

# Pyongyang in Kim Jong Un's Era



Foreign Languages Publishing House  
DPR Korea  
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## **Preface**

Pyongyang, the capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, with a 5 000-year-long history and brilliant culture, is undergoing transformation in the era of Kim Jong Un.

Under the seasoned leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea that strives to provide the people with a more civilized life, architectural structures including ideal streets and bases for cultural and leisure activities have been built one after another.

This book introduces some of the numerous architectural structures that have been built in the past ten years in the new Pyongyang speed.

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# 1. New Streets

A Korean saying goes that even mountains and rivers change in ten years.

Over the past ten years the Democratic People's Republic of Korea witnessed world-startling miracles and legendary tales of construction, which could be wrought in decades in other countries, and large streets were built one after another in Pyongyang, typical of them being Changjon Street, which was built on the site of an old-fashioned street, Unha Scientists Street, which reflects the Workers' Party of Korea's policy of attaching importance to science, Mirae Scientists Street, which was built exclusively for researchers and teachers, and Ryomyong Street, whose name denotes the dawn of a powerful socialist country (*Ryomyong* means dawn in English).







## Changjon Street

Before the street was rebuilt, the Mansudae area was occupied by low-rise apartment houses and old-fashioned public buildings.

The WPK and the DPRK government decided on building a new street in this area by 2012, the year that would mark the centenary of the birth of Kim Il Sung, founder of socialist Korea, and in 2011 launched the project of removing the old-fashioned apartment houses and public buildings in this area and building new apartment houses.

The builders removed the whole of the old street in a matter of 20 days, and built a new street in its place in one year.

The landscaped street incorporating formative and artistic beauty looks conspicuous with high-rise apartment houses, a department

store, restaurants and other service networks.

Covering an area of scores of hectares, the street is harmoniously arranged with multistoreyed and skyscraping apartment houses of different shapes—flow-lined, cylindrical and rectangular—and educational and public organs including nurseries, kindergartens and schools, commercial and welfare service networks and public amenities, forming a large-scale and comprehensive colony for living.

Some days after the inauguration of the new street, Kim Jong Un visited the families of an educator, a worker and a newly-wed who had moved to new houses, and congratulated them.



## Unha Scientists Street

A new street was built in seven months in the Ryonggung area of Ryongsong District, Pyongyang.

One September day in 2013, prior to its completion, Kim Jong Un visited the residential district for scientists, and looked round the newly-built houses, a nursery, a kindergarten and a shopping centre. He then named it Unha Scientists Street.

Covering an area of 28 hectares, the street is comprised of 21 multi-storeyed apartment blocks of more than 1 000 flats, public buildings including school, hospital, nursery and kindergarten, public service facilities, a ring road and parks built between apartment houses.

The three-, four- and five-roomed flats are furnished with



drawing rooms, living rooms and kitchens of peculiar structure.

Parks with roller-skating rinks and various sporting equipment are built to be multifunctional and multipurpose ones for conducting sporting and leisure activities. Commercial and welfare service facilities are distributed for the scientists' convenient life.

Kim Jong Un guided the construction of the street on the spot on three occasions until the project was completed.





## Mirae Scientists Street

One February day in 2015 an aircraft was flying in the sky over the picturesque Taedong River.

Seeing it flying low unlike the other planes, Pyongyangites expressed different curiosity.

Two days later, *Rodong Sinmun*, the organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, carried the news that Kim Jong Un enjoyed a bird's-eye view of the construction site of Mirae Scientists Street on his plane.

In May 2014 Kim Jong Un had given a task of building a street of apartment houses and service networks with the road along the Taedong River, where apartment houses for educationalists at Kim Chaek University of Technology were under construction, as the axis, and named it Mirae Scientists Street.

He was learning in detail about the progress of construction on the plane.

Thanks to the devoted efforts of the builders, the apartment houses and public buildings were on the stage of framework construction.

The street was completed in October 2015, marking the 70<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the WPK.

All structures—multistoreyed and skyscraping apartment houses, public buildings, public service establishments, communal amenities,





resting areas and sports parks—present characteristic scenery.

High-rise and bundle-shaped apartment blocks of thousands of flats with their outer walls decorated with tiles of various colours and roofs of new, characteristic shapes, are distributed harmoniously along the Taedong River.

The 53-storeyed apartment house, symbolic of the new street, rises in the shape of the track of an electron, and on top of it is an iconic tower portraying the space world, so anyone, who sees it, identifies the street at a glance that it is for scientists.

All the buildings are built in a distinctive way, thus

symbolizing the street for scientists.

The public service facilities including barber's, beauty salon, laundry, garment and shoe repairs', bathhouse and chemist's and cultural organs such as library are rationally distributed on the street.

Parks well laid out and covered with good species of trees and grass are crowded with the residents doing exercises in the morning and taking a stroll in the evening.

Scientists, educators and researchers are living on the street.





## Ryomyong Street

In March 2016 Kim Jong Un came to the road in front of Kim Il Sung University, on which were displayed a scale model

of a street to be built, its formation plan and artist's rendering and designs of apartment houses and public buildings to be newly built or renovated.

Saying that he intended to proclaim to the world the start of the



## 1. New Streets



construction of a new street, he directed his eyes towards the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun and Ryongnam Hill for a long while. And he continued: It would be a good idea to name the street Ryomyong Street in the sense that the revolution is dawning on Ryongnam Hill where the sun rises and that we are aspiring after the future in architecture.

The construction was a



massive project of newly building multistoreyed and skyscraping apartment blocks of thousands of flats, public buildings like nurseries and kindergartens and renovating dozens of apartment houses and public buildings on a vast area of scores of hectares in a matter of a year.

In hearty response to the militant appeal of the







Workers' Party of Korea, builders removed the original appearance of the street in less than two months since the start of project and completed the framework construction, creating legendary tales of construction one after another on all fronts of the project.

The framework construction of the 70-storeyed apartment house, iconic in the street, was completed in 74 days, which meant that the framework of one floor was completed in 12 hours.

In April 2017 the inauguration ceremony was held in a grand style, with the attendance of builders, Pyongyang citizens and numerous foreign guests.

The district of multistoreyed apartment houses is organically combined with the district of skyscraping apartment houses and the welfare service facilities are arranged harmoniously along the street, thus incorporating formative and artistic beauty.

As zero-energy and green architectural techniques are introduced, the street is turned into a energy-saving and green one—every public building and flat make an effective use of natural energy including solar and geothermal energies and the technology of greening is adopted for the roofs and outer walls of buildings.

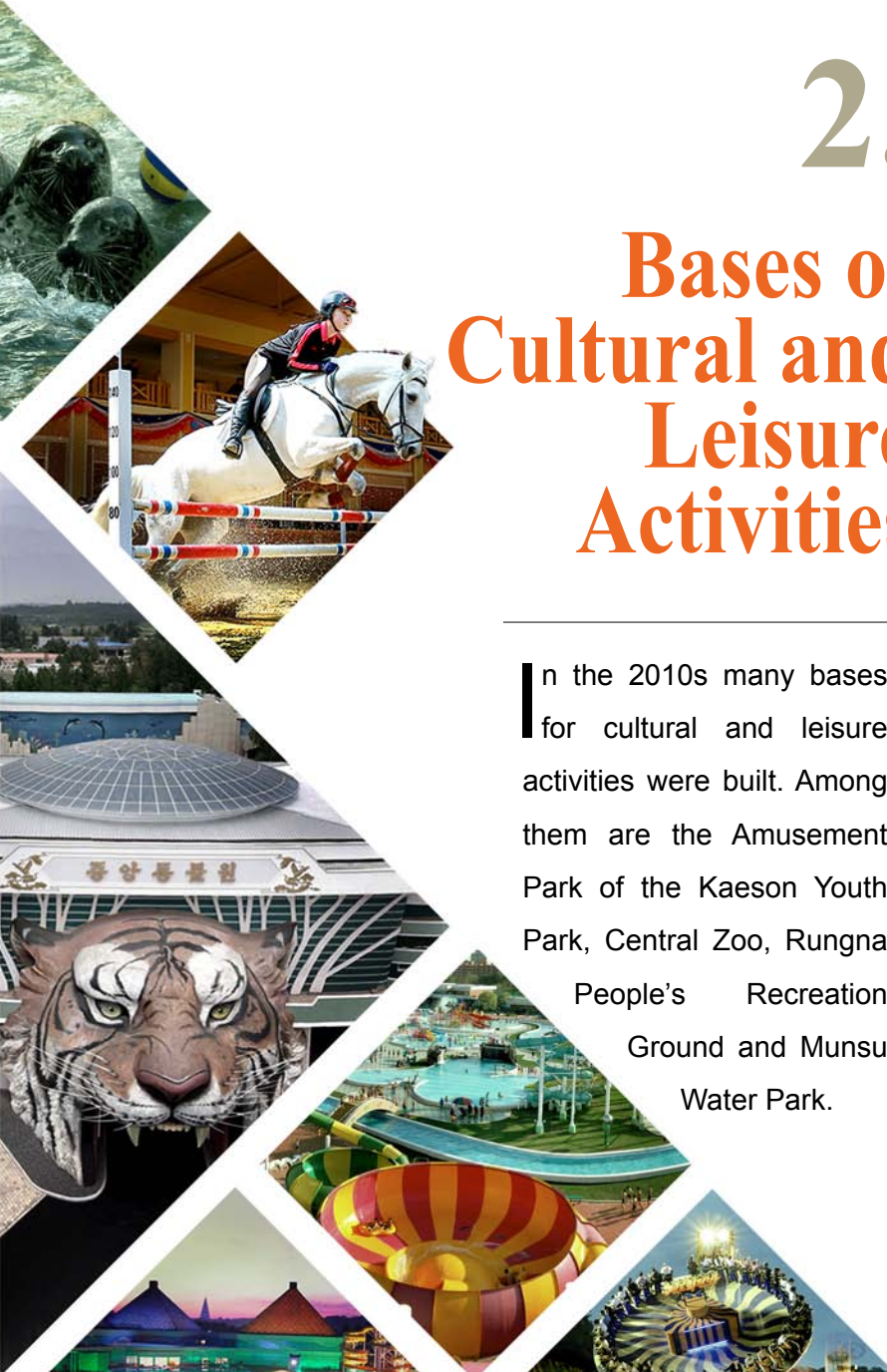
Cutting-edge science and technology are wonderfully combined with ecological environment protection technology, and the street is dotted with children's parks, volleyball and badminton courts and roller-skating grounds and covered with trees and flowers.

The night view of the street illuminated by LED lights is spectacular.

# 2.

## Bases of Cultural and Leisure Activities

In the 2010s many bases for cultural and leisure activities were built. Among them are the Amusement Park of the Kaeson Youth Park, Central Zoo, Rungna People's Recreation Ground and Munsu Water Park.



### Amusement Park of the Kaeson Youth Park

An eye-catching park is located at the foot of picturesque Moran Hill in Pyongyang—the Amusement Park of the Kaeson Youth Park, which adds beauty to the night view of Pyongyang







with excellent amusements and wonderful illuminations.

The park has many amusements including gyro drop, vertical swing and power surge.

The vertical swing which moves up to 240° from left to right is very popular among the riders and spectators.

People like most the gyro drop. The riders feel pleasant sensation as well as thrill when they are dropped from the height of over 40 metres at the speed of 15m per second, and the spectators cannot help themselves but laugh when they see different expression of the riders' faces.

The electronic recreation hall, equipped with over ten kinds of facilities for skeet shooting and for car and motorcycle racing, is a favourite haunt of schoolchildren.

The bakery and pastry counter serve beef hamburger, mineral water and different soft drinks.



## Central Zoo

The Central Zoo is situated at the foot of Mt Taesong in Pyongyang.

The zoo is a fruition of the affection of the WPK and the state

for the people.

President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il visited the zoo dozens of times.

In 2011 alone, the last year of his life, Kim Jong Il visited the zoo on two occasions.

Kim Jong Un visited the zoo several times, and had more than



## 2. Bases of Cultural and Leisure Activities

100 rare animals of scores of species sent to the zoo.

When he visited the zoo in May 2012, he looked round the several animal houses for long, giving the task of renovating the zoo to meet the physiological features of animals.

Not so many months later, the zoo was renovated into a cultural resort for the people.

When one enters the zoo, passing through the main entrance of the shape of tiger head, one can see a sturgeon pond which covers an area of 2 800m<sup>2</sup> in the central part. A sightseeing bridge, the floor of which is made of glass, crisscrossing the pond, a waterfall flowing from the cracks of a rock and drooping willow trees around the pond remind the visitors of a fairyland in a legendary tale.



The zoo has scores of animal enclosures including an aquarium, reptile house, aviary, beasts of prey houses, elephant and giraffe enclosures and penguin house.

Covering an area of over 100 hectares, the zoo keeps countless rare animals from five continents, ranging from small fishes and birds like black headed munia to big animals like





bear, rhinoceros and elephant.

The exterior and interior of animal houses are built to give the visitors a feeling that they were in the habitats of relevant animals.

A pipeline is installed to transport sea water to the aquarium. The front wall of the aquarium, covered with blue-coloured tiles, portrays the sea, and pieces of different colours of tiles depict dolphin and other fishes swimming in the water.

A mere glance of the outer appearance of the reptile house of the shape of a turtle with its head raised offers an impression that it is a house for reptiles.



The path in its interior is in the shape of a ring and every glass case has an information plate explaining the habitats of respective animals for the convenience of the visitors.

Over 100 pieces of equipment of nearly 30 kinds are in operation in the house, ensuring different temperatures and humidity in different parts and blowing 100 000m<sup>3</sup> of fresh air into it.

As a cylindrical building, the building is roofed with ball trusses covered with glass. The roof is favourable for cultivating plants by making use of the greenhouse effect.

In fact, cactus and banana trees, species unique to semi-desert and savanna, are growing in the districts of semi-desert and savanna parts in the house.

In the outdoor enclosure of monkeys, old, grown-up and young monkeys play harmoniously as if they were members of one family.



Opposite the house of four giraffes is a ball-shaped aviary, 25m high and 41.5m in diameter and covered with green glass. Beside it are aviaries for singing birds and birds of prey; the spacious aviaries are surrounded by wire mesh.

The tiger house keeps Korean tiger, white tiger, Bengal tiger,





white lion, Indian tiger and other animals of the cat family. The house has ten rooms divided by wire mesh, and the front side of each room is covered with transparent tempered glass so that visitors can vividly see the movements of animals.

The animal stunts show house, reminiscent of a small theatre, seals playground, resting areas and other facilities each boasts of its own characteristic style and form.

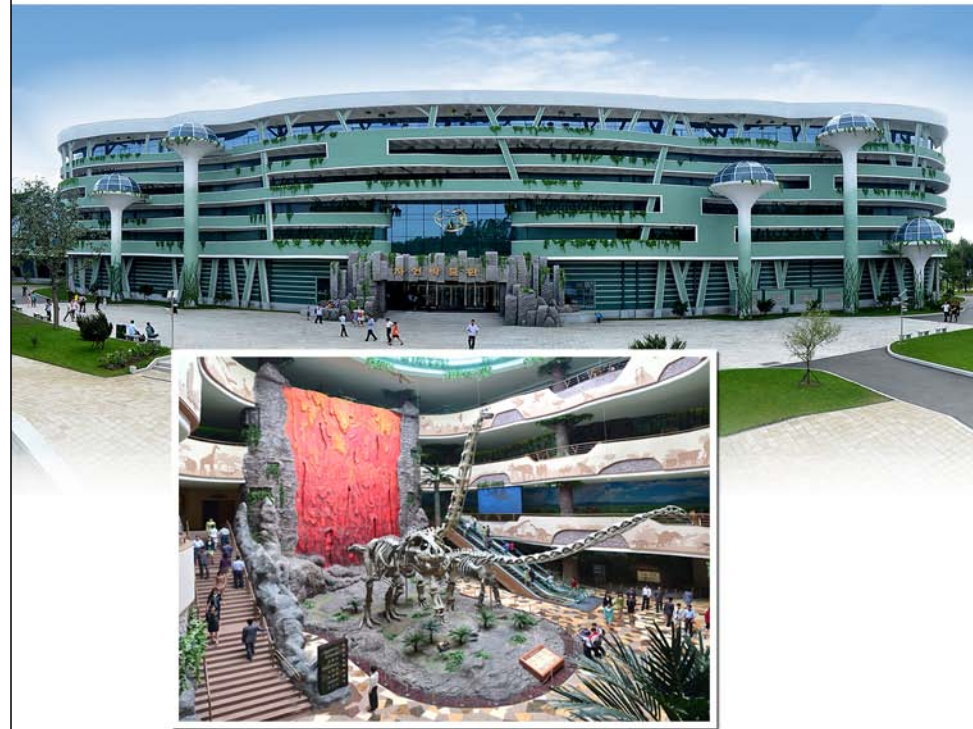
### Natural History Museum

Thanks to the far-reaching plan and energetic guidance of Kim Jong Un, the Natural History Museum was built at the foot of beautiful Mt Taesong in Pyongyang.

With a total floor space of 35 000m<sup>2</sup>, the museum has several halls for propagating a comprehensive knowledge of the history of space and the earth, origin of life and animals and plants.

Visitors can receive the service of guidance by lecturers and researchers, learning through the exhibits many-sided knowledge about natural phenomena and characteristics of animals and plants.

At the centre of the entrance hall are the skeletons of three



dinosaurs, most representative of those from the Mesozoic age, which had been known as a fantastical animal in the geological history. Around the skeletons are the environment of the Mesozoic age and the dioramas and models portraying dinosaurs.

The Space Hall of 500m<sup>2</sup> consists of the districts of evolution of space, solar system, astronomical phenomena and planetarium, which display the evolution of space, the formation of the solar system, the sun's influence on the earth, the time and date, the change of seasons, and constellations.



The Hall of Palaeobios introduces the change of global environment and the process of the evolution of life.

The room of palaeobios displays the photos of fossils presented to Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il and Kim Jong Un by the people of various countries of the world and different geological eras of 4.6 billion years from the time of the formation of the earth till today and representative biological creatures from different geological eras.

The District of the Mesozoic Era shows the various biota of this age, the prosperity and extinction of dinosaurs, the advent of birds, formation and division of the super continent, massive extinction of biological creatures in the end of this age in relation to the relevant geological eras.

The district consists of the Mesozoic era hall, dinosaur

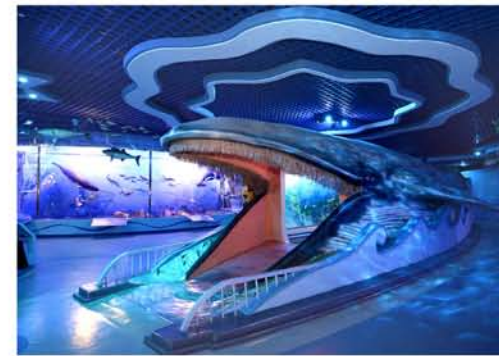
park, sea of the Mesozoic age, hall of the representative fossils of the Mesozoic age.

The District of the Cenozoic Era gives an understanding of the origin and evolution of mankind in relation to the relevant geological eras through diorama, drawings, fossils, models and multimedia presentation.

The Animal Hall gives a comprehensive knowledge of the kinds, ecology, distribution and protection of the animals on the earth.

The District of Animal Classification, by dividing the animals into invertebrate animals and vertebrate animals according to the level of their evolution, explains the characteristic features of animal communities, their representative species and the level of their evolution.

The District of Animals and Our Life shows the





## 2. Bases of Cultural and Leisure Activities

close relationship between animals and human life through stuffed specimens, goods and drawings.

The District of Protection of Animal Diversity explains the protection and the causes of extinction of animals by human activities through exhibits and diorama.

The Aquatic Weeds Hall displays marine weeds and fresh-water weeds that live through photosynthesis in the water.

The Botanic Hall gives a knowledge about the forms, structures, classification, distribution, ecology, protection of biodiversity and use of representative species of diversified plant communities, mushrooms and lichens.

The Hall of Liverwort and Bracken displays the models and photos of representative kinds of liverwort and bracken distributed in Korea and other countries of the world according to the order of their evolution.



The Gymnospermous Plant Hall displays the samples, photos and models of the representative gymnospermous plants in Korea and other countries and of their reproductive organs.

The Angiospermous Plant Hall displays samples, models, photos and drawings of major angiospermous plants including Kimilsungia, Kimjongilia and magnolia—national flower of the DPRK.

The Hall of the Forest of Mt Paektu Area and the Primeval Forest of Mt Oga vividly displays the characteristic features of the distribution of plants in these areas.

The Hall of Plant Protection and Wetland and Desert Plants, while giving a knowledge about plant protection, displays representative wetland and desert plants.

The Hall of Plants and Our Life displays the representative kinds and products of wood and fibre plants, oil plants, medical plants and fragrant plants.

The Hall of Mushrooms and Lichens displays the representative and special ones growing in Korea.

In addition, there are the Multimedia Appreciation Hall, Academic Conference Hall, Meeting Room, Exhibition Rooms, as well as soft drink and gift counters for the convenience of the visitors.

The museum that gives a diversified knowledge about nature and delight leaves a deep impression on the visitors.



## Rungna People's Recreation Ground

Rungna Island is on the picturesque Taedong River meandering the central part of Pyongyang.

Covering an area of about 1.3km<sup>2</sup>, the island is 6km around, 2.7km long and 0.5km at the widest, and lies in the northeast and

southwest directions. In the west, Moran Hill, a famous scenic spot in Pyongyang, rises by the shore of the Taedong River; in the east, there is Munsu Street lined with apartment houses built on a vast plain.

The island is called Rungna as its scenery is much attractive as the willow branches drooping over the Taedong look like silk threads strewn over crystal-clear water.

In April 1965 President Kim Il Sung, planting trees on the island,







Rungna Water Park

unfolded a far-reaching plan of turning it into a people's pleasure ground.

This signalled the start of the transformation of the island.

In the end of the 1980s the May Day Stadium with 150 000 seats and Rungna Bridge were built, connecting the banks of the river. And now the Rungna People's Recreation Ground, composed of a water park, amusement park and dolphinarium, has been built.

The Rungna Water Park has a wading pool, whose floors and walls are finished with blue tiles and a V-shaped jumping tower finished with white tiles. There are four tracks, the longest being 127m, and a steep water slide with the height 17.6m, an artificial high-pressure shower, a sandy area, and volleyball, basketball and





beach volleyball courts.

In the Rungna Dolphinarium with a seating capacity of 1 400, over eight dolphins display all kinds of stunts in the water tank

The tank is equipped with underwater acoustic and illuminating facilities and camera, and on the wall of the stage is a LED screen so that the spectators can see how dolphins jump and swim in the water.

The TV sets on the walls of the natural cave-style sci-tech dissemination area show the world of sea including the activities of different species of fishes.

The amusement park is divided into two sections.



Rungna Dolphinarium



The electronic recreation hall and minigolf course, which go well with the natural environment of the island, serve as venues of cultural and leisure activities for the working people.

Wonderful is the sight of Rungna Island not only in daylight but also at night when it is illuminated by various kinds of lights.

In 2012 alone, Kim Jong Un visited the construction site of the recreation ground several times, guiding the efforts for turning the island into a cultural resort for the people.



## Thongilgori Fitness Centre

In early May 2012 Kim Jong Un visited a building which was under construction in Thongil Street in Pyongyang.

That day he instructed that the building should be turned into a fitness centre for the masses of the working people.

The facility with a total floor space of 13 749m<sup>2</sup> has scores of kinds of equipment for medical treatment and sports.

There are equipment for exercises in running, bicycle riding, leg muscle, arm muscle and other equipment that can be used according to one's aptitudes, physical constitution, age and health status in the fitness and rehabilitation halls.

There are equipment including multi-purpose massager for women, those for the elderly and persons with disabilities and





those for physiotherapy to relieve the physical fatigue after the exercises.

Also popular are the service the centre offers to inform the people of their physical and health conditions, relevant sports therapies, and the intensity and frequency of exercises needed.

The butterfly-style breast muscle training equipment and other types of equipment are enjoyed by people over 50 years of age and white-collar workers who are prone to cervical spondylosis, neuralgia, indigestion, etc.

## Ryugyong Health Complex

Pyongyang was once called Ryugyong for there were many willows (*Ryu* means willow and *gyong*, city).

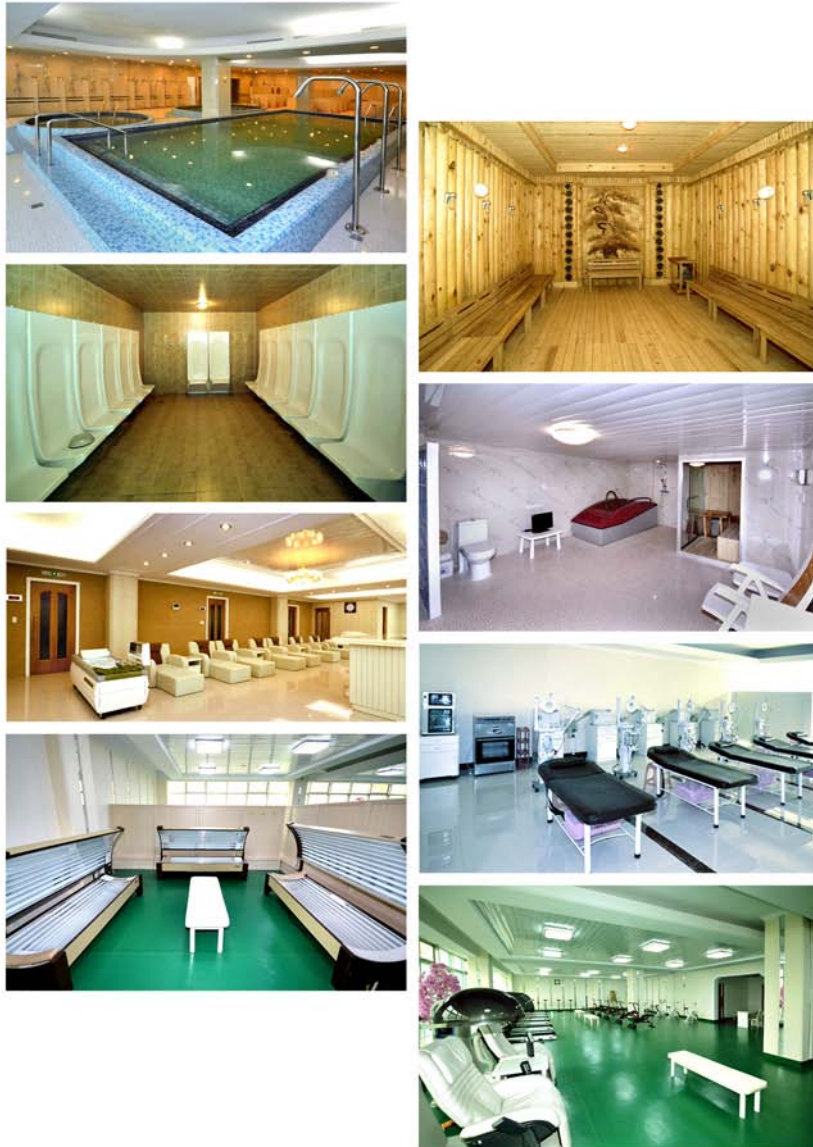
In November 2012, the Ryugyong Health Complex, built on the bank of the Taedong, was inaugurated.

The health complex, with a wave-style roof that matches the scenery of the Taedong riverside, sustains its architectural beauty with all its elements looking fresh, immaculate and beautiful from the hall of the first floor, whose floor and walls are decorated with mild-coloured tiles and whose spaces between the columns are finished in an artistic way.

The four-storeyed complex with a basement can accommodate 7 000 guests a day. It has public, individual and family bathrooms,







sports therapy room, barber's, beauty salon, amusement hall, restaurant, soft drink counters and underground parking lot.

There are high-pressure water showers, different forms of tanks of different water temperature, tanks with equipment for underwater jets, saunas of different types and even cooling rooms in the public bathrooms.

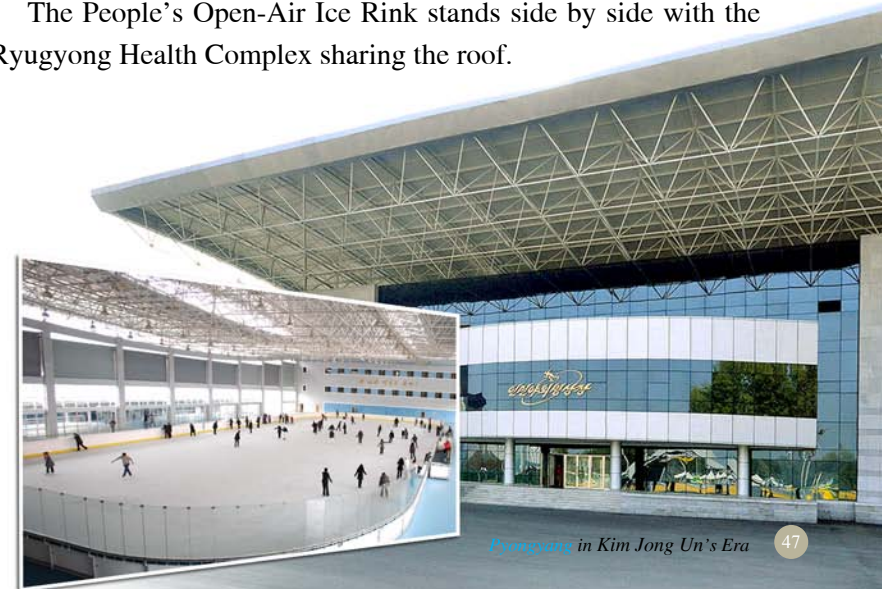
All the facilities are so designed to accommodate the needs of the visitors to the maximum.

Kim Jong Un visited the complex three times when it was under construction, and gave his opinions on how to build it in such a way that it can serve the people perfectly.

The complex is offering wonderful services all the year round.

### Four-Season Skating Grounds

The People's Open-Air Ice Rink stands side by side with the Ryugyong Health Complex sharing the roof.



## 2. Bases of Cultural and Leisure Activities

With a total floor space of 6 469m<sup>2</sup>, it has a skating hall of 1 800m<sup>2</sup>, skate rental desk, changing room and clinic.

The iced floor does not get melt even in hot summer days.

A roller rink of a unique style stands next to the ice rink.

Its area is 13 300m<sup>2</sup>, and it can accommodate 2 000 people a

day. Its main track of oval type is 225.6m long and 10m wide.

In the rink equipped with floodlights for roller skating in the evening, there are also roller-hockey ground, skills practising ground and a service network of roller-skate rental desk, changing room and soft drink counter.

The skills practising ground with a circle track and divided into several areas with different structures, looks characteristic with the people showing off their wonderful skills.



The Roller Rink





## Munsu Water Park

This multi-functional water park is in the Munsu area easy of access in downtown Pyongyang.

There had been a small pleasure ground here by the Taedong River; it was completely removed and a water park was built in its place.



With a total floor space of 100 000m<sup>2</sup>, it consists of an outdoor wading area, indoor wading area and gym.

The glass-roofed indoor wading area is a two-storeyed building.

On the first floor are various forms of wading pools including those for women and children, saunas and showers, and on the second floor are public catering and welfare service facilities.

The area with the natural light effect of the sun is in no way





different from the outdoor wading area.

There are many slides spiralling upward along white columns. It takes only about 20 seconds to slide down along the longest slide.

There are also wave pools which create the feeling of having a sea bathing, and a shop selling swimming kits and other sports instruments, showers and 9 saunas with special therapeutic effect.

The walls of the salt saunas are filled with 2-3kg of salt stones containing scores of kinds of trace elements.

When the temperature goes up, dust-like particles of the salt float in the air, getting stuck on the body and removing inflammation. This type of sauna is efficacious against neuralgia and for relieving fatigue. There are two such salt saunas in the water park.

There are two other saunas, good for the treatment of obesity and inflammation. The walls and floors of the saunas are filled with other balls which emanate far-infrared rays and microwaves at a certain temperature.

There are also saunas whose ceilings and walls are covered with hard charcoal, wooden plates that smell resin and agate bricks, as







well as ice rooms and oxygen rooms.

Conspicuous in the outdoor wading area are steep slides.

There are other slides of various types and functions—one which gives the feeling of being in the river water and sea alternately, another which gives the feeling of being on a speedboat on the wild sea, and still another which gives the feeling of being dragged into an endless labyrinth.

The ten pools of different sizes are spectacular as well.

A seawater pool, water pool several hundred metres long and the children's park resembling a fairy world are all impeccable.

There are a man-made waterfall and hill resembling the

mysterious Mts Myohyang and Kumgang.

There is a cave under the rocky hill with several life-size animal sculptures.

There are many slides—one as high as 20m, a simple one for children, steep and gentle ones, ones with long and short tracks, and ones that need and need not a rubber mat.

There are a swimming pool, a wave pool, a supersonic wave pool, etc.

It would take a considerable amount of time to try all these pools.

In the gym there are a volleyball court, a basketball court, a badminton court, trampoline and cliff-hanging facilities.



## 2. Bases of Cultural and Leisure Activities

There is also a fitness centre furnished with various types of equipment.

In the outdoors there are a basketball court, a badminton court, a roller rink and other physical training areas.

There are catering and other public welfare service facilities in the water park.

The soft drink counters on the first and second floors in the indoor wading area serve various snacks and soft drinks including coffee.



The guests cool their bodies with cold beer and various kinds of bread at the pubs and bakeries.

The water park is also furnished with a gifts shop, facial and massage rooms, barber's, beauty salon and ultraviolet treatment room.

Kim Jong Un went over the master plan of the water park on 113 occasions, and gave on-site guidance during its construction several times.





## Mirim Riding Club

The Mirim Riding Club in a suburb of Pyongyang is furnished with all the conditions and environment necessary for learning and doing horse riding.

The outdoor training ground is 2 000m long and it consists of earth-and-sand track and lawn track.

In the broad area in the middle part of the main riding track there is a man-made hill, lake, waterfall and promenade track.

Inside the relaxation tent, you will feel as if you are in a deep forest as all the elements including tables and chairs are made with wood smelling the fragrance of resin.



There are scores of service buildings for horse riding.

The outer wall of the riding knowledge learning space is finished as if it were built with log. Here amateur riders learn the characteristics of horses, the methods of training horses, the trend of horse riding and other knowledge related with horse riding.

The guests can borrow necessary riding kits at the rental station.

The relaxation centre has a fitness room, a massage parlour and special bathrooms.

What is most popular in this centre is the chair-style whole body masseur.

There is a veterinary hospital and breeding institute in the club.

## 2. Bases of Cultural and Leisure Activities

These facilities, perfect in the architectural style and content, has not been included in the original design, but were built according to the instructions of Kim Jong Un.

The veterinary hospital is equipped with all the facilities necessary for the treatment and resuscitation of horses—an X-ray



room, ultrasonography room, operation theatre, general treatment room and inpatient sheds.

The horses that come to the veterinary hospital get a shower first, get dried, and then go through check-up and treatment.

The horses have their blood pressure and temperature measured in the general treatment room, and go through the haemocyte test and biochemistry check in the laboratory.

The inpatient sheds are furnished with the necessary equipment for monitoring the horses on a regular basis.

The breeding institute has a horse-keeping research room, a harness research room and a breed research room.

The breeding research room engages in studying the grasses that are good for breeding horses, their nutritional value and medical herbs for horses.

The harness research room studies the ways of making the horse harness like saddle, bridle, bit and tread convenient to both the rider and the horse.

The breed research room is intensifying its work on the basis of breeding a thoroughbred through artificial fertilization.

Many people come to the club for horse riding, and competitions of amateurs are held on a regular basis.

Kim Jong Un visited the construction site of the club several times, in the daytime and even at night, to give detailed instructions about the direction and ways of its construction.



# 3. Unique Architectural Structures



Over the last decade, a large number of buildings have been built in Pyongyang, unique both in their exterior and interior designs.

Here we introduce the People's Theatre named after the word *people*, the apartment houses for educationists of Kim Il Sung University, which, unlike other apartment houses, have gardens at regular intervals of floors, and the Sci-Tech Complex, peculiar in its shape of an atomic structure.

## People's Theatre

In Pyongyang there are many buildings that are named after the word *people*.

The People's Theatre inaugurated in 2012 is one of such monumental edifices.

President Kim Il Sung, in his lifetime, saw to it that many public buildings were named after the word *people*, and Chairman Kim Jong Il, saying that a modern theatre named after that word, should be built for posterity, ensured that it was built in the best place of Mansu Hill in the central part of Pyongyang and named it People's Theatre when he proposed the construction of Changjon Street in 2011, the last year of his life, a project which he had conceived for a long time.





The theatre blends well with Changjon Street.

Built in a style completely different from its predecessors, it covers an area of over 50 000m<sup>2</sup> and its total floor space is over 15 000 m<sup>2</sup>.

It has a 1 500-seat natural acoustic auditorium with open stage, 500-seat underground auditorium, up-to-date stage sets, practising and dressing rooms and public welfare service

facilities including an underground car park. They provide optimal conditions for creative workers, performers and audiences.

In particular, the 1 500-seat auditorium has seats arranged around the open stage so that the audience can enjoy the performance from different angles. The LED screens ensure closer relationship between the audiences and performers.

Also, the shell-shaped ceiling of the natural acoustic auditorium, conveniently-arranged seats, glow lamps of unique illumination effect, characteristic air-conditioning system and flower-patterned carpets laid along the halls and aisles contribute to the flawless features of the theatre.

The 500-seat underground auditorium is equipped with a glass-walled lift.

The theatre is a venue of performances by several renowned art troupes of the DPRK.

In the natural acoustic auditorium there were VIP seats in the centre. Kim Jong Un saw to it that the seats were removed and saw a performance in an ordinary seat.

### Apartment Buildings for Educationists of Kim Il Sung University

At Ryonghung Crossroads are the twin apartment blocks for educationists of Kim Il Sung University.

Vertical lines of tempered glass patches stretch across the middle part of the outer walls, and the other parts are decorated with tiles of multiple colours in a harmonious and symmetric pattern; the roof is finished in a peculiar way. All these add to the formative beauty of the buildings.

The apartment buildings embody the great trust and expectation of the Workers' Party of Korea





### 3. Unique Architectural Structures

that Kim Il Sung University will not only bring up capable sci-tech talents in large numbers but also achieve a greater success in its educational and research work.

The twin buildings are 44- and 36-storeyed each. Inside are also laundry, bathhouse and other public welfare facilities and around them is a small park.

Every flat has five rooms, a kitchen, a storeroom and even a corridor, covering more than 200m<sup>2</sup> in total.

The entrance of the drawing room is decorated with a gentle arch and two pillars. The flats are fully furnished with quality furniture and utensils.

There are resting areas on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> floors in the 36-storeyed building and on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> floors in the 44-storeyed one. At these areas, which have lawn and flower beds like outdoor gardens, residents play chess, *yut* game and other leisure activities or study.

The apartment buildings were inaugurated in October 2013. Kim Jong Un visited their construction site several times for their excellent completion. On the inauguration day he looked around the completed flats, congratulated the new residents and posed for a photograph with them.

### Sci-Tech Complex

Ssuk Island on the Taedong River, along with Rungna and Yanggak islands, is a pride of Pyongyang.

Here stands the Sci-Tech Complex which reflects the policy of the WPK on making all the people well-versed in science and

technology and which the people of the DPRK call a great temple of learning for all the people in the new century.

Covering a total floor space of 106 600m<sup>2</sup>, the complex has a unique shape of an atomic structure, a symbol of science.



### 3. Unique Architectural Structures

Furnished with geothermal cooling and heating systems, and natural lighting system which makes the most effective use of sunlight, it has comprehensive and systematic online database of sci-tech books published so far and up-to-date scientific and technological achievements recorded at home and abroad as befits its mission of a comprehensive e-library.

The Sci-Tech Complex is a multi-functional diffusion hub of latest science and technology and a base of social education with ten indoor exhibition halls and an outdoor exhibition area.

The floors are arranged in a circular form with a lounge in the centre, where there is a model of a launch vehicle of an artificial satellite.

There are many e-reading areas where visitors can have access to profound principles and methods of science and technology, a children's dream hall and exhibition halls of various themes



including the history of sci-tech development, cutting-edge science and technology, basic sciences, applied science and technology, and scientific study. The halls are equipped with many interactive exhibits.

There are also areas for persons with disabilities, animations, new publications, online lectures, science films and academic discussion.

In the sci-tech exhibition area are branch-specific halls that provide an insight into the successes achieved by humanity, the laws of the natural world and principles of the relevant branches of science and technology.

Outside there are study sites and exhibition areas on the themes of future energy and scientific recreation. The hotel built around it in good harmony with the surroundings can accommodate 500 guests.

The Sci-Tech Complex, as a multi-functional diffusion hub of modern science and technology and an information exchange centre, enables all the sectors and units and even families across the country to gain access to real-time, convenient service via national network and to exchange necessary sci-tech data with one another.

Kim Jong Un, who proposed its building and paid close attention to the whole process of its construction, personally cut the tape at the inauguration ceremony of the complex on January 1, 2016.





# 4.

## Newly-Built Medical Service Bases

Several modern hospitals have been built in the Munsu area of Pyongyang, turning it into a hospital village.



## Okryu Children's Hospital

With a total floor space of 32 800m<sup>2</sup>, the Okryu Children's Hospital was inaugurated in October 2013.

The treatment rooms, operating theatres and wards are equipped with the state-of-the-art facilities and there are also playgrounds, rest areas and classrooms.

The six-storeyed building which looks like a model made of small plastic toy-bricks adds to the architectural beauty, conforming to the children's psychology. The fact that it faces the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital is suggestive of a baby in the bosom of its mother and arouses a feeling of affection and snugness.

On the front wall of the entrance hall hangs an acrylic painting



*We Are the Happiest in the World* portraying children playing cheerfully under the blue sky. All the other interior walls of the hospital are dotted with more than 1 700 paintings based on Korean animations and world-famous storybooks.

Several indoor playgrounds and rest areas have many items of playing equipment including a slide.

There is even a helipad on the roof to promptly transport young patients from far-away places.

The young in-patients here have their names recorded not only in their health records but also in the roll books of the hospital classrooms so that they can make up for the lessons they have missed while they are in hospital.

Every ward is furnished with multi-functional beds, a TV set and a small fridge .

Kim Jong Un, in July 2013, gave on-spot guidance to the construction site of the hospital despite the pouring rain. In October that year, he again visited the hospital nearing its completion and named it Okryu Children's Hospital.



## Ryugyong Dental Hospital

The Ryugyong Dental Hospital is no less inferior to the Okryu Children's Hospital.

The formative and artistic beauty is ensured, and it is furnished with world-class dental care equipment.

In all the treatment rooms each dentist's chair is separated by a curtain to provide hygienic, cultured and emotional environment.

Surgical, Endodontic, X-ray and Prosthesis departments are all well-appointed. In particular, the Pediatric Dental Department decorated with characteristic wallpaper and conspicuous lighting from the ceiling appeal to the psychology of the young patients,



and the children's playing area is equipped with different kinds of playthings.

The hospital has also a shop and pharmacy that serve many kinds of medicines and tools for dental hygiene.

In July 2013

Kim Jong Un gave on-spot guidance to the construction of the hospital despite the pouring rain, and in September, when it was nearing completion, acquainted himself with the preparations for its operation on the spot. In March 2014 he paid a visit again to the hospital in operation to see first-hand how the patients were receiving medical treatment.



## Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital

In October 2016 the Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital opened to the public in the hospital village in the Munsu area.

It is a multi-functional ophthalmic care facility with a four-storeyed out-patient ward, an eight-storeyed in-patient ward and a shop that calibrates and manufactures various kinds of spectacles.

A big eye portrayed on the front wall of the out-patient building and an eyesight test chart on the outer wall of the in-patient building visually indicate that it is a hospital specializing in eye diseases.



The examination rooms and wards are furnished in a high level of practicability and convenience.

As an energy-saving green building, it has geothermal cooling and heating systems, solar panels and a roof garden for in-patients.

The spectacles shop sells various kinds of glasses, their parts and optical instruments and has well-equipped rooms for eyesight test, calibration and processing.

Kim Jong Un paid close attention to the hospital, visiting it when it was under construction and when its construction was nearing completion.







## 5. Buildings for the Coming Generations

In Pyongyang there are many buildings of lasting significance, including those for children such as the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace, a base of extracurricular education for schoolchildren, and a babyhome, orphanage, primary school and middle school, cradles for orphans.





## Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace

The Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace is a base of extracurricular education for schoolchildren, which was built under the concern of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government.

It was built in 1989 and renovated afterward as a monumental edifice as demanded by the new century.

It is composed of a science zone consisting of rooms for the computer, physics and other groups, an art zone consisting of rooms

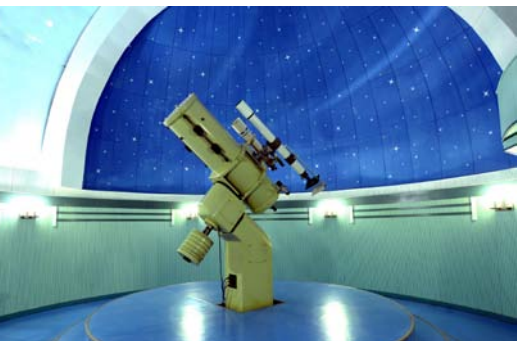


for the embroidery, calligraphy, *kayagum*, accordion and vocal music groups, traditional musical instrument and electric and electronic musical instrument practising areas, as well as a theatre, gym, swimming pool, dormitory and other facilities necessary for the education and living of schoolchildren.

The exterior, which had been finished with terrazzo plastering, is now covered with granite slabs of







nearly 77 000m<sup>2</sup>, adding weightiness and grandeur to the building.

The interior has also been renovated wonderfully.

In particular, the theatre, which has been renovated as befits the one for children who are regarded as kings in the country, is no less inferior to the theatres for professional art troupes.

In the Science Hall there is a large-scale relief map of Korea and a model of a satellite launch vehicle, and its ceiling is portrayed with decorations depicting the Milky Way.

The Art Hall is also laid out as suited to the children's psychology, and is perfect enough for the children to present their artistic skills.

The roof of the



swimming pool was raised when it was undergoing renovation, so that it can host even international games.

Others including the library, electronic recreation hall, astronomy learning space and the gift animal specimen exhibition room are laid out well, and there is an area for practising vehicle driving in the outside.

Kim Jong Un gave instructions on its renovation project on more than 180 occasions and went over 250 formation plans, giving his opinions on how to finish the project on the highest level possible.

## Pyongyang Baby Home and Orphanage

The Pyongyang Baby Home and Orphanage was built by the Taedong under the care of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government. These facilities are resemblant of a fairy world as the peculiar architectural beauty, the inner court, the park and the green area around them present a wonderful combination.

Built in a few months after the start of their construction, not only the outside but also the furniture, equipment and others necessary for learning and living by the orphans are all laid out as suited to the children's psychological world.

The baby home is furnished with all the conditions for the upbringing and education of the babies, including a kitchen equipped with various utensils, cosy inner court, indoor swimming pool, sandy area for sun bathing, outdoor swimming pool equipped



Pyongyang Baby Home



Pyongyang Orphanage

with showers and hospital.

In particular, the artistically characteristic inner court is built to be conducive to exposing the body to the sun and wind as an exercise.

The inside of the characteristically-shaped orphanage looks like a fairy world as the moon, star, flowers and children's picture are portrayed on the ceilings and walls in accordance with the juvenile psychology of the children.







All the facilities including playground, indoor and outdoor wading pools, barber's and medical ward as well as playing areas, bedrooms, washrooms, restaurant and recreation hall are all furnished with necessary conditions including furniture, sporting goods and playthings.

The children are provided by the state with clothes, schoolthings, footwear and other daily necessities, all free of charge.

In October 2014, visiting the baby home and orphanage, Kim Jong Un expressed his satisfaction with the splendid architectural structures; he visited the facilities several times later, spending his precious time with the children.

### Pyongyang Secondary School for Orphans

After the completion of the Pyongyang Baby Home and Orphanage, Pyongyang Secondary School for Orphans was built on the highest level of educational environment and living conditions.

The school is most standardized across the country in the aspect of educational environment.

The school is composed of a swimming pool, gym, dormitory,



management and subsidiary buildings as well as a school building with scores of classrooms, laboratory and practising rooms.

All the classrooms are multifunctional and IT-based and furnished with various convenient and good-looking teaching aids.

The labs and practising rooms including the chemistry and physics labs, music and dance room, sewing, cooking and basic techniques practising rooms are built on the highest level to bring the children's talents into full bloom.

Various kinds of visual aids including those treated in the

## 5. Buildings for the Coming Generations

subjects of mathematics, physics, foreign language, chemistry and biology are put up on the walls.

The school building, dormitory and gym are linked by corridors for the convenience of the students.

The dormitory is so wonderful that visitors call it a hotel.

In July 2016, when visiting the school, Kim Jong Un said that the school officials and teachers should devote themselves to the education of the students with pure conscience and a sense of obligation, stressing that whether the students were trained to be the pillars of the country or not depended on them.

### Pyongyang Primary School for Orphans

In February 2017, Pyongyang Primary School for Orphans, situated next to Pyongyang Middle School for Orphans with a fence in between, was inaugurated.

Visiting the newly-built school, Kim Jong Un said: We should bring up the orphans well so as to produce from among them



talented persons; a talented person is not someone that is presented to us on a silver platter; we should train all the orphans as the masters of the future and pillars of the revolution so that we can entrust the future of the country to them.

The school, situated next to Pyongyang Secondary School for Orphans, which consists of a school building, a dormitory and an outdoor playground, is furnished with all the conditions for giving elementary general knowledge and sports and art education.

All the classrooms are multifunctional and IT-based as befits a unit of primary education.

Put up on the walls of corridors are various kinds of juvenile pictures for visual scientific education.

The dormitory is furnished with bedrooms, a dining hall, barber's and doctor's station.



## **Pyongyang in Kim Jong Un's Era**

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