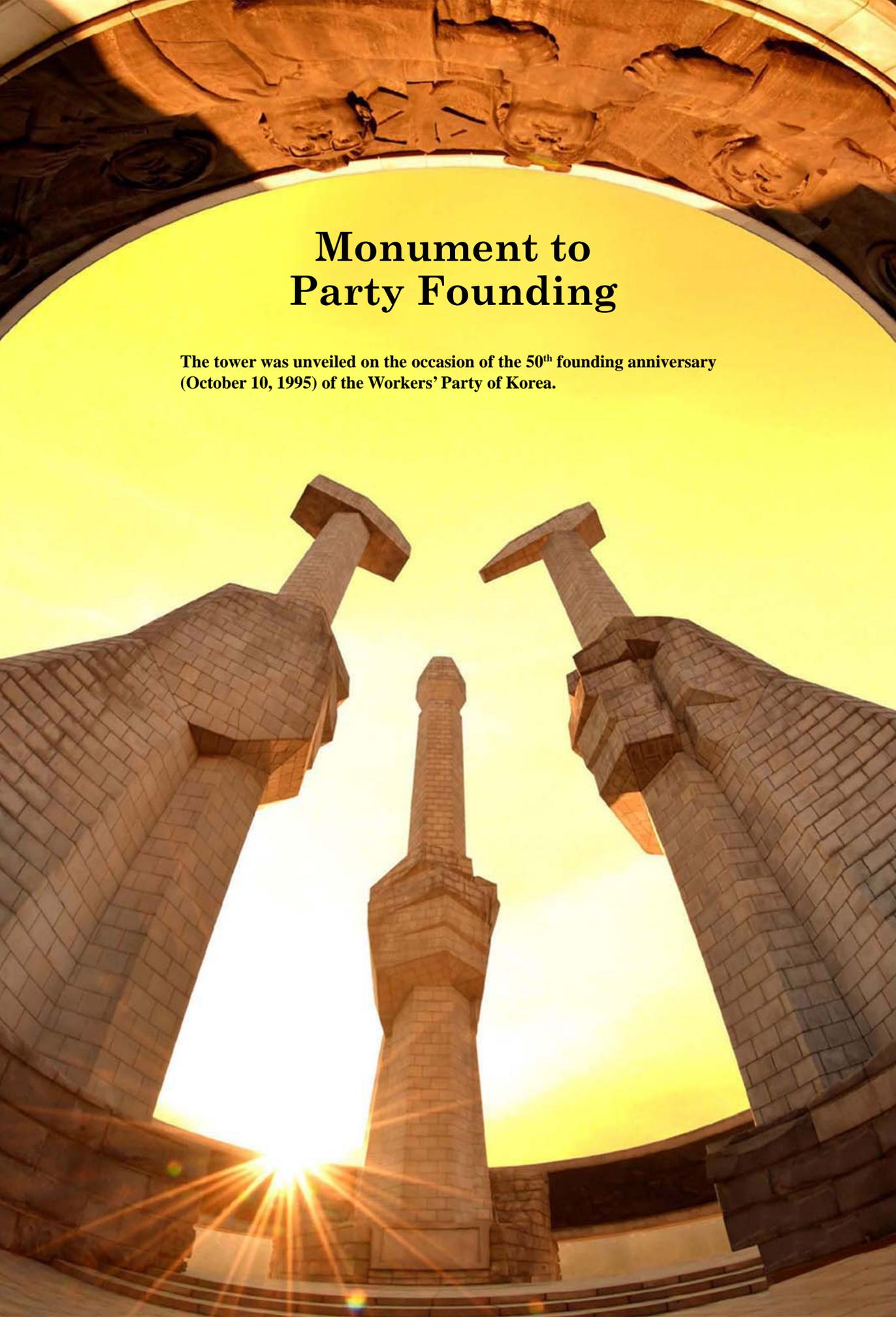




KOREA TODAY

3

Juche 109
(2020)

A low-angle, wide-angle photograph of the Monument to Party Founding in Pyongyang, North Korea. The monument consists of three tall, cylindrical stone pillars made of light-colored stone blocks, arranged in a triangular pattern. The pillars are topped with large, flat, rectangular caps. The sun is shining from the bottom left, creating a bright lens flare and illuminating the scene with a warm, golden light. The sky is a clear, bright yellow. At the top of the image, the curved ceiling of a circular structure is visible, featuring several large, carved stone figures or portraits.

Monument to Party Founding

The tower was unveiled on the occasion of the 50th founding anniversary (October 10, 1995) of the Workers' Party of Korea.



C O N T E N T S

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Women in Korea, as masters of society, play a great role in making a new breakthrough in socialist construction.



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Front Cover: At the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort

Photo by Hwang Jong Hyok



Back Cover: People march to old revolutionary battle sites in the Mt Paektu area

Photo by An Kang Rim

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Legitimate Masters of Society

SOME TIME AGO A *KOREA Today* reporter had an interview with Cha Hyon Ok, vice-chairwoman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Women's Union of Korea.

March 8 this year is the 110th anniversary of the International Women's Day, and we, on this opportunity, extend warm greetings to the Korean women who are adding happiness to families and the society with their pure affection, tenderheartedness and sincere effort. I think March 8 in Korea is not only a festival day giving pleasure of life to all women in the country but also a historic day that makes them recall the history of their destiny.

It is after the liberation of the country from the Japanese

imperialists' military occupation (August 15, 1945) that our women became able to celebrate their holiday for the first time. Probably it is the Korean women who keenly felt the genuine significance of August 15. In 1910, when March 8 was designated as the International Women's Day, the country was completely turned into a colony of the Japanese imperialists. The Korean women of the ruined nation never knew the day. Whenever the day came round many other women in the world celebrated it, but few Korean women knew about such a holiday.

The liberation of the country gave the Korean women the right of women and joy of the day. The then organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea wrote as follows in its article titled *Announcement to the Korean Women in*



Celebration of March 8:

The liberation of the Korean nation on August 15 brought about the liberation of the Korean women. It is the first time that the liberated Korean women celebrate the March 8 International Women's Day. March 8 is the day of struggle of women all over the world for their social emancipation and the equality of human rights and freedom, and the day when they pledge to participate in the building of a social state by pooling their

Women are full of delight after voting for deputies to the 14th Supreme People's Assembly.





Women have a good time on the International Women's Day.

► strength, and put the pledge into practice.

Since then our women became able to significantly celebrate the day as their holiday. The country made sure a women's organization was formed embracing broad sections of women, and adopted a law on sex equality some time later. Thus they were provided with the same rights as men in all spheres of political, economic and cultural life, for example, the right to elect and to be elected and those to labour, remuneration, social insurance and education.

Thanks to the proclamation of the law the Korean women's age-long desire to live a life worthy of human being free from humiliation, ill-treatment, contempt and fetters was realized.

Indeed, the Korean women are the blessed. So the socialist country reverberates with the songs *Love Your Wives* and *Song of Women*.

Now the Korean women have grown up into a powerful force staunchly turning one of the wheels of revolution, and are performing their role as legitimate masters in all sectors of socialist construction under the uplifted banner of self-reliance.

You're right. As they did in the days of the bloody anti-Japanese struggle and the fierce

Fatherland Liberation War, and when the country underwent the difficult period of the Arduous March and the forced march, our women invariably support their country, and they are fully aware of the fact that their life, family and happiness are inconceivable apart from the country.

Therefore, they unhesitatingly volunteer to work in remote mountain regions and development zones, on seas and solitary islets if the country calls upon them to do so, and are fulfilling without fail their national economic plans overcoming manifold hardships under the banner of self-reliance. Among them are model weavers who have finished their annual plan

ahead of schedule, scientists who are dedicating their all to cutting-edge research projects with a bold goal of astonishing the world, and athletes who are making painstaking effort in training to create a sports legend.

Last year was of decisive significance in the implementation of the target of the five-year strategy for the development of the national economy, and the women in the scientific and educational sector brought about a revolution in the educational work, thus training a lot of talent who would shoulder the development of the socialist economy, and played a great role in making a new breakthrough in socialist construction by waging

Women make innovations in their workplaces.



Scientist of Strong Faith

“SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IS FAR FROM something anyone can manage. You cannot make a good career in research without the will to rise to the challenge of new things and pioneer a cutting-edge field.” This is what Jo Su Gyong, a researcher of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering for Natural Resources Development, Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering, always says to graduates of the university's graduate school and researchers of the university.

Working as a researcher for over 20 years, Jo has accomplished research projects of great value conducive to the development of the country's science and technology and modernization of the national economy, including the one of making an automatic hosiery packing machine. Whenever asked how she engaged herself in mechanical engineering, Jo says she hoped to become a violinist in her childhood and a doctor in her middle school days.

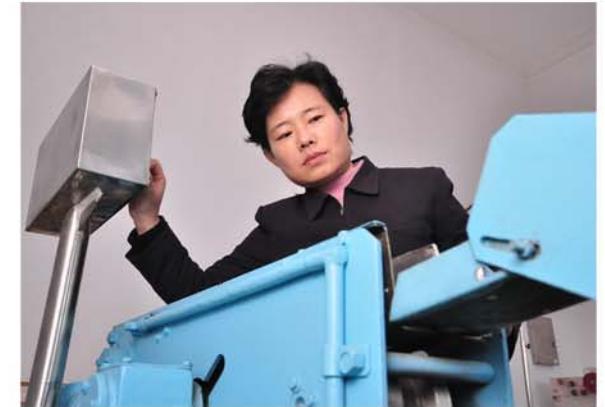
Jo's father was a doctor. In the school days she saw him enjoy public respect, and made up her mind to become a fine person like him.

One day, however, she was seriously reprovved by her father. Her school had recommended her to the aforesaid university as she was unusually good at studies. After receiving the relevant notice, she came back home and made complaints to her father about it. Her father said: I am afraid you're complaining about the university as we have such a good social system. What a good thing it is for the daughter of an ordinary doctor to go to university! Don't insult your teachers and schoolmates who recommended you to the university. What is important is not what kind of job you do but how sincerely you fulfill your duty. You should learn this if you want to become a true person.

Accepting his advice, Jo made efforts to become a true person. In the course of this she realized what a scientist's faith is.

Ten years ago her faculty organized a team to develop an automatic women's summer hosiery packing machine, the kind of which was the exclusive property of some countries. There were few technical documents to refer to.

The team consisted of young researchers with Jo as its head as she had previously displayed her unusual ability in different research projects. They



were in high spirits at first. But with the passage of time some of them lost heart with repeated failures.

Then department head Kim Sin Ung visited the research team. Seeing Jo at a loss what to do without confidence, Kim said, “It is difficult to pioneer the cutting edge. But what is more difficult is to keep your faith until you complete scientific research. The door to success will open for those of strong faith and will.” Listening to him, Jo ruminated on the meaning of the word *faith* once again. Now she realized that ability is not just faith and that only when they had the will to complete the research task at all costs could they rise from failures to success.

Reproaching herself for yielding to difficulties even for a while, Jo restarted the research, followed by her team members. Their painstaking efforts led to the completion of the design of the machine, and then to its successful manufacture and installation in the Pyongyang Hosiery Factory.

Seeing hosiery being packed by the machine, workers of the factory unstintingly praised the scientists for their ability.

Later Jo carried out lots of research tasks including the modernization of equipment of the Taedonggang Foodstuff Factory and the introduction of an automatic canning machine in a fishing station.

As a National Meritorious Person of Socialist Patriotism, Merited Scientist and Doctor, Jo is still making exact demands on herself.

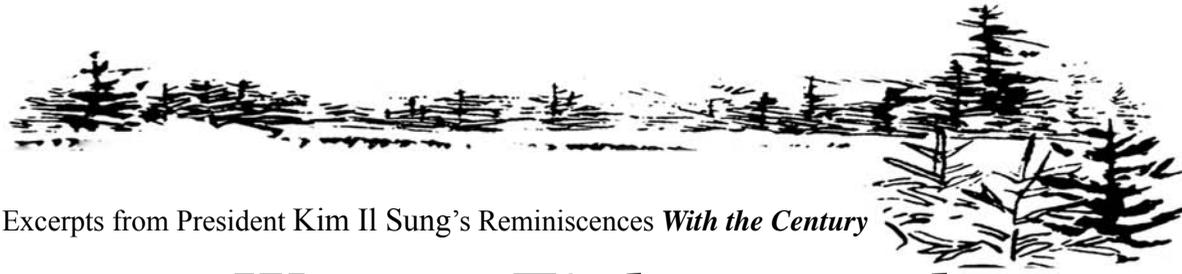
Kim Hye Gyong

► a brisk mental war, a technological war.

Besides, there is increasing the number of women who take warm care of war veterans and disabled soldiers out of patriotism, and such beautiful traits of adopting parentless children and becoming

ing daughters of helpless elderly persons are being continuously displayed among women.

Like this women play an important role in achieving the single-hearted unity of the whole society. □



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

Women Fighters and Revolutionary Honour

THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE PRESIDENT Kim Il Sung often recollected women guerrillas who had heroically laid down their lives in the battlefield and on the gallows, not seeing the day of national liberation, women who remained loyal to the revolution until death. He recalled:

Choe Hui Suk was a ranking veteran among women fighters of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army. She joined the army probably in 1932. This was when the anti-Japanese armed forces were being organized throughout the counties of eastern Manchuria, wasn't it? There were many women fighters in the KPRA, but only a few of them had enlisted as early as 1932. A soldier who took up arms in 1932 is worthy of being treated as a veteran.

As far as I remember, I met her first in the spring of 1936. In that spring many women who had been fighting in the units active in Yanji and Helong were admitted into our main force....

All the women fighters addressed Choe Hui Suk as "elder sister". Many men fighters did too. By age, she was an elder sister to most of us. She was several years older than I. I think among the women soldiers she was one of the elders, next to Kim Myong Hwa and Jang Chol Gu.

She was called "elder sister",

not just because she was older, but also because she was always so exemplary in her everyday life and in carrying out her duties. And she took good care of her comrades-in-arms. She had worked for several years in regional organizations, such as the Young Communist League and Women's Association, and among the Chinese anti-Japanese units. In the course of all this she had acquired high political qualifications and leadership ability, so I used to give her a lot of difficult assignments. She continued to work as the head of the sewing unit of the KPRA after the Xiaohaerbaling meeting because she enjoyed our trust.

The commanding officers and soldiers of the main force constantly marvelled at her absolute loyalty and revolutionary spirit. Everything she did touched the hearts of her comrades-in-arms. More than once I was moved by her noble sense of morality and by her personality. During the Arduous March I saw her mend-

ing the torn uniforms of her comrades by the campfire, warming her frozen fingers now and again, in the dead of night when the others were all asleep. She never rested for a few days before finishing any job, even if it meant having to allay her hunger with water. Whenever we talked about success in her work, she always gave credit to her comrades-in-arms for it. I can still remember her embarrassment on receiving her gold ring and watch at the awards ceremony for men and women of merit as she stammered out: "Many of us worked hard to make uniforms. If I alone am accorded special treatment in this way. ..."

After the Xiaohaerbaling meeting, she took part in small-unit operations. On her way to Headquarters to convey some important information one day, she encountered "punitive" enemy troops, who were going over the mountains with a fine-tooth comb in search of us.

Discovering her small unit,

▶ the enemy pursued them tenaciously to capture the guerrillas. She was surrounded, got a bullet through her leg and was captured.

The enemy put her to torture brutal beyond all description to extract the secret information from her. They even gouged out her eyes. No threats or torture, however, could break her revolutionary spirit. Just before her death she shouted: "I have no eyes, but I can still see victory in the revolution!"

Enraged by her shout, the enemy carved out her heart to see what sort of heart a communist had. What difference is there between the heart of a revolutionary and that of others? A heart bears no marks to indicate a revolutionary or a traitor.

The heart of a revolutionary beats for his country, nation and comrades-in-arms, whereas the heart of a traitor beats only for himself.

I was told that as soon as they took Choe Hui Suk prisoner, the enemy robbed her of the gold ring that we had awarded her. Nevertheless, they could not take away her cherished trust in us and her loyalty to us.

Even after they had torn out her heart, they failed to understand how she could have remained so honourable.

Those who do not love their country with a pure heart can never know what revolutionary honour is, nor can they understand the noble and beautiful spiritual world that grows out of a communist outlook on life.

At the news of Choe Hui Suk's death, all of us mourned, bitter with regret that she had died without seeing the day of nation-

al liberation for which she had longed so eagerly. The women guerrillas were so overcome with grief that they could no longer eat.

I was lost in sorrow for a long time.

However, we derived great strength from her words, "I can still see victory in the revolution!" She had shouted this under the worst imaginable circumstances, manacled as she was and with her eyes gouged out by the enemy. What an unbreakable, proud revolutionary spirit shines through these words! Not everyone could shout such words of defiance under similar circumstances. These are famous words, the kind that can be spoken only by those convinced of the validity and truth of their cause, only by fighters with a strong sense of revolutionary honour. The words are the very summary of the life of the woman fighter Choe Hui Suk.

"I can still see victory in the revolution!"—this has now become the maxim of our people, especially our younger generation, which symbolizes revolutionary optimism. This woman fighter's shout still rings in the minds of our people.

I value optimism and love optimistic people. "There will be a way out even if the sky falls in!" is one of my important mottoes. Because I am an optimist myself, I have been able to go through hell and high water without vacillation or deviation and continue to lead the revolution and construction in good health today.

I still remember the words that Choe Hui Suk, robbed of her eyes, shouted at the last moment of her life because they represent the strong will and unshakeable

conviction of all Korean communists.

I repeat that Choe Hui Suk is a woman revolutionary who can take her place proudly in the first line of our revolutionary ranks amongst all the others who overcame trying ordeals.

Pak Won Chun, Choe Hui Suk's husband, served a prison term in Sodaemun Prison.

There were many other women fighters who died with enormous courage, as Choe Hui Suk did.

An Sun Hwa also ended her life heroically. It is not easy to die a heroic death.

An Sun Hwa was Ri Pong Su's wife. They fought in the same unit, her husband working as the surgeon and she as the head of the sewing unit.

...

An Sun Hwa was captured by the enemy in the spring of 1938. One day when the guerrillas in the secret camp were preparing to leave for southern Manchuria by order of Headquarters, the enemy's "punitive" force suddenly pounced upon the camp.

The secret camp at that time was staffed mainly by medical personnel and members of the sewing unit. An Sun Hwa was captured by the enemy and put through cruel suffering.

The enemy tortured her, demanding the whereabouts of the guerrillas, foodstuffs, ammunition and medicine stores. The commander of the "punitive" force also tried enticing her with honeyed words, saying it was pointless for her to shed her blood and waste her precious young life in a hopeless cause.

Had An Sun Hwa answered their questions obediently, afraid ▶

► of torture, the enemy would not have killed her.

The Japanese in those days used the method of offering “generous treatment” to defectors in order to disintegrate our revolutionary ranks. A defector could escape death by writing down his guarantor’s name and putting his thumbmark on the defector’s application, even if he had been engaged in armed resistance and had been shouting “Down with Japanese Imperialism” only the day before.

It was really great that An Sun Hwa, a frail woman, should have resisted the enemy’s cajoling and endured their torture. The enemy kicked her, stomped on her and pulled out her hair. As she stubbornly resisted, yelling “You, beasts!”, “You, fiends!” at them, the enemy drove wooden stakes into her chest and belly, saying they would not waste bullets to kill her.

A man instinctively makes a face if a thorn pierces the palm of his hand. What agony An Sun Hwa must have suffered as the stakes were driven through her body, tearing into her flesh and bones!

Despite the pain, however, An Sun Hwa never gave up her principles as a revolutionary. She said what she wanted to say and remained faithful to her convictions to the end. The moment the stakes penetrated her body, she shouted with all the strength she could muster, “Long live the Korean revolution!” and “Long live the emancipation of women!”

After her death, her comrades-in-arms took everything out of her knapsack to dispose of her few possessions. Among these was a serge skirt that her hus-

band Ri Pong Su had bought her with the money he had earned as a stevedore in Vladivostok towards the end of the 1920s, as well as a desk cloth she had not finished knitting.

She had kept her serge skirt in her knapsack without wearing it for ten years, I was told. Why had she kept it so carefully? She must have wanted to wear it after the country was liberated. This fact alone shows us how firmly convinced she was of the coming victory in the revolution. The desk cloth she knitted at odd moments with thread she had unravelled from a worn-out shirt must also have been intended to be spread over her husband’s desk after the liberation of the fatherland.

When covering her dead body with that serge skirt, her husband sobbed bitterly at the sight of the pleats of the skirt, which were still perfectly straight after ten years.

In the anti-Japanese armed units fighting in northern Manchuria also there were many women fighters like Choe Hui Suk and An Sun Hwa.

Han Ju Ae is a good example of how strongly devoted Korean women fighters in northern Manchuria were to their revolutionary principles. In charge of the sewing unit, Han Ju Ae was making padded uniforms of the guerrillas at a service camp. One day, caught in a sudden attack on the camp by the enemy’s “punitive” force, she was captured with her little daughter.

The Japanese seized her while she was firing back hopelessly at the “punitive” troops, deliberately exposing herself to them in order to give her comrades-in-arms the chance to get away safely.

She was kept behind bars

for several months. The enemy put mother and daughter into separate cells, saying it was an “extravagance” to keep mother and daughter in the same cell. In order to bring Han Ju Ae to her knees, they brought her daughter to meet her mother occasionally in an attempt to take advantage of Han Ju Ae’s maternal love. No enemy trickery, however, could make her abandon her revolutionary principles.

The enemy finally shot her on the bank of the Ussuri River. The interrogators at the Japanese gendarmerie had told her that they would spare her life if she admitted that she repented of what she had done, but she refused to give in to the last.

Eight members of a sewing unit of the guerrilla army active in northern Manchuria, including An Sun Bok and Ri Pong Son, while fighting against the enemy that was closing in on them, threw themselves into the deep waters of the Mudan River before they could be captured. There was a similar instance also among the women fighters of the guerrilla army in eastern Manchuria. On their way to Neidaoshan, seven young women fighters encircled by the enemy committed suicide by drowning themselves into the Fuer River. Their heroic death created yet another legend in the history of the anti-Japanese revolution.

One year when I was visiting China I saw and was deeply moved by a film describing the struggle of the eight women martyrs of Mudanjiang.

Not only the women fighters in northern Manchuria, but also Ri Sun Jol, a dear “sister” to the guerrillas in southern Manchu-

► ria, kept her honour as a revolutionary.

Another heroine, Kim Su Bok, was arrested and killed while conducting underground activities in Zhujingdong, Changbai County.

A hero or heroine is not a special being. Ordinary women, such as Choe Hui Suk, An Sun Hwa and the seven women martyrs of eastern Manchuria, can also become heroines.

...

The story of the hair is eloquent proof of what a great and laudable revolutionary Comrade Ri Kye Sun was. Looking at it, I think of the pure-hearted, strong-willed devotion of all Korean mothers, sisters and women revolutionaries to their principles.

Korean women are outwardly gentle, but strong-minded on the inside. They are also strongly faithful to their fundamental beliefs. I keenly felt this in the course of our revolutionary struggle against the Japanese. I must say that Ri Kye Sun’s hair symbolizes the faith of all our women revolutionaries.

When I was carrying out the underground struggle in Manchuria, my mother had placed her hair inside my shoes, the cut-off hair she had kept carefully for several years since in her days in Korea. One cold winter day I trudged across an uninhabited region in a raging snowstorm. I walked a long distance, yet my feet were not cold; on the contrary, the longer I walked, the more warmth I felt in the soles of my feet. Reaching my destination, I pulled off my shoes, inspected them and found my mother’s hair lining the interior.

I thought at that moment that there is no greater affection than

that of a mother. My mother’s hair inside my shoes was the truest manifestation of her maternal love.

When the Korean Provisional Government in Shanghai was set up and Independence Army organizations such as *Jongui-bu*, *Chamui-bu* and *Sinmin-bu* came into being in Northeast China, imposing taxes on the Korean residents, a considerable number of Korean women sold their hair for independence contributions, I was told. Their hair was a symbol of their patriotism.

I am recounting past events related to hair while talking about Ri Kye Sun because her hair can give us a full picture of her personality.

Comrades Kim Il and Pak Yong Sun also know about her because they fought together with her. If you want to collect materials about Ri Kye Sun, you had better interview the First Vice-Premier Kim Il and Comrade Pak Yong Sun. Some people claim it’s dull talking to Kim Il because he is so taciturn. They don’t know him well enough. Though he never boasts of himself, Kim Il is loud and voluble in praise of others.

Ri Kye Sun took the road to revolution in the wake of her brother, Ri Ji Chun. When I was in the Jilin Yuwen Middle School, Ri Ji Chun studied at a normal school in Jilin and was engaged in the revolutionary struggle under our guidance. Later, when he returned to Helong where his parents lived to guide the work of the Young Communist League there, he was arrested and killed by the enemy. The enemy set fire to his dead body, so that he was killed twice, so to speak.

Ri Kye Sun heard of her

brother’s death in the Yulangcun guerrilla zone, where she had been staying.

At dawn the following day she untied her hair, cut it off and braided it.

She sent the braid to her mother with the following note: “Mother! What pain you must be feeling at Brother’s death in addition to my leaving home!”

“Please do not grieve over it, though. Do not show your tears to the enemy.

“I am sending you my braid, Mother. I may not come back to see you for a long time. Look on this braid as if it were me. With all my heart I wish you the best of health till the day of victory in the revolution!”

This was her farewell to her mother. There was no doubt that she was determined to devote the rest of her life to the revolution.

...

Some time after her enlistment we sent her to a field hospital because she was suffering from frostbite and unable to fight in the combat unit. At first she refused to go, begging me in tears to be allowed to remain on the battle front.

However, I did not listen to her entreaties. I told her: “You don’t seem to know how dreadful frostbite can be. You will have many chances to fight later, but you must go to hospital right now. My father also died as a result of cold injuries. How useful will you be if all of your toes rot and you become a cripple, walking on crutches?” At this, she reluctantly agreed to get treatment at the hospital.

...

While we were away from the Mt. Paektu area for a while, the

► enemy hurled “punitive” troops at the service camps of our unit. The hospital in charge of Doctor Song was also taken by surprise. Pak Sun Il fell in the battle and Ri Kye Sun was captured by the enemy and dragged to Changbai County.

...

...Ri Kye Sun was shot to death on a market day. The enemy had gathered all the local residents in a school playground, boasting that a “converted” woman of the communist army would make a public “recantation”. They had also herded all the peddlers from Hyesan into the playground.

Why had Ri Kye Sun asked the enemy to give her an official opportunity for addressing the local people? I think we can see here the true nature of Ri Kye Sun as a communist. She wanted the people all together in the playground because she intended to bid farewell to them by speaking up for the revolution and against the Japanese. Had she truly recanted, the enemy might have spared her life. Ri Kye Sun, however, had not chosen such a despicable course of action, but was prepared to face death. Anyone ready to die fears neither guns nor swords and feels free to say whatever he wants.

She addressed the assembled people with the words: “I will die, but the Korean People’s Revolutionary Army is strong and its Commander is in good health. No force in the world can defeat the KPRA. The day when Japanese imperialism is destroyed and our fatherland is liberated is very close at hand. All of you must unite in mind and body, rise up

against enemy suppression and fight the war of resistance to the Japanese.”

Ri Kye Sun did her best to the last moment of her life to discharge her mission and duty as a servant, educator and information worker faithful to the people.

What a great surprise it must have been to the enemy to hear the woman of the communist army speaking up for revolution against the Japanese, quite contrary to their bragging that she would “recant”.

I’m told the old-time inhabitants of Changbai still remember vividly the sight they witnessed that time. This means Ri Kye Sun’s speech obviously made a great impact on the inhabitants of the area.

Ri Kye Sun became a famous woman fighter because she illuminated her last moments with such a heroic deed. The crowning glory of her life was her last moment. It can be said that the high point in one’s life means the time when a person’s mental powers and activities reach their apex. The arrival of this high point varies with people. Some may experience it in their twenties, some in their fifties, and still others in their sixties or seventies.

People like Ri Kye Sun and Choe Hui Suk who end their lives brilliantly become a part of history for ever, while those who win fame but meet their last moment with dishonour sink into oblivion.

That is why I still remember Ri Kye Sun. We can be rightly proud of such a woman fighter as Ri Kye Sun in the eyes of the world. Her heroic life can be a good theme for a revolutionary novel or film. She was a true

daughter of the Korean nation and the perfect model of a woman revolutionary.

Ri Kye Sun’s mother had worried herself sick for a long time because she did not know whether her granddaughter, Ri Kye Sun’s daughter, was alive or dead. Only after the Korean War did she find out that her granddaughter was studying at Kim Il Sung University. It was then that she handed over her daughter’s braid to her granddaughter. The braid that had been handed back and forth over three generations was a symbol of the valuable life of martyr Ri Kye Sun. The mother, whose face and voice had faded from the memory of her daughter because of their forced separation when the daughter was still only a baby, coming back to her daughter as a braid of hair—what a tragic meeting it is! The daughter wept and wept, rubbing her cheek against the braid.

Ri Kye Sun’s daughter is now faithfully carrying forward the revolution her parents pioneered at the cost of their lives.

There would be no end if we were to enumerate all the examples of women fighters who lived up to their dignity and honour as revolutionaries by sacrificing their lives without the slightest hesitation. My assertion that women push forward one wheel of the revolution is not an abstract notion. It is based on the history of the bloody revolutionary struggle against the Japanese and on my own actual experiences as a direct participant in the emancipation of Korean women, as well as an eyewitness to their struggle. □



SOME TIME AGO A *KOREA Today* reporter had an interview with Jin Yong Sok, director of the Central Quality Certification Office of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, on the matter of quality certification which is widely under way in different sectors.

I think quality certification has been conducted widely in different sectors recently.

Now remarkable developments are being achieved in different sectors, especially in food processing, pharmaceutical and cosmetics fields. Quality certification is the work in which the third party guarantees with a written certification that a certain product, process or service meets the relevant terms desired.

Now the modernization of production processes and the increasing number of technicians and skilled workers at industrial establishments ensure the production of new goods. In this condition we should raise our responsibility for guaranteeing the quality and safety of goods. And the impartial, objective, and accurate appreciation of goods is our lifeline.

In the past we mainly did the quality certification, but now we give the first consideration to the management system certification.

Quality Certification Widely Under Way

We are conducting the relevant examination in compliance with the DPRK Law on Quality Certification and detailed regulations for the enforcement of quality certification.

What kinds of management system certification are there?

There are different certifications such as ISO10901 (quality management system certification), ISO22000 (food safety management system certification), ISO11305 (medicine production and quality management certification), and ISO 14000 (environment management system certification).

These certifications will be further subdivided in the future. Because the number of talent is growing thanks to the country’s policy of attaching importance to talented personnel, and they are playing leading roles in all sectors. Under the banner of self-reliance, they are creating new things with their own technology and raw and other materials with an ambitious plan to lead the world instead of following others. This had made officials, technicians and workers think of quality first, and all factories and enterprises are striving to get quality certification.

Once technical delegates from the World Health Organization, on their visit to a pharmaceutical factory in the country, said that the country had a proper technical foundation for quality certification, and that its technicians’ ability was high.

With quality certification under way recently the Korean-made products are winning international quality certifications, I think.

The Kanggye Koryo Medicine-processing Factory, the

Samilpho Specialities Factory and other factories across the country are producing excellent goods a lot. Along with a new turning point in improving the quality of goods lots of consumer goods and foodstuffs, including functional cosmetics and the Kaesong Koryo insam processed goods, are being produced to the delight of the people. Many of them, including internationally-certified *Pomhyanggi* cosmetics from the Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory and the Kangso Mineral Water specially good for health and longevity, are those we can boast to the world.

Recently the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory developed functional cosmetics of 25 kinds whose main raw material is the Kaesong Koryo insam, the speciality of the country, and their quality was certified by the Eurasia Economic Union, an influential regional economic organization.

Meanwhile, the Pyongyang Taegyong Laver Processing Factory, the Songdowon General Foodstuff Factory, the Thosong Pharmaceutical Factory, the Songchongang Seafood Processing Company and many other units have made production processes Juche-oriented, modern, IT-based and scientific by strengthening their own technical development forces. Thus the production processes were awarded a foodstuff safety management system certification, and GMP certification.

The Taedonggang General Fruit Processing Factory and the Songdowon General Foodstuff Factory received the management system certification and product certification that meet the international standard, and such units are still on the increase. □

Factory in Apple Orchard

A CONSPICUOUS THING IN THE MIDDLE of an endless expanse of apple orchard in Todok-ri, Samsok District, Pyongyang, is a factory. As it is buried in white blossoms in spring and in red fruits in autumn, the landscape of the Taedonggang General Fruit Processing Factory is really attractive. Equipped with a fruit depot with the capacity of 2 000 tons and an essence depot which can store 1 000 tons, it produces fruit products in all seasons.

The factory was established in Juche 100 (2011)—its history is not so long. But its products such as juice, soda, syrup, fermented vinegar and wine and its cosmetic goods such as apple perfume and apple shampoo have already gained popularity.

In its initial days it produced twelve varieties

of products in 11 kinds. The managers and workers were not content with it as they were an enterprising kind of people. They pushed ahead with the undertaking for preparing more production lines and improving the quality of products. This resulted in establishment of a drops line and a natural flavouring one, and the reconstruction of the cosmetics line on an expansion basis. In the meantime the factory gained the ISO 22000 for all the production lines by earning national and international quality certificates in 2013 and 2014 respectively.

The undertaking for developing functional products also made headway on a large scale. One of them is the fruit and bee glue, which is a natural drink prepared by adding bee glue which comes from apple honey collected at the Taedonggang Combined Fruit Farm area. It is good for supplementing energy, minerals and vitamins and reinforcing immunity.

Other natural products made from fruits produced in the pollution-free environment are also favourably commented upon by the public. Fermented vinegar is a good example. Made from fermented apple juice, the health food helps stimulate the



Products of the factory.

▶ appetite, recover from fatigue and retard ageing. It has turned out to be good for treating and preventing cancerous diseases, arteriosclerosis and cerebral thrombosis and for whitening the skin.

Hwang Chang Bong, 105, who lives in Neighbourhood Unit No. 49, Kaeson-dong, Moranbong District, Pyongyang, loves to have fermented apple vinegar every day. She uses no other remedies than the vinegar for her health. She is free from digestive disorder, and she has a good skin colour as well as a good memory.

A kind of drink made from fermented vinegar with no sugar content is widely known as health food against diabetics.

Eight kinds of the factory's products including pear juice and apple juice have been put on the list of February 2 Products, which is an honour given

to fine products in the country. The apple juice is a unique product which keeps the original taste and flavour of apples, so it won the December 15 Medal of Quality which is awarded to the home-made products of top quality. The new products such as fruit vitamin drops, green tea and fruit juice, and fruit peptide drink are catering for the various tastes of the people.

At present the factory is producing over 140 varieties of products in 37 kinds. Ensuring top quality of all products is the goal of the workers. Learning and researching constantly to attain it is the climate of the factory.

Kim Ryon, a worker of the fermentation workteam, has enrolled on the distance learning course of Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry, and this has helped her to earn the honour of master of contrivance. Ri Kwang Jin, head of the technical preparation section of the new product and technical laboratory, is a graduate from Kim Chaek University of Technology, and he is attending the distance learning course of Kim Il Sung University.

Thanks to their efforts wastes from fruit processing which used to be thrown away are being recycled. The factory produces feed additives from the remnants of the juice extraction, and oil from apricot and apple seeds. The oil is used not only for medical and cooking purposes but also for cosmetic materials.

The products from the Taedonggang General Fruit Processing Factory, giving off the sweet aroma of fruits and nature, bring youth and health to people all the year round.

Article by Rim Ok
Photos by An Yong Chol



Pride

RECENTLY THE FORESTRY Equipment Factory under the General Bureau of Forestry of the Ministry of Land and Environment

Protection is steadily expanding the production of goods such as plastic container for sapling cultivation and light plastic panel.



► Conspicuous Landscape

Many people who visit the factory say that it does not look like the one producing the forestry equipment and materials at all in view of its exterior appearance.

The wide compound of the factory has over 5 000 trees of 36 species including eastern white pine, metasequoia and Korean spruce, and turf of 8 000 m² spreading along the kerb, and the exhibition and welfare service buildings not inferior to production ones. It also has over 20 outdoor solar lamps, over 60 solar panels, five wind-driven generators, a resting place under a circular roof, a volleyball court, and the sheds for Phung-san dogs, pheasants and doves.

Spectacular in particular are the exhibition and welfare service buildings.

Ju Hyang Suk, a service worker, says, "The employees of the factory say that they feel the joy of worthwhile labour in the well-arranged service conditions and environment."

Full-capacity Operation

An Se Chol, chief engineer of the factory, proudly says, "My factory started its operation not long ago, but it is in full operation."

It produces plastic containers for sapling cultivation, plastic blinds, and all of them are made of domestically-produced polypropylene as the main raw materials.

The management of the factory set a goal of realizing the domestic production of raw and other materials to put the production of the goods on a normal basis. To this end they pushed ahead with a mass technical innovation campaign. The officials themselves conducted technical studies through the sci-tech learning space in order to acquire the knowledge of the plastics industry, and solved technical problems arising in production with the workers on the shop floor.

The technicians and workers tried to slough off the previous mode of production and strove

to make the goods with domestically-produced polypropylene. It was not easy for them to transform the property of polypropylene to be like the previous plastic material as they only had the general knowledge of the plastics industry. They, however, visited a unit specializing in the plastics industry to learn from its experience, and studied the relevant global trend. They conducted experiments scores of times to find out additional agents which make the property of polypropylene equal to that of polyethylene.

In the course of this they established a production line based on raw materials available in the country, and introduced into production an ultraviolet absorber, antioxidant and stabilizer, thus they became able to produce the goods at their will.

Now the workers of the factory say that it is working at full capacity and that they are living optimistically.

Article by Kim Yong Un
Photos by Ra Jin Hyok



Priority to Science and Technology



In the sci-tech learning space.

SOME TIME AGO WE visited the Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory situated on the bank of the Taedong River. Kang Sol Gyong, an official of the factory, welcomed us.

She guided us to the sci-tech learning space first. “Last year the sci-tech learning space of our factory was awarded an official

commendation,” she said with a smile, and added that their database contains data of over four million items along with new data of over five thousand items added last year.

The technicians and workers of the factory frequent the sci-tech learning space as it enables them to see all the data on food-

stuff production including the global trend in the development of the foodstuff industry. There we met Kim Hyon Sik, a worker of the factory and a student of the online education faculty of Kim Chaek University of Technology. He played a great role in solving the technical problems arising in modernizing a medical dextrose production process. A roller flour mill designed and manufactured by such students of the factory in cooperation with its technicians played an important role in making the aforesaid process dust-free and unmanned and improving the quality of the product.

Kim Hyon Sik said, “It is not long before I finish the online education course and receive a diploma. While getting the education, I solved several sci-tech problems arising in the factory. In the course of this I accumulated a high ability, and now I am confident that I can solve any sci-tech problems. The factory has lots of students who are

▶ getting such education like me.”

The workers of the factory are attending mainly the online education courses of Kim Chaek University of Technology, Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry and Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering.

Kang said it was also such a student worker who had made it possible to ensure the domestic production of the materials capable of ensuring the transparency of starch syrup. Listening to her we headed for the general control room. In the room, we could see the actual states of every workshop’s production process in operation at a glance. Kim Kuk Chol, a member of the room, said they had previously watched and controlled the management of process, power and quality and that now the integrated production system was further perfected with the control of electric power made IT-based. The integrated power control net of the factory was highly estimated in the national IT achievements exhibition 2019

held on the subject of “enthusiasm for digital economy and introduction of IT,” and the factory had the honour to be recognized as a model IT-based unit 2019.

While looking at the processes operating in the integrated production system, we found new production processes there and asked Kang about them. Then she said, “They are a potato farina-based foodstuff production process and a fried cereal chip production process.”

We went to the shop floor to see the fried cereal chips. The chips were being made with wheat, maize and barley. “The fried cereal chips were developed by our technicians who are regular visitors to the sci-tech learning space and good developers of new products,” said Kim Myong Hui, a machine operator. She added that the fried chips which could substitute for breakfast were popular among women as it could lighten their burden.

She went on to say, “Our factory designed and manufactured the equipment for the production of the fried cereal chip by

itself. The workers of the maintenance workshop are our treasure who can make necessary production equipment as they want. Some time ago they manufactured by themselves the feed pump which had previously been imported from other countries or purchased from other factories, and it is greatly contributing to production as its capacity is 30 times greater than other feed pumps. The treatise *Manufacturing and Designing of Feed Pump by Pipe-making Method* from the factory took first place in the Pyongyang Municipal Sci-tech Festival held last year.”

Her pride in the factory seemed endless. She then said the factory would make another leap forward by concentrating on sci-tech development this year, too.

Now we realized that the factory was thriving because it attached importance to science and technology and regarded it as its development strategy.

Article by Rim Ok
Photos by Hwang Ryo Jong

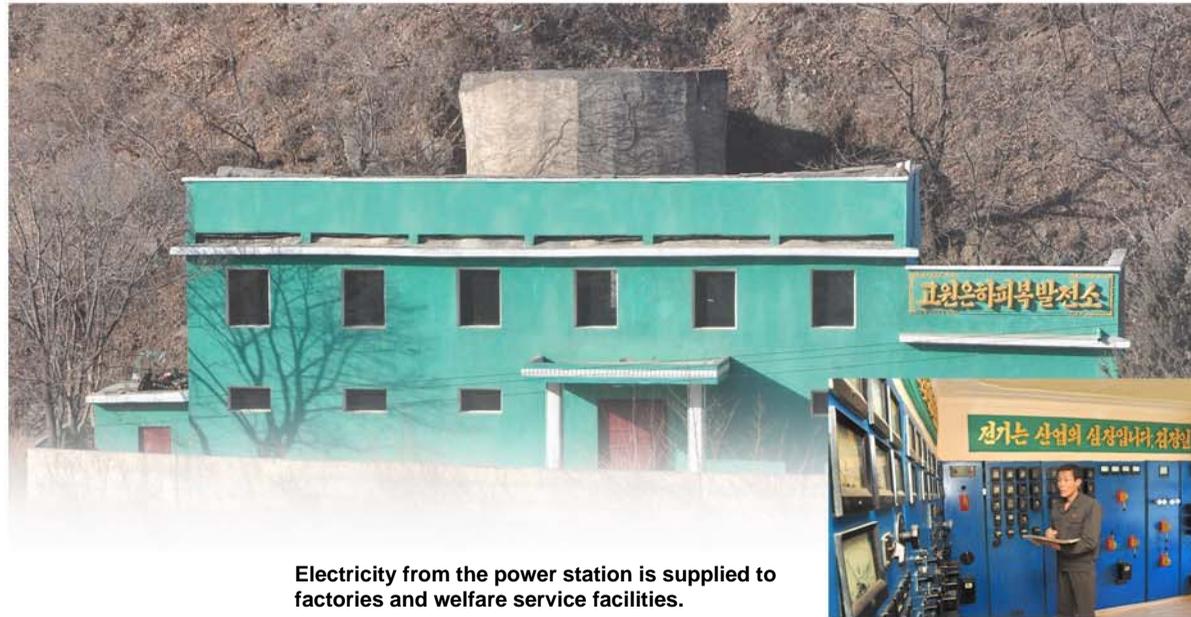


In the analysis laboratory.



▶ Production goes up on the strength of science and technology.

Best Way to Turn



Electricity from the power station is supplied to factories and welfare service facilities.

SOME TIME AGO WE visited the Kowon Unha Garment Factory in Kowon County, South Hamgyong Province. In the wide compound of the factory we could see an eight-storey production building and other auxiliary buildings standing neatly.

When we met Kim Pong Gi, general manager of the factory, he said, "My factory is now well known across the country be-

cause we built a power station by ourselves by relying on our own strength and with the concerted efforts of the employees, and are conducting the production at our will using the electricity from the power station." Then, with deep emotion, he told us about the construction of the power station.

The factory was a small weaving shop with 30 employees

who were all married women at the time of its inauguration in August 1958. It has now developed into the one producing different products including men and women's padded clothes, overclothes, knitted clothes and sportswear, and the one overfulfilling its annual national economic plan.

Though it was determined to produce more products in keep-

ing with the developing times, it was absolutely impossible because of the limited electric power. So the factory decided to build a medium-size hydropower station itself by using its favourable physiographical condition. Most of its workers were women, but they started the project on the banks of the Tokji River, and finished it in three years. They were all pleased on the day they produced the first products using the electricity from their own power station.

Meanwhile, the factory waged a mass technical innovation campaign to make the digital control-based power production and supply IT-based, and introduce many valuable

technical innovations, thus contributing to the normalization of power production.

Last year it built a tiny power station by introducing a method of using an outlet of waste water. Electricity from the power station is being used to run a workers' hostel, a bathhouse, a swimming pool and other cultural and welfare facilities, a mushroom cultivation ground and a greenhouse.

The electricity is also supplied to many other units in the county and dwelling houses in the county town.

When we met Kim Song Bok, head of the power station, he said, "The factory is getting much benefit from the power

station. Self-reliance is the only way for us to live. The reality eloquently proves the validity of the country's policy of constructing medium and small power stations at any place where water flows." He continued to say blessing does not come of itself, but one should achieve it by oneself, adding that the factory would not become a consumer but a producer giving a helping hand to the country in the future too.

Convinced that the material wealth of the factory would increase thanks to such managers and workers, we left it.

Article by Sim Yong Jin
Photos by Ri Chung Ryol



Efforts are made to improve the quality of products.

Natural Monument— Moranbong Dendrolite Fossil

A WOODEN FOSSIL, which shows the geological history of Korea, is well preserved as a natural monument in Moran Hill of Pyongyang. The Moranbong dendrolite fossil in the vicinity of the Chongnyu Cliff, which was the tree growing by a lakeside in the Early Jurassic Epoch of the Mesozoic era, the geological age of about 200 to 175 million years ago, was buried by the geological action, and the silicon component dissolved in underground water filled the gaps of its cells.

The fossil was the gymnosperm which grew thickly at that time. Originally, the spot was covered in petrified for-

est of upright or fallen petrified trees. This tells that the climate of those days was a subtropical one, and that tall trees made a forest in the area. Various plant phytolith such as bracken and cycad species came from the layers which are almost similar to the tree fossil layer.

According to paleontologists' research findings, this tree fossil is a type of pine tree. The annual ring of the fossil and the structure of its cells serve as important data for studying paleoecological environment of the Early Jurassic Epoch of the Mesozoic era.

Pak Un Yong



World of Researchers

RECENTLY THE TEACHERS and researchers of the biomass engineering department, Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry, invented cloth for practising handwriting by a brush. Dr. Kim Song Juk, candidate academician and professor, said the department, though with a short history, has fully displayed its ability for several years, and told us the following story.

A teacher of Pyongyang University of Fine Arts visited the department several years ago. Producing a kind of cloth for practising handwriting by a brush, the teacher asked if the university could invent such cloth. The cloth was the one coated with a mixture of several substances including plaster to be used in art education. After the teacher left, the relevant dean, the head of the department and its researchers were lost in thought. None of them readily said because that cloth was an exclusive property of some countries and the technique of manufacturing it

was not made public. Still, the department head Choe Nam Sun and her teachers and researchers boldly started the research as they knew it was an important job to make the rising generations become attached to things of their own. The faculty actively helped with their work.

While carefully examining the cloth brought by the aforesaid teacher, they strove to find out its secrets, for example, the property of the cloth and the ratio of combination of adhesives for fixing coating to the cloth. The first trial product they presented revealed shortcomings: the letters written with the brush soaked with water spread so much that they could not be well recognized, and empty holes appeared in strokes; and the cloth and coating separated because of weak adhesion. Nothing went smooth including the development of adhesives.

But the teachers and researchers kept making efforts to solve the problems by themselves, pooling their wisdom. They worked on the composition

of coating and the way of coating and tried to find an important matter in eliminating the irrational point occurring in drawing lines on the cloth to be convenient for writing practice.

...

They finally succeeded in completing the cloth.

The cloth can be recycled. It also makes it possible to save paper and colour, and it is regarded as an environment-friendly product that causes no environmental pollution. In August 2019, the cloth won a certificate of registered hi-tech product.

The cloth is popular with students of Pyongyang University of Fine Arts and young people and children who want to learn calligraphy.

Recently they have invented a dental paper wick indispensable to the maintenance and treatment of teeth without pulling them out.

Choe Nam Sun said, "Our teachers and researchers will continue to develop and create things of our own."

Kim Il Bong

SOME TIME AGO THE scientists of the State Academy of Sciences developed a new kind of cement block to be installed at the front face of the breakwater to reduce the action of wave energy upon a coastal structure.

The block is divided into different kinds according to their shapes.

The scientists intensified the theoretical studies and hydraulic model tests in order to develop the blocks, and

Profitable Cement Blocks Developed

thus confirmed the scientific numerical values such as the size and weight of the blocks for different heights of wave, and the longitudinal slope of installing position. The blocks they developed were introduced first in the construction

of the coastal breakwater of the Koam-Tapchon railway at Sokjon Bay. This made it possible to save tens of thousands of similar blocks as compared to the previously used tetrapods, decrease the amount of the aquanaut work for smoothing the foundation bed of several thousand square metres, and lower the height of the breakwater by 40% while increasing the rate of wave reduction by 40 to 50%.

Pak Thae Ho

Educator Couple

PAK SONG GWAN AND Kim Jin Wol are man and wife.

Pak is the deputy headmaster of Pipha Senior Middle School in Moranbong District, Pyongyang, and Kim is a teacher of Jongsung Primary School in the same district.

As they are October 8 Model Teachers, not only teachers but also parents who raise children know the couple. The following shows how they were married.

Pak attended Kim Chol Ju University of Education after finishing military service. It was when he was practising teaching in a school of Moranbong District before graduating from the university. He found himself becoming strained while giving his first lesson before tens of pairs of twinkling eyes watching him, thus he could hardly know how he started and finished the lesson.

Cherishing a hope of becoming a fine teacher he had studied hard and became an honour student. But when it came to actual teaching he found it was different from learning theoretically. While trying to improve his teaching ability he heard that a maiden teacher of the aforesaid primary school was highly rated in a municipal teaching contest.

He didn't hesitate to visit her. She was Jin Wol. Knowing why he came, she gave selfless help to the enterprising and inquiring man. Thus, he could get the knack of teaching quickly.

After graduating from the university he became a teacher of the abovementioned senior middle school.

Since then they often met to discuss about problems arising in their work and exchange experience in an effort to improve their qualifications. In those

days they fell in love with each other and finally married.

Soon after, Pak was promoted to deputy headmaster.

He says, "My wife's effort was unusual. She would sit up all night making preparations for my teaching, and add her own idea to my making a teaching aid."

"It seems to me that he regards himself as deputy headmaster even at home. He is increasingly strict with me while examining my teaching plan closely. However, I don't want to fall behind him," Jin Wol says with a smile.

She invented several new teaching methods such as that of heightening understanding of maths by using a piling game as a teaching aid to suit the psychology of lower primary-school graders. She also invented several experimental apparatuses and teaching aids.

She participated in the 14th National Conference of Teachers held in September last year.

On the day when she came back from the conference Pak congratulated her, presenting a bouquet. She gave the bouquet back to his husband and said, "This bouquet is for you. Let us participate together in the next conference."

They are continuously striving to develop their students into talent.

Pak Un Yong



Suited to Children's Psychology



Abacus-used instruction.

NOT LONG AGO WE visited the Undok Kindergarten in Phyongsong, South Phyongan Province. "What's the result of 445 789 minus 325 464 plus 456 721?" a teacher asked the class, and O Wi Ryong, a member of higher class No. 4, soon answered, "It is 577 046."

And most of other children of higher classes calculated mentally the successive addition and subtraction of numbers of over five or even seven figures in a short time, and some of them speedily found the answer of multiplication of numbers of two or three figures like primary schoolchildren did. The children of lower classes, too, answered confidently the results of the continuous addition and subtraction of numbers of two or three figures.

Their such ability of calcula-

tion was attributable to the education in abacus calculation.

The education is one of the methods to develop the right brain of children. Jo Kwang Ok, head teacher of the kindergarten, said that children who learned to count on the abacus for a month or two had an image of abacus in their right brain and that if they

had the ability to picture the abacus, they could immediately calculate the answer without the abacus while using the abacus in their mind. The right brain is faster in memory speed, higher in imaginative and creative power and a hundred thousand times greater in memory capacity than the left brain. It is said that children with the developed right brain are faster in intellectual development than those who use only the left brain.

The kindergarten contributed to the improvement of education by introducing the method of educating preschool children with insufficient concentration in abacus calculation to suit their characteristics.

Department chiefs Ju Su Gyong and Pak Yong Mi and other teachers combined jigsaws, games and singing les-

sons to have the children take an interest in abacus. And the teachers found a way to give abacus education to the children to suit their psychology. Without arranging hours in particular, they gave the children the education for twenty minutes a day, that is, five minutes during a recess between lessons, five minutes during sunbathing and outside play and ten minutes after snacking. Especially the kindergarten gave the education to not only some intelligent children but also all the others of lower and higher classes.

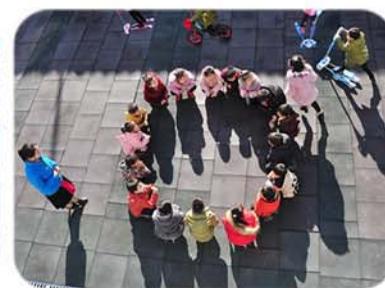
The abacus education was very effective. The concentration of the children improved day by day, their observation and imagination grew strong and their ability to understand what they learned in lessons was remarkably raised. The advantage of the education can be proved by the fact that the children who are good at the abacus in the kindergarten always lead the others in not only learning but also art and physical training.

The success was attributable to the teachers' devoted efforts to develop the intelligence of the children, the future of the country. The teachers are still striving to invent and introduce various teaching aids suited to the children's psychology including VR glasses and versatile sand board.



Article by
Kim Il Bong

Photos by
Hwang Jong Hyok



Doctor's Recollection



Jang Myong Guk (right).

THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC of Korea has many people who have dedicated their life to the development of the country's medical science. Among them is Assoc. Prof and Dr Jang Myong Guk of the plastic microsurgery laboratory of the hospital of Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences. Jang looks as young as a man under 60 though he is nearly 80.

He has worked with the sector of public health for over 50 years since his graduation from the university, and the number of operations he has performed is said to be more than 6 000.

He gets letters of thanks almost every day. Not long ago he received a letter from a young woman, Hwang Su Gyong by name. Repeating the name inwardly he looked back upon the past.

One summer day in 2008 the hospital held an urgent consultative meeting of experienced surgeons for an ordinary girl. After carefully examining the right leg of the girl, Jang, the then head of a microsurgery laboratory, said decisively, "We will be able to cure her problem with a good operation." The girl shed copious tears at his words. She was Hwang Su Gyong. When she was seven, her leg began to gradually bend inward, and the instep became almost like a sole. When she was 12, she became unable to think of going out. So Jang's words greatly delighted her.

Jang, however, unusually looked strained. He had invented an atraumatic needle and established a system for the production of the needles, thus making an active contribution to the development of microsurgery, and had performed relevant operations a lot. But he was a stranger to the operation on

such a case as the aforesaid girl. Though now well versed in the condition of the girl, he referred to the x-ray film of her deformed right foot and an anatomical chart of man in preparing for the operation to correct the foot. He spent silent days and nights preparing for a successful, immediate operation. The night before the operation the nearly-70-year-old surgeon played the guitar as he had always done before. It was not merely an ordinary practice of a surgeon for a deft hand. He did not regard any single operation merely as medical treatment but a worthwhile job to give joy of life to patients and enable them to expect their future when they would realize their hope to their heart's content.

The day when the operation was done successfully Jang, looking at the girl who had just come out from under the anesthesia, almost shouted, "Your foot has been restored to normal, Su Gyong." And the girl saw the instep of her foot properly after the lapse of ten years.

Soon afterwards, Jang performed another difficult operation, thus completely restoring the leg to normal.

The parents of the girl repeatedly thanked Jang holding his hands closely, when the doctor said, "It is rather thanks to our benevolent socialist health system than my medical skills that Su Gyong has become able to walk, so you had better thank our country."

Jang felt it seemed to have happened just a few days before. In her letter Su Gyong wrote that she, without the least inconvenience, was making efforts to do lots of things for the country, and invited the doctor to her wedding ceremony to be held several days later.

Jang's wife and his two sons and son-in-law are all engaged in health service. Jang always says to them, "We should not consider it natural that we are held in respect and affection by people. Our pride today is inconceivable apart from the benevolent system. You should always attach importance to operating theatres you enter at any time, the white gowns you wear every day and the scalpels you're skilled at handling, and assure your patients good life not only today but also in the future. This is the way for you to fulfill your duty as health workers and repay the country."

Lots of letters of thanks are addressed to Jang and his children.

Pak Yong Il

Egg-boiling Pool

Half-done eggs that absorb enough medicinal elements of the hot spring of 70-80°C are a specialty of the resort.



With Love and Sincerity

THE NORTH PHYONGAN PROVINCIAL Koryo Medicine Hospital, which specializes in the Korean traditional medicine, is situated in Sinuiju, North Phyongan Province. The hospital is frequented by not only inhabitants of the province but also people from other provinces.

Welcoming us, Kim Jun Dok, director of the hospital, said, “My hospital was established in 1957. It is not so big, but we are making achievements in medical treatment as we have well-qualified doctors.” Adding that they had lots of medical workers held in respect by people—including Kim Yong Song, vice-director for technical affairs; Jong In Suk, a doctor of the digestive medicine department; and Sin Yun Il, head of the acupuncture and moxibustion department—he told us the following story.

In summer several years ago, an ambulance, carrying a young man with his upper part swathed in plaster-of-Paris bandages, entered the yard of the hospital. The diagnosis pronounced to the young man who had a long way to go was too fatal. His name was Pak Jin Su and he was diagnosed as compression fracture of the fifth cervical vertebra. Furthermore, the severe reality that no modern medical method was absolutely possible to restore him to health made the medical workers in the hospital feel afraid that they might not get him to his feet. Worrying if they could bear the responsibility for the patient, they were looking at one another without any words, when a deep and full voice broke the awkward silence. “What the patient needs now is neither medical art nor medicines. It is just the conscience of a doctor willing to bear the responsibility for not only his life but also his future,” Kim Jun Dok said earnestly, touching the other medical workers.

Thus there started full-scale medical treatment for the patient. It was decided that Kim Yong Song, who had lots of clinical experience, bore the responsibility for the medical treatment. The cosiest room of the hospital was newly arranged into a sickroom for the patient, and urgent measures were taken for his treatment.

Necessary Koryo treatment was intensified



Doctors bring a patient of pamplegia back to normal.

including massage, acupuncture and moxibustion. While overcoming the difficult burden of the treatment together with the patient, the doctors imbued him with strength and courage, and provided him with specially-prepared foods lest he should become weak. And nobody knew how much distance the medical workers travelled to take him to famous spas in different regions. Thanks to such sincerity of theirs the patient finally could get to his feet with the aid of crutches five months later.

Looking back upon those days his father said he really could not forget the scene of the medical workers shedding tears of joy when his son became able to stand again.

Not content with the success the doctors kept pushing ahead with the medical treatment on a large scale while holding doctors' conference and technical consultation several times. They devoured various medical books and reference books and analysed their past experience to invent and employ rational Koryo medical treatments. Especially they established a new method of medical treatment suited to the patient's physical constitution and the symptoms of his disease and combined acupuncture, Koryo medicines, manual technique therapy, kinesitherapy and traction treatment without using any modern medicines.

Much time has passed since the young man began to get the treatment in the hospital. Now he is able to walk or ride a cycle.

The medical workers of the hospital are still devoting their sincerity to the treatment of patients.

Kim Tae Song

Seventy-five Years of WPK (3)

Society for Rallying Comrades

SINCE THE APPEARANCE OF COMMUNISM in the arena of the working-class movement as the new thought of the time, political parties representing the interests of the working class had appeared in various countries.

In April 1925 a communist party was formed even in Korea which was deprived of its freedom of and right to political activities due to the colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists.

Unfortunately, however, the Korean Communist Party came to the end of its existence as an organized body in 1928, unable to survive the cruel suppression by the Japanese imperialists and the factional strife in its high-ranking echelon.

At its Sixth Congress held in the summer of 1928 the Comintern pronounced the withdrawal of its recognition of the Korean Communist Party. This was tantamount to the expulsion of the Korean Communist Party from the ranks of the Comintern.

Now the Korean communists of a younger generation began to consider in real earnest how to found a new-type party without any factional strife inside. But they had to overcome many obstacles. The biggest of them was that there still remained factionalism in the communist ranks. After the Korean Communist Party was disorganized, the old communists launched a campaign at home and abroad to rebuild the party. But the movement failed to proceed in a coordinated manner, depending on activities of various factions. None of the factions could realize the rebuilding of the party due to the indiscriminate pressure and obstructive manoeuvres of the Japanese imperialists.

Another difficulty in founding the party was that it was impossible for the Korean communists to found their own party in Manchuria because of the Comintern's principle of “one party for one country.” In the general provisions of its rules adopted at its Sixth Congress the Comintern laid down this principle, to the effect that each party belonging to the Comintern should carry the name of the communist party of the country concerned (the branch of the Comintern) and that each country could have only one communist party representing the Comintern branch.

At that time, owing to the various interpretations of the Comintern's principle of “one party for one country,” terrible confusion and vacillation were cropping up in the activities of the Korean communists for the liberation of their country, and even the right of the Korean revolutionaries to fight for their homeland was regarded as doubtful. Such being the case, those Korean communists, who had been working hard to rebuild their party, started to

move to the Chinese party.

The matter of the Korean party members having to work in the Chinese party could not but seriously excite the young Korean communists who had a stronger national pride than others.

Kim Il Sung, leader of the communists of the new generation, had repeated arguments about the principle of “one party for one country” with his comrades. Could they find a way which would conform with the instructions of the Comintern while advancing the Korean revolution powerfully?

The way out which he discovered as a result was to form a party by setting up basic party organizations first, with communists of the new generation, who had nothing to do with factions, as the backbone and then steadily expanding them, proceeding from the lesson of the preceding communist movement, instead of hastily proclaiming a party centre. He was convinced that if they refrained from forming an independent party's central committee in China lest it should coexist with the Chinese party, it would not be contradicting the Comintern's principle of “one party for one country” and that the Comintern would welcome it.

Having established the idea, the communists of the new generation advanced the policy of founding a party at the Kalun Meeting (June 30–July 2, 1930).

On July 3, 1930 the first party organization of the proposed kind was formed in a classroom at Jinmyong School in Kalun with Cha Kwang Su, Kim Hyok, Choe Chang Gol, Kye Yong Chun, Kim Won U, Choe Hyo Il and other communists of the new generation. Although they were not present at the meeting, Kim Ri Gap, Kim Hyong Gwon, Pak Kun Won and Ri Je U also became members of the first party organization. At the meeting Kim Il Sung delivered his speech *On the Occasion of Forming a Party Organization*.

The organization was simply named Society for Rallying Comrades. That name embodied the high aims and will of the new-type communists who were taking the first step in the revolution by winning over comrades, and who were determined to develop the revolution in depth and achieve its final victory by continually discovering and rallying those comrades who would share their fate together.

The first party organization—the Society for Rallying Comrades—was the embryo and seed of the Workers' Party of Korea; it was an organization with the importance of a parent body in forming and expanding the basic organizations of the Party.

Ri Jong Nam



Fiercer Gale Makes Higher Banner

SOON AFTER THE FIFTH Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea took place in late December last year, the Korean people all across the country held rallies the following month to demonstrate their resolution to implement the decision of the meeting. Since then they have been working with fervent enthusiasm to make innovations and work miracles by dint of their own efforts and sci-tech resources.

The basic idea or the basic spirit of the plenary meeting is to conduct an offensive for a frontal breakthrough instead of waiting for the situation to turn better. In other words, it demands having no dream that the US and other hostile forces would leave the Korean people to live in peace, but making an offensive for a frontal breakthrough on the strength of self-reliance to overcome the difficulties lying in the way of advance of socialist construction.

Over the past 70-odd years the Korean people have built socialism against the most brutal and inhuman sanctions and nuclear threats posed by the hostile forces. Hoping to set up a durable and stable peace mechanism in the Korean peninsula, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had summit talks with the United States in June 2018 and February 2019—which were the first of its kind in history—and then took crucial measures to stop nuclear tests and ICBM test fires and shut down its nuclear testing ground.

Nevertheless, the intensity

of military threat and sanctions against the country has further increased, resulting in the futility of its serious effort for confidence building between Pyongyang and Washington, global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In this context Korea, a nation that puts greater value on its sovereignty and dignity though it urgently needs external environment favourable for its economic construction, could not stand the double-dealing behaviour of the US that has sought its own political and diplomatic interests while wasting time under the signboard of dialogue and negotiations and at the same time kept sanctions so as to sap the independent nation's strength. Finally the country has decided to launch a courageous offensive for a frontal breakthrough to neutralize the sanctions of the hostile forces and open a new avenue for socialist construction.

It is a political position of Korea to carry on a frontal attack to put the objective factors under its control instead of looking for a way of getting adapted to, and controlled by, the objective factors. Holding fast to the guideline of the Juche idea which maintains that one is the master of one's own destiny and that one should shape it with one's own effort, the country has been advancing steadfastly along the road of socialism breaking through all obstacles in its way positively. In the course of this the spirit of self-reliance and defiance against hardship has steadily developed into the people's belief, and the self-developing capability of the nation has

been augmented ceaselessly.

In particular, implementing the decisions of the third and fourth plenary meetings of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea which were held in April 2018 and April 2019 respectively, the nation has concentrated all its efforts on economic construction and thus achieved great things by drastically building up the developing capacity. Last year it reaped an unprecedented bumper harvest that exceeded the peak-year level even under

▶ many restrictions created by the heinous sanctions imposed by the hostile forces and continued unfavourable weather conditions; they spruced up the city of Samjiyon, building it into an excellent model of cultured town in mountains, an ideal archetype of modern civilization. Also the Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm and Tree Nursery went up in a little over a year, comprising 320 greenhouses for cultivation of vegetables and tree saplings, and houses for hundreds of households in the total area of 200 hectares. Another wonder is the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort which was erected

in less than one year; it has got indoor hot spring grounds, outdoor hot spring grounds, skiing area, riding ground and hotels—divided into curative and sanatorium districts, sports and recreational districts, service facilities, multi-storeyed apartment blocks and other components, which are all in perfect combination of practical usefulness, mutual coordination and formative arts.

The reality shows that no challenge in the world could check the country in its progress and that its self-developing capacity is outdoing the sanctions applied by the hostile forces.

Since they entered the offensive for a frontal breakthrough, the Korean people have demonstrated higher enthusiasm, and the independent and firm foundations of the country's economy, particularly the defence industry, are getting more solid.

No doubt the proactive campaign will elevate the international position of the country higher than ever before while causing the hostile forces to fall into unbearable uneasiness and fear.

The fiercer the sanctions may be, the higher the red banner of Korea will stand.

Ri Su Gyong

Pyongyangites pledge in January 2020 to implement the tasks put forward by the 5th Plenary Meeting of the 7th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.





Endless Stream of Study Tourists

NOW IN KOREA THE study tour to old revolutionary battle sites in the area of Mt Paektu is ongoing ceaselessly. In December last year the Workers' Party of Korea information workers and youth and students from across the country, and workers and officials of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea visited the sites.

The area is associated with the sacred traces of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle organized and waged under the leadership of Kim Il Sung for over two decades from the mid-1920s. He chose Mt Paektu as a strategic point, and guided an all-people resistance centring on the anti-Japanese armed struggle, and the anti-Japanese revolutionary forerunners, under his leadership, achieved the historic cause of national liberation by fighting undauntedly with the conviction of sure victory amidst the unprecedented harsh condi-

tions.

The revolutionary spirit cherished by the forerunners enabled them to overcome bitter cold of 40 degrees below zero and severe starvation, and grow up into the indomitable fighters unyielding to the enemy's encirclement. Their fighting spirit of crushing the enemy though they might die hundreds of billions of times made the enemy shudder.

In his reminiscences *With the Century* President Kim Il Sung, recollecting with deep emotion the revolutionary spirit displayed by the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters, wrote as follows:

“The conviction of sure victory, an unbreakable fighting spirit, the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, devotion and self-sacrificing spirit—these qualities are now called in our country the ‘revolutionary spirit of Paektu.’

“We emerged victorious in every battle with the en- ▶



emy at all times and in all places, because we were full of confidence in victory, and maintained an indefatigable fighting and self-sacrificing spirit without losing our composure and hope, even in confrontation with an enemy force, which was dozens of times stronger in number.”

The study tourists go round Mt Paektu, the revolutionary battle sites and the revolutionary sites in the area which are permeated with the noble spirit of the anti-Japanese revolutionary forerunners who solemnly wrote the first page of the Korean revolution, and keep in mind the revolutionary spirit and fighting spirit of Paektu as their practical experience, not as a remembrance of the historical fact. In the course of this they are fired by new revolutionary and fighting zeal, and acquire the ideological and moral traits and fighting spirit of the forerunners.

Tremendous might is born when the great ideology and spirit transform into physi-

cal strength. In particular, the revolutionary spirit of Paektu turns the Korean people into those who break through any trials and hardships and do not admit the word *impossible*.

When socialism collapsed in the Eastern European countries at the end of last century, and the imperialists and the reactionaries directed the spearhead of attack against Korea, socialism in the country had been maintained and advanced steadily—this is a miraculous victory brought about by the people possessed of the revolutionary spirit of Paektu.

Last year the Korean people, with the confidence in sure victory and the fighting spirit of self-reliance, spruced up Samjiyon City into the one bearing a concentration of modern civilization and as a socialist mountainous cultured town, and built the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort as a comprehensive hot-spring treatment base and a multifunctional complex of sporting and

recreation in less than a year. They also built 320 blocks of greenhouses, a tree nursery and houses for hundreds of families in an area of 200 hectares in the Jungphyong area, Kyongsong County in northern Korea in a little over a year.

The eye-opening reality of Korea proves that the might of the people with a great ideology and tradition is inexhaustible, and that any challenge cannot check the road ahead of those who are marching forward with such irresistible strength.

The country is now burning with enthusiasm for the study tour of revolutionary battle sites in the area of Mt Paektu since Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un looked round the sites in December last year.

As the ranks of the study tourists increase, the revolutionary spirit of Paektu is spreading among broader masses of the people, remarkably enhancing their mental strength and further strengthening the national power.

Kim Won Sik

Patriotism and Devotion

MANY PEOPLE IN THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea are devoting their all to the building of a socialist power.

30-odd Years as Sewage Dredger

Ri Hyon Ae has been working as a sewage dredger for over 30 years at the Central District Water Supply and Drainage Man-

agement Station in Pyongyang. ready to be sewage dredgers as the job was difficult.

With a thoughtful face she returned home, but she could not get to sleep all night. The next morning she visited the aforesaid management station. After hearing her determination an official of the station told her to go back as they could not let her do a rough work. She, however, asked him who would take care of the beautiful street if every-



Ri Hyon Ae (centre).

agement Station in Pyongyang.

Sewage dredging is not noticeable, but it is an important job indispensable to urban life.

The following shows why Ri became a sewage dredger.

One morning several days after she was discharged from the Speed Campaign Youth Shock Brigade, she happened to see sewage overflowing the road by her apartment. It was obvious that the water was coming up reversely as it got blocked at a section. And the people around it were at a loss what to do. There she heard that few people were

one sought easy jobs. In this way she became a sewage dredger.

It was not easy to trek through the underground sewage network in her girlhood full of dreams and hopes. Facing those girls walking along the street in their finest attire Ri would see her clothes. The girl, however, did not change her determination.

Now she had two children, and when her elder son who studied at the middle school asked her why she engaged in such work, her mind wavered, but she braced herself up.

The state set her up as a workteam leader taking charge of the management of the underground sewage network, and a deputy to the district People's Assembly. Later, she was awarded the title of Merited Urban Management Worker, and the official commendation of high degree.

First Woman Doctor in the Field of Blood Purification Treatment

Assoc. Professor Kim Hwa Suk of Kim Man Yu Hospital is the first woman doctor in the field of the blood purification treatment who is devoting her all to the promotion of the people's health.

Originally, the blood purification therapy cost a lot as it needed complicated treating manipulation and expensive appliances, so it was applied to only some special persons in a few countries of the world.

Thirty years ago Hwa Suk, who was working as a researcher in the aforesaid hospital, intensified the research to solve the problem by herself. In close contact with teachers of the Chemical Faculty of Kim Il Sung University she overcame the limitations and shortcomings of the therapy used in the world medical circle, and developed a new therapy which absorbs and removes only pathogenic matters by passing a selective absorbent through veins.

It is also attributable to her unknown effort that the new therapy has been generalized.



Kim Hwa Suk (centre).

► The treatment was successful in a zoological experiment, but the detailed manipulation method could not be said to be perfect without clinical experiments on patients.

Then she unhesitatingly laid herself down on the laboratory table. The other medical workers who participated in the research together with her tried to dissuade her to do so, but she did not change her mind. Thus the treatment manipulation method was completed.

She went on to invent better methods of treating obstinate diseases than those of other countries whose medicine was said to be developed, and was awarded several patents and state certificates of introduced sci-tech achievement and of good idea.

New Composer

The National Symphony Orchestra has a new woman composer. She is Choe Jong In in her early forties. It was in her early twenties that she was appointed a composer of the orchestra after graduating in musical composition from the then Pyongyang University of Music and Dance.

Born into an artist's family,

she grew seeing pictures painted by her father Choe Ha Thaek. So her parents promised to train her as a painter.

The girl, however, had an aptitude for music that her parents did not discover. It was when she was a lower class member of a kindergarten. Whenever singing to the tune of her teacher's organ, she frequently tried to approach the instrument. Thus the teacher came to know that she was very interested in music. From then on the teacher taught her the ABC of music. Perhaps for the reason the girl applied for admission to the aforesaid university before graduating from middle school.

The first task she was given as a composer was to orchestrate the ensemble piece *The Girl Rid-*

ing on a Steed. And she completed it wonderfully to accord with people's emotions and the natural flow and melody of the song, thus it was favourably commented upon by the audience. And the orchestra regarded her as a promising composer. Then she completed the orchestration of the piano concerto *Do Prosper, My Motherland* in a few days, and the state saw to it that the orchestral music was played at the end of the television broadcast.

Later she completed the famous music selection *My Home Village*, the orchestral pieces *We Will Go to Mt Paektu* and *The Song for the Motherly Party*, and the orchestral medley *Song of Women*.

She composed and arranged *Symphony of Socialism* for the Concert of the National Symphony Orchestra for the Celebration of the 70th Founding Anniversary of the DPRK in 2018, and the symphonic poem *Paeon to Eternal Victory* for the Concert of the National Symphony Orchestra for the Celebration of July 27 last year.

In June 2018 she was awarded the title of Merited Artist.

Sim Chol Yong

Choe Jong In.



Quick-reading Education Develops

IN THE IT ERA OF TODAY science and technology develop rapidly and the amount of information explodes, so to proactively develop the potential capability of the brain is indispensable in ceaselessly enhancing man's creative ability. And quick reading takes a lion's share in the matter.

The significance of quick reading does not merely reside in reading fast and memorizing a huge amount of information. The greatest advantage of the reading is that it helps develop

the potentiality of the brain to the maximum so as to make it possible to cultivate a high level of concentration, extraordinary memory, rapid mental arithmetic ability, strong power of observation and creative thinking ability. Thus quick reading has now become an indispensable course in training talent capable of acquiring high-degree information technology. For this reason many countries are taking an increasing interest in quick reading and putting effort into the relevant research and edu-

cation.

In the DPRK quick-reading education is in full swing on a nationwide scale. Secondary schools No. 1 and colleges are selecting the students appropriate for the quick-reading education, and giving them professional education in a systematic way. Innovative quick-reading methods are paying off, including scanning, skimming, photographic reading and image-based memory. And nationwide short courses in quick-reading education often take place to learn from one

Korean students win the 28th World Memory Championships.



Students return home with honour.

▶ another's experience and exchange achievements. Together with this, different kinds of contests are held such as national technical college students' quick-reading contest, national teacher training college students' quick-reading contest and university students' memory contest.

In the course of this, public interest in quick reading grows, and students' quick-reading ability enhances day after day. Typical examples: Yun Su Yon from Kim Il Sung University memorized 18 sets of cards in one hour at the 2nd national technical college students' quick-reading contest; and Ra Song from Huichon University of Technology and Ri Hong Hwa from Pyongyang University of Foreign Studies memorized 26 sets and 24 sets of cards respectively in the same hour at the 3rd round of the contest.

University students of the country also achieved a lot of successes at the World Memory Championships, a worldwide brain-thinking competition. At

the 27th World Memory Championships held in December 2018 Korean students won seven gold medals, seven silver medals and five bronze medals in total, and were awarded four trophies. Some of them broke world records at four events, and two others were awarded the International Grandmaster of Memory, the top prize of the championships.

And at the 28th World Memory Championships held last year, six students from the DPRK won 28 medals, including 11 golds, and three gold trophies and renewed world records in four events, topping the country standings. They were all awarded the International Grandmaster of Memory. Ryu Song I won seven gold medals—typically in the events of one hour numbers, speed numbers, spoken numbers, and 30 minutes binary numbers, and in the adult group and overall ranking. Kim Su Rim and Jon Yu Jong also took four gold medals in the events of one hour cards and speed cards.

After the championships the judges unanimously said that all the six students from Korea ranked among top tens in the adult group, commenting that it proved the superiority of the country's education system once again.

Now many students in Korea have acquired quick-reading methods and are challenging modern science. All of them, recollecting the days of their practice in quick reading, say: I acquired many things. While training in quick reading I gradually became able to read 30 000 letters in a minute, and memorize 70% of the content of a book with the improvement of my concentration and memory. I think all of this is my knowledge and asset. The days of my training in quick reading were the most precious period and the hardest yet worthwhile days.

The future of Korea will be brighter with the development of quick-reading education.

Kim Son Myong

I'll Remain a Winner

(6)

Kang Ho Jin

THE BELL RANG TO signal the start of the match.

From the outset Tamura launched a succession of attacks as befitted an experienced judoist. She attacked Sun Hui, skillfully employing various techniques of attack such as outward leg sweep, inward leg sweep, buttocking and waist sweep, and thus gave the latter no breathing time. Still, Sun Hui never budged an inch. Rather, she beat off the rival's attacks at once and tried to counterattack while firmly maintaining her balance.

Gradually Tamura began to look impatient. And Sun Hui consistently looked self-confident and full of vim and vigour. Her various techniques of attack and defence were difficult to assess and grasp. So not only Tamura but also her coach and other experts could hardly grasp Sun Hui's forte after all.

Tamura failed to seize any opportunity to break through Sun Hui's defence because the latter was so strong in physique and perseverance.

The fierce offensive and defensive battle between the two rivals was going on without any of them scoring toward the closing time of the match. Then Sun Hui nimbly took one of Tamura's arms, when she was recklessly attacking, and raised her in a flash in an attempt to throw the rival to the ground. Tamura momentarily got lifted up in the air

only to be thrown to the ground. This brought Sun Hui a koka.

Tamura jumped to her feet but there was a sign of despair in her eyes.

Now she tried to attack Sun Hui more recklessly but the latter coped with her attack more calmly.

Tamura tried and made a false attack only to get shidou by the referee. It was a foul point similar to koka.

At last the bell rang to signal the end of the match, and Tamura flopped down on the floor like a tree cut down at the base. Then she barely managed to get to her feet. But when the chief referee announced Sun Hui's victory, the Japanese rival collapsed again.

Scream-like sounds arose from the Japanese spectators who filled the terraces. They had been cheering in high spirits, but now they all seemed to become dumb.

Meanwhile, not only the members of the Korean team who had been holding the national flag of their country unfolded but also Korean residents in the US and even the foreigners who had cheered Tamura shouted for joy, "Korea's won!" and "Bravo, Kye Sun Hui!"

Sun Hui, standing by Tamura who was giving vent to a sigh on her knees, raised her arms with the hands clenched. Pak Chol ran up to her, embrac-



ing her and shouting, "Bravo, Sun Hui! Bravo!" Then he took the national flag of his country out of his bosom, saying, "Take this, and fly it in the eyes of the world." Unfurling the blue and red flag, Sun Hui shouted hurrah at the top of her voice. Her heart was overflowing with joy.

Standing on the platform of honour and looking up at the national flag of her country rising up, Sun Hui felt tears welling up in her eyes. With the gold medal hanging around her neck, she raised aloft the flag she still held in her hands. *My beloved country, this gold medal is for you*, she shouted inwardly. She heartily felt the worth and pride of her life for the first time in her life.

The press of many countries commented on Kye Sun Hui as follows.

"North Korean judoist Kye Sun Hui, 16, who had been unknown, won the gold medal of the women's 48kg judo event of the 26th Olympic Games. She said, 'It is thanks to our great leader General Kim Jong Il that I've won this competition.' Getting on the platform, she fied the flag of her country with joy." (July 27 UPI)

► "On the afternoon of the 26th (on the morning of the 27th by the Japanese time), the last day of the judo competition, the gymnasium reverberated with shouts of both joy and screams over the drama for 'gold' and 'silver.' Though expected to surely win the gold medal, Tamura, 20, failed again to reach the top of the women's 48kg judo event, defeated by the north Korean judoist in ambush. The moment the bell rang to signal the end of the match Tamura flopped down on the floor, and sat motionless for a while. Even after getting to her feet, she looked absent-mindedly at nothingness with her hands put on her waist. Sadly dashed was her dream of the 'gold medal' she had never forgotten since the Barcelona Olympic Games of four years ago. Her rival in the final was Kye Sun Hui from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Kye is 16 like Tamura was when she took part in the Barcelona Olympic Games four years ago. Perhaps in bewilderment as she had to face an unknown rival, Tamura lost her composure as never before. Since she lost koka in the closing time of the match, her countenance became conspicuous. And the succession of her victories since the Barcelona Olympic Games came to a halt at last. Occupying the terraces from the bottom to the middle the Japanese had cheered Tamura. But when the victory of her rival was confirmed, silence immediately settled down in the gymnasium, and the cheering party was struck dumb." (From "Lost Gold Medal" of the July 27 issue of the *Yomiuri Shimbun* of Japan)

► "It was really a shocking debut. Kye Sun Hui, a 16-year-old middle-school girl who had

never been known internationally, beat the Japanese judoist Tamura who had been regarded as likely to win, and won the gold medal. Kye had never participated in international competitions, so the athletes from all other countries did not know even the existence of her. The Spanish judoist beaten by Kye Sun Hui in the semifinals said in utter amazement, 'I was surprised that the judoist I had never known won her way up. I was beaten without thinking of a way to beat her, and Tamura, too, lost.' Kye Sun Hui reached the highest level by surprise in her debut and that in the Olympic Games. When the national flag of north Korea was hoisted with the national anthem of the country played in the awarding ceremony, the eyes of Kye Sun Hui were brimming over with tears. A new woman hero was born in north Korea." (From "16-year-old Marvellous Figure Kye Sun Hui of North Korea Carries All before Her in Her First International Contest" of the *Mainichi Shimbun* of Japan)

"Kye Sun Hui was very strong. She was firm in her determination to win without fail, and I could not mentally cope with her determination. I've now learned how difficult it is to compete in this situation." (Japanese judoist Tamura Ryoko)

Other Japanese newspapers featured Kye Sun Hui's victory along with relevant photos under the titles "Silver Medal Again for Tamura to Her Chagrin, the Unknown 16-year-old Strong Enough" (*Asahi Shimbun*), "Kye Sun Hui, 16-year-old Unknown Star" (*Tokyo Shimbun*) and "Tamura Again Faces Barrier to Gold Medal, and Los-

es to 16-year-old Kye Sun Hui in Ambush" (*Nihongeizai Shimbun*).

At the time the world referred to Kye Sun Hui as "new star of the world women's judo," "marvelous figure that startled the world judo" and so on. Sun Hui, however, never imagined that a glory greater than such praise and appreciation was awaiting her, a young girl.

When the Korean Olympic team got off the plane headed by Kye Sun Hui, the Olympic gold medal winner, and Kim Il, a twice Olympic gold medalist, they were warmly welcomed by senior officials of the Party and the government, sportspersons and Pyongyang citizens.

They arrived at the metropolitan Pyongyang by convertible, enjoying warm cheers from lots of people waving bouquets along the route.

The welcoming people standing along another long route from the entrance to Ryonmot-dong through Ryonghung Crossroads, Kaeson Street and Changjon Crossroads shouted, "Bravo, our athletes!" "Kim Il!" and "Kye Sun Hui!"

Other citizens waved warm welcome to the athletes from their windows or verandas.

Seeing the endless waves of flowers in the convertible, Kye Sun Hui looked greatly impressed. Her small heart beat fast with ineffable deep emotion and joy. She seemed to realize what an athlete's pride and happiness was like for the first time. Barely managing to restrain her excitement, she waved a bunch of flowers to the welcoming people. Now she was on the verge of bursting into tears.

(To be continued)

Paduk Family in Nampho

THERE IS A FAMOUS *paduk* (go) family in Nampho, a port city of Korea. It is the family of Rim Kwang Il, 66, living in Neighbourhood Unit No. 21, Haean-dong, Hanggu District. The man and his 62-year-old wife Hong Jong Sun, his first and second sons, and the eldest daughter-in-law are all celebrated *paduk* players.

What catch your eyes first in the Rims' home are the certificates of prize hanging on one wall of a room. They are what Rim's couple and their children have been awarded at regional or national *paduk* competitions.

Especially, Jong Sun's com-

mand of *paduk* is well known across the country as well as the city. She won first place at the first-class mixed doubles event of the national amateur *paduk* players' contest held in Juche 107 (2018).

It is said that she began to learn *paduk* when her children started to play it in their childhood. Glad to hear them saying that they would become *paduk* masters when they grew up, she started to learn it out of a desire to contribute even a little to the improvement of their skills.

It was quite difficult for her in middle age to get the knack of many different *paduk* moves, but

she strove hard to master it. In the evening she would be an opponent of her elder son Kwang Myong and the younger son Jong Myong. In those days the sons' skills improved remarkably, and they took part in national competitions and municipal competitions several times, receiving the certificates of prize. Jong Myong participated in the individual event of a national children's *paduk* contest, and won first place and the certificate of prize.

Kwang Myong is the secretary of the Nampho *Paduk* Association. He is always busy disseminating *paduk* to all the amateurs in the city. In par-



The family members have a good time playing *paduk*.



Rim Kwang Myong and his wife practise *paduk* moves at home.

Rim Kwang Myong, chief secretary of the Nampho *Paduk* Association, spreads the knowledge of *paduk* in the Haean Kindergarten.



ticular, he frequents the Haean Kindergarten in Haean District, where scores of *paduk* aces are growing. He teaches its teachers and young *paduk* players the principle of *paduk*, the base of cross, cross-making, seizure of cross, and the method of retaining stones.

The certificates of prize received by the young aces of the kindergarten are hanging on one wall of its room for disseminating *paduk*. Phyong Kyong Hui, director of the kindergarten, says

that the children of the kindergarten always rank among the top three winners at the kindergarten children's individual, mixed doubles and doubles events of the city's *paduk* contests held in spring and autumn. One child of hers won first place at the individual event of a similar contest held in autumn last year, she added.

Kwang Myong's wife works as a *paduk* disseminator at the Nampho City *Paduk* House, teaching *paduk* to little ama-

teurs. And Jong Myong works as a *paduk* disseminator in Rason.

The Rims' family in Nampho gathers together in the evening, learning *paduk* moves or having matches—it is a daily routine. Every Sunday or holiday neighbours and little amateurs visit the family to have a good time playing *paduk*.

Such *paduk* families are increasing in Korea.

Article by Sim Hyon Jin
Photos by Yun Song Hwa

National Sports *Paduk*

PADUK (GO) IS A GAME in which two persons compete for victory by placing on the board one stone after another and encircling the stones of the opponent or capturing territory. The method of playing *paduk* is so profound and varied that it is complicated and yet interesting.

It helps train the brain of man, and deepen mutual friendship and unity, and is good for health and longevity. Especially, it plays a great role in the upbringing of children and their preschool education.

Paduk has been long developed as an interesting in-

tellectual game, and now it is widely spreading in Korea as a favourite game of everyone. *Paduk* Houses, professional *paduk* education institution, have been set up in Pyongyang and each province seat, teaching the game and disseminating the knowledge of it. □



Seeing Nation's Yesterday and Today

THE KOREA STAMP MUSEUM IS SITUATED in downtown Pyongyang, about 50 metres away from the Pyongyang Railway Station. The three-storey building of the museum is in the shape of a stamp, and a bronze statue, which depicts a dove with a postcard in its bill flying around the earth up to the sky, stands in front of the building.

Some time ago I visited the museum.

Kim Hye Jong, vice director of the museum, welcomed me and said with a smile, “My museum consists of three floors. The ground floor is dedicated to the display of the diplomas and trophies won by the Korean stamps at world exhibitions and shows, and the first floor to the display of different stamp albums, postal stationery and stamps by period and theme. And the second floor serves as a stamp museum.”

She then explained me about a diploma and medal from the Poland '93 international stamp exhibition, the letter of thanks from the Jakarta '95 international stamp exhibition, and diplomas and trophies on the ground floor and about the exhibition hall of the first floor as we went up to the second floor.

What attracted my eyes in particular on the floor was the walls of the corridor decorated with stamps depicting old paintings rich in national colour such as Kim Hong Do's *After Gathering Edible Greens* and Jo Sok Jin's *Carp*.

Feeling the national sentiments and flavour we stepped in the museum. There Kwon Se Ho, a researcher, welcomed me and said, “Our museum

consists of 15 exhibition boards which show data and remains relating to the postal service in ancient times, middle and modern ages, and the typical stamps published along with the history of our Republic after its liberation from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation.”

The first board enabled me to have a general understanding of the stamp, the production and publication of stamp handouts, and world-famous Korean stamps.

The second, third and fourth boards showed the postal service in the period of ancient, middle and modern ages through the old documents *Jungbomunhonbiggo* and *Kyonggukdaejon* (The Code of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty) which describe different middle-age communications activities such as Pongsu (signal fire), Yokcham (relay post station), and Phabal (post station); the data on *Pigo*, an excellent communications apparatus made and used in the period of the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392–1910); stamps depicting the establishment of the Postal Agency, the first organ of communication in the modern times; stamps such as *Munwi*, *Thaegukbothong*, and *Rihwabothong*; a stamp in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of Emperor Kojong's accession to the throne; commemorative stamps such as an eagle stamp; and post cards. They gave me a glimpse into the Korean people's wisdom and resourcefulness.

The fifth board shows the historical data on the Japanese imperialists' moves to obliterate the Korean stamps. The Japanese imperialists completely



repressed the Korean nation's postal activities by fabricating the “Korea-Japan Communication Organ Protocol” in 1905. Seeing the data on it I keenly felt again the viciousness of the Japanese imperialists' moves to eliminate the national culture of Korea.

The sixth board shows the data on the postal activities during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, the seventh board shows the data on publication of the first stamps *Samsonam* (three rocks) and *Mugunghwa* (rose of Sharon) of new Korea after its liberation from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation on August 15, 1945 and scores of kinds of stamps published by April Juche 39 (1950), and the eighth board shows the data on the stamps published during the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950–July 1953).

On the ninth and tenth boards I could see the stamps published during the postwar rehabilitation (1953–1956) and the establishment of the foundations of socialism, and the relevant data.

The eleventh board covers the period from the latter half of the 1950s to the first half of the 1970s. It shows the stamps reflecting the mettle of the

Korean people displaying the honour of their country as Chollima Korea while breaking through difficulties and hardships under the guidance of the Workers' Party of Korea. It also shows the first Korean Stamp List (1946–1959), the magazine *Korea Stamp* (Issue No. 1, 1961), the first sports stamp, and the first multicoloured stamp *Irrigation of One Million Hectares* (1959), and the data on diversified forms of stamps such as sheetlet, and publication of books related to stamps. All of them clearly explain that Korea demonstrated a new aspect of stamp development in the period.

Now I looked around boards Nos. 12 to 15, the last section of the museum. They show the data on the new heyday of the country's stamp development, and the stamps on the building of a socialist power. They also show a stamp card (1993) and a DVD stamp (2007) which were issued for the first time in the world, the first linked stamp *The Tenth Anniversary of the Publication of the Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in Our Country* (1974), and the first stereo stamp *The 21st Olympic Games* (1976).

Each of the stamps and the data displayed in the museum gave me a deep understanding of the stamp development of the country, and its history and culture. Recalling the yesterday and today of the Korean nation with deep emotion I left the place.

Article by Kim Son Myong
Photos by An Ryon Min



Vigorous Tree-planting Campaign

NOW A TREE-PLANTING campaign is in full swing in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In particular, a nationwide tree planting is done intensively in the tree-planting months of March and November.

On the Tree Planting Day (March 2) of last year officials of the Party and the state, together with Pyongyang citizens and youth and students, planted trees in the Sports Village of Chongchun Street, the Central Zoo and the arboretum of the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, and on Munsu and Moran hills and in other several places in the capital city of Pyongyang. And officials of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League and youth and students planted over 4 000 trees of 20 species including ovate catalpa, ginkgo tree and lilac, and flowering shrubs in the Sports Village of Chongchun Street and the area of the Mangyongdae Schoolchil-

dren's Palace. Tree planting was also done in Kangwon, South Phyongan, South Hamgyong and South Hwanghae and other provinces and cities. That day over 2.8 million trees were planted across the country.

The tree-planting campaign is done on the principle of the right tree in the right place to suit the characteristics of a specific area.

North Hamgyong Province waged a dynamic campaign to plant wild fruit trees such as nut pine, yellow horn, Manchurian walnut to turn all mountains in the province into "gold mountains" and "treasure mountains," which resulted in the creation of over 1 000 hectares of edible fruit tree forest last year.

Kim Chaek City further strengthened the material and technical foundations of a parent tree nursery of the Forest Management Station and in-

creased the sapling production, thus planting over 170 000 edible fruit trees of different kinds on hills of 100-odd hectares. And Myonggan County rearranged hills of scores of hectares thick with shrubs and weeds to create oil-bearing tree forests, and ensured their survival rate at over 90%.

In keeping with the nationwide tree-planting campaign vigorous efforts are made to provide saplings of good species. In December last year a modern tree nursery was built in the Jungphyong area of Kyongsong County, North Hamgyong Province. The tree nursery can produce tens of millions of saplings annually. Besides, many other sapling production bases were newly built or expanded. In November of that year the Forestry Equipment Factory went up which can sufficiently produce light plastic panels for greenhouse, plastic blinds and plastic



Sapling production is on the increase.

► containers for sapling cultivation, all of which are needed for sapling production.

The officials and workers of the Central Tree Nursery under the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection sent 25 million saplings of over 50 species, including Pyongyang maple tree, eastern white pine and

Changsong larch, to different parts of the country. Researchers of the tree nursery developed a method of optimizing sapling production, thus making it possible to produce saplings twice a year in greenhouses with less labour than before. In keeping with the already-arranged condition for planting trees regardless of seasons they also developed new methods to raise the survival rate of saplings on the highest possible level. Together with this they developed a highly effective nutrition reinforcing agent with raw materials richly available in the country, thus hastening the growth of saplings. Along with this efforts are put into making the sapling production scientific, industrial and intensive on a higher level so as to expand the success.

The tree nursery also put emphasis on producing more saplings of good species conducive to afforestation, unlike the old days when the accent was put on production alone, and

produced ornamental plants and flowering shrubs of over 30 species such as pine tree which is the national tree, ginkgo tree and rose which were sent to the construction site of the Wonsan Kalma coast resort, and Pyongyang and its vicinity.

A campaign to preserve pine trees and add beauty to landscape is in full swing. In Pyongyang a technical course was given to teach the scientific way of shoveling off, transporting, planting, manuring and cultivating pine trees, and such trees were planted on a full scale. The officials and working people in Mangyongdae, Ryokpho and other districts planted pine trees with natural beauty and good to see in parks and recreation grounds and along the roads to add to the natural beauty of the city.

The grand plan of the Workers' Party of Korea to complete the forest restoration within ten years is being realized earlier thanks to the devoted struggle of the people. □



Great Haunt of Pyongyangites



ONE EVENING IN LAST February we visited the Amusement Park of the Kaeson Youth Park situated at the foot of Moran Hill in Pyongyang. When the picturesque hill was plunged into darkness, the amusement park became distinctive with its conspicuous ornamental illuminations.

Glad to hear pleasant music coming from the park, we were passing the entrance to the place when Kim Hyok, manager of the park, welcomed us, saying, "My park opens at 4 pm so that people can enjoy themselves there after work. It is frequented by not only Pyongyang citizens but also provincial people and foreigners staying in the city." Then the manager showed us into the park.

The nocturnal view of the people's recreation ground was more romantic than the afternoon's. And those who were enjoying themselves in the park enchanted by its splendours at night all looked like people from heaven.

Koreans have long counted first "Enjoying the First Full Moon on Pubyok Pavilion," one of the Eight Famous Views of Pyongyang, whenever talking about Moran Hill, the best of

scenic spots. But if the Korean ancestors, who had long been proud of the moonlit hill, could see the nocturnal splendours of the hill that might put the stars of the sky in the shade, what would they say?

The brilliantly illuminated park as a whole seemed alive with amusement facilities moving in quick succession accompanied by lilting tunes.

What first caught our eyes was the Pirate, a kind of swing boat, seen from the entrance. Smiles played about the corners of our mouths as we were seeing people laughing and shouting for joy in the swing boat swaying as if it were pushing its way through a boundless expanse of water. Laughter was also coming from the Disco opposite the Pirate, and the Power Surge that makes its riders feel as if the sky and the earth turn round together.

Next we went to the Z-force looking like a large rocket. When people rose up to the top of the facility in a moment after a warning, they, and onlookers around it, raised sharp exclamations. Getting off the facility they cried excitedly that the sight of Pyongyang they saw from the top of the facility was

really beautiful and that they felt as if they were ten years younger again. We were quite attracted, when the manager said, "Our respected Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un tried the Z-force himself saying he should do it first because it would be used by the people." Each of the facilities in the park was associated with the Supreme Leader's care for the people, the manager added.

Then we passed by a revolving swing rising into the sky and the Volare moving as fast as an arrow to go to the video game house amid laughter of children and young people from the sky and the ground. We also saw people have photos taken against conspicuous night views. Impressive was the way Ra Jong Hwa, senior guide of the video game house, said that the punching game was a favourite one of young men trying to display their strength before their girlfriends. And spectacular was a little boy smiling after getting 100 points at a time in arm wrestling. So were people enjoying themselves in a pancake house and a fried meat dumpling house or at roast chestnut and roast sweet potato stands.

Choe Yong Sil, manager of the restaurant chain of the Kaeson Youth Park, said, "We organize a soft drink show and a sampling party every week in order to improve the quality of soft drinks and foodstuffs to be served to people. In the course of this we developed bread stuffed with meat, which is favourably commented upon by people."

The amusement park kept reverberating with laughing of people enjoying themselves there deep into the night.

We left the park picturing in our mind a better future of the happy people.

Pak Yong Il

National Intangible Cultural Heritage (40)

Pongsan Mask Dance

THE PONGSAN MASK Dance was popular in the Pongsan area of North Hwanghae Province.

From olden times mask dances had been danced once a year in market places in the area of Hwanghae Province, and Pongsan people danced the dance more frequently thanks to the locality's favourable physiographical conditions. So the Pongsan mask dance developed into the one representative of the masque of Hwanghae Province from the late 19th century.

The masque was mainly played in the leisure season and on holidays. What is widely known is the one that consists of 12 scenes, and the masks used in the play number over ten including those of lion,

aristocrat, monkey and so on.

To the tunes for an exorcism, ballad and Buddhist invocation played on national instruments such as the Korean flute, large fife, the Korean fiddle, *janggo* and drum, the dancers dance in their gorgeous attire such as white jacket and trousers, sleeveless jacket with red, blue and indigo colours, and sleeveless overcoat.

The dance is divided into the part with no dramatic plot, and the part of masquerade.

Before starting the masque, the dancers, headed by musicians, rushed towards the township in rows wearing masks.

When the sun sets, the dancers walk on a tightrope and do somersault before starting the masque. The play is

keenly satirical in content, and contains plenty of unique dance movements. As a mixture of speeches, dance and singing each scene is characterized by colourful dances and witticisms. Especially, such movements as flinging and swinging wide sleeves in one of the dances to the tune of ballad are stirring and vigorous.

The dance reflects the people's aspiration to happiness and the spirit of resistance to the feudal ruling circles, and contains popular movements and thus it enjoys popularity and still spreads widely.

As a masterpiece of Korean folk dance the Pongsan Mask Dance was put as No. 28 on the list of the national intangible cultural heritage.

Rim Ok



From Servant to Famous Painter

THE CASTE SYSTEM WAS very strict in the period of the feudal Joseon dynasty. For example, one who was born as a servant remained a servant all his life.

Ri Sang Jwa (1465-?), however, was so good at painting that he finally got out of his miserable status of servant, and was admitted into the royal painting office.

The following shows how Ri developed from a servant to a famous painter.

One day when he was 15, he went deep into a valley with an A-frame carrier and a sickle. As a son of servant, he had to climb mountains to gather firewood every day.

After gathering some firewood, he was drawing a pine tree that stood alone on the edge of a precipice when an adult appeared abruptly and looked at the pine he had drawn for a good while. Then the man took out a sheet of Korean paper, spread it, put a stone on the corners and pushed a container filled with black ink to the boy, telling him to draw the old pine tree again on the paper.

Ri was at a loss what to do, and the man kept urging him. Then Ri held the brush, and drew the tree quickly.

The tree drawn by the young firewood gatherer was really vivid. After looking from the tree on the precipice to the picture, the aristocrat asked his name, put it down on his notebook and gave him money as compensation for all the rest of firewood he failed to gather that day.

From then on the name of Ri Sang Jwa was widely known from mouth to mouth, and the governor of Jolla Province heard it. Versed in drawing to some

degree, the governor sent for Ri, and told him to draw a paulownia growing in the yard.

After looking at what Ri had drawn, the governor told him to draw him. The pictures drawn by Ri were quite vivid to the amazement of the governor.

The governor reported the fact to the king of the country. The king called Ri to Hansong, the capital of the country, and had him draw his profile. Looking at the picture, the king unstintingly admired Ri for his talent, freed him from the identity of servant and allowed him to work as a member of the royal painting office.

Ri was very good at painting landscapes, figure pictures, still lives and illustrations. What still remain of Ri's works include *Strolling under Pine Tree in the Moonlight*, *Landscape*, *Tiger and Flower and Bird*.

Strolling under Pine Tree in the Moonlight is one of Ri's masterpieces that demonstrate his skill of painting. The picture

shows an old pine tree standing halfway up a bluff precipice, and a hillock beneath the precipice. Vivid in particular is the old pine tree that fails to grow upright owing to harsh rain and wind. And the tree's branches swaying in a violent wind and dried drooping arrowroot vines add to the dreary atmosphere of the moonlight night in late autumn. Under the tree there are an old man and his young attendant who stroll looking up at the moon in the sky. Through the painting Ri showed his own old miserable status, the course of his life, and his strong will and firm spirit.

Ri's excellent skill of painting and powerful strokes, and the strong mettle demonstrated by his works made a contribution to the development of painting at that time, and enabled him to become one of the three great painters in the first-half period of the feudal Joseon dynasty.

Rim Ok



Another Crime of Japan

LAW SHOULD BE impartial to all people, and should not lose objectivity and impartiality in any case. But in Japan the enactment and enforcement of laws are used as means to gain unfair political ends.

For example, a "law on support to the upbringing of children" was adopted though belatedly in the country where juvenile discrimination and maltreatment are commonplace, and thus free infant education and childcare were enforced. But the Japanese authorities decided to exclude preschoolers' classes of Korean schools in the country from the objects fit for the system of "free infant education and childcare" that began to be enforced on October 1 last year. The Japanese authorities had committed lots of crimes against Chongryon (General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) and Korean residents in the country. This time they went so far as to commit such a heinous crime as destroying even the innocence of children.

It is undoubtedly rightful to learn one's mother tongue and the history and culture of one's own nation. But the Japanese authorities have ceaselessly oppressed schools of Korean residents in Japan since the schools came into being there, arguing that the education by the schools does not accord with that of Japanese schools and that there is a suspicion that Korean schools are not real educational institutions but "ideology-oriented schools and institutions for anti-

Japanese activities." Such attempts of Japan to trample down the future of Korean residents in the country have always constituted serious threats to the national education of the Korean residents, and now it is afflicting even their innocent children.

It was prompted by a sinister political end that the Japanese authorities excluded preschoolers' classes of Korean schools in Japan from the objects fit for the system of "free infant education and childcare." It is intended to impose heavy financial burdens on Korean residents, especially young parents of preschoolers, in Japan so that they have no other alternative than to send their children to Japanese kindergartens, and ultimately eliminate Chongryon, an organization of overseas DPRK citizens, and the society of Korean residents in Japan.

To support the education and upbringing of children of the Korean residents in Japan is a moral duty and responsibility the Japanese authorities cannot avoid judging from the fact that the country should apologize for its past crimes against the Korean nation and in terms of the general requirement of the enactment and enforcement of laws.

And in view of the fact that the Korean residents pay taxes just like the Japanese people there is no legal ground or justification for excluding the preschoolers' classes of Korean schools from the objects fit for free education and childcare.

The mean and dirty scheme

of the Japanese authorities against the Korean children clearly shows the extent to which their hostile policy towards the Korean nation has gone.

In retrospect, Japan occupied Korea militarily and viciously attempted to stamp out the Korean nation for over 40 years in the past century. With a view to obliterating the Korean nation, the Japanese imperialists took to battle sites millions of young and middle-aged Korean men as cannon fodder for their aggressive war, and cruelly violated 200 000 Korean women. They did not allow the Koreans to use their own written and spoken language, and forced them to change their names into the Japanese. And they did not hesitate to drive iron posts on the top of celebrated mountains of Korea in an attempt to cut the lifeline of the country.

Even after its defeat (August 15, 1945), Japan, despite its dishonour as a war criminal, viciously acted pursuing a hostile policy against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Chongryon. It is just an extension of the hostile policy that the Japanese authorities have excluded preschoolers' classes of Korean schools in Japan from the objects fit for the system of "free infant education and childcare."

The anti-ethical policy of the Japanese authorities is exposed to strong denunciation and rejection from the international community as well as the Korean nation.

Kim Il Bong



Mt Kuwol (2)

Scenic Spots in Tanphung Recreation Ground

THE TANPHUNG RECREATION Ground is situated to the north of the Susamthae Pass of the mountain.

In its scenic spot district there are scores of high and low peaks and some deep and low valleys. Typical of them are Ryanggak, O, Hodu, Rojok and

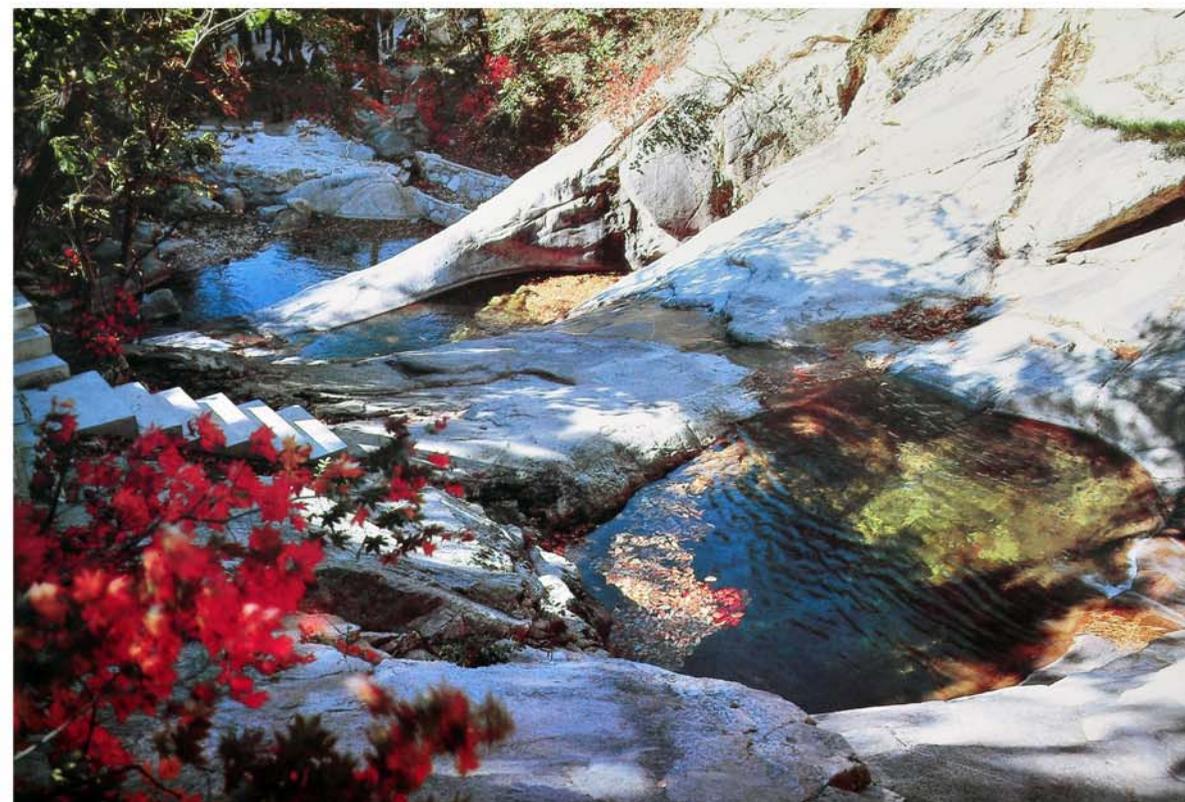
Usan peaks and the Tanphung and Jiwon Waterfall valleys with scenic spots. And there are lots of large and small valleys here and there in the district.

The district also has many spots of historical interest testifying to the long history of the Korean nation and the battle sites where peasant rioters and righteous volunteers fought against Japanese aggressors who had invaded Korea.

The Tanphung Recreation Ground is over 10 km long and it starts from near the Ryanggak Peak. The entrance to the recreation ground is flanked by a stone sculpture of a lion and that of a Korean tiger.

There can be seen Ryanggak Peak on the right of the entrance to the mountain. The west and east slopes of the peak consist of a big rock with a gradient of nearly 50 degrees. It is even as if

A view of the Tanphung Valley.



Samhyongje Pools.

▶ it was cut by a sword, hence the name Ryanggak Peak.

When you walk down a distance of 300 metres to the south, you can see in a saddle a rock resembling a horse, hence the name Myongma (fine horse) Rock. The Ryanggak Peak and Myongma Rock have a legend that the horse of a general in Mt Kuwol changed into the rock and both sides of the peak were cut even by his sword.

When you pass by the peak near the entrance to the Tanphung Recreation Ground, you can see on the left a monument whose inscription reads, "Tell O Mt Kuwol Through All Ages," and a guide map of the recreation ground near the monument.

Along the Tanphung Valley

there are precipices, broad and flat rocks, streams, pools, thick woods and various fragrant flowers, all of which look just like Okryu Ravine of Mt Kumgang. Whenever autumn comes round, the whole valley turns red, hence the name Tanphung (maple) Valley.

Also spectacular are big and small pools lying in succession down the long valley, namely Madang, Jjokppak, Toeppak, Kama, Paemjango and Samhyongje pools, all of unique shapes. You will find the water of the pools so clean that you will be unable to resist an impulse to dip in the water.

The Samhyongje (three brothers) Pools have the following legendary tale.

Once upon a time, three young men in Unryul at the foot of Mt Kuwol used to climb the mountain to gather firewood. On the way down the mountain, they would take a bath in the three pools. One day the men happened to see three fairies from the Heaven having a bath in the pools, and they played flutes lest they should surprise the women. Captivated by the tune of the flutes the fairies later came down to the land again and met the men. Afterwards the men married the women.

The Tanphung Recreation Ground has other singular peaks and pools, pavilions and waterfalls, which are a favourite resort of the people.

Sim Chol Yong

