and had him learn by heart a multiplication table and a double multiplication table through the computer. Gradually the boy got interested in study, and began to rank among the best at different subjects. The next year he took first place at the school's mental arithmetic competition and quiz.

Jon Hyon Hwa is known as a teacher best at creating multimedia programs. The first program of hers is *Game of Searching Houses* and *Game of Pairing*. It enables primary schoolchildren to find out their desired houses through digits. It was welcomed by the children as it consists of a simple game suited to their psychology. The program was highly rated at the national exhibition of achievements in educational science for its contribution to enhancing the children's intelligence and developing their memory. She also developed various programs needed for teachers' education and edification of pupils, secured server data and established a system of reading data

through homepages.

Pak Son Hyang started her career in April 2019. She often taught her pupils to use an abacus to calculate numerical values and play with cube in order to improve their space idea and memory.

"According to data," she says, "the right brain of man is bigger than the left in volume, but he does not use even 1% of the right brain all his life." So she let her pupils use abacuses and play with cubes with their left hands for the purpose of stimulating the right brain. This helped the pupils improve their intelligence and memory. Last year she invented the teaching aid *The Earth Is Round*, thus winning her first certificate of new teaching aid.

Choe Sung Hui, head teacher of the school, says, "All of them are in their early twenties, but they are the holders of the title of October 8 Model Teacher, and they're playing a pivotal role among the teachers of the school."

*Article by Sim Chol Yong
Photos by An Yong Chol*

Pak Son Hyang.



Koryo Medicines Get More Effective

SOME OF THE KORYO medicines which enjoy durable favour of the general public are Koryo Active Tablet, Saengmaek-san, Dodder Invigorant Capsule and Tanggwisu-san developed by the Biomedical Science Research Institute of the Academy of Medical Sciences. Prepared to meet the practical needs for prevention and treatment in accord with the modern pharmaceutical trend, they are known to comply well with the living practice and physical characteristics of the Korean people and to be highly efficacious.

In particular, the Koryo Active Tablet is in high demand as it improves the human resistance against infectious diseases including different virus infections. It is prepared by combining selenium proportionately with enzymes and coenzymes which have been prepared by fermenting useful ingredients of natural materials of Koryo

medicine using high technology of biological engineering.

Paek Mi Hwa, chief of a pharmacy affiliated with the Biomedical Science Research Institute of the Academy of Medical Sciences, explains that the medicine can not only restore all cells and tissues of the body but also keep off infection of any pathogens like viruses, bacteria and true fungi without difficulty.

Ri Kum Ok, 57, resident in Samma-dong No. 1, Tongdaewon District, Pyongyang, says, "For many years I often suffered from heavy and stuffy heart, difficult breathing and tempest in the breast due to inflammation of the heart and irregular pulse. I could not have any sound sleep, and I was tired all the time with lingering headache. But some days after I started to take the Koryo Active Tablet I began to feel less trouble from such symptoms. Now I have a good night and better appetite."

Ro Yong Il, chief of a pilot factory of the institute, explains that the immunoreaction of the tablet against pathogenic microorganisms can be seen in two aspects: One is that taking it often can keep people who are in a normal condition from infectious diseases like virus-induced pneumonia or tuberculosis; the other is that the tablet causes rapid reaction against the pathogenic viruses and bacteria whether they are latent within the body or have broken out. A specific immune mechanism formed in the body with the help of the tablet improves the defence faculty and activates the antioxidant function in addition, thus bringing back good health from chronic infections and checking the relapse of any disease effectively.

Sin Yon Ok, 53, resident in Neighbourhood Unit No. 27, Kangan-dong No. 1, Songyo District, Pyongyang, gives her comment on the tablet like this, "Everybody wants to live long in good health. I used to have hepatitis due to a metabolic disorder in my forties. So I suffered from diarrhea for a long time. But while I was taking the Koryo Active Tablet for a few months, I began to have less and less symptoms. What is more pleasing is that the senile spots are disappearing from my face. And the bronchial asthma and high blood pressure, which I failed to treat with chemotherapy, have now disappeared before I could know it. Now the tablet is my favourite."

Sim Chol Yong

Medicines manufactured go through panel discussion.



Good Foundation



Kim Chun Mae.

POTHONGGANG DISTRICT JUVENILE Sports School has a track and field instructor who is devoting her energies to training reserve athletes. She is Kim Chun Mae, a Merited Athlete who used to be a member of the Amnokgang Sports Club.

Born the third daughter into an office worker's family in Sinwon County, South Hwanghae Province, she was good at running in her childhood, and was a pride of her villagers.

In her middle school days, she won the events of the 1 500-m, 3 000-m and other races of the national juvenile sports schools' games. In her days at the then Haeju College of Physical Education, she always won the events of the 1 500-m, 3 000-m, 5 000-m and 10 000-m races.

Later, under the guidance of Sin Kum Dan, a track and field coach of the aforesaid sports club who was called world track and field queen, Chun Mae developed into an athlete, and thus broke not only domestic records but also world records several times at away games held in Asia and Europe.

After she stopped running for her age, she couldn't give up her attachment to the sports.

So she volunteered to become an athletics instructor of the aforesaid sports school.

Before beginning training, she always says to her students, "Before our country was liberated from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation, the Korean athletes were not real winners

even though they stood on the honour platform. They had to run wearing the uniform printed with a foreign flag. Even though they won, they couldn't shout, 'Korea has won.' But today we have our beloved country and the national flag of our Republic. You had better run and run to have our flag hoisted high in the sky."

While preparing the students mentally, she has devoted all her wisdom and energies to training them physically and technically by dint of her rich experience in competition. She not only told them about her experience of and lessons from her days as an athlete but also explained to them the global trend in the development of track and field and foreign athletes' movements and modes of competition, citing detailed examples.

One sultry day, the instructor noticed that some students, who were expected to participate in 1 500-m and 3 000-m races, tended to give up their training unable to go beyond the limit.

To the students she said, "Our training at present is not aimed at winning a gold medal at once. But unless we overcome the difficulties now, the gold will not be ours in the future, either. You know the medal is just the honour of the country. If you keep it in mind you will be able to get over any difficulties. We should always run and run for the honour of the country." Then she herself ran ahead of the students.

Her efforts began to bear fruit. Pak Ju Hyang and Ri Myong Chol of her school, who took part in the track and field event of the 55th national juvenile sports schools' games representing the city of Pyongyang, won the 400-m mixed race and the 3 000-m race. Some of her students ranked among the first three winners of 1 500-m and 3 000-m races at the next round of the games held last year.

Last year many of the school's graduates, including Kim Hak Nam, Ri Kwang Jin and Kim Hyon Hui, were admitted to national sports clubs including the April 25 Sports Club, Amnokgang Sports Club and Pyongyang Sports Club.

The instructor says, "I'm sure that they will soon win international games. I know I am going to be a foundation for them."

Sim Chol Yong

I'll Remain a Winner

(10)

Kang Ho Jin

KIM CHOL AND SUN HUI were walking slowly, looking intoxicatedly at the scenery of the street full of the emotions of life as fresh as the morning air.

“Good!” Kim mumbled to himself, looking up at a young man and woman—they seemed to be a newly married couple—who were watering flower pots shoulder to shoulder in the balcony.

Looking up at the couple like Kim, Sun Hui smilingly stole a glance at her husband over the shoulder.

“Do you like it?” she asked.

Kim nodded with a smile, throwing an affectionate glance at his wife.

“Why don’t we go on a picnic somewhere after this season of competition?” he proposed.

“Where?” Sun Hui asked.

“Well, Moran Hill or Mt Taesong. What do you think of it?”

After a while of thought Sun Hui shook her head.

“Let’s go and see your mother. She is ill for such a long time, but I’ve failed to cook even a single meal for her. I’m sorry I haven’t done my duty as her eldest daughter-in-law,” she said with regret.

Then Kim Chol generously said, “Still, she’s proud there is no other daughter-in-law as good as you. And you’re a world judo queen known to the entire world. It is the greatest pleasure

and happiness to my mother.”

It was also thanks to the mother-in-law’s unusual support and encouragement that Sun Hui could win the fourth world championship though she was past 30 and married. So Sun Hui’s heart naturally went out to her mother-in-law.

...Sun Hui vigorously strove to win victory after victory without succumbing to any tiredness or difficulty. But an imperative stage of life was awaiting her—marriage. Young people naturally regard it as the happiness of life, and it is like a law of life to anyone to get married. Sun Hui, however, found herself reluctant to do so.

In fact Hu Suk, mother of Sun Hui’s lover Kim Chol, only thought of getting for her eldest son a hardworking and kind-hearted woman who would be able to always keep her family in good atmosphere.

One day, however, Hu Suk heard that her son had fallen in love with the judoist girl Kye Sun Hui.

Such a famous judoist would become her daughter-in-law—this was a surprise to her, for she had only thought of an ordinary daughter-in-law who would faithfully treat her parents-in-law and husband with respect.

Furthermore, Hu Suk knew Sun Hui was a hero and world-famous judoist when her son was merely an ordinary judo



coach. Now she wanted to know what kind of girl Sun Hui was and what her family was like.

But the day she met Sun Hui for the first time Hu Suk asked nothing after hearing her say, “I love judo, mother. That’s why I’m fond of Kim Chol.” Sun Hui’s words fully showed her personality.

Sun Hui, who had loved judo most, inwardly liked Kim Chol, a judoist like her, and found they shared the same idea. There was an unusual promise between them: Sun Hui said she would win the remaining two of the five gold medals she had aimed to do from the Olympics and the world judo championships; and Kim Chol said that even if there would be no time for them to enjoy the pleasures of a happy home like others, he would understand it.

Attached to the young woman who was pursuing the first place and was sincere as a woman and open-hearted as an athlete, Hu Suk actively helped her in training. Thus Sun Hui took first place at the 24th World Judo Championships held in 2005, winning the gold medal and the best judoist award. Until then,

▶ she was the only judoist who won the best judoist prize two times consecutively at the championships.

On her triumphal return home, Sun Hui was welcomed along a dozen-kilometre-long route, and the State gave a banquet for her and held a meeting to welcome her.

Later she attended Korea University of Physical Education. Still, she decided to keep training in order to win the fifth gold medal.

Some people worried that Sun Hui might fail to succeed as she, a married woman, looked not so good physically and technically. But her mother-in-law actively supported her.

For training Sun Hui would run to the university every morning. And Kim Chol often made time to coach her in training, sometimes presenting himself for her opponent and awakening her to her demerits in training. Helping and understanding each other, the man and wife solved problems arising in training.

Sports science and medical researchers informed Sun Hui of the updates on the trend in the global development of judo for the purpose of helping her further improve her fortes, held discussions to adopt new tactics of her competition, took medical care of her and helped to nourish her on a scientific basis so that she overcame her heavy training burden and maintained her best physical condition.

At last the day she had so eagerly awaited came for her to participate in the 25th World Judo Championships held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2007.

With the championships just ahead, experts commented beforehand on the result of the

competition or pointed out the likely winners.

The name of Sun Hui, the triple consecutive world champion, was on their lips, but their voice was without confidence because it was difficult to expect the married champion to display her strength and techniques like in her girlhood.

From the beginning of the preliminaries, however, Sun Hui broke the doubt. By dint of her strong left hand, she employed various techniques such as dashing over her shoulder and grasping firmly to defeat four of her six rivals by ippon, thus demonstrating her status as a star.

The women’s 57kg-category final held on September 15 attracted the attention of many spectators and experts. The match took place between Sun Hui who had consecutively kept the world championship in three categories for over ten years since winning her first gold medal at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and the Spanish rival Isabel Fernandez, a winner of gold from the Sidney Olympics and twice consecutive world champion. Who would win the final?

One minute and five seconds after the beginning of the thrilling match Sun Hui admirably threw the rival onto the ground through waist hold, one of her fortes. She then held up her open right hand towards the spectators. This reflected her joy at keeping her pledge to win five gold medals.

Sun Hui had really given up lots of things to win the fifth gold medal—even the dreamlike days of her newly-married life and the joy of becoming a mother. Sometimes she had been misunderstood and had had to overcome crises of training with painstaking

efforts.

Sun Hui often asked herself, “Why do I live? Why do I sweat in the training hall while others enjoy the pleasure of life to their heart’s content? To win gold medals?” *No*, she thought. *I want to live as befits a human. Gold medals are just for the purpose. What then does it mean to live as befits a human? It means living to be worth being born, and knowing how to observe the rule of conduct as a human. To live up to expectations of the kindhearted people who brought me up, put me forward and took care of me—this means living as befits a human and observing the rule of conduct as such. Gold medals are needed to do so, not merely for my honour.* This was Sun Hui’s view of life, faith and desire....

“Bye-bye. See you next Sunday,” Kim Chol said to Sun Hui, turning his steps towards the Kaeson Underground Station. He seemed reluctant to part from his wife. So did Sun Hui.

It would only be next Sunday that they could see again. And yet they were not sure if they could surely meet then as the DPRK championships were just ahead.

Sun Hui smilingly saw her husband off, saying, “I hope you will make good preparations. This time you’ll find a great challenge in my charges, I dare say.”

Kim Chol grinned, holding up one hand slowly and saying, “Let me wait and see in the stadium.”

They parted, the wife heading for the training hall and the man going to his sports club. Their target, however, was the same: gold medal.

(The end)



Yu Kwan Jun.

Patriotic Devotion to Marbled Porcelain

IN DOWNTOWN PYONGYANG THERE is situated the Korean Art Gallery, which houses a lot of art works that are valued as national treasures. Among them are marbled porcelains.



The marbled porcelain art is carried on by Yu's two sons.

► Marbled Porcelain in Obscurity

The Koryo dynasty, a feudal state that existed in Korea from 918 to 1392, left an indelible trace in the history of the cultural development of Korea. In the latter half of the period there were created excellent porcelains like jade green inlaid celadon, white porcelain, black porcelain, pictorial porcelain and thick-patterned porcelain.

Among them was a kind of porcelain with unique patterns, colours and technique of manufacture. It was marbled porcelain.

To know about the porcelain, I visited Dr Jo Tae Il, a candidate academician and professor of the Academy of Social Sciences, at home.

Though at the advanced age of 70, Jo was writing a historical treatise. When I told him why I visited him, he said with excitement, "Along with the inlaid cel-

adon, the marbled porcelain was indigenous to Korea, and it was a treasure of Koryo."

He managed to remember his days of writing the book *History of Korean Artwork* over 30 years ago. He told me about the origin of the marbled porcelain and how it was made.

The history of the marbled porcelain started in the period of Palhae (the late 7th century—the early 10th century). Its people developed pottery by applying and mixing different coloured glazes skilfully and combining patterns and glazes organically. Typical of the pottery was three-coloured china.

The china decorated with three-coloured patterns and those with their outer surface painted with three colours were not only diverse in harmony of colour, soft and beautiful but also very solid.

Following the tradition of such china, diverse porcelains were created during the Koryo

dynasty. The marbled porcelain is one of them. Its inside and outside are patterned with white, blue and black lines resembling the grain of wood, and the patterns change into oblique or cross lines according to the methods of making them. In particular, streaked patterns of the grain add to the beauty of the porcelain.

Regrettably, the art of making the porcelain has not been handed down. Only some relevant relics remain. Jo said, "The marbled porcelain and the art of making them fell into obscurity."

Revival of Broken History by the Yus

"It is patriotism to carry on the national spirit." This is just a principle of life and family to Yu Kwan Jun, former chief of the ceramic department of the North Hamgyong Provincial Art Studio.

It was when he was in his



Women Held in Respect



Choe Song Ok.

Peasant Hero

CHOE SONG OK IS A MEMBER OF THE Sinhung Cooperative Farm in Kangnam County, Pyongyang. After graduating from middle school 20-odd years ago she volunteered to work in the farm like her parents.

From the outset she did not merely plant seeds on fields—she planted them with her dream and ambitions of turning all the fields of her home village into fertile ones of bumper harvest. She would take charge of infertile fields. Whenever a field she managed to cultivate into a fertile one yielded a maximum harvest, she unhesitatingly conceded it to other workers, and began striving to enrich another bad field. Thanks to her effort, a weathered granite field regarded as barren land for a long time turned fertile, yielding a good harvest. In the course of this she came to be well versed in the soil properties of almost all fields of her workteam, and the relevant farming methods.

In 2018 she participated in the 4th National Meeting of Activists in the Agricultural Field. Back from the meeting her manner of work changed drastically. Now she took charge of a most barren paddy field of five hectares. As the field of low harvest adjoined a dry field on a ridge, it was susceptible to damage caused by the cold and humidity. One day, while looking around the field, she was quite

sorry to see weeds more rampant than rice stubble in it. She knew it was urgent to improve the fertility of the soil.

From early the next morning her villagers saw her piling heaps of grass and gathering weeds and waste-straw from around the orchard and the village. Thanks to her effort there appeared several largest manure yards in the farm.

She also bred pigs, ducks, chickens and other domestic animals to obtain quality manure, and produced *hukbosan* fertilizer, thus spreading scores of tons of the fertilizer per hectare. Meanwhile, she dug ditches deep along the boundaries of paddy and non-paddy fields so as to drain cold water out, and improve the cold humid fields.

She was not content with this. She learned from her experience that she could reap a good harvest only when she relied on science and technology. So she, at her leisure, would study advanced farming techniques at the village's agricultural sci-tech learning space, and watched the news on farming on TV. This enabled her to find out that the reason why the transplanted rice plants failed to survive until the end of their root-striking period was poor water control of the cold humid fields. Now she took the relevant measures in time. She also invented and introduced new methods capable of raising the effect of fertilizer while saving labour.

From early in the morning till late at night she worked hard on the fields. Thus the fields yielded bumper harvests in autumn. Despite unfavourable weather and climate conditions she gathered four times more grain crops per hectare than before with eight times less seeds, which was unprecedented.

While making a speech at the 2019 Review Meeting in the Agricultural Sector, she said, "When we tend land with great sincerity, we can make any sort of land fertile. The land yields fruit for the sincerity."

The State highly appreciated her faithful devotion to the land. In January 2020 she was awarded the title of Labour Hero, the highest honour of a DPRK citizen.

The peasant hero's zeal for work grew stronger. ▶



Some of Yu's works kept in the Korean Art Gallery.

► twenties as a researcher of the then Ceramic Research Institute under the Academy of Light Industry that he decided to devote all his life to reproducing the marbled porcelain.

While developing and enriching traditional ceramics, he spent all his leisure studying the marbled porcelain.

By the time he was in his thirties he had begun to distinguish himself for his profound knowledge of ceramics and unique techniques. In December Juche 78 (1989), there took place an exhibition of his ceramics in the Pyongyang International House of Culture. Over sixty ceramic articles of his put on display attracted great public attention for their excellent combination of the advantages of Koryo ceramics and the techniques of Korean painting. Typical five pieces of them, including a cinnabar and glauconite celadon vase with a chrysanthemum pattern and a

glauconite celadon vase with a grape pattern, were selected as national treasure to be kept in the Korean Art Gallery.

With the passage of time, Yu's ceramics reached a high stage, and his marbled porcelain research was further intensified. To find the clay necessary to make the porcelain, he went round several regions known as ceramics-producing regions, and repeated the research to find out a reasonable mixing ratio of raw materials.

His tireless efforts bore fruit in over 30 years. In 2007 he completed the technique of making marbled porcelain, and succeeded in making a gourd-shaped marbled porcelain vase which was his first achievement. Later he opened up a new phase in making such porcelain by employing the technique of Korean painting and methods of making various patterns such as cloud, wave and beehive.

His works were highly ap-

preciated at several art exhibitions and festivals, and seven of his porcelains, including a gourd-shaped marbled porcelain vase (made in 2008), a marbled porcelain vase with a pattern of a scenic spot of Mt Chilbo (made in 2012) and a marbled porcelain jar with a honeycomb pattern (made in 2012), are kept at the Korean Art Gallery.

The marbled porcelain art was registered as No. 93 on the list of the national intangible cultural heritage in 2018.

As an old age pensioner, Yu, together with his two sons, set a plan to create a marbled porcelain flower vase patterned after red glow, and is engrossed in the work.

Now marbled porcelain and the relevant technique that were in oblivion for nearly 1 000 years have been revived by the Yus.

Article by Kim Hyon Ju
Photos by Ri Chung Guk

- ▶ This year she additionally took charge of dry fields of hundreds of *phyong* (one *phyong* equals 3.954 sq. yds). She set a goal of producing higher yields than last year.

When you go to the farm, you can see the peasant hero diligently cultivate the fields to bring about rich harvests.

Doctor of Literature

“People love literature because it just belongs to humanics. So the literary person who depicts human beings and their life must be more genuine than anyone else.”

This is what Ju Ok, teacher of Kang Pan Sok Senior Middle School, always says before giving a lesson. Actually it is also what she says to herself.

She was born in Pukchong County, South Hamgyong Province. Her taste for literature developed in her primary school days in the mountainous county far from the capital city of Pyongyang.

One day, at a mother tongue class, her teacher read a short essay written by the girl. Stroking her head the teacher said that she could become a literary woman. This gave the young girl a taste for literature. And her middle school teacher helped her develop the relevant talent. Under the teacher’s guidance she grew up into a winner of prize for literature in her middle school days. She participated in a national composition contest, and it served as an opportunity for her talent to be recognized. At the contest her essay *Our Teacher* was highly appreciated. The essay was based on the findings that though a cornerstone cannot be seen buried beneath the earth, it firmly supports a pillar, and that her teacher and all other teachers who sincerely devote themselves to their students are the cornerstones supporting the country.

After graduating from the middle school the girl enrolled at the Faculty of Korean Language and Literature of Kim Il Sung University. During her university days she never forgot her home village. She sent her writings to her parents, neighbours, and alma mater teachers first. Envisioning the scenes of them being glad to read her writings, she, with an untiring zeal, delved into the world of literature day and night. With her fine and skilful literary style she wrote lyric poetry and epics, and



Ju Ok.

20 of them were published.

The lyrics of a song she created were composed by the Pochonbo Electronic Ensemble, a famous band in the country at that time, and the song was widely sung among the public.

The lyrics *I’m a Graduate of Kim Il Sung University* she wrote just before graduation was highly appreciated in the literary world, highlighting her talent as a promising literary girl. While deepening her study she was awarded the university student scientific research prize. During the postgraduate course she made public a paper of value in studying poetry, and was awarded an academic degree. Her colleagues and teachers had no doubt that she would become an illustrious journalist or writer. However, contrary to their expectations, she became a teacher of the senior middle school.

In retrospect, she says, “When graduating from the postgraduate course I thought a lot about my occupation. I recalled my home villagers who had come to the railway station to see me off when I had left for Pyongyang with a letter of affiliation to the university. And when I went home during vacation, my old teachers came to see me with the publications carrying my poems. They gladly said Pukchong County produced a talent. I, however, thought that I should train many reserve literary persons in order to be worthy of their praise.”

Ju used to implant in her students the literary outlook that only when they become patriots loving their parents, home village and country could they

- ▶ produce excellent writings. She herself tried to live in this way. Though she was busy with lessons, she wrote reference books like *Students and Literature* and *Collection of Reference Materials for Studying Korean Language and Literature*, and a dozen essays, thus contributing to the improvement of the students’ ability. Last year she presented a thesis conducive to development of poetry, which brought her PhD in literature. In the course of this she was honoured with the title of National Model Teacher and took part in the 14th National Conference of Teachers.

Meanwhile, she has trained a lot of literary reserves. Over 30 of them won certain literary prizes, while others took first place at national composition contests. Now a number of her students are distinguishing themselves at Kim Il Sung University and other colleges.

Ju is also a member of the Writers Union of Korea. She regards it as her duty to create masterpieces of the era while training talented literary reserves, and is engrossed in the effort.

Costume Designer

Jo Hwi Gyong is director of the costume designing unit of the Korea Industrial Art Studio. She is also an authoritative creator with a knack of designing novel and unique costumes.

She has a notebook which she regards as her gem. Written in the book are new conceptions, and she has always carried it with her for 37 years of her career. The secret of her creative skill can be found in the leaves of the notebook. Having a strong attachment to her occupation she always thinks and studies how to make a perfect design of whatever she works on. She habitually sketches what flashes into her mind on her way or at work. This greatly helps her work.

Though she is busy with creation and administrative affairs, she keeps to another habit: She frequents scenic spots like Moran Hill and Mt Taesong with a drawing board on her shoulder. There she sketches beautiful landscape or colours the sketches while hearing the chirps of birds and breathing in fresh air. It gives her an opportunity to feel at ease, improve her ability and get novel ideas.

Besides, she always observes the people’s

clothes carefully. She never fails to do it whenever she meets anyone in any place or even watches TV. She observes and analyses if their clothes are fit for their features, figure, skin colour and age, and tries to find out a way to impregnate her design with the liking, emotion and aesthetic sense of the relevant people. This has helped her create a lot of popular costume designs.

As in the past, you can see clothes permeated with her wit here and there. Some of them are riding suits of the Mirim Riding Club, sportswear, Korean clothes, and seasonal fashion garments. Her successful designs are also to be noticed in children’s clothes. Her first designs were for children’s quilted clothes and overcoats, and most of her designs which were highly appreciated at different shows were children’s clothes. As a mother of a son



Jo Hwi Gyong.

she herself has designed and made her son’s clothes since he was young. Each design of hers reflects her mind to dress all children in the country in fine clothes.

She gives no less importance to the work of training all her designers into competent workers. To the newcomers she says, “Clothes intensively reflect the national character. A tree can grow tall only when it strikes root deep in the earth. Likewise, only when you have a good idea of our nation’s feelings, sentiment and manners and materialize them in your work will you be able to become a popular designer.”

Article by Rim Ok

Photos by Ra Phyoung Ryol

Thriving Factory with Merry Music



THE SUSONGCHON General Foodstuff Factory, situated in Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province, is famous for both good operation and mass-based entertainment activities. It is conducting artistic activities by involving the worker masses in close combination with production.

Veteran “conductor”

Han Thong Yong, general manager of the factory, is called veteran “conductor” among his employees.

Some twenty years ago, the factory was in a difficult situation as it had just survived the Arduous March in the 1990s. Confronted with difficulties due to consecutive natural disasters, short supply of raw materials and helpless management, all the employees were frustrated.

At that time the factory organized a workteam-specific singing contest, sponsored and

arranged by Han. Everyone says they are always encouraged by his skilful conduct and optimistic and enthusiastic countenance.

Under his conduct, the level of the factory’s mass-based artistic activities has grown considerably. The factory took first place on six occasions at the national singing contest of the working people from Juche 97 (2008) and won a special prize at the 5th April Spring People’s Art Festival in April 2017.

Seeing the developing artistic skills of the employees, he tells himself with satisfaction, “Well, they are as good as professional singers.”

Twin sisters

Ri Mok Ran and Ri Kum Hui at the bread workteam are called “twin sisters” in the factory though they are different in native place and nature. This is not only because they are the same age and look alike but also

because they always share the leading role in artistic activities of the factory.

As a good accordion player and a pianist respectively, Mok Ran and Kum Hui are leading the artistic activities, singing of their worthwhile working life. They have been in the factory’s team to take part in the national singing contest and played a big role in winning six consecutive victories of the factory.

They are twin pillars in the technical innovation and new products development. Last

▶ year they developed several new kinds of products like chocolate yeast bread and jam bread by putting their heads together. Over ten of some 80 kinds of products from the factory are credited to their effort. Now they are in the third grade of Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry online.

They are making strenuous efforts to be always twin sisters not only in mass-based artistic activities but also in studies of science and technology.

Single mind

Ten of the bread workers of the factory took part in the final of the female chorus (category of factory workers) at the 16th national singing contest of the working people. They sang the folk song *Yangsando*, winning a big hand for their fine rhythm and charming lilt. In particular, their ensemble and presentation were recognized as remarkable by the audience and experts unanimously, and thus, they won a special prize in the

New Records on Display

THE ADMINISTRATORS and researchers of the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum newly discovered more than 110 items of materials from August last year to April this year.

The materials include photographs showing the traditional noble traits of army-people unity demonstrated during

the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950–July 1953) and those of soldiers studying in trenches and holding a recreation party on a height.

They are on display in different halls including the Operations Hall, the Artillery Hall, the Engineer Hall, and the Homefront People’s Struggle Hall of the museum. □

contest.

At the awarding ceremony, Kim Chol Ok, one of the singers, said, “We shared the same mind in singing the song—this may be how we won the special prize. If we pool our efforts we can do anything we want to—this is the truth we found in our work and mass-based artistic activities.”

All other employees are of the same opinion. *Let’s pool our mind to develop our factory wonderfully.*

With such a mind they put

all the production processes on a modern basis in 2009 with their own efforts in keeping with the requirements of the new century. Last year they set up a corn processing division fed 100 percent with local materials.

Today the workers are bringing about innovation in the production sharing the same mind and purpose both in the workshop and on the stage.

Article by Kim So Yong
Photos by Ri Song Ik

Production is on the increase.



Whole Bok Choy Kimchi, First Choice in Summer



In the analysis laboratory.

KIMCHI IS ONE OF THE three favourite dishes of Koreans, and one of the five health foods of the world. In December last year whole bok choy kimchi from the Ryugyong Kimchi Factory won the December 15 Medal of Quality, which is conferred on the best products in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Traditional Method and Modern Technique Combined

Pollution-free fresh vegetables from greenhouses around the factory are used for the kimchi production of the factory. This may be the first secret of the good taste of the kimchi from the factory. Another secret must

be introduction of a traditional method into all processes of the production line.

Originally, whole bok choy kimchi is an inherent dish of the Korean people in winter. From ancient times, with the approach of Riptong (the beginning of winter) which falls in the tenth lunar month, all regions and families in the country were busy making the dish, and the tradition is still carried on. If the dish is made later than the right season, it freezes, failing to become tasty. If it is made too early, it becomes sour as the weather is warm.

The factory's kimchi-making process is provided with such a seasonal condition, and an appropriate temperature and period are provided for the fermenta-

tion and ripening of the dish. All production processes from feeding of raw materials to packing are put on an automatic basis, except the seasoning which is done manually.

About the reason Paek Mi Hye, general manager of the factory, declares, "The unique taste of kimchi depends on Korean women's hands."

The amount of red pepper seasoning put into bok choy leaves and the method of rubbing the seasoning evenly into the leaves are standardized. This enables the kimchi from the factory to always retain the same taste.

The production lines received certification of food safety management system. There is another secret of the Ryugyong kimchi's original taste. Technicians of the factory scientifically proved that lactic bacteria make the fermentation of microorganism faster than natural fermentation, thus completely checking the multiplication of various germs. On the basis of this they decided on the mixing ratio of kimchi's different lactic bacteria, and put it on an industrial basis. The introduction of the mixed lactic bacteria improved kimchi's taste, aroma, appear-

The production line is automatic.



A seasoning process.

ance and chewing taste. The whole bok choy kimchi made by the method contains natural vitamins such as vitamin C, different minerals and amino acid in large quantities.

The dish was put on the list of February 2 Product, and highly rated at the 30th national consumer goods exhibition.

Popular Kimchi Stands

People are apt to lose their appetite in sultry summer, and the whole bok choy kimchi from the factory is the right dish for stimulating appetite. Kimchi stands bearing the mark of the factory, which won a WIPO prize, are more popular now in the hottest period of summer.

The factory's stands in different places of Pyongyang receive a lot of orders from the people who are accustomed to the taste for the dish. They sell scores of tons of kimchi each month in summer, yet it is not enough to satisfy the people's demand. Kimchi has dif-

ferent tastes depending on the hands of individual women and according to individual families. So is the taste of individual people. But the kimchi from the factory are welcomed by everyone.

People say, "The whole bok choy kimchi from the Ryugyong Kimchi Factory has a unique taste. No family can make kim-

chi with such a taste. Furthermore, it is very pleasant to eat in hot summer the dish, which we used to have only in winter. This makes us more keenly realize the genuine taste of the dish. It tastes most delicious in mid-summer."

Article by Rim Ok
Photos by Hwang Ryo Jong

Kimchi stands are popular with the public.



Pine, National Tree of DPRK



PINE IS THE NATIONAL tree of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The tree comprehensively reflects the Korean nation's spirit, sentiment, tradition, history, emotion and feelings.

History of Use of Pine

In Korea pine began to spread in the Neogene of the Cenozoic era. This can be proved by fossils of *Pinus cf. densiflora* discovered from the Tertiary formation of the Neogene in Paegam of Ryanggang Province, and Onsong, Myongchon and Kilju of North Hamgyong Province.

The tree grows widely in areas under 1 000 m above sea level, and can be seen in localities up to 1 500 m above sea level.

From the birth of mankind the tree was most closely linked up to people's life. *Samguk-sagi* (Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms), a national classic compiled in 1145, tells that the pine was planted in seven tiers. *Koryosa* (History of Koryo) compiled in 1451 describes pine as the king of 100 kinds of trees. And *Yanghwasorok* and *Sallim-gyongje* (Forest Economy) introduce the technique of cultivating the tree. The tree can be seen on murals of Ryongsanri Tombs Nos. 1 and 4 in Ryokpho District, Pyongyang, which date back to the period of Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668), and on those of the Mausoleum of King Wang Kon, founder of Koryo (918–1392).

The tree was used for various purposes. *Tonguibogam* (Encyclopaedia of Traditional Medicine of Korea), one of the three classics on Koryo medicine published in 1613, introduces the efficacy and indications of Koryo medicines, and how to gather and process related materials. Among the materials tuckahoe

counted as medicinal material indispensable to many Koryo medicines such as *Kwibithang*, *Ryungmithang* and *Poganthang*, for it removes phlegm, protects the spleen, and acts as a diuretic and sedative.

Tongguksesigi (a national classic written in the first half of the 19th century on the annual ceremonies and folklore of Korea in the feudal age) describes in detail the history of *songphyon* (a half-moon-shaped rice cake stuffed with beans and flavoured with pine needles) and the method of cooking it. The food is cooked by steaming the rice-flour dough put on pine needles and making it into cake, hence the name of the rice cake. It was also called *solbaeng*. Patterned and flavoured with pine needles, *songphyon* is a typical food of *chusok* (a folk holiday celebrated on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month).

On the day people prepared foods with new crops of the year, and visited tombs of their ancestors bringing the foods. *Samguksagi* tells that *chusok* was celebrated splendidly from the period of the three kingdoms Koguryo, Paekje (the late 1st century BC–AD 660), and Silla (the early mid-1st century AD–AD 935), the feudal states in Korea. This shows that *songphyon* has a long history.

Soot collected from burned pine roots and knots was used to produce ink, and it was one of exported goods in the period of Koryo.

Pine was also regarded as a symbol of longevity. From the period of the three kingdoms the tree was counted as one of ten symbols of eternal youth. So there was a custom of hanging pine branches on the house when a child was born with hope for its good health and long life.

On folk holidays and happy days pine branches were also used to set up a gate of pine decorations at the entrance to a village to celebrate the days. In the course of this there came into being the phrase "To be born, live and die in pine trees."

Spirit of Pine

The Korean people love the tree not merely because their history of using it is so long and its value is great. The tree grows well in any place including dry soil, field, sandy soil and beach, and is so full of vitality as to strike root even on the rock. Even in a terrible winter when most kinds of trees are bereft of their leaves, it remains green. The Korean people regarded the evergreen tree as a symbol of invariable constancy and obligation, and loved it as a symbol of the mettle of the nation.

There is a village with an old name of Solla in Kangdong, Pyongyang, where Tangun, father of the Korean nation and founder of Korea, was born. Solla village means pine village. In Kangdong thick with pines Tangun not only honed martial arts but also cultivated his personality as staunch and firm as the tree, thus founding Ancient Joseon, the first state in the history of Korea.

Wang Kon, founder of Koryo, the first unified state in Korea, had close relations with the tree. Originally Mt Songak in Kaesong had a different name. After establishing Koguryo, Korean ancestors, who were determined to unite other countries of the same blood into a state, planted lots of pines on the mountain, and named it Mt Songak. There goes a story that Wang Kon was born when the mountain had become thick with pines and im-



Propagating pine trees is a matter of public interest.

► proved in state.

And the old name of Kaesong, capital city of Koryo, was Songdo. There is the Korean phrase *Kongnyongchongsong* which means that the capital city of Koryo is as green as the tree. Choe Chi Won, a famous poet of Later Silla, wrote the phrase, encouraging King Wang Kon who cherished the will to unify the whole territory of Korea.

Not a few literary works sing of the spirit and mettle of the nation by referring to the tree. The strong mettle of the tree is reflected in Taekwon-Do, the orthodox martial art of the nation. Taekwon-Do practitioners attach importance to training in a snow-covered pine forest. The back of Taekwon-Do uniform is printed with the word Taekwon-Do in the shape of an evergreen pine.

Pine was designated as the national tree of the DPRK in April Juche 104 (2015) in recognition of the people's cherished national sentiment for it, the relevant heritage, and its socio-economic significance.

Pine Culture

Hyangyakjipsongbang, a medical classic from the 15th century, has the following part:

"If you eat pine needles, you

do not get old, and green hair grows over your body, which means you get younger. You also gain in strength and feels vigorous, and your hair turns dark. If you eat the needles for a long time, you will not feel hungry even without eating rice, or thirsty, and become a spirit."

Fragrant pine-needle tea, *songphyon*, *songi* mushroom with a unique aroma and taste, pine pollen, Koryo medicines containing tuckahoe, and the traditional pine-needle sauna are still popular.

Chongsonghyang, green-pine essence, won a domestic patent and a State certificate of invention, and a gold prize at an international patent technology and goods trade fair held in China. The aromatic essence has a great sterilizing power, and removes unpleasant smells. The essence-based perfume, toilet soap, toothpaste, pine-needle oil (a whitening nutrient) and anti-diabetic have been developed promoting people's health, and adding beauty to them.

Dried pines that retain the original colour and shape of their needles with formative artistic beauty, and bonsai pines are increasing in value as ornaments.

Artists can be seen painting pines in many places including Mt Taesong, one of Pyongyang's eight beauty spots. The scenery

there is called *Ryongsanman-chwi* as pines covering the whole mountain remain green even in late autumn. They are also seen at Songdownon with the scenic beauty called *Paeksachongsong* (green pines on white sand). Ri Kyong Nam, People's Artist of the Mansudae Art Studio, says he has painted thousands of pines in his career of over 40 years.

In February last year there was held a fine art exhibition on the subject of the tree. The exhibition had on display Korean paintings, embroideries, oil paintings, sculptures, ceramics and pen drawings created by professional and amateur artists.

All schoolchildren and students of the country carry *Sonamu* (pine)-brand backpacks. The brand reflects the hope that they will grow up healthily like the tree.

Brides and bridegrooms regard it as most significant to plant pines in commemoration of their marriage. And planting the trees on all mountains of the country and in the streets of Pyongyang is regarded as something sacred.

The Korean people's attachment to the national tree is growing day after day. The tree is striking root deeper in their mind.

Rim Ok

For More Beautiful and Living Colours

AT PRESENT THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea is improving the quality of pigments of Korean painting in accordance with the development of Korean painting peculiar to the Korean nation.

In particular the *Paekho*-brand Korean painting colours from the Korean Painting Materials Factory are very popular with not only professional artists but also enthusiasts for fine arts as they are very fine, soft and diverse.

Yang Kum Son, leader of the factory's Korean painting material workteam, says, "Usually, water-based artist's paints number 18. But we are producing 30 Korean painting colours by getting more kinds of neutral tints from the main colours—red, yellowish brown, yellow, green, blue and purple. Neutral tints mean deep and light colours or bright and dark colours, for example, deep or light red or bright and dark red. Our products reflect the sentiments of the Korean nation who likes elegant and bright colours. In the future, we'll make more strenuous efforts to further promote the superiority of Korean painting colours."

Their achievements are not merely a windfall. First of all, the factory concentrated its effort on producing paints by standardized quality indices such as colour, particle of paint, dispersibility and re-solubility. Kim Jong Su, general manager of the factory, says, "Previously my factory used an imported vehicle in order to produce paint. This hindered the production in no small measure."

So the factory decided to develop the vehicle by its own effort and technology. After tireless efforts, its technicians found out that a by-product from a unit is suitable for the production of the vehicle. Thus they established the relevant production line to activate the paint production by relying on the domestic material.

Now it is transforming all production processes in keeping with its actual conditions. A typical example is the recent new arrangement of the particle crushing and enrichment processes. In the past they consumed much electricity to crush particles in a colour mixture and enrich it.

Jong Su Nam, chief engineer of the factory, says, "We repeated research to get the most reasonable numerical value of concentration of the mixture. In this course, we found a way to complete colours in a day with a concentrated vehicle without us-

ing several existing production processes. The result of test was successful."

That's not all. The officials and technicians of the factory went to art studios to get all opinions of artists about the colours, and on the basis, they went round different localities to find out ideal colour materials required by the artists.

Choe Chol Rim, vice-chief of the Korean Painting Production Unit, the Mansudae Art Studio, says, "The *Paekho*-brand paint from the Korean Painting Materials Factory is suitable for Korean painting mainly based on a single-stroke technique which depicts images vividly and intensively. This is the reason why Korean paintings become masterpieces."

All the employees of the factory are still devoting their wisdom and energies to further improving the quality of paints.

Sim Chol Yong



Faithful Forest Ranger



Kim Ho Chol, together with members of the mountain-using workteam, learns about the condition of planted trees and sets a bird nest on the tree.

EARLY IN THE MORNING Kim Ho Chol, forest ranger of the Suncheon Municipal Forestry Management Station, South Phyongan Province, climbs up a mountain in Wonsang-ri under his charge, where the morning sun starts to shine over green foliage. Trekking through the forest thick with pine-nut trees, pine trees, chestnut trees and Korean evodia, Kim in his uniform examines the condition of the trees.

The daily routine of the ranger, a Meritorious Person of Socialist Patriotism and deputy to the municipal People's Assembly, has never changed for 20-odd years since he was appointed to the job.

When he looked around the local mountains and hills covering over 800 hectares for the first time, there were pine and acacia trees growing sparsely on them, mostly covered with shrubs. Then, as a discharged officer, he

thought of his days in military service. Mountains around the barracks of his company were well afforested or turned into orchard, and the company and the people of the neighbouring farm village got much benefit from them. In spring the company soldiers lived in the fragrance of flowers, and in autumn they gathered and sent wild fruits to a kindergarten, a nursery and the villagers. *I'll turn all the mountains of my hometown into gold mountains and treasure mountains. I know I can do anything if I work like in the days of military service.* With this determination he buckled down to the work of afforestation.

It, however, was unfamiliar to him. So he strove to get the relevant knowledge till late at night, and travelled to different tree nurseries to secure saplings of good species such as the Changsong larch and pine-nut tree. What mattered most at that time was how to get saplings. Those brought from the central and provincial tree nurseries were not sufficient. So he created tree nurseries of two hectares in nine places with the help of officials of the management station and local resi-

▶ dents, thus making it possible to produce over 500 000 saplings annually.

Afterwards, the forest ranger, together with 40 members of a mountain-using workteam, scrupulously managed the nursery and forests on the principle of planting the right trees in the right soil and took measures to prevent forest fires. A few years later the mountains were covered with lots of trees. With the expansion of the area of forests he introduced agroforestry, and turned the forestry management into a mass campaign.

Not content with this he

pushed ahead with the work of afforestation in a planned manner. As the locality has lots of pine trees, he created a pine-nut tree forest by grafting shoots of pine-nut trees into pine trees. And he invented and introduced a method of planting trees by covering a vinyl sheet over the ground to preserve humidity of soil, and another method of planting trees after spraying the extract of sunset hibiscus onto their roots. The methods ensured the rate of rooting at 98%.

The first method ensured a high rate of rooting even in the grip of severe drought, and was

profitable, and thus a demonstration of the method was given so that it spread across the country.

With the passage of time the mountains under his charge turned into luxuriant forests, and the locality became a model unit for the whole country.

Millions of pine-nut trees, large chestnut trees and Changsong larches he has tended with sincerity are now in use for timber and wild fruits, which are benefiting the local people.

Article by Pak Yong Il

Photos by Yun Song Hwa

Kim helps people plant fruit trees and get due benefits.



MT MYOHYANG (2)

MT MYOHYANG REFLECTS all the beauties of nature including mountain, stream, rock, animal and plant and seasonal tint. In particular, the Sangwon Valley, the Manphok Valley and the Hyangbiro Peak area are known as the best spots for their outstanding beauties.

Sangwon Valley

The Sangwon Valley covers Pobwang Peak and the southern slope of Oson Peak. At a place halfway up the valley stands an old Buddhist hermitage called Sangwon Hermitage. Hence the name Sangwon Valley. The valley is known as one of the best

spots in Mt Myohyang since it offers a blend of a luxuriant forest, majestic waterfalls, blue pools, mysterious rocks and peaks including Inhodae and Pobwang Peak, and several old buildings such as Sangwon and Pulyongdae Hermitages.

Ryongyon Falls in the valley is a tilted waterfall, which is

▶ the most magnificent and beautiful of many waterfalls in Mt Myohyang. Its name originated from the wonderful Dragon Pool above it.

The water which comes from under Pobwang Peak fills the Dragon Pool and runs down over a rock, resembling a dragon spiraling upwards or a roll of white silk fluttering. Coupled with the myth-ridden fantastic-shaped rock of Inhodae and the Sangwon Hermitage, the falls makes a beautiful scenery.



Pulyongdae Hermitage.

A view of the Sangwon Valley.



Inhodae is a rock on a precipice just opposite the Sangwon Hermitage. It has a legendary tale that a large tiger, seeing some people lost in the face of a cliff beside Ryongyon Falls, showed them the way up to the Sangwon Hermitage. Hence the name Inhodae (Kind Tiger Rock).

Inhodae affords a bird's-eye view of the peaks and valleys in the mountains. Among them are Oson Peak where five heavenly men turned into stone fascinated by the wonderful scenery of the Sangwon Valley after coming down to take home the fairies who had descended to see the scenery but would not return home till late, and Jamdu (Silkworm Head) Peak where it is said celestial silk raiment was made for fairies.

Inhodae also overlooks Sanju Falls whose falling water looks like a shower of pearls, Ryongyon Falls resembling a white dragon ascending into heaven through the fog, Chonsin Falls looking like a roll of white silk hanging down from heaven, and the time-

honoured Sangwon Hermitage nestling in the thick foliage. So, the Korean ancestors referred to the enjoyment of those three falls from Inhodae as *Inhogyong-gwan*, and the scenery as one of the eight scenic wonders of Mt Myohyang.

When you climb some distance from the Sangwon Hermitage, there is Pobwang Peak. It adjoins Oson Peak on the east and Kwanum Peak on the west. Some of the rocks on Pobwang Peak look like a giant standing upright lifting up his iron fists or a monster having an eye on the prey. Other rocks resemble running deer or flying cranes. Indeed, the rocks on Pobwang Peak are all of strange shapes, so it is called Manmulsang (myriad-shaped peak) of Mt Myohyang.

To the southwest Pobwang Peak overlooks the Kuryong River which meanders round the Yaksandongdae in Nyongbyon, one of the Eight Scenic Spots of Northwestern Korea.

(To be continued)

Bee and Our Life

FROM ANCIENT TIMES KOREA WAS called a silk-embroidered land of three thousand ri with beautiful mountains and crystal-clear rivers. It has a mild climate, and mountains cover over 80% of its territory, so all sorts of animals and plants are found profusely across the country. Moreover, the distinctive features of four seasons—spring, summer, autumn and winter—offer a favourable habitat to animals and plants. However, such a good natural environment can bring due benefits to people only when they preserve and take care of it sincerely.

I would like to illustrate it by presenting a view of the bee, which is called a “friend of humans for health,” and a “flying pharmacist” as it gives a lot of purely natural products used for human food and medicine, and the work of its protection and multiplication.

While gathering honey the insect pollinates flowering plants like crops and fruit trees, thus it plays a great role in keeping the human health and life as well as forest and ecological environment. Long ago Einstein predicted that “when bees disappear from the earth, it will meet its end within four years.” It means the insect is very sensitive to the change of the natural ecosystem.

Korea has a long history of beekeeping. The Japanese historical book *Nihon Shoki* (Chronicles of Japan) has a record that in 643 a Korean came to Japan with bees and taught bee-keeping techniques. It shows that the history of bee-keeping in Korea dates back a long time. After the country was liberated from the Japanese imperialists’ military

occupation on August 15, 1945, beekeeping developed into a national undertaking. Thanks to the State policy that the mountainous areas should make the most of mountains, apiaries went up in the mountainous localities. Beekeeping stations were organized in good order in provinces, cities and counties and they were managed and operated in a coordinated way. Besides, beekeeping was also encouraged among individual farmers as there are a good deal of flowers season after season. A nationwide survey of melliferous plants was completed in the 1960s, identifying at least 300 species of plants across the country. Three typical kinds of such plants are acacia, linden and bush clover. Other plants are shortstalk bush clover, chestnut, blueberry, buckwheat, perilla, Korean pepper ash, Korean evodia, apricot tree, date tree and so on.

Along with the effort to preserve these kinds of plants, an all-people afforestation campaign is making headway to plant melliferous plants suited to the characteristics of certain regions all over the country so as to provide a favourable environment for the growth and multiplication of bees.

The scientific research work for protection and multiplication of bees is going on dynamically under the guidance of the Bee Research Institute of the Academy of Agricultural Science. Situated in Phyongsong, South Phyongan Province, the institute has a 50-odd-year-long history. According to Director Paek Tal Hyon, the institute established a system of keeping pure breeds of bees in the country in the early days of its inauguration, and is now propelling projects to improve methods of multiplying and raising bees. Paek himself made a success of the task of breeding a superior kind of queen, the most rational method of beekeeping. He also analysed the effect of bee hybridization, confirmed pathogens that occurred in native bees, and developed relevant preventive and treatment medicines. Other researchers are conducting the programmes to breed the kinds of bees suited to the local climate and melliferous plants in the country, and pushing ahead with the work to breed queens sufficient enough to provide for apiaries across the country annually. They are also searching for good methods of artificial multiplication of bees, and taking relevant measures to spread bees to places with



Artificial fertilization of a queen bee.

no or few bees. Today beekeeping is in full swing in the country. The nation joined the International Federation of Beekeepers Associations as its official member state in August 1965. The DPRK delegation, participating in the 20th international conference of beekeepers, presented a thesis *Characteristics of Melliferous Plants on the Paektu Plateau*, introducing the potentiality of large-scale bee-culture and honey production in the northern region of Korea. The Korea Beekeepers Association, organized in 1967, disseminates the latest science and technology in the field of beekeeping, exchanges advanced experience, and arranges activities to improve sci-tech qualifications and technical knowledge and skills of workers in the sector. It has tens of thousands of members, who plan and prepare the raising of a large swarm of bees, beehive making,

and mobile beekeeping in accordance with the start of the main honey season, and the flowering of different kinds of melliferous plants.

In Korea melliferous plants bloom from spring to autumn. In the central region of the country there are flowers of apricot tree, acacia, chestnut, Korean pepper ash, Korean evodia, bush clover, perilla and buckwheat; in the northern inland region there are flowers of sweet cherry, linden, blueberry and Chinese flowering apple; and in the east coast region flowers of bush clover. All of them provide a favourable condition for mobile beekeeping.

In May many of the beekeepers set out on a tour in search of flowers, and Kim Hui Su, a resident in Wasan-dong, Sosong District, Pyongyang, is one of them. Grown up in Sinbong-ri, Kosong County, Kangwon Province he, from his childhood, was versed in gathering honey from the hives, which he learned from his father, once a beekeeper. Having graduated from Wonsan University of Agriculture he has kept ties with bees. The distance he travels across the country in pursuance of melliferous plants totals 2 000 kilometres each year. His “beekeeping journey” continues from mid-May to the end of September, covering Moran Hill and Mt Taesong in Pyongyang, Kim Hyong Jik County in Ryanggang Province, and Pujon County in South Hamgyong Province in northern Korea.

In the course of this he has got rich, versatile experience, and written a number of books for beekeeping enthusiasts such as *Beekeeping in Korea*, *Beekeeping and Use of Its Products*, and *Technical Questions and Answers on Bee Products*. They ex-



Paek Tal Hyon (centre), head of the Bee Research Institute of the Academy of Agricultural Science, observes the breeding state of bees on the spot.



Kim Hui Su and books he wrote.



► plain the morphological and biological features of bees; techniques of raising bees; tools for beekeeping; techniques for caring for bees; bees' diseases and their prevention and treatment; and techniques of using and processing bee products. In particular, the multimedia *Care of Bees in Four Seasons* is popular with beekeepers. Recently the demand for honey, royal jelly, pollen, propolis, beeswax and bee venom is on the increase with the rapid development of light and pharmaceutical industries. Bees produce highly nutritious honey, royal jelly, beeswax and venom which are beneficial to the human life. Honey and royal jelly contain protein, fat, sugar, minerals, different kinds of microelements

and vitamins, thus they are excellent foodstuff and tonics. Now an energetic effort is going on to diversify bee products. Last year the beekeeping sector held a national technical course and show. It evaluated the bee products presented by each province, including native honey, *Omija* (*Schizandra chinensis*) honey, pine pollen honey, hawthorn raspberry honey, wild honey, acacia honey, and propolis tea. It also gave a technical course on artificial fertilization of the queen.

These kinds of activities take place annually in the country.

Article by Yom Song Hui
Photos by Ra Jin Hyok

National Intangible Cultural Heritage (44)

Roguihongsang, Korean Style of Attire

FROM OF OLD THE Korean women liked wearing *chima* (skirt) and *jogori* (jacket), especially, *roguihongsang* which means a set of a green jacket and a crimson skirt, or its attire. The jacket was made in the style of *samhoejang jogori*—*hoejang* means colourful strips of cloth for trimmings. The collar and breast-tie, cuffs and armholes of the jacket were decorated with pieces of cloth of different colours from the main part. Hence the name *sam* (three) *hoejang jogori*.

Roguihongsang was often worn by brides on their wedding day as the attire was especially beautiful.

A historical document from the 18th century describes the attire of a bride as “green *samhoejang jogori* and crimson skirt,” which hints at the long history of the custom of wearing *roguihongsang*.

In the area of Phyongan Province, a bride usually put on a green *samhoejang jogori*, a crimson skirt, a blue fur-lined waistcoat over the jacket and silver trinkets on the waist.

And she stuck a long rod-like hairpin in her chignon while wearing front and back ribbons before putting on a bride's headpiece decorated with seven kinds of treasure—gold, silver, glass, beautiful stone like a jewel, agate, amber and coral—over them. This attire was usually called *chilbodanjang*.

Roguihongsang developed in Phyongan Province was widely introduced across the country, and young women liked wearing them on folk holidays as well. In particular, the scene of women in the attire swinging at a swinging site in their village on folk holidays in summer spectacularly went well with the sur-

rounding scenery.

The showy harmony of fresh green and red colours reflects the aesthetic feelings of the Korean nation.

The reason why the Korean women liked the attire was that they regarded red as a colour for luck and green as that for elegance.

The attire is still in vogue among the Korean women. Accordingly, the national costume designers are developing the technique of tailoring the traditional costume to meet the requirements of the times and the people's aspiration while retaining the basic features.

The General Tailor's Shop in Sosong District, Pyongyang, can be cited. *Roguihongsang* from

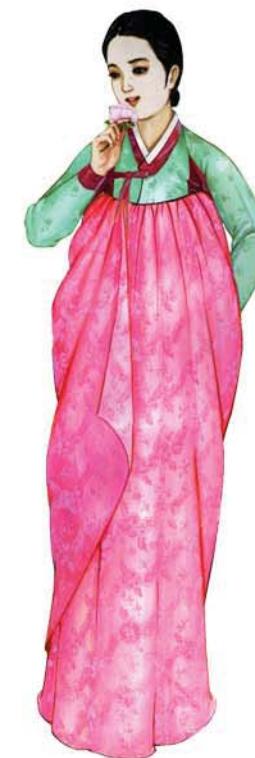
the shop took first place at the 15th Korean costume show held in 2017. And a distinctive Korean costume design prepared by the shop won a prize at the national industrial art exhibition held in celebration of the Day of the Sun, the birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung, in 2019.

Roguihongsang from the shop is very popular with a lot of women as it is refined to meet the modern aesthetic taste while retaining its traditional beauty.

The traditional method and technique of making the clothes that reflects the beauty of the Korean women, and their tenderness and firmness, was put on the list of national intangible cultural heritage.

Rim Ok

Roguihongsang.



Chilbodanjang.



JONG SON (1676–1759) WAS A FAMOUS landscape painter in the 17th century. Unlike lots of scholars of the aristocratic origin who painted abstract fancy as they pleased while drinking and citing poems at home, Jong Son painted what he saw and felt in reality.

An episode about Jong Son follows.

A family sent a silk skirt to his home, and his wife carelessly spilt meat soup on it. Knowing this, Jong Son told her to unstitch the yoke of the skirt, smooth the creases and wash the stained part.

Then he began to paint a picture on a strip of the skirt that was spread. A multitude of peaks of Mt Kumgang rose, and waterfalls like hanging rolls of silk and bottomless pools appeared in a minute. When he forcefully pulled his brush, the stain disappeared in a moment covered by

Jong Son Paints Mt Kumgang on Skirt

fantastic rocks and cliffs. He painted similar pictures on the other two strips of the skirt.

Afterwards, the owner of the skirt came to his home, and Jong told her he was so eager to paint pictures that he had painted Mt Kumgang on the silk skirt without the owner's permission. Now

he was at a loss what to do, he added.

Seeing the pictures, the owner of the skirt rather thanked him repeatedly, referring to the pictures as peerless treasure.

Jong Son said he had nothing more to want as he realized his desire to paint Mt Kumgang on good silk, and gave the skirt's owner the pictures as gifts.

The owner of the skirt, it is said, decorated her home with the biggest of the three strips.

Rim Ok

Unchanged Ambition of War Criminal State

RECENTLY JAPAN'S Maritime "Self-defense Force" (MSDF) put into commission its new Aegis destroyer *Maya*. Making an absurd argument about the "buildup of military threats from the DPRK and China," Japanese Defense Minister Kono said at the handing-over ceremony that the launch of the 7th Aegis ship would "improve the air defence capability of Japan."

He means his country is reinforcing its military strength because the two countries are threatening it. What matters is the authenticity of his words. The two countries he mentioned are channelling everything into economic construction. The DPRK is concentrating all its effort on socialist economic construction under the slogan of "Let us smash straight through all the barriers in the way of our advance!" So a peaceful environment is a prerequisite for the country. Accordingly, it is striving to ensure such an environment. In this context it can be said that it is not Japan but the DPRK and China that are under military threat.

In the 20th century the two countries suffered severe damages owing to Japan's invasion of them. On the contrary, the insular country is a war criminal that was defeated in a war of aggression it started to conquer the Asian continent as a whole under the pretext of the "Greater East Asia Co-prosper-

ity Sphere." Besides, it neither admits nor compensates for the extravillainous crimes committed by the former imperial Japanese army.

The Japanese Defense Minister's words about "threat" are not a verbal lapse due to misjudgment of the aspirations of the neighbouring countries and the situation of the region, but a manifestation of the country's state policy. Attributing its defeat in the past war to its weak forces, Japan has steadily beefed up its military strength, damaging peace and security of the region.

Japan has openly revealed its hostility towards its neighbouring countries and its territorial ambition while ceaselessly staging joint military exercises with the US on the ground and in the air and sea of the archipelago since the beginning of this year.

Not long ago, Japan launched a "submarine-hunter" capable of tracking and identifying submarines hundreds of kilometres away, and put it into commission for the MSDF. And with the deployment of the *Maya* Japan has become able to share information with the US forces in real time on the ground and in the air and sea, and do any kind of military operations.

ITAR-Tass of Russia disclosed the sinister intention of Japan, commenting that the deployment of the Aegis vessel equipped with a new information

exchange system is a link in the chain of the US missile defence system in the Far Eastern region.

After all, arms buildup of the SDF and Japan's reckless remark that its main target is China and the DPRK clearly shows the extent to which the war criminal's wild ambition to repeat its past history of aggression has become dangerous. Japan's talk about "threat" is nothing but a sophism to cover its wild ambition of aggression.

It is said that even an animal does not fall again into a trap in which it was caught. Several countries are now reflecting on their shameful pasts, and aspiring to friendship and cooperation with other countries as members of the international community in order not to repeat their history of aggression any longer.

Only Japan is going against the current of the international community, hell-bent on re-invasion without atoning for its past crimes. The international community is casting a scornful glance to the country which is unable to understand the trend of the times and draw a lesson from its history.

No one can predict the result of the reckless behaviour of Japan bereft of sound thinking power. Asia today is different from what it was yesterday, and the will of the DPRK and other neighbouring countries to safeguard peace and security is growing firmer.

Kim Il Bong

Primitive Cave Site Unearthed

A RESEARCH GROUP OF THE HISTORY Faculty of Kim Il Sung University has recently unearthed a primitive cave site showing the cultural layers which date back to the Paleolithic, Neolithic and Bronze ages in Hyangmok-ri, Kangdong County, Pyongyang.

Some 1 650 mammal fossils (animal bone fossils) of nine kinds, 16 stone tools of eight kinds and over 280 spore and pollen fossils were discovered in the Paleolithic cultural layers (fourth and fifth layers); five teeth of an ancient-type Korean and 40 fragments of earthenware in the Neolithic cultural layer (sixth layer); and over ten fragments of earthenware in the Bronze Age cultural layer (seventh layer).

The researchers have confirmed through measurements that the formation of the relics from the Paleolithic cultural layers date back 36 000 to 34 000 years to the latter period of the Paleolithic era.

They also clarified through a research into the kind, material and making style of the stone tools that the tools had been in wide use in the latter period of the Paleolithic era.

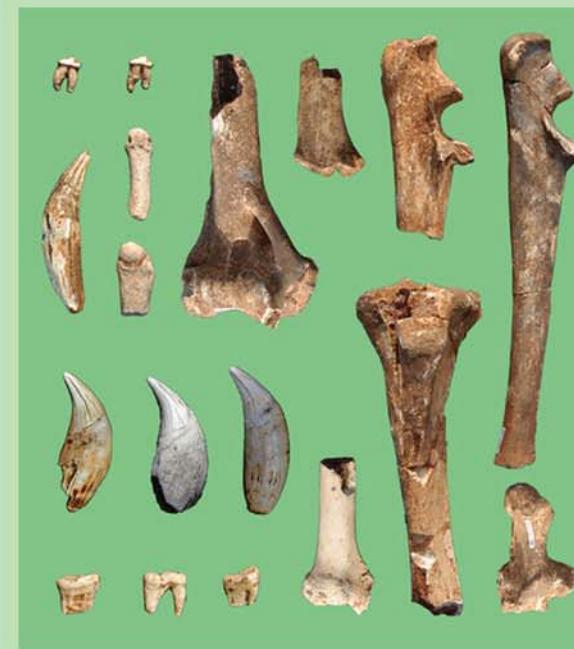
In addition, they explained that the teeth of an ancient-type Korean found in the Neolithic cultural layer were those of a woman in her fifties in the Neolithic era. The earthenware fragments from the cultural layers of the Neolithic and Bronze ages were also verified to be the relics from the abovementioned ages through an analysis of their shapes, colours and patterns.

The Archaeology Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Non-permanent Tangible Heritage Deliberation and Assessment Committee deliberated on the discovery of and research into the relics before registering the cave site as one of national treasure.

In the past lots of relics from the Neolithic era were discovered in the Kangdong area, confirming that socio-historical premises were fully created for state formation, but this is the first time to find out such relics and remains of the Paleolithic era corresponding to the dawn of human history.

The new discovery of the cave site scientifically proves that the area of Kangdong County in which Tangun, the founding father of the Korean nation, is buried is a place where the Koreans had lived since the Paleolithic era and one of the places where modern Koreans had taken historical root. This is of significant importance in scientifically proving the social relations and production activities of people at that time and the time-honoured history of the Korean nation with richer data, and clarifying the lawful course of human evolution.

Pak Yong Il



Fossil remains of mammals from the Paleolithic age.



Teeth of an ancient-type Korean from the Neolithic age.



Pieces of top-shaped vessels from the Bronze Age.

