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LEAD

Developing culture while upholding tradition

Now in the face of a wave of globalization sweeping the earth, many nations are directing efforts to defending and developing cultures and traditions peculiar to them.

The DPRK maintains and adds lustre to the fine national customs and develops all fields of social life in a Korean style.

President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il set it forward as a fundamental principle in implementing the socialist cause to preserve the national identity along with the Juche character in the revolution and construction and saw that the whole course of socialist construction became that of developing the excellent traditions and culture of the nation by linking the socialist cause with the cause of national independence. And Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un steadily carries on their intentions.

The Supreme Leader said, in a treatise published in the initial days of his revolutionary leadership, that our socialist motherland is a genuine country of the people, a country of national independence, which fully defends the demands and interests of the working masses, sustains the excellent qualities of the nation and satisfies the requirements and interests of the nation. And at

the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, he said that to thoroughly establish the socialist lifestyle is an important undertaking to preserve the Juche character and national identity, retain the original features of socialism and give full play to its advantages in the domain of cultural life.

Today, the DPRK develops politics, the economy and culture in a Korean style according to the demands and interests of none other than its people and the specific conditions and environment of the country and sustains things that are national and socialist in all fields of social life.

The Juche character and national identity are fully embodied in monumental structures that are built each year. For example, the terminal of Pyongyang International Airport was built exemplifying a delicate balance of modern sense of beauty and national features. National music and sports, folk games and traditional costume and dishes are encouraged and developed to meet the demand of the times and aesthetic feelings of the people.

On holidays and Sundays, women, children and old people in traditional costume play

swinging, *yut*, kite-flying and shuttlecock games in parks and recreation grounds, while diners savour traditional foods at restaurants.

The national folk music contest in the popular artistic activities sector, Grand Bull Prize national *ssirum* contest, national Korean costume show and national traditional food show are held on a regular basis, and kimchi factories, the Samjiyon Potato Farina Factory and Kumsanpho Fish Pickling Factory were built to better the conditions for encouraging culinary traditions.

As a noble and sound habit and mode of life by which all people help each other is dominant throughout society, villages and workplaces are brimming over with warm feelings and laudable traits are displayed everywhere to touch the hearts of all.

The Korean people set great store by the socialist lifestyle, the mode of life they have created and consolidated in their daily life on the basis of the national culture which is associated with the time-honoured history and spirit of the nation, and they will firmly defend and carry it forward with pride and confidence.

Kang Chol Ho

RESPONSE

DPRK advances toward bright future

Personages around the world are raising voices in praise of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

A department chief of the faculty of politics of Damascus University in Syria said that the DPRK established a socialist system in accordance with the will and desire of the masses of the people and achieved single-hearted unity of the leader, the Party and the people, adding that under the leadership of President Kim Il Sung, Chairman Kim Jong Il and Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, the country has advanced along the road of socialism without the slightest deviation in its line.

The secretary-general and other personages of the Karachi branch of the Pakistan-DPRK Friendship Association said that Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un works day and night for the prosperity of socialist Korea and that under his leadership the cause of Korea's prosperity and reunification and the cause of global independence will surely be achieved.

The executive chairman of the Mongolian association for the study of the Juche idea-Songun idea noted:

"Chairman Kim Jong Un who leads the DPRK sets the trend towards peace in the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia with his outstanding political acumen. Under his leadership

the country developed into a world-recognized strategic state. Led by the Chairman, the DPRK has a bright future."

"The Korean people are building a thriving and powerful independent country in which they lead a happy life, in the face of imperialist allied forces' persistent manoeuvres to stifle the DPRK," said the director of the Myanmar Medical Research Institute.

The secretary-general of the Society for the Promotion of Relations between Austria and the DPRK said Kim Jong Un energetically leads the struggle of the Korean people for building a powerful socialist country, adding his leadership has brought about eye-opening events in the efforts to safeguard the sovereignty of the country and secure peace on the Korean peninsula.

Saying the revolutionary cause of Juche is brilliantly being carried forward by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, the chairman of the Juche Philosophy Study Committee of India and the chairman of the Arab Committee for Solidarity with the Korean People and Support to the Reunification of Korea expressed their conviction that the DPRK will always emerge victorious.

Compiled from KCNA

VISIT

High-level delegation's trip helps boost DPRK-Venezuela ties

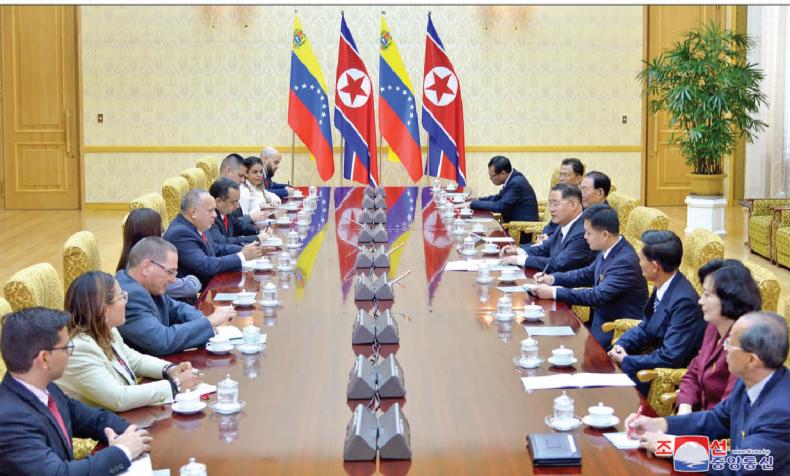
A Venezuelan high-level party and government

delegation visited Pyongyang led by Diosdado Cabello,

president of the National Constituent Assembly and



Choe Ryong Hae (right), president of the Presidium of the DPRK SPA, talks with Diosdado Cabello, president of the National Constituent Assembly of Venezuela.



Talks are held in Pyongyang between the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly speaker and the Venezuelan counterpart at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

first vice-chairman of the United Socialist Party of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro who is also chairman of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela, sent a personal letter and

gift to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

The personal letter and gift were conveyed to Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, first vice-chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, by the head of the Venezuelan delegation.

The delegation head also presented a gift to the Korean leader.

The delegation climbed up Mansu Hill in Pyongyang to pay respects to President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il at their statues.

Choe Ryong Hae had a talk with the Venezuelan party and government officials who paid a courtesy call on him at the

SEE PAGE 2

REMEMBRANCE

National service held in memory of anti-Japanese war heroine

A national memorial service took place at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang to mark the 70th anniversary of the demise of anti-Japanese war heroine Kim Jong Suk.

It was attended by officials of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, ministries, national agencies and military organs, teachers and students of Mangyongdae Revolutionary School, and officials of institutions and industrial establishments and persons of merit in Pyongyang.

The platform was taken by senior Party and government officials Pak Kwang Ho, Choe Hwi, Thae Hyong Chol and Jon Kwang Ho, officials of working people's organizations and national agencies, officials exemplary in implementing the Party's policies, persons of merit and officials from military organs.

Pak Kwang Ho, member of the Political Bureau and vice-chairman of the WPK Central Committee, made a memorial address.

He said that Kim Jong Suk,

who was born into a patriotic and revolutionary family and embarked on the road of revolutionary struggle in her teens, rendered distinguished services to achieving the historic cause of national liberation by conducting remarkable military and political activities, and devoted her whole life to the country and people with absolute loyalty to President Kim Il Sung.

She defended the President at the risk of her life and upheld him with all devotion, protecting his personal safety self-sacrificingly with a "do-or-die" spirit at every critical moment in the grim days of the anti-Japanese armed struggle when the Japanese imperialist aggressors directed their spearhead of stratagem and attack to the headquarters of the revolution.

In the period of a new Korea building, she sat up all night with an invariable stance of bodyguard and learned about in detail the security conditions of the venues of functions to be attended by the President

and the weather conditions in the areas of his field guidance, leaving nothing undone in preparations, he said. As she thoroughly exposed and foiled all the moves of enemies, who attempted to break the trust of the people in the President and undermine the unity and cohesion of revolutionary ranks, she defended the absolute authority of the President, the centre of unity and leadership of the Korean revolution, in every way, he stated.

She fought indefatigably to defend and carry through the ideas and lines of the President and performed great services in building the Party and regular revolutionary armed forces, founding the DPRK and opening up a rosy future of the country and revolution, he said.

He emphasized that the noble fighting spirit and revolutionary traits of Kim Jong Suk would be cherished forever in the minds of the Korean people.

Compiled from KCNA



A national memorial service is held at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang to mark the 70th anniversary of the demise of anti-Japanese war heroine Kim Jong Suk.

Visit: Venezuelan mission visits Pyongyang

FROM PAGE 1

Mansudae Assembly Hall.

At the talk which proceeded in a friendly atmosphere, the willingness to make positive efforts for the development of friendly relations between the two countries in all fields was expressed.

Talks were held at the Mansudae Assembly Hall between Pak Thae Song, speaker of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, and Diosdado Cabello.

At the talks, both sides discussed ways for strengthening exchanges and cooperation between the two countries in different fields.

Ri Su Yong, member of the Political Bureau and vice-chairman of the WPK Central Committee, met and talked with the delegation.

Earlier, a ceremony took place at the Mansudae Assembly Hall to welcome the Venezuelan delegation.

That day, the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly arranged a reception in honour of the visiting Venezuelan officials at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

Pak Thae Song, in his speech delivered at the reception, referred to the fact that the party, government and people of Venezuela have made successes in their efforts for the victorious advance of the Bolivarian revolution, foiling the sanctions, embargoes and sabotages by hostile forces.

He expressed expectations and belief that the militant friendship and fraternal ties of friendship and cooperation forged between the two countries on the road of independence against imperialism would invariably be bolstered up.

Diosdado Cabello expressed thanks to the Korean people and government for according cordial hospitality to his delegation.

Saying that he was deeply moved by the Korean people fighting for victory, he expressed his willingness to advance together with the DPRK in socialist construction for reliably ensuring the security of mankind.

Compiled from KCNA

HOMAGE

Wreaths laid at statue of Kim Jong Suk



A wreath bearing the name of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un is seen before the statue of anti-Japanese war heroine Kim Jong Suk at the Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery on Mt Taesong in Pyongyang.

Wreaths were laid before the statue of anti-Japanese war heroine Kim Jong Suk at the Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery on Mt Taesong on September 22 on the occasion of her 70th death anniversary.

Seen at her statue was a wreath bearing the name of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK.

Present at the wreath-laying event were senior Party and government officials, officials of the WPK Central Committee, government organs, the Cabinet, working people's organizations

and national agencies, officials of enterprises and working people in Pyongyang, and officials of military organs.

Wreaths were placed at her statue in the name of the WPK Central Committee, the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly and the DPRK Cabinet, working people's organizations, national agencies, military organs, Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill and Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill.

The participants observed a moment's silence in memory of the noble revolutionary career and exploits of Kim Jong Suk, who remained faithful to the ideology and leadership of President Kim Il Sung, made an immortal contribution to the sacred struggle for the country and people and opened up a rosy future for accomplishing the cause of the Juche revolution.

That day, officials of local Party and government organs and working people's organizations, working people, youth and students and officers and men of the Korean People's Army paid floral tributes at her statues in Hoeryong City, Kim Jong Suk County, Kim Jong Suk Naval University and other places across the country.

By Pang Un Ju PT

HONOUR

DPRK order conferred on Vietnamese teacher

A ceremony took place at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang on September 23 to award a DPRK order to the rector of Vietnam-DPRK Friendship Kindergarten.

Present at the ceremony were Thae Hyong Chol, vice-president of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, Pak Kyong Il, vice-chairman of the Korean Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and concurrently chairman of the DPRK-Vietnam

Friendship Association, relevant Korean officials, members of the delegation of the Vietnam-DPRK Friendship Association led by Chairman Vuong Duy Bien and Le Ba Binh, Vietnamese ambassador to the DPRK.

After the decree of the SPA Presidium was read, Ngo Thi Minh Ha, rector of the kindergarten, was honoured with Order of the DPRK Friendship 2nd Class for rendering support to the Korean people's socialist construction and cause of national reunification and for making positive efforts to develop bilateral friendship with profound reverence for the peerlessly great persons of the DPRK.



Order of the DPRK Friendship 2nd Class is awarded to Ngo Thi Minh Ha, head of Vietnam-DPRK Friendship Kindergarten.

Compiled from KCNA

RECYCLING

Vinyl waste recycled to produce sheets

Though small, the Kangson Vinyl Sheet Factory in Chollima District of Nampho is widely known throughout the city.

Many locals visit the factory to learn after the experience of the factory, which has put production on normal track by generating electricity by its own efforts.

At the time of its inauguration in 1995, it turned out vinyl sheets for cold-bed for rice seedlings by importing polyethylene.

It brought about good results in the first three years, but it fell into stagnation since the imperialists imposed an economic embargo.

U Jae Myong was appointed to the factory as its manager at the time when the factory was in the doldrums for over 10 years.

"I thought the only way to

reenergize the factory was to recycle vinyl waste," he recalled.

The resource of the waste was abundant. It can be found everywhere including families, factories, institutions, cities and rural communities.

In order to make vinyl waste processing equipment, the manager brought a scrapped machine and refashioned it into a raw material processing facility that conforms to the standard for the production of vinyl sheets through nearly eight-month efforts.

After the completion of the machine, there arose problem of washing dirty vinyl waste and ensuring its supply as an important matter.

The factory brought up the issue of industrializing

the washing of the waste for public discussion to arouse the creativity of its employees. It held more than ten rounds of technical and mass discussions for each part to complete the most rational comprehensive cleaning process.

It also made and introduced a mixed generator based on anthracite gasification, making it possible to ensure normal production while saving a great deal of coal and diesel oil.

Now it purchases vinyl waste that is dumped only to cause environmental pollution, and produces not only vinyl sheets for farming but also various sizes of coloured vinyl sheets and vinyl pipes needed for the improvement of the people's livelihood.

The "continuous 200 kW-capacity generator based on anthracitegasification" and other inventions developed by the manager and employees of the factory were highly appreciated at the national festival of science and technology and awarded national invention certificates and certificates of registration of sci-tech hits, and dozens of technical findings were introduced into production.

"Recycled vinyl sheets of our factory absorb light and heat well but hardly reflect. For their great heat-preserving effect, they help shorten the growing period of grain crops," said the manager.

By Yun Kyong II PT

damask silk, polychromatic silk and foulard, and introduced such patterns as azalea, waterfall and cloud into silk cloth with light- and soft-coloured background to meet the aesthetic tastes and sentiment of the Korean people.

The mill's lots of products woven with the high-grade silk of 21D are much favoured at home and abroad.

By Kim Rye Yong PT

maintaining the features peculiar to silk cloth by combining silk with synthetic fibre.

"The demand for silk cloth, which was confined to a few sorts including those for traditional women's clothes and quilts in the past, has now increased. It is also used as the materials for shirt, underwear and curtain," said Kim Kum Sil, deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly, Labour Hero and workshop manageress of the mill.

With the quality of cloth improving, the mill expanded dyeing colours and patterns to dozens and hundreds respectively, thus producing a variety of silk cloths that were unthinkable before.

It came to produce silk ramie cloth for the first time among other silk producers and went on to develop bright Tetron ramie cloth, damask silk and figured satin one after another. It also improved the quality of traditional silk cloth such as



The Kangson Vinyl Sheet Factory produces sheets for different purposes.

MILL

Silk cloth diversified

The Nyongbyon Silk Mill, which is noted for the production of silk goods, increases the variety of silk fabrics.

Boasting over 70 years of history, the mill turns out a great deal of silk cloth for different purposes whose absorptivity, wrinkle prevention effect and tenacity have markedly improved as compared to before.

Silk is a natural fabric with graceful colour which is lighter and softer than other kinds of cloth. It is good for human health and beautiful, but easily creases and is readily decolourized.

However, the mill solved all these problems by concentrating efforts on technical innovation.

All employees including technicians and workers pooled their wisdom and efforts to improve the quality of silk cloth by way of mass technical innovation.

In the course of this, they found out a way that can eliminate shortcomings while

PROFILE

Dedicating his life to building forests



Pak Pyong Jun (second from left), forestry station head in Sepho County, Kangwon Province, DPRK.

were stony and boggy. Moreover, women made up more than half of employees.

"The 'birthplace' of thick forests is a tree nursery. We can never green mountains by transplanting only full-grown trees for the reason that it requires much labour to grow saplings," the manager said.

He built a splendid nursery in the face of raging snow and wind by relying on the spiritual strength of employees. Pine-nuts sown in standardized fields put forth buds in the spring of following year.

He was not contented with this initial success.

Three years ago, he set an ambitious goal to spruce up the parent nursery.

It was not simple to pull down the one-storey building as it had been only a few years since its construction and stood comparison with other structures in the county. But he courageously rebuilt it to be an example across the country.

He also paid heed to preparing his employees into the masters of science and technology.

Though the station was short of manpower to grow saplings and push construction, he saw to it that young men and women were enrolled at the study-while-you-work course and officiated sci-tech lectures for the employees every evening.

In the course of this, their scientific and technical knowledge improved a level higher and the outdoor cultivation ground, round cutting bed and greenhouse for saplings sprang up one after another.

They built lime and other furnaces to improve acid soil, thereby paving the way for shortening the growing period of saplings, as well as plastic plate greenhouses to produce saplings twice a year.

More than five million saplings are produced at the parent nursery of dozens of hectares every year.

Today, Sepho County is covered with dense forests everywhere. Shortly ago, a breeding place of goshawk, national bird of the DPRK, was discovered there.

"It is a life goal and motto of our manager to green all the mountains in our county without a vacant lot," the employees say unanimously.



The Nyongbyon Silk Mill turns out quality silk thread.

By Kim Il Jin PT



Pyongyang hosts 15th autumn international trade fair

A good occasion for boosting external economic relations

The 15th Pyongyang Autumn International Trade Fair ran between September 23 and 27.

Unlike previous events, it was held at Pyongyang Indoor Stadium for the first time, bringing together more than 350 companies from different countries including the DPRK, China, Russia, Cuba, Vietnam, Mongolia, Italy and Indonesia.

This means that nearly 40 more foreign companies took part in the fair than last year's autumn event.

It shows that countries around the world are getting more interested in and enthusiastic for the participation in the fair as stirring events take place in the Korean peninsula for détente and peace.

The basement and three stories of the stadium were dedicated for the fair which exhibited various products made at home and abroad such

as electrical and electronic appliances, renewable energy-related commodities, building materials, machines and light industrial and health goods.

At present the Korean people are conducting a dynamic drive to boost the economy and improve their living standards true to the policy speech Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un made at the First Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK.

And in the course of this more than 160 domestic companies and enterprises developed and produced various goods to put them on display at the fair.

The exhibits reflected the sincere efforts of exhibitors to present novel and original high-tech products.

Though the Korean people are faced with the challenges of hostile forces standing in their way, they are steadfast in their

will to open up a new chapter of prosperity and achieve their ideal and goal of building a powerful nation by dint of self-reliance.

The theme of the Pyongyang International Trade Fair is independence and friendship, and common development and prosperity.

We will continue to expand and develop the country's external economic relations true to the lofty spirit and ideal of the trade fair.

And I would like to express my gratitude to organizations from different countries and resident foreign diplomatic envoys and representatives of international organizations who made sincere efforts for the successful fair.

Pak Ung Sik, president of the Korea International Exhibition Corporation



A bird's eye view of the 15th Pyongyang Autumn International Trade Fair which ran between September 23 and 27 in the heart of the city.

We hope to work with Korean partners



This is the first time for us to attend the Pyongyang International Trade Fair.

Seeing the fair that was held on a larger scale than I expected, I thought that the DPRK is a country with great potential.

During the trade fair, we gave wide publicity to our company's building parts and other environment-friendly equipment and had many interviews.

In the future, we will often take part in the fair to develop many-sided foreign trade relations and strengthen the economic ties with partners in the DPRK.



We have taken part in the Pyongyang International Trade Fair for the first time.

Many people ask questions with interest in our products and want to know about our company.

Our company specializes in the development of renewable energy-related products.

One of our major items is wind turbine.

Among such products is an intelligent wind-driven turbine developed for the first time in China.

We have exhibited a solar-powered wall lamp, flashlight with a solar panel, micro-battery and several other sorts of products in this fair.

We are willing to promote cooperation and exchanges in the field of renewable energy resources and the related products demanded in the Korean market with local partners.

Xue Jiancheng, marketing manager of the Shandong Huaye Electrics Co Ltd of China

Fair draws more and better products



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Locals show keen interest in exhibits.

The venue of the 15th Pyongyang Autumn International Trade Fair, which opened with fireworks display and confetti showering, was crowded with visitors every day.

"Domestic companies and enterprises filled the hall with the products of self-reliance and science and technology," said Kim Il Hyok, department chief of the Korea International Exhibition Corporation that hosted the show.

Electronic and electrical equipment assumed a large proportion of the exhibits.

The Ragwon General Trading Corp came up with a smart television.

It makes it possible to enjoy various multimedia and data such as films and videos through the national computer network. You can also install apps, play games and enjoy karaoke.

The Sinhung IT Technology Trading Co exhibited a smart TV controlled by speech recognition, a smart multimedia

player for juvenile education and a tablet PC for foreign language study.

The Myohyang 2 Trading Corp put on display an electromagnetic screen, LCD protective sheet and functional mouse pad, while the Sujongchon Tech Co exhibited a noiseless transformer.

Light industry products were special eye-catchers.

Yu Un Ju, staffer of the Kyemyong Trading Co, said 60 percent of bags exhibited by the company are new developments as compared to those presented to the spring fair.

Multi-purpose bedding, knitted goods, footwear and cosmetics were also popular with visitors.

Besides, there were various types of furniture and decorative fish bowls, a briquette-fired boiler with the heating system which is controlled with a mobile phone in any place, a hydrofoil, cars and minibuses and various health foods and medicines.

In the trade fair foreign businesses expressed their hope to bolster up economic cooperation with the DPRK.

China's Ningbo Haiban Trading Co Ltd and hundreds of other Chinese companies displayed household electrical appliances, building materials, clothing, footwear, daily necessities, medicines and others.

Russia's Korean Care LLC, the Cuban embassy, Vietnam's Hong Phat Import Export Co Ltd, Indonesia's PT. Golden Power Beverages, Mongolia's Shar Morin Naran Garag LLC and many other foreign companies set up their booths in unique ways and promoted their products.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

EDUCATION

Efforts directed to training technical personnel

The educational content and method of factory colleges and technical senior middle schools are constantly upgraded to train students into talents with practical ability.

Hungnam College of Technology in Hamhung, a leading chemical industrial base, plays its part in training technical personnel needed at the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex and other industrial establishments in the area.

As befitting a factory college whose students are workers, it pays primary attention to experiments and practical training.

Recently, it has equipped its labs with a full set of experimental facilities.

Especially, the chemical device lab looks like a whole plant. The equipment is connected with computers to improve the effectiveness of teaching.

Vice-rector An Kwang Nam said that many practical problems raised by students are solved at labs and students work together with lecturers in the labs to solve scientific and technological problems they ran into during production activities.

Nampho College of Marine Transport has improved the educational content and method in the studies of port management, navigation and vessel.

The department of navigation study created a multimedia

presentation to show with the help of VR technology how to control vessels in narrow courses by relying on buoys, and all the departments put educational contents on a practical, general and modern footing by using VR and AR technologies.

Technical senior middle schools have introduced different methods for improving the practical ability of students according to their specialties.

Phyongsong Technical Senior Middle School, which specializes in the education of IT subject, concentrates on training students to be capable of putting their IT knowledge into practical use.

It encourages students to acquire information technology while properly studying all general and basic subjects and to find out by themselves how the knowledge of adjacent subjects is applied in IT lessons.

Kuchon Technical Senior Middle School in Sariwon prioritizes the interrelations between its major and adjacent subjects and actively applies highly intuitive multimedia presentations to teaching.

Such approaches stimulate the enthusiasm for finding newer and more unique teaching methods among teachers, which help introduce many innovative methods into teaching practice.

By Kim Kum Myong PT



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Students work on a research project for the space communications technology based on laser at Kim Chaek University of Technology.

PROFILE

Woman spends decades growing national flower

Kim Sun Hui, leader of the arboretum management workteam of the plant management workshop under the Central Botanical Garden, has dedicated her life to growing magnolia, national flower of the DPRK, for nearly 50 years.

"Starting her career as cultivator at the age of 17, the 66-year-old woman is now a horticulturist with first-class technical qualification and merited urban gardener. She grew and spread tens of thousands of national trees, as well as hundreds of thousands of other trees of great economic value," said Kim Myong Ho, director of the botanical garden.

When Sun Hui was assigned to the botanical garden after finishing a middle school 48 years ago, he recalled, she was very pleased to have a job that suited the emotion of women and her taste.

At that time, a project for



building an area of cultivating 200 magnolias was in full swing at the then Pyongyang Botanical Garden. She put her heart and soul into the project as she received the love of all as the youngest of her workteam, in which women made up the most.

She volunteered to uproot the trees from deep mountain valleys in Yangdok and Maengsan counties, went to her

workplace earlier than others to observe saplings and found satisfaction in carrying out her daily tasks twice or thrice as compared to others.

She would leave the office last after checking the condition of magnolias once more.

As the saying goes, what comes from the heart goes to the heart. More than 200 magnolias, which was as tall as a child, grew healthily and their first seeds were gathered.

Through repeated speculation and quest to propagate more trees with those seeds, she found out the most reasonable breeding and cultivating method.

"My mother was delighted most when the trees she had grown with sincerity were sent to all parts of the country. Indeed, she devoted her all to the cultivation of magnolias," said Ri Yon Sun, her eldest daughter.

Ten-odd years later, Sun Hui was appointed as the workteam leader.

"Our workteam leader is very enterprising. While working for over 30 years at the post, she has raised a large number of trees of good species and great economic value, to say nothing of magnolia," said Kim Chung

COSTUME

Shop carves a niche in tailoring traditional costume



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Dressmakers discuss how to improve the traditional dress at the Chaeha Korean Costume Shop in Sinuiju, North Phyongan Province, DPRK.

Among the Korean costume makers who have been devoting themselves to the development of national costume, there is Kim Kum Sil, chief of the Chaeha Korean Costume Shop under the public service management station in Sinuiju, North Phyongan Province.

She has taken part in the national Korean costume show, an annual event sponsored by the Korean Costume Association, since 2012 and had seven consecutive wins until last year.

"Her Korean *chima* (skirt) and *jogori* (jacket) designs are always unique. Her exhibits have been the focus of attention as they are flawless in design, decoration and processing and reflect the aesthetic tastes of the times and the aspirations of women," said Ryu Chol Jin, secretary general of the Korean Costume Association.

With a gifted talent for garment processing, she learned how to tailor Korean costume at a garment vocational school after finishing her middle school course.

In the course of acquiring knowledge of the design and processing method of the Korean costume, she was resolved to develop elegant traditional costume to meet the requirements of the times and the sense of beauty.

She deepened her research to combine the conventionality of the Korean costume with the modern sense of beauty while consulting with researchers at the Korean Folklore Museum

Ryol, a workteam member.

She cultivated *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, gingko, zelkova, apricot, persimmon and other trees and various species of rose and junipers as well.

As the mistress of a house, she has her husband, his parents and children to look after, but she has never left her workplace.

She was awarded a wrist

watch bearing the name of President Kim Il Sung in recognition of her dedication to the cultivation of magnolias and had the honour to take part in the fourth national meeting of mothers and celebration events of the 70th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT



PIFF sees significant improvement in quality and numbers



Jurors are presented at the opening ceremony of the eight-day 17th Pyongyang International Film Festival that opened on Sep 20.

The 17th Pyongyang International Film Festival which opened on September 20 amid great interest of people at home and abroad came to a close after completing its eight-day programme.

The festival which originated as a biennial event in 1987 is dedicated to truthfully representing beautiful and noble human mentality on the screen and promoting sound development of society under the ideals of independence, peace and friendship.

The festival has become an annual event since 2016 to serve the growing interest and meet the expectations of the film people of the world and locals as well.

The recent event drew about 40 film companies and other organizations and over 200 film makers and fans from over ten countries including the DPRK, China, Russia, India, Canada and Italy.

According to statistics of the Pyongyang International Film Festival Organizing Committee,

the festival drew over 400 documentary, feature, short and animation films on the themes of war against aggressors, historical events, true love, defence of justice and science fiction.

Canadian documentary *Hue, a Matter of Colour* shows in a lifelike and touching way that no man is above others and humans are equal and Canada-Afghanistan co-production documentary *Laila at the Bridge* portrays the danger and harm of drug and the aspiration for a sound and clean world.

Korean documentaries *A Large Harmonious Family* and *Laughter and Singing of Our Children* depict the Korean people who find it most rewarding to devote themselves to the good of others in a grand harmonious family and the happy looks of children.

Indian feature films *Happy Bhag Jayegi* and *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag* impressed the film-goers with an emotional love story of young people and a story about

a sportsperson who exalted the honour of the country.

Chinese feature film *Till the End of the World* fascinated viewers with a characteristic plot and flawless acting.

Italian feature film *The Invisible Witness* drew the admiration of the audience and the jury with surprising cinematic effects.

Computer graphics was applied to most of the films presented to the festival.

Russian feature film *T-34*, Chinese feature film *The Wandering Earth* and many others ensured lifelikeness and logical development by processing vivid and wonderful scenes with the help of CG.

"The festival was a showcase of the film world which is achieving rapid development with the introduction of advanced technologies," said Kim Thaek Song, lecturer of the Pyongyang University of Dramatic and Cinematic Arts.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

Awardees



Grand prix: Iranian feature film *Orange Days*



Special jury award: documentary of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan *Feats of Rainbow*



Special award of festival organizing committee: Chinese feature film *Beautiful Voyage*, Cuban feature film *With You Bread and Onions*



Special screening award: Korean feature film *Diploma*, Chinese documentary *Zhang Yimou's 'Shadow'*,

Chinese feature films *You Jia and My Father's Past*, Canada-Ireland co-production feature film *A Shine of Rainbows*



Best screenplay: Italian feature film *The Invisible Witness*



Best direction: Russian feature film *T-34*



Best photography: Chinese feature film *Pegasus*



Best actor: Male lead in Chinese feature film *Pegasus*



Best actress: Female lead in Chinese feature film *The New King of Comedy*



Best supporting actor: Actor in Russian feature

film *Don't Miss the Chance*

Best supporting actress: Actress in Belarusian feature film *Not a Game*

Best art: Chinese feature film *The Wandering Earth*

Best music: Russian feature film *Foundling*

Best special display effect: Chinese feature film *The Wandering Earth*

Best sound effect: Russian feature film *T-34*

Best animation: Chinese animation film *The Wind Guardians*

Best documentary: Korean documentary *A Large Harmonious Family*

Best short film: Russian short film *To Be*



COMMENT

It is better to make friends than do foes

Since the end of the Second World War that plunged the whole globe into the ravages of war and massacre, the US has searched for “next foes” and it still directs much energy and time to the quest of “foes”.

‘Foes’ the US found

Upon the conclusion of WWII the US saw the Soviet Union as the biggest enemy. After the latter’s collapse it needed next foe.

The former US president George W. Bush declared a war on terror in the wake of the gargantuan terrorist attack in September 11 2001.

The US chose al-Qaida and Taliban as its worst enemies.

During the war, it extended its sphere of influence in Iraq and Afghanistan and pursued economic interests through oil and other natural resources in the region.

In the 21st century, it designated Russia as the most threatening state.

Today’s Russia cannot be compared to the former Soviet Union in the days of the Cold War.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, its constituent republics broke away, substantially lowering Russia’s geopolitical status.

By contrast, the GDP of

the European Union is over ten times as much as Russia’s and the EU spends much more money for military buildup than the latter.

But to the US, Russia is probably seen as a “foe” as it has achieved social stability and is working to regain its position as a world power.

The US’ scrapping of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty might have been designed as a “whip to tame” the enemy.

The US views China as a potential “foe”.

A US security policy think tank claimed that China hopes to defeat the US militarily.

Maybe the Americans unleashed the current trade war against China, prompted by the desire to make it their enemy and control it.

Friends needed, not foes

The US is faced with such knotty problems as human rights, nuclear proliferation, economic affairs, Iranian nuclear deal and terrorism. The best countermeasure against such challenges might be shrewd and prudent diplomacy, not the stoking of fear or blatant acts of hostility.

Russia and China are not alone in standing up to

US high-handedness and arbitrariness.

Even the NATO and European nations refuse to keep pace with the US.

Turkey recently buckled down to the purchase of Russian weapons in defiance of US warnings.

France charged a high tax on American IT businesses operating in the country last July.

No matter how powerful the US may be, it would be distressed about the defence issue if it makes all other countries its “foes”.

The US should abandon the pipedream of monopoly and domination and stop conducting all kinds of military exercises threatening other countries while squandering taxpayers’ money.

It should also drop the policy of interference and discontinue the sanctions racket that triggers conflict and economic upheaval.

It had better restore relations with past friends and find new ones, rather than searching for new foes.

But it may take much time and labour for the US arms dealers and their faithful mouthpieces to understand this as they are too interested in finding out new “foes”.

By Min Chol PT

JAPAN

Interceptor deployment motivated by militarist ambition

Shortly ago, BBC reported that Abe knows well many Japanese feel uneasy about their government’s new militarization bid and, in this context, it is beneficial for him to play up the “threat” from the DPRK.

Japan is trying to enforce the deployment of missile defence system Aegis Ashore, claiming that it is needed for protecting the country from the missiles of the DPRK. The Japanese defence ministry has already made public a reexamination plan for the deployment and expressed its view that Akita and Yamaguchi prefectures are fit for the deployment.

Many countries, near the DPRK and over the ocean, possess missiles. If the Japanese logic is followed, all the countries that have missiles will be threats to Japan.

The Japanese reactionaries,

however, are making a fool of the world to seek their own interests, while pointing an accusing finger at the DPRK.

According to experts, Aegis Ashore is an attack-oriented missile system which is capable of launching cruise missiles. The DPRK’s neighbours warned that if Aegis Ashore is deployed in Japan, huge part of their territories will come within its range and that it will produce a series of serious problems.

Japan’s scheme to deploy the missile defence system originated from its warlike ambition to be a military power capable of mounting preemptive attacks on the DPRK and other neighbouring countries so as to realize its wild ambition for the reinvasion of the Asia-Pacific region.

Japan has systematically increased military expenditure

and squandered huge money on the development, production and purchase of new military hardware.

The Japanese Self-Defence Forces have already turned into large-scale offensive forces on a par with those of Western powers. Moreover, Japan plans to invest an astronomical sum of funds in a few coming years in possessing an aircraft carrier, purchasing a new type of fighter jets and developing a ground-based radar that can monitor other countries.

Witnessing Japan’s risky and reckless moves to build a military power, voices of apprehension that Japan has now regained the right of belligerency are raised not only among the Asian countries but also the Japanese people.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

CONCERN

Worldwide response needed to remove plastic waste

According to rough estimates, around 100 billion plastic bags are used every year and disposable plastic settings are used at hotels and cafeterias generally in the US, overfilling trash cans with plastic waste. And the country ranks first in the world in the total and per capita waste outputs.

In the past, it exported plastic and poisonous waste in large quantities to different countries.

Last year alone, it sold a total of 1.07 million tons including 200 000 tons to Malaysia and 110 000 tons to Thailand.

Japan also exported 1.01 million tons of plastic waste to other countries last year. As most of the exported waste was unrecyclable, it was burnt up or thrown into the sea.

If the current trend persists, it might result in an environmental catastrophe.

Recently, the 14th general meeting of signatories to the Basel convention was held in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting that drew over 1 400 representatives from 180 countries and regions adopted a decision on revising the convention and putting restrictions on import and export of plastic waste.

China has imposed a ban on the import of plastic waste since late 2017. It insists that if the US wants it to go on importing waste, the latter will have to pay ecological compensation needed for tackling environmental pollution.

India and Vietnam have also

prohibited the import of Western waste.

Indonesia and Malaysia rejected the plastic waste from the US and Japan among others, declaring that they would not be the “world’s dumping ground” any longer. Cambodia recently returned 1 592 tons of illegally imported plastic waste back to the US and Canada.

Such measures are perturbing Western countries that have been exporting plastic waste to developing countries in bulk.

The US and Japan now find themselves in trouble with the waste making up huge piles at waste treating facilities.

More than one third of US states has been thrown into utter confusion by the waste disposal problem.

At present, the country is backward in waste-disposing capacity with the reclamation rate of 35 percent, the lowest among developed countries.

The Japanese authorities are asking each autonomous body to treat plastic waste from local businesses.

Experts assert that as the issue of environmental destruction is getting ever more serious, individual countries should not be engrossed in making their own pecuniary profits but join the international effort for protecting the environment.

By Om Ryong PT

Rising sea level threatens low-lying land

Sea level has continued to rise in recent years.

According to research data published by the scholars of the World Meteorological Organization, the level of oceans has risen more than seven centimetres since 1993. It is attributed to the melting of glaciers in Arctic and Antarctic regions caused by the temperature rise of the earth.

The rise in sea level is posing threats to island nations and the countries situated below the sea level like the Netherlands. In case sea level rose 20 centimetres, the island country of Tuvalu will completely disappear into the water.

The Asian development bank issued a report in April 2009 to warn that climate change might inflict huge damage on the Southeast Asian countries in the present century.

Among them, Indonesia which is made up of lots of islands is counted first.

Last January, the UN disaster risk reduction office said that

Indonesia, which was hard hit by tidal waves, ranked first among the countries with the highest death toll caused by natural disasters in 2018.

This year, too, the riskiness of damage from tidal waves has not yet disappeared.

According to a two-hour-long tidal wave warning on August 2, those living near coastlines were evacuated to high areas.

The countries in coastal regions are endeavouring to prevent damage from sea rise.

Sweden, which has a serious problem of sea rise, is channelling big efforts into coping with it.

According to a Swedish telecast last February, sea level is estimated to rise 78 centimetres more than the present in Skanor in the southern part of the country in around 2100 to submerge residential quarters.

Experts are of the opinion that efforts should be directed to building seawalls from now on to prevent damage from sea rise.

By Song Jong Ho PT

SOCCER

DPRK qualified for AFC U-16 championship finals

Group I matches for the 2020 AFC U-16 Championship took place in Singapore from September 17 to 21.

In group I, the DPRK beat Guam 16-0 and Singapore 6-1 in the first two matches.

In the game that took place on

September 21, it overpowered Hong Kong of China 4-0 and took the first place in the group to be qualified for the 2020 AFC U-16 championship finals.

Compiled from KCNA

TABLE TENNIS

Handicapped man regains dream for table tennis

There was ITTF Para Table Tennis Bangkok Open 2019 in Thailand last August.

The DPRK's Jon Ju Hyon (pictured) won the team and individual TT6 events in the competition that drew players from 21 countries and regions.

Praising him for playing a very good game, vice referee Steven Lee said his skill can be compared to those of the world's good players. Christina Chee, technical delegate of the competition, said Jon is good at serve and excellent in handling the ball, adding he is promising.

Ju Hyon liked to play sports in his childhood and began to learn to play table tennis in his primary school days.

But not long after, he was diagnosed with *spondylitis ankylopoietica* and compelled to be laid up for a long time.

"Doctors and teachers frequented our home to treat and teach my son and district



officials visited us on many occasions to encourage him. The government policy of protecting persons with disabilities gave him a new lease of life," recalled mother Ryu Kum Sun.

Officials of the Korean Sports Association of the Disabled and many other people devoted sincere efforts to medical treatment for him and his successful games.

"Ju Hyon is a terrific

enthusiast. He hates the word 'impossible' in treatment, training and everyday life," said Son Sol Hwa, coach of the association.

Jon became the focus of attention as he entered the rankings at national games of persons with disabilities and table tennis competitions of the disabled and amateurs. Later, as a table tennis player of the association, he took the third place at the second Asian Paralympics and reached the top three in the team and individual TT6 events of the ITTF Asian Para Championships 2019 that took place in Chinese Taipei last July.

"My wish is to repay the favour shown by those who give me warm affection and take warm care of me though I have done nothing for the good of society," said Ju Hyon.

By Kim Rye Yong PT



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The Central Zoo in Pyongyang, inaugurated on April 30 1959, is home to many rare animals of Korea and other places around the world. This year, the zoo population has seen a noticeable growth. In particular, a Korean tigress gave birth to three cubs in June and giraffe, zebra, European horse, fallow deer, cocker spaniel, blue fox, white crane and other species bred. The renovated zoo is now visited by an increasing number of local people, as well as overseas Koreans and foreigners.



Om Yun Chol (left) salutes on the winner's rostrum after bagging three gold medals in the men's 55kg category at the 2019 IWF World Weightlifting Championships. He renewed the world records. Pak Yong Mi (centre) flies the national flag after winning a gold medal in the women's 53kg category at the 2019 World Wrestling Championships. Rim Jong Sim celebrates after resetting the world record in the women's 76kg snatch at the 2019 IWF World Weightlifting Championships.

BADMINTON

Senior citizens compete in badminton contest



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
A scene from the badminton tournament of elderly citizens and enthusiasts in Pyongyang held between Sep 23 and 26.

The badminton tournament of elderly citizens and enthusiasts in Pyongyang took place at the Badminton Gymnasium on Chongchun Street in Pyongyang between September 23 and 26 to mark the International Day of Older Persons.

The annual event sponsored by the Central Committee of the Korean Federation for the Care of the Aged brought together old persons (men above 60, women above 55) in Pyongyang.

"The previous events were only for the aged people. But this time the federation allowed amateurs to compete in the event in order to strengthen solidarity between generations, which helped not only enlarge the scale of the event but also improve the level of contest and stoke up the atmosphere of the tournament," said Hwang Chol Ho, department director of the Central Committee of the Korean Federation for the Care of the Aged.

The tournament drew more than 120 seniors citizens and enthusiasts in Pyongyang.

Divided into the categories of the elderly, enthusiasts and elderly-amateur doubles according to age groups, they played league and knockout matches.

On September 24, there were matches of old person's doubles

and mixed doubles and amateur men's doubles and women's doubles.

Old players struck the viewers with admiration by scoring in succession based on diverse techniques.

This time, several couples, fathers and sons, and brothers and sisters formed groups to compete.

In particular, the couple of Im Se Hyok and Hwang Song Hui living in Sohung-dong of Moranbong District are widely known among the elderly as they participated in previous competitions as coach and player and entered the rankings on several occasions.

"I felt myself young again and my competitive spirit and technical skills seemed to improve as I played matches together with enthusiasts," said 74-year-old Jong Kyu Jin living in Kaeson-dong of Moranbong District. He won the elderly-amateur doubles.

An award ceremony took place at the Badminton Gymnasium on September 26.

The rankings of individuals and districts were announced and medals and diplomas were awarded to winners.

By Jong Tang Song PT

