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Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un inspects fishery stations, footwear factory

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, gave field guidance to the fishery stations in the east coastal area which are busy with an intensive winter fishing campaign.

The first leg of his inspection tour was the May 27 Fishery Station run by the KPA.

Saying that he came to meet fishermen to encourage them with a great pleasure after seeing a report that they caught more than 60 000 tons of fish in a short span of time in the course of receiving every day a report on the fish catching of the fishery stations run by the People's Army in the east coastal area in the winter intensive fishing campaign, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un personally got aboard the fishing vessel Hwanggumhae-014 and congratulated its captain and fishermen who returned with a big fish haul.

He noted that he is very pleased to see the unloading of fresh fish from

the vessel and the fish streaming out at an outdoor ground. Saying that he wanted to have a photo taken against the background of this wonderful scenery, he called the fishermen and employees and had a photo session.

Making the rounds of a hall dedicated to education with revolutionary relics, a freezing warehouse and a combined control room of the May 27 Fishery Station, he acquainted himself with the ideological education of the employees and production and management of the station.

Seeing the fish blocks filled in the freezing warehouse, he said they look

like a treasure mountain and gold bars and the warehouse has almost been filled with fish in a few days of the intensive fishing campaign. He said that if the fish is caught as it is now, the warehouse will not be large enough to store the caught fish and underscored the need to increase a quick freezing capability 2-3 times on an annual basis.

He enjoyed an art performance given by the employees of the fishery station.

The next leg of his inspection tour was the KPA August 25 Fishery Station.

He gave congratulations to the fishery station and highly appreciated it for taking the lead in making a big fish haul as befits the birthplace of the history of "gold seas" and of Tanphung fishing vessels.

He acquainted himself with the performance and technical conditions of Tanphung fishing vessels of the fishery station and learned in detail how the Party policy is implemented, looking round various places of the station including the processing shop, freezing warehouse and combined production control room.

He expressed great satisfaction with the freezing warehouses filled with thousands of tons of fish each.

He then made his way to the KPA January 8 Fishery Station.

He boarded the vessel Tanphung 18-01 in the middle of discharging, receiving an enthusiastic welcome from fishermen.

He highly praised the fishery station

SEE PAGE 2



FROM PAGE 1

for overfulfilling the yearly quota of fish haul by ensuring that more than 1 000 tons of fish such as anchovy, grey mullet, mackerel, gizzard shad and hard-finned sandfish are caught by each vessel.

Notably, as the January 8 Fishery Station provides fish to baby homes, orphanages, primary and middle schools for orphans and old people's homes across the country, the level of scientific fish catch and automatic and updated carriage and processing should be higher than other fishery stations in terms of quality and only fresh fish should be supplied to the children and health seekers through tightened quality control, he said.

He said that the food problem of the people and the service personnel can be solved satisfactorily when agricultural production, animal husbandry and fishing are developed as the three main thrusts, noting that the service personnel of the People's Army should continue to stay in the van of upholding and implementing the Party's policy on fisheries as the pioneers who made the history of "gold seas".

He was accompanied by Hwang Pyong So, first deputy department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea; Jo Yong Won, deputy department director of the WPK Central Committee; Kim Chang Son and Ma Won Chun, officials of the State Affairs Commission; and Army General So Hong Chan, first vice-minister of the People's Armed Forces.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un inspected the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory.

The Supreme Leader said that he was so pleased to hear the report that the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory won the first place at a recent national shoes exhibition and that "Maebongsan"-brand shoes presented by the factory were very popular among the public. He added



that a small local factory has become a shoes factory well known all over the country, an iconic shoes factory leading the shoe-making industry of the country.

He looked round a hall dedicated to education with revolutionary relics and a room dedicated to the history of the factory and a sample display room newly arranged by the factory.

He underlined the need to make the visit to the hall dedicated to education with revolutionary relics regular part of life to make sure that all the employees turn out in implementing the Party policy and translate into reality the lifetime desire of Kim Jong Il with high production results.

Touring the uppers-making shop, shoemaking shop and other production shops of the factory, he learned in detail about the implementation of the Party policy.

Praising a young needle worker who just graduated from a school for successfully handling an auto-sewing machine operated by a control program at the uppers-making shop, he called for giving full play to creative wisdom of technicians and skilled workers and widely computerizing needlework.

After familiarizing himself with the progress made so far in the research work for automating the shoe sole pasting process, he set forth tasks for perfecting the automation of all shoe-making processes.

He stressed that in order to meet the daily increasing people's demand, it is necessary to keep pushing ahead with the work of attaining the world level in quality with an emphasis put on ensuring diverse patterns, decent colours, lightness and durability while meeting the aesthetic tastes of our people.

A prerequisite to improving the

quality of shoes lies in good designs, he repeatedly stressed, calling for deeply studying and actively introducing the world trend of the development of the shoes industry and shoe engineering and thus putting primary efforts on creating various new shoes designs favoured by the people.

He said that the factory should lend an ear to the public comment, deeply consider what kinds of shoes people of different ages and jobs like in different seasons and thus produce more shoes favoured and demanded by all men and women, young and old.

He had photos taken with the employees of the factory at workshops.

He was accompanied by Hwang Pyong So, Jo Yong Won, Kim Chang Son and Ma Won Chun.

By PT staff reporter

VISITS

DPRK delegation visits Cuba, Mexico

Talks were held between Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the

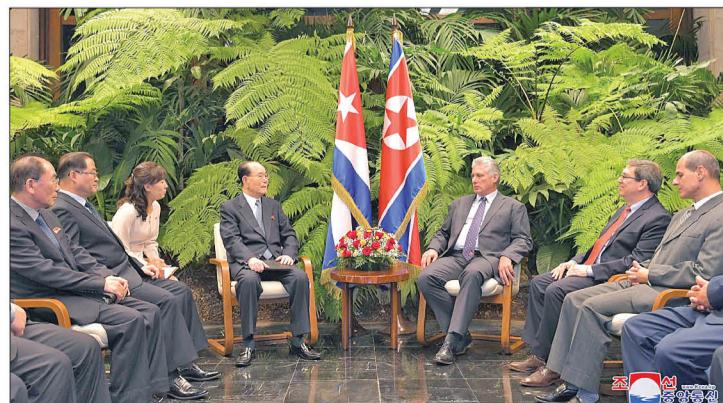
DPRK, on an official visit to the Republic of Cuba heading the DPRK delegation, and Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez,

president of the Council of State and president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, at the office building of the Council of State on the afternoon of November 29.

Kim Yong Nam conveyed the warm greeting and gift from Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un to Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel.

The Cuban President thanked for that and asked him to convey his warm comradely greeting to the DPRK Supreme Leader.

Kim Yong Nam met with Salvador Antonio Valdes Mesa, first vice-president of the Council of State and first vice-president of the Council of Ministers of Cuba, at the office building of the Council of State on Nov 29.



Kim Yong Nam (centre left), president of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, holds talks with Cuban President Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez in Havana.

Kim Yong Nam also talked with Raul Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, in a friendly atmosphere at the office building of the Communist Party of Cuba on Dec 4 when he made a stopover in Cuba on his return trip after taking part in the presidential inaugural ceremony in the United States of Mexico.

He conveyed the greeting and gift from the Supreme Leader to Raul Castro, who thanked for that and asked him to give his heartfelt regards to the DPRK leader.

The DPRK delegation headed by Kim Yong Nam visited Mexico to take part in an inaugural ceremony of the president of the United States of Mexico.

During his visit Kim Yong Nam took part in the inaugural ceremony and met with Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador at the presidential

palace.

He courteously conveyed the greeting and gift from Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un to the president.

He met with heads of state of various countries who participated in the inaugural ceremony including Evo Morales Aima, president of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, and Danilo Medina Sanchez, president of the Dominican Republic.

He also met with Cuban President Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez and Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro Moros.

He met with dignitaries of various countries including the vice-chairperson of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress who is the chairperson of the All-China Women's Federation, and vice-presidents of Argentina, Uruguay and El Salvador.

Compiled from KCNA

LEADING ARTICLE

Single-minded unity proves a decisive factor in vigorous advance

The DPRK made steady progress overcoming all difficulties and challenges in 2018, too.

At the beginning of the year the Korean people held up a revolutionary slogan to win a fresh victory on all fronts of building a socialist power by launching a revolutionary general offensive.

All people heartily responded to the appeal of the Workers' Party of Korea for lifting the country's overall national power onto a new stage of development by dint of an all-people general offensive, bringing about a huge leap forward in all sectors and units.

In particular, the energetic field inspection tour by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un that continued in spite of the unprecedently long spell of scorching heat and heat wave was a powerful motive force that encouraged all the people of the country to make miraculous achievements.

The united strength of the people who carry out the Party's decisions in whatever adversities was fully displayed in major construction projects including the construction of Samjiyon County and the development of the Wonsan-Kalma coastal tourist area.

Proud achievements have also been made in the grand march for economic construction: the Kangwon Provincial Tree Nursery was built as a model in the country and lots of industrial

establishments were upgraded in line with the requirements of the knowledge economy era. These are the manifestation of the indomitable spiritual strength and the might of the concerted efforts of the Korean people who implement the Party's plans and decisions at any cost.

The absolute trust of the people in their leader was fully demonstrated in the grand celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the DPRK in September.

Various events took place splendidly with the Supreme Leader in attendance to celebrate the DPRK anniversary, including the military parade and public procession of Pyongyang citizens and the grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance *The Glorious Country*.

The military parade and public procession showcased the unshakeable faith of the Korean people to follow the leadership of the Supreme Leader, sharing ideology and intention and keeping pace with him.

The spirit running through the grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance, the torchlight procession of young vanguard and other celebrations of the DPRK anniversary was their fervent will to firmly believe and follow only the Workers' Party of Korea.

Therefore, members of party and government delegations from various countries that

attended the celebration events expressed their admiration for the enthusiastic cheers burst out in the venues, saying the DPRK is a country where the single-mindedness of the leader and people is the basic cornerstone of the state political system.

The head of a delegation of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party said that the DPRK has the most powerful politico-ideological weapon. It is the single-minded unity of all the people behind Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un

and no force on earth can break it, he noted.

The National Committee for the Study of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism of Nigeria said in an article posted on the Internet that in no country except the DPRK, the leader and people form a relationship of love and trust. The Korean people highly praise their leader as the Sun as he put them forward as God and they call this noble relationship between God and the Sun a large harmonious family, it said.

The indicator of the solidity, advantages and invincibility of the DPRK is the single-minded unity of the Party and people.

The Korean people, who have set out on the road of general onward march toward fresh victory after celebrating the 70th anniversary of the DPRK as a great revolutionary event, are now advancing towards a brighter future full of confidence, exalting the spirit and might of their single-mindedness.

Pak Hyang Nam



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Pyongyang citizens demonstrate the single-minded unity of the leader, Party and masses in a parade that celebrated the DPRK's 70th anniversary.

INSPECTION

Premier inspects power complex

Pak Pong Ju, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, vice-chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and premier of the DPRK Cabinet, inspected the Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex.

At various places of the complex he gave pep-talks to the electric power producers who are conducting a vigorous drive for increased production.

At a field consultative meeting, measures were discussed to keep equipment in full operation and at full capacity and raise the efficiency of generators to the maximum and thus successfully conclude the campaign of the year.

Earlier, he acquainted himself with the updating of the Moranbong Automation Appliances Factory and stressed

the need for builders to ensure the structural quality and for relevant units to supply materials for the project in time.

Compiled from KCNA



Premier Pak Pong Ju (foreground) inspects the Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex.

ECONOMY

Industrial establishments keep scaling up production

The increased production drive has been intensified in various sectors of the national economy to carry out their annual production plans without fail.

Nine tunnelling units under the Kangdong Area Coal-mining Complex fulfilled their annual production plans ahead of schedule.

The Ryongsan Coal Mine of the Tukjang Area Coal-mining Complex has secured hundreds of thousands of tons of coal beds this year alone while pushing ahead with coal production for this year.

The Pyongyang Electric Cable Factory 326, the Anju Insulator Factory and the Hamhung Disabled Soldiers' Essential Plastic Goods Factory continue to push ahead with production in the spirit of having exceeded their annual production targets.

The wire and cable workshops of the Pyongyang Electric Cable Factory 326 mounted a campaign to overtake and model after frontrunners and share experience in order to timely produce and supply electric

cables of various sizes to major construction projects.

The Samjiyon Potato Farina Factory has put production on normal footing by operating equipment at full capacity. The technicians and skilled workers built a new circulating fluidized-bed boiler to suit the conditions of the factory in close collaboration with scientists and technicians in related units to further raise the combustion efficiency, making it possible for it to provide high-temperature steam for production.

Over 20 units under the Bureau of Sericulture and Silk Industry fulfilled their annual production plans. Hundreds of employees carried out, doubled or trebled their annual production plans at the Hamhung Woollen Textile Mill, Hamhung Silk Mill and Hamhung Knitwear Factory.

By Ri Myong Jun PT

CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

Industry gets further independent as nation eyes self-reliance

Lots of achievements made in the chemical industry this year have opened up bright prospects for the country's economic growth and the people's improved livelihood. Many industrial establishments have upgraded their production processes, stepped up the Juche-orientation of raw and other materials and equipment and brought about a surge in production. "We have continued to make a dynamic advance in the face of all difficulties this year by dint of science and technology and in the spirit of self-reliance and self-development," said Ju Myong Chol, department director of the Ministry of Chemical Industry.

Outcome of self-reliance and self-development

This year, the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex has notched up enormous successes. It increased the production of Juche fertilizer, put production of fourth-generation polymerizing catalyst on normal track to contribute to making artificial fibre with locally-available raw materials and produced functional triple sheets for agricultural use. Intensive repairs were made on more than 6 000 facilities including dozens of gas generators and washing towers and those of delivery and heating processes, and some production lines were refashioned. Waste gas from the ammonia synthesis process was recycled to produce 10 000 tons of more Juche fertilizer in the year, and heated gas from the gas generator was used in the steam production process to save 100 tons of fuel a

day.

The February 8 Vinalon Complex has also made great achievements that go a long way towards developing the chemical industry. It manufactured and installed dozens of facilities of over 10 kinds including reactor, dissolver and filter to complete the catalyst production process with a large capacity and launch into production.

Such salt producers as Namyang and Namsi salt works introduced the method of making salt with underground ultrabrine to reduce production area and equipment and save electricity and labour.

The Ponghwa Chemical Factory perfected the binder production process with a large capacity to contribute to the development of the metallurgical industry. It simultaneously carried on the technical preparations and construction for the process.

The Sunchon Chemical Complex refashioned its electric furnace to start the production of ferrosilicon, while the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex recycled the dust from gas generators to boost production and refashioned the raw material separation process to double the repair cycle.

In addition, the chemical industry sector pushed ahead with the technical preparations for the establishment of the C1 chemical industry and for the sufficient production and supply of raw materials for light industry, the remodelling and perfection of the process of producing carbonic soda with glauberite as the starting material and the construction of a phosphate fertilizer

factory that will turn out high-concentration nitrophosphor complex with domestic raw materials as starting materials.

Sci-tech key to Juche-orientation and modernization

This year, the chemical industry sector has made dozens of scientific and technological achievements in order to press on with the domestic production of raw and other materials and equipment and update lots of production processes.

The Namhung Youth Chemical Complex manufactured a new raw material grading device, which increases the activity and utilization factor of catalyst, and installed it in the production process of ammonia synthesizing catalyst. The rational remodelling of the operating mode of the device made it possible to increase productivity 1.2 times and the machine repair cycle much more than previously.

The February 8 Vinalon Complex upgraded its production processes and introduced into production many technical innovation plans to economize on materials and fuel. It also applied the techniques of controlling the reaction temperature and adjusting the state of each stage in the acetic acid synthesis process, thus reducing the consumption of materials per unit of product. The introduction of this technique has made it possible to reduce the consumption of raw materials and fuel for products and scientifically ensure the operation stability of the process. The complex improved the acetylene

purification process to prevent the loss of raw materials, ensured the continuity of operation, increased the serviceable life of equipment and set up a raw material recovery system in the polyvinyl production process, thereby saving much electricity and improving the quality of products. The complex also established the waste catalyst recycling process and introduced several research findings into production, including an advanced technique for enhancing the security of gas holder. It remodelled the vinyl chloride synthesis process to save raw and other materials and improve the quality of products. The installation of a preheating system in the process has reduced the cubic volume of the reaction process while preventing the destruction of catalyst and ensuring the stability of production of vinyl chloride.

Such chemical industrial establishments as the Sunchon Chemical Complex, Songyong Paint Factory and Ponghwa Chemical Factory pushed the upgrading of production processes and introduced research findings for the domestic production of materials.

"Many research findings have been brought about this year. Each of techniques led to Juche fertilizer, catalyst or a guarantee for increased production and economy," said Pak Ryong Il, official of the Ministry of Chemical Industry.

New products on the increase

Technicians worked hard to develop new products with domestic raw materials so as to



PHOTOS BY COURTESY OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

The methanol production process in the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex.

propel the economic growth of the country and the improvement of the people's livelihood.

The Ponghwa Chemical Factory developed a new type of binder. The factory established a process of producing thousands of tons of the binder a year, thereby opening up a sure prospect for turning out quality graphite electrode with local materials.

The February 8 Vinalon Complex developed a catalyst with wide application. Plasticizer and other substances can be made with it as a starting material and therefore it is widely used in light industry and other economic sectors. The Hungnam Fertilizer Complex also developed various catalysts with locally-available materials.

The Songyong Paint Factory also developed various paints including an anion-generating

paint, dolomite-pig iron slag coating material and pearly paint. The anion-generating paint made of high-concentration tourmaline is a functional paint that constantly generates anion which is good for health.

Meanwhile, dozens of chemical products have been developed this year, including a new Terra Cottem that helps double water absorption ratio of saplings as compared to previously and ensures their rooting rate at 98 percent.

"All the new products have been made with domestic raw materials and techniques. Those products of self-reliance are the outcome of our determination to develop products with domestic materials," said Pae Myong Hui, official of the Ministry of Chemical Industry.

By Choe Kwang Jin PT



The production processes in the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex.



POTATO FARMING

Country bullish about prospects of potato farming

Potato is the third major food crop after rice and maize and the history of its cultivation is nearly 200 years in Korea.

The DPRK, most of whose territory is mountainous, suffered serious setbacks in the agricultural production in the past due to various natural and geographical conditions and natural disasters.

Therefore, it was an important issue to increase potato yield and the government has shown growing concern over it.

As potato cultivation was encouraged as the first crop of double cropping in the lowlands as well as in the northern highlands, the potato acreage has expanded gradually across the country.

As a result, tangible achievements have been made in the breeding of good potato strains, establishment of new cultivation methods and others.

First of all, many good potato varieties have been bred and diversified to suit the geographical features of the fields and regional varieties

selected on the whole.

A virusless potato minituber production and supply system has also been established.

Modern potato minituber production facilities combining tissue culture with hydroponics have been built on a large scale across the country including in the agricultural biology institute of the Academy of Agricultural Science and Taehongdan County of Ryanggang Province to put the potato minituber production on a regular footing and establish a potato seed production system in hydroponic greenhouse.

New potato cultivation methods and advanced potato cultivation technologies have widely been developed and applied to practice.

The agronomists and farmers in Taehongdan County of Ryanggang Province created a model of high-yield potato cultivation by doing all farm work, such as sprouting, soil fertilization, seed sowing, soil heaping around plant and blight control, scientifically in line with the biological characters of

potato.

In the flat areas potato is grown as a catch crop and simultaneous crop with maize, bean and autumn vegetables.

With the potato acreage expanding and its production increasing, the country pays growing attention to potato processing.

Last year the modern Samjiyon Potato Farina Factory was newly built in Samjiyon County, Ryanggang Province, which produces a large quantity of potato farina of high nutritive value.

As potato starch which retains the unique taste of potato has a rich content of nutritive substances including carbohydrate, protein and oil, it is widely used as a substance for making such common foods as noodles, twisted doughnut, bread and cake.

The Rangnang Potato-processing Factory in Pyongyang produces crunchy potato chips with distinctive flavour that are enjoyed by all.

Well over 100 kinds of potato foods are served at various public catering facilities across the country, such as frozen potato-bean cake noodles, half-moon-shaped frozen potato cake stuffed with crushed beans and flavoured with pine needles, potato tea, and roasted potato.

Now the Academy of Agricultural Science focuses on the research to increase per-hectare potato yield and develop new processed potato foodstuffs.

Han Sung Hun,
section chief of the Academy of
Agricultural Science



Packed potato farina rolls off the production line at the Samjiyon Potato Farina Factory.

R&D

New supergravity device developed

The Mechanical Engineering Institute of the State Academy of Sciences has developed a supergravity device.



CHOE MI GYONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
The supergravity device developed by the Mechanical Engineering Institute of the State Academy of Sciences.

Different countries competitively take up the device as a subject of research and development, calling it the "transistor of the chemical industry" and a new technology in the 21st century.

Nano-powder materials with very small and even fineness can be made with the device developed by the institute. Korean researchers succeeded in obtaining a nano-

saline substance which is 15 nm in particle size. As the raw material passes through the porous filling material which revolves with above gravity acceleration, it is minutely separated into thin film and makes backdraught contact with gas which is pressurized outside the rotating body, to become a nano substance. The nano substance-making time using this device is only one tenth of that using other manufacturing methods.

The device is simple in structure and operating method, and the production cost of nano substance is very low.

"The supergravity device can effectively be used in making and separating lots of nano substances at such procedures as the desulphurization process in the chemical industry," said key developer Ri Song Ho.

By Kim Ryong Jin PT

FACTORY

Foodstuff producer updates processes



HAM YONG SOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The Songdowon General Foodstuff Factory turns out a variety of foods.

The Songdowon General Foodstuff Factory in Wonsan, Kangwon Province has cut a conspicuous figure among similar provincial factories though it is only 10 years since its inauguration.

It produces well over 100 kinds of foodstuffs such as sweets, cake, bread, alcoholic drinks, and processed meat, vegetables and wild vegetables.

It has already automated various processes for the production of bread, sweets and drinks.

Modernized equipment in the production processes from the feeding of raw material to packaging of products amounts to several hundred pieces.

The factory controls the overall technical management and state of production of all processes through the integrated manufacturing system. It has also built an online lecture room and sci-tech learning space in line with the requirements of the new century and built a database containing over 20 000 pieces of information to put online sci-tech dissemination

on a regular basis.

"The factory has concentrated efforts on informatizing production and management to carry out the plan of the Party for building a powerful country with a knowledge-based economy. As a result, it was awarded the certificate of one of the top ten IT model units in 2018 in October," said Yom Kum Hui, chief of the factory's technical department.

"As production processes and equipment have been modernized and become germ- and dust-free, the production cost has been cut and the quality of products further improved," said manageress Rim Sun Hui.

The factory won the first place in the annual products show of the provincial general foodstuff factories from 2014 to 2018. It also ranked first in the 33rd national sci-tech festival and national children's foodstuff exhibition respectively this year.

By Yun Kyong Il PT



CHAE MYONG RIM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The national sci-tech exhibition in health sector-2018 took place at the Three-Revolution Exhibition House between November 30 and December 7. Over 3 000 scientific research hits were on show in the form of actual things, charts and models at the exhibition which drew at least 250 units in health and related fields.

PROFILE

Surgeon sculpts features for disfigured

Kim Song Il who is in the spotlight in the field of cosmetic surgery is a surgeon in his thirties at the department of cosmetic surgery of the General Dental Hospital of the Ministry of Public Health.

His biggest hit was the establishment of a new otoplasty based on artificial ear correction using implants.

Even recently, he succeeded in an artificial otoplasty on 9-year-old Kim Kwang from Wonsan in Kangwon Province, who had lost an ear in an accident.

He had a special reason for taking up cosmetic surgery.

He got a burn on the face by accident at the age of six.

"At that time I shunned even my friends due to the scar," he recalled. "But I underwent an operation at the hospital and recovered my original features."

Afterwards, he made up his mind to become a cosmetic surgeon who gives beauty back to those suffering with wounded faces.

After graduating from then Pyongyang University of Medicine, he enrolled on the post-graduate course to delve into otoplasty.

"When Kim published an essay on otoplasty which had been regarded as the most difficult operation in cosmetic surgery, I had no doubt that he would cut a conspicuous figure in this field," said Choe Song Il, PhD and professor at the featural surgery department of Pyongyang Medical College of Kim Il Sung University.

After finishing the course, he honed his operating skills in the



PANG UN JU / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Kim Song Il examines a patient.

clinical practice while working as a cosmetic surgeon at the hospital. He sketched different faces and sculpted ears in various shapes at his leisure to develop senses of beauty and space.

In the course of intensive research into artificial otoplasty, he successfully replaced imported materials for the implant system used in artificial ear correction with locally available materials.

On this basis, he established the new otoplasty based on artificial ear correction using implants and applied it to a case who was born without an ear.

The successful operation relieved the patient of his 17-year-long agony.

Besides otoplasty, Kim introduced several advanced therapies for cases with deformed features.

Not content with such achievements, he set a higher goal.

Keeping up with the world trend, he is now working to find a way to reproduce the structure of a human ear by using the patient's cartilage and skin.

By Pang Un Ju PT

HEALTH FOOD

Antioxidant aronia fruit vinegar

Vinegar is generally made by fermenting various substances, and natural fermented vinegar is a health food.

The aronia fruit vinegar developed by the Taedonggang New Technology Exchange Centre is made by fermenting natural substances without using any chemical reagent.

It contains acetic, citric and other organic acids, proteins, various vitamins, mineral salt and flavonoid, a physiological

activator. According to the developers, it helps inhibit the generation of peroxide in the human body and reduce waste matter and consequently prevent and treat diseases.

The vinegar also helps revive lymph cells and boost immunity so that all organs can perform their functions properly and therefore prevent diseases.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

EVENT

Disabled people sing of their worthwhile lives

An event was held at the Central Youth Hall on Monday to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

It was attended by Jong Hyon, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled, officials of relevant units, disabled persons and their families, working people in the city, staff members of foreign embassies and missions of international organizations in Pyongyang and home-visiting overseas compatriots.

At the meeting, participants watched a video of the DPRK's achievements in the protection of the disabled this year.

An art performance was given by members of an art group of disabled persons.

Most of the performers were members of the artistic group of the Korean Art Association of the Disabled.

"I did not think the association could have such a success as it was formed only a few years ago," said Cha Hyok, secretary general of the KAAD. "It is attributable to the advantageous and popular state policy on the protection of the persons with disabilities."

The KAAD was formed in late 2012 according to a government measure for defending and realizing the rights to cultural life of the disabled.

Its formation gave an impetus to the undertaking for educating people with disabilities and developing their talents, which

had been carried on at special and other schools under the universal free education system.

Competent musicians from prestigious art troupes and artistic talent training institutions were appointed as association members, and musical instruments and a commuting bus were provided for the disabled artistes.

"It was important to devote my affections to the members of the artistic group who were leaning on me and earn their trust before teaching them," said instructor Jon Kyong Sim.

Instructors played music pieces measure by measure dozens or hundreds of times to improve the rendition skills of the visually-impaired and helped them experience matters and phenomena and nature as guides in order to introduce them into a world of artistic

representation. Instructors and artistic group members pooled their intelligence to create excellent artistic works.

At the recent performance, they staged several new pieces including accordion trio and dance *We Love Our Mountains and Rivers So Much* in which they flaunted their talents in a characteristic way.

The audience were deeply impressed by the visually-impaired artistes playing instruments, dancing and singing folk and world-famous songs so wonderfully.

"All our performances climax with chorus and dance *We Are the Happiest in the World*. As the song goes, we are the happiest in the world because everyone lives in harmony in our country and all people are like brothers," said Kang Un Hyok, a visually-impaired man.

By Kim Rye Yong PT



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A scene from the art performance given by members of an art group of disabled persons.

WORLD AIDS DAY

'Know your status'

"HIV testing is essential for expanding treatment services to all HIV patients and ensuring that all of them lead healthy and productive lives," said Pak Jong Min, department director of the Ministry of Public Health, in an event observing World AIDS Day-2018 which was held at the Grand People's Study House in

Pyongyang on December 4.

Addressing the event, he said WHO has set the theme for World AIDS Day this year which marks its 30th anniversary as "Know your status".

He said that governmental concern for the prevention of HIV/AIDS has increased further in the DPRK and



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

An event takes place at the Grand People's Study House in Pyongyang to observe World AIDS Day-2018.

strenuous efforts are being made to keep off HIV/AIDS by intercepting all potential risks of HIV infection or transmission. Health facilities should intensify HIV test for those with STIs with thoroughgoing test of blood products and disinfection of medical instruments including syringe, carry on consultation and test on HIV/AIDS in a responsible manner, and strengthen surveillance, evaluation and control of the disease, he noted.

Thusara Fernando, WHO representative in the DPRK, said that he was happy to note the commitment of the DPRK to ensure that it maintains zero HIV status and called for renewing the commitment to the cause of HIV prevention and treatment in a manner that is accessible to all, under the overarching umbrella of universal health coverage.

There were an explanation about HIV/AIDS prevention and control activities in the DPRK and a video show.

By Jong Tang Song PT

COMMENTS

Pipe dream

The Japanese ambassador to the UN reportedly suggested speeding up the debate at the plenary session of the UN General Assembly discussing the UNSC reform on November 20, complaining about the delay in its reform.

Saying that one of the reasons why the reform is being delayed is the mode of discussion based on the principle of universal approbation, he argued the principle should be "revised".

He demanded that the UNGA draw up a basic document for negotiations by quickly bringing together different opinions and hold a constructive discussion.

On November 21, China's overseas online network reported that Japan attempts again to secure a permanent UNSC seat.

There is a Korean saying that "Everyone is bound to live within his means".

In a word, Japan's ambition to become a permanent UNSC member is a foolish dream of the insular nation that inflicted untold sufferings on the Asian peoples in the past but still fails to clear its stigma as a war criminal state.

Now Japan is criticized by many countries as a morally base country

and a political dwarf.

Both Germany and Japan imposed enormous misfortune and sufferings on humankind during the Second World War.

But today Japan is entirely different from Germany.

Germany has sincerely admitted its sinful past and made an apology and reparations to the victims. It also pays attention to the proper education of rising generations so that the fascist spirit would not be implanted in them.

On the contrary, Japan inspires extreme nationalism in its people while praising the bloodstained past history of aggression and teaches distorted history to younger generations.

The authorities and politicians have made it a routine to throng the Yasukuni Shrine to pay tribute to war criminals and send ritual offerings to it.

Japan is running amuck to seize Tok Islets, an inherent part of the Korean territory, raising such a preposterous and outrageous argument that they belong to Japan. It even goes to such lengths as to select the history book in which Tok Islets are marked as part of its territory as a primary

school textbook.

Under the circumstances historical maps which prove Ullung and Tok islands do not belong to Japan were recently made public, attracting attention from home and abroad. As a result, Japan's shamelessness has been revealed to the world once again.

As south Korea has decided to dissolve the foundation for reconciliation and recovery organized during the former Park Geun Hye regime, Japan protests against it, saying it cannot accept it.

Japan's shameless behaviour to evade its responsibility for the indelible class-A crimes it had committed against the Asian peoples has stoked the flames of indignation of the international community as well as the Korean people.

Unless it shows remorse and makes reparations for its sinful past, it cannot become a normal state.

If it wants to become an honourable member of the international community, Japan must honestly settle its past wrongdoings.

By Song Jong Ho PT

Territorial claim reveals Japan's ill intention

On November 20, the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan held a joint meeting with the institutions related to territory and urged the government to take measures for the security of Japan's sovereignty over Tok Islets.

The following day, ultra-right wingers and high-ranking government officials including the cross-party group met for a rally and said that they would make every possible effort to settle this issue according to international law, asserting that "Tok Islets are obviously an inseparable part of the Japanese territory".

Meanwhile, the Japanese Foreign Ministry on November 26 clamoured for "strong protest" and "demand for the prevention of recurrence" while describing the south Korean assemblymen's visit to the islets as intolerable, and the following day it protested that it could not permit any activities without its approval.

Such Japan's moves are incurring the censure of the Korean nation and international community.

Tok Islets are an inalienable part of Korea from the viewpoint of history or geography and international law.

There are a great deal of supporting evidence in Japan.

The fact that Tok Islets are not the territory of Japan can be evidenced by the international conventions which dealt with the issue of Japan after World War II.

Directive No. 677 issued by the General Headquarters of the Allied Powers on January 29 1946 on the basis of the Cairo Declaration and the Potsdam Declaration clearly excluded Korea's Ullung Island and Tok Islets from the Japanese territory regarding them as the ones seized by violence and greed.

Shortly ago, old documents of the Japanese central and local governments proving that the controversial islands do not belong to Japan were made public, drawing attention at home and abroad.

Book "Wild idea of Japan's claim over Tok Islets" published on November 27 by Tok Islets institute of the Northeast Asian history foundation contains an atlas, which marked the Tok and Ullung as part of the Korean territory. It was made by a historian of the Japanese royal court during Japan's military rule over Korea.

According to the survey of the institute, the maps were drawn by Shiba Katsumori, who had studied for over 30 years since 1914 at an institution in charge of keeping of books and records of the Japanese royal court and the compilation of the true records.

Tok Islets and Ullung Island are marked as part of the Korean territory even in the "Japanese history map" and "new-edition Japanese history map" which were drawn by Katsumori in 1927 and

1931.

This notwithstanding, Japan's craziness about securing the dominium over the islands shows its sinister intention.

A plot to develop the Self-Defence Forces into attack-oriented ones by legalizing them with the constitution, ceaseless overseas dispatch of troops, and claim over the islands are the revelation of Japan's wild ambition to reinvoke Korea and other Asian countries.

Tok Islets which are located at the eastern end of Korea are a good stepping-stone for Japan to reinvoke Korea and other Asian countries. Japan is trying to deceive the public at home and abroad by misleading as if the islets were a disputed region and justify itself for the reinvasion of the Korean peninsula.

Japan has so far concentrated on the buildup of the SDF since its defeat in the Second World War, while attributing its defeat to the "lack of power", and provided a firm legal basis for overseas operations by cooking up diverse laws.

Under the circumstances, Japan's claim over Tok Islets cannot be construed otherwise than the revelation of wild ambition to realize its old dream of the "Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere".

By Choe Yong Nam PT

DISPUTE

Historical issue puts S. Korea, Japan again at odds

The south Korean authorities recently decided to disorganize the foundation for reconciliation and recovery, which was cooked up during the Park Geun Hye regime to settle the issue of sexual slavery crime committed by the Japanese imperial army.

As soon as the decision was made public, Japan raised an objection to it.

Prime minister Abe, foreign minister Kono, chief Cabinet secretary Suga and other Japanese bigwigs summoned the south Korean ambassador on November 21 to make their protests, saying they can never accept the decision as the agreement on "comfort women" is an inter-governmental commitment. Japan's Liberal Democratic Party adopted a draft resolution opposing south Korea's decision and urging the government to take countermeasures in the Diet.

NHK, Asahi Shimbun and other media outlets warn that distrust will be deepened between the two countries and bilateral relations may further deteriorate while playing up the disbandment as the south Korean authorities' unilateral behaviour disregarding understanding with Japan.

The controversial agreement on "comfort women" which is much hyped by Japan is a

By Om Ryong PT

S. KOREA

Abolition of NSL demand of time

Seventy years have passed since the notorious national security law was enacted in south Korea.

At present the local public demand the "abolition of the draconian law from the confrontation era", asserting "it is needed to discuss how to deal with the NSL in order to establish a peace mechanism".

The problem, however, is that the conservative forces including the Liberal Korea Party argue that the "security law does not constitute an obstacle to inter-Korean fence-mending" and "it is a minimum safeguard to protect the people".

The south Korean conservatives who are displeased with rapprochement on the Korean peninsula badly need the NSL in order to sustain their lives.

The history teaches that

treacherous document, in which the former Park Geun Hye regime agreed to nullify Japan's crime of sexual slavery in return for some money.

South Koreans hardly contain indignation at Japan, which talks about the "ultimate and irreversible settlement" of the issue, wielding a faked document, in disregard of the demand of victims and the international community.

The south Korean authorities assert that they remain unchanged in their stand that they neither abrogate nor renegotiate the agreement and that Japan should work hard to restore honour to the victims and heal their wounds with sincerity.

Unanimously welcoming the decision, the south Korean ruling and opposition parties and civil society organizations are appealing to the authorities to immediately return the one billion yen to the Japanese government and exact sincere apology and compensation for the losses.

Meanwhile, the spokesman for the US State Department issued a statement demanding the governments of south Korea and Japan settle the historical issue by removing mutual distrust and building up trust.

By Kim Kum Myong PT

those who go against public feeling are doomed to ruin as evidenced by the fate of Park Geun Hye who was jailed by the candlelight sentiment.

The conservatives try to mislead the public to believe that the anti-popular, separatist "NSL is needed for the people", but when a bell tolls for an old age, it is natural to entomb the draconian laws of that time.

The south Korean people have witnessed the desperate bids of unpopular conservatives to sustain their lives a lot enough to be disgusted.

Only when the anachronistic NSL is abolished, can genuine democracy and human rights be ensured in south Korea and a broad avenue be opened for improved north-south relations.

By Kim Kum Myong PT

GAMES

2018-2019 premier league kicked off

The 2018-2019 DPRK premier league started on December 1.

All football clubs which participated in the previous premier league are competing in the current event.

"Home and away matches will be played in this league, too," said Yu Yong Mok, deputy department chief of the DPRK Football Federation. "Every participant in the last season fully demonstrated their capacity and it is expected that every match will be fierce and dynamic."

In the last premier league April 25, Ryomyong, Kigwancha and Hwaepul, which are holding on to their positions as men's soccer powers, showed off their prowess to the full. But their

status is not secure as several other clubs are hot on their heels as rising stars are in full blast.

People look forward to thrilling scoring scenes in the ongoing competition.

The first match was played between Jebi and Ministry of Light Industry at Kim Il Sung Stadium on December 1.

In the previous season they had competed four times, with each of them winning once and ending in a draw twice.

The match was a seesaw battle and pundits and fans were different in their forecasts.

The ministry scored two goals by dint of a fast counterattack and a well-organized two- and three-man combination to win



A scene from the football match between Jebi and Ministry of Light Industry at the 2018-2019 DPRK premier league.

the game.

The winner of the premier league will get a berth at the AFC Cup finals.

Osandok Prize games open

The Osandok Prize Games opened with due ceremony at the Basketball Gymnasium on Pyongyang's Chongchun Street on Monday.

More than 40 sports clubs including April 25, Amnokgang and Taesongsan will compete in 50-odd events in six sports, including football, ice hockey, figure skating and skiing, in various cities and counties including Pyongyang and Samjiyon and Kowon counties.

Attending the opening ceremony were Choe Hwi, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the National Sports Guidance Committee, Vice-Premier Ri Ryong Nam, Kim Jang San, secretary general of the DPRK Football Association, and officials concerned.

The contest will last until December 28.

By Jong Tang Song PT

FISH

Pond smelt found in caldera lake

The Comprehensive Exploration Group of Lake Chon on Mt Paektu has succeeded in breeding pond smelt in Lake Chon on Mt Paektu.

The group stocked the lake with pond smelt after conducting researches into its ecological features.

Last year it brought pond smelts of various sizes out of Lake Samsu and put them in Lake Chon.

This year, it confirmed those fishes are living in Lake Chon through five rounds of survey.

Compiled from KCNA

DOG

Phungsan, national dog of DPRK

The Phungsan dog, an indigenous breed which has widely been known to and become familiar with the Koreans since olden times, is now much loved as the national dog.

The home of the national dog is Kim Hyong Gwon County (Phungsan area in the past) in Ryanggang Province, hence the present name.

As it has been bred in remote mountainous places, the Phungsan has been carrying on its lineage as a comparatively purebred.

Since it has thick and sturdy hind legs, the dog runs fast even in mountainous areas. It looks lovely for its strong body.

The tenacious, clever and viable dog is of obedient disposition, but is intrepid. There are so many legends of the Phungsan, including the ones that the dog bit away a tiger as big as a calf and risked its life to rescue its owner who was asleep without knowing



Phungsan dogs.

a fire.

According to experts, the dog is recognized as a distinct breed in the world which represents the DPRK.

It was registered as a living monument and is well protected under the special concern of the government.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

and training methods, thereby winning 20 gold medals at the national games of juvenile sports schools last year. Lots of graduates from the school are now playing at national teams in such sports as football, handball, table tennis, wrestling and rowing.

Close attention has also been paid to training sports players.

The juvenile sports school of the city has remarkably improved its educational conditions and environment and introduced new teaching

ICH

Pickled shrimp-making put on list

Among the objects registered as national ICH elements in the DPRK some days ago is the making of pickled shrimp.

The pickled shrimp, a special dish of the Korean nation, has won popularity in Phyongan province and other areas from olden times.

It emits organic acids including amino acid and special flavour when it becomes seasoned, helping digestion.

This dish is now produced on an industrial basis at the Kumsanpho Fish Pickling Factory built in the west coastal area under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea to make a contribution to the improvement of people's diet.

Compiled from KCNA



Women employees of the Commercial Management Office in Phyongsong play tug of war as part of sporting activities.

