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Porcelain Vase

A gift presented to Chairman Kim Jong Il by D. T. Yazov, former Soviet Defence Minister and Marshal, in August 2001.

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Front Cover: Statue of Chairman Kim Jong Il is unveiled at Kim Il Sung University in October 2013



Back Cover: Moran Hill in winter

Photo by Ra Jin Hyok

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Living on Honour

MY SINAM COOPERATIVE FARM IS AN ordinary one you can find anywhere in Korea. I returned home from military service in September 2007, three months after Chairman Kim Jong Il visited the farm for the fourth time. In January the next year I began to work as leader of the Youth Subworkteam, when the farm's management board chairwoman Kim Yong Sun admonished me, "I hope you young people will be pillars and pioneers in farming at our farm which has been honoured to be visited by our great national leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il several times. The future of our farm rests on you." I knew hers was a meaningful remark.

That year my subworkteam was the first to finish rice transplantation and begin weeding in the farm. One June day around the time Chairman Kim Jong Il called at my farm again to our happy surprise. He was satisfied that my farm was making a change in agricultural production by improving management and operation including labour management and doing farming as required by science and technology. He gave wise advices on making a leap forward in production.

True to his advices, we ex-servicemen members of the Youth Subworkteam worked hard in the van of the group. Younger members also worked assiduously, emulating us, to boost the grain production.

Chairman Kim Jong Il sent our farm tractors of a new style and other rolling stocks in February 2009 helping us to do farming much better.

My team tried hard to do farming in a scientific and technical manner. One day my colleague Ri Hyang Mi said to me applying fertilizer in the field, "Why don't we study a method of giving fertilizer? The way we do it now, we can't give an equal and exact amount of fertilizer. And I think we waste a lot of fertilizer."

That evening we had a collective discussion regarding the problem. The technical assistant Ku Chol Min suggested the idea of granulizing the fertilizer before applying. Soon a research team was organized and a machine was made to produce granular fertilizer. With this as a momentum the subworkteam began a course of learning agricultural science and technology by themselves. Ku Chol Min took charge of the work. We helped and led one another forward in getting agricultural knowledge. ▶

Youth Subworkteam members return home from work.





They work hard to increase the grain produce.

- Thanks to the efforts of all the members of the subworkteam, a good machine was made to apply fertilizer. The machine took first place at the national youth's scientific and technological achievements exhibition held in commemoration of Youth Day in 2010. Now enrolled in the study-while-working system, all of us are assimilating latest farming knowledge.

My subworkteam developed an enjoyable life as well. First we carried out a project to refashion our lodging to suit the features and tastes of us young people. At night we made bonfire and continued the construction. Some fell asleep by the fire, losing their shoes or clothes in the fire. But none of us yielded to the difficulties, looking forward to the completion of our wonderful lodging. In a little over a month we finished a new lodging, totally different from the old one.

Building on this achievement we spearheaded the effort to make a facelift of the farm. On July 6, 2011 in the season of weeding Chairman Kim Jong Il visited my Sinam Cooperative Farm again. He was pleased with the fact that my farm had considerably boosted the grain production and renewed the appearance of the farming community by implementing the Workers' Party of Korea policy on rural development. He looked round the newly laid mechanization workteam and our lodging of the Youth Subworkteam. Going round the bedrooms, youth school, dining room, and the wash-cum-bath room, he praised us, saying it was really a good house. Hearing from the farm's management board chairwoman that the members of the Youth Subworkteam had worked



They are engrossed in learning agricultural science and technology.

hard in the field day in and day out to increase grain production while leading the effort to make a facelift of the farming village, Kim Jong Il kindly asked us to have a souvenir photo taken together, saying we were praiseworthy. He was probably proud of us who were trying to develop our village into a wonderful place with our own hands. After the photo was taken, he asked us to do a good farming while living in the good house and promised to come to see us again.

Hoping to welcome him to our farm in a rich autumn and show him our rich table, we built a stockbreeding house and a greenhouse in addition. Looking in the souvenir photograph we looked forward to his visit. One day we heard unexpected sad news that the great national leader had passed on a train while travelling for field guidance. We were gripped with sorrow, but rose up making a pledge in front of the souvenir photo to do a better farming to accomplish his desire.

Happy or sad, we turned to the photo, renewing our pledge. This year my subworkteam grew vegetable seedlings in the greenhouse successfully before transplanting them in the field. This was the first to be introduced in my farm. The biggest problem was how to heat the greenhouse. To solve the problem, Sim Kum Ok and her colleagues made a study untiringly despite repeated failures, and thus set a rational heating system in the greenhouse. This brought about a bright prospect for increased vegetable production while saving a great deal of materials and manpower.

We often stand in front of the souvenir photo these days, feeling proud of our successful fulfillment of our assignment of production this year, too. Enshrining the photo we will continue to work hard to increase production and thus make a contribution to the improvement of the people's living standards.

*Choe To Un, leader of the Youth Subworkteam
of the Sinam Cooperative Farm, Ryongchon
County, North Phyongan Province*

Kim Jong Il and CNC (1)



Chairman Kim Jong Il and national leader Kim Jong Un give field guidance for the building of an economic giant in October 2011.



The CNC technology helps increasing production at the Taean Heavy Machine Complex.

The Huichon Ryonha General Machine Factory.



In front of the first CNC machines

ON APRIL 29, 1995, Chairman Kim Jong Il's car ran at full speed along a suburban road in Pyongyang. Presently the car entered the compound of a factory situated in a valley in verdure with all kinds of full-bloomed flowers including azalea and royal azalea. The chairman went into a building in which stood two machines in the hall.

Approaching the machines, he asked, "These are CNC machines, aren't they?" They were four-axis electric wire discharge machines based on CNC technology. With keen interest in the new machines, he asked again who had made them. Hearing they had been manufactured by the Ryonha Machine development group, he smiled brightly.

The national leader organized the group on July 15, 1992 involving researchers of Kim Chaek University of Technology and technicians of the local factory and suggested naming the CNC machines they would develop Ryonha Machine. The group had since made strenuous efforts for years and successfully made new machines.

That day Kim Jong Il was wearing full smile on his face all

the time studying valuable CNC machines developed for the first time in Korea.

Giving applause three times

A CNC machine began to operate as instructed by a program input. It was moving axes freely to process the workpiece precisely. Looking carefully at the machine's appearance and operation, Kim Jong Il gave an applause, saying that a wonderful machine had been born in his country and proposing to give congratulation to the new machine. Then he took the processed graphite product in his hand and scrutinized the processed surface. "Conventional machine-tools could hardly process this kind of goods. [The developers] are praiseworthy; they worked with a resolution and have made latest CNC machines with credit," he said to the accompanying officials.

Earlier in 1982 the DPRK succeeded in making NC machine-tools laying the most elementary conditions for manufacture of CNC machinery. Now it made a dashing appearance in the world of latest machinery by relying on its own efforts.

"Now we produce NC lathes and even CNC electric wire discharge machines which are

more advanced. The technicians and workers who design and manufacture the CNC machines for themselves are really talented," he said, and added, "The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK government should highly appreciate the technicians, workers and officials who have contributed to the development of CNC machines. I'd like to extend my special thanks to all of them." The Chairman warmly grasped the hands of the general manager of the factory. And then he clapped again.

The general manager was filled with gratitude and swore to the Chairman, "We'll defeat our enemy with our own technology." "That's a nice pledge," Kim Jong Il said. "Why don't we give the developers a big hand for their good pledge?" he said, giving another applause.

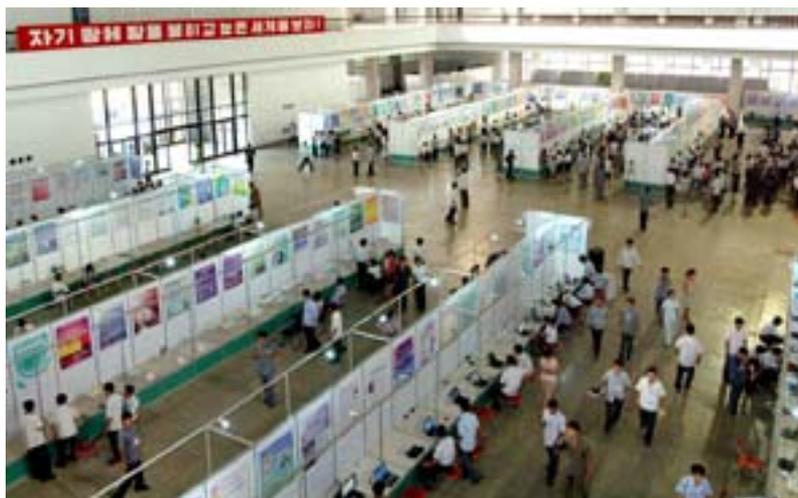
In this way he clapped three times to congratulate for the development of the new machines, the developers and their resolve. After many years passed, the Chairman often recollected the unforgettable day, saying, "I cannot forget the two machines standing in the hall at the time. They were the first 'Ryonha Machines' I saw." □

Motive Force for Building of Economic Giant

SINCE THE SUCCESSFUL launch of the artificial earth satellite Kwangmyongsong 3-2 in December 2012 the Korean people have made a revolutionary upsurge in all fields of the national economy, holding high the banner "Let us bring about a radical turn in the building of an economic giant with the same spirit and mettle as were displayed in conquering space!"

To attain cutting-edge science and technology in a short span of time and, on the basis, develop all fields of the national economy so as to make the people well off and lead a civilized life as early as possible is a policy of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This is the first year in implementing the fourth five-year plan for development of science and technology. Efforts were concentrated on solving urgent scientific and technological problems in rapidly developing cutting-edge science and technology, locally obtaining major raw materials, fuel, materials and equipment, updating technical and economic indices and improving the people's standard of living. In the course of this valuable research successes were achieved which further propelled the modernization of production processes and boosted production.

Scientists and technicians manufactured a new type of turbine which is more efficient and has longer lifespan than existing ones, and introduced them into hydropower stations, increasing the power generation. And new technologies were developed, which have played a big role in maintaining and reinforcing the Juche iron production system, decreasing the consumption of



Exhibitions of sci-tech achievements are organized to develop the science and technology.

the imported materials necessary for producing pig iron and improving the quality of steel. Together with this a high-temperature air-combustion technology was widely introduced. Modernization of factories and enterprises in the field of metal industry has made a stride.

A novel mining technology has been introduced at several mines, thus cutting the consumption of props while further increasing the output of coal. Besides, a newly-developed nanogermicide and a growth nanostimulant have rendered great services to the agricultural production. A lot of successful research projects have been widely introduced in different sectors of the national economy including light and chemical industries, greatly contributing to increasing the capacity of the national economy as a whole.

Meanwhile, a mass technical innovation campaign was vigorously pushed forward. The technicians in the Suncheon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex, the

Anju Area Coal-mining Complex and other enterprises in coal-mining industry introduced new methods of blasting, thus boosting production significantly. And the technicians in the Songjin Steel Complex established the method of precisely controlling the distribution of oxygen hydro-mechanically with one burner, discarding the old practice of using several burners. This has increased the production of the Juche iron. The workers of the Tae-an Heavy Machine Complex introduced the CNC technology into boring machines, turning lathes, cylindrical grinders and planomillers with concerted efforts, putting production processes on a higher technological level. The Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory has developed a new skin whitening material and an anti-aging substance that suit the taste and aesthetic feelings of the Koreans, so the quality of the products has radically improved. In the agricultural sector corn-to-corn double cropping was carried out, increasing per-hectare output. The Musan Mining Complex ►

Poultry Research Institute

THANKS TO THE WORKERS' PARTY OF Korea policy of improving the people's living standards in a short span of time, chicken farms have been built across the country in compliance of the needs in the current century. These farms contribute a lot to the people's living.

The developing reality demands scientific and intensive production systems be established as early as possible. The task relies on the efforts of the researchers of the Poultry Research Institute of the Academy of Agricultural Science. For nearly 50 years the institute has achieved a lot of successes in breeding highly productive species of poultry, establishing scientific breeding methods, introducing comprehensive mechanization and carrying out modernization project. Building on rich experience, it is putting primary efforts into introduction of latest science and technology. In particular, researchers, working on the shop floor, solved many problems arising in growing poultry for both eggs and meat. New highly productive breeds they developed have been introduced at farms around the country.

Researchers have also made a success of undertakings to put facilities of poultry farms on a higher level. Typical is the development of a new ventilating system and its introduction. In the past a tunnel-style ventilating system was dominant, which failed to ensure even temperature in a house. And it had to be changed from season to season. In the course of studying how to eliminate the shortcomings, the researchers developed a whirlwind-style ventilating system, which ensures proper ventilation all the year round and increases the egg production by 20% as against the old system. Researchers also developed a 3D hatching machine, bringing huge profit in production. In addition they have made new feed additives and are now completing one method after an-

other to put the poultry growing on an up-to-date basis.

Ryu Ik Son, head of a laboratory, says, "The developing reality demands us researchers to accelerate the rate of technical improvement. I know we can do it. And we'll do our best."

Rim Sang Jun

Researchers make a culture-in-vitro experiment.



► has increased the production by newly laying a hundreds-of-metres-long conveyor belt additionally and, the Tanchon Smeltery has built a large-scale zinc oxide production process and renovated the first-stage liquefying process, and arranged a recycling process of muck.

Now the universities of the country are actively engaging in circulation of intellectual properties, technical service, transfer of technology and joint technical

development. As the scientific and technological frontiers are expanded, the knowledge-based production and the industrialization of knowledge are becoming distinctive. The Central Committee of the General Federation of Science and Technology of Korea sponsored the 10th nanotechnology presentation and exhibition in July-August. It put on display over 1 000 nanotechnology products of hundreds of kinds from more than 20

units, and many of them were highly appreciated.

Kim Ung Chol, director of the State Nanotechnology Centre, says, "We are responsible for the industrial revolution in this century in our country. The prosperous future of Korea depends on us. We will make every effort to put the science and technology of our country up to the world level at the earliest date."

Ri Chong Ho

An Old Scientist Recalls

RI RYONG AM IS AN authority on rock mechanics. When we called on him at his home, he told us a story in deep retrospect:

Ri was born into an extremely poor tenant's family as the 5th of six children before national liberation. He couldn't go to school until he was ten years old. He managed to enter a primary school only at the age of 11. However, he was expelled from school because he failed to pay tuition fees. He left his country and went to Japan. There he began attending a school by supporting himself with difficulty, but he finally gave up studying unable to bear school expenses.

Fortune smiled at him only after his country was liberated in August 1945 and the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon) was formed in 1955. The day when he was given stipends from his motherland by way of Chongryon, he made up his mind to follow the path of patriotism to repay to the motherland. Determined to be a scientist working for the fatherland, he and his wife got aboard the first repatriation ship and returned to the motherland.

In late December 1959, soon after they moved into a new house following their repatriation, President Kim Il Sung visited their home. He encouragingly said to them that they should study hard to be excellent persons, and looked after their new life with parental care. It seemed like a dream to them



Ri Ryong Am (second right) talks about his study of the lithostatic pressure in a coal-mine opening.

that the President, legendary hero of the Korean nation who they had long worshipped, visited their home. The couple felt the President's care was warmer than the parents' affection.

Hoping to become pillars of the country by studying hard, Ryong Am entered the then Kim Chaek College of Technology and his wife the then Pyongyang Medical College. From his childhood he had a dream of digging abundant mineral resources of the country and distributing them to the poor people like him. This was why he chose to learn mining engineering.

After graduation from the college with honours he was appointed to a research institute and began to demonstrate fully his ability and enthusiasm. It was like a volcano erupting. He always went to the field to pick right issues for his research and

complete them, instead of indulging in laboratory. In the 1970s he, at the Komdok Mining Complex, conceived a new reasonable calculating method of pillar measurement and introduced it to the production, thus helping to produce nearly 150 000 tons more ores, when most people thought it impossible. In the 1980s he evolved a geostatic theory in accordance with the condition of the Tertiary geologic formation of Korea, and on the basis of it studied and developed a mining method of using no pillars, and thus contributed to the increase of coal production by 25% and reduction of tunnelling by 40% in the country's major coal mines. In the 1990s he made a success in saving materials including timber, concrete and reinforcing rods by as much as 38% and increasing the period of tunnel maintenance ▶

► 1.8 times by solving a scientific problem of maintaining main tunnels at coal mines. In the 2000s he suggested a hypothesis, which made a sensation in geological circles. Seeing a strangely bending prop, he, instead of the previous conception that the vertical direction stress of a stratum is always bigger than the horizontal one, set up a new idea that the horizontal direction stress can sometimes be bigger than the vertical one according to the strata's conditions and depth. He built a geo-mechanical hypothesis on the reason. To prove this hypothesis, he manufactured an experimental device and developed a computer-controlled system to measure and process the data on stratum stress, and at last established a relevant measuring method. The establishment of a new concept

on stratum stress broke a new ground in geostatic theory and rock mechanics and laid a scientific foundation for designing and building of various kinds of bed-rock underground structure.

Though of advanced age, he is still seen in big mines working hard to solve problems of ground pressure arising in deep-stratum mining, guaranteeing the stability of tunnel structure and normalizing the production.

Whenever he made successes in his researches, the country gave him honours like the titles of the DPRK Labour Hero, academician, doctor and professor. In addition, he was awarded Kim Il Sung Prize on the occasion of President Kim Il Sung's 100th birthday.

...

Finishing an account of his

life, he said with a smile, "In fact, I have done nothing great. Yet my country has crowned me with all honours. I ask young scientists to achieve brilliant sci-tech successes for the development of our country."

As member of the International Lithological Society, president of the Korean Rock Mechanics Society, chairman of the Subcommittee for Deliberation of Academic Degrees on Mining Engineering, member of the State Commission for Deliberation of Scientific and Technological Papers and member of the DPRK Screening Commission for Qualification of Academician-ship, he is now devoting all his energy to the social and scientific activities, raising of reserve scientists and writing of papers.

Ri Kum Chol

Beneficial Fish Farming

THE ANGLING ON THE Taedong River and the Pothong River in early morning and evening is quite a picture—an old man is pleased to catch a big carp while a young man feels disappointed to have a small fish and lets it go into the river. Such a scenery is attributable to the unknown efforts of the officials and workers of the Pyongyang Fish Farming Management Bureau. The bureau grows a huge number of fry at fish farms in Pyongyang and releases them in rivers and streams including the Taedong and Pothong rivers.

Recently they developed a new method of freshwater fish farming and introduced it into production. It is a method of growing fish in a frame of floating nets. In other words, fry are

kept in a section closed with synthetic-fibre nets or iron nets which float on the water. The section is surrounded by nets on all sides except the bottom, and fish grow up, eating natural or artificial feed there. This method needs lower costs and fish grow faster with a high rate of survival. The net is mobile and easy to handle, and increases the productivity regardless of its density. In May last the workers of the management bureau set the nets on the Taedong River and put tens of thousands of newly hatched carps, crucian carps, silver carps and the like into the nets. Afterwards, they set similar frames in several places of the Taedong and Pothong rivers to produce a large quantity of fish. They say the weight of fish

increased by hundreds of grams or even one kilogram in several months.

In October last the bureau sent fish produced by such method to orphanages, kindergartens, nurseries and catering establishments in the city. Kim Kwon Hwi, officer of the bureau, says, "This method enables us to produce fish in large quantities, and it is very profitable that one worker can manage a large area and no power is needed at all. So we are going to actively apply this method next year."

Now the bureau is making preparations to put freshwater fish farming on a scientific and technological basis next year.

Ri Sun Nyo

Lifeline

THE UNRYUL MINE became well known all across Korea for its long-distance conveyor belt laid in the mid-1970s. Before the conveyor belt was laid, the mine was under unbearable stress because of mountains of earth removed for

scores of years.

Chairman Kim Jong Il understood the situation of the mine in detail and suggested a splendid idea of laying a long-distance conveyor belt to carry the earth out straight to the sea from the mine.

Soon the conveyor belt stretched out into the sea and has made tangible service for

increased production of the iron ore for nearly 40 years, while expanding the land of the nation steadily.

O Sok Ju, a veteran miner, says, "The management staff of the mine has changed several times and generations of the workers have also changed, but the belt has undergone no replacement, standing steadfast. ▶

The long-distance conveyer belt of the Unryul Mine.



▶ Whenever senior officials leave or take office, they put the belt as the first item of transfer and delivery. When new workers come, they are shown the belt first.”

The management and operation of the belt have been sustained by several state patents and more than 250 technical innovations. Once they had to set up a new motor station during the period of the “Arduous March” when even a ton of steel billet or cement was counted. The project needed a lot of materials and equipment. The senior



The crushing plant.

officials, however, knew it was a matter of critical importance in the management of the mine. They called upon all the employees to turn out in the project. Workers, whether skilled or unskilled, got together to consult different opinions. Finally a bright and innovative idea came out. It was to set up a movable motor station which could go out into the sea along with the extending of the belt, instead of building a fixed station which needed a colossal amount of materials and manpower. As for the novel idea, it was to use a framework of a large excavator and mount it with motors and speed reducers. Then, the excavator would be able to move ahead along with the stretching bank. The simple yet bright conception came from the devoted efforts of the employees who had been

looking after the belt regarding it as the lifeline of the mine.

While setting up the station by their own efforts, they also found a scientific guarantee for laying such stations in over twice longer distance than before. With each of the sections of the belt increased more than twice, a great deal of equipment and labour were saved, the number of points of earth transfer decreased making it possible to lengthen the lifetime of the belt. In this way the belt has been in operation without any replacement and without any break in operation. This makes up only a small part of the history of the belt.

Today the belt is stretching out in another direction, leaving a good bank and demonstrating its power to the full.

Chae Kwang Myong



High Goal

THE PYONGYANG ELECTRONIC Medical Appliances Factory is making efforts to develop and produce electronic medical appliances that are very effective in the diagnosis of human diseases in reliance upon its own strength and techniques. Formerly, this factory turned out only several kinds of medical appliances such as an appliance for X-ray diagnosis, that for disinfection by high-pressure steam and that for obtaining distilled water with a high degree of purity.

Chief engineer Hwang Myong Song and some other technical personnel working at the factory drew up a plan to produce medical appliances for functional diagnosis that are able to diagnose human diseases in time and correctly in keeping with developing realities. They include an instrument for the supersonic diagnosis of the abdomen, an electrocardiograph, an electroencephalograph, an electromyograph, etc. Even when making a single medical appliance, they set themselves a goal of making it up to date strictly in accordance with the constitutions of the Koreans and the international standards and decided on deepening their research work to attain this goal.

To ensure this end, the factory formed technical forces with the main stress on the technical affairs department and vigorously pushed ahead with the work of solving scientific and technical problems arising in the production of medical appliances. Development of electronic medical appliances, the first ever undertaking in the country, was not an easy task as was said. Technicians and workers had no experience in the manufacture of medical appliances of this kind and they were short of technical skills pertaining to them. Before anything else, designing was the

most difficult problem. Om Chol Ryong and other technicians conducted research work day and night for the grasping of electronic elements and technical properties of medical appliances and completed the technical design in a matter of one year, the design that was said to require three years.

The technicians including Ri Song Chan, chief of the technical affairs department, developed the circuit, controlling devices and programs necessary for the

this factory can guarantee their quality while saving the cost of production a great deal as compared with previous ones imported from abroad. They took special and first places at national exhibitions of medical appliances and won a prize at a national scientific and technical exhibition of the public health sector. Chief engineer Hwang Myong Song says: "This time we are convinced that we will be able to succeed in whatever we do if we set a high goal and go for



Researches are made steadily to improve technical performance of electronic medical appliances.

operation of medical appliances on their own, thus making it possible to produce electronic medical appliances on a high degree of precision and scientific accuracy. In addition, the technicians developed in depth the research work for the examination of technical indices of newly-produced facilities. While visiting many hospitals in Pyongyang and in local areas they conducted clinical experiments on scores of occasions and renewed technical indices so that the appliances could compete in the international arena.

The appliances produced at

it. In the future, we are going to deepen our research work to lengthen the expected life span of electronic medical appliances, including the instrument for the supersonic diagnosis of the abdomen and to make these appliances convenient in handling and ensure their accuracy as much as possible."

The factory's electronic medical appliances enjoy favourable comment at central and local hospitals, and the demand for them is on the increase without letup.

Jo Yong Il

Relying on Their Own Resources

LAST APRIL THE PYONGYANG CVD Tools Development Company laid a marvelous workshop with its own efforts and techniques, which produces superfine materials needed for manufacture of hard metal relying on domestic materials. With the establishment of the new workshop the employees are more proud of their company. Recalling the project, Ro Myong Chol, chief of the materials research department, says, "In the past my company relied on foreign supply of materials in making hard metal tools. This made us spend a good portion of earnings in obtaining the material."

The ban on the export of materials in foreign countries a few years ago brought many

obstacles in planned production, leading to great loss in the business. Now the managers, technicians and researchers of the company decided to erect a workshop to produce tungsten carbide powder, which is the material of hard metal tools. They were in high spirit. In solving technical problems arising in manufacture and setup of facilities, they solicited researchers of relevant institutes for their wise ideas and opinions. Thanks to their hard work different facilities and installations were set up successfully one by one. In the course of the construction there also happened some failures like the one in the erection of the hydrogen generator, but they could hardly

disturb the enthusiastic endeavour. Finally the company built a workshop producing tungsten carbide powder which is of high purity and precision size, followed by successful test operation. The production of tungsten carbide powder, the main material of hard metal, by feeding domestic materials is now bringing a huge profit to the company. This put the modern processes of producing hard metal and CVD tools on a secure footing.

According to Pak Chang Nam, official in charge of production, the new workshop turns out tungsten carbide powder much more than needed for the company's annual consumption, so the surplus is intended for export. The cost of production has fallen by more than half the past one that was based on imported material. Also the company has become able to make far better cutting tools and hard metal tools to be used in CNC machine tools and other kinds of machines. The company's tools are enjoying great popularity among the users, and orders are streaming in.

CVD facilities the company has developed by itself.



Song Ryo Myong

Supreme Commander and Soldiers

“YOU AND SUPREME COMMANDER AND the soldiers are all comrades working for the revolution.” This is what Kim Jong Il often said to commanding officers of the Korean People’s Army while leading the KPA as its Supreme Commander. His view was that the army of the national leader can be trained successfully only when the supreme commander and the officers and men of the army are rather united with a sense of kinship than intertwined by orders and instructions. A powerful means of unity in this regard is ardent care for and trust in the rank and file. Kim Jong Il regarded the soldiers not from the point of military rank but from the view that they are his revolutionary comrades sharing the same idea and purpose; he showed warm comradely care for and absolute trust in them and led them with a kind heart.

He put forward the KPA as the backbone of the nation among others, with his absolute confidence in it. From the latter half of the 1990s Korea was faced with inconceivable hardships due to the imperialists’ policy of sanctions against the country. At the critical moment the national leader, working out a new cause of accomplishing Songun politics in an all-round way, put forward the KPA as the pillar and the main driving force of the revolution. This was an expression of his steadfast belief in the army. Thanks to his trust, the army stood in the van of the revolution and construction as the mainstay of the nation and the main political force of the nation. When the soldiers were carrying out service in the spirit of safeguarding the national leader resolutely, implementing the order of the leader at the cost of their lives and making a heroic sacrifice of themselves, Kim Jong Il called the spirit the revolutionary soldier spirit and made sure that the entire nation emulated the spirit positively. He also inspired the army to play the role of the main driving force in the creation and construction as well as national defence. Holding that the army is creator of the people’s happy life and shock force in the build-

ing of a thriving nation as well as defender of the country, he dispatched military units to sites of construction of large-scale power plants, highways, large-scale land realignment and waterways, and to agriculture, power, coal and other sectors of the national economy to carry out difficult and laborious jobs.

To be worthy of his great trust and expectation, the officers and men of the Korean People’s Army, upholding the slogan of “Let us shoulder both national defence and socialist construction!” erected a lot of monumental edifices across the country and effected an upsurge in important sectors of the socialist construction such as coal mining, power generation and agriculture even in the time of the “Arduous March” and the forced march.

Kim Jong Il was always on the way of inspection of military units. His interest was not confined to the military affairs. Seeing the soldiers as his children he took the burden of looking after them, training and leading them forward as his obligation. Bearing the sense of duty he went on his way of inspection of the military units without interruption. His way led to wherever there were soldiers, to be more concrete, to their bedrooms, steam-filled kitchens, wash-cum-bath rooms, storehouses of food and other supplies and even to animal houses. Many legendary stories came into existence on the way: When he saw some soldiers having a meal in the darkness he asked his driver to turn on the headlight for the sake of the soldiers; true to his promise he made to an ordinary couple whose children were serving in the army at the front, he went to the front to see the soldiers and look after them kindly like their parents, having photos taken with them; once when he arrived at a unit early in the morning by travelling through the night, he stayed outside for hours despite the cold wind lest he should wake the soldiers.

One day in January 2008 Kim Jong Il went to a KPA unit. He looked in the hall dedicated to the show ▶

► of the unit's history, and then stepped into the mess hall. Seeing pickled vegetables like radish, garlic and cucumber, he told the officers to replenish salt in time for the soldiers as they shed much sweat in training, saying that providing them with pickled vegetables is as important as giving them meat. When he was looking into a bean storeroom, he wore a broad smile with a hand on a pile of bean sacks, saying he was pleased to see sacks of beans in piles.

One early morning Kim Jong Il visited a KPA unit. After giving important instructions regarding combat preparations, he said he wanted to see soldiers asleep in bed at least, if not allowed to meet them as it was early in the morning. "I always keep them in my mind," he said, heading for the barracks. In the barracks the soldiers were fast asleep. Some of them were without any blanket over them, which were thrown off, and others were with their legs and arms overlapped, and still others were even snoring. Having seen the soldiers for a good while, Kim Jong Il told his accompanying officers to go out lest they should awake them. Outside the barracks he said with a bright smile that he felt as if he had been relieved of all his fatigues to see the soldiers in sound sleep. This is one of the many stories woven about the kinship relations between the supreme commander and his soldiers. Thanks to his warm care for the soldiers the whole army has developed into a single-hearted entity based on the revolutionary comradeship between the supreme commander and the rank and file.

Kim Jong Il's idea and leadership are now being successfully maintained by Supreme Commander Kim Jong Un of the Korean People's Army. Early last year the American AP news agency reported to the following effect: After the passing of Chairman Kim Jong Il the new national leader Kim Jong Un inspected Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105th Tank Division. He sent smiling greetings to the soldiers and gave them warm applause. He drew some officers up to him and told them something close up to their ears. Despite the tight schedule of military inspection, he looked round the beds of soldiers, and went so far as to turn a water tap to see if they had enough supply of water. His visit to the tank division purports to

send a manifest message that he will adhere to Songun politics of Chairman Kim Jong Il. Meanwhile, it hints at his mode of work.

Kim Jong Un shares warm feelings of fraternity with the soldiers by mixing himself with them the way Kim Jong Il did. One sultry summer day last year Kim Jong Un went to see a women's coast artillery company which was well known across the nation as Persimmon Tree Company. It was closely associated with the leadership of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il. Looking into different places of the company, he said that he would feel warm-hearted simply at the mentioning of the Persimmon Tree Company. He showed meticulous care for the soldiers at every place of the company he dropped in. Understanding the soldiers' reluctance to bid farewell, he asked each of them to come up to him to have a photo taken.

When he visited the Jangjaedo Defending Unit and the Hero Mudo Defending Unit of the KPA in early September last he looked round the newly built barracks, wash-cum-bath rooms, and the mess halls. Hearing that the soldiers on the islets were happy to have barracks better than their houses in their home towns and villages and have all living conditions arranged comfortably at the highest possible level, and that the soldiers on the land were envious of the soldiers on the islet posts, Kim Jong Un was more than satisfied. Looking round the newly built dwellings for the local officers' families, he praised they were well built and advised that the officers' families should move in as soon as possible to enjoy a happy life. When he was leaving Jangjae Islet, the soldiers and their family members jumped into the sea water shedding tears of thanks. Now the Supreme Commander got off the boat and asked them to come out of the water. "I won't leave until you are all out of water," he said, and told officers to issue an order to come out of the water. He got aboard again only after all the soldiers were out of the water.

Kim Jong Un's warm care is encouraging the KPA officers and men to be loyal to their duty in national defence and the building of a thriving socialist nation.

Sim Chol Yong

Faithful to Songun Idea

SONGUN IS A PROUD TRADITION OF THE Korean revolution which was pioneered by President Kim Il Sung and led by him and Chairman Kim Jong Il and the banner of victory and glory.

In his talk, titled *Let Us Add Eternal Brilliance to Comrade Kim Jong Il's Great Idea and Achievements of the Songun Revolution*, given to the Workers' Party of Korea's organ *Rodong Sinmun* and the Korean People's Army's organ *Joson Inmingun* to mark the Day of Songun on August 25, 2013, the supreme national leader Kim Jong Un said:

"[Kim Jong Il's] visit to Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105th Tank Division of the KPA on August 25, 1960 was a historic event that proclaimed his succession of the cause of the Songun revolution and the start of his Songun-based leadership. Songun was [his] revolutionary idea, his practice in the revolution, his political ideal and his political mode."

During the long period spanning more than half a century from the day when he started his leadership of the Songun revolution, Kim Jong Il visited one KPA unit after another, strengthening the army to be an invincible revolutionary army, and victoriously led the revolution and construction by force of Songun.

Regarding the strengthening of the KPA as the most important of affairs in the Songun revolution, he raised the KPA as the buttress, the main force, of the revolution and achieved the historic victory in the grim anti-imperialist, anti-US showdown in defence of the country's security and socialism by training the KPA to be the army of the national leader boundlessly faithful to the cause of the Workers' Party of Korea, to be an invincible revolutionary army. He defined the spirit of defending the national leader resolutely, the spirit of implementing his instructions at any cost and the self-sacrificing spirit displayed by the service personnel as a revolutionary spirit symbolic and representative of the Songun era, as the revolutionary soldier spirit, and led all the service personnel and people to live and struggle in that spirit, thus ensuring that a great turn and changes were brought about in all sectors of the revolution and construction.

He saw to it that the First Session of the Tenth Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic Peo-

ple's Republic of Korea adopted the Socialist Constitution that embodies the idea and principles of the Songun revolution and established a new state administration structure, whose backbone is the National Defence Commission, and led all state affairs to be conducted on the principle of giving precedence to military affairs.

He formulated, systematized and developed the idea of the Songun revolution, an idea of giving importance and precedence to military affairs in implementing the masses' cause of independence, the socialist cause, and pushing ahead with the overall revolution and construction with the revolutionary army as the core force.

His idea of the Songun revolution throws a fresh light on the political theory that Songun politics is the most powerful mode of politics and the basic mode of socialist politics.

Kim Jong Il elucidated for the first time in history that socialist politics for fully realizing the independent demands and interests of the masses should be Songun politics that gives importance and precedence to military affairs, and formulated Songun politics as the basic mode of socialist politics.

His Songun idea is a revolutionary idea and theory which embodies a thoroughgoing anti-imperialist, independent stand and the spirit of ennobling love of the country, nation and people and which is based on an iron faith and willpower.

Songun, a new term in our era, is credited to Kim Jong Il who, taking full responsibility for the destiny and future of the country and people amid long-drawn-out, sharp confrontation with an imperialist power, solved all problems in the Korean way and in conformity with the demands and interests of the Korean people. Thanks to the idea of the Songun revolution the Korean people have defended the dignity of the country, independence of the people and gains of socialism with credit and opened the way for the prosperity of the country and rosy future of the nation by their own strength, that is, by force of arms.

Kim Jong Il safeguarded with honour the Juche-oriented socialism, which President Kim Il Sung had established, and assured the solid continuity of the revolutionary cause of Juche, the revolutionary cause of Songun, by dint of his leadership of the

Parental Affection

ONE DAY IN AUGUST 2001 KIM JONG IL visited a recruit training company. He saw the recruits' simple artistic performance in the company's education room and dropped in at the dining hall, the kitchen and the storehouse for subsidiary foods. Marvelling at the stacks of materials for subsidiary foods he expressed his satisfaction, saying that they had everything in the storehouse.

Noticing the sacks of soybean he asked how much soybean the company had produced and what kind of dish they made from the soybean. Hearing an answer that they made soybean malt to prepare bean paste for soup and often made *Piji* for the soldiers, Kim Jong Il looked happy. Now understanding the day's menu, he said: "You should look after the recruits well. As they have just joined the army

away from their parents' care and have little training, they might miss their home more sorely than others. If you don't take good care of their life, they might not be loyal to military service for homesickness."

The Chairman instructed earnestly that the officers take good care of the recruits with parental affection so that they become attached to the company life and used to military service.

The company commander told himself inwardly, "How warm-hearted he is! He looks like the soldiers' father."

Before leaving the company, the Chairman had a photo taken with the recruits. His care for the soldiers was as warm as the parents' for their children. □

► Songun revolution.

Under his energetic guidance, the KPA developed into a vanguard detachment which regards defending the national leader resolutely as its lifeblood and takes the lead in implementing the orders of its Supreme Commander at all costs, and into a trailblazer in the struggle to accomplish the cause of the Songun revolution. A forceful drive was waged to make the defence industry Juche-oriented, modern and IT-based, enabling the nation to produce any sophisticated military equipment as it wishes by relying on its own effort and technology.

Kim Jong Il laid firm material and technological foundations for the building of a thriving socialist country. Under his leadership a grand plan for building a prosperous country was unfolded during the days of the "Arduous March" and forced march, when the revolution was undergoing grim trials, and an energetic movement of creating fresh miracles and innovations swept across the country. Fierce flames of the industrial revolution in the new century flared up ushering in the era of the knowledge-based economy, monumental structures representative of the era were built in all parts of the country and model works of Songun culture were created in large numbers. What the service personnel and people created in the Songun era under his guidance constitutes a valuable asset for the prosperity of Kim Il Sung's nation and Kim Jong Il's Korea.

Kim Jong Il effected a fresh turn in the struggle for independent reunification of the country and firmly defended global peace and security on the strength of his leadership of the Songun revolution. He ushered in the June 15 era of reunification "By our nation itself," provided a precious asset for reunification of the country and the common prosperity of the nation and safeguarded peace in Asia and the rest of the world by smashing the imperialists' uninterrupted schemes to unleash a war.

His idea and achievements of the Songun revolution are now faithfully carried forward by Kim Jong Un. The idea of the Songun revolution is a great guideline of the Korean revolution and Kim Jong Il's successful Songun-based leadership is a motive force for victory.

Kim Jong Un manifested on several occasions his unshakeable faith and unbreakable will to carry forward and accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche, invariably holding aloft the banner of Songun. He is wisely leading the Korean people in their struggle to invariably follow the road of Songun, the road of independence and the road of socialism that Kim Jong Il traversed all his life, translate his instructions into reality and accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche or the cause of Songun, with credit.

Yom Song Hui

Chima and *Jogori* Permeated with Lofty Wish



IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR A mosaic providing a vivid depiction of the image of Kim Jong Suk, the anti-Japanese war heroine, was erected at Kim Il Sung Military University on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of its founding. The picture of Kim Jong Suk standing on the shore of Lake Samji, dressed in simple *chima* (Korean skirt) and *jogori* (Korean jacket for women), looked quite important to me. All her life she, attired in military uniform or in *chima* and *jogori*, exerted herself to let the people of this country, the members of this nation, know who the saviour of their fate and the leader of their nation was and kindly led them to uphold the lodestar of great national unity forever. Though I never met her, her great wish, reflected in her modest and simple Korean dress, is quite alive in my memory. Now I am going to write something, unable to repress strong emotions.

1

Chima and *jogori* are not simple dress. They are associated with the long history and culture of the Korean nation spanning over 5 000 years and

are permeated with the noble spirit and soul of the Korean women and with their pure sentiment and emotions. However, they could not but be a symbol of misfortune to the ruined Korean people who were deprived of their country by the Japanese imperialists. Hundreds of thousands of Korean women were taken away as the comfort women of the former Japanese army and their chastity was violated mercilessly; Japanese police pounced upon Korean women in groups and rent to pieces their *chima* and *jogori* with scissors on the pretext that they would not wear the dress indicative of the lowest social status in Japan. How can we put these miserable plights into words!

On the day of my wedding that came only once in my life, I, living in China in those days, had to suffer the sorrow of wearing a Chinese national dress, instead of wearing *chima* of deep red colour and *jogori* of green colour and embellishing myself with “seven treasures” in accordance with a custom peculiar to the Korean nation. As she had experienced the sadness and resentment of a ruined nation to the marrow from her childhood, Kim Jong Suk took part in the anti-Japanese war led by General Kim Il Sung in her teens, filled with firm conviction that the General, the sun of the nation, alone would be able to save our country and nation. On the way of the bloody struggle she became his closest comrade and woman commander of Mt. Paektu whose name was enough to make Japs tremble with fear when they heard of it.

The dress she wore when she came to Taoqianli for the first time to carry out the mission of underground political work was

jogori of purple colour and *chima* of navy-blue colour. When she found a little maid who, affected with a fever, was abandoned in a forlorn shack, she wrapped up the girl in her own skirt unhesitatingly and saved her from death with her utmost sincerity. And when she had a talk with those women who were lamenting over their unfortunate status, she inspired them with a hope of good luck, telling them about a story of the lodestar shining high over Mt. Paektu. As she considered the protection of General Kim Il Sung with her very life to be her lifelong cause, she kept herself neat and trim as commander in charge of his guard whether she was in military uniform or in *chima* and *jogori*.

One day in mid-February 1946, the year after national liberation, Kim Il Sung, sitting together with officials in the sector of information in his residence till late at night, was giving instructions pertaining to the broadcasting service. Kim Jong Suk was also present there, serving them tea. Suddenly, a shot came into hearing from somewhere around. Then the light went out and everything went black in the room. At that moment someone rushed forward like a gust of wind, taking a Mauser in hand, and stood in the doorway to block it up. It was Kim Jong Suk. With her body she held back Kim Il Sung who was wishing to get out of the room and know what had happened outside, and told him in a resolute tone: “On no account you are allowed to do so. You can never step out of here. This is the demand of the guards.” Her manner was so resolute that it was enough to remind me of a mighty fortress.

She was attired in Korean dress with a bright smile on her face when she exchanged her ►

► first greetings with the people in the homeland after the country's liberation and when she was exerting herself to bring the line of building a new Korea put forward by Kim Il Sung home to many workers and peasants, travelling across the country. On the day of the historic first election, at the first parade of our army and in the hall of the opening ceremony of the Pyongyang Institute, her unforgettable appearance was that she was always dressed in *chima* and *jogori*. The *chima* worn by Kim Jong Suk was, indeed, a "great sea" that embraced all fellow Koreans with warm feelings and affection though it was not broad.

2

Chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission Kim Jong Il told officials one September night that fell on an anniversary of his mother Kim Jong Suk's death that no one had probably wished for national reunification as ardently as her. He recalled: During their call on my mother, anti-Japanese war veterans earnestly asked her to have a suit of dress at least now that they had their own territory, power and wealth, unlike the days when they were active in Mt. Paektu. My mother reasoned with them, saying, "When all our fellow-countrymen are better clothed and enjoy a more comfortable life, let all of us live in plenty, dressed in silks."

Immediately after national liberation Ryo Un Hyong, a politician active in south Korea, came to Pyongyang and made a call at Kim Il Sung's residence. It is said that at that time he could not recognize Kim Jong Suk right away who greeted him in a modest way while doing housework, dressed in plain cotton *chima* and *jogori* and with rubber shoes on. He thought she was a "domestic servant" in the residence.

It happened on the eve of a national conference in which representatives from the north and the south would sit together for the first time after Korea's

liberation from Japanese military occupation. When the women representatives to the conference arrived in Pyongyang, she saw to it that *chima* and *jogori* for women representatives totaling more than 20 were made in all sincerity overnight with good materials to suit their age and taste, saying that if the women representatives wore Korean dress peculiar to the nation it would be well suited to the atmosphere of the conference and would be good for the national conference.

Reflected in every suit of Korean dress was the great trust and expectation of Kim Jong Suk who hoped that the Korean women who had been formerly groaning under feudal subordination and fetter would band together as one on the road of working for the great cause of the nation and would vigorously turn one of the two wheels for the sacred work of national reunification. All her life she made so many clothes for revolutionary comrades and people and went through indescribable hardships, but she had not a single suit of new dress for herself. To our great sorrow she passed away when she was too young. On top of that in her wardrobes there was not even a single new dress to be put on her. Upon learning this anti-Japanese war women veterans wailed and mourned over her death more bitterly.

Saving others by sacrificing oneself is the beautiful virtue of human beings asserted by our religion of Chondogyo. This virtue is a fundamental thing to be done not only by our religion of Chondogyo but also by every human being. That is why the history of mankind and the history of religion bestow praise forever on those who sacrificed themselves for others, calling them saints. But history does not know yet such a saint as Kim Jong Suk who dedicated her passion, spirit and whatever she had only for the sake of her country and people. She consumed her energy solely for Kim Il Sung and the people all her life without seeking her personal comfort. Her *chima*

and *jogori* are associated with her pure and ardent desire to see the day when the country would be reunified and the people would be well off. I should like to say that her *chima* and *jogori* are the most beautiful, the most expensive, the most graceful and the best in the world.

Many years had glided by since then. However, without forgetting his mother even a moment, Kim Jong Il showed our people and all our fellow-Koreans the sincerity he had failed to manifest to his mother. He sent costly silk *chima* and *jogori* and various birthday gifts to the anti-Japanese war women veterans, the women who had participated in artistic contests of wives of military personnel and even to ordinary women who had experienced the sorrow of living in alien lands like me.

Our national leader Kim Jong Un saw to it that a mosaic picture of Kim Jong Suk standing on the shore of Lake Samji, dressed in *chima* and *jogori*, was set up at Kim Il Sung Military University. I think that this reflects his adamant will and firm determination to realize without fail the lofty wish of the great persons of Mt. Paektu by defending the immortal exploits of Kim Jong Suk who creditably ensured the succession of the Songun revolution, the succession of the cause of guarding the national leader resolutely, wearing military uniform of woman commander of Mt. Paektu or in *chima* and *jogori* loved by the Korean women in her lifetime.

Coming near is the day when all the 70 million Koreans will enjoy happiness and comfort under the leadership of the supreme leader Kim Jong Un in a reunified, powerful state as wished by the great persons of Mt. Paektu. All our people are now filled with confidence in victory and our future is bright.

*Ryu Mi Yong,
Chairwoman of the
Central Committee
of the Chondoist
Chongu Party*

Images of Gold Medalists

DPRK ATHLETES PERFORMED WELL AT the 2013 Asian Weightlifting Championships held in Kazakhstan on June 21-25 last year and the 2013 Asian Cup & Inter-club Junior and Senior Weightlifting Championships in Pyongyang in September last year. Among them were Om Yun Chol and Ryang Chun Hwa.

Man of iron will

Om's coach and friends say he is a born weightlifter and that he is going steady with will and weightlifting. He makes exact demands on himself in training and has a good skill of controlling his feelings. He was born in Chongjin City, North Hamgyong Province, as son of a worker of the Chongjin Fishing Station. From his childhood he was fond of sport.

When he was ten years old, he began to learn weightlifting at the juvenile sports school in Sunam District, Chongjin. His attachment to weightlifting and his cheerful and tenacious disposition drove him to be a promising weightlifter. He repeated movements for hundreds of times to master a basic skill, and often trained all night to develop a perfect movement. When he was 14 he joined the Amnokgang Sports Team, in which he grew up as a competent athlete both mentally and physically. Of course, he had hard times more often than not. *Can I become a weightlifting star?* He often asked himself, when he remembered his neighbours who had asked him to bring honour to the motherland by winning gold medals, seeing him off when he left his seaside village. *I'll have my national flag flutter high in the sky without fail.* Such a determination encouraged him to buckle down to training.

His effort paid off. When he was 17 he set a new

DPRK record in the snatch in men's 50 kg category of weightlifting at the 2007 DPRK junior championships and took first place in total. He also won men's 56 kg category in the 2011 world junior championships. Last year he set a new Olympic record in the jerk in men's 56 kg category of weightlifting at the 30th Olympic Games by lifting 168 kg, which is three times heavier than his own weight, and thus took first place by lifting a total of 293 kg. Yun Chol set a world record this year by jerking up 169 kg in his category at the Asian Cup & Inter-club Junior and Senior Weightlifting Championships.

The breakthrough maker

Mounting the platform of the 2013 Asian Weightlifting Championships on the first day, Ryang Chun Hwa felt rather uneasy as she was the first of her team to launch into the match. Recalling that day she says, "When I grasped the barbell, I felt a strong sense of responsibility. I knew what effect my record will have upon my people's psychology." She, however, bagged the gold medal in women's 48 kg category, the first medal for her team at the championships. Earlier, she had taken third place in the weightlifting event of women's 48 kg category in the East Asian Games in 2009 and second place in the weightlifting event of women's 48 kg category at the 26th Universiad in 2011.

To a journalist's question of what she had thought at the moment of lifting the barbell she answered: "I thought that the honour of my country rests on the barbell I had to lift." She took first place in total in the women's 48 kg category at the 2013 Asian Cup & Inter-club Junior and Senior Weightlifting Championships.



Om Yun Chol sets a new world record in the jerk in men's 56 kg category at the 2013 Asian Cup & Inter-club Junior and Senior Weightlifting Championships and wins his category in total.



Ryang Chun Hwa wins women's 48 kg category in total at the 2013 Asian Cup & Inter-club Junior and Senior Weightlifting Championships.



Sport Brings Life to the Disabled

THE 2013 TABLE TENNIS Tournament of the Disabled and Amateur Players took place in Pyongyang. The tournament, which was sponsored by the Korean Sports Association of the Disabled for the fourth time, drew disabled persons and amateurs

qualified at preliminaries from across the country. One of the highlights in the tournament was the doubles events of the disabled and amateurs.

Ri Pun Hui, secretary of the association, says, "It isn't for their high skills that the matches drew

public interest. I should say it is really a great success that disabled persons who used to confine themselves in the barrier of their own life for fear of disability, have come into the active life of human beings, rising above their physical disadvantages." Ri is a former ▶



Participants in the Paralympics.



► winner of the ITTF World Championships. Now she has been working for the association since its foundation in January 2010. When people asked her why she was going to work with the disabled, she replied that the disabled also have responsibility to live a worthwhile life with joy. A periodical once introduced Ri as woman living a third life.

The association was admitted into the International Paralympic Committee as associate member at its 15th general meeting. Ri is exerting herself to energize the association. By virtue of her efforts the disabled people are provided with opportunities to make public appearances. For example, Rim Ju Song, 18, took part in the swimming event of the Paralympics held in August last year. When he had lost one of his arms and legs in an accident at the age of six, smiles and hopes disappeared from him. But when he took third place in the match he proudly said to people with a smile on his face and without any

The members of the Korean Sports Association of the Disabled are engaged in different programmes.



More and more disabled people launch into sporting activities.

reservation: “Now I have a goal to live for. I believe I can do something for society, and I know I will do it without fail.”

Im Myong Ho, 38, in Sinuiju City, North Phyongan Province, was crippled in one leg by polio when he was three. He, however, challenged the 2013 table tennis tournament and won second place. He says, “When I was young, my parents helped me play table tennis in the yard of

my house to alleviate my desire to go out to play. As I grew up I realized that I could hardly play table tennis amidst the enthusiastic cheers. And I fell in agony. But today I’ve fulfilled my dream, and words fail me. This time I came second, but I’ll train hard to win the prize next time. To be frank, I hope I will win an international game by strenuous training and have our national flag rise high up.”

Many disabled people around the country are launching into sporting activities such as swimming and table tennis. In accordance with the condition the association is mapping out training plans according to their physical conditions and takes proper measures to implement them. Meanwhile, volunteers are increasing in number amid the growing public concern for the disabled.

The disabled’s sphere of activity is expanding day by day.

An Song Duk

Land of Popular Policies

THE MAGNIFICENT CELEBRATIONS of the 65th founding anniversary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in September last were a clear demonstration of the Korean people's determination to have absolute trust in the Workers'

Party of Korea and follow it to the end. This is thanks to the fact that the Party and the government have worked out and implemented popular policies on the principle of championing the people's demand and interests faithfully.

Noteworthy in this respect are the policies now in force in the country. Universal free medical service was introduced on January 1, 1953, when the country was engaged in the Fatherland Liberation War. The level of the medical service grew considerably with the adoption of a law on complete, universal free medical service at the 7th session of the 2nd Supreme People's Assembly in 1960. Ubiquitous all around the country are clinics and hospitals, and the section doctor system is in operation to look after all the inhabitants. The Korean people are provided free of charge with all services for medical examination, experi- ▶

Scientists and technicians move to new apartments given by the state free of charge in September 2013.





Students learn advanced technology under the state's free education system.

► mental tests, drugs, hospitalization, diagnosis, treatment, travel to and from sanatoria, medical checkup and consultation, vaccination and other preventive measures, and even prosthesis. These free services are equally given to all people, irrespective of sex, age, occupation, residence, and the quantity and quality of the labour done. Recently a dynamic effort has been under way to improve the hygienic quality and modernization of health service; telemedicine-based surgery support system and other latest medical achievements have been widely introduced, putting the medical service on a higher level.

The country has steadily developed the universal compulsory free education system under a legal guarantee. The 4th session of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly adopted the Law on the Introduction of the Universal Compulsory Primary Education in September 1949. The compul-

sory primary education was planned to come into effect on September 1, 1950, but it was realized in August 1956 due to the Korean war started by the US imperialists. The 6th session of the 3rd Supreme People's Assembly held in November 1966 proclaimed the law on enforcing a universal 9-year compulsory technical education from April 1967. Then, in April 1975 the 5th session of the 5th Supreme People's Assembly decided to change over to an 11-year compulsory education completely across the country from September 1, 1975. The Supreme People's Assembly ordinance on introducing a universal 12-year compulsory education was proclaimed last year at the 6th session of the 12th SPA, which is in force in an all-round way.

To say nothing of the schooling, all other forms of education including public education and the study-while-working system are given at state expenses, so

the nation's universal compulsory free education is all-inclusive, comprehensive and full-scale. Thanks to such an educational system powerful scientific and technological forces have grown up capable enough to manufacture and launch artificial earth satellites and develop CNC technology with the nation's own efforts and resources.

Korea builds apartments at state expenses and provides them to the people for free. A typical example is that modern apartment blocks were built in suburban Pyongyang this year for more than 1 000 families and were given to scientists for nothing in September last. Popular policies include the social insurance and social security systems based on state and public expenses. Such policies are growing in kind year after year sustained by legal guarantees.

Paek Sol Song

Korea—One Big Family

*Kim Hyon Hwan, head of the
Independent Idea Institute in the United States*

(Continued from the last issue)

Home of the People and Big, Harmonious Family

THERE ARE MANY POLITICIANS AROUND the world styling themselves as servants for the people and most national leaders seeking for the harmony and unity of society. If there is any who has translated it into reality, he or she deserves to be called God of miracles in this regard. Yet President Kim Il Sung, who performed such a miracle, held that his God is the people. By this he meant the people are the lord of creation. Common people were always there in the history of humankind, but no one could ever put them forward as masters of their destiny or make a complex society into one big family.

President Kim Il Sung wrote in his reminiscences *With the Century* Vol. 1: **“The people are my God’ has been my constant view and motto. The principle of Juche, which calls for drawing on the strength of the masses who are the masters of the revolution and construction, is my political creed. This has been the axiom that has led me to devote my whole life to the people.”**

It was the President’s maxim in his life and struggle that when you believe in the people and rely on them at all times you shall always emerge victorious but that when you are forsaken by them, you will always fail. Guided by this maxim the President built the first home of the people in the world, that is, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. The US imperialists and 15 of its vassal states, south Korean puppet army and the Japanese militarist forces started the Korean war on June 25, 1950 to demolish the DPRK. However, the President firmly defended the people’s home against all the odds and successfully made it far better. The spiritual mainstay of north Korea is independence. Regarding it as thorn

in the flesh the imperialists have been opposed to north Korea century after century. This savage history spans nearly 70 years.

Chairman Kim Jong Il safeguarded the people’s home against the ceaseless, vicious moves of the imperialists to encircle and stifle the country. The Chairman devoted his all to the people until the last moment of his life holding the imperialists in check by means of Songun politics, and there are numerous anecdotes of the Chairman’s affection for the people. In his lifetime he once said that his whole life could be summarized by only one word *people*. The idea of “The people are my God,” which gives priority to the people’s interests above all things, is the cherished viewpoint and maxim of the successive leaders of north Korea.

My people are the best in the world; Make tireless efforts for the good of the people; The people are my God; Everything for the people and everything by relying on them!—these statements consist in the viewpoint of giving priority and affection to the people, maintained by Kim Jong Un, First Chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission. His personality of infinite benevolence and high moral ground attract the people giving them tender and warm feelings. Whenever he meets people and soldiers and takes a photo session with them, he poses with them arm in arm and shoulder to shoulder. Whenever he meets children he hugs them warmly and is reluctant to let them go. When he was leaving Jangjae and Mu islets after inspecting them, he was tearful as he was waving his hand for a long time on a rocking small wooden boat, asking the soldiers and officers’ families to go back home out of the waist-deep sea water. This scene touched the people’s heartstring and moved the world. That scene re- ▶

► minded them of a true image of the mother.

Such motherly care is more evident in the letters between the national leader and the people, often posted on the newspaper *Rodong Sinmun* of north Korea. In December last year I was very surprised when I heard from a friend of mine living in Japan that Kim Jong Un had written an answer to the letter from a naturalized Japanese woman who had an unacceptable record of life. He wrote that mothers feel sorry for their children's pain more sorely than anyone else, that they look after the children more carefully than anyone else while unhesitatingly giving flesh and blood to them, that it is their psychology to feel happy to see their children get along well and regard it as life's luck that cannot be bartered for anything, and that the people call the Workers' Party of Korea "mother."

You can hardly fathom the depth of the love and trust shown in the leader's autographic messages. His care for the national community is as good as the one of parents with many children. Though he is busy with state affairs he reads letters from all people, whether they are from a kindergartner or an elderly man, and writes his replies to them. This is a specific practice in north Korea. Once a poet claimed that man can live if he has mother and the sunshine on earth. The north Korean people call the Workers' Party of Korea mother and its loving care sunshine. Through articles carried by *Rodong Sinmun* and videos posted on Internet pages I see the people faithfully supporting their leader while singing of his care as that of the Party and mother. And I dare say the bond between the leader and the nation surpasses that of kinsfolk and that even nuclear bombs cannot break this kind of ties.

Indeed, the relationship between the leader and the people reminds us of celebrated pictures produced by complete painters. Endowed with outstanding personalities unprecedented in history, the national leader is maintaining the tradition of the popular leadership whereby he regards the people as God; so the north Korean community is an earthly

paradise which gives eternal happiness to the people. The army and the people of the north respect their leader as the sun. This context is referred to as harmonious whole or big family. Compulsory 12-year education is given for nothing, students receive scholarship, and the people take medical treatment free of charge and are given new apartments for free. This is the real image of north Korea.

Last year a foreigner visited a worker's family living in a new apartment in Changjon Street, Pyongyang. He asked the host how much his flat's floor space was and how much the price of the flat was. The second question was quite a baffling one, for few people know it in the north, because the state gives housing free of charge. It was an unheard-of story in any other countries. After his return home the foreigner said to his friends: To people in a capitalist country it sounds like a dreamlike mystery. Such things are daily occurrences in north Korea, and unfamiliar to other countries that can hardly take after or imitate the north.

North Korea, which regards the people as God and subordinates everything to their service, is a model human society that others should follow, and an earthly paradise of the people. The country, though short of material wellbeing, is alive with pure humanity and mutual care and good neighbourhood sustained by laudable virtues worthy of man. In the first ideal society of humanity the national leader and the people are related as kith and kin. Most families have scrolls hung on the wall like an essential. They are written with the sentence "Everything goes well in a harmonious family" which comes from the President's reminiscences. As it implies there is not a shadow of doubt that everything in the harmonious society will go well in whatever ordeals and hardships

Harmony is a long-cherished hope of each family, and it is a miracle that it has been applied into the state politics of north Korea, not limited in home affairs.

(To be continued)

A Clinical Medicine Researcher's Hobby

COLLECTING POSTAGE STAMPS IS AN important part of the life to Kim Hyon Nam, researcher of the circulation department of the clinical medicine institute of Kim Man Yu Hospital. He began to collect stamps when he was young. Seventeen years ago when he was attending Pyongyang Medical College of Kim Il Sung University (the Pyongyang University of Medicine at the time), he heard that a stamp exhibition was open on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the issuing of the first postage stamp in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

He went to the exhibition in a hurry. There he had an understanding of the nation's history easily, viewing the stamps, including the nation's first stamps titled "Samsonam" and "Mugunghwa." Kim recalls, "I was strongly impressed at the display. Each of the stamps carries the history and culture of the nation. I knew they were more than important. And I felt an urge to join the exhibition."

In reality he presented his work to the stamp exhibition the next year. Titled "The New History of Land Development," his collection of stamps was highly praised for its new idea of showing the systematic development of the land in the country. For the next exhibition he prepared what was titled "Korean-style Roof and Its Formative Art" which dealt with the architecture of Korea. It took him as many as six months to make the album, delving into the world of architecture. In the work he presented a vivid show of the origin and the process of development of the Korean-style roof and the difference between the Korean-style roof and foreign ones. The most interesting work of his was "The Eagle" which dealt with the materials of how the airplane, code-named "Eagle in the Sky," was manufactured by applying the principle and properties of free flight at a high altitude. It well shows how the planes defended the aerial territory of the nation securely during the Fatherland Liberation War and in the following years. As the work gives a good combination of the natural bird's features and the patriotic spirit of the Korean people, it left a deep impression on the mind of the visitors.

Over the years a lot of stamps were put in his store and his creative ability grew day by day, making him possessed of knowledge of diversified areas.

He is often asked, "You must be busy with your treatment and research, and have little time to collect stamps and prepare for the stamp exhibitions. Aren't you tired?"

Kim answers, "Collecting stamps is a pleasant activity that brings you sentimental happiness and



Kim Hyon Nam and his son discuss what to present to a stamp exhibition.

spiritual wealth in life. A rich spiritual enjoyment is a source of attachment to your life and a source of enthusiastic exertion."

A man of medical science who has written a number of medical books including "Recipe of Good Health and Recuperation," and produced many inventions and new conceptions for medical development, he takes pride in his gathering of stamps.

Stamps provide a happy sentiment to his family as well. His son, attending the Pyongyang Ryongwang Senior Middle School, also likes collecting stamps. He presented his first collection of stamps, titled "Flying Motorcar," to a stamp exhibition when he was 12. Based on personification, it was a wonderful show of the children's mentality, so drawing a great attraction from the public.

Kim Hyon Nam says, "I gave him a stamp album for a birthday gift on his second birthday, which contained some stamps of automobiles. Probably that was the stimulation of my son's production of 'Flying Motorcar'."

Having a great liking for literature and painting from his childhood, Kim enjoys painting together with his son on holidays or in spare time. While making a picture he thinks of what to produce for a coming stamp exhibition. Many stamp fans and collectors call on him at home or phone him asking for his help.

Kim says, "I like it very much when little collectors come to see me, and sometimes offer my stamps to them. When they are happy with them, I feel happy myself. Stamp collection nurtures patriotism as well as a good hobby, I say."

Rim Ok

Doctor Couple

“LOOK OVER THERE. THE DOCTOR COUPLE is returning home together this evening, too.” Someone called out to the neighbours in Neighbourhood Unit No. 83, Phalgol-dong No. 2, Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang. The couple was having a heated argument, making energetic gestures, though their eyes were sharing mutual loving care. The husband was making assertions while the wife was listening with attention like a naïve student. Marvelling at them I felt an urge to have a look in their world of academic studies even on the road of return home. Now I knew they were Kang Tok Gil, who is a section chief at Kim Il Sung University, and Jong Kyong Sun, who is a department chief of Pyongyang Medical College of Kim Il Sung University.

Both of them learned at Kim Il Sung University. The wife majored in history while the husband studied natural sciences, particularly a domain of physics. They met at an oratorical meeting in 1980, one month before they finished university. At the forum Kang spoke vehemently about his ambition relating to the world development of science. Jong also addressed the meeting, calling on the students to submerge themselves in real practice and train themselves as revolutionary personnel of real ability as demanded by the country and the nation. Her address sounded particularly moving to Kang. He was attracted by the girl's honest mind coupled with a sense of her mission before the time. With this the two became friendly, and their relation grew deep. After university the girl worked as lecturer at the then Pyongyang University of Medicine. Though busy she often called on Kang at his university, bringing him reference books helpful to his research. Years later they got married, pledging to become a couple of doctors by solving problems of crucial importance in developing the country and thus have a laudable life.

The pledge, however, was not easy to keep. In 1997 when the wife was already mother of two chil-

Doctor Kang Tok Gil, section chief of Kim Il Sung University.



Doctor Jong Kyong Sun (centre), department head of Pyongyang Medical College of Kim Il Sung University.

dren, the country was going through a hard time. She was always busy, both at university and at home. Her husband was mostly away from home, engaging himself in important projects of automatic control at different places. Jong recalls she nearly fell from exhaustion. One day she betrayed to her husband what she had in her mind, saying, “I’m afraid I’m going to look after the family alone at home.”

Kang, who had already received the doctorate five years before in his thirties, said apologetically, “I’m sorry I haven’t helped you sincerely, looking after my own work. By the way, I feel as if I were talking to a woman quite different from who you used to be. You should continue to teach at university and finish your doctorate paper.”

Now he helped his wife doing household chores and engaged himself in the study of history, collecting a lot of historical materials and data to present them to her. Nearly ten years of hard work bore fine fruit at last. Assisted by her husband Jong’s paper passed, causing a great sensation in the world of historical studies. In this way the couple became known to the public as a proud couple of scientists who are faithful to their pledge of love.

By helping each other they each have written scores of research papers and a dozen textbooks and reference books, thus making a tangible contribution to the nation’s development of science and education. When people speak highly of them, saying it’s wonderful to see the couple wear doctorate medals on the breast and that the medals were all the more brilliant on their breast, Jong says, “You know each of our medals bear two hearts.”

Ri Kum Chol

A Rainy Evening

By Kim Kyong Il

(Continued from the last issue)

THE DRIZZLE KEPT ON falling steadily and Jun Bom's aching legs got more and more laden with troubles. Nevertheless, he felt buoyed at the thought of the proud young man, who was engrossed in learning and inquiry and contemplation even on the way back home. *Our country has lots of such young people, and what a bright future our country has!* Jun Bom was cheerful.

He plodded through the rain, and he had no idea how long he had walked when he got to the fork road. Some more walk straight along the street, and he would reach his apartment. All at once he felt exhausted in his legs as he let go his exertions. He thought he should have a moment of rest under a tree. He would be less likely noticed as it was getting darker and darker and there were fewer pedestrians down the street.

Finding his way under a tree where he thought he would have less rain, he squatted down and began to massage his painful knees, when a young man showed up in front of him suddenly. Jun Bom looked up to find it was the young man to whom he had bid farewell in the bus.

"Oh, it's you there. How is it that you are in here?" Jun Bom asked in surprise.

The young man looked more surprised than Jun Bom. "I think your home is not around that bus stop," he said affirmatively.

Jun Bom flushed as if he had been caught while doing a bad thing. "No, I was mistaken," he babbled. "That's my apartment over there. I live on the fourth floor."

The young man looked down at Jun Bom for a while, and then said gently, "You're being absurd, mister. You're not going to fool me any more. I know you were not mistaken but intended to let me take the seat. I'm nothing. You shouldn't have done it—with such bad legs."

In an attempt to avoid such an awkward moment Jun Bom switched the conversation by asking, "By the way, what's up with you here? Why have you returned?"

"My apartment is around the terminal stop," the young man replied. "In fact, I have a date with my girlfriend somewhere about here. I remember she said we would meet in front of a library here. I doubt she is still waiting for me. Would you please excuse me?"

He receded a few steps, took out a cell phone and pressed buttons. Perhaps the line was soon connected, for he spoke into the phone in a subdued voice. "Hello, it's me. I'm terribly sorry. I was lost in reading on the bus and passed the stop. I've run up here. You're still there waiting, aren't you?"

Much clearer was the girl's voice from the other end of the phone. "Don't be so sorry. I've

waited no more than an hour. You'll surely be here within today, won't you?" Her tone was far from angry but full of tactful irony and loving care.

"That's for sure," he answered. "Well, I've got an unhealthy man in hand. I'm going to help him to his home and see you soon."

"I understand. I'm not idling myself either. I've just read fifteen pages of a foreign book on fish detection here under the street lamp. Lucky enough, I've hinted my mother alone that I'm coming home with you. You're so unpunctual, and I could hardly find anyone like you in my research centre. I can't believe I'm going steady with you, a bad fellow. By the way, who do you say you're with there?"

Jun Bom seemed to be talking succinctly about what had happened. Then he stole a glance at Jun Bom and went on speaking with a smile. "Probably it's your father."

Sounds of merry laughter burst forth. "Don't be stupid. My father does not take the bus. Never."

Suddenly the young man seemed to have realized that her voice was being amplified. He pressed the off button in haste. He talked some more words with her before approaching Jun Bom again with an apologetic grin.

"She is kind-hearted and considerate, but makes such remarks," he babbled. Jun Bom ►

► felt like urging him to go his way, but soon changed his mind. He let himself rely on the young man's support and began to move along slowly.

Instantly Jun Bom spoke shaking the silence, "You must be in love with her. Do you really love her?"

The young man made a gentle smile, saying, "We first understood each other while making a research together before we fell in love. We shared the bitter and the sweet while experiencing failures and successes. In the course of this we felt sympathetic about each other, I dare say. To tell you the truth, it's a day of crucial importance to me today. We've rather gained an approval from her mother for our marriage. But I hear her father is very strict and demanding. My girlfriend and I intended to be at her home early this evening and greet her father with due ceremony when he comes back. But I'm afraid I've to show up untidy like this. I know I'm rather wrong for the occasion."

"Hmmm, appearance isn't a big problem, I should say. This—and this—are important," Jun Bom spoke, pointing to the breast and head of the young man.

The young fellow gave a smile, saying, "Yet, you know style is an index of the mind."

"Don't be worried," Jun Bom encouraged. "You'll pass this evening, I'm sure. Do you have to chew down to the dregs if you want to know the taste? No, only a bite is enough. If it were for me, I'd readily adopt you as my son-in-law. I've got no blessing like that."

"Do you have a daughter?" the young man asked.

"Yeah. She is the one and only child in my family, but not so good as you. She is old enough to get married, but she seems to have no fiancé. She argues she won't get married until she has got an academic degree, but it's nothing but a shield against her mother who plagues her with the problem of marriage. An academic degree is the last thing you can obtain effortlessly, isn't it? I'm afraid she regards a doctorate as a dowry."

At last they arrived at the apartment. The young man cast a glance towards the library which was hardly to be seen in the falling dusk. Perhaps he was quite vexed. Now he was going to make a farewell, asking, "Could you go up to the fourth floor all by yourself?"

"Sure, I can. I'm very much obliged to you. Now you'd better make a dash to your love."

Still worried, the young man gave a look at about the fourth floor of the apartment and then at Jun Bom's knees alternatively, and then took him by the arm decisively. "I'm afraid you could hardly climb up with your poor legs," he said. "Now that I'm here, let me help you up to your flat."

Jun Bom, feigning an attitude that he had not noticed the young man was busy, wore a happy look, and accepted his favour gladly, saying, "I'm happy you could help me out to the last. My legs bother me whenever we have a bad weather."

The young man showed no sign of worry, but pushed his strong arm under Jun Bom's armpit and supported him upstairs.

Finally they got to the door. Wearing a smile of complacence

as if he could now let him go, Jun Bom rang the doorbell. His wife opened the door immediately, when Jun Bom forcibly pulled in the wide-eyed young man by the sleeve, crying in a virile voice, "Look, my darling, I've brought somebody with me. This is really a good man. Why don't you come in, young man?"

The young man jumped for surprise. "I've got to go. You know why. Good-bye." He made a bow in haste and ran down the stairs.

Seeing him off with a glance of trust and expectation, Jun Bom murmured to himself, "You're making haste in vain, young man. You've got to come back, I know."

His wife stood aghast, unable to understand what was happening. Now the husband said in an affectionate voice, "My darling, ring Il Sim right now. She need not stay out there in front of the library that is already closed. She could hardly find a fiancé if she rogues about like that. She isn't as quick as her father. How could she get a doctorate ahead of me when she is that much slow? Hardly so."

Jun Bom stepped into his room and opened the window wide. A cold wind swept his face. What a nice man he is. *What a fresh and vigorous generation his is. Their enthusiasm, their impeccable manners and courtesy were more than heart-warming.*

The rain was still falling. But, strange to say, Jun Bom felt as if it were a spring evening when a golden twilight was setting to the western sky and the street trees' leaves were waving affectionately.

The end

The Bell Rings on Jamae Islet

RECENTLY I VISITED JAMAE ISLET, A lighthouse islet, in the West Sea of Korea, which is more than 40 km away from the land. There I happened to have an access to a diary of Jon Pok Sun, a teacher of the local branch school, who has worked there as a teacher for 37 years.

The day when a new school year begins (September 1, 1978)

It is the first school-opening day for me at the branch school on this Jamae Islet. Until a few days ago I was teaching dozens of children at a primary school in Nampho City. But today I gave lessons to no more than three kids. This branch school was established for three children three years ago. Although I came here with a determination to dedicate my whole life to the children on the lighthouse islet, I was more or less disappointed to find no more than a dozen inhabitants on the islet, including four keepers of the lighthouse and their family members. And I was a little embarrassed to see no more than the sea enclosing the islet all around. But I like the cozy school which is equipped with all kinds of teaching materials and aids including an organ, a globe, plant specimens and stuffed animals. When I was giving the first lesson all the inhabitants gathered and looked into the classroom from outside. Seeing the curious and bright eyes of the pupils, I felt strained, like when I stood at the teacher's table for the first time in my life—I can't tell why. At the mother tongue lesson, I asked the children to make a composition under the title of "My Hope." Yong Jin wished he would become captain of a big ship and Su Jong hoped she would become a singer. Song Gun said he wished to be such a good swimmer as to swim across the West Sea of Korea. Hearing him all burst into laughter. I was encouraged to see the bright and cheerful images of the kids, and said inwardly, "Be ambitious, kids. You'll be able to accomplish your ambition."

"Plane for the islet inhabitants' use" (February 15, 1989)

The helicopter flew to my islet today for the ninth time. The people of the islet gave a hearty welcome to the familiar pilot, who, as soon as he got down from the plane, looked for a pupil—he called him "my master." The pilot is no less than a "member of our family." He makes a polite greeting to me. Once I went to the land to attend a short course of teaching during the winter vacation. On my way home I found the sea in a shambles with sheets of ice, blocking my travel to the islet. I was worried, for I knew I couldn't give a lesson on the first day of the new school year if I was delayed until the way was opened. Unexpectedly, however, a helicopter came to bring me to the islet. I later knew the government had made an arrangement for my return to the school so that the children could have lessons rightfully on the first day of the new school

year. Since then, the same helicopter flies to my islet every winter. Today on the occasion of the birthday of our great leader Kim Jong Il the plane has come to my islet again carrying a present to the only pupil of my branch school, the same kind of present given to all other children across the country. Kwang Chol is quite delighted to receive the present, and I wonder if he knows how blessed he is.

A letter (November 30, 2011)

Today I received a letter from Jong Sim. Part of it reads: "Dear madam, I am happy to hear that you have been awarded the title of 'Merited Teacher.' It's already ten years since I finished the Jamae branch school, and now I am a senior soldier. I often recollect my days at the branch school: once we went for a natural observation guided by you; we were surprised to see a tadpole specimen grow to be a frog, which is not to be seen on our islet. And I still have a vivid memory of our going on a sightseeing in Pyongyang and camping on Mt. Myohyang aboard the school ship *Tungdae*. I can hardly forget the significant ceremony of my finishing the school, attended by officials from the land. I thought them all quite natural as a teenager. But now I know how beneficial the country was about my branch school and how much expense the state had to bear for my education. I think I'm going back to my home on Jamae Islet after I finish my military service."

The bell keeps ringing (March 31, 2013)

Today Song Chol, the 23rd pupil of my branch school, has finished the school. He had the honour of having a photo taken with our national leader Kim Jong Un last year when he was attending the celebrations of the 66th anniversary of the Korean Children's Union. When his parents and I saw him on TV at a concert given by the Unhasu Orchestra titled "Take care of the rising children!" we were doubtful of our sight. Song Chol was sitting by our national leader, who stroked him on the head lovingly and gave him a pep talk. I was overwhelmed with emotion to think that my branch school is enshrined in the heart of the national leader all the time. When Song Chol returned from Pyongyang, the whole islet turned out to welcome him, saying they had another happy event. Thirty-seven years have already passed since I settled here. Twenty odd years ago Song Chol's mother left the branch school and today her eldest son has just finished the branch school now. How time flies. Her youngest son, Song Bom, is attending the branch school. The bell of my branch school keeps ringing on Jamae Islet from generation after generation. Quite impressive is the remark made by Song Chol's mother: "Tomorrow a new school year will begin with Song Bom as the single pupil of the Jamaedo Branch School—just as usual on our islet."

Rim Ok

When Teachers Work Hard

THERE WAS A MEETING in Pyongyang in August last to confer diplomas and medals on students who obtained excellent results in the 21st national multi-subject contest. Students of the Pothonggang District Segori Senior Middle School snatched three gold and one silver medals to the wonder and admiration of all the participants, who exclaimed, "It is really an excellent school." When many teachers and students came up to congratulate, the winners said in unison, "All these medals do not belong to us, but to the teachers of our school who have made unsparing efforts to improve our abilities."

In the past the school had attached primary attention to the work of improving the students' abilities and made scrupulous arrangements. The teachers had worked enthusiastically, but the students' academic attainments showed little progress. Headmistress Kim Sung Hui thought hard over the problem and decided to change teaching methods.

From that time on, the school made sure that the students were well aware of the importance of the class and understood fully what they were taught. First of all the teachers made efforts to be well prepared for the 45-minute-long class. Teaching plans were renewed to reflect detailed and methodological ideas of heuristic teaching including questions of different contents, answers and conclusions, and the use of visual aids. Model classes were given in all departments and generalized.

And the teachers were encouraged to take part in the school- and nationally-arranged symposiums on teaching methods.

As a result, the teachers' abilities improved and new realistic methods and inventions were produced for better education. The managers of the school visited classes at work on a regular basis and gave proper appreciation of the teachers by analysing how the students understood what they were taught, thus fueling the teachers' enthusiasm. In addition, a great effort was directed to the improvement of the students' abilities by means of computer-projector lessons, video lessons and field study.

In the course of this, the students made considerable progress and many of them won national contests. Many teachers, too, were awarded the title of "October 8 Model Teacher." This is how students of the school have achieved special award and first place at national multi-subject contests for over ten

years.

Typical was the 21st national multi-subject contest. Second-year student Choe Su Hwang took the top place by solving a heat engine problem—presented in the field of mechanics of physics—by an unusual method of equivalent circuit. Second-year student Kung Se Bom who took first place in mathematics surprised the judges by solving a difficult geometrical problem. Moreover, Choe Il Chol solved a complicated inequality question simply by using Jensen inequality, and thus was highly appreciated. Third-year student Jon Sok Jun, too, won the gold medal in the composition contest by displaying his rich stock of vocabulary and power of expression.

Assistant headmaster Yu Kyong Min says, "Our school produces many excellent students. It is the result of our efforts to apply novel methods in education as required by the developing reality."

Sim Yong Jin



Distance Despised

THE TEST APPLICATION of the telemedicine-based surgery support system turned out successful at the Suncheon City People's Hospital in South Phyongan Province in March last. Three months later the system was successfully introduced into more than 200 hospitals including almost all provincial, city (district) and county hospitals. It is part of the telemedical service. Thanks to the introduction competent surgeons working at senior hospitals can give direct guidance to their colleagues at junior hospitals while watching the operational environment and condition by way of remote control. The system also affords the condition in which surgeons outside the theatre can watch the operational situation in the telemedical service room in real time and consult the opinion of other doctors.

The system is most favourite with inhabitants in regions far from central hospitals. Sindo, seat of the Sindo County, North Phyongan Province, is an island south of the famous Pidan Island. It takes half a day by sea from the island to Sinuiju, the capital city of the province. In the past when patients were sent to provincial or central hospitals, it caused quite a trouble to the patients and in some cases the illness got worse, missing a proper time for operation on the way. Now that the telemedicine has been established in the county hospital, patients are put to the care of



A consultation via the telemedicine-based surgical support system.

doctors from central hospitals without the need to travel. The system is also in force in Onsong County, North Hamgyong Province, the northernmost tip of the country.

In August last Pyongyang hosted a WHO southeast Asian regional technical consultation on telemedicine. On a visit to the Yonsan County People's Hospital in North Hwanghae Province, the participants in the consultation said unanimously, "It's a hospital far from urban areas, yet it is as clean as urban ones. It is noteworthy that such a mountain hospital has a telemedical service system that pertains to the care of the common people like the workers and farmers."

Pak Jong Min, department director of the Ministry of Public Health, says, "The main properties of the Korean telemedicine commented upon by the participants in the meeting fall under three categories, that is, the

telemedicine is in operation on a nationwide scale, that it is intended to look after all the working people free of charge, and that it has been put into service in a short span of time on a high level."

Son Chang Ho, section chief of the Public Health Management Research Institute which is the initiator of the telemedicine in the country, says, "Already in the time of expanding the telemedicine all across the country, we worked out a plan of the introduction of the telemedicine-based surgery support system as the next stage of the telemedicine project and proceeded with the relevant studies. We are going to develop the telemedical service system in a diversified manner."

Now medical service has no distinction of distance between the hospital and the patient in Korea.

Rim Sang Jun

Strong Fighter Against Rheumatoid Diseases

“I’D LONG SUFFERED FROM RHEUMATOID arthritis until I took the Castor Aralia Antineuralgic which cured me of it miraculously.” “I strongly recommend you the Castor Aralia Antineuralgic instead of feeling disappointed at your obstinate disease.” These are some of the statements made by people who recovered from their diseases after using the Castor Aralia Antineuralgic developed by the Pyongyang Medical Specialty & Health Food Development Centre. The public is more and more attracted by the medicine for its great effect on treatment of obstinate diseases.

Generally known as “bone cancer,” rheumatoid arthritis is a long-lasting disease that causes your limbs, legs, shoulders, spine and all the joints to swell and become painful, leading to deformation and rigidity. The Castor Aralia Antineuralgic is considered an effective treatment of rheumatoid diseases.

The pill restores the function of the autonomic nerve control, thus combating as many as 40 kinds of diseases like sciatic neuralgia, painful back, general neuralgia, cardiac neurosis, nervous hypertension, nervous gastric diseases and stomach cramps.

Another merit of the drug is that it cures diseases caused by oxidized wastes being accumulated in the body. When oxidized wastes are accumulated in the body, the cells dwindle giving rise to small wrinkles and speckles. When the wastes stick to the wall of the vessel, it causes arteriosclerosis and cerebral thrombosis. And when they harm the gene of the cell it induces incurable diseases like cancer. The Castor Aralia Antineuralgic helps discharge the wastes out of the body, thus expediting the cure of diseases caused by the wastes.

When there grows an isomer like an outgrowth or a cartilage on the spine, bone or joint area, it will press the nerve causing pains. In this case even a surgical operation is often ineffective. If you take the Castor Aralia Antineuralgic at this moment, the isomer will be disintegrated and disappear. It is not fortuitous that many people become erect again with their spine straightened up after using the antineuralgic.

As the medicine is effective in treating obstinate diseases, it has won considerable popularity since it was developed. It won a gold medal at the 9th national invention and new technology exhibition, and the gold award and the Excellent Product award at an international know-how and product show held in Dalian, China, in 2008.

Now the centre receives many letters of thanks and phone calls from those who have been relieved from a critical moment or regained vitality of life thanks to the Castor Aralia Antineuralgic. Some of the messages follow:

Om Un Ju, resident in Chilgol-dong No.1, Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang

“I suffered from rheumatoid arthritis from 1993. The long-standing dosage of aspirin and prednisolone brought the side-effect of threatening poisoning; I had swelling in the whole body and had a bad appetite. Because of the general impotence I could not go out for a walk. In 1999 I took the Castor Aralia Antineuralgic for four months, and in the course of this the poisoning from prednisolone disappeared, the high fever fell, and the deformation and stiffness in the wrists, knees and hands were no longer to be seen. Earlier my husband also suffered from nervous hypertension and symptoms of cerebral thrombosis, but the Castor Aralia Antineuralgic removed him of headache, neuralgia and insomnia.”

Song Tae Hyok, resident in Yongphung-ri, Kumya County, South Hamgyong Province

“I had had bad sleep and nervous symptoms like itchy eyebrows and tearfulness since 1999. In December 2004 I took your medicine for 20 days and now I’m Okay.”

Kim Ha Yon, resident in Wasan-dong, Sosong District, Pyongyang

“I had had the pains from ischiodynia for seven years before I took your medicine for three days, and it relieved me of the symptoms—even the aching toes. It’s more than a surprise to me to have got well with only three pills of your medicine.”

Yom Chung Song, resident in Sinan-dong, Munchon City, Kangwon Province

“In early 1984 I shouted too loudly and with this I began to lose my voice. I had an operation in my larynx and I recovered my speech. But ten years later I had a relapse of the problem. Now I began to use your medicine, and days later I got my voice again all of a sudden. I’ve since had no problem with my speech.”

Jong Song Chol, resident in Sonnae-dong, Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang

“I had aftereffects of cerebral concussion, deformation of the back and gastric troubles due to cold limbs. Your medicine cured me of the aftereffects of cerebral concussion in five days, and the back in two months and later my limbs got warm bringing back my appetite.”

Kang Chol, resident in Kinmaul-dong No. 2, Moranbong District, Pyongyang

“I had had bald head since 2006. I took your medicine for three days, and I began to have hairs days later and soon I had proper hair. One of my colleagues also suffered from alopecia areata, but got well with your medicine.”

Realities about the medicine show that drugs made from medicinal herbs richly available in the country can be effective treatments of obstinate diseases.

Rim Ok

By Our Nation Itself

AN IMPORTANT TASK OF THE KOREAN people in the national reunification movement is to improve north-south relations and open up a way to peace and reunification. In order to improve inter-Korean relations in keeping with the current of the times and the nation's desire, both sides should hold fast to the principle of "By our nation itself" as the banner of national reunification. Because only when the banner of "By our nation itself" is held aloft, will a turning-point be made in national reunification.

The Koreans who had harmoniously lived in one country as a homogeneous nation for over 5 000 years came to be divided into two sides with the end of World War II. The division into the north and the south is entirely contrary to the desire and demand of the Korean nation. It is the product of the world-supremacy strategy and aggressive anti-DPRK policy of the US imperialists. Having split the country into two sides, the US, for over half a century, has interfered in every way in the nation's effort to reunify the country, seeking to fish in troubled waters of inter-Korean confrontation. It is clear that such foreign forces will never work for one Korea. The only way is to have confidence in the nation's own resources and rely on them. The issue of national reunification rests on none other than the Koreans as it is an internal affair of the nation. Nobody has the right to interfere in the nation's internal problems or can reunify the country instead of the Korean nation. Only when you play your role and fulfil your responsibility, will you be able to solve your problems easily. Deeply aware that they are responsible for their destiny, the Korean people must reject foreign forces' interference in the endeavour for reunification and work hard to reunify the country independently with their own efforts.

History has already proved almighty are the concerted efforts of the Korean nation. In the June 15 era, the Korean nation achieved miraculous successes by holding aloft the banner of "By our nation itself." The north-south summit meeting, held in Pyongyang in June 2000, adopted the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration to solve the problem of reunification with concerted efforts of the Korean nation. And the inter-Korean summit talks, held in October 2007, adopted the October 4 Declaration, practical programme for implementation of the June 15 Declaration. The north-south dialogue was no longer bound by the previous stereotyped frame, developing into ground of trust and cooperation for

practical solution of problems. A large breach was made in the barrier of national division with railways and roads—severed over half a century—reconnected and air and sea routes opened. These all contributed much to removing the mistrust and expanding cooperation and exchange. All the members of the nation, experiencing the validity and vitality of the idea of "By our nation itself," came to be fully aware that "By our nation itself" is just the lifeline and fundamental guarantee for independent reunification and peace and prosperity. If he truly aspires after improvement of inter-Korean relations and national reunification, he ought to reject submission to and dependence on outside forces and hold aloft the idea of "By our nation itself" as the banner of national reunification.

However, the south Korean regime is going against the time. They have spent the whole of this year running amuck with such aggressive war rehearsals as *Foal Eagle*, *Key Resolve* and *Ulji Freedom Guardian* hand in glove with the US imperialists. It is clear that dangerous nuclear war rehearsals in and around the Korean peninsula, which are acts detrimental to the spirit of "By our nation itself," pose serious obstacles to reconciliation, unity and reunification of the north and the south.

The Korean people should subordinate and orientate everything to the great national cause of reunifying the country from the standpoint of giving priority and attaching importance to the nation and achieving unity. To rely on foreign forces and pursue fratricidal confrontation in collusion with outside forces, instead of working to solve the problem of national reunification with the Korean nation's own efforts, is an anti-national act against one Korea.

If both sides discuss all the problems related to reunification in accord with the nation's desire and demand on the basis of the ardent love for the nation and the spirit of national independence, the country's reunification will surely come in an independent and peaceful way after all.

The historic June 15 North-South Joint Declaration and the October 4 Declaration indicate the fundamental principles and methods to achieve independent reunification and peace and prosperity with concerted efforts of the Korean nation. When all the Koreans join their patriotic intention and mind under the banner of "By our nation itself," an important turning-point will come in the endeavour for independent reunification.

Choe Chol Nam

Struggle to Achieve the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea (3)

Three Principles of National Reunification

IN THE 1960S THE US IMPERIALISTS AND their south Korean stooges carried out the May 16 military coup and set up a military fascist dictatorship which they used it to strengthen suppression of the south Korean people and pursuance of their aggressive war policy. In the early 1970s they got into scrapes. The American manoeuvres of aggression and war ended in failure across the world. Inside the United States, the anti-war movement grew in intensity, and the economy was in continued crisis due to economic stagnation and inflation. In an attempt to find a way out in the deceptive “peace strategy,” the US imperialists announced a policy of switching over from “cold war” to “peace,” and from “confrontation” to “dialogue” and “co-existence.” The south Korean regime had no other way but to put on a show of advocating “peace” and “negotiation” in order to avoid the serious crisis of government caused by the strong resistance of the anti-fascist, democratic forces.

Coping with this situation President Kim Il Sung advanced three principles of national reunification which he had been thinking over for a long time. Kim Il Sung, in his speech at a mass rally of Pyongyang citizens welcoming Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia and chairman of the National United Front of Kampuchea, put forward a wide-ranging negotiation policy, stating that the DPRK was ready to have contact, at any time, with all political parties, including the ruling Democratic Republican Party, and all public organizations and individual personages in south Korea in order to make a new turn in the national reunification movement. This policy won a unanimous support and sympathy at home and abroad alike. As a result of the initiative measures the DPRK government took to realize the new policy, the door to dialogue opened and high-level political talks took place between the north and the south.

The President met the south Korean delegate on a visit to Pyongyang to participate in the political talks on May 3, 1972, when he proposed three principles of national reunification— independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity—as the fundamental principles of the reunification to be adhered to by both sides. On July 4, 1972 a historic

north-south joint statement was published with the three principles as the keynote. The President met south Korean delegates on November 3 that year who were staying in Pyongyang to take part in the 2nd meeting of the co-chairpersons of the north-south coordinating committee and suggested the idea of promoting many-sided inter-Korean cooperation and exchange in all fields of politics, defence, the economy, culture and foreign relations as an important step in implementing the agreements stipulated in the joint statement.

Building on the three principles the DPRK government made sincere efforts to achieve independent and peaceful reunification of the country. At the 1st, 2nd and 3rd sessions of the north-south coordinating committee it made concrete proposals for comprehensive cooperation and exchange and put forward special ways to remove obstacles to national reunification. The inter-Korean dialogue gave an impetus to the nationwide trend towards reunification. Not only the people in the north but also patriotic-minded youth and students, democratic figures and people of all strata in the south turned out in the struggle for national reunification.

Scared at the high-spirited struggle of the entire Korean nation the US imperialists and the south Korean puppets came up with a policy of “two Koreas” aimed at delaying reunification and perpetuating national division. The south Korean junta, instigated by the US imperialists, placed serious obstacles to the talks, refusing all the fair and reasonable proposals of the north. Behind the scene of talks, they begged the Americans for permanent stationing of US troops in south Korea while pushing ahead with war preparations. They cooked up the fascist Yushin Constitution in October 1972, and brutally suppressed and murdered patriots and other people who fought for independence, democracy and reunification. On June 23, 1973 they issued the so-called “special statement,” the gist of which was “simultaneous entry into the UN” by the north and the south, thus openly announcing a policy aimed at perpetuating the division of Korea. This caused the rupture of the inter-Korean dialogue for reunification that had been arranged with great difficulty, and the gray cloud of permanent national division hung heavily.

Yom Song Hui

Culprit of Instability

NOW THE KOREAN PEN-
insula is a focus of the
world's attention, because the
danger of war is looming heavily
there without any valid system
or agreement to restrain war.
The Armistice Agreement con-
cluded 60 years ago is as good as
wastepaper.

The government of the De-
mocratic People's Republic of
Korea has made sincere efforts to
prevent war and settle perma-
nent peace and security in the
peninsula. In the current century
it put forward a proposal to the
United States that the parties
concerned to the Armistice
Agreement should hold talks to
declare the end of the Korean
war, and a proposal to hold talks
as soon as possible to replace the
Armistice Agreement with a
peace treaty on the occasion of
the 60th anniversary of the out-
break of the war (June 25, 1950).
This year it took measures to
terminate the division of the
country and achieve peace and
security in the area.

Nevertheless, the United
States, the mastermind of the
division of Korea, flatly refused
all proposals and initiatives of
the DPRK. Worse still, it carried
out DPRK-targeted military ex-
ercises, thus driving the situa-
tion of the Korean peninsula to
the brink of war. The Foal Eagle
joint military exercise started on
March 1 this year can be cited as
an example. It was large-scale
joint field manoeuvres involving

a huge number of GIs and the
south Korean puppet army. In
the exercise a B-2A strategic
stealth bomber flew from the US
mainland to south Korea to have
a nuclear bombing drill for the
first time. The US flew overseas-
based B-52 to the sky over south
Korea and staged strike drills
targeting the interior of the
DPRK. In August as part of the
Ulji Freedom Guardian re-
hearsal it sent B-52H nuclear-
carrying strategic bombers to the
airspace of south Korea several
times for an exercise of nuclear
strike against the DPRK. The
DPRK-targeted war exercises
and military drills staged by the
US and the south Korean pup-
pets known to the public total
over 18 000 times until now after
the conclusion of the Armistice
Agreement on July 27, 1953.
However, none of them involved
as many armed troops and
equipment as this year's. The
United States continues to do
aggressive war exercises, finding
fault with the DPRK while bab-
bling on about the need to ease
the tension in the peninsula.
Then, what is America seeking
underhand?

At the outset of this century
the US argued that the Asian
policy is at the core of its foreign
policy in the 21st century, and
that the Korean peninsula is the
focus of it. In accordance with the
policy it is persistently engaged in
DPRK-stifling moves. In moving
the point of its foreign strategy to

the Asia-Pacific region, it calcu-
lated that it needs to give priority
to the Asia-Pacific region if it is to
dominate the world, hold the
initiative in Northeast Asia if it is
to grasp control of the region, and
take the Korean peninsula which
is located in the strategically im-
portant position in Northeast
Asia if it is to rule the subregion.
In this regard the US needs an
"acceptable reason," and that is
"threat" from the DPRK.

Long-standing tension and
danger of war in the Korean
peninsula is what America needs
badly, because it intends to lay
an encirclement around big na-
tions in the Asia-Pacific region
and militarily restrain them
from growing powerful enough to
confront it. It is going to deploy
60% of its overseas forces in the
Asia-Pacific region within ten
years. Recently it is trying to
change the "UN Command" into
a "multinational alliance" to
make a progenitor of Asian-style
NATO. If an aggressive military
organization of the United States
and its vassal nations comes into
existence in Northeast Asia in-
cluding the Korean peninsula, it
will inevitably cause local coun-
tries to take countermeasures,
which will result in revival of the
past Cold War structure and an
unprecedentedly increasing dan-
ger of thermonuclear war.

All this reality shows the
United States is the breaker of
peace and security in the Korean
peninsula. □

Souls Accuse

IN SOUTH KOREA THE National Security Law is denounced as an anachronistic and anti-humanitarian demon. It is stuck in the way of progressive social development and reform and plays havoc with the aspiration and desire of the people for independence, democracy and national reunification. For more than 60 years it has been a critical means of the regime in ruling and suppressing the people's righteous struggles. Since it was enacted on December 1, 1948 under the pretext of the national security, it has been notorious as a "legal" instrument against the DPRK and the national reunification movement and for public "security" and maintenance of power.

The NSL stipulates the DPRK and its citizens as "enemy" and bans the south Korean people's patriotic struggle for national unity, independence, democracy and national reunification. It is a sacred right of the Korean people to work for reunification as they have suffered all kinds of pains and misfortunes due to the national division by foreign forces. Nevertheless, the NSL defines the DPRK, the same nation's state, as the anti-state organization and regards it as illegal to have contacts, travels

and exchange with the north in an effort for national reconciliation and unity. It also labels south Korean patriotic groups and organizations as anti-state organizations and forces "intending to overthrow the system," and stipulates their formation, enrollment, activities and supports as liable to be put to severe punishment.

A great number of patriots and innocent people have fallen victims of this evil law. People involved in the incidents of the People's Revolutionary Party in August 1964 and the Revolutionary Party for Reunification in July 1968 were arrested and put to savage tortures before being sentenced to death. Thanks to this law, many progressive opposition organizations aspiring to independence, democracy and national reunification were dissolved forcibly, and patriotic reunification organizations including the south Korean Federation of General Student Councils (Hanchongryon) and the South Headquarters of the Pan-national Alliance for Korea's Reunification (Pomminryon) were labelled as pro-north organizations and enemy-benefiting organizations as soon as they were formed and have since been object of cruel suppression. The NSL provides

fetters to the freedom of speech and press and victimizes people who visit the DPRK or struggle for national reconciliation and unity. Pan-national rallies and festivals for national reunification held by south Korean pro-reunification, democratic forces and youth and students were ruthlessly broken by the law.

It was none other than the NSL that committed the anti-national and anti-ethical crime—the savage repression of the south Korean people's mourning services for the nation's greatest sorrow that befell their fellow countrymen in the north. In February last the south Korean regime brought Ro Su Hui, vice-chairman of the South Headquarters of the Pan-national Alliance for Korea's Reunification (Pomminryon), who had visited Pyongyang to express his sympathy for the greatest loss of the nation, to the mercy of the NSL, thereby sentencing him to four years' service and four years' disqualification on charges of violation of the NSL. The absurd law criminalizes even the activities of the local people for their elementary right to existence and democracy, blaming them as anti-state acts. It has done immeasurable harm to the south Koreans—and the whole nation. As it is rejected by not only south Koreans but also the legal circles at home and abroad and by human rights organizations as a brutal "illegal law" that is open to random abuse and misuse, why not repeal it right now?

It is an urgent demand of the times to abolish the anti-ethical and fascist law that is strongly denounced and condemned by the international community.

Souls of the many patriots and innocent people, known and unknown, who were arrested and executed by the law are now crying for abolition of the law that goes against the nation and national reunification.

Rim Hye Gyong

South Koreans struggle to have the National Security Law repealed.



Where Japan Heads for

WHEN THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY government was inaugurated in Japan at the end of last year, there came apprehensive voices over the fear of the country inclining further to the extreme rightist tendency. China's Xinhua news agency disclosed that Japan has already chosen the rightist political road and pursuance of military power. "What's Japan going to do with the choice? How could different nations around the world understand such a development?" asked the news agency, stressing the need to be vigilant against Japan's movement.

What kind of behavior has Japan been on, then?

In his New Year address this year the present ruler avowed that he would regain a "strong Japan" and on January 7 when he began his annual office, he, at an LDP meeting, sang *Kimigayo*, a symbol of the past Japanese imperialism, as announcement of the commencement of his annual work, and called out that "this is the first step for restoration of Japan." Last March at a meeting of the House of Representatives budgetary committee of the Japanese diet, he made an absurd statement distorting the decision of the Far East International Military Tribunal, and at an official meeting denied again the direct involvement of the old Japanese army in the crime of sex slavery. Thanks to the ruler who refuses to acknowledge his country's history of aggression, the so-called "ceremony for restoration of the national sovereignty" which had been a civilian activity conducted by a rightist group for 17 years, took place at a government level this year for the first time. On August 15 this year a crowd of more than 100 ultraright politicians thronged to Yasukuni Shrine and made a show of honouring the souls of the dead kept there. The chief executive admonished that for the Cabinet ministers and MPs to visit the shrine, symbol of militarism, is the "right of the members of a sovereign state," and made a shameful remark that the current peace and stability are inconceivable apart from the "sacrifice" of the war criminals.

The persistent campaign of the Japanese extreme rightists to spread militarist idea has spawned the spirit in the mind of the Japanese people of taking over the idea of the war criminals instead of feeling guilty of the past history. The younger generations are implanted with the revengeful spirit. Voices are heard arguing for "emperor-centric government" and extreme nationalism and imperialist thinking and views are finding their way into the mind of the citizens, inspiring them to support overseas dispatch of the Japanese soldiers and revision of the Constitution.

Availing themselves of the environment the

Japanese ultraright forces are launching an attempt to revise the Constitution openly. Just before his assumption to the prime ministership the ruler uttered that he would commence his work by amending Article 96 of the Constitution, and in a press conference on April 19 this year he reiterated his intention to revise Article 96 in order to make it easy to propose the motion to the Diet for a revision of the Constitution. His plot to reshape the relevant article that stipulates the rule of amending the Constitution is aimed at revising Article 9, the hardcore of the Constitution, by lowering the doorstep to the amendment of the Constitution. Article 9 bans the possession of combat capability of Japan, fighting of war, exercise of the right to collective defence and the like. Once the article is amended, the country will have a Constitution allowing the nation to conduct a war along with a legal and institutional devise for becoming a military power and launching overseas aggression. This will free Japan from all shackles of domestic laws to dispatch its aggression forces to any part of the world and carry out military operations.

Despite the worldwide economic crisis Japan is augmenting its military expenditure, making the Northeast Asian situation still worse. The maritime Self-Defense Force has deployed the latest main submarine at the Yokosuka base in Kanagawa Prefecture. The Defense Ministry is going to increase the number of subs up to 22 by the end of 2021.

On the day that marked the 68th anniversary of American nuclear bombing of Hiroshima, Japan launched the *Izumo*, the largest warship of the maritime SDF. Referring to the event, the public opinion opened naked criticism, labelling it as "sign of Japan's rightist inclination" and likened it to breakthrough for Japan in its effort to possess nuclear weapon.

Also, the country is attempting to develop and deploy long-distance high-precision cruise missiles for itself. It has introduced high-capacity radars from America, creating a favourable condition for improving its pre-emptive strike capability. The SDF which used to be miserable in 1954 has now become a world-famous aggression force equipped with modern weapons.

All these facts show that the Japanese ruler has pursued the policy of reviving the militarist time in an attempt to attain the old ambition of "Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere." He ought to be advised that the following of the road of reinvasion despite the lesson from the past century will lead to ruin of the insular nation. □

World Heritage in Kaesong



The Mausoleum of King Wang Kon.

The Mausoleum of King Kongmin.



KAESONG HAS MAUSOLEUM of King Wang Kon, Mausoleum of King Kongmin, Manwoldae, Koryo Songgyungwan (university), Kaesong Fort, Kaesong South Gate, Sungyang Private School, Monuments to Loyalty, Sonjuk Bridge, Kaesong Chomsongdae Observatory, Myongnung Cluster of Tombs, Chilnung Cluster of Tombs and many other historical remains and sites. All of these things of great historical value pertain to different fields—politics, the economy and culture—of Koryo (918-1392), the first unified state of Korea.

The Mausoleum of King Wang Kon, the founder king of Koryo Dynasty, is situated on a low hill of ▶



The Kaesong Wall and the Kaesong South Gate.



Sonjuk Bridge and the Monuments to Loyalty.



▶ Mt. Mansu connected with a branch ridge of Mt. Songak. Entering the gate to the mausoleum, you can see a shrine where to have memorial services and pavilions housing monuments. In the shrine are hung Wang Kon's portrait and pictures of some significant episodes about the ruler of Koryo who unified the Korean nation as wished by the predecessor state, Koguryo, for unification. The two pavilions keep records of history, construction and repair of the mausoleum. Past the pavilion you see, on a high platform, King Wang Kon's Mausoleum with Koguryo's typical shape of earth mound and a stone chamber in it. The most interesting thing about the mausoleum is a gilt-bronze sedentary statue with a noble image of a sturdy man in his early forties, which vividly shows the dignified figure of Wang Kon who founded Koryo in the prime of his life. This statue was made after the real image of King Wang Kon, so it is a legacy of high historical and cultural value.

The Mausoleum of King Kongmin which was built between 1365 and 1372 is of twin mounds, called Hyonnung (King Kongmin's tomb) and Jongnung (the queen's tomb), standing abreast. The mausoleum, a truthful showcase of Korean architectural attainment, was looted by the Japanese several times from 1905.

Within the range of six or eight kilometres centring on the heart of the city are found Myongnung Cluster of Tombs and Chilnung Cluster of Tombs that belong to the royal family of Koryo Dynasty.

Manwoldae, situated in Songak-dong, Kaesong, is the site of the main royal palace in the time of Koryo Dynasty. Though it's nothing but a site, it helps have an idea of the architectural appearance at the time.

The Kaesong South Gate in Pugan-dong, Kaesong, was built in 1391-1393 and repaired in 1899. What's famous about the gate is a big bell that came from Yonbok Temple.

The town of Kaesong, which was the capital of Koryo, originally consisted of a royal palace district, an imperial castle district, an inner-wall area and an outer-wall area, but there remain only trivial parts now.

Koryo Songgyungwan was an educational institution of the highest level in Koryo Dynasty. The Koryo authorities built Taemyong Palace as a detached palace in the capital of Kaegyong (Kaesong at present) in 1047 and moved Kukjagam, the country's top educational institution established in 992, to the palace in 1087. Later the school was renamed Songgyungwan in 1298, Songgyungwan in 1308, Kukjagam in 1356 and Songgyungwan again in 1362. It existed until the end of Koryo Dynasty.

Sungyang Private School in Sonjuk-dong, Kaesong, was built in 1573 in the place of the house of Jong Mong Ju (1337-1392), a high-ranking official,



The site of the Kaesong Chomsongdae Observatory.

army officer and diplomat at the close of Koryo Dynasty.

Sonjuk Bridge in Sonjuk-dong is a stone one built in the time of Koryo to cross the Rogye Stream. It was originally called Sonji Bridge. Jong Mong Ju who had been loyal to Koryo Dynasty was murdered on this bridge and a bamboo was said to have grown on the bloody site, hence renamed Sonjuk Bridge. Afterwards Yongjo and Kojong, kings of Feudal Joseon Dynasty, erected twin Monuments to Loyalty by the bridge in honour of Jong's moral value and loyalty, in an endeavour to use them to maintain and strengthen their royal power. The turtle-shaped bases feel heavy and look magnificent and delicate. Four patterns of wriggling dragons were engraved symmetrically on both sides in the lower part of the monument's head shaped like hip-saddle roof.

Kaesong Chomsongdae Observatory is estimated to have been built around the year 919, the early period of Koryo Dynasty, to study astronomical phenomena. The astronomical part of the book *History of Koryo Dynasty* (1451) has a number of observation records on eclipses of the sun and the moon, comets, shooting stars and sunspots. Kaesong Chomsongdae Observatory remains only in embankment now.

The 37th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee held on June 23 this year in Cambodia adopted a decision on registering historical remains and sites in Kaesong as world heritage.

Song Kum Chol

Korean Central History Museum (7)

The Korean People's Struggle against Feudal Rulers and Foreign Invasion

WALKING INTO A HALL we found on display data and materials of the people's struggle against the feudal government and foreign invaders in the middle of the 19th century. Most noticeable were those on the American invasion of Korea. The American aggression ship *General Sherman* made inroads into Korea in 1866 under the cloak of merchant ship. The purpose was to open a road of Korean aggression by using the ship as a tool in forcing conclusion of a treaty on the Korean feudal government, for the position of the Korean peninsula is of great strategic importance in the Asian continent. The *General Sherman* was built in 1861 and belonged to the navy of the southern America with the name of Princess Royal. She participated in the American Civil War before she was captured by the northern force. Then she was rebuilt in 1863 and made a contribution to the performance of the operations conducted by Sherman, commander of the western force of the northern America's forces, who was notorious for committing murder, arson and plunder. With the end of the war she was named *General Sherman* after the commander. At the moment she was a most developed warship fitted with both a steam engine and sails and a mechanical propeller. In 1866, with a crew of more than 90 people and a lot of gunpowder, shells, firearms and ammunitions aboard, the *General Sherman* sailed up the Tae-

dong River in Korea, when it assaulted a Korean patrol warship—which belonged to the Pyongyang military district—killing and kidnapping Korean soldiers. When the Korean government demanded that she return the kidnapped soldiers and go back home immediately, the Americans put forward an absurd ransom of 1 000 sacks of rice and a good amount of gold, silver, insam and other kinds of materials. Infuriated at this Kim Ung U, great-grandfather of President Kim Il Sung, and other Pyongyang people turned out to drive out the invaders. They loaded a lot of boats with firewood, set fire to the boats and let them flow downstream. The *General Sherman* was caught in fire and sank to the bottom of the river. It was the first time that a heavily-armed modern warship was sent to the bottom in the American history of invasion. On display in the museum were a gun and an anchor cable from the *General Sherman*.

Pointing to a photo my guide explained: In 1868 American

ships *Shenandoah* and *China* made an illegal intrusion into the Korean waters. The Americans intended to dig up the remains of Namyongun, father of the then ruler de facto of Feudal Joseon Dynasty, and use it to force an unequal agreement on the Korean government. The *Shenandoah* rampaged around Pyongyang for plunder, drawing the attention of the Korean government, when the China attempted digging of the tomb of Namyongun. But the aggression ships could not take their aim, rebuffed by strong resistance from the local people. Then in 1871 an American expedition consisting of five warships and thousands of marines invaded Korea only to be repelled. One of the flags the Koreans held in the struggle at the time was seen on display.

In the next hall were exhibited data and materials on the anti-feudal, anti-aggression struggle of the Korean people from the latter half of the 19th century to around the March First Popular Uprising in 1919. ▶

A cannon captured from the USS *General Sherman*.



► Having watched for a chance for invasion of Korea for a long time, Japan gave rise to the *Unyao* Incident, in which the Japanese warship *Unyao* opened gunfire off Kanghwa Island before it was repulsed by the Korean force. No sooner had the incident taken place than the Japanese aggression force made inroads into Kanghwa Island by mobilizing a fleet of seven warships and over 800 troops. They forced “negotiation” on the Korean government and cooked up the so-called Korea-Japan friendship pact, or Kanghwa-do treaty, in February 1876. As a result, Pusan Port was opened to the Japanese, Japanese settlements came into existence, the Japanese legation was set up and Wonsan and Inchon ports were opened. This marked the beginning of Korea’s falling into the Japanese hand as its semi-colony.

The Korean people put up strong fights, enraged at the encroachment of the nation’s sovereignty and interest. In Seoul Korean soldiers raided the Japanese legation and staged an anti-Japanese demonstration, which was later called Imo Soldiers’ Revolt.

Now we headed for another hall, when we saw some books and postage stamps, which the guide said had been issued by the Enlightenment Group following the 1884 Kapsin Coup, a bourgeois reform in Korea. The Kapsin Coup erupted in reflection of Korea’s demand for national development towards modern society. The Enlightenment Group, a new-emerging political force headed by Kim Ok Gyun (1851-1894), formed an organization called *Chunguigye* (Friendship Association) and conducted positive activities intended to ward off foreign invasion, protect the national sovereignty, reform the feudal system and develop the country along modern lines. Taking power



through a coup the organization proclaimed the establishment of a new government on October 18, formally informed it to legations and consulates of different countries and declared the political programme of the new government, which consisted of 14 points, the following day. The programme included the matters of reshaping the outmoded feudal system into a capitalist one in all social and political domains including politics, the economy, culture and defence. But, due to Japan’s obstructive moves and Qing China’s military intervention, the government of the Enlightenment Group fell in three days, bringing an end to the bourgeois reform.

Now we saw the original of the Ulsa Five-point Treaty on display. The treaty was what came in November 1905 after the Japanese coercion upon Korea, and it was devoid of the Korean emperor’s signature and royal stamping, making it legally ineffective. Nevertheless, Japan robbed Korea of its right to diplomacy using the “agreement.” The 15th session of the UN International Law Conference in 1963 proclaimed the treaty as illegal and ineffective as it was a stark

forgery. According to the guide Japan made up another treaty in July 1907, which was called Jongmi Seven-point Treaty.

We also saw materials on the pan-national anti-Japanese uprising that erupted in Korea on March 1, 1919. They included tools used by the Japanese to torture Korean patriots who had joined the uprising. The struggle broke out in Pyongyang with a peaceful demonstration of cheers for Korean independence, and it swept the whole country and even spread to Manchuria and Shanghai in China, and the Maritime Province of Russia and Hawaii. Three months into the conflict until the end of May the uprising was participated in by more than two million people from all walks of life. On display were also photos showing some of the more than 3 200 demonstrations and revolts across the country. As an eruption of the pent-up anger and grievance against the Japanese imperialists’ savage rule, the struggle developed into a pan-national resistance against the Japanese imperialists.

Through the visit I got a better understanding of the history and culture of the Korean nation.

Rim Ok

Kwak Jae U's Wife

KWAK JAE U (1552-1617) was commander of an army of volunteers who was active in Kyongsang Province in the Imjin Patriotic War (1592-1598). There is a story about how he became famous.

He was born a heroic and chivalrous and friendly man. Once he and his friends were idling away their youth indulging themselves in drinking and word-mongering. After his wife, Jo by name, died from illness, he married another woman, Ri by name. Strange enough, four days after marriage Ri began to have a nap every day and do nothing at all. The family members and neighbours spoke ill of her life. At last Kwak knew it. Repressing his anger, he said to his wife, "What do you think you're doing? You're disgracing me and my

family. Did you marry me to work for me and my family or to irritate me and ruin my family? Answer me."

She combed up her disheveled hair and tidied herself up before saying, "You are being rude to me as if I've made a big mistake."

Exasperated, Kwak cried out, "You don't keep the house clean but sleep all day long. Isn't it a big mistake?"

"You're right," she told, "when you say the housewife sleeping all day long will ruin the house. But I think the house can be kept clean only when our country is safe and secure. If a swallow's nest falls down to the ground the eggs in it will surely be broken. Now our country is in a danger of collapse due to the enemy's invasion, but you're

spending your time drinking without any worry at all. Our family is no better than a swallow's egg, and how dare you rebuke me for such a trifle?"

Her unexpected answer was shocking. Kwak realized that he had thought only of his wife's ill manner, without any heed to the life of indulgence which would make the country collapse.

Now he stopped drinking and trained himself hard, honing the martial arts with his friends. His wife, too, did all the household chores and farming from early morning until late at night, supporting her husband in combat training.

When the Imjin Patriotic War broke out with the intrusion of the Japanese invaders, Kwak soon earned fame.

Song Kum Chol

Ancestral Apple Tree of Korea

AN APPLE TREE IN Ryongjon-ri, Pukchong County, South Hamgyong Province, is 115 years old. It is the progenitor of the Ryongjon-ri species of apple trees and the oldest apple tree in Korea. The name of the species is *Pukchong*. The tree is 4.62 m tall and 0.82 m

round at the bottom. Its branches are dark-brown and the leaves are elongated and dark-green. Characteristic of the tree is that triple shoots come out like a bird's foot at the end of a new twig. The tree blooms around May 10. Fruits are round, and ripen in middle or late October.

They are a fairly same size, each weighing 120-140g.

The tree was registered as a living monument and is well looked after as it is of significance in studying the maximum age of apple trees.

Choe Hong Gwon, the Nature Conservation Union of Korea

Singye Temple and Three-storey Pagoda

SINGYE TEMPLE IS ONE of the four celebrated temples in Mt. Kungang. (The other three are Jangan, Phyohun and Yujom temples.) The hip-saddle-roofed temple was a good match for the surrounding Munphil, Sejon and Jipson peaks. It was built in 519 and rebuilt in 1597.

Taeung Hall, the main building, underwent overall maintenance in 1887. The hip-saddle-roofed building was 12.45 metres wide and 7.45 metres long. The pillars were pot-bellied and two of the front ones were topped with dragon sculptures. The hall, painted colourfully, had a combination with silk, lotus, cloud and dragon patterns. Its beauty was further elevated with patterns of lotus buds and leaves alternating with each other

according to the shape of bracket.

At the close of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty there were 15 buildings laid centring on Taeung Hall and a three-storey pagoda which had been built over 1 400 years before. During the Korean war (June 1950 -July 1953) the US imperialists' indiscriminate bombings devastated all the wooden buildings including Taeung Hall, leaving the pagoda, stone structures including the one used to fix a flagpole and sites of buildings. Some of them were reconstructed.

The pagoda stands on the central north-south axis in front of the site of Taeung Hall. Originally it consisted of the head, the body and the base, but now there are eight square foundation stones, the

base and the body. The remaining pagoda is 3.35 metres tall. One side of the foundation stone is 2.27 metres long. The base is made up of two tiers—their proportion is 1:2. The lower tier consisting of the bottom, middle and top stones is 0.56 metres high and the upper one is 1.05 metres high. Every side of the base consists in a stone plate on which stand three pillars. Sculptures are cut between the pillars. The foundation stones are wider than the pagoda body, giving a well-balanced sense.

The pagoda is of good architectural effect in that it looks imposing and soaring up as the lower part is spacious and heavy while the upper part is narrow and light.

Song Kum Chol





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