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Rising Strategic Status of Korea Changes Landscape of Korea-US Confrontation

IN RECENT YEARS, KOREA'S STRATEGIC nuclear force has rapidly developed. This has made a drastic change in the landscape of the Korea-US confrontation. In July last, in particular, Korea succeeded in two rounds of test-fire of intercontinental ballistic missiles, completely changing the previous landscape of the Korea-US confrontation that had lasted for over 70 years.

From a historical point of view, the Korea-US confrontation during the period was based on a landscape in which Korea countered the US's unilateral aggressive manoeuvres and nuclear threat and blackmail. This was because of disparity of military power between the US, a nuclear superpower, and Korea, a non-nuclear country. The US styled itself as the "strongest nuclear power in the world" possessed of lots of nuclear weapons and other strategic striking means of different kinds to attack any country in the world, while Korea had only tactical weapons for self-defence. The US underwent a disastrous defeat in the Korean war in the 1950s. But it tenaciously tried to start another aggressive war in Korea relying on the superiority of its strategic nuclear means.

Now, however, Korea has been possessed of ICBMs that have the US mainland within their shooting range after having A-bombs and H-bombs. This has put an end to the superiority of the US's strategic nuclear means.

The Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other US administration and military officials are screaming that Korea is posing the worst threat to them.

In the past the US viciously attempted to prevent Korea from building a strategic nuclear force in order to maintain the superiority of its strategic nuclear means in its confrontation with Korea. Slanderizing Korea's "nukes" and "fire of missiles" as a "threat" to world peace, the US enlisted its vassals and even international organizations in the attempt to impose military pressure and sanctions on Korea.

All the schemes of the US, however, failed to check Korea's development of its strategic nuclear force. Rather, they further awakened and roused the country and strengthened its justification for having nuclear weapons.

It was on February 10, 2005 that Korea officially proclaimed its possession of nuclear weapons. For over ten years since then the country succeeded in

making nuclear warheads small, light and diversified and possessed A-bombs and H-bombs. Recent years witnessed Korea's continuous successes in test-fire of highly precise and diversified strategic weapons that can strike any area in the world.

In May last Korea demonstrated the actual war capacities of new types of strategic weapons including mid- and long-distance ground-to-ground strategic ballistic missile Hwasong 12 and mid- and long-distance ground-to-ground strategic ballistic missile Pukguksong 2, and finally took a place rightfully among the nations possessed of ICBMs. This meant its victory in the fierce confrontation against the US for its building of a strategic nuclear force. And it put an end to the previous landscape of Korea-US confrontation with the US exposed to a serious threat.

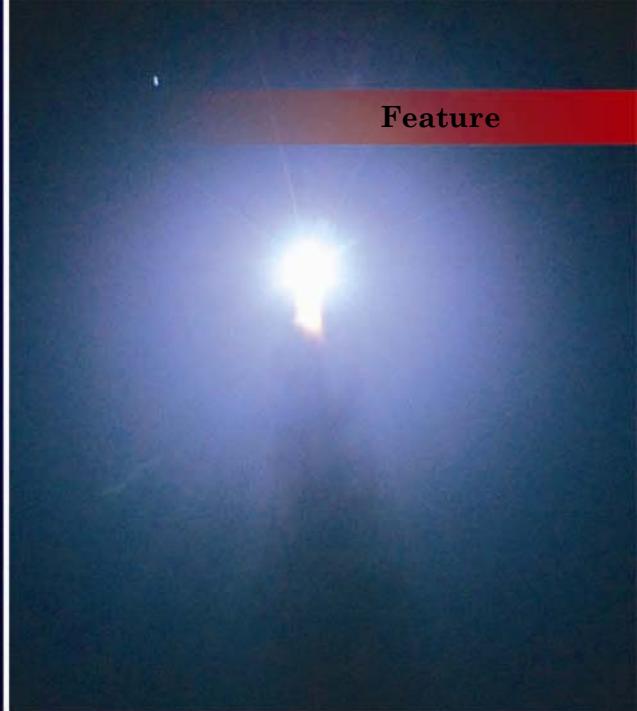
On July 28 last Korea conducted the test-fire of an ICBM for confirming its maximum shooting range, thus sending a solemn warning to the US. Korea's mode of counteraction has already turned into one of preemptive strike.

Extremely confused by the might of Korea's strategic nuclear force, the US is now bent on checking the country's military attack.

On the 12th of the same month *Washington Times* wrote on its Internet homepage that the Pentagon had a plan of investing billions of US dollars in renovating the missile defense system, adding that they were intending to allocate US\$ 1.5 billion of US\$ 7.9 billion—planned to be invested in a ground-to-air missile defense system and an Aegis ballistic missile defense system—for the renovation of 36 ground-to-air missile defense systems across the US. The US military planned to regularly conduct a missile defense exercise against north Korea's missile "threat" for a long time, the newspaper revealed.

Experts, however, comment that as the US is incapable of checking the development of Korea's strategic nuclear force, the future Korea-US confrontation will turn into the one whereby Korea presses harder upon the US by dint of its rapidly developing military striking ability and the latter puts all its efforts in checking the former's military attack.

The Americans are keenly aware of Korea's daily rising strategic status and their country's dangerous situation. They are resolutely demanding that the hopeless hostile Korea policy be changed. In his comment a senior researcher of the Kato Institute,



The successful second round of test fire of intercontinental ballistic missile Hwasong 14 on July 28, 2017.



Eternal Line

RECENTLY THE KOREAN PEOPLE succeeded in two rounds of test fire of intercontinental ballistic missiles Hwasong 14. This means they are powerful enough to put the whole territory of the US within range of their nukes.

Korea's comprehensive national power and strategic status are rising higher day after day. And gone forever is the time when the US imperialists threatened the Korean people with nukes.

Inevitability of History

Originally the Korean people had no will to possess nukes. Why did they take the road towards a nuclear state? Because they had to safeguard the sovereignty of their country and their national dignity.

From of old the Korean peninsula was the target of aggression by the imperialists because of its geopolitical position. The US, in particular, watched for a chance to invade Korea from the early 19th century. Following the end of the Second World War, it occupied half of the peninsula and tried to realize its ambition of world supremacy by using it as its stepping-stone.

An extension of the attempt was the Korean war (1950-1953). During the war the US intended to turn the entire peninsula into a complete "radioactive corridor area" by dropping scores of A-bombs on it. The US imperialists were just brutes that would never hesitate to reduce the peninsula into the ruins enveloped by nuclear clouds in order to put their ambition of world supremacy into reality.

In 1962, amidst the US's continuous nuclear war threat, there occurred the Caribbean crisis known as Cuban Missile Crisis, which made the Korean people more keenly realize that they should further strengthen their self-defensive power in order to safeguard the sovereignty and dignity of their country.

In view of the prevailing situation the Workers' Party of Korea put forward the strategic line of building up the economy and defences of the country

simultaneously at the fifth plenary meeting of the fourth Party Central Committee held that year. In accordance with the line the Korean people consolidated their defence capability by their own efforts.

The US imperialists always referred to the socialist Korea that had attained the dignity of an independent country as an encumbrance. Taking advantage of the socialist collapse in some east European countries, the US imperialists further intensified the nuclear threat and blackmail against Korea, considering it a "dangerous entity" that might make a direct breach in the international order in the US-led new era. Whether to live as independent guards or become slaves—in answer to this question of history the Korean people prioritized the military affairs as the most important for the nation and put primary efforts into the development of the defence industry.

Frightened by the way the Korean people unyieldingly kept advancing along the road towards socialism of Juche in any harsh trials and difficulties, the US imperialists went so far as to designate Korea as "axis of evil" and a target of preemptive nuclear strike.

Flinching in the face of the US's frantic nuclear campaign, the UN and even the powers around Korea followed in step with Washington while pursuing their own interests. There was nobody to trust. Dwelling on the situation, the Russian website *Ruskaya Pravda* wrote, "Korea resembles an enveloped fortress, and this is related to a constant threat from outside. In the protracted confrontation with the US the only way for Korea to keep its safety in case it is invaded is to have the capability to inflict an irretrievable loss to the invading country, that is, nukes. There is no other alternative in the world where the jungle law is prevailing."

The Korean people needed a mighty nuclear deterrent to defend their sovereignty and dignity.

Korea Does not Shrink

Originally the atomic industry of Korea was built

from north Korea's list of targets; in fact the simplest way to put an end to the fear of north Korea's missiles aimed at the US proper is disengaging from the problem of the Korean peninsula; and it is undesirable to leave the US affected by the nuclear danger of the Korean peninsula any longer.

Jo Un Hyang

- ▶ who is a foreign policy expert and was a special adviser to US president Reagan, said: As a matter of fact there is no justification for the US's continuous protection of south Korea, which the US has been committed to since the end of the Korean war; what is important is that GIs' withdrawal from south Korea will make it possible to erase the name of the US

► for a peaceful purpose. But the US took issue with it, arguing that it could be used to make “nukes.” Washington instigated an international organization to put pressure on the country and had it completely debarred from importing advanced techniques and equipment.

Meanwhile, the US incessantly renewed and completed plans of nuclear war against Korea, and examined in detail the feasibility of carrying out the plans through varieties of nuclear war rehearsals. Every year never passed without the US's frantic nuclear war exercises taking place around the Korean peninsula, and international organizations abandoned impartiality and unreasonably imposed pressure and sanctions on Korea.

In order to cope with the situation Pyongyang declared that Korea would quit the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and announced its immediate withdrawal from the International Atomic Energy Agency, thus resolutely rejecting foreign forces' interference in the nuclear power of the country and safeguarding its sovereignty.

This was, however, not enough to frustrate the US's schemes of aggression thoroughly. Century after century and decade after decade, dark clouds of nuclear threat from the US always hung over the Korean peninsula, bringing violent storms to the land.

With the passage of time the US imperialists became all the more outspoken in their scheme to start a nuclear war. This required the Korean people to possess a self-defensive nuclear deterrent without delay.

In 2005 Korea announced its possession of nukes. October of the following year witnessed its first successful underground nuclear test followed by the second underground nuclear test—the nuclear blast of this round was 20 times greater than that of the first round—in May 2009 and the third round of the test in February 2013.

Frightened at this the US imperialists resorted to all ways and means to make Korea give up nukes, menacing the country's sovereignty and right to existence. Taking into consideration the prevailing situation and the requirement of the developing Korean revolution, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un put forward the strategic line of simultaneously conducting economic construction and building up the nuclear force at the historic March 2013 Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Accordingly, Korea developed and perfected in succession means of nuclear attack and strategic weapons to put an end to its age-old confrontation with the US and win an ultimate victory. When Korea succeeded in the test blast of its first H-bomb in January 2016 the American ABC commented: Korea that is already possessed of nukes will soon have the

capability to launch a nuclear attack on the US; this proves that economic sanctions and diplomatic isolation can never stop Korea from strengthening its nuclear capability; the US military experts think that Korea has 13 to 21 nuclear weapons at the moment and they believe it will have 100 nukes by 2020; and the nuclear capability of Korea is strengthening day by day.

The comment is not groundless. While seeing the military parade and the Pyongyang citizens' mass demonstration held in April last to celebrate the 105th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung, the world press observed cavalcades of Juche guns with longer barrels, new-model tanks, large-caliber multiple launch rocket systems, ground-to-air rockets and other military equipment and seven kinds of long-range strategic weapons and processions of special troops in night glasses-fixed helmets, and commented that in fact it was a “parade of the strategic force.”

Korea's success in two rounds of test fire of intercontinental ballistic missiles Hwasong 14 in July last demonstrated once again at home and abroad the unfathomable strength of the Korean people who are simultaneously conducting economic construction and building up the nuclear force by dint of the great power of self-development despite the unprecedented sanctions and pressure.

The US's Internet news agency NK NEWS reported: This means that Korea manufactured a completely new missile; and what is most amazing is that it succeeded in the first test fire of the missile that is totally new in scale, thrust and flight properties.

The Iranian news agency IRNA reported: Korea developed nukes and manufactured the intercontinental ballistic missiles solely by the strength of self-development without getting support or assistance from any advanced countries; this is the best success achieved in the worst adversity in which the country is undergoing extreme sanctions imposed by the US and its followers; and Korea unfailingly does what it decides to and nothing can check its advance.

It is the Korean people's invariable mettle to brave through difficulties and ordeals in the indomitable spirit of attack by countering the enemy's knife with a sword and its rifle with a gun.

It is a matter of course in the world that no matter how honest-minded and right one may be, one, if not strong, has to shed bitter tears as a plaything of the strong.

The Korean people understand through their experience that the dignity and sovereignty of their country can be defended and ensured only by their own power. So, they will keep strengthening their nuclear force under the aforesaid strategic line, the eternal banner of their invincibility.

Kim Ye Ryong

Anti-US Shouts from Korea



The Pyongyang citizens' mass rally and demonstration to fully support the DPRK government's statement in August 2017.



We Will Take Revenge

OUR COUNTRY HAS attained the strongest nuclear force, and this is a rightful choice to safeguard the sovereignty of our country and the right to existence of our nation from the high-handed and arbitrary policy of the US. We know that the Americans have pursued a hostile Korea policy and nuclear threat and blackmail for more than half a century.

They labelled the test fire of our intercontinental ballistic missiles as a “threat to the international peace and security” and used it to fabricate UNSC Resolution No. 2371 aimed at frustrating our country’s economic development and improvement of our living standards completely.

Worse still, the US authorities, terrified by our success in the test fire of the ICBM, don’t hesitate to utter thoughtless words for an extremely dangerous war without interruption. Not long ago US President Trump said that even if a war breaks out, it will come in Korea, and that even if thousands die, they will be there, not in America. This just reminds me of the murderous order given by Walker, the 8th Army commander of the US aggression forces, during the Korean war in the 1950s. “Don’t let your hands tremble even when those who appear before you are children or old people. Kill them! In doing so, you will be saving yourselves from catastrophe and fulfilling your duty as the soldiers of the UN Forces.” This order was exactly carried out by the US aggressor troops. They committed such indelible crimes

as shooting, burning or burying alive innocent people in groups wherever they went. In Sinchon county alone they killed 35,383 people, a fourth of the total local population, by employing brutal methods like burying alive, skinning and disembowelling alive. The massacre in Sinchon clearly showed that the US imperialists were cannibals and murderers of the 20th century who inherited savagery and ferocity from their ancestors who had derived pleasure from murder and were imbued with the mediaeval racist theory.

Over 60 years have passed since then. But the Korean people are still burning their heart with the determination to take revenge upon the US imperialist murderers. They have sharpened their will to wage the final fight with the century-old enemy some day.

We are a nation with great self-respect. We show no mercy to anyone who dares to touch us.

The US should have a proper idea of us Korean people. In the 1950s we destroyed the US invaders by countering their A-bomb with rifles. Now we have become the master of a military power possessed of A- and H-bombs and intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of striking the US mainland.

The Americans have conceived plans for “beheading operation” and “internal harassing operation” for the purpose of making a “conquest” of Pyongyang—that we



Jo Nam Il.

all regard as our heart—and disallowing the use of strategic missiles. These atrocious schemes are making all the army and people including the workers of my complex more firmly determined to wipe the US imperialists off the earth.

Annihilate thoroughly and mercilessly the descendants of the American cannibals through all-people resistance!

Let all of us be human bullets and bombs to hasten the final downfall of the US imperialists!

The entire nation is burning with the determination to plunge the American empire into the deepest abyss of death.

The workers of my complex will hold fast the banner of creation and self-development and raise higher the torch of a new, great leap forward in the revolution, and, if a chance comes, turn out in the sacred battle to wipe out the enemy, and thus satisfy the nation’s pent-up grudge.

*Jo Nam Il,
chief engineer of the
Kim Jong Thae Electric
Locomotive Complex*



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Front Cover: The demonstrators give vent to their trust in the Workers' Party of Korea

Photo by Ra Phyong Ryol



Back Cover: Ryomyong Street at night

Photos by Ra Jin Hyok

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Edited by Ri Chol Ryong

Address: Sochon-dong,
Sosong District,
Pyongyang, DPRK
E-mail: flph@star-co.net.kp

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For Improvement of the People's Health

Happiness

ONE DAY IN SEPTEMBER 2016 Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un inspected the newly built Medical Oxygen Factory. It was the Supreme Leader who initiated the construction of the factory. He fixed its site in the suburbs of Pyongyang and visited the construction site to take measures to solve problems arising in the project.

That day he looked round the oxygen separating station, gaseous oxygen filling station and other places of the factory to acquaint himself with its construction and operation plan in detail. While inspecting the oxygen supply station the Supreme Leader recalled his instruction that an oxygen supply station should be built so as not to inconvenience hospitals in receiving medical oxygen, and said that it was now built wonderfully on the principle of ensuring aesthetic value, convenience and practicality. Oxygen cylinders standing in rows at the station were spectacular, he said and added with a bright smile that it was very good to have names of hospitals inscribed on the cylinders to be supplied to them.

Referring to the factory as a small yet important factory conducive to protection of the people's lives and promotion of their health, Kim Jong Un set forth to the factory such tasks as to normalize production by improving the technical knowledge and skills of the employees and developing their sense of responsibility, to do the management of equipment and technology scrupulously and take good care of facilities and to establish a strict examination system in order to supply quality live oxygen suited to the hygienic standard. And he said that similar modern oxygen production bases should be built in other places across the country on the basis of the successful construction of the factory.

Later that day the Supreme Leader said that the modern factory had been built wonderfully to provide hospitals with high-quality live oxygen for people's health, adding he was satisfied that he had done another worthwhile job for the welfare of the people. He said that it was just his happiness.

What He Exactly Wanted to Do

One day in October 2016 Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited the newly built Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital. Enjoying a panoramic view of the hospital, he said with a broad smile on his face that it had already been built wonderfully though he chose its site in January that year. The external form clearly showed it was an ophthalmic hospital as the façade of its outpatient ward depicted man's eye and an eye-chart was displayed on its inpatient ward's outer wall, he added.

Noting that the Munsu area had turned into a more perfect hospital village as it was intensively arranged with such hospitals as the Breast Tumour Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, the Ryugyong Dental Hospital and the Okryu Children's Hospital as well as the modern Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital, the Supreme Leader said he was very pleased to picture the people enjoying the benefits of the socialist healthcare system to the full without any inconvenience. Then he went round outpatient and inpatient wards to inquire about details of the construction and technical specifications of the facilities. Saying that the hospital was a perfect people's hospital of the world level of which the country could boast to the world, the Supreme Leader noted with pleasure that he had done just what he exactly wanted to do, and that one of his wishes for the people had come true.

He continued to say that the construction of the ophthalmic hospital meant the construction of different medical service bases one after another annually in recent several years, and that the Workers' Party of Korea continued to channel great efforts into building up the material and technical foundations for healthcare not because the country was well off but because it was an important undertaking to give full play to the advantages of the country's socialist health system whereby the Party and the government took thorough responsible care of the people's lives and health, and to defend socialism.

Ri Song Chol

Munsu Area Turns into Hospital Village

THE MUNSU AREA IN Pyongyang is a hub of special and general hospitals. A few years ago the area had only several hospitals including the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital and the Academy of Koryo Medicine. In recent years more medical facilities have been built in the area, including the Breast Tumour Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, the Okryu Children's Hospital, the Ryugyong Dental Hospital, and the Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital. This is the result of the popular health policy pursued by the Workers' Party of Korea and the State which spare nothing for the improvement of the people's health.

The Breast Tumour Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital has rooms for diagnosis and treatment such as a galactography room, an X-raying room and a

cancer treatment room, those for research and scores of sickrooms. It is also equipped with tens of thousands of medical facilities and apparatuses of over 70 kinds, and staffed mainly with doctors and researchers in their thirties and forties, all graduates of the postgraduate course of the Pyongyang Medical College of Kim Il Sung University. Nearly 100 000 women from across the country have recovered from relevant diseases after receiving medical treatment at the institute since its inauguration in 2012.

The Okryu Children's Hospital faces the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital with a road between them. Thanks to the country's love for the younger generation and the future it was built as a modern medical service centre for children. The six-storey hospital has a total floor space of over 22 800 square metres. The build-

ing is surrounded by green carpets of lawn, statues of different themes and an outdoor playground. So, it looks like a children's hospital at a glance. The hospital is provided with all conditions for children to receive medical treatment without worry and get education for different ages during their stay in the hospital like at their schools.

The Academy of Koryo Medicine, a Korean-style gabled house, studies and disseminates the methods of treating many incurable diseases by combining Koryo medicine and modern medicine. The academy consists of a Koryo internal medicine institute, a Koryo surgery institute, an acupuncture and moxibustion institute, a physical constitution institute, a basic Koryo medicine institute, a Koryo pharmacy institute, a general examination office, a Koryo dispensary, an out-

The Pyongyang Maternity Hospital and the Breast Tumour Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital.





The Okryu Children's Hospital.

The Munsu area has turned into a hospital village.



► patient department, and a ward block with an accommodation capacity of hundreds of patients.

A little past the academy there are the Ryugyong Dental Hospital and the Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital. The three-storey dental hospital has several treatment departments and service facilities. Equipped with scores of modern universal dental units and chairs the hospital can treat hundreds of patients a day. And it has full sets of advanced appliances that can ensure precise prostheses. The hospital also has a treatment room, a wading pool and various other amusement facilities for children, medical information and technical exchange rooms for circulation

and exchange of advanced medical science and technology and a dental hygiene requisites shop. In the hospital everyone can get dental treatment of high level including the correction of position of teeth by latest medical equipment. Since its inauguration it has treated over 120 000 patients.

The Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital was built in October last year. With a total floor space of 11 800 square metres, the hospital is a modern, general medical service centre that comprises a four-storey building for outpatients with treatment, operation and eyesight testing rooms furnished with advanced ophthalmic treatment

facilities, an eight-storey building for inpatients and an eyeglass shop which also can correct and make eyeglasses for customers.

The air around the hospital village is fresh and clean as there is no industrial establishment in the area, and the good layout of road network ensures the uninterrupted running of ambulances. There is also a helipad in the area.

Now the people are keenly feeling the benefit of the socialist health system while getting free medical care in the hospital village, the outcome of the Workers' Party of Korea and the State's policy of prioritizing, respecting and loving the people.

Pak Thae Ho



Unified Medical Education

P YONGYANG MEDICAL College of Kim Il Sung University is now striving to unify medical education as required by its mission as academic centre for the sector of the national medical education.

The undertaking started in July 2015, and reached a full-scale practical stage last year. The college set a great goal of realizing the unity of education on a hundred subjects by the end of the year, not over 20 subjects that they had expected. Having prepared through much deliberation, the college organized the first training course on the general primary subjects in late March and another larger-scale training course in April for hundreds of

teachers from similar medical colleges across the country.

The training course based on various forms and ways like lectures by subject and discussion of teaching materials led to presentation of multimedia-based e-teaching plans and experience in putting the contents of education of over 100 subjects on a practical, comprehensive and modern basis. And more than ten new utilitarian teaching plans were introduced, over 20 lectures on the trend of latest science and technology were given, over 100 teaching programs and thousands of teaching plans were discussed and e-teaching plans were showed.

In addition, the college dis-

played lots of data—video data, multimedia presentations, e-teaching materials, education supporting programs, program data on mock lectures, textbooks, reference books and the data on latest science and technology and manuals for practice—badly needed for improving the quality of education in all provincial medical colleges.

All the activities created a sensation. But they required huge efforts to assemble lots of people and technical equipment at a place. In particular, such activities were unable to spread in time data on world medical science and technology in rapid progress. And the suggested opinions had to be collected and dealt with only at ▶

Pyongyang Medical College of Kim Il Sung University.





Medical education develops using the national computer network.

► another similar course organized one or some months later. This resulted in poor progress in the education work. Then the college set another goal of conducting the activities through the national computer network as required by the developing reality. By the first half of this year, the college established in its library an intranet through which they can

have two-way dialogue based on image data with its ten counterparts across the country. This made it possible to remove the qualitative disparity between the central and provincial colleges while saving time and much efforts.

Some time ago, the college was appreciated as an example in unifying sectoral education at a

show sponsored by the Education Commission.

Now experts say that the achievement of the college means another stride in putting many universities in closer connection and developing the medical education as required by the new century.

Kim Chol Ung

Efficacious Products Developed

THE CUTTING-EDGE Technology Company of the State Commission of Science and Technology has developed various kinds of highly efficacious Kumgang medicinal stone products.

The researchers of the company confirmed that the bio-electromagnetic field caused by the mixing of the medicinal stone and rare-earth metal which emit the wavelength of the same intensity as

that of the electromagnetic wave from a healthy man is very effective in restoring the diseased organs in the body to normal. The result of a clinical test of the medicinal stone products shows that they improve complexion, remove fatigue, strengthen the function of the digestive system and overall immunity and further raise the extent to which various malignant tumours and diabetes are restrained.

The researchers developed health tonics such as Kumgang medicinal stone extract, Kumgang medicinal stone bio-active radiating material, and the undiluted solution of natural mushroom and insam, and functional goods like Kumgang medicinal stone far-infrared tile and Kumgang medicinal stone pillow—all of them are registered as State patented articles. Now they are winning popularity abroad as well. □

Doctors Visit Patients

SOME TIME AGO, I VISITED THE JONGBAEK Polyclinic in Rangnang District, Pyongyang. Sin Yong Ok, who had become the head of the polyclinic after working as a section doctor and then a department head there, said, "A polyclinic is the lowest preventive and curative medical care centre which always takes medical care of local residents with the help of section doctors for different households. It gives priority to the work to prevent illnesses from developing among the residents, and enables them to get medical treatment in time." She went on to say that while working as a section doctor she often asked her husband to accompany her on her night visits to her charges, afraid of darkness, and her husband would wait for her outside until she finished her work.

She showed me some letters. The first was a letter of thanks from Song Kyong Hui in Neighbourhood Unit No. 34, Jongbaek-dong No. 2. Three years ago Song moved to Jongbaek-dong. At that time she was so fatigued that she could hardly move her body, for she had undergone operations many times on paralysis of the lower half of her body due to the fracture of the cervical vertebrae.

One day she got a visit from a doctor who introduced herself as the one in charge of her family. The doctor examined her body in detail and advised her to brace up and get medical treatment again. From then on the doctor visited the patient's house before or after work almost every day so as to give her manual therapy and acupuncture. Whenever her illness became worse, she came to her house on time to take an emergency measure. Sometimes she called on her house with health foods she made by herself, saying that treatment was effective when her nutritive conditions were good. On New Year's Day she

Doctors prepare to make the rounds of the families in their charge.



would make and take festive dishes to the patient's house and treat her. Then the woman would feel as if the doctor were her own mother.

Thanks to three years of the doctor's painstaking efforts, the patient's health has much improved. "I want you to speak highly of such a health worker who visits her patient first on New Year's Day though she has other places to visit," the woman wrote at the end of the letter.

Now I began to read another letter, the one from Kwak Hyon Sil in Neighbourhood Unit No. 3, Jongbaek-dong No. 2. She fell into a critical state by a heart shock and massive spasm one night after she had had operations twice on critical dysfunctional uterine bleeding. Her daughter and neighbours rushed to the polyclinic. A doctor on night duty came to the house and gave the first aid to the patient. Then the doctor took her to a hospital, took part in a doctors' consultation there, and left the hospital only after seeing the patient restored to life. But the patient could not know the doctor's face and name. In the letter she asked the polyclinic to look for the doctor. The doctor was Kim Yong Bok.

I went to meet the doctor. She looked really warm-hearted. She said, "Family doctors have the data on not only the number of members of each family in her charge but also students and children or chronic invalids of the family. It has already been over 30 years. In the period I made the round of the families in my charge almost every day, and learned from medical books and eminent doctors."

Then suddenly I heard singing of children from a room. Out of curiosity, I turned my step to the room which was for family doctors. Unexpectedly there were triplets singing in the room. I came to know there that triplets have regular medical examinations until they go out into the world and that they are provided with reserve medicines and tonics by the polyclinic. The triplets, second graders of a primary school, were singing a song at the request of Jon Song Chol, doctor in charge of them after they had examinations. I also met some other doctors including Han Un Ju. This woman doctor treated a resident in her charge for a month and half, and thus helped him begin to work again. The patient had been suffering a serious cerebral disease which even his family thought impossible to be cured. All those doctors their charges hold in respect are ordinary ones.

Leaving the polyclinic, I believed that all residents of the Jongbaek area would work in good health, bringing about innovations in their work places, thanks to their doctors' responsible and sincere care of them.

Rim Ok

Firm Root of the WPK

TODAY THE WORKERS' PARTY OF KOREA (WPK) is leading the building of a powerful socialist nation to victory while resolutely overcoming all sorts of challenges unprecedented in the history. The reality of Korea vividly shows the validity and vitality of the WPK's principle of independence and its independent faith.

The principle of independence the WPK has invariably maintained originated from the Down-with-Imperialism Union (DIU) which was organized in Huadian on October 17, 1926, about 20 years before the foundation of the Party. At that time the nationalists did not believe in the strength of the people and were only engrossed in the factional strife. And the pseudo-Marxists, who were infected by funkeyism and dogmatism, indulged in empty talks, asserting that they should assimilate the experience of a foreign country, regardless of the actual conditions of Korea that had turned into a colony of the Japanese imperialists.

Kim Il Sung, with a critical view on them, groped for a unique way, entirely unlike them. At last, he thought out the road for independent development of the Korean revolution, and formed the DIU to pioneer the road. In his reminiscences *With the Century* President Kim Il Sung said:

"In the communist movement at that time there were many organizations with eye-catching slogans. Ours was a new organization which could scarcely be compared with those organizations in terms of scale. The public did not even know about the existence of the DIU.

"Nevertheless, we were feverishly excited because we were proud of the fact that ours was a communist revolutionary organization of a new type that was totally different from the conventional organizations."

The immediate task of the DIU was to defeat Japanese imperialism and achieve the liberation and independence of Korea, and its final objective was to build socialism and communism in Korea and, further, destroy all imperialism and build communism throughout the world. The programme of the DIU was the Juche-oriented, revolutionary one which clarified for the first time the road ahead of the Korean revolution by correctly reflecting the socio-economic circumstances and class relations in Korea and the centuries-old desire of the Korean people, and it was a militant banner vigorously encouraging the Korean people to take the genuine road of revolution for national liberation and class emancipation. Indeed, the formation of the DIU was a historic event signaling a new start of the Korean revolution.

Since then the national-liberation movement in Korea broke with the old generation and met a new era of advance based on the principle of independ-

ence. The formation of the DIU became the starting point of the struggle for founding a Juche-type revolutionary party, a new-type party of the working class in Korea—it was a historic root of the WPK. Later, that root grew steadily and trained itself in the flames of the arduous anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

On July 3, 1930 the Society for Rallying Comrades was formed in Kalun on the basis of the programme and rules of the DIU. During the anti-Japanese armed struggle organized by Kim Il Sung, the Changbai County Party Committee, the East Manchurian Party Working Committee and the Homeland Party Working Committee were founded under the unified guidance of the Party Committee of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army (KPRA), establishing a powerful countrywide and all-nation organizational system of the party. In May 1936 the Association for Restoration of the Fatherland was formed, and its branches were expanded across Korea, thus laying a solid mass ground for the founding of the party.

Through the armed struggle against the Japanese imperialists who were armed to the teeth, the soldiers of the KPRA grew up into those strong in ideas and faith who would not give up their revolutionary faith even at the cost of life, and into indomitable fighters who would not lose their revolutionary mettle in any adversity although they had no comrades in the flank and rear.

The Workers' Party of Korea was founded on October 10, 1945 even in the complex situation of Korea less than two months after the country was liberated in August 1945. This is attributable to the firm root that originated from the DIU. The DIU's programme of building socialism and communism became the programme of the WPK, and the principle of independence initiated by the DIU served as the principle of the WPK in its building and work. The DIU was also the cradle of the backbone for founding the WPK.

For over 70 years since its foundation, the WPK built unique Korean-style people-centred socialism suited to the actual conditions of its own country in accordance with its faith and will. Since the consecutive collapse of socialism in eastern European countries at the end of last century the imperialists have kept focusing their offensive on Korea. But the Korean-style socialism is still advancing without vacillation. Under the guidance of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un the WPK is accelerating the building of a powerful socialist nation at the speed of Mal-lima, holding aloft the banner of independence, Songun and socialism, and thus demonstrating its dignity and fighting efficiency to the whole world.

Sim Chol Yong

Motherly Party

CHAIRMAN KIM JONG IL, THE ETERNAL general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), regarded it as his primary duty and revolutionary obligation to take responsible care of everything related to all the people of his country during his leadership of the WPK. The Chairman considered it a basic mission and duty of the leader of revolution to take responsible care of the people's destiny. So, he did all he could for the good of the people, his mind always burning with a sense of responsibility for the people.

He saw to it that socio-political organizations were built as motherly caretakers that regard it as the supreme principle of their activities to take responsible care of the people's lives and livelihood and that designing and planning for the revolution and construction were done in such a way as to safeguard the destiny of the people, make them better off and develop them into more powerful beings.

It was always his heart's desire to take responsibility for the life of the people across the country and provide them with a happier life.

He set the improvement of the people's living standards as the supreme principle of the WPK's activities and paid great attention to the work concerned. In the mid-1990s the Korean people had to undergo the Arduous March and the forced march owing to the imperialists' schemes to isolate and stifle the country. In those difficult times he made sure that the WPK and the DPRK government paid deep attention to the people's life and concentrated all efforts on stabilizing and improving their livelihood.

Saying that farming should be done well to solve the problem of food for the people first, he took measures to increase grain production decisively. He also showed deep concern for the problem of primary consumer goods such as cloth, underwear, footwear and soap to be supplied to the people and took positive steps for the solution.

Under his scrupulous care modern stockbreeding bases, condiments factories, fruit farms and sturgeon

and salmon farms were built across the country, the Okryu Restaurant, the Chongnyu Restaurant and other public catering establishments were renovated on a best level and exemplary apartments like those on Mansudae Street appeared.

The Chairman did everything in his power to provide students with the best educational conditions despite the difficult situation of the country. He made sure that the government spared no expense for the sector of education in any ordeals and trials. This led to the establishment of e-libraries with latest equipment at Kim Il Sung University and Kim Chaek University of Technology and the modernization of educational facilities at all educational institutions.

Streams of soya milk vans can be seen running along streets of the capital city to go to nurseries, kindergartens and primary and secondary schools every day. This is also associated with the Chairman's boundless affection for the rising generations. One year he inspected the Pyongyang Children's Foodstuff Factory, where he was informed that soya milk from the factory had been supplied to all schoolchildren and other children in Pyongyang without even a single day's interruption since 1992. It was very good, he said and added that they realized his wish by doing so even during the Arduous March and the forced march. After looking round the production processes of the factory to the last, he instructed that similar factories should be built in other provinces, and stressed that though it was not an easy job to provide all children of the country with soya milk, they should solve the problem at any cost.

Afterwards, nationwide measures were taken to solve the problems arising in producing the milk when a single gram of rice and a single watt of electricity counted. And lots of bases for milk production have been built in all parts of the country, making it possible to supply the milk to pupils and other children.

The Chairman also strove energetically to enable the people to enjoy much more benefits from the ▶



Chairman Kim Jong Il waves in return for the people's enthusiastic cheers in October 2000.

- State and make sure that better bases for their recreational and leisure activities were built across the country. The Koreans never witnessed any reduction in popular policies while invariably benefiting from universal, free compulsory education, free medical care, the social security system, the recuperation and relaxation system, etc. And the Pyongyang Grand Theatre, the National Theatre, the Taedongmun Cinema, the Central Zoo and other centres for cultural activities were renovated; lots of cultural facilities were newly built or renovated including the indoor swimming pool of Kim Il Sung University

and the North Hwanghae Province Art Theatre; Mts. Myohyang, Chilbo, Jongbang and Kuwol and other scenic spots changed for the better for the recreation of much more working people; and holiday camps, sanatoria and rest homes for the sake of the working people appeared in all parts of the country.

So the Korean people still recollect with deep emotion the revolutionary life and achievements of the Chairman who devotedly worked for their good, and faithfully support the plans and intentions of the WPK as he wished.

Kim Jin Ju

In Support of War for Liberation of Northeast China (8)

Steadfast Support until Whole China Was Liberated

WITH THE LIBERATION of Shenyang in November 1948, the largest city in Northeast China where the general command of Chiang Kaishek's Kuomintang forces was based, the war for liberation of Northeast China came to an end with the victory of the Chinese Communists. Now the task was to liberate the whole of China and establish a republic.

After liberation of Shenyang, the Fourth Field Army, to which the Koreans belonged and which was one of the main units of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, moved on and took Shanhaiguan. Then, they passed the Great Wall to advance into the Chinese mainland. Sweeping off 130 000 enemy troops they seized Tianjin on January 15, 1949. Zhangjiakou had fallen into the Communist hand earlier. When Tianjin and Zhangjiakou came under the Communist control, Fu Zuoyi, general commander of the Beijing garrison of the Kuomintang forces, surrendered along with his 300 000-strong forces. Beijing was liberated without even a gun report on January 31, 1949. The Chinese People's Liberation Army annihilated and captured 520 000 enemy troops in the Pingjin theatre of war, and mowed 555 000-strong enemy forces in the Huaihai theatre of war in the Huadong region north of the Yangtze River, thus completely liberating the area north of the Yangtze River from November 6, 1948 to January 10, 1949.

Around that time different opinions arose among the com-

manding officers of the Fourth Field Army of the Chinese People's Liberation Army concerning the matter of whether to continue to advance southward from the Yangtze River.

Wang Xiaoming visited Pyongyang in February 1949 to ask Korea to help out the Chinese liberation war to the end.

Kim Il Sung, leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, received Wang, when he, listening to Wang attentively, accepted the Chinese request readily, saying that it was the consistent stand of Korea to help out the Chinese revolution to the end.

Now the Korean units set out again on the grave and arduous southward march of 12 000 km. Overcoming almost unbearable difficulties due to exotic problems like sultry weather, water and other natural features, which were coupled with diseases like malaria and diarrhea, they marched 40 km a day, crossing the Yangtze River and reaching Hainan Island at last. They fought scores of battles until Henan, Jiangxi, Guangdong, Hunan, Guangxi and Guizhou provinces were liberated and the five-star flag was raised in Tiananmen Square in Beijing, China.

The People's Republic of China was founded on October 1, 1949, but the remnants of the Kuomintang forces were still engaged in insidious manoeuvres. So the Korean units continued to advance together with the Chinese People's Liberation Army to annihilate the enemy to the last man.

Hainan Island, the second largest island in China after Taiwan, is the gateway to the South China Sea. With the liberation of Guangdong and Guangxi provinces in December 1949, the Chi-

nese mainland was mostly liberated. The remnants of the Kuomintang forces that survived in the provinces ran away to Hainan Island. The command of the Fourth Field Army gave the 40th and 43rd armies combat tasks to liberate Hainan Island. The 40th Army included a Korean artillery unit. Originally, it was a regiment that had been formed by Kim Il Sung and sent to the war for liberation of Northeast China. Equipped with mountain guns, it fought a lot of combats. Later as it carried out scores of large-scale battles in many areas such as the Liaoshen and Pingjin theatres of war, Guilin and Nanning, it captured weapons of the enemy so that it was equipped with modern artillery pieces. This artillery battalion participated in the operations to liberate Hainan Island, starting from the Leizhou peninsula in Guangdong province.

All the fighters of the battalion and other units had a ceremony to go into action on April 16, 1950. The infantrymen of the division got aboard 500 boats built with bamboos flanked on both sides by the Korean artillery battalion aboard 12 boats, and left at six in the evening. When they sailed for about 12 km, flare bombs flew up into the sky suddenly, and the Kuomintang army's aircraft and warship pounced upon them with a shower of bombs and shells.

The Korean combatants of the artillery battalion, ordered by the commander, rowed their bamboo boats to the back of the enemy warship and fired at them all of a sudden. Scared at this, the enemy warship turned around and began to take flight.

When she ran away, the battalion, along with the landing units, moved forward to the island swiftly under cover of the dark-

► ness.

Presently, an enemy warship on a patrol duty off-shore noticed the approaching Communist landing forces and opened fire. Using 36 guns of different calibres on the 12 boats the Korean artillerymen returned a volley at once, destroying the enemy warship and defence facilities on the coast one after another. Finally the 500 boats with infantrymen got to the shore. Under cover of the Korean artillery battalion, they landed and launched a fierce attack against the Kuomintang forces.

This battle gave rise to a legendary story that the Korean units sank a modern warship of American make with bamboo boats. This story went around from mouth to mouth among the Chinese People's Liberation Army and other Chinese.

Hainan Island was liberated on April 30, 1950.

Meanwhile, the delegates dispatched by Kim Il Sung organized the Yanbian Grand Democratic Alliance and rallied people from all walks of life around the alliance under the banner of democracy and assisted the Chinese people in their economic rehabilitation. Especially they pushed ahead with the restoration of railway on their own.

Once the Korean railway force was given the task to restore within 15 days the railway that had been damaged in the flood that swept the Liaoshen theatre of war, they waged an indomitable struggle day and night and finished it in seven days, thus making a great contribution to the victory in the Liaoshen theatre of war. At the time, in order to give active assistance to the Chinese Communists in their operations, Kim Il Sung made sure that the Northeast People's Liberation Army travelled from Haerbin through Tumen to Korea's Namyang and then used the East Coast Railway Line to go to Sinuiju via Kowon, Yangdok and Sopho of Korea and finally enter

Dandong, China. As a result the Northeast People's Liberation Army could conclude the battles to liberate Jinzhou, Heishan, Dahushan, Shenyang and other places victoriously and finally take control of the entire Northeastern region.

The Songhuajiang Railway Bridge Restoration Project which was completed in October 1948 was participated in by a huge number of Korean railway guards. They joined the struggle to restore Jinpu, Jinghan, Beining, Longhai railway lines in order to make a success of the Chinese People's Liberation Army's plan in the Huaihai theatre of war and its Yangtze River crossing operations.

The Chinese People's Liberation Army highly praised the Korean railway guards as "advance party of the Liberation Army." The Korean railway guards opened the history of the Chinese People's Liberation Army railway corps, dedicating their priceless blood and sweat to the security of railways and to their restoration.

With the triumph of the Chinese revolution the People's Republic of China was declared on October 1, 1949 and the five-star flag was hoisted in Tiananmen Square in Beijing.

Having performed great feats in the Chinese people's liberation war, the Korean units were headed for their homeland as called by Kim Il Sung. Among the officers and men of the 15th Independent Division more than 2 000 had performed great feats, and over 100 Koreans of them were awarded the title of Hero, and more than 85 percent of the personnel of the division were honoured with the membership of the Party.

At the ceremony of forming the ranks officers and men were awarded official citations. Addressing the meeting, Deng Zihui, chief of the political department of the Fourth Field Army, said in appreciation of the exploits of the Korean officers and men: "During

the three-year-and-a-half-long liberation war you were exemplary in fighting courageously and strenuously, in defending the government and looking after the people, and in abiding by the three rules and eight principles. You are sons and daughters of the Korean nation, and you are the pride of both the Korean and the Chinese nations." He declared that like the Koreans helped the Chinese at the cost of their blood when China was in difficulty, the Chinese would volunteer to go to Korea and help the Koreans if there was a fighting in Korea.

The Korean officers and men, who had steeled themselves in the war to liberate the whole China, accomplished great feats later in the Fatherland Liberation War for the freedom and independence of the country against the armed invasion of the US imperialists.

On May 12, Juche 39 (1950) Kim Il Sung met officers and men of the Eighteenth Infantry Regiment of the Fourth Infantry Division of the Korean People's Army on their return home from the Chinese people's liberation war. On the occasion he said: "Even after liberation of Northeast China, lots of Korean young people moved on to the Chinese mainland. They participated in the Yangtze River crossing operations and advanced as far as to the southernmost tip of China while liberating Changsha, Chongqing and many other regions. This means the Korean young people participated in almost all large battles to liberate China.

"Joining the Chinese people's liberation war the Korean young people made a great contribution to the liberation of China and the birth of the People's China by fighting valiantly defying showers of bullets and bombs along the long march. As internationalist fighters they accomplished their glorious duty with credit."

(The End)

Tradition of Self-reliance

THE CHOLLIMA STEEL Complex is well known as the home of Chollima. Sixty years ago the workers of the complex performed a miracle by turning out 120 000 tons of rolled steel from a blooming mill with a rated capacity of 60 000 tons. The national leader Kim Il Sung, who had visited the complex several times, inspected it again in September 1962, and grasped hands of the workers one by one, saying that the complex was the birthplace of Chollima. Its tradition of working miracles by its

own efforts and technology is still being carried on today.

This year, like it did last year, the complex is increasing the production of quality narrow-gauged rails, round steel bars and square billets by modernizing the rolled steel production process. Song Myong Ho, chief engineer of the complex, said, "Like in the past, we are pushing ahead with the work to increase the production of iron and steel by dint of local raw and other materials and our own technology."

The steel workshop, the backbone of the complex, took a proper

measure to operate the transformer of furnace No. 4 and completed in a new way the anthracite-used tundish heating device. Now it is renovating the spraying nozzle of the secondary cooling zone. The undertaking has a very good prospect. Pak Il Sin, leader of the workshop, said that as they modernized the production processes and replaced the oxygen plant with a new one in keeping with the actual reality, they could cut the melting time per charge at the refining furnace and double the steel production while saving much energy. He went on to say ▶

In front of the UHP electric arc furnace.





A high-temperature air combustion-style wire rod heating furnace.



A continuous ingot steel maker.

- ▶ that in the course of this they came to have firmer confidence that self-reliance and self-development are the best choice.

The wire rod heating furnace is also the fruit of the workers' effort. This furnace, which is based on high-temperature air combustion technology, does not need heavy oil at all while using domestic materials in production. Ji Jong Ho, senior engineer of the steel workshop, said, "We buckled down to the research to find a new fireproof material with the determination to do it by ourselves. Of course, it was a difficult job as we had to find a new material by

using different ores available in our country. But our technicians and workers' painstaking efforts bore fruit at last." He continued to say that the usage of the new fireproof materials makes it possible to save time and labour and that the materials can be used for any heating furnace. He also added that the low production cost and the high quality of the material resulted in the increased steel production.

The sci-tech learning space plays an important role in the campaign. It has established an intranet connected with the Sci-Tech Complex, the Grand People's

Study House and the Kim Chaek University of Technology and is disseminating science and technology to its technicians and workers. The online college of the complex enables its employees to receive online lectures given by the Kim Chaek University of Technology, and 13 workers got the diploma of the college in 2015 for the first time and three of them won academic degrees.

Scores of its employees have so far graduated from the online college, and they are playing leading roles in modernizing the complex.

Rim Hye Gyong



Pyongyang Dental Hygiene Supplies Factory

The toothpaste tube workshop.



SOME TIME AGO I VISITED the newly built Pyongyang Dental Hygiene Supplies Factory. Occupying not so large an area covered with trees and flowers, the factory consists of a production building, an office building and a welfare facility. The outer walls of the production building are covered with white and green tiles in good harmony, and the front wall features a mark of *Paekhak* (white crane), which the Korean people regarded as a sym-

bol of longevity and cleanliness from of old.

When I met Ri Yong Suk, general manager of the factory, she told me the following story.

In June last Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited the factory. While looking round the production processes, he said that with the construction of the factory he could now realize his wish to provide the people with varieties of quality dental hygiene supplies and that he was very

glad to do another thing worthwhile for the people's long life in good health. He then expressed his intention to help the factory develop and produce whatever kinds of good things for dental hygiene.

Now the general manager led me to the integrated production control room first. A large LCD screen displayed the integrated production system which monitors the real-time operation of major production processes such ▶

The label printing process.



The gargle production process.





► as those for toothpaste tube production, mixing and maturing, gargle production and clean water production. According to a controller in the room, the factory built up its own technical forces and, in close connection with the relevant scientific research institutes, established the integrated production system comprising a system for automatic control of production processes, a production management system and a business administration system, making it possible to grasp the state of production at a glance and enhance the efficiency of production control. They also developed a new trouble shooting program greatly conducive to the normal operation of the equipment, the controller said.

Next I looked around the toothpaste production process. Quality toothpaste from the mixing and maturing workshop was automatically poured into tubes produced through an injector, a six-colour printing machine and other machines, and the filled tubes were each put into card-

board cases and the cases into cartons before being carried into a storehouse, all through an automatic flow line. My heart warmed to see the filled cardboard cases piled high in a moment.

The general manager then told me the following story.

A lot of new machines were installed in the toothpaste production process, including a 90° swivel gear, an inclined conveyor, a 180° swivel gear and a toothpaste tube separating device. The factory manufactured the machines relying on its own technical force. In the course of this, they came to be confident that their own strength and spirit of

self-development are the best and that they could solve any problem by themselves.

After looking round the processes for production of gargle bottles, gargle, dental floss, tooth-picking brush, denture-cleaning brush, tongue scraper and brush, I went to the goods exhibition hall, where chief engineer Mun Yong Sun welcomed me. She explained there were on display over ten sorts of toothpaste, including functional and medical toothpaste such as enzyme-contained toothpaste, fluorine-contained toothpaste and that made from bark of an Amur cork to be used for hygiene of teeth and prevention or treatment of dental diseases. And she said that they were striving to develop several kinds of better functional toothpaste and other dental hygiene supplies helpful for health improvement and that production of such toothpaste and supplies would start before long.

Her words convinced me that the day is coming when the people would be able to enjoy a fully civilized life.

Sim Hyon Jin

Some of the products.



With Their Own Efforts

IN RECENT YEARS THE researchers of the Paper Engineering Institute of the State Academy of Sciences have registered successes one after another in developing functional paper products. The products are of different sorts and properties. All of them are of great significance as they are of the cutting-edge level.

The high-performance air-cleaning paper, for example, can reduce the number of over three million bacteria that exist per 1 ft³

ternity Hospital and the Okryu Children's Hospital. By solving the problem of the paper, which had been imported, the researchers have rendered a sizable benefit to the State and helped establish a new norm in medical service.

Some time ago, they have developed mould-release paper the kind of which could be made only by a few countries. In general the mould-release paper is essential in setting the shapes of shoes. But it was known that the paper could

the role of separator. This kind of separator should be highly resistant to alkali, highly hygroscopic and ten times faster in being wet than ordinary paper. To meet such characteristic index required many scientific problems to be solved. The researchers used locally available materials to develop scores of functional materials suited to the mission of the separator, and formulated a new adhesion technique and completed the relevant production process. This technique won public favour at the space science and technology presentation in 2014.

Meanwhile, they have developed dozens of functional paper articles conducive to the improvement of the people's living standards and the development of the national economy. They include an air-cleaning paper (it is made of pulp material in Korea) for mushroom sterilization which raises the survival rate of mushroom spore from previous 50 or 70% to 99%, a board paper for controlling bellows of accordion which costs seven times less than the previous one and has a longer life span, a filter paper for the engine of tractor, and a water filter-tip of the seawater refiner. All of them were highly appreciated at national sci-tech festivals, shows and exhibitions, for their unique scientific conceptions and rational mode of production.

Ri Yong Il, head of the institute, says, "The sanctions of the hostile forces upon our country have made us redouble our efforts. *The dream of a powerful nation depends on the hand of us scientists.* With this consciousness all the members of my institute are exerting themselves."

Ri Song Chol



Functional paper goods are developed for the people's life and the economic development.

in the air to a hundred. Worldwide, the capability of lowering the number of bacteria per 1 ft³ to 1 000 is defined as 1 000-level, and that of doing to 100 as 100-level. Considering the fact that the 100-level is recognized as the advanced, their success is very notable. This air-cleaning paper has a wide range of usage. In the medical sector, in particular, it can perfectly provide an operating theatre with a germ-free condition in case of operation. At present the paper is used in operating theatres of several hospitals including the Breast Tumour Institute of the Pyongyang Ma-

not be made in the country. This time the researchers of the institute accelerated the technical development with the raw materials richly available in the country, and laid a solid foundation for production of the paper of good intensity and quality equivalent to the world standard.

What is most important to the researchers is that they also helped the country open up a broad avenue to the exploration of outer space. For example, the battery used in the space equipment can be divided into plate and separator, and the performance of battery depends mainly on

Happiness of Researchers

“MY HUSBAND HAS quit smoking since he used the nicotine plaster. The developers of the material are really good guys,” said Kim Yong Hui, a resident of Pothonggang District, Pyongyang.

Worldwide, a lot of people say they will quit smoking which gives only harms to human body. However, there are few who have really quit the habit. This is because nicotine from smoking causes a brain to discharge dopamine. This substance makes a person feel satisfactory, excited, or alert. If pro-smokers quit smoking abruptly, it will lessen function of their brains and cause a feeling of insecurity and other symptoms. This, it is recognized, makes it hardly possible to quit smoking.

Recently researchers of Pyongyang Medical Collage of Kim Il Sung University developed the aforesaid nicotine plaster that can be helpful to those who want to quit smoking. The material is an anti-smoking product which supplements the body with a little amount of nicotine at a smooth rate through the skin while relieving such symptoms. There are a lot of anti-smoking products, but the plaster is especially popular as it is highly effective with success rate at an over 78 percent.

Smoking makes the human body absorb carcinogenic tar and poisonous carbon monoxide, but the plaster is free from carcinogenicity and contains only nicotine which tastes of tobacco. When a patch of the material is stuck to the body you'll be gradually reluctant to smoke. Even if you habitually take a cigarette in your mouth you'll soon smash out as its taste is unpleasant.



The developers of the nicotine plaster.

In the past the abovementioned researchers' successes contributed to improvement of the people's health. And when a campaign was widely under way for quitting smoking, they set a goal of developing their own nicotine plaster, the kind of which is used as a means of helping quit smoking.

Dr. and Assoc. professor Pak Yong Hui, head of an office, said, “At first, we doubted we would make the nicotine plaster as it was recognized as something produced by only a few developed countries.”

The researchers launched the work to separate nicotine from tobacco and make the plaster by their own effort. The separation of nicotine from tobacco was not easy. After repeated failures they finally succeeded in separating nicotine as yellow oil-like liquid. If it was made into a plaster-like percutaneous absorption material to be absorbed through skin, it would be able to ensure fixed concentration of nicotine in blood. Determined to use what is available in the country for making equipment and materials for production of the plaster, they made strenuous efforts and finally

solved the relevant problems. And they developed an adhesive power measuring apparatus by themselves and thus ensured the plaster's adhesive strength. They carried out lots of experiments for four months, which in the past was impossible for even two or three years. The experiments numbered over 420, including those for separation and refining of nicotine, examination of nicotine discharge, examination of skin permeability and measurement of nicotine concentration in blood. The results of the experiments made it possible to help regular smokers safely kick the habit and to protect people's health while checking occurrence of various cancers including lung cancer.

The nicotine plaster was highly appreciated at a Pyongyang international sci-tech exhibition of health and household medical appliances held in June last. The researchers have started another project saying that they were glad to see people benefit from their success. People are affectionately calling them *our researchers*.

Kim Un Mi

How Full Marks Come

CHOLLIMAGORI PRIMARY School in Phyongchon District, Pyongyang is famous for developing its pupils excellently.

Every year lots of its graduates are admitted to schools of higher grade like Pyongyang Secondary School No. 1, and members of its music circle never fail to take one of the top three places at national schoolchildren's individual art contests. Not long ago members of its Taekwon-Do circle won the relevant event at a junior sports meeting which attracted the whole country.

Kim Jong Ok, headmistress of the school, says, "We give priority to the effort to improve educational conditions and environment, contents and methods. At the same time we encourage the teachers to enhance their qualifications and train the pupils into persons of varied attainments." She tells the following story.

The headmistress held on to the idea of "Keep your feet firmly planted on this land and look out over the world" as required by the development of the times, and set

it the first goal to make all classrooms multi-functional.

It was not an easy job, but with the determination to dedicate themselves to the future of the country all its teachers did their best to equip the classrooms with modern educational instruments, establish an intranet and computerize the management of educational and administrative affairs by pooling their own wisdom and efforts. They also studied lots of data on global trends in education in an effort to turn the classrooms into utilitarian and scientific ones. Their devoted efforts bore fruit. Each of the classrooms turned into a multi-functional one equipped with modern educational instruments such as a computer, a television camera and a visual aids projector connected with the intranet. Besides, they established their own homepage "Our School" and improved its efficiency.

Meanwhile, the school made sure that multimedia materials for different subjects designed to suit the pupils' psychology and

electronic teaching plans for perfect distance education were prepared and used actively. This has boosted the quality of 45-minute lessons. And the pupils have remarkably improved their ability by referring to homepage data at any moment, acquiring a wealth of diversified knowledge.

Inspection of any class at work can be done through the intranet, and the management of the school affairs is under way by dint of the homepage.

It is said that there is a fine teacher behind an able man. This partly means how a teacher should educate students.

On the basis of the achievements, the headmistress made efforts to lead the teachers to invent new teaching methods to suit the characteristics of the school. In the course of this there were invented and introduced new teaching methods of developing the ability to judge and apply logically and programs to improve mental faculties. A teacher gave lessons consistent with questions and answers so as to help pupils develop the ability to think most correctly and in depth, and another teacher made effective use of pupils' psychology to suit their ages, personalities and tastes in order to enable them to enhance their ability of concentration.

And the school often organized discussions on teaching methods and teaching materials, meetings for sharing experience and inspections of classes at work. This made it possible for the teachers to further improve their qualifications while learning from one another and competing among themselves. Thus the teachers invented and employed other new teaching methods of making it possible for the pupils to under-

Object-based teaching is encouraged.



Victory of Offensive Football

THREE IS A SAYING: A nice match depends on attacking and a trophy on defence. It is one of the main points in the football circle. But there are only a few coaches who proved their opinions right actually. One of them is Hwang Yong Bong who led the DPRK team to the victory in FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup 2016.

He began to play football at the age of 11. Since then his whole life has been connected with football. He displayed his excellent ability as a forward in a football team of the then Sapho Boys' Middle School in his hometown Hamhung. Later he joined a football team of the Rimyongsu Sports Club, and he greatly helped the team win many rounds of national championships.

He started his new career as a football coach after he finished his life as a footballer. In 1999 when he was just over 30 he began to work as a coach of men's football team in the abovementioned club. During the period he developed into an able coach by qualifying himself step by step. Thanks to his strict, enthusiastic and accurate coaching, the team distinguished itself in rounds of national championships. This made him recognized as a coach by the DPRK Football Federation, and in 2012 he was appointed as a coach of the national juvenile women's football team.

Coaches are always anxious about the results of matches. In 2013 Yong Bong set it as a task to



develop the mode of offensive football—Korea's traditional mode of football—to a higher level, after his team won the second place in FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2012. In fact, it was a great success in his international debut as a coach of the national team. However, he could not be content with the result because the team was to participate in the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup 2016. He then realized that the members of the team were inadequate in their physical and technical preparedness for offensive football. So, he steadily intensified the training of them so as to enable them to possess offensive power.

His efforts bore fruit in the team's matches with its Spanish and US rivals in the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup 2016. Each of the matches with the two strong teams lasted for 120 minutes including extra time. But the Korean team maintained the mode of offensive football to the last, thus winning the matches. So did the team with its French rival. The French team scored a

goal first. However, the DPRK team never lost confidence. They would quickly switch from defence to attack. In the second half of the match the team's quick offensive caused successive melees in the French goal area. It managed to equalize with its rival through well-organized passes and fast counterattack, and then finally shot another decisive goal for its victory.

Four years ago the French team won the DPRK team through penalty kicks of the final match of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup. But the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup ended in the DPRK team's victory.

Then the Asian Football Federation put on its website an article that reads in part as follows: The Korean team won all six matches by their impressive play in the World Cup. It shot 21 goals while losing only seven.

The FIFA's homepage of the Internet carried an article that reads in part as follows: The Korean team won FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup 2016 soon after winning FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2016 in Jordan. There was no other country like Korea that won two World Cups a year. The Korean team demonstrated its mode of offensive football by scoring 21 goals in the competition.

Such a success made Yong Bong one of the top ten coaches of the DPRK of the year 2016.

Ri Kum Chol

the pupils' thinking and practical ability day after day.

The school is still putting more efforts in inventing more utilitarian and better teaching methods.

As fertile soil produces good

fruit, so does the school produce able children to become the future pillars of the country thanks to its teachers' sincere efforts.

Pak Un Yong

- stand ten or a hundred through one and easily leading them to find the answers to any complex problems most correctly and fastest. As a result, obvious progress was made in the development of

From Small Gym

NOT LONG AGO THERE took place the 43rd national schoolchildren's sports contest for Jongilbong Prize drawing the attention of many people in Korea. What was especially spectacular was the final basketball match of junior middle schoolchildren, because it was participated in by those from the junior course of Kim Ju Hyok Senior Middle School in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang who were seeking to win the event for the fourth time. All the spectators were watching the game nervously.

Now the third round of the match was under way with a see-saw battle continuing between the two teams, but Ri Song Nam, a basketball instructor from the aforesaid school, kept watching the match silently. Ri confirmed again that Kim Il Guk, player No. 12, was good at breaking through a one-to-one combat and throwing the ball through the basket from the middle distance while Kim Chung Hyok, player No. 10, at dribbling and defending. The two players were quite active in the fourth round as well, and thus the match ended in the victory of their team.

All of the spectators congratulated them. When asked about the

secret of their success, the instructor told the following story.

It was four years ago that Ri began to work as a physical education teacher at the aforesaid school. When he graduated from the Korea University of Physical Education, his teachers and mates told him that if he joined a sports club he would begin a successful career. And his dream was just to become a world-class basketball star. He, however, selected the career as a physical education teacher for a reason. A few days before graduation he had happened to see schoolchildren practising basketball in a park. He had found their movements very clumsy. When he had asked, they had introduced themselves as students of the aforesaid school and expressed their anxiety, saying that their circle instructor, who had taught them basketball, had retired for his advanced age.

With a heavy heart he had parted from the students. He had once acted as a seed in a basketball circle in his school days, and now it was time to begin to realize his dream. *Should I go to a sports club or to the school?* He thought and thought. At last he had decided to go to the school with the intention of putting the students'

dream into reality instead of his own. He was then determined to dedicate himself to the work to train reserve basketball players.

He started his work with strictly selecting students with an aptitude for basketball and forming a basketball circle. Something remarkable about his principle of selecting those students was that emphasis was placed on their school records. He knew that no matter how good one might be in physical condition one could not achieve success without high intelligence.

He trained the circle members in basic movements. Soon they began to train themselves as the instructor planned. One day the head teacher of the school told him that there would soon take place a national schoolchildren's sports meeting. From then on the instructor and the circle members all sweated away at training in the small gym of the school day after day. The time finally came for them to make their debut. Though it was a few months after the circle was formed, they fully displayed their high skills, mettle and team spirit in preliminary matches. And they beat their rival team in the final match, thus winning the event. All of them raised cheers,



Little Poet

TODAY THE DEMOCRATIC People's Republic of Korea is producing a large number of talented teenagers. Among them is Kim Tong Myong, who is called little poet. He is a member of 3-7 class of Pulgungori Junior Middle School in Pothonggang District, Pyongyang.

He was the firstborn of an ordinary worker's family. From his earlier childhood he was in high favour with his neighbours, for he was uncommonly brainy and intelligent. Seeing him solve any mathematical problems of not only addition and subtraction but also multiplication and division when he was a kindergartener, they said with joy that their village had produced a future Doctor.

One day, when Tong Myong was in a lesson of primary school, the teacher told a story about Hero Ri Su Bok (1933-1951) and his note *For My Only Motherland*. The hero was born a son of a farmhand's family when Korea was under the military occupation of the Japanese imperialists. Since his childhood he was deeply impressed with the importance of the country, and thus he stopped the embrasure of an enemy pillbox with his breast during the Fatherland Liberation War (1950-1953). Tong Myong was deeply touched by the story. The teacher said, "Hero is just a poet. Hero Ri Su Bok set an example. He died a heroic death leaving a poem which reads in part, 'Is there any life, hope or happiness nobler, greater or more beautiful than giving up my youth for my country? Anyone can be a hero and a

poet if they make efforts.' The teacher's words lingered in the ears of the boy, and he wanted to become both a poet and a hero.

That evening, he spoke of his inward thought to his parents. Although he had intended to bring him up into a Doctor of mathematics, his father regarded the son's thought laudable and patted him on the back in agreement, saying that what is important to a man is not what he does but how he does it.

Thus, he came to be fond of literature and had a dream of becoming a poet. He had extraordinary power of observation, imagination and expression. He knew how to grasp essences of any matter and phenomenon and how to combine his feelings about them and his relevant sentiments organically. He was a boy of great tenacity.

In his junior middle school days, Ri Jong Hyang, his class teacher, helped him make the best use of his such merits, and strove to steadily improve the contents and method of teaching to suit his psychological feature so as to make him enhance his power of creative thinking and imagination. Thanks to her careful guidance and his own efforts, his ability improved day by day. This led



to creation of lots of literary works. In the course of this he had a wish to show his writings to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

In December 2016 he completed and presented to the Supreme Leader *Snowflakes of December*, a collection of his own 12 nursery poems including *Short Winter Night*, which is about his earnest yearning for Chairman Kim Jong Il, and *Please Spread Like a Flower Fragrance*, which is about his yearning for Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un who is continuously on the snowy road to the front. With a pride of becoming a little poet known throughout the country, he participated in the 8th Congress of the Korean Children's Union held in June 2017, drawing the attention of the whole country and had the honour of having a souvenir photograph taken with the Supreme Leader.

When he returned to his home he showed his representative card to his teacher, and said, "I'll keep getting full marks at school."

Chae Kwang Myong

► embracing one another.

The instructor always says to the circle members, "We managed to take first place, but it is more difficult to maintain the honour.

Let all of us further exert ourselves to retain the honour without being content."

He is striving to develop members of the circle into able players,

and those who finished the school are distinguishing themselves at sports clubs or at their workplaces.

Pak Yong Il



Living Memory

buildings, a mess hall, a bathing ground, a hall, a gym, a playground with an open-air stage, a diving pool, a swimming pool with a water slide, a rollerblading ground and so on.

The accommodation buildings are equipped with bedrooms, a children's broadcasting room, a clinic, a barber's, a beauty salon, a reading room, an e-reading room and a general information dis-

swimming pool, a boating ground, a playground, a folk game yard, a dancing ground, an archery ground and a labyrinth.

The camp can accommodate some 360 children at a time, and a camping period is seven days. It is open both in summer and winter in conformity with the geographical position of the coastal and mountainous province.

What is most attractive ▶



THE KANGWON PROVINCIAL December 6 Children's Camp, established in May 1963, is located on the seaside in Munchon City, Kangwon Province. It has been an important base of extracurricular education for schoolchildren in the province.

Last year it was renovated. The old buildings were pulled down and new ones went up, giving a completely new facelift to the camp to the pleasure of all the schoolchildren in the province.

Occupying 16.8 hectares of area with a total floor space of 15,530 square metres, the camp has two campers' accommodation

semination space, where they can get wide-ranging knowledge about nature and society. The hall consists of a computer game room, a folk game room, a music room, a karaoke room and the like to suit the children's psychology.

The mess hall is made up of a kitchen, a dining hall, a birthday party room, a cooking instruction room, a cooking book reading room and a cooking practice room where the campers can learn knowledge about food, attain food processing techniques and make foods by themselves.

Outside the buildings are to be found a bathing ground, a



► about summer camping is going swimming in the sea. In front of the camping buildings which look like a sailing boat as befits a camp in the seaside, there are the blue sea and the sand beach. After swimming pleasantly in the blue water of the East Sea of Korea, children indulge in playing in the warm sands, making all forms of things with sand to display their dreams and hopes. This is really romantic. Quite memorable is the sea-borne experience of the children from mountainous counties including

Phyonggang.

Winter camping consists mainly in going skiing at the Masikryong Ski Resort, which is particularly pleasant and anxiously awaited activity for campers from the province. They all wish to remain children to continue to enjoy such a camping all their life.

Camping gives them a good opportunity to build up what they have learned at school by looking and experiencing in person and to make a lot of friends.

After spending dream-like

days while training themselves physically and spiritually, the campers bid farewell to their camping instructors tearfully, reluctant to leave the camp.

Director of the camp Kim Chun Mi says, "Camping may well be a moment of their life, and we try to make a scrupulous schedule of camping activities so that it will be a good memory for the rest of their life. The children send us letters, and we reply by writing 'See you again.'"

Kim Chol Hyon



The campers enjoy themselves to their heart's content.



For Elderly People



Vice-chairman Choe Il Hong (right).

KOERA TODAY REPORTER RIM OK HAD a talk with vice-chairman Choe Il Hong of the Central Committee of the Federation for the Care of the Elderly of Korea on the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons. Excerpts:

At present the issue of the elderly is one of those drawing the attention of the international community. Korea is also paying attention to the issue, isn't it?

The current number of the global population exceeds seven thousand millions, and 12 per cent of them are aged over 60. It is expected that the proportion of the elderly population will rise to 25% by 2025. This shows that the aging of population is presenting itself as a serious issue across the world.

But our country has adopted the protection of the

elderly as an important public policy of the State, and ensures the undertaking on a legal basis. On April 30, 2003 there was established the Association for the Assistance of the Elderly of Korea, the predecessor of the Federation for the Care of the Elderly of Korea. The federation's mission is to secure the rights and interests of the elderly in the country and enable them to lead a worthwhile, happy life in better health both mentally and physically.

On April 26, 2007 there was adopted the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Law on the Care of the Elderly. The Cabinet and provincial, city and county people's committees have non-permanent committees for the care of the elderly to make the law executed exactly. The committees are staffed with senior officials from the Cabinet, ministries, national organs and public organizations.

The federation acts as a secretariat that deals with the affairs of the committees, thus helping further strengthen the nationwide system for the care of the elderly and implement the policy of protecting the elderly.

What kinds of work is the federation doing these days?

The federation is regularly conducting the undertaking to create a public atmosphere where the elderly are held in respect and treated preferentially as senior revolutionaries, seniors of society and families. It actively gives publicity to the public traits of respecting the elderly and the happy life the elderly enjoy under the care of the State through mass media.

The federation also prints and circulates pam-

National Drink *Sungnyung*

SUNGNYUNG (SCORCHED-RICE TEA) IS a traditional Korean drink which is easy to make and is distinctly tasty and highly nutritive.

From olden times the Korean people were fond of drinking *sungnyung* after meal. In general they liked to finish a meal by mixing a few last spoon-

fuls of rice with warm *sungnyung* and eating them with salted vegetables or pickled-fish dishes. So it became a custom that all housewives prepared and served *sungnyung* in big bowls towards the end of a meal. In the course of this there came into being many stories and proverbs on *sungnyung* that are still told today.

Sungnyung is quite easy to make. When you cook rice, heat boiled rice again after steaming it. Then the underneath of the rice is scorched because the bottom of the pot is almost moistureless. Then pour water to the scorched underneath and boil it again. Now tasty *sungnyung* is ready to serve.

► phlets and books of common knowledge such as *Health Care of the Elderly* and *Health and Regimen of the Elderly* referred to as company in the elderly's life. And it organizes various functions on the occasion of the V Day, the International Day of Older Persons and so on. On those days national and provincial art troupes give performances for the elderly, and special treatment is given at public catering establishments, pleasure grounds, parks and swimming pools. Sports meetings and evening entertainments take place for the elderly. On the International Day of Older Persons they have volleyball and table tennis matches and Korean chess and *yut* games which are popular with the working people as well.

Under the control of the federation there are the Cultural and Artistic Association of the Elderly of Korea, the Athletic Association of the Elderly of Korea and the Production Association of the Elderly of

Korea. Members of the first association conduct cultural exchange with their counterparts in other countries through joint performances. They also give motivational performances at sites of socialist construction, factories and enterprises.

Meanwhile, through exchanges and cooperation with international organizations, cooperation organizations, charities and overseas Koreans, the federation provided the Pyongyang Old People's Home with tractors, water heaters and other equipment and materials, saplings of fruit trees and breeds of domestic animals, and sent medicines to homes for war veterans under construction in all provinces. Now other exchange and cooperation plans are being implemented.

Your words make me think that the elderly enjoy great State benefits and that the federation's duty is heavy.

You're right. In our country the number of 100-year-old people increases with the passage of time, and the elderly say that sixty is but the prime of youth and longevity is celebrated at 90.

My federation will continue to strive to make the elderly lead a worthwhile life and help further improve the State policy of protecting the elderly as required by the developing reality and the elderly. □

Elderly people celebrate the International Day of Older Persons.



Life of Hero Midwife

NOT LONG AGO I VISITED the Pyongyang Doctors' Refresher Training College, where my eye was caught by a familiar woman. She is Labour Hero Choe Jong Sim. She is near the age of 80. Still, she is working as a teacher at the college to guide young obstetricians in practice.

I found her still full of energy for her age. Her story of her life deeply impressed me.

The Reason for Her to Become an Obstetrician

It was one day in mid-February 1945 several months before Korea's liberation from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation. As usual, Jong Sim was playing at the rope jumping together with her friend Yong Ok in the yard of the latter's house. All of a sudden, a scream of Yong Ok's mother came out of a room, and her father hurried out and away somewhere. After a while, he ploddingly returned home with his arms dangling. According to him the county had only a single doctor, but he turned him away at the door, insultingly calling him empty beggar without any penny. Helplessly, Yong Ok's mother died of hematorrhea in labour. Other women in the village, too, did so unable to get medical care. At the age of six at that time, Jong Sim wanted to become a doctor to cure diseases of poor mothers who had no access to a hospital without money.

After the end of the Fatherland Liberation War (1950-1953), Jong Sim, who had grown up into a young woman with a forked pigtail, attended a midwife training school out of her desire. After graduating from the school she began to work as a midwife at the



Labour Hero Choe Jong Sim.

Hoeyang County People's Hospital. She was always busy with her work. With the help of neighbourhood unit heads and hygienic team leaders, the midwife made a list of names of pregnant women. And she went to see and repeatedly advise each of the women to be hospitalized in time to get medical care in labour.

Every day she was elated with work. She found her job worthwhile, and never felt tired however hard she worked. As soon as she went to a place and gave medical care to a woman in labour, she was called for another request for help. So, she often saw the dawning day at the window of her room at the hospital. This was also a pleasure to her. At last she successfully gave medical care to all women in her charge in the county town.

In 1959 the young midwife, at the age of 21, was invited to a national conference of health workers. In her speech at the conference she expressed her determination to steadily explain about and disseminate the health

policy of the Workers' Party of Korea among not only the women of the county town but also all those in the county and give medical care to all of them in labour.

Back at the hospital, the midwife soon set herself to work. She did her round of every village day and night to plainly explain to women there why pregnant women should be registered and get medical examination and why they should get medical care in labour. This gradually made her well known, drawing lots of pregnant women one after another.

At the time Korea was seething with the grand march of Chollima, and there were coming moving stories of health workers taking sincere care of the people's health. Amidst the atmosphere the midwife worked with greater enthusiasm.

In 1961 she was again invited to a national conference of active health workers held in the presence of Kim Il Sung, national leader of Korea. At the conference she talked about how she had worked since her participation in the similar conference two years before. She had trained dozens of midwife assistants so as to give medical care to all women of the county in labour. After listening attentively to her speech, the national leader spoke highly of her, saying that she had done a good thing. On the last day of the conference she received the title of Labour Hero.

Later she wrote in her note, "An obstetrician's job! The first medical service a person gets comes from us obstetricians and midwives. So, our job is the most honourable and worthwhile in dealing with human lives, and this makes us feel a sense of ▶

► heavy responsibility. The first cry of a newborn baby! This is like a signal that heralds the bright future of my country and assures its future prosperity. How good and laudable our job is!"

43 Years Later

In January 2005 Jong Sim made up her mind to visit Hoeyang County, her birthplace. On the way to the place you have to cross Chol Pass with 99 curves where it is said even birds take a rest halfway. From olden times the area was a secluded place with rough terrain. So, travellers are rarely seen there all the year round.

It was 43 years since she had left the place. During the period she never forgot it while working as a department head at the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital. Now she decided to visit her birthplace and hand over to local obstetricians copies of books she wrote, including *Hygienic Knowledge for Expectant and Nursing Mothers*, *Abnormal Labour* and *Psychoprophylactic Painless Childbirth*, and obstetrical appliances such as an electromagnetic acupuncture device, a painless delivery device and an anti-postpartum hemorrhage device. She thought that she wouldn't be sorry even if she passed on all her experience and knowledge to young obstetricians in her home village.

The villagers welcomed her, calling her grandmother from the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital or hero grandmother.

The Hoeyang County People's Hospital associated with the elderly woman's girlhood dream had changed beyond recognition. Every day she went to the hospital to explain technical problems arising in obstetrical practice, and sometimes personally performed operations.

While working together with doctors in the hospital that made

her recall the unforgettable past she kept her diary as before. Part of the diary reads:

April 24, 2005 Fine

A few days ago I joined in an operation on an ectopic pregnant woman who had reached a second-degree shock by blood loss. Bleeding in the abdominal cavity, the patient was pale. With her blood pressure falling, she complained about her pain. Before she came to the hospital she had lost time going here and there for help. Her condition was critical, and every moment was priceless.

After the operation, together with the relevant doctors, I sincerely strove to restore the patient to life by applying Koryo remedies, too. At last the woman's condition reached the convalescent stage.

Before leaving the hospital she took hold of our hands, reluctant to part with us. The scene filled my heart with pride in taking care of women in this area of Hoeyang.

Calling me grandmother from the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital or hero mother, many women came to see me for help. Though quite busy with treating patients, I am glad very much.

During her stay in the county,

Jong Sim made decoctions from medicinal herbs available there, and prepared data to provide plenty of hygienic information on health care for expectant and nursing mothers. Though advanced in age, she walked and walked rough mountain paths in the county, giving medical care to women in labour and other women, together with doctors of the county people's hospital. She readily travelled even a very long distance to take care of a woman in labour. And she was not reluctant to donate her blood to a patient in a critical condition. Such devoted efforts of hers led to the safe birth of many children.

Always in modest attire she walked in a hurry, shouldering her first-aid bag with a hygienic information board and a knapsack of herbs on the back. So, the county residents affectionately called her hero mother. In this way she crossed Chol Pass several times.

In 2007 she began to work as a teacher at the aforesaid college. In 2016 she won a doctorate by presenting a thesis on painless childbirth. She is still active in education and medical treatment for her advanced age.

Yom Song Hui

Choe Jong Sim (second left) is still engrossed in education though she is nearly 80.



Spring

By Ri Myong



(Continued from the last issue)

2

THE WIND DASHING down the valley of Suchae Pass carried away the banks of snow from the roof of the school toward the sea. The tin roof clattered with smash after smash, and the windows of the classroom hummed.

The severe cold took the classroom which had already run out of firewood. The wood stove was left alone in the middle of the floor. It was long since the last fire had been made in the stove, so it felt chilly, adding to the cold.

The girls were blowing warm breath on their hands, and the boys stamping their chilly feet, all waiting for the bell to toll the beginning of the lesson. It was going to be a music lesson liked by all the girls and boys.

U Sang Gi entered the ground of the school with an ox-sleigh loaded with bundles of firewood ahead of him. Wearing a quilted coat, his ears covered with rabbit-fur muffs, he looked quite indifferent to the cold. Ra Hyon, who had been dusting a chalk eraser, was the first to see the boy and run up to him. And she immediately took one of the firewood bundles into the classroom and put it before the stove. Then the other boys and girls began to gather round the stove, shouting with joy.

"You girl get aside. What are you going to do?" a boy, named Kwon Yong Sok, said in a wild

tone, pushing aside Ra Hyon who had been about to start a fire. At the age of 17, or one or two years older than others, Kwon was of sturdy build, and the piercing expression of his eyes below the bulging brow looked intelligent, and yet arrogant. He pulled a hand ax from his side, chopped the firewood into small pieces and put them into the stove before making a fire there. A firewood gatherer from his childhood, he always carried the hand ax in his side. He began to go to school rather late in his years. Previously, whenever on the way back home with a load of wood on his back from a mountain, he had used to sit out of a window of the school, learning the words written by the teacher on the blackboard. He did it every day rain or snow or wind. Knowing this Song Min Cho, one of the founders of the school, had the boy admitted to the school.

The wind whirled outside, and the hood of the stove flapped, sending out clouds of acrid smoke that hung over the classroom. Then, the wind soon died down, for sparks shot up in the quiet stove. Suddenly a sound like that of sparrows fluttering came out of the stove. At the moment the bell rang for the start of the lesson.

With a music book under his arm Song Min Cho strode into the classroom, his Korean overcoat flapping. A man in his mid-forties Song looked very proud and stern with his square-cut hair and short mustache, but when he glanced over the black rim of his glasses at each of the pupils his eyes looked

pretty soft.

"Stand up. Salute to the teacher!" Sang Gi, monitor of the class, shouted stoutly in a hoarse voice. All the other boys and girls stood up and bowed all together. After ordering all the class to sit down, the teacher, looking at the monitor in particular, passed on to the boy the deep thanks from the school authorities for his father for the supply of firewood to the school. It was a habit of the teacher to sincerely thank for anything done to support the school. U's father, one of shipowners in the town, used to win other people's favour by giving assistance to the school occasionally.

The lesson started. The teacher wrote exactly on the blackboard the title and verses of a song to be learned by the pupils during the lesson.

The Dear South of the River

*After January and February
comes March.
When the swallows return
from the south of the river,
Spring will come again to
this land, too.*

After writing all the verses the teacher sat at an organ and began to play the tune while singing the song. The mild but clear sound of the organ reverberated in the room. The teacher had a little hoarse, baritone voice, but he affably and emotionally sang the song based on yearning and naivety so that all the pupils listened with breathless attention. ▶

► Then they learned the song line after line led by the teacher. Singing the song again and again enabled them to imagine a fine village in spring where the air was shimmering with heat on a hill, young sprouts were peeping, larks were trilling in the sky and all villagers were sowing seeds in the land swollen like steamed rice cake, helping one another. Now they wondered full of yearning where was such a place blessed with spring that would invite a flock of swallows.

They, however, could not continue with the lesson. Kwon Yong Sok, who was sitting at the farthest rear, abruptly sprang up from his seat, crying, "There's the police, teacher!" Then the boy rushed up to the blackboard to erase the words on it. At the moment several policemen swarmed into the classroom by both the front and back doors.

"Wait!"

A Japanese police officer of stocky build, with a sneer lingering in his small three-cornered eyes, snatched the chalk eraser from the boy and threw it on to the floor.

"Why! This is so imprudent. We're now at lesson, you know," the teacher protested with anger. His heart was filled with wrath.

"The Dear South of the River? Spring will come to this land? ... Ha, ha, ha.... What do you mean by spring?" the Japanese officer, who had kept his eyes on the blackboard, spoke maliciously in fluent Korean. The teacher made a wry smile on his lips, his glasses flashing. "In fact you've deprived us of it," he said.

"Mr. Song, we know you often inspire the pupils with the anti-Japanese spirit here at this platform. And you've organized a secret reading circle here...."

"What?"

"Don't pretend to be surprised," the officer said and shouted at his men to search the room, and they began to rummage in the pupils' packages of books scattered here and there in the room.

Ra Hyon found herself trembling as soon as the policemen appeared. In the drawer of her desk was a foreign novel she read at odd moments those days. She

had secretly borrowed the novel from her deskmate. A few days before Sang Gi had noticed it and tried to dissuade her from reading the forbidden book, but the more she had read it the more attractive she had found it. Yet, she could not accuse the mate.

Now a policeman approached Ra Hyon's desk, and colour left her face as she felt her heart throbbing. He undid her package of books on the desk and began to examine the books carefully. Then he abruptly thrust his hand into her drawer. In the confusion of the moment the girl grasped his hand, looking imploringly up at him with tears in her eyes. Excited by her behaviour, the man took out a book without mercy.

"*Gadfly*? What's this? Does the insect like a bottle-green fly that lives on the cow's rump produce a book like this?" the policeman mumbled doubtfully with the novel in his hand. Then the police officer glared at the book.

"O I see, isn't it *Gadfly* by the British woman writer Voynich?" The officer's face brightened, the corners of his eyes raised. He got the material evidence he had expected. His eyes showed signs of laughing once again. At the moment somebody jumped to the officer and snatched the book.

"This is mine! When did you steal it, chick? I've been looking for it. ... Damn it! You're a thief!" Yong Sok shouted angrily, wildly pushing the shoulder of the girl, who fell sideways upon the floor with a piercing cry. The unexpected sight startled all the policemen and the other boys and girls. The girl felt shame and sorrow at being derided as a thief for the first time in her life, rather than being hit unexpectedly. She buried her face in her hands, shedding tears unable to tell the truth. After watching the entire scene, the police officer stared with his small eyes at Yong Sok who was gasping without swallowing his anger.

"Where did you get the book?" the officer asked.

"I bought it at the market."

"Who sold it?"

"It's a peddler."

Having thought the young boy's answer very stubborn and

impudent, the Japanese officer cast flashing eyes at him. "Damn you, rascal! Bind him!" shouted the Jap.

Then Song Min Cho stepped ahead of the boy, saying, "Your honour the officer, is it a fault that the pupil bought the book mistakenly?"

"Mistakenly? Not at all! I know you are using books of this kind to bring up bad thinkers, who will stand against the Japanese Empire. You, too, should go with us. From now on this school will exist no longer."

The policemen handcuffed the boy and the teacher. The pupils burst into cry at once.

From the next day Ra Hyon could not go out. She felt as if she were to blame for the fact that the school was closed just before the graduation and that Song Min Cho and Kwon Yong Sok were detained. So she confined herself at home with smoldering anxiety. Then, one day, her father quietly said to her, "My daughter, I'm sure the young man kept you from the misfortune. ... So I think it is proper for you to go and see him at once."

That night the girl, together with her father, went to the police detention house, where they unexpectedly heard the gruesome story that the night three days before when the snowstorm had roared the young "prisoner" had broken the lock of his cell with his ax and run away. It was told that nobody knew the "prisoner" had concealed the hand ax in his bosom. Owing to the incident the teacher had been moved into a cell without being allowed to see any visitor. This was how Yong Sok had disappeared.

Since then Ra Hyon would fall into a thought of him at a quiet night. *How can he have no fear? He is just like a dauntless warrior in a folktale. Where is he now?* Looking up at the sky she tried to find a star shining like his bright eyes but in vain. She missed the young man, who remained a dignified warrior-like man in her mind.

Upsetting her completely, he showed up as a fatally wounded communist "bandit."

(To be continued)

Disabled Artistes Held in Public Affection

TO DAY DISABLED PEOPLE IN THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea lead a worthwhile life, giving full play to their ability. Disabled people good at performance are active as members of the Korean Art Association of the Disabled (KAAD).

Kayagum Soloist Kim Myong Suk

Kim Myong Suk is a member of the KAAD and a Merited Artist of Kim Won Gyun University of Music. People hold her in affection and respect as a *kayagum* player. Her parents were worried about her future, for she was blind. However, thanks to the free compulsory education, she could study and learn to play the *kayagum* at the Taedong School for the Blind. When she was 14, she began to attend the then Pyongyang University of Music and Dance, improving her ability as a *kayagum*



Kim Myong Suk.

soloist. Now she trains *kayagum* players at the university.

In 2015 a Pyongyang disabled people's exchange group gave a performance in England. As a member of the group the woman performed a *kayagum* duet to enthusiastic applause. When the stage master informed the audience that the two performers were not only ordinary *kayagum* players but also a teacher and a student and that the blind teacher trained such a good performer for 20 years, the spectators gave them a big hand and bouquets. That day the teacher said, "A good student has a good teacher. Though I'm blind I also have a good teacher who

brought me up and put me forward. The teacher is my motherland. It pays more concern to the disabled. Under its warm care I have lived for over 50 years without knowing any misfortune while giving full play to my ability."

The melody of her *kayagum* was representative of her worthwhile life. This year, too, she, as a member of the same group, performed in England, her special ability enchanting the audience.

Excellent Soprano

Pae Ok Rim, 23, a member of the KAAD's artistic circle, enjoys a life worth living. Since childhood, she was fond of singing. But she was reluctant to make her appearance before people as she was blind. Then she was visited by many people including Cha Hyok, chief secretary of the KAAD. They disabused her of her wrong concept, and inducted her into the asso-



Pae Ok Rim.

ciation in which she found herself sincerely treated by other members of the association as if she were their own sister. Now she had confidence that she could enjoy and sing like others if she made an effort.

In May last she joined in the aforesaid group's performance given in England. She won great admiration from the audience by singing well world famous songs such as *Time to Say Goodbye* and *You Raise Me up*. In fact the songs she sang were those for professional singers to sing as singing of them required high ability and artistry. So the inviting side had been very worried about her singing. ▶

► Physically and Mentally

The group's performance in England included the deaf and dumb persons' dances like *Ongheya* and *Beauty and the Beast* which also fascinated the audience. *Ongheya* based on strong and fast rhythms and interesting and swift clapping and stamping is regarded as very difficult for the deaf and dumb to dance. They, however, performed it as an ensemble piece on a high level, thus crowning the performance remarkably.

Jon Kyong Sim, an officer in charge of the KAAD's artistic affairs, said that the members of their dancing circle had grown both physically and mentally while preparing for the dances. The audi-

ence said: We saw an impressive performance beyond imagination; we could hardly believe it was given by the disabled; we were really impressed by their high performing ability; it was a good opportunity for us to understand the reality of the DPRK which ensures good educational conditions for the disabled; and the human rights fuss about the DPRK was completely groundless.

The disabled of the DPRK think in unison that though born disabled they can improve their destiny without limit in their motherland. So they are still striving to create new pieces and improve their artistic ability. And they are conducting artistic exchange and cooperation with their counterparts in other countries.

Kim Il Ryong

The Pyongyang disabled people's exchange group gives a performance to the great applause of the British audience in May 2017.



Korean West Coast, Stopover for Migratory Birds

KOREA IS BOUNDED BY the sea on three sides. So it has diversified natural environments and serves as an important flyway and stopover for migratory birds in northeast Asia. In the world there are nine flyways for seasonal birds, and the Korean west coast belongs to the East Asian-Oceanian Flyway. This flyway is passed by those birds that go to breeding or wintering places in spring and autumn. The route is too long for the birds to pass at a time, so they need a place to rest en route. The very place is the Korean west coast.

In spring the seasonal birds leave Australia or New Zealand and fly without a single rest to arrive on the coast, where they feed themselves to regain energy and grow fat before flying to Siberia of Russia and so on without taking a rest again. After breeding there, the birds, in autumn, return through the Korean west coast and other east Asian coun-

tries to Australia, New Zealand and so on in Oceania. The very route is the East Asian-Oceanian Flyway. This flyway is used by 50 million aquatic birds of over 200 sorts.

Swampy areas including wide tideland, estuaries and desert islands on the Korean west coast are typical habitats for migratory birds.

In May 2014 the Nature Conservation Union of Korea (NCUK) and the Tukorokoro Miranda Naturalists' Trust of New Zealand adopted a written agreement on exchange and cooperation in protecting migratory birds, and decided to conduct a joint survey of migratory birds from 2015 to 2020. Accordingly there took place a survey this year as well, and the ornithologists of the two countries discovered over 38 750 aquatic birds on the Korean west coast. Over 35 550 of the birds were those that belong to species of snipe,

including great knots, knots and curlews and so on, all registered as those on the verge of extinction by the International Union of Conservation of Nature. The survey team discovered those birds whose ankles wear rings from New Zealand ornithologists, and put rings on the ankles of many other birds. This is part of the information exchange to verify the flyway of the birds.

Having more keenly understood the importance of the seasonal birds' habitats on the Korean west coast, the NCUK is striving to protect the migratory birds. It has prepared the data on preservation of migratory birds, and sees to it that its branches use copies of the data to give relevant lectures to people in the areas concerned so as to encourage them to positively join in preserving the birds' habitats and other activities for their protection.

Rim Sang Jun

A joint survey of migratory birds is made.



Koguryo, Leader of Oriental Science

KOGLRYO (277 BC-AD 668) was an advanced, civilized state that made much progress in developing science and technology like in all other fields of social life. Science was one of the important factors of the country's prominence as a great power. The state of development in its meteorology, astronomy, mathematics, dynamics and medicine shows well how much progress the country made in the research work as a whole.

Koguryo people made their livelihood by farming, so the country studied deep into and developed meteorology and astronomy from its early years. According to old documents they recorded details of abnormal climatic phenomena such as drought, flood, storm, earthquake, hail, frost and high temperature, and made systematical astronomical observations on solar and lunar eclipses, comets, falling stars and the sun. The observation data include lots of valuable records, such as those on a comet that disappeared 20 days after it showed up in the sky south of Koguryo in November of the year 46, a comet that appeared in the vicinity of the Great Bear in February 158 and a sunspot that appeared in September 640. These are what could not be found in similar records of the neighbouring countries. This testifies to the extent to which Koguryo's astronomy developed at that time.

A typical relic that tells the advanced astronomical knowledge of Koguryo people is a stone-carved astronomical chart. In 1395, during the period of the feudal Joson dynasty (1392-

1910), there was made the *Chonsangryolchabunyajido*, an astronomical chart based on the aforesaid stone-carved chart. The chart has hundreds of constellations and 1 467 stars, and projects the celestial sphere on the plane surface with the North Pole in the centre. It also indicates the positions of the vernal and autumnal equinox points, the position of every fundamental star of the 28 constellations, equatorial circle, zodiacal circle, longitudinal circle and the Galaxy.

Mathematics and dynamics also developed remarkably in Koguryo. The fact that the astronomical chart, little different from the present one, was drawn during the period of Koguryo is inconceivable apart from deep knowledge of mathematics. This shows that mathematics developed on a very high level in Koguryo.

Examples of perfect application of dynamic knowledge in Koguryo are stone gates to burial chambers from that period. One of them is the one to the entrance from the doorway to the front chamber in the Tomb of King Kogugwon (Tomb No. 3 in Anak). Now there remains only the west gate intact in the tomb. Heavy as it is, the gate is easy to open and close only by pushing with a finger. This proves that masonry reached a high stage of development on the basis of dynamic knowledge in Koguryo.

Medicine of Koguryo, too, was on a high level. Acupuncture and



The astronomical chart
Chonsangryolchabunyajido.

moxibustion and medicinal materials and decoctions were mainly used in treatment of diseases. Acupuncture was developed so much as to find merely with a needle that a hair is hollow. And neighbouring countries admired medicine of Koguryo, praising that it could save even a dying person, and gave wide publicity to and used its medical treatments. In Koguryo there were compiled medical books such as *Rosabang*, all based on rich clinical experience, and its famous medical men travelled neighbouring countries, passing on excellent medical techniques, and thus helped develop the medical science in the East.

Kim Un Jong

Eight Famous Scenes on Mt. Paektu (2)



**Autographic Writing Inscribed
on Hyangdo Peak**

WHAT CATCHES YOUR EYE FIRST WHEN you climb up Mt. Paektu associated with the soul of the Korean nation is Chairman Kim Jong Il's masterly autographic writing inscribed on the Hyangdo Peak (2,712 m above sea level), which reads:

"Mt. Paektu, the Sacred Mountain of the Revolution"

"Kim Jong Il"

The top of the peak with a slightly-inclined vertical cliff and a ridge of some angular degree is gigantic and of strong purposefulness just like a pole as a guide for the rosy future of Korea, and the slope and ridge are red due to the slaggy tuff of the red volcanic lava.

From ancient times the peak was called Chonwang Peak in the meaning that it was the place where the heavenly King descended before being renamed like today's to reflect the Korean people's unanimous desire to hand down to posterity along with Mt. Paektu the great personality of the Chairman, who was credibly carrying on the revolutionary cause of Juche.

In 1992, towards the Chairman's birthday (February 16), the Korean people inscribed the aforesaid autographic writing of his on the outer slope of the Hyangdo Peak, out of their pure desire to loyally support and follow the Chairman for ever along with Mt. Paektu. It was inscribed like a great epic picture in harmony with the formative beauty of the peak which resembles a large, fluttering red flag. It is one of the Eight Famous Scenes on Mt. Paektu, reminding the Korean people of the revolu-



Autographic Writing Inscribed on Hyangdo Peak.

tionary life and immortal exploits of Kim Jong Il, the brilliant Songun commander of Paektu, who was born as the son of Mt. Paektu and brought glory to Korea with the courage and grit of Paektu while holding aloft the banner of independence.

Majestic Appearance of the Peaks on Mt. Paektu

The Great Paektu Mountains, the main mountain range of Korea, originate from the peaks on Mt. Paektu. The Janggun, Hyangdo and Haebal peaks, the main peaks of the mountain which rise just like symbols of the three commanders of Mt. Paektu, are surrounded by Ssangmujigae, Tangyol, Paegun,



- Chongsok, Piru and other large and small peaks with precipices at a 60-odd degree angle. All the high peaks look just as if they had risen to look down at the earth. In particular, the area of the Piru Peak is called *Manmulsang* or the myriad-shaped peak of Mt. Paektu for it has the Kom Rock that looks like a bear being on guard by Lake Chon while supporting itself on the forelegs, and the Chokdae, Saja, Mujigae and other rocks of fantastic forms.

In 1908 it was found for the first time that the main peaks on Mt. Paektu number 16. Well-known or ordinary geographers and climbers repeatedly explored the region to find out its mysterious sights, but in vain.

From the 1980s the Paektusan-Chonji General Expedition Corps surveyed and measured the peaks on the crater on Mt. Paektu. In the course of this, they discovered the amazing fact that large and small peaks, which are over 20m in relative height in terms of landscape science, number 216, the number similar to the birthday of Chairman Kim Jong Il (February 16, 1942). The very fact made the Korean people keenly feel once again that the Chairman, who firmly carried on the revolutionary cause of Juche pioneered by President Kim Il Sung as the revolutionary tradition of Paektu, was the eternal sun of Songun Korea hailed by Mt. Paektu, and the great leader of the Kim Il Sung nation.

According to the relevant data, the Janggun Peak is surrounded by 14 peaks, the Hyangdo Peak and 15 peaks in its vicinity and the Haebal Peak and 15 peaks in its vicinity, all of which seem to rise to guard the Janggun Peak. The Piru Peak, which stands on a ridge that stretches from the Janggun

Peak down towards Lake Chon, and other 40 peaks display myriads of shapes. Besides, 11 peaks surround the Chail Peak that stands northwest of the Janggun Peak while 33 wonderful peaks stand around the Paegun Peak. And there stand 10 peaks around the Chongsok Peak, 20 around Ragwon Peak, 3 around the Jebi Peak, 5 around the Tangyol Peak and 12 around the Ssangmujigae Peak.

In order to hand down to posterity the unique and mysterious features of the peaks on Mt. Paektu, the members of the expedition corps created a large-sized folding screen-style Korean painting *216 Peaks of Mt. Paektu Seen from Lake Chon* with the help of the Mansudae Art Studio's artists, and presented the work to Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Though different from one another in height and appearance, the wonderfulness of the peaks around the Janggun, Hyangdo and Haebal peaks cannot be attributable to the arrangement of nature alone. The peaks on Mt. Paektu look so great because they seem to depict the single-hearted unity of the Korean people who are firmly united around their national leader, and display the might of the Songun Korea that has reached the summit of honour of the century by relying on the strength of that unshakable unity. Every scene of Mt. Paektu is permeated with the dignity and pride of the Korean people who carried on the tradition of the one and only single-hearted unity while enjoying a worthwhile life under the care of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il. This is why the mountain is regarded as the laudable symbol of the Songun Korea and the sacred mountain of the revolution.

Pak Thae Ho

Majestic Appearance of the Peaks on Mt Paektu.



Historical Relics in Kaesong (3)

Mausoleum of King Kyonghyo

LOCATED IN HAESON-RI, KAESONG CITY, the Mausoleum of King Kyonghyo consists of the tomb of the 31st king of Koryo (918–1392) and the tomb of his wife. The mausoleum was built from 1365 to 1372 under the supervision of the king himself.

The mausoleum is distinct from others in that it is situated in a unique place. The city has lots of tombs of Koryo's successive kings and queens and their families. In particular there are over 20 similar tombs north of Mt. Songak and south of Mt. Mansu. The Mausoleum of King Kyonghyo lies on one side of Muson Hill, the western tip from those tombs. The east, west and north sides of the mausoleum are surrounded by a mountain except for the south side. Its vicinity is well known for its scenic beauty.

The mausoleum is also characterized by original structure and large scale. It has three long oblong terraces lying lengthwise from east to west, and below them there is a wide sloping terrace. On the sloping terrace (23 m in length and 10 m in vertical

height) there are embankments at intervals to prevent soil from sliding. The first and second terraces have four stone statues of civil officers and four stone statues of military officers. On the highest terrace lie the two tombs. The grave mounds are about 6.5 metres high and 13.7 metres in diagonal diameter.

The statues testify to the extent to which the stone carving technique of Koryo developed. Especially, those of civil and military officers are appreciated as the most excellent among the old stone sculptures that still remain in Korea for their size and workmanship. Another distinctive feature of the mausoleum is that murals of the tombs still remain unfaded. The tomb of the king is a single chamber tomb with a passage, and murals are painted on the eastern, western and northern walls and the ceiling of the chamber. Murals painted on the walls are those of 12 spirits of the terrain. They are based on different colours such as red, yellow, blue, white, dark-red, dark-brown, brown and black.

The tomb style of the mausoleum is representative of tombs in the late period of Koryo and was maintained in the period of the feudal Joson dynasty.

The Mausoleum of King Kyonghyo.





The Sonjuk Bridge.

- ▶ From 1905 the Japanese imperialists dug up the mausoleum many times and took away all relics from it. Though it is the tomb of a feudal king, it is a valuable legacy showing the relevant ability of the Korean ancestors in the period of Koryo. On June 23, 2013 the mausoleum was registered in the UNESCO list of world cultural heritage.

Sonjuk Bridge

The Sonjuk Bridge in Sonjuk-dong, Kaesong City is a stone bridge from the period of Koryo (918–1392). According to the historical data it began to exist from before the 13th century. Its original name was Sonji Bridge. It is said that after Jong Mong Ju (1337–1392), senior government official of Koryo, was assassinated on it, a bamboo grew up from the spot. Thereafter the original name of Sonji Bridge was replaced by the present name. It is 8.35 metres long and 3.36 metres wide. The granite-floored bridge was supported by pillars fixed on the foundations laid below the bottom of the stream.

In 1780, during the feudal Joson dynasty (1392–1910), a descendant of Jong Mong Ju built a parapet around the bridge to prevent traffic in order to preserve it eternally and laid a new bridge near it. The Sonjuk Bridge is one of the oldest stone bridges that remain in the country and is very useful in the study of the architecture and stone trimming technique at that time.

On June 23, 2013 it was registered in the UNESCO list of world cultural heritage.

The Monuments to Loyalty

The Monuments to Loyalty stand in Sonjuk-dong, Kaesong City. They were erected in the period of the feudal Joson dynasty to commemorate the loyalty of Jong Mong Ju who was killed on the Son-

juk Bridge. The pavilion housing the two monuments is an 11.41-m-long and 5.25-m-wide gabled structure with colourful designs painted on brackets and pillars. Each of the monuments consists of a stone base, a turtle-shaped pedestal, a main body and a crown. The main body alone is made of darkish marble, and all the other parts of grey granite.

The monuments are characteristic of big stone trimming with exquisite workmanship. The pedestal as a whole is a carved turtle weighing more than ten tons. The long neck, protruding eyes, and four big sharp fore-teeth bending inward—all these represent well the turtle's characteristic posture. In particular, patterns engraved on the carapace and the lotus-shaped cushion stone on which the main body stands testify to the high art of sculpture.

The smooth surface of the main body bears intagliated characters.

The crown of the monument is in the shape of a gable roof, and dragons are engraved on the underside of the eaves, adding to the monumentality and decorative quality of the structure.

The monuments are heritage structures demonstrating the Korean people's developed artistic talent and cultural level. On June 23, 2013 it was registered in the UNESCO list of world cultural heritage.

Kim Yu Jin

The Monuments to Loyalty.



Mausoleum of King Tangun Tells

THE MAUSOLEUM OF King Tangun, father of the Korean nation, is located at the foot of Mt. Taebak in Munhung-ri, Kangdong County, Pyongyang.

Tangun was the founder of Ancient Joson, the first state of the nation, which was a great power in the East that existed from the early 30th century BC to 108 BC in the wide area of Northeast Asia with Pyongyang as its capital.

As an excellent martial artist, Tangun gradually got aware of the need to transform and revolutionize the society. After succeeding to his father's post as head of his tribe, he systematically reorganized and developed the primitive political machinery into the one capable of containing inter-class and intertribal antagonism. On the basis of this he founded the first state with Pyongyang as its capital at the beginning of the

third millennium BC. The state was named Joson (Ancient Joson), and its founder was called King Pakdal. In later ages the name of the king became Tangun written in Chinese characters. He died and was buried in Pyongyang, his birthplace.

But Korean historians in the past were possessed by the ready-made idea that Tangun was a mythical figure. Then, based on the analysis of the legends of Tangun related to Mt. Kuwol and Mt. Myohyang and data about the tomb of Tangun in Kangdong County, President Kim Il Sung proposed unearthing the tomb and instructed the historians to intensify the study of Tangun.

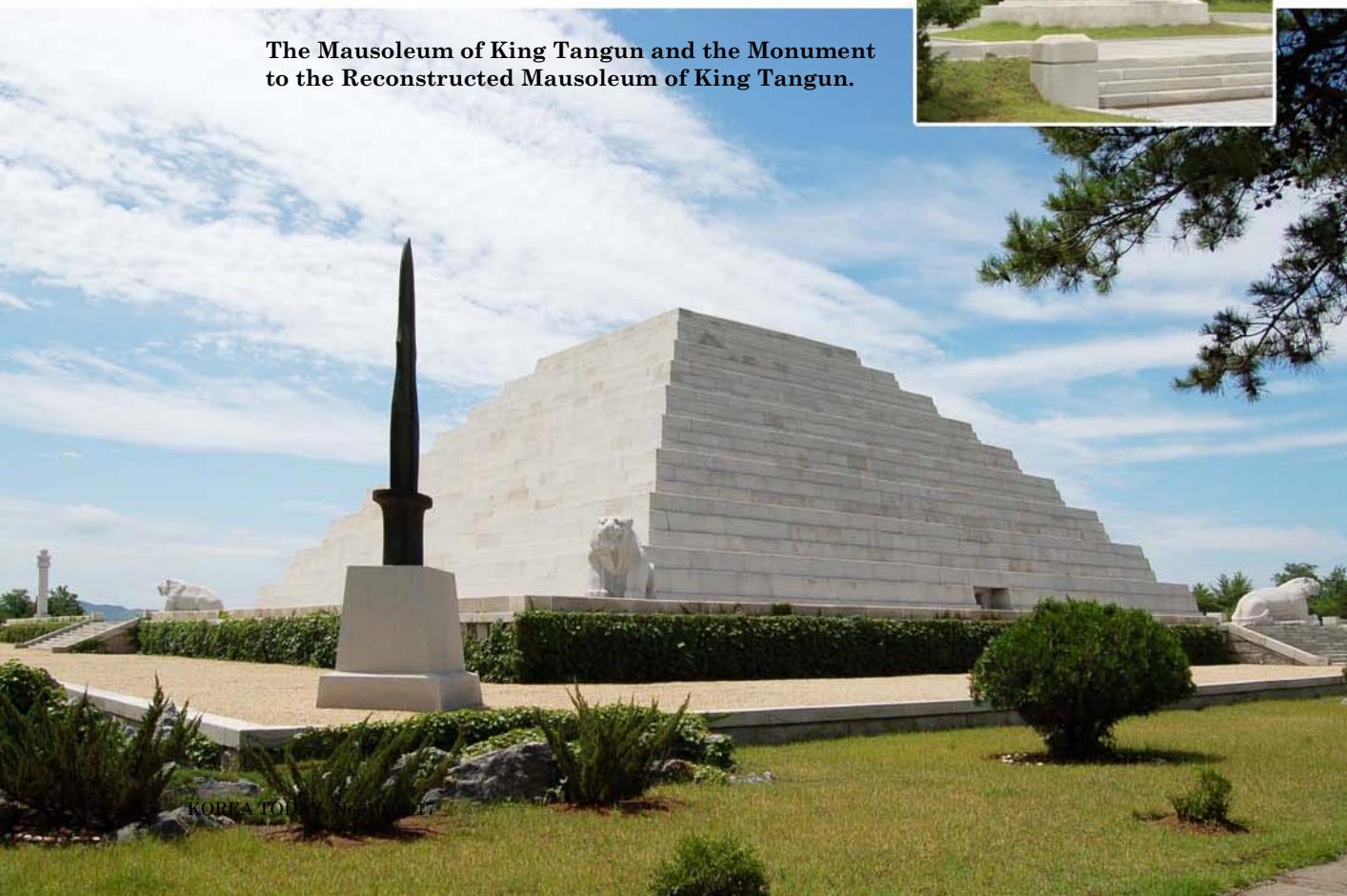
As a result, there started an overall survey of the tomb in January 1993, and the excavation of the tomb in the following month revealed bones of two human bodies and relics. This made it

possible to scientifically clarify that Tangun was not a mythical figure but a real character born 5 011(±267) years ago.

In September 1993 the President inspected the relevant site and designated a spot where a mausoleum was to be rebuilt for Tangun, and on July 6 next year, the last year of his life, he examined the final plan.



The Mausoleum of King Tangun and the Monument to the Reconstructed Mausoleum of King Tangun.



National Intangible Cultural Heritage (11)

Customs of Chusok

CHUSOK, (AUGUST 15 BY the lunar calendar) is one of the folk holidays in Korea. The day is also called *Kawinal* or *Hangawi*.

According to the historical data, *Hangawi* was celebrated splendidly from the period of the Three Kingdoms. The historical book *Samguksagi* (*Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms*) tells about *kilssam* (hand-weaving), a women's favourite game played on *Hangawi*. Divided into two teams women played the game for a month, and on the day they summed up the result of the game, and the losing team served wines and foods to the winners and enjoyed themselves while singing and dancing. This was called *kabae*. *Kabae* is the written Chinese characters of the Korean word *kawi*, and *Kawi* or *Hangawi* means a big holiday in autumn. This shows that *Chusok* is a folk holiday which

originated from the production activities of the working people.

The day was also characterized by women's swinging and men's archery and *ssirum* (Korean wrestling). An important function of the day was to take care of the graves of ancestors. With the foods made of new crops of the year people visited the graves of their deceased ancestors, cutting overgrown grass of the graves and repairing them which were damaged in the rainy season before holding memorial services.

The special dishes of the day were wine, *songphyon* (half-moon-shaped rice cake), *challtok* (glutinous rice-cake), chestnut and pear. As it was a folk holiday in rich autumn, it was celebrated on a larger scale than other holidays.

Rim Ok



And Chairman Kim Jong Il wisely led the project to complete the mausoleum as a monumental structure to be handed down to the posterity and the one to properly represent both the features of the relevant age and the custom of the Korean nation. He formed a committee for reconstruction of the tomb and made sure that it was rebuilt on the highest level as soon as possible.

The reconstructed Mausoleum of King Tangun covers a total area of 45 hectares. It consists of the section for the Monument to the Reconstructed Mausoleum of King Tangun, the section for stone images of persons and the central section. The first section includes the aforesaid monument, the monument to the repair of the

former tomb and the gateposts.

The Monument to the Reconstructed Mausoleum of King Tangun is inscribed with a poem dedicated to the relevant leadership achievements of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

The other monument is inscribed with words about Tangun's merits, the names of members of the association for the repair of the Tomb of King Tangun in 1936 and those of the donors to the repair project.

The mausoleum is in the shape of a quadrangular pyramid with its top cut off. The pyramid consists of 1,994 (to symbolize the year of 1994 when the tomb was reconstructed) blocks of granite piled on 9 de-escalated stages.

The burial chamber houses two wooden coffins put on biers side by side in the north-to-south direction. The wooden coffins contain glass coffins with the remains of Tangun and his wife in them. Hung on the front wall of the chamber is a portrait of Tangun.

A national joint ceremony is held at the Mausoleum of King Tangun on October 3 every year to mark the National Foundation Day. It is attended by lots of Koreans from the north, the south and abroad. The ceremony reflects the Korean nation's firm will to make a turning-point in national reconciliation and independent reunification.

Kim Hyang Mi

Why Labelled as “Prostitutes”?

THE SEXUAL SLAVERY CRIMES COMMITTED by the Japanese army in the past are being disclosed continuously.

Recently there has been made public a document containing the list of Korean women, who had been drafted to Jinhua City of Zhejiang Province, China as sexual slaves for the imperial Japanese army during the Pacific war. The document drawn up in April 1944 contains the names, ages and birthplaces of over 100 Korean women in their twenties or thirties except their jobs, and their addresses were those of “comfort houses” of the Japanese army. Experts who studied the document asserted that those women were forced into a life of sexual slaves for the Japanese army and that it is an important document to prove the Japanese army’s own establishment of the “comfort houses.”

The south Korean CBS reported that a video was also made public on victims of the sexual slavery by the Japanese army. The video had been kept in the US National Archives. The 18-second clip made in September 1944 shows Korean women who had been taken away as sexual slaves for the Japanese troops who had occupied the southern part of China. Their images were reportedly just the same as those of the victims which had been already opened to the public.

As already known the Japanese militarists, by means of appeasement, deception and forcible method, took 200 000 Korean and other women in the regions and countries they had occupied to the theatres of aggressive war, and forced them into sexual slavery. Being confined in cells those women, deprived of their names and right to death, had no other choice but to succumb to the brutal ill-treatment done by the soldiers of the former Japanese army who were mad about murder. In case of any disobedience they were mercilessly killed by the soldiers. Such a crime committed by the Japanese army is an extra-villainous inhuman crime, and it is an international legal and moral obligation for Japan to apologize and compensate for its former army’s sexual slavery crime.

It is, however, still denying the inhuman sexual slavery crime of the army while deceiving the international community. In July last the Japanese consul general to Atlanta, Georgia State of the US, during an interview to a local newspaper, said that there was no evidence that the Japanese army used women, including those from Korea, as sexual slaves during the Second World War and added insultingly—shocking the world public—that the women were “prostitutes,” not those forcibly drafted. In early

February last the Japanese cabinet secretary, in reference to the matter of the sexual slavery, said that among the data the [Japanese] government had so far discovered there was nothing that seemed to directly testify to the army’s or the authorities’ taking away of women.

Now in Japan there are ceaselessly heard such absurd remarks as “the history of ‘comfort women’ is a toilet history” and a “voluntary action for making money.” It is not merely due to its moral meanness that Japan is doggedly and shamelessly denying the sexual slavery crime of the army while going so far as to call the victims of sexual slavery “prostitutes.”

The Japanese rulers are now burning with an ambition to realize without fail the “Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere” advocated by the Japanese militarists in the past, and the ambition has come to the pass that cannot be overlooked. They are praising the militarist war criminals as the “souls of the departed war heroes” and overtly visiting the Yasukuni Shrine where the name tablets of the war criminals are kept, leading the country towards the road of militarism. Typical examples are the Self-Defense Forces with three services, the national security law which guarantees overseas dispatch and armed intervention, approval of exercise of the “right to collective defence” with the United States, large-scale expansion of military expenditure and the development of up-to-date weapons and equipment of attack.

In May last Japanese Prime Minister Abe set forth a “timetable for revision” of the “pacifist constitution” which bars Japan’s heading for a military giant and overseas aggression, and openly declared that they would revise Article 9 of the constitution and enforce a new constitution from 2020. In the following month he clarified that the Liberal Democratic Party would decide on the amendment draft of the constitution within this year and that a vote concerned would be held in a session of the Diet slated for spring next year, thus putting spurs to the revision of the constitution. It is already a nominal constitution, but the Japanese authorities’ attempt to revise it is aimed at opening the gate to overseas aggression.

So, Japan, which is keen to attain the old dream of the “Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere,” finds it necessary to justify its former militarists’ acts of aggression. From this point of view, it refers to the victims of the sexual slavery as “prostitutes.”

Kim Il Ryong

Pyongyang Bell

THE PYONGYANG BELL hangs from the ceiling of a belfry in Taedongmun-dong, Central District, Pyongyang. Its origin dates from olden times. The relevant data tells that the bell had hung from the ceiling of the upper storey of the Taedong Gate before being moved to the general's terrace of the North Fortress of Pyongyang after it was built in 1714.

The present bell was cast between June and September 1726 in the western yard of the Pubyok Pavilion. It is 3.1 metres high and 1.6 metres across at the mouth and weighs 12.914 tons. Inscribed on the bell was the Buddhist images, the images of the Four Devas, patterns of cloud and the name of the bell. The hook of the bell is in the shape of two twisted dragons, and the heads of the dragons are vivid. The newly-cast bell was hung in a belfry built in front of the Taedonggwan, an inn at that time. The belfry today was the one rebuilt in 1827.

In the Walled City of Pyongyang in those days the bell was beaten 33 times to toll *paru* (4 a.m.), and 28 times to toll *ingyong* (10 p.m.), when all the gates of the walled city were opened and closed. And all events there were known to the public through the tolling of the bell. As one of the leading bells in the period of the feudal Joson dynasty, the Pyongyang Bell was referred to as a speciality of the city from its early days for its beautiful appearance and impressive sound. It is one of cultural relics that typifies the Korean bells and testifies to the high development of the casting techniques in the country at that time.

On December 31, 1945, Kim Il Sung, the leader of the new Korea, inquired whether the bell near the Taedong Gate could toll or not. He said that the bell was an important means of defence signal used by the Korean ancestors in repulsing the foreign invaders, and that a valuable

cultural relic, the bell was unable to toll kept in confinement after the Japanese imperialists' occupation of the country (1905–1945). Then he earnestly said that now that the country was liberated, the bell should be allowed to toll. So, at 12:00 p.m., the sound of the bell echoed across the country, telling the great benevolence of the leader. The solemn and resounding sound of the bell deepened the emotion of the Korean people greeting the first new year after the liberation of their country.

Pak Thae Ho

