# New Life
# in Transformed Regions



**Foreign Languages Publishing House**
**DPR Korea**
**2026**

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# Preface

A new dynamic era has been ushered in on this land.

History records new days of civilization, in which the realms for the people's welfare are constantly expanding and great changes are taking place in different parts of the country.

The Workers' Party of Korea, which holds the people as high as heaven, is steadily updating the blueprint for prosperity and the signpost of advance to continue to bring about eye-opening changes.

Everybody in the country, wherever he or she lives, from the capital city of Pyongyang to the out-of-the-way mountainous areas and the far-flung islands, enjoys a civilized life. This is the fruition of the people-first politics that can be administered only in socialist Korea.

The structures mushrooming in all parts of the country and the people's laughter resounding there clearly demonstrate the truth and vitality of the Party's policies. In the new era of comprehensive national development, not only the people but also the places they are living in are changing.

Witnessing the reality of the country, the people are fully convinced that a more beautiful future is awaiting them.

The Editorial Board carries a travelogue about the breath of the vibrant times.

## The Place Where Dawn Breaks over Korea

Our journey started on Mt Paektu.

The mountain is associated with the history of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle organized and led by President Kim Il Sung; the glorious revolutionary traditions of the Party created by the anti-Japanese revolutionary forerunners are rooted here.

It was early May, when all things come back to life.

We climbed up the top of the mountain, breaking through the blizzards characteristic of the mountain.

At half past five, Janggun (2 750m), which is the highest of the peaks on the mountain, began to be tinted with the glow of the rising sun.

The mountain, embracing a vast area of forests, seemed to be commanding a bird's-eye view of the whole country as far as Mt Songak on the southern border, connecting the mountains and rivers of the whole country.

To the east, there are the Musan Mining Complex, a leading iron ore producer, the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex, a major iron and steel production base, and Hamhung, a famous industrial city of the country, and the East Sea of Korea beyond. To the west, there are the city of Sinuiju and Uiju County, where a large-scale greenhouse farm and Vegetable Science Research Centre have been built, and Sukchon and Mundok counties, main granaries of the country, as well as vast expanses of the Jaeryong Namuri and Yonbaek plains.

As we decided to convey the epochal changes in the country, we thought that it was quite natural for us to start our journey from the mountain.

As the sun rays covered the mountain, we went down it.

Braving the knee-deep snow and blizzards, we recalled the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters who had waged an arduous struggle in the mountain in order to win back the country from the Japanese imperialists.



Overcoming the freezing cold and severe snowstorms and fighting bloody battles, the fighters had brought the day of national liberation. Though they could not live to see the day of liberation, they had dedicated their lives for the happy future of the coming generations.

It must be the present reality of the country, which they had pictured in their mind at the last moment of their lives.

We could see an expedition marching up Mt Paektu, flying the red flag in the vanguard. The expedition continued to stream to the mountain









to learn from the revolutionary spirit of Paektu cherished by the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters; it can be called a new landscape of the new era.

Some days ago, we met those from different units, who had visited revolutionary battle sites in the area of Mt Paektu.

Among them were an artist who expressed his lack of talent to depict the scene of the change in the city of Samjiyon, the first "village" at the foot of Mt Paektu, and a worker who told his determination to bring about greater innovations, always remembering the majestic appearance of Mt Paektu. Though different in occupation and age, they shared one aspiration to stand in the vanguard in the new era keeping in mind the revolutionary spirit of Mt Paektu.

What approached us as we climbed down the mountain was Samjiyon, a renovated city with apartment houses sustaining national identity, modernity and the northern alpine regional features, factories, commercial service facilities and sports and leisure establishments encapsulating socialist civilization.

An elderly, a native of the city, said:

"Before the liberation of the country, people came here to live by slash and burn farming, but most of them left it as they found it hard to eke a living. However, it changed under the leadership of the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, and today, according to the plan of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, it has turned into a beautiful mountain town. Now the people in Hyesan, the provincial seat, are envious of us."

His tale continued: An elderly, who had come to see her daughter, decided to live in the city; girls from plain areas got married to the young men in this mountainous region. Here we see an increasing number of visitors from Pyongyang and other parts of the country.

The changes in Samjiyon were the first of those we saw on our journey through the country.



## Looking Up to Mt Paektu

After leaving Samjiyon, we headed for Kim Hyong Jik County.

The county suffered from flooding in 2024. We wanted to see the reality of the county in the strong trend of epochal changes–the flood damage in the year was removed; new houses were built; and regional-industry factories, the first result of the Regional Development 20×10 Policy of the WPK, were raised to boost production.

When we arrived at the county seat after driving scores of miles from Samjiyon along a mountain road, it was evening. What greeted us first were brightly-lit new houses and regional-industry factories.

The locals told us with pride about the factories.

The bean paste from the foodstuff factory was so savoury that they were freed from the chore of making it at home. It also freed them from the need for salt, which was difficult to get as they were living far from the sea. The laundry soap produced by the daily necessities factory was as good as those produced by centrally-run factories.

One woman said:

"Honestly, I was envious of my relatives in a city, so I was going to marry my children to those in a city. But the envy has completely disappeared as the urban life has become reality in our mountain village. I will bring up my children well so that they can bring their home village into full bloom."

Leaving behind the factories that turn out goods with locally-available raw materials, we walked along the roads in the county seat.

At new houses we could hear people saying that they were leading a happy life in the new era; at shops we could see the locals buying various goods with their regional brands.

The next morning our van ran along the Amnok River towards Hyesan.

As it had rained at dawn, the trees looked greener.

At last we arrived at Kim Jong Suk County. The regional-industry factories there, embodying modernity, scientific character, practicality and aesthetic beauty, were turning out foodstuffs, garments and daily necessities.

Here, too, we could hear the locals say proudly about the products of their region.

As we were leaving the county seat, the blue waves of the Amnok seemed to be whispering: These days everything is undergoing transformation beyond imagination.

Running along the road we could often see new rural houses standing in harmony with the landscape of the river.

A few hours later, while crossing Ryongsong Pass, we could see some young people maintaining the road.

We got out of the van and met them.

They told us that they had pride in maintaining the road that had witnessed the change of their county, adding:






"We live near Mt Paektu."

Then we reached the Samsu Forestry Station.

We saw the lumberjacks getting on a truck for their workplace.

One of them said to his wife:

"I will carry out my task by 200 percent this time, too."

After a while we entered the lumberjacks' village.

We could hear light music from the face-lifted hall of culture, and see people coming out of the leisure complex.

We went to see the kindergarten, as well.

The teachers told us that dairy produce, fruits and confectionery are supplied to the children helping them grow up as healthily as those in the urban area.

We did not stay there for long, but we felt that the living of the people in the mountainous area was also changing considerably.

We got on a bus for Kapsan County.

Sitting by us was a man, who looked to be just over 70 years old.

When we introduced ourselves, he started saying.

"In the old days our county was a byname of poverty. But now it has become a flourishing one. Saphyong-ri is my home village. In recent years, it has reaped good harvests, and new houses have been built there. To repay the benevolence of the state, I still go to the fields to help farming. Last year, too, my children received large shares in autumn."

After looking around the county seat, we went to Pochon County, the next leg of our journey in Ryanggang Province.

This is a place where a historic battle took place against the Japanese aggressors over 80 years ago as was organized by Comrade Kim Il Sung.

Standing along the bank of the Karim Stream, where he commanded the battle, were new houses. Tractors were seen ploughing the fields.

An official, whom we met at the construction site of a Koryo medicine factory that the county was building by its efforts, said:

"Our region is associated with the flames of Pochonbo that heralded

the dawn of national liberation for our people. It is the unanimous desire of the officials and workers in my county to make the flames of regional development flare up higher."

Convinced that their desire would come true soon, we left for Paegam County.

## Enthusiasm for Farming

Our van left the county seat of Paegam early in the morning, and ran to Namsol Pass which rises 1 762 metres above sea level.

We decided to continue our journey along the Hamgyong Mountains as we heard that many farms in the mountainous regions had gathered bumper harvests in recent years despite the unfavourable conditions, and turned out in high spirits to reap another bumper harvest this year, too.

Near the pass, where the country's second longest mountains starts, was the Yanggok Farm, Paegam County, famous for having harvested far more potatoes than the average yield in the unit area in recent years.

A scene unique to a northern alpine area spread in front of us–dense forests, then tractors spraying the nutritional solution in the potato fields and then dense forests.

Soon a village appeared–the village of Workteam No. 2 of the Yanggok Farm.

The workteam leader told us that his workteam members had finished potato planting in time despite unfavourable weather conditions, adding that other workteams had also done so.

In the field, we met a county official who was there to help potato farming. He said all the farms, numbering over a dozen, in the county finished potato planting in time.

Thanks to the sweats shed by such honest-minded farmers, the county, formerly known as a land unfit for human habitation, had turned into a place famous for potato farming.

The van reached Yonsa County, North Hamgyong Province, after passing through Sodusu-ri and Undok-ri, Paegam County, Ryanggang Province.

Yonsa County is a remote area surrounded by high and low mountains including Thugu Peak, the main peak in the Hamgyong Mountains, and Mt Tojong. Though it is unfavourable for farming in the natural and geographical aspects, it has carried out its grain production plan without fail in recent years.

At the Sinjang Farm, its manager, wiping the sweat off the brow in a field, said:

"As it will become clear some months later, my farm will gather a rich harvest this year, too."

When we asked him the secret, he told us the following story.

The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK, held in December 2021, took an exceptional measure of completely exempting the then cooperative farms from the arrears of state loans as part of important measures to consolidate the economic foundations of the rural communities.

When the whole country was full of excitement, those at the farm were full of regret as their farm had liquidated the loans from the state just a few days before.

As they were still regretting having repaid the loans earlier, they were told that Comrade Kim Jong Un, General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and President of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, adopted a measure of returning the full amount of arrears to the farms that had already paid their loans back to the state.

The news came as a great surprise to all the farmers in Yonsa County.

The manager said, "We are very ashamed of ourselves for having been utterly self-centred. To be frank, we kept complaining without

considering how heavy a burden the state has to bear is. We have a really guilty conscience about it."

After a pause, he went on, "All the farmers have since become completely changed in their attitudes. They have worked hard to repay the state for its benevolent measure. As they help and lead one another forward, our farm has reaped a rich harvest of potatoes year after year."

Listening to what he had to say, we realized once again that the Party's trust and affection are mental sustenance for all the working people in the country.

Our journey continued over the hills and ridges in the city of Hoeryong. Our next destination was Wangjaesan-ri, Onsong County, which is located at the foot of Mt Wangjae on the edge of the 350km-long Hamgyong Mountains.

As we reached this northern tip of the country, a rural village of 420 or so new houses came in sight. As we were admiring the scenery, an old man with a straw hat on was seen approaching where we were standing.

We said hello and talked to him about the amazing scenery.

The man said that he was over 80, adding, "In reference to a startling transformation, our ancestors said that a mulberry field has turned into the sea. So far, I have not heard anybody saying that he or she saw such a transformation. Fortunately, I have witnessed such remarkable changes several times."

He said goodbye to us and hurried away, saying that he should help his son and daughter-in-law with their farm work. At the moment we were reminded of what an official of the county had said. He referred to the bumper harvest the county had gathered the previous year, stressing that its residents were making an all-out effort to increase the per-hectare yield.

The Wangjaesan Farm was literally seething with vigour. After a day's work many gathered in the farm's sci-tech learning space to keep themselves up to date with advanced farming methods.



They were as proactive in the pursuit of advanced technology as those whom we met at the Ingye and other farms in Hoeryong before we left for this county. The terrain of Hoeryong is largely dominated by high and rugged mountains including Musan Pass in the Hamgyong Mountains. Yet, the farmers in the city maintained a scientific approach towards increasing the yields of wheat and barley according to the Party's policy of adjusting the structure of grain production. They tended the fields under their charge with utmost care, adopting innovative methods to achieve the best possible yields.

Wherever farmers lived, be they mountains or valleys, were bubbling over with enthusiasm for increased production.

Going on our journey from Namsol Pass to Mt Wangjae, we fully realized that the spirit of the new era was pulsating in the hearts of the people living in the region of the Hamgyong Mountains.

## In the Northeastern Tip of the Country

We arrived at the foot of Mt Paekhak (*Paekhak* means a crane), the name of which is derived from a crane-shaped, white rock on the top of the mountain. As the sun was beaming, we enjoyed the picturesque scenery of Manbok-dong, Sonbong District, Rason.

Nestled in the beautiful village were over 1 300 single-storey houses, some with a red roof and others with a blue one.

From the entrance to this village, we were guided to the house in people's neighbourhood unit No. 1 of Manbok-dong, which had been visited by Comrade Kim Jong Un. What attracted our eyes in the yard of the house was a nameplate bearing the host's name Pak Song Chol.

After saying hello, the host, a worker at the Rason Nautical Mark Management Station, said that he could not forget what happened in September 2015 when the city was hit by heavy rain and flooding.

Other residents, whom we met in the village, said in similar vein.

Upon being told about the natural disaster, Comrade Kim Jong Un had taken all necessary steps for the restoration work despite his tight schedule to deal with the critical situation facing the country.

In the dead of night he had phoned a senior official of the Rason Municipal Party Committee, stressing the need to build new houses for the victims by the 70th founding anniversary of the Party so that they could live in comfort through the upcoming winter.

An enlarged meeting of the Party Central Military Commission, held shortly afterwards, had discussed how to push ahead with the restoration work in the city of Rason, and an order of the Supreme Commander had been issued to the effect that the Korean People's Army would take full responsibility for the restoration work and complete it as quickly as possible.

In addition to the housing construction, Comrade Kim Jong Un had paid due attention to the victims' urgent needs as cold winter would soon set in.

Accordingly, overcoats, fish, spoons, chopsticks and other daily necessities had been sent to them.



We dropped in at Pak Yong Chol's house, which Comrade Kim Jong Un had visited just before the completion of the housing construction.

The old host told us about the foreigners who had visited his house a few years previously.

He said, "After taking a careful look at every nook and cranny of this house, they asked many questions, like how much I had spent to build the house and how many members there are in my family. I told them how these new houses, much better than the old ones, had been built at state expense and allotted to the flood victims free of charge. They seemed to be doubtful about the reality they were seeing with their own eyes. It was more than ten years after I settled down in this village and I often felt as if I were in a dream. How could those foreigners understand it easily? My granddaughter was born here, and all the villagers congratulated my family."

At Uam-dong in the same district we could see how proud the locals were of their new houses.

Situated in the northeastern tip of the country, the area had been known to be hardly inhabitable, with stone-roofed dugouts set up here and there. Now cultured villages, such as Sae, Thori and Phungnyon, dot the landscape.

At the entrance to the Thori village with some 30 houses, we came across a woman.

She said somewhat boastingly, "A saying goes that a thriving house has many guests. Some days ago, artists came to our village. Their landscape paintings and others would total dozens, I guess. Some lamented that it was hard to depict the scenery of the village in a single painting. I can understand how they felt. So many changes take place here day after day."

As they fully enjoy the benefit of the state even though they live in the

farthest village from Pyongyang, the locals feel grateful to the state for showing so much concern for their living conditions.

A truck loaded with dairy produce runs over 40km to and from the village for its three children including a new-born baby. And a school bus runs for 20-odd students at Thori Branch School of Uam Senior Middle School in Sonbong District.

We were reminded of what the locals had said at Songnae-ri in Kyongwon County, in which new houses had sprung up.

"Our village has been transformed beyond recognition."

"We will keep these new houses clean and tidy and develop our village into a socialist paradise."

These simple and unaffected expressions represented the local people's gratitude to and trust in the Party, as well as their pledge to repay its benevolent affection.

When we visited Sinhae-dong of Rajin District, a resident said, "As a precaution against any possible damage to be inflicted on the people in coastal areas by a tidal surge, the state has taken steps for building new houses in a safe place. Gone are the days when we stayed up all night after a tsunami warning was given."

Being guided around other places of Rason, we could see that the whole city was full of vigour and vitality–the Rason Grain Storage Station with new facilities for processing maize and drying and processing wheat, Rason City General Hospital renovated in a modern fashion, the Rason Pharmaceutical Factory noted for its efficacious products, the Haean Restaurant resembling the Okryu Restaurant in Pyongyang, and so on.

Touring all these thriving areas in the city, we had a clear understanding of why the locals call theirs a land of bliss.



## Crossing Saenggi Pass

On the way to Kyongsong County from the city of Chongjin in North Hamgyong Province, there rises Saenggi Pass, a short distance from the seat of the county. This pass, scores of metres above sea level, has become widely known across the country since there is a famous spa over the pass. It was named so, in the sense that the people felt invigorated after having a bath here.

Many residents whom we met on the way said that Kyongsong County, along with the spa, has been known country-wide since 2018.

On a sultry summer day that year Comrade Kim Jong Un had a talk with a senior official of the county Party committee in a modest room at the Onpho Working People's Holiday Camp; he stayed up well past midnight giving advice on how to develop the county.

He said that the county could thrive by making effective use of the locally available natural resources, underscoring the need to renovate the above holiday camp in a unique fashion to provide every convenience for the comfort of the people and meet their ever-increasing cultural and recreational demands. In March 2025, during his second visit to the holiday camp, he pointed to the necessity of completing the renovation project to mark the 80th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea.

This was how the holiday camp was renovated as befits a modern spa facility for holidaymaking and recuperation.

We met some women at the holiday camp.

One of them, middle-aged, said, "We are very proud of living in this county. A few years ago, we witnessed the inauguration of the Jungphyong Greenhouse Farm, which is a pride of North Hamgyong Province. Now we are enjoying ourselves at this wonderful holiday camp." Another woman said that an increasing number of people would cross Saenggi Pass to enjoy spa culture at this facility, adding that she felt delighted at

the thought of it. The locals were all filled with confidence and optimism about a better future.

Our next destination was the Jungphyong Greenhouse Farm under the North Hamgyong Provincial Rural Economy Committee. As our van was passing the wonderful Kyongsong Children's Camp, new regional-industry factories and others, we could see that the county had gone through an amazing transformation.

Upon arriving at the greenhouse farm, we saw long rows of smart greenhouses, totalling a few hundreds, which looked like blocks of army units in a parade or blue waves in the East Sea of Korea.

As we were admiring the splendid scenery, an official of the farm explained that it had been the site of a military airport. This reminded us





of how much our leader had been concerned with the construction of this greenhouse farm. Comrade Kim Jong Un had visited the Jungphyong area several times, saying that providing the people with various species of fresh vegetables all year round was one of his long-cherished wishes.

Our intention of visiting this greenhouse farm was partly to meet the ex-soldier graduates from Chongjin College of Agriculture, who had volunteered to work at this farm after Comrade Kim Jong Un had taken steps for building a large-scale greenhouse farm in the Jungphyong area for the sake of the people in North Hamgyong Province.

Being guided to greenhouse No. 258, we met Ri Chung Song, technician of Workteam No. 6.

Ri said, "Still vivid in my memory are the days of 2018. We volunteered to work at this farm, as you know. It was quite natural for us to do so, I think. As a soldier, we learned how we should be a model in supporting the Party in the vanguard. And during our college days we studied to our heart's content in the Party's embrace. Upon being told that we decided to work here after graduation, our respected leader said that we were laudable."



Hearing about his high appreciation of these ex-soldiers, dozens of graduates from Chongjin College of Agriculture followed suit, said Rim Sung Chol, sub-workteam leader of Workteam No. 3. Rim added that there were more volunteers from other colleges in the city of Chongjin and from many other parts of the country, and that those volunteers became the backbone of the farm.

Led by him, we went to greenhouse No. 311, which Comrade Kim Jong Un looked round on the day of inauguration of the greenhouse farm in 2019.

Kim Ryong Su, a sub-workteam leader, said somewhat boastfully that they were sending cucumbers, tomatoes and chillies to the local residents on a monthly basis.

We made the rounds of semi-arched double-layer vinyl hydroponic greenhouse No. 245 and other greenhouses, which were filled with fresh vegetables. We had talks with some workers, one of whom said that they adopted a scientific method to achieve a 1.6-fold increase in production as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

When we were walking in the farm compound, a honking sound came from nearby. Pointing at the many trucks rolling through the front gate, an official of the farm said that they were coming to transport vegetables to their respective cities and counties in the province.

A driver, who came from Hoeryong, said that he crossed Saenggi Pass several times a month to carry vegetables from the greenhouses back to the city.

He went on, "As they are supplied with fresh vegetables all year round, the people often say that our Party's policies and our system are the best."

We were sure that this represented the province's public sentiments.

We looked back upon the journey we had made over Saenggi Pass. Though it was not long, we keenly realized what the origin of a happy life was for all the people in the country. In doing so we were overwhelmed with gratitude to our respected leader for working with devotion to lead the people in the regions to a new life and further civilization.

As we were leaving Kyongsong County, we were reminded of what an old native said regarding the changed meaning of the name of Saenggi Pass in the era of regional transformation.

The old man said, "Here we have many new structures like the Jungphyong Greenhouse Farm, the provincial tree nursery and hundreds of new houses in the Yombunjin coastal park area. This is not all. The new regional-industry factories are running at full capacity, and you can hear merry laughter coming from the Onpho Working People's Holiday Camp and Yombunjin Haeyang Hotel. So, those who have come over Saenggi Pass say that a new, cultured life in this region fills them with renewed confidence and courage. As you can see, this adds a new meaning to the name *Saenggi*."

Indeed, the changed appearance of Kyongsong County afforded a glimpse into how our Party's plan is being translated into reality, the plan aimed at ensuring that people in the provinces not only enjoy the same material life as that enjoyed by the citizens of the capital, but also lead a happy life without any worries in an environment that is as cultured and sanitary as in the capital.

Witnessing the constantly changing reality, we continued our journey to another destination.

## New Legendary Tale in Komdok

There appeared a deep and rugged mountain gorge not long after we passed Machon Pass rising on the border between the city of Kim Chaek in North Hamgyong Province and the city of Tanchon in South Hamgyong Province. Upon entering the Komdok area, we found the natural landscape somewhat craggy–the Puk Stream flowing at the foot of a precipitous cliff, a seemingly endless series of sky-piercing

mountain peaks, the gorge of the Machonryong Mountains, etc.

After a long drive a railway bridge came into sight.

After the piers of the bridge had been swept away by the flooding in October 2020, the locals had set up a bridge on the piers made of frames of logs instead as a stopgap measure. Comrade Kim Jong Un had passed the makeshift structure by train to direct the restoration work in the affected area.

We got off the van and moved closer to the bridge. As we were standing at the mouth of the bridge, we were reminded of what an official of the Komdok Mining Complex had said a few years previously.

"Whenever a wagon carrying materials for the restoration work passed the bridge, the makeshift structure rocked back and forth. As it kept sinking, the structure had to be reinforced on a regular basis. We never imagined the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un's train would pass this rickety bridge. On hearing the news, I felt as if my heart stopped beating."

Looking at the iron bridge that had been rebuilt sturdily, we recollected what Comrade Kim Jong Un had said that day:

Now we build new houses only when old ones were destroyed by a natural disaster. Housing construction in the regions should not be done in this way. We should define clear objectives for regional construction and draw up a reasonable long-term plan.

He specified what needed to be done to turn the Komdok area into a mountain gorge city, a cultured mining city.

Later he went over more than a hundred designs of new houses and adopted necessary measures for pushing forward with the housing construction as planned.

We continued our journey and at last our van arrived at a hill overlooking the mining city.

Picturesque was the panoramic view of the area comprising characteristic architectural groups of new houses that were in good harmony with the rugged mountains. Single- and multi-storey, low- and high-rise apartment blocks stood in fine array against the background of mountains and valleys. Moreover, the neighbourhood-serving amenities and other service facilities, which were built on the ground floors of the apartment blocks, highlighted the regional features and modern styles.

Originally, this gorge was so narrow and long that the schools in the region had no playgrounds to speak of. According to an old story, a boy went several kilometres down the valley, sometimes taking food with him, to fetch a ball that rolled down in the course of a volleyball or basketball game. And according to another, passengers, who got off the train at night, mistook the single-storey houses with lamps on, which sat in tiers on a mountain slope, for high-rise buildings.

Presently, large architectural groups of a modern design have emerged where there had been steep slopes.

Regarding this dramatic transformation, a local resident said,



"Komdok was once synonymous with high mountains, but now with modern apartment blocks."

Being guided into the Komdok Revolutionary Museum, we could see a large board showing a striking contrast between the past and present of Komdok by means of photos.

Our van climbed up a steep pass with 55 bends and reached the Unryong Plateau, rising 1 200 metres above sea level, where we enjoyed a bird's-eye view of the splendid scenery.

We headed for an observation pavilion, where there stood a monument to the leader's field guidance. Written on the monument were letters, reading "This is where the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un visited on October 13, 2020 to give precious instructions on turning the Komdok area into a mountain gorge city, a mining city, unprecedented in history."

Reading the letters, we recalled what the leader had said:

The fact is that the economic situation in the country is difficult at present, but we must no longer delay the project of building good houses for the people in the Komdok area. In the period of the Five-year Plan we should eliminate the centuries-old backwardness of the area and build a mining city, not a mining village, here.

From this day when a plan for transformation was declared, the local residents witnessed a miraculous change taking place in their region.

The name *Unryong* is derived from an old legendary tale that a silvery dragon flied up into the sky. Now the locals often recount how theirs has emerged as a modern mining city.

The Komdok area is far away from the capital city, yet the miners working in this area are dear to the leader's heart.

We hurried to Sao-dong to have a talk with these blessed workers.

The name *Sao* means April 5, the day when President Kim Il Sung visited the complex in 1961. In this street there was the flat of Hero Ko Kyong Chan, who is widely known across the country. Ko's wife Kim In Suk received us with a warm welcome.

The new flat was neat and clean. Seen on the front wall were the photos Ko had posed for with President Kim Il Sung, Chairman Kim Jong Il and the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, commendations of the President and the Chairman, certificate of Hero, certificate of Merited Miner and other citations.

Kim In Suk said, "Our Party gives prominence to my husband and other miners here and shows close concern for our living conditions. So, we are the happiest in the world."

Another miner's wife said that her parents and siblings lived in the city of Hamhung and other urban areas, adding that they were all envious of her family in Komdok. And a newly married woman said that after seeing a photo she had taken with her husband in Komdok, her relatives in other regions argued that it was taken in Pyongyang.

Also, a local man said to us:

Once some young men, being discharged from military service, arrived here, and they could not find their old homes. So, the officials of the complex spent the whole night taking each one of them to their new houses.

Listening to this, we recalled what an old woman had said when we had met her at the entrance to Paekgumsan-dong in the Ryongyang Mine area.

Looking much younger than her age, she was Ri Myong Suk, the wife of Sin Yong Gon who had been a member of the hero workteam of excavator No. 7.

Ri said, "This mine is widely known across the country through the TV series *Mountain of White Gold*. Compared with the days when the TV series were produced, this area has been transformed beyond recognition. Born in Pyongyang, I was married to a miner here. I could not bear up and live in this mountainous area, so I once returned to my native home in Pyongyang. But now girls in urban areas come to get

married to miners.”

As the old woman said, the Ryongyang Mine was widely known for producing a hero workteam, and the area is now recognized as part of a modern mining city.

It was when night was closing in that we arrived at Taehung by travelling through the deep gorge.

Against the background of darkness stood out new apartment blocks with brightly-lit windows. Listening to the cheerful sound of singing that echoed through the windows, we could feel the veracity of the Party’s regional development policy on building a socialist paradise in the backward and out-of-the-way areas before anywhere else.

The brilliant illuminations in the mountain gorge city convinced us that a rosier future is in store for the country, with a new cultured life blooming everywhere–urban and rural areas, plains and remote mountains.

## Touring the East Coast

South Hamgyong Province is noted for its long coastline, and its coastal areas are widely known for having large fisheries and industrial enterprises.

While touring the recently-built workplaces and villages on the shores of the East Sea of Korea, we could see substantial changes taking place on the east coast of the country in the present era of transformation.

Our van went beyond the boundaries of the city of Tanchon and ran along a pass with numerous bends. We felt elated approaching our next destination–the Sinpho City Offshore Farm inaugurated in December 2024.

The farm’s picturesque scenery delighted our eyes. The modern buildings in the farm were in good harmony with the blue sea, and the wharf was busy with many boats coming and going.

An official of the farm gave us a detailed account of how the farm was built into a characteristic creation for regional transformation.

After looking round such places as the scallop processing workshop, ultra-quick freezing, general control and sample rooms, we went to the wharf, where boats were setting sail. We got aboard a boat to get first-hand experience of offshore farming.

One of the crew said, “In the first season of harvesting kelp following its inauguration, the whole farm bubbled over with joy. In November 2025 we harvested scallops, each bigger than a man’s fist. In January this year our daily harvest of good species of scallops reached scores of tons, and in June we reaped more than 100 tons of kelp a day.”

Some minutes later, the boat slowed down as it was approaching the spot where Comrade Kim Jong Un had been aboard a small boat.

A workteam leader, who had some experience in offshore farming, said, “In the past the people in Sinpho did not benefit much from the marine resources. Now we keenly feel what a great blessing the sea is for us.”

A young worker said, “The offshore farm was inaugurated in 2024 and new regional-industry factories and a characteristic seafood-processing



base were built last year. Indeed, this is an era of great changes in which our native village and its people are transformed."

We returned after taking a close-up look at how scallops and kelp were being reared in the sea. We departed from the farm, fully convinced that the city of Sinpho would flourish.

Our next destination was Ragwon County, which had been known as a place at a low ebb.

Recently, the county has risen to national fame for its fishing village, newly named Ragwonpho. Being guided around the village with unique facilities and new houses, we encountered some residents.

One of them said, "The name *Ragwonpho* is really good. It reminds us of a tender-hearted mother who is calling her beloved children. Our village is small and far away from Pyongyang. We did not know that we are so dear to our leader's heart."

At the ground-breaking ceremony for the offshore farm the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un named the fishing village Ragwonpho and said that it was one of his cherished desires to lay solid foundations for the





prosperity of Ragwon County and develop it into an admirable model of socialist paradise.

Keeping in mind his instructions that the future of Ragwon hinges entirely on its people, the whole county turned out in the effort to open up a new phase in offshore farming and develop it in a characteristic way, said an official of the county.

Listening to what the locals had to say, we were convinced that as its name implies, the county would become a prospering socialist paradise.

We now left for the Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm, a new entity of Korean-style rural civilization that was built as a cultured socialist farm.

On arriving at the farm, we went up to the observation pavilion which was set up where the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un had attended the inauguration ceremony. The sea of greenhouses, totalling a few hundreds, seemed endless.

We were much pleased to think that those greenhouses were producing large amounts of vegetables all year round to enrich the diet of the people in the city of Hamhung and other parts of South Hamgyong Province.

Our eyes caught sight of the trees heavily laden with fruits that were growing between the greenhouses. A local official in our company said that, as advised by Comrade Kim Jong Un, they had planted fruit trees between the greenhouses, adding that the farm was producing both vegetables and fruits in this way.

We walked down from the observation pavilion and went towards the residential area, in which more than a thousand families lived. The single-storey houses and low-rise apartment blocks came in various shapes and colours. Adding to the wonderful scenery were the school, hospital, house of culture, kindergarten, nursery and other public buildings, all designed in a modern fashion. Whoever we met there said that they would repay the benevolent care shown by the Party.

We were back on the road reflecting on the coastal areas we had visited–Sinpho, Ragwon and Ryonpho.



Recalling these names, which were synonymous with a new happy life blossoming on the east coast of the country, we felt great pride in having witnessed the reality of dramatic transformation that had been brought about.

## In the Northwestern Part of the Country

Two years have passed since Jagang Province was hit by a deadly natural disaster. The local people still remember how rapidly the rehabilitation work progressed and how much they were pleased when moving into new houses that had sprung up here and there.

Our tour of the cultured communities in the mountainous province began from the Sampho Workers' District in Rangnim County.



Guided by a local official of the district, we followed the road leading to Karung Pass, feasting our eyes on the nearby multi-storey apartment blocks on the way.

When we dropped in at the third flat on the first floor of the apartment block that belonged to people's neighbourhood unit No. 89, the hostess Kim Sun Hui welcomed us with pleasure.

After showing us the sitting room, living room, bedroom, etc., she said:

Still vivid in my memory is the day in July 2024, when I, together with my three children, had to run to the nearby mountain. It rained heavily and everything was destroyed by the natural disaster. At that time we did not imagine that we could move into new houses in a few months.

Her story tugged at our heartstrings.

It reminded us of how Comrade Kim Jong Un would go to the areas of the country that had been hit by a natural calamity and take necessary steps for the restoration work. Indeed, he is a benevolent leader who shows parental concern for all the people, particularly those who are in trouble.

It was thanks to his warm care that the decision *On Rapidly Recovering from the Flood Damage in North Phyongan and Jagang Provinces* was adopted at a meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

As he was so much concerned with the living conditions of the flood victims, he saw to it that when moving into new houses, they were provided with wardrobes, quilt chests and other pieces of furniture, as well as condiments and other daily necessities. All the residents in the affected areas felt deep gratitude to the benevolent leader for ensuring them a happy life in new houses.

As we were thinking of this, our eyes caught sight of the three children looking at some photos in a cozy room through which the sun was streaming in. Taking a closer look, we could see that they were the photos they had posed for during their stay in Pyongyang.

For Comrade Kim Jong Un, the nursing, edification and education of the children and students are the most important of all state affairs, something which must never be abandoned even if the sky were to fall in. So, while the restoration work was underway, he had the thousands of pupils and other children in the flood-hit areas of North Phyongan, Jagang and Ryanggang provinces brought to Pyongyang with their parents and taught at the temporary classrooms that had been set up at the April 25 Hostel.

Rim Song Gyong, 16, the eldest daughter of the hostess, said in a tearful voice:

I cannot forget the day of August when our fatherly Marshal welcomed us to Pyongyang, saying that it must have cost us a great deal of trouble to come all the way. Tears gather in my eyes whenever I talk about my stay in Pyongyang. I can never forget those pleasant days. I will study hard to repay our fatherly Marshal for his benevolent care.

We talked with other residents, who were unanimous in saying that they were grateful to the leader and they would do their best to repay his parental affection.

Listening to what they had to say, we could fully understand the people's sentiments and aspirations.

We headed for Songgan County via Hwaphyong County, city of Manpho and Sijung County, in which socialist fairyland villages have sprung up.

As we were going past these cultured villages where there remained no signs of flood damage, we could see the locals brimming with vigour of life and optimism.

Upon reaching the seat of Songgan County, we saw a beautiful village in which multi-storey apartment blocks of a modern architectural style sat tier by tier on a low hill. This was reminiscent of the modern district in Kyongru-dong, Pyongyang.

When this county and other areas of Jagang Province were struck



by heavy rain, Comrade Kim Jong Un visited the restoration site after specifying the direction and ways for recovering from the damage caused by the natural disaster. At that time he stressed the need to transform the affected areas beyond recognition by turning them into residential ones that were as cultured and modern as urban districts.

We went to a house that belonged to people's neighbourhood unit No. 248 of the county seat.

The host was an old man called Choe Chang Ryong.

He gladly welcomed us and said:

Last year, on my way back from Pyongyang, I heard that my family moved into this new house. When I arrived at my native village, I was quite surprised to know that our respected Marshal had visited this house. Tears of gratitude swelled up in my eyes at the thought that while he was here to see the house under construction, I had a pleasant time at the scenic spots and in the capital city.

Still teary-eyed, the old man showed us around his nice house, saying that the leader had pointed out the defects of the kitchen equipment and specified how to repair them, and that there should be a ventilation hole in the shoe chest and an umbrella hanger on its side.

The host added that almost every day his house had visitors, including county officials, neighbours, passers-by and those who had come to the county on a business trip.

Quite a long time had passed and the old man said goodbye to us, noting that he would keep in mind the Party's warm affection and dedicate the remainder of his life for the sake of the country. Whoever we met in the county seat said in similar vein.

We headed for the newly-built Kwangmyong Senior Middle School, an attractive three-storey building.

We met the vice principal of the school in the wide playground where a mobile volleyball post was set up.

The vice principal said that the Party had provided the new school with

everything it needed, including the teaching aids and furnishings used by its students during their stay in Pyongyang and the above volleyball post.

After looking round the school whose education was put on a modern, IT footing, we surveyed the scenery of the county seat again.

Indeed, the landscape of the northwestern part of the country was really appealing, a monument to Comrade Kim Jong Un's ardent affection for his people. This was the conclusion we drew from our tour of Jagang Province, many areas of which had been struck by a catastrophic natural disaster two years previously.

## On the Bank of the Amnok

We continued our journey along the northwestern border of the country, and the Amnok River greeted us. For thousands of years, the river has been associated with many stories and events written in the history of the country.

Now is a new era of transformation, and we hastened our way to the cities and counties of North Phyongan Province, expecting to hear new stories and see new transformations.

Our first destination was Uiju County and, on the way, we feasted our eyes on the picturesque scenery of new villages.

In July 2024, flooding swept the area.

Comrade Kim Jong Un, not caring about the heavy rain, commanded the rescue and evacuation operation at an airfield.

He waited until the last persons in the flood-hit and flood-expected places were rescued.

Some ten days later, he visited the flood-hit area again, and looked round the tents, talking with the flood victims and consoling them.

After visiting the new villages in the area in Uiju County, we went to the Hadan area in the city of Sinuiju. It was late evening when we arrived





there. What struck us first with admiration was the illumination there.

It was not an unfamiliar scene as we had seen the looks of the cultured country town on newspaper and TV, but as we saw it with our own eyes, it was a completely different experience. It looked as if the stars in the sky had embroidered the area along the 4km-long shore.

At the inauguration ceremony of the rehabilitated region, Comrade Kim Jong Un said:

Modern high-rise and low-rise urban-style rural houses stand imposingly in a safe zone, surrounded by solidly built embankments.

The fantastic scenery on the bank of the Amnok–it was not scenery presented by Mother Nature, but presented by the warm affection of the fatherly leader who is making devoted efforts to firmly defend the safety of the people and providing them with an affluent and cultured life.

In February 2026, the Sinuiju Combined Greenhouse Farm, the largest of its kind in the country, and the Vegetable Science Research Centre

were built in this area.

Over 1 150 modern greenhouses of various types including the double-slope inter-connected glass hydroponic greenhouses and domed glass hydroponic greenhouses present a majestic scenery.

The greenhouses are controlled automatically for all jobs–the environment control, supply and withdrawal of nutritive solution and the management of the geothermal and power supply systems. Planted in them are various kinds of functional vegetables, be they fruit, leaf or root vegetables.

The area of the Wihwa Island, once terribly affected by flooding, is











now literally a sea of greenhouses, full of vegetables and their aroma.

The islanders we met all talked about their happy life. Some employees of the farm said they changed their hoe with modern equipment as they are working in a greenhouse farm which is like an industrial factory. And local residents said that they were happily worried as they had a more supply of vegetable than they needed.

We met some of the residents having a walk on the bank. They said:

Yesterday, we were provided with houses in this cultured country town and today, we work in a new greenhouse farm which is the largest in the country. We are the happiest in the world.

It seemed they would not stop talking about their happy life all night.

On the morning of the next day, we left Sinuiju and arrived at a quay in Ryongchon County. The next destination was Sindo County, an island on the lowest reaches of the Amnok River linked to the West Sea of Korea.

The island used to have no name. Later, it had been named Pidan (silk) Island, and it was registered on the map of Korea as Sindo County, under the guidance of the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il. Comrade Kim Jong Un also visited the island.

At the quay we got on the passenger liner *Pidansom No. 1*.

The captain of the liner said:

This new liner carries passengers to and from the island, providing convenience to them. Now the liner cruises, but when Comrade Kim Jong Un was visiting the island, he was on a small boat, braving high waves and muddy path.

That day, when Comrade Kim Jong Un was going to the island, the tide was ebbing at the lower reaches of the river. The accompanying officials got worried as it was difficult for the boat to berth at that time.

But he got on the boat, saying:

There are my dear people on the island. It seems they are calling me.

When the boat reached the island, the riverbed was exposed near the wharf.

Comrade Kim Jong Un put his steps on the muddy path.

The captain finished his story but we could not move because the waves of the river hitting the liner's side seem to continue the story.

We arrived at the wharf on the island. There was a bus waiting for the passengers. We heard that the bus was also sent to the island by the state, lest the people living in the county seat feel inconvenience walking to and from the wharf.

On the bus we heard many other stories about the island.

After Comrade Kim Jong Un's visit to the county, many vehicles including tractors were sent to the island. He ensured that daily necessities of various kinds and hundreds of bicycles were supplied to the island.

In the past, as it was a too remote island, even the parents found it hard to visit their children married to their spouses on it.

But Comrade Kim Jong Un visited the island and looked after the life of the islanders.

We could see a village of Pidansom Workers' District through the window of the bus.

We got off the bus and saw the new houses for a good while, hearing the story that years before, when the county people suffered a natural disaster, Comrade Kim Jong Un made sure that new houses were built for them with all necessities of life provided to them, including TV sets.

Though it was a journey to a remote island at a tip of the country, it was well worth taking.

When we were on the wharf to go back to the mainland, the blue waves of the Amnok was dazzling under the sun. The waves seemed to be reflecting the reality of the country transforming day after day.

As the island is far away from the mainland, people would call it a remote place. But the people in Sindo County think that they are the happiest as Comrade Kim Jong Un's care for them is greater than for any others. Convinced that many more stories about pleasure and happiness

would be told on this land along with the Amnok River, we left the island for another destination.

## In the County Associated with New Legendary Tales

We were overflowing with joy as our van was approaching Songchon County, in which the first groundbreaking and inauguration ceremonies for regional-industry factories were held, signifying the start of the effort to implement the Party's Regional Development 20×10 Policy.

On arriving in the county, we headed for the new regional-industry factories. The factories looked as wonderful as we had expected, their smart appearance reminding us of what Comrade Kim Jong Un had said at the groundbreaking ceremony:

Anyone who is born on this land should lead an abundant and civilized life under the socialist policy of the state, whether he or she lives in the capital city or regions, in towns or mountain villages, and it is the core of the new regional development policy to see to it that they do so without fail.

The leader pressed a button for blasting, signalling the launch of the project for the construction of these factories, and visited the construction sites several times that year as they would be buttresses for the radical development of the county.

At the Songchon County Foodstuff Factory we were led to the shop floor, in which we saw various kinds of foodstuffs being churned out from the modern production lines. An official of the factory told us that on the day of inauguration the leader had looked round the production lines and specified tasks and methods for maintaining regular production.

At the bread workshop, we had a talk with the workers whom Comrade Kim Jong Un met that day. They said that they felt as if he were still with them, encouraging them to work hard.

The officials and workers of the factory were proud of working at where the leader had visited, and they were focusing on developing new products and improving product quality to win popular favour.

The above official of the factory said, "Our products were highly appreciated at the products show held last year for the regional-industry factories from 20 cities and counties. Many visitors from Pyongyang bought our foodstuffs praising that they were very tasty. Witnessing this dramatic reality, the locals in Songchon County begin to rid themselves of their prejudiced view that regions could not outstrip the capital city."

At the daily necessities factory we could see that it was focusing on improving product quality, and at the garment factory, one of its officials told us that their products had been counted among the best at the spring garment exhibition held the previous year.

These burgeoning factories and the local customers' positive feedback were testimony to the veracity of the Party's regional development policy.

We were convinced that with February 28, 2024, when the leader declared the launch of the regional-industry revolution, as their founding



day, the above factories would boom.

As our van was crossing the boundary of Onchon County, a wide expanse of reclaimed tideland came into sight.

It was the Ansok Tideland, in which rice plants grew green and on the opposite side of which was a blue sea blocked by a long dam.

The name *Ansok* reminded us of the unforgettable day of August in 2023, when TV audiences across the country had seen Comrade Kim Jong Un standing on the edge of the broken dam. That day he had walked into one of the submerged paddies and stroked rice ears soaked in salty water.

Seeing how heartbroken he had been while gazing out across the inundated fields, we became clearly aware of his devoted service for his people. For him, every inch of the land and every ear of rice were precious wealth for the people's wellbeing, something he would never lose or give up.

Looking at the green fields, we swelled with pride in having our respected leader, who works with devotion to create a new history of amazing transformation for the good of the people.

Fully convinced that, thanks to his energetic leadership, our people's dreams and ideals would be realized in the near future, we left for our next destination.

## Kangwon Province Pulsating with the Spirit of the Times

As our van entered the boundary of Kangwon Province, the phrase *spirit of Kangwon Province* crossed our minds.

The province is where the spirit of this great era was born and which leads other regions in developing their economies on the principle of self-reliance.



Being largely mountainous, the province abounds in deep ravines and high peaks. The van drove past a continuous series of valleys towards the Wonsan Army-People Power Station.

It took long hours for us to reach the dam of the power station. Magnificent was the view of the large reservoir surrounded by rugged mountains.

We were overwhelmed with deep emotion at the thought that we were at a historic place in which the spirit of the new era had been created.

We had a talk with some members of the workteam for the maintenance of the dam.

Recalling the day when Comrade Kim Jong Un had visited the power station, one of them said, "The leader said that it was invigorating to see the letters *Self-reliance* engraved on the dam, adding that it is a reminder that self-reliance is the only way to survival and nothing is impossible for those who hold fast to self-reliance and self-development as the motive power. The letters make us become more clearly aware of our basic duty befitting the people of Kangwon Province."

After a moment he went on, "As you can see, this is an out-of-the-way place where nothing is visible other than mountains and water. Still appear in our mind's eye the waves of people enjoying themselves in the Kalma peninsula and the city of Wonsan being as bright at night as in daytime. So, this workplace in a remote mountain is a source of pride for us."

We were quite strongly impressed by these workers' ennobling sense of patriotism.

We said goodbye to them and left for Unit 2 of the Wonsan Army-People Power Station, scores of miles away.

Dusk was falling when we arrived at the unit.

Far away from where we were standing was seen a pressure iron pipeline extending to the unit from a waterway tunnel running through craggy mountains.

We had a talk with the manager of the power station, who had taken

part in the construction of the power station and held the position since its inauguration.

Recalling the day of the leader's visit, the manager said, "That day Comrade Kim Jong Un made the rounds of several places of the power station that was running at full capacity. He was pleased to learn that Kangwon Province meets the local residents' and regional-industry factories' demand for electric power."

He continued that after his visit the power station became widely known across the country and its electricity generation was kept at a high level.

The manager pointed at a large picture depicting the beautifully illuminated city of Wonsan.

We talked to some employees, one of whom said that he and his colleagues had posed for a photo with the leader against the background of the above picture, and that he would feel invigorated whenever he recalled the day, especially when facing a challenging task.

Among the employees was Ri Yong Chol, who, as an honoured disabled soldier, had participated in the construction of the power station some ten years before and, since its inauguration, worked there enjoying the warm affection of his colleagues.

Ri said, "It is just at this power station that the leader called the people in Kangwon Province indomitable fighters and creators of the spirit of Kangwon Province. How could I leave it after its construction was completed? My wife works here, too."

We thought to ourselves how excellent these people were, the officials and employees of the power station working hard to ensure a happy and cultured life for the whole province true to the leader's instructions.

Our destination for the following day was the Kangwon Provincial Tree Nursery, another asset built by the province's people on the principle of self-reliance.

It was early in the morning when we arrived at the tree nursery covering an area of dozens of hectares.

An official greeted us and said that the leader visited the tree nursery in July 2018.

He went on, "It was Sunday in the hottest period of the year. He praised us, the people in Kangwon Province, for our peculiar stamina and spirit. He said that it was incredible that we completed the challenging project



of building this large tree nursery despite the shortage of materials."

Guided by the official, we went round the facility with an annual capacity of tens of millions of saplings.

After looking round the plastic panel greenhouses, outdoor adaption area and outdoor cultivation ground, the official led us to the sci-tech learning space, which he said would give us an adequate understanding of the tree nursery.

The learning space was packed with workers, who were all engrossed in their study of advanced technology.

These employees were enrolled in a study-while-working course. Among them were some middle-aged men. One of them said smilingly, "I am in my forties, and I am now a student. I am leading a worthwhile life thanks to our Party's policies."

It did not take long for us to look round the tree nursery, but we could

see that its officials and employees were doing their best to live up to the leader's trust and expectations.

After saying goodbye to these people, we visited the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory, Songdowon General Foodstuff Factory and some other units associated with the Party's leadership exploits, all of which were pulsating with the spirit of Kangwon Province.

In having a talk with their employees we came to realize more keenly that thanks to the wise leadership and warm care of Comrade Kim Jong Un ordinary working people could create the spirit of the great era and lead a worthwhile life.

## Blessed Fields with a Bumper Crop

We arrived at Taechong-ri in Unpha County, North Hwanghae Province.

Walking along the road of the rural community, we could smell the rice ripening in the fields and hear the locals' happy laughter resounding in their houses.





The village is associated with the several visits Comrade Kim Jong Un made in 2020.

We went to Workteam No. 5 which he had visited on two occasions.

It was a fine day, and outside the elderly were chatting and the children were playing merrily.

Six years elapsed since the villagers had moved into new houses after their village completely recovered from the flood damage.

At the workteam we met Ryang Yong Jin, who had met Comrade Kim Jong Un at a flooded place. When we asked him what would be the harvest, he led us to a field where Comrade Kim Jong Un had personally counted the number of grains of a rice ear and taught how to minimize the crop damage.

He said in recent years the workteam reaped rich harvests in all its fields and attained the rice production goals.

Impressive was the fish teeming in the paddies.

Ryang told us that they began to raise catfish in the paddies last year true to the Party's intention to encourage fish farming in paddies, and reaped rich harvests of catfish as well as rice in autumn.

We went to other workteams following the roads lined by cosmos flowers. When Comrade Kim Jong Un had come there for the first time, the roads had all been muddy. So the locals planted cosmos so that they could meet him in the flowers' fragrance if he came again.

A local official told us many tales: One elderly, who was about to move to his daughter's house in another village remained in the village after his own had been spruced up; a man had envied houses with several living rooms as his son was discharged from the army and had to get married soon, and later as he was provided with a three-room house, he became busy to choose a girl for his son; the number of families was increasing every year as the girls from other villages married the young men in the village and even a family from the capital city volunteered to work in the farm; furthermore, most of the families in Taechong-ri moved into new

houses as hundreds of new houses were built in 2024 again.

We hurried to the seat of Taechong-ri to see the new houses. After a while, we could see hundreds of houses sustaining the modern, cultured and diversified characters.

What was more spectacular was the landscape presented by dawn redwood, zelkova, ginkgo, apricot and peach trees that could be seen between the low-rise apartment houses.

When we dropped in at the new houses, the owners said their village well-known across the country was indeed a blessed land, expressing their determination to repay the benevolence of the Party with rich grain yields.

Outside the houses there were wide fields promising a bumper harvest, and the village looked like a picture scroll. Who would say it was once a flooded area?

The locals were unanimous in saying that their village was really blessed.



Flooding in Taechong-ri, Unpha County, and new houses built in the area



We continued our journey to Hwangju County along the Hwangju Kindung gravitational waterway that starts at Lake Yonthan and extends scores of miles.

Earlier, the county lagged behind in farming because of poor irrigation system. But thanks to the new irrigation system built under the leadership of the Party, it enjoys benefit from the system.

As we were seeing the waterway and the crops promising rich harvests through the car window, we were reminded of what an official of North Hwanghae Province had told us.

Six years ago Comrade Kim Jong Un initiated the construction of a waterway irrigating the Kindung Plain in Hwangju and the crop fields in the surrounding regions, and gave his opinions on the project, including forming a powerful construction workforce and supplying construction materials in time.

The first leg of our visit was Ryongchon-ri. The rural community was named so after a legendary tale that there had been a well and stream from where a dragon ascended to heaven. Contrary to its name, the locals had experienced a shortage of water for so long that they could offer a bowl of grain to the passers-by, but not a glass of water.

An official of the farm told us:

My farm reaped good harvests in 2024 and 2025 thanks to the waterway and we are expecting a better harvest this year.

When the water from the waterway soaked the Kindung Plain three years ago, it was a day of jubilee for the entire county. Moved by the benevolence of the Party, the farmers made up their minds to do their best which they had failed to do in the past.

We went to Workteam No. 8. Its fields would yield only one ton of rice per hectare because of lack of water. The farmers would repeat transplanting rice seedlings several times as the paddies had become dry; even though they had irrigated the paddies by fetching water on their shoulders, the result had been a poor harvest in autumn; they would

blame only the sky for the poor crop. Now all the workteam members were working hard to gather a high yield.

The farm's official said that the number of farmers gathering high yields were increasing in all workteams after the irrigation project, which was followed by an increase in distribution of rice to them.

We left for Koyon-ri.

It had been known as a place where even passing cranes would die in the dusty land for lack of water.

Whoever we met there, they expressed their thanks to the Party for the waterway and told us that they buckled down to farming to join the ranks of high-yielding farmers.

The irrigation system in Hwangju did not simply supply water to the fields; it transformed the ideological consciousness of farmers, showing how the countryside is undergoing change thanks to the new rural revolution programme of the Party.

On the journey along the waterway we were told that hundreds



of hectares of non-paddies in Hwangju County had been turned into paddies and the area would increase with the uninterrupted land realignment project.

The farmers were getting more enthusiastic to repay the benevolence of the Party and more confident of their might; this was a success greater than the increase of tens of thousands of tons of rice.

The more we looked round the fields, the more strongly we felt a new stamina for rural rejuvenation.

## Pleasant Aroma of Fish and Rich Harvest of Fruits

It is autumn now, when the whole country becomes merrier with the wonderful aroma of fish and rich harvest of fruits as well as bumper crops.

While travelling South Hwanghae Province from Kumsanpho to the Jaeryong Plain, we could feel the vibrating reality of the province.

When our van ran a little way from the seat of Unryul County, we could see the Kumsanpho Fish Pickling Factory, situated in a place ecologically clean and free from pollution.

We looked round several places of the factory. At a pickle feeding machine, we could see it automatically sealing the containers. Pointing at the products moving on an automatic line, the factory's manager said:

"That pickled shrimps seasoned with green pepper tell a story."

One August day in 2017 Comrade Kim Jong Un visited the factory for the third time.

At the exhibition room of products he looked at the trial products and said:

There are really many kinds of pickled fish. It seems everything possible has been made with the same fish. I can see a profound study has been made for pickling fish.







Now families pickle shrimps with green pepper. If the foodstuff is made in an industrial way, the housewives will be happy about it. As it would be supplied to our people, I will have a taste of it first.

The officials were moved to hear that. As a matter of fact, pickling fishes demanded high standard of hygienic safety. That was why he repeatedly emphasized the need to thoroughly ensure hygienic safety of the products.

The manager said that the officials and employees of the factory were doing their best to produce more of the delicious pickled fishes. The factory was now producing more than 50 varieties of pickled fishes of 30 kinds, like shrimps pickled with green garlic, shrimps pickled with sesame leaves and pickled and fermented gray mullet.

The factory has won top prize on several occasions at the national exhibition of processed seafood that started several years ago.

We continued our journey to Kwail County as we heard that the orchards there were expecting a good harvest of fruits.

Soon we could see a wide area of orchard and smell the fragrance of the fruits.

We first went to Workteam No. 10 of the Sindae Fruit Farm.

The trees were heavily laden with apples. There we met the manager of the Songgok Fruit Farm who, as the leader of the workteam, had met Comrade Kim Jong Un nine years previously.

He said:

"No matter how rich our harvest of fruits is, it is not enough to repay the benevolence and trust of Comrade Kim Jong Un."

Comrade Kim Jong Un acquainted himself with the situation of the county, put forward the tasks and methods for increasing its fruit production to the standard of the advanced countries and took necessary measures. Thanks to his wise guidance, the farm gathered a rich harvest in 2017.

But keeping to himself the painstaking efforts he had made, he said, out of his wish to highly appreciate the farmers of the county, that Kwail County was a model unit deserving a place at the vanguard of the struggle to implement the decisions of the Seventh Congress of the Party, and invited all the members of Workteam No. 10 of the Sindae Fruit Farm to the National Conference of Activists in the Fruit Farming Sector held in November 2017.

The burning desire to repay his affection and trust brought abundant harvests to Kwail County every year.

In 2025 the Sindae Fruit Farm produced scores of tons of fruit per hectare, each apple tree bearing over one hundred fruits and some even hundreds of fruits.

The Kwail County Pomiculture Institute made a contribution to the good harvests by breeding a new high-yielding variety of apple of high quality and presenting many other research achievements.







We then left for the Saegil Farm of Sinchon County.

There we could see the ears of rice undulating on the Jaeryong Plain.

When our van arrived at a field of the farm, we met the farm's manager, who told us that his farm was expecting another bumper harvest.

For a while he feasted his eyes on the rice plants that were of the same height as if they had been pruned by a skilful gardener, and said:

"Whenever we stand by this field, we can't suppress tears welling up. This is a place where Comrade Kim Jong Un came following the roads damaged by typhoon in August 2020."

We recalled the day when he saw the fallen rice plants and taught how to minimize the damage.

The farmer in charge of the field told us.

"We almost gave up this field. But after we did as he had instructed, we gathered one more ton of rice in this field than the previous year. Always remembering the day, we have worked hard, and now we expect a rich harvest."

We could read such sincere minds in the Songo Farm, which has fulfilled its plan every year, and all other farms we visited in Sinchon County.

During the journey from Kumsanpho to the Jaeryong Plain we could witness the high enthusiasm of the working people, who were determined to repay the benevolence of Comrade Kim Jong Un who is continuing the road of devotion for the people, and we were convinced that the future of South Hwanghae Province would be brighter.

## In the Southernmost Region of the Country

Our van ran fast to Kaesong.

The majestic Mt Songak appeared in front of our eyes.

At last we arrived at the southernmost region, the last leg of the journey we started on Mt Paektu.

When we arrived in Kaesong, we were greeted by an official of the municipality.

He guided us to Mt Songak, saying that the view of Kaesong was fantastic seen from the mountain which is 490 metres above sea level.

Mt Songak, a source of pride of Kaesong with a history of over one thousand years, was named so after the dense pine forests in the mountain. Kaesong was called Songdo or Songgyong, which meant a capital at the foot of Mt Songak. So when people think about Kaesong, they are naturally reminded of this mountain.

We climbed the mountain negotiating the valleys sided by moss-covered rocks and old pine trees.

The scenery seen from the top of the mountain was breathtaking–high and low mountains and the blue Ryesong River. No wonder our forefathers created *Song* of *Songak*.

We turned our gaze to the back, and Koryo Songgyungwan University with blue roof tiles and the high-rise apartment buildings resembling steep cliffs of Mt Songak were seen nearby and new rural houses afar.

We went down the mountain.

The first leg of our visit was Koryo Songgyungwan University at the foot of the mountain, for we had recently heard that a library was built at the university.

The letters *Koryo Songgyungwan University* written by President Kim Il Sung could be seen at the gate of the university.

An official of the university greeted us, and said:



Songgyungwan had remained just a historical relic, but it earned its old fame under the care of the Party. The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un personally went over the design and plan of layout of the university's buildings, and ensured the project was pushed ahead with successfully.

The three-storeyed library was another asset he provided for the students.

Then at Togam-dong, we could see a beautiful village in a sunny place. We dropped in at flat No.1 on the first floor of the apartment block belonging to people's neighbourhood unit No. 92.

The householder showed us the kitchen, living rooms and others in the house, saying:

"I still remember the day six years ago when we moved into this house."







Every one we met there told us the same thing.

Comrade Kim Jong Un had acquainted himself with the damage done to Kaesong on several occasions, and taken all measures to build houses for the victims. When he was reported that the project had been completed and house moving was to be held on October 8, 2020, he wrote on the document:

You have done a great deal of work. I am very glad to have received a report from the municipal Party committee on house moving on the eve of the Party founding anniversary. Please send my best wishes to the people moving into new houses.

The citizens were moved to tears as they were told about his writing.

Overwhelmed with gratitude, they thought to themselves:

We are not living in a southernmost part of the country, but in a part nearest to you.

We continued our journey to Singwang-ri, Kaephung District, in the southern part of Kaesong.

We were told by a local official that hundreds of modern rural houses had been built so far.

He guided us to a house.

The hostess Ri Ok Bun, a farmer, said:

"We are really thankful to Comrade Kim Jong Un. I wrote to my son in the army, requesting him to firmly defend our grateful country."

We said goodbye to her. Now in front of our eyes were cozy low-storey and single-storey houses and the house of culture. The board of slogan "Long live the great people-first politics!" looked like a gatepost of the beautiful village.

Seeing the beautiful scenery of Singwang-ri, we said to ourselves: This is indeed a cultured socialist rural village.

Then we went to Jangphung County.

An official of the county said:

Until last year my county was known as a poor region. As it is



mountainous, exchanges of goods were not active and the locals' living standards were low. However, that became an old story after the regional-industry factories were built.

We were guided to the foodstuff factory. It was spectacular to see various foodstuffs on the conveyor belt. The factory's manager said 40 varieties of foodstuffs of over 10 kinds including fermented vinegar, sesame oil and sponge cake were produced and they were very popular among the locals.

The daily-necessities factory was turning out quality soaps and plastic goods, and the garment factory was producing smart garments.

The Kaesong Janamsan Hotel and Songaksan Instant Noodles Factory were also associated with the care of Comrade Kim Jong Un.

We recalled our journey that ended at the southernmost region of the country. It was an unforgettable journey, which taught us that the great changes were brought about under the wise leadership of the Party which is ushering in a new era of regional transformation.

That reminded us of what an elderly said:

"Kaesong, a 1 000-year-old city, has undergone a sea change. A few years ago modern regional-industry factories were built in Jangphung County. And now a leisure complex, along with new factories, has been built in Kaephung District. We are very happy to see the transformation of Kaesong under the care of the Party."

*　　*　　*

As we are about to finish this book on the journey from Mt Paektu to Mt Songak, we feel regretful, for we have missed so many places we wanted to see and the tales we wanted to hear about them.

At the inauguration ceremony of the regional-industry factories in Songchon County held in December 2024, Comrade Kim Jong Un said that the everlasting wellbeing of the people is a source of all honour and dignity for the Party.

The era of the Workers' Party today, when the people-first principle is realized, is great, and the future of the people living under its care will be bright.

This is what we heard from the people in various parts of the country on our journey from Mt Paektu to Mt Songak.

**New Life**
**in Transformed Regions**

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Published by the Foreign Languages Publishing House, DPR Korea

Issued in September 2026

ㄱ-260880566404

E-mail: flph@star-co.net.kp
http://www.korean-books.com.kp



ISBN 978-9946-0-2908-5