



# KOREA TODAY

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## Order of the Republic 1<sup>st</sup> Class

President Kim Il Sung received the Order of the Republic 1<sup>st</sup> Class, Indonesia, from President Sukarno of the Republic of Indonesia in April 1965.

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**Front Cover: Paying homage at the Fatherland Liberation War Martyrs Cemetery**

*Photo by Ra Phyong Ryon*



**Back Cover: A scene from the military parade and the Pyongyang citizens' demonstration held in celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victorious Fatherland Liberation War**

*Photo by Ra Chung Ryon*

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# Everlasting Banner



Raising cheers for the victorious war.

IT IS 62 YEARS SINCE fireworks were set off in the sky over Pyongyang in celebration of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War. You cannot find wounds of the war any more in the land where everything was reduced to ashes. There have been changes in the mountains and rivers and the population, but one thing remains as it was. That is the admiration of the nation for President Kim Il Sung who led the Fatherland Liberation War to victory.

Following is a paragraph from an article carried by *Rodong Sinmun*, organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, immediately after the end of the war: "The august name of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung is the most glorious and valuable to the Korean people. It is closely associated with all the victories, honours and struggles that were decisive of the destiny of the Korean people."

## Sacred war to defend the Korean nation

On the early morning of June 25, 1950 when it was drizzling, the US imperialists and their south Korean puppets started a war against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. At the

moment quite a few people were at a loss to know how the war had broken out and what it was aimed at. There were even people who were fooled by the imperialist aggressors and their stooges who were making propaganda that it was a "war the north started to make south Korea communistic."

When a variety of opinions and unsound waves began to sweep the world, Kim Il Sung, leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, made a historic radio speech entitled *Go All out for Victory in the War* to the entire Korean nation on June 26, 1950. In the address he said that on June 25 the army of the puppet government of the traitor Syngman Rhee launched an all-out offensive along the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel (The parallel meant the demarcation line between the north and the south of Korea after the country was divided by the US imperialists) against the DPRK, that the Government of the DPRK, having discussed the situation, had ordered the People's Army to start decisive counteroffensive action and wipe out the enemy's armed forces, that the history of mankind shows that a people that defies death and rises in the struggle for freedom and independence is always victorious, that theirs was a just struggle,

that victory for his people was certain, and that he was confident that their just struggle for the country and the people would triumph.

(As a matter of fact, the Korean war was an aggressive war that had been prepared by the US imperialists for a long time in a planned way. The American journal *Life* for July 1950 revealed that as far as war was concerned, no war had ever been prepared so completely as the ongoing Korean war since the beginning of the American history.)

The radio address of the national leader implanted confidence in victory in the minds of the Korean service personnel and other people and aroused their readiness to turn out in the sacred war for national defence. For the previous five years since their country was liberated from the military occupation of the Japanese imperialists in August 1945, the Korean people had enjoyed their life under the people's government established and led by Kim Il Sung. The government had given the people genuine democratic right and freedom and provided them with a new life. It gave land and rights to work, learn to their heart's content and have medical care. Whether they were workers, peasants, women,

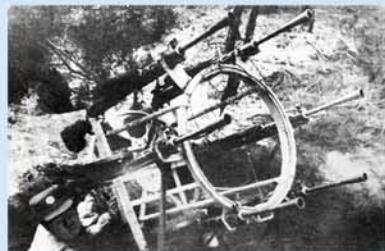
## KPA soldiers fight valiant defence battles based in tunneled positions.

▶ youths or students, they were all overflowing with dreams and hopes for the future, their life filled with songs. In a word, the north of the Korean peninsula was a land where they could enjoy a genuine life worth a human being, relishing optimistic and hopeful life; it was a wonderful country that realized their centuries-old desire. That was why the Korean people turned out as one in the struggle to defend their beneficial social system that enabled them to live a proud and worthwhile life, their country that had fulfilled their hope and brought true life.

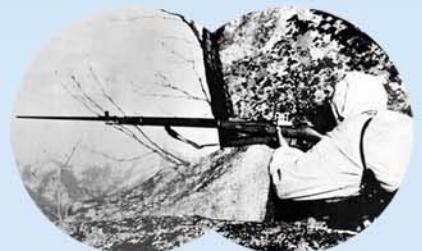
Wilfred Burchett, an Australian writer who used to be a war correspondent during the Korean war, wrote in his pamphlet that in the first six weeks after the beginning of the war 1.2 million young people joined the volunteers' units of the Korean People's Army or guerrilla units. Four hundred thousand of them came from the south.

## Strategic and tactical superiority decides the winner of war

During the Fatherland Liberation War Kim Il Sung told KPA commanding officers a story about two warriors. It goes: Once upon a time there were two brave warriors, who styled themselves as the best fighters. One of them was powerful but not intelligent, when the other was intelligent though less powerful. One day they had a contest of sending a chicken down across a fence. First, the strong warrior took the down and flung it forcefully over to the other side of the fence. But the down would not pass over the fence but flew about his hand. Then it was the turn of the intelligent warrior. He put the down on the palm of his hand and blew it over the fence to the other side of the fence successfully. In this



Members of an aircraft hunters' team.



A KPA sniper.

way he won the strong rival.

Concluding the tale, Kim Il Sung said that physical strength is not almighty and that it was essential to grasp the weak points of the enemy correctly and apply a proper tactical method.

Over the whole years of the war the leader, seeing it as a matter of crucial importance for a victorious war to maintain strategic and tactical superiority to the enemy, turned the unfavourable situation into the favourable by applying precise and clever strategies and tactical stratagems so as to shatter the enemy's numerical and technical superiority.

It was an established formula of war that attacking needs three times greater strength than the defensive side. In terms of technical power, the DPRK was no match to the US. It was a young independent state founded a few years before, and the Korean People's Army was also very young as a regular force. On the contrast, the US was the leader of the imperialist forces since the end of the Second World War. It had expanded its territory more than ten times by means of over 110 wars of aggression. When it started the Korean war, it had got 12 divisions of the ground force

alone ready to go to war at the Korean front. It hurled into the small area of the Korean front its modernly equipped forces—one third of its ground force, one fifth of its air force and most of its Pacific Fleet—and forces of 15 of its vassal nations, the south Korean puppet army and the Japanese militarists, which totaled more than two million in strength. Squandering a huge amount of money and materiel the invaders employed the most bestial means of warfare and methods unprecedented in the history of war around the world.

Kim Il Sung initiated Korean-style fighting methods to vanquish the aggression forces that were numerically and technically superior, thus leading the Fatherland Liberation War to victory. Some examples are: immediate counteroffensive against the enemy's surprise invasion, successive strikes, formation of a second front behind the enemy line, large-scale encirclement through cooperation between the main front and the second front, combination of fightings using large and small units, combination of the regular warfare with the guerrilla one, mountain-based battles, night assaults, proactive

► position warfare based in tunnels, activities by aircraft hunters and tank hunters. All these were original tactics that Kim Il Sung developed saying that they should adopt Korean methods in the war in conformity with the topographical features of the country.

The proactive position warfare was put forward by the leader in consideration of the condition when he decided in the middle of 1951 that the massive arms buildup of the US imperialists would prolong the Fatherland Liberation War. At the time the imperialists, by reinforcing their strength, air force and artillery force massively, turned the point of their attacks to the eastern and central sectors of the front while attempting to launch landing operations on the west and east coasts of Korea.

To cope with the prevailing situation Kim Il Sung made sure that position warfare was persistently maintained in order to keep hold of the already occupied line and ceaselessly attack and annihilate the enemy forces while taking time to further build up the fighting capacity of the KPA and strengthen the home front so as to create all possible conditions for a final victory in the war.

In compliance with Kim Il Sung's policy of tunnel-based warfare, the entire army

set to the project of digging strong tunnel positions. The American aggressors launched the so-called "summer offensive" from mid-August 1951. They made desperate attacks for a month by mobilizing 100 000 troops, more than 1 000 aircraft and a huge number of tanks. But their offensive ended in their loss of tens of thousands of lives without taking even a step into the defence positions of the Korean army.

In the autumn that year the enemy set out to carry out another round of operations called "autumn offensive." They made "wave-style" attacks clamouring for "maximum bombardment" and "maximum bombing" but they suffered defeat after defeat thanks to the original tactics and art of command of the DPRK leader.

There are many other exemplary operations carried out by the KPA during the war: the KPA successfully liberated Seoul three days after the war began; completely destroyed Smith Special Unit, the advance party of the US 24<sup>th</sup> Division, in the Osan battle, which was the first engagement with the US forces; wrought a wonder of sinking a US's heavy cruiser with torpedo boats off Jumunjin; liberated Taejon through operations that was recorded as a model of modern en-

circlement warfare; and crossed the Kum River breaking what the enemy had declared as the "line of no retreat" through a combination of ingenious tactics such as frontal and flank attacks, and surprise assaults and interception of the enemy retreat.

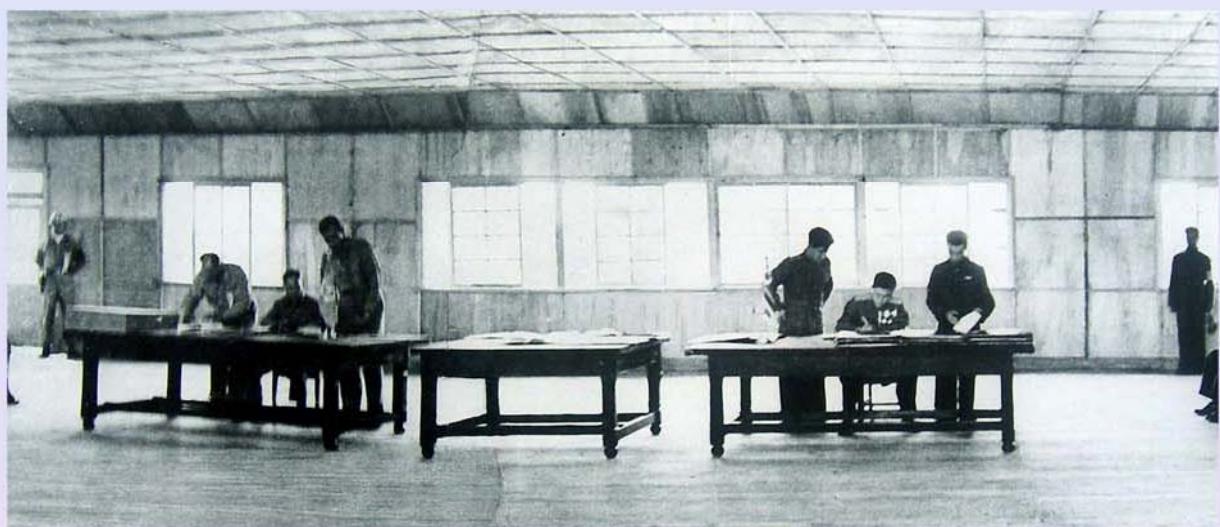
All the adventurous offensives and attempts of the US imperialists including the "summer offensive," "autumn offensive," "Kimhwa offensive," "strangulation operations," "scorched earth operations," "new offensive," and criminal germ warfare were smashed to smithereens confronted with the smart tactics of the DPRK leader and the heroic fighting of the KPA soldiers.

The fierce three-year-long Fatherland Liberation War ended in the great victory of the Korean people. The historic victory in the Fatherland Liberation War meant the brilliant fruition of the Songun idea, military idea and stratagem and art of command of President Kim Il Sung who neutralized the US imperialists' numerical and technical superiority by politico-ideological, strategic and tactical superiority.

Kim Il Sung remains the symbol of eternal victory, encouraging the Korean people strongly to win victory after victory.

*An Chol Ho*

The ceremony of signing the Armistice Agreement (July 1953).



# By Creating Original Tactics

## Making Design of Tunnel Position

ONE SUMMER DAY IN 1951 AN OFFICIAL came to a stop suddenly, while approaching Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army Kim Il Sung who was doing his routine duties at the table.

After deep meditation the leader resumed his work of making a design. Seen on the paper was a structure that looked like a long air-raid shelter that ran across the middle of a height. To the official who could hardly turn his eyes away from the design, the Supreme Commander told that he was going to have tunnels dug all along the front line.

By the time the front became mostly fixed. However, the US imperialist aggressors showered a huge amount of bombs and shells on the front and the rear of the DPRK with a view to recovering from their crushing defeat in the whole front line and unhesitatingly committed such nefarious atrocities as using chemical and germ weapons as well.

Having racked his brains about the specific features pertaining to the enemy's action, the topographic feature of Korea abounding with mountains, the state of military equipment of the Korean People's Army, etc, Kim Il Sung decided to dig solid tunnels to be used in battles at important points for defence by making use of favourable topographic conditions of Korea and, in combination with the construction of trenches and other field structures, form defensive positions with the main stress on the building of tunnels. Now he was intent on making a design when the aforesaid official was stepping up to him.

The leader gave instruction in detail as to direction of the designing and ways to obtain necessary materials, saying that the combatants should be provided with quarters in the tunnels so that they could fight at the front without any inconvenience in living.

As a result, tunnel positions were built everywhere at the front, and even when they were short of strength the People's Army beat off the numerically and technically superior enemy in the forward areas of the defence line as well as at sea and in the coastal areas.

## Training Good Soldiers for Tank Hunting

Driven into a tight corner owing to continuous attacks delivered by the People's Army, the US imperialist aggressors offered resistance with the

mobilization of hundreds of tanks and many other combat and technical equipment and materials as well as huge armed forces.

Understanding the prevailing situation at the front, Kim Il Sung issued an order in August 1951 on organizing tank hunters' teams. He instructed combined and other military units to form tank hunters' teams and successfully conduct training in accordance with relevant plans and disseminate fighting experience extensively.

Based on his order, numerous tank hunters' teams were organized in military units including combined ones. They destroyed the enemy tanks and blew up near-by fuel depots and piles of shell boxes.

A tank hunters' team belonging to a combined military unit and active in the eastern sector of the front accomplished a feat of destroying 29 enemy tanks with anti-tank grenades and anti-tank mines in a little over a month. In 1952 alone these teams scored good results of destroying more than 200 enemy tanks on all fronts.

Among such excellent results was a great event in which one of them captured an enemy tank.

## Korean-style Artillery Tactics

In September 1951 Kim Il Sung visited the line of Height 1 211 where a fierce battle was at its height. He stated that it was absolutely necessary to deploy various kinds of guns close to the front line and place more of direct-firing guns on the height by pulling them up there, saying that that was the way suited to the actual conditions of the country where there exist many mountains and a small area of plain land. Then he added that it was necessary to bring the guns of the enemy under their control and give active assistance to the combat action of the infantrymen with artillery firepower by pulling guns up to the height and deploying them there and fixing a proper density of firepower.

A team of direct-firing gunners active on Height 1 211 fixed a fake firing position at a place slightly lower than their real position on the eastern ridge of the height and lured the enemy's firepower. By so doing they smashed their target in a twinkle with concentrical fire at the best moment while keeping watch on it from the main firing position on the height.

As they poured shells directly over the enemy troops and combat and technical equipment and materials, the hitting rate left nothing to regret, bringing an ecstasy of cheers.

Kang Hye Ok

# The First Distinguished Military Service Medal

**W**HEN THE FATHERLAND Liberation War started on June 25, 1950, Ri Ki Wan joined the army at the age of 14. His childhood before liberation (August 15, 1945) had been spent in the sorrow of a ruined nation. But in the five years after liberation, he experienced a happy life. This determined him to join the army with the thought, "America is my enemy. I'll enlist in the People's Army to chastise the Yankees." He called at the military mobilization department over and over again and importunately asked them to enroll him, telling them he was 16, and finally joined the army.

He started his military service as the orderly of a company commander in the Andong 12<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. In 1951 the company was sent into action on a stony hill in the Rinje area. The hill was on the right of the road leading to Rinje along the River Soyang. The hill was rugged and full of rocks, hence the name of stony hill, which was given by the soldiers. Fierce battles were fought many times on the hill every day. One day the enemy, in an attempt to take back the hill, subjected it to severe artillery pounding from early morning under the cover of airplanes. Then they began to come up in swarms. The KPA soldiers massed fire upon them. The company commander shot down the enemy officer and the machine-gunner of the first squad mowed off the horde of enemy troops. Ki Wan calmly pressed the trigger as the company commander had taught him. The enemy fell one by one. "Oh, my bullet hits too!" He shouted for joy. It was the first time he shot down the enemy. At that moment the

master sergeant who was firing close by fell down. The company commander dashed to his rescue and dressed the wound by tearing off his underwear. He ordered, "Ki Wan, evacuate the master sergeant with the medical orderly!" He was then running off along the trench, when suddenly he stopped and shouted back to Ki Wan, "Be quick!"

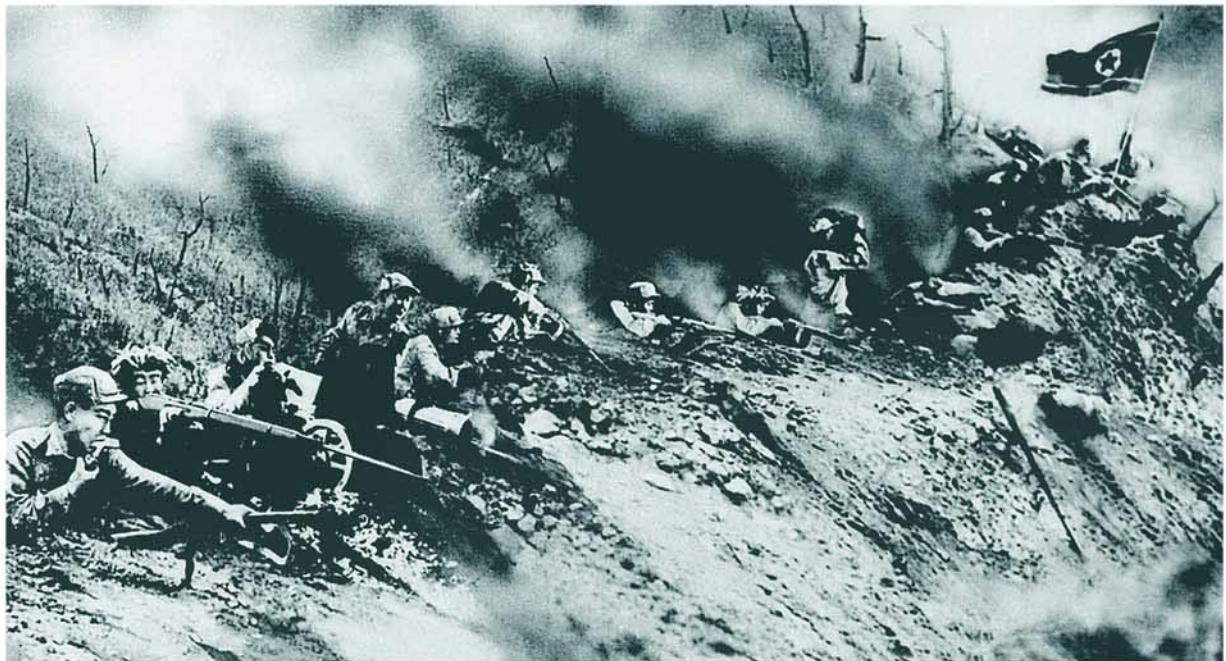
The stretcher was too heavy for him. So, he made a makeshift rope with a few rice sacks and fastened its ends to the handles of the stretcher and hung it on his neck. He came out to the open area after crossing the pass dripping with sweat, when unexpectedly an enemy plane appeared over his head and strafed. He had never met with such a situation and so he looked across at the medical orderly. The latter shouted resolutely, "Forward!" They rushed ahead at the risk of death. Running and lying down repeatedly, they went forward until sunset and the enemy plane disappeared. Feeling relieved, Ri Ki Wan took the handles of the stretcher again, but the medic remained still, lying prone over the master sergeant. Covering the master sergeant with his own body, he had been hit by a machine-gun bullet, and now was breathing his last. Now the little boy soldier was left alone in the deserted mountain recess with an unconscious wounded soldier. Tears welled up. As he cast a worried look at the master sergeant who had always been exceptionally kind to him, he seemed to hear the company commander crying "Be quick!" and the medical orderly's last urging "Forward!" He stood up. He dragged the stretcher along, tell-

ing himself, "I'm a soldier of the People's Army. Be brave, and I won't fear anything. Be brave, and I won't be daunted."

He forced his way through the rough mountain trail, sinking down and rising up countless times. Now, he was too exhausted to open his eyes, his body wet with sweat, and hunger and thirst tormented him. He reached for a tree branch with his blistered hand, when unexpectedly a stone hit his face. Instantly, the thought that he came upon an enemy flashed across his mind. The little boy soldier who had crossed the deadlines that tested his will as soldier several times in several hours, instinctively lay on his face ready to pull the trigger. He assumed the combat posture, staring ahead fiercely to shoot down all the enemy. The opponents, too, remained still, watching his movement. Strained seconds passed with each second feeling like an hour, when they shouted, drawing the lock, "Hands up! Stir, and you're a dead man! Password!" At this moment the master sergeant muttered, "Friend, friend!" Coming round to himself, he got the bearings of the situation with a veteran soldier's sense. Ri Ki Wan cried, "We're friends, we're People's Army." They were signalmen of the regiment. The boy soldier was so tense, surprised and delighted that he fell senseless on the spot.

When Ri Ki Wan returned from his errand, the company commander was delighted more than anyone else. Rapping Ki Wan's chest with his fist, he said, "I think I've to recommend you for a great decoration later." The battle became fierce again. Bullets rained and splinters of shells ►

# To a Decisive Battle



KPA soldiers fight death-defyingly in defence of Height 1 211.

**T**HE SONG TO A DECISIVE Battle was written by Sok Kwang Hui and composed by Kim Ok Song in 1951, when the Fatherland Liberation War was at its height (June 25, 1950–July 27, 1953).

Soon after the war started,

poets and musicians of the Korean People's Army Song and Dance Ensemble also went to the front for artistic creation. One day in late December 1950 Kim Ok Song took part in a battle to take Height 662.6 along with the soldiers of the Korean People's

Army. On the occasion he saw Kim Chang Gol, a platoon leader, open the way for his unit to make a charge up the height by blocking the opening of the enemy pillbox with his own chest. He knew what a great feat it was. A squad leader took the fallen platoon leader in ▶

► flew off all over the place. Soldiers fell one by one. The heavy machine-gun stopped emitting fire. The company commander who had his leg shot rushed to the heavy machine-gun position and his orderly followed. The two filled the positions of the gunner and assistant gunner and showered fire on the enemy. Suddenly the company commander who was pressing the trigger with set teeth fell prone over the machine-gun. Ki Wan called him bitterly in dismay, but the commander's head dropped with a

jerk. The boy who held the blood-stained company commander in his arms, seemed to hear his voice "Forward, after me!" in battle.

The boy soldier threw hand grenades and rolled down stones on the enemy when they came up as near as their faces were distinguishable. Now the orderly of a vice squad leader who was acting as the company commander, Ki Wan ran about the battlefield, but was wounded and sent back to the field hospital on a stretcher. His tough nine comrades-in-arms who remained on

the hill saw him off, pressing his hand. On February 8 the next year, he was awarded a Distinguished Military Service Medal for the first time. He thought the medal was the prize to his senior comrades like the company commander who had reared him, a mere child, into a full-fledged soldier, rather than a commendation for his military merit. After that, he was sent to the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School at the height of the war.

Rim Ok

► his arms and wailed furiously. Then he said to Kim earnestly, "Mr. Composer, why don't you give us a song of charge with which we'll go to smash the enemy? Give us a song of revenge, eh?" This made the young composer's heart burn with hatred for the enemy. Seeing the indomitable fighters charging forward while shouting hurrahs and mowing down the enemy in revenge for their fallen comrades, and the soldiers pledging their revenge in front of their fallen platoon leader, the composer was strongly inspired.

Days later he was writing a melody on the score, which he had pondered seriously. At the moment he was visited by Sok Kwang Hui who was a professional writer. The composer told of what he had experienced and continued to write his music.

Feeling quite moved, the writer came outside and remembered things he had witnessed himself, particularly the images of the many soldiers who had blocked the enemy pillbox with their own body to open a route of charge for their units. Having found a creative inspiration, he took up a pen and completed a piece of poem some time later while fighting on Height 1 211 together with comrades. His lyric goes:

*Remember our fallen  
comrades  
In the fierce battle on the hill  
over there.  
Let's charge forward to  
annihilate the enemy  
In revenge for our comrades.  
Let's go to a decisive battle,*

*comrades.  
Charge forward shouting  
hurrahs  
And blow up the enemy  
pillbox,  
Blow up the enemy pillbox.*

As soon as the song came out, it got on all lips. It was first sung by the defenders of Height 1 211, and then spread to both the front and the rear, encouraging the soldiers and the civilians to fight valiantly for a victorious war. Ri Su Bok, 18, wrote a poem in his handbook which expressed his readiness to give up his life for his one and only country just before a battle to recapture a nameless height to the left of Height 1 211. Then, in the battle he blocked an enemy pillbox with his own chest to open a route for his unit's charge.

One day in mid-1952 the Korean People's Army Song and Dance Ensemble was singing the song *To a Decisive Battle* on a makeshift stage at the front, when an enemy aircraft took the place unawares and showered bullets. An artiste fell down to death, but the singing did not come to a stop. The artistes took the fallen comrade in their arms and sang the song more loudly and vehemently.

*Don't waste the death of  
our comrade  
Who blocked the enemy  
pillbox with his breast.  
We've got the order to make  
a charge.  
Let's charge forward to  
annihilate the enemy.*

When the performance ended,

the KPA soldiers swore to take revenge for the artiste and rushed to the battlefield singing the song.

The song displayed its vitality on Height 351 where one of the fiercest battles in the war took place. One June night in 1953 a KPA unit started an attack and snatched the height in no more than 15 minutes. Then the enemy made desperate attempts to regain it. They showered bombs and shells on the height, reducing it almost bare, before hurling huge forces wave after wave.

The KPA soldiers sang the song *To a Decisive Battle* to strike terror in the enemy, and defended the height with credit by displaying matchless self-sacrificing spirit and mass heroism. The battle produced as many as 14 Heroes of the DPRK.

*We're making our way  
with blood  
To return to our dear home.  
With the red loyalty to  
our national leader  
Let's charge forward to  
annihilate the enemy.*

The song gave infinite courage to the KPA soldiers and horror and defeat to the enemy. It was a strong means of encouragement to both the military and the civilians.

The typical representative of the idea that the road of decisive battle leads to the home and victory in the war is still a great public favourite, presented in different forms of music arrangements including instrumentals.

*Kim Son Ae*

# Tradition of Victory Continues



An evening entertainment for firework display "We Will Win Victory After Victory" in celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victorious Fatherland Liberation War.

MORE THAN 60 YEARS HAVE PASSED since the Korean people emerged victorious in the Korean war unleashed by the US imperialists. In order to realize their avaricious desire for swallowing up at a stretch the Democratic People's Republic of Korea which was less than two years old in full and for taking the whole territory of Korea, the US imperialists launched a surprise attack all along the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel on June 25, 1950. However, the wise leadership of Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army Kim Il Sung, and the heroic struggle of the officers and men of the gallant KPA and other citizens of the country compelled the United States to sign the armistice agreement on July 27, 1953 admitting its defeat in the war.

Korea subdued the US imperialists who had boasted of their "being the strongest" in the world and won victory of historic significance. This became a tradition invariably handed down in the following showdown without reports of gunfire.

Though they suffered a crushing defeat in the Korean war, the US imperialists did not give up their avaricious desire to dominate the whole Korean peninsula but viciously worked to harm the DPRK in the postwar days, while indulging themselves in manoeuvres for provocation of another war.

The US's attempts to invade the country, however, were frustrated at every step by the Korean people who were under the Songun-based leadership of the national leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il.

Deliberately giving rise to the US armed spy ship *Pueblo* incident in January 1968, the large-sized reconnaissance plane EC-121 incident in April 1969, the Panmunjom incident in August 1976, etc., the US imperialists drove the situation in the Korean peninsula to the brink of war while kicking up a frenzied military row on this pretext. They went on a wild rampage to bring the DPRK into submission by reinforcing their force of arms and up-to-date military equipment including nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and deploying them in south Korea and its vicinities on a large scale.

But whenever they did so, they were beaten severely. In the 1990s they strengthened their political pressure on and economic sanction and military offensive against the DPRK as never before. But at that time, too, their arrogant machinations came to a close with the then US President sending the DPRK a letter of assurance to implement the "DPRK-US Agreed Framework."

Having drawn the world into the vortex of the "war on terrorism" with the 9/11 incident in the current century as a momentum, the US imperialists stretched out their tentacles of aggression on and interference in the internal affairs of Korea more furiously, ruthlessly trampling on the aspiration of mankind.

At the time when grey clouds of war were scudding over to Korea, Chairman Kim Jong Il of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK administered the Songun revolutionary leadership in an ▶

► all-round way, thwarting the new war provocation manoeuvres of the US imperialists and their vicious machinations to apply sanctions against the socialist Korea. The cause of Songun is now going ahead securely and the annals of victory is continuing thanks to the national leader Kim Jong Un.

In the DPRK, on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, a decoration was instituted in commemoration of the V-Day.

Songs dedicated to the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, such as *July 27 March, Tell, Firework Display for the War Victory, Honour to Victors of the Great Years and Festival of the Great War Victory* were created, thereby greatly inspiring the officers and men of the People's Army and the people. On the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, martyrs cemeteries of the People's Army were rebuilt or built splendidly in various parts of the country in memory of the fallen soldiers who had defended the freedom and independence of the country. The works of art, songs and poems that were created during the war and contributed to the war victory implanted the wartime spirit in service personnel and the civilians. War veterans were invited to the celebrations of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, which consisted of colourful functions including a military parade followed by a Pyongyang citizens' mass demonstration and an evening entertainment for firework display titled "We Will Win Victory After Victory." Through all these functions, the Korean people demonstrated at home and abroad their adamant will to win victory after victory in the confrontation with the US imperialists by continuing the cause of victorious war to the last.

**The PCE 56 of the south Korean puppet navy goes down while committing hostile acts in the territorial waters of the DPRK in January 1967.**



This year the United States is clinging to more high-handed and arbitrary policies against the DPRK. Since January it has conducted north-targeted nuclear war exercises every month in collusion with the south Korean puppet clique. After the staging of combined maritime drills and an exercise for operation of extended means of deterrence it frantically conducted Key Resolve and Foal Eagle joint military exercises, and so on. As a result, the situation in the Korean peninsula is now next to the outbreak of a nuclear war.

During the Fatherland Liberation War, Korean revolutionary poet Jo Ki Chon said: "Honest people the world over, spread out the world map and find fighting Korea. But don't try to find streets and villages in this land reduced to heaps of ashes." If an anti-US war breaks out now, Korean poets will say: "World people, spread out the map, find the United States, a breeding place of evil. But don't try to find the criminal White House and Pentagon any longer in the land that is reduced to ashes due to punishment meted out by justice." And people all over the world will render their gratitude to Songun Korea that will have translated into reality such a golden saying that "the discovery of the Americas was good, but the failure would have been better."

The V-Day of July 27 will come round forever and the US will finally meet its ruin in its own land.

*Sim Yong Jin*



**The US imperialists' letter of apology for their captured armed spy ship Pueblo.**

# Dear to the People



THE KOREAN PEOPLE ERECTED A STATUE of President Kim Il Sung on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang in appreciation of his exploits for the country and revolution in 1972 when they celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. The hill has since been the symbol of all the victories, honour, happiness and prosperity of the nation. Happy or sad, they visit the place to speak their mind to him.

On July 8, 1994 the great heart of the leader stopped beating. On hearing the sad news, which was a bolt from the blue, the Koreans rushed to the hill despite heavy rainfall and shed tears of blood.

In the hard period of time that was called Arduous March and forced march, the people often climbed the hill to see the statue and pledge their loyalty to the Songun-based revolutionary leadership of their national leader Kim Jong Il and climbed down the hill with confidence in victory in the revolution and optimism. Among them were women soldiers from the "Wild Flower Company" who used to send beautiful flowers to the hill on important occasions like the Day of the Sun, and demobbed soldiers who volunteered to work at important places as was asked by the Workers' Party of Korea with a determination to work in the same spirit that they had had during their service.

Later whenever they successfully made changes all across the country while opening a new way for the building of a thriving socialist nation, the Koreans visited the statue on Mansu Hill to tell their leader about their honourable achievements.

Overseas and south Koreans came to visit the hill with a longing for the national leader. Leaders of organizations of overseas Koreans and individual Korean nationals overseas, looking up to the statue of Kim Il Sung who had given them the pride in being overseas citizens of the prestigious DPRK, renewed their determination to make positive contribution to the effort for prosperity of the socialist country under the leadership of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Foreigners, including prominent political and social figures of many countries, also visited the statue to pay high tribute to Kim Il Sung for his immortal service for the cause of global peace and independence. The number of foreign visitors has reached as many as hundreds of thousands.

For the past 21 years a total of hundreds of millions of people, including service personnel, working people of all strata, students, schoolchildren, overseas Koreans, and foreign friends climbed the hill to express their high respect and lay hundreds of ▶

- thousands of floral baskets as a sign of their wish for his eternal glory.

Once the Thai newspaper *Sing Siam Yit Pao* carried an article headlined "President Kim Il Sung Will Always Be with the People." Although much water has flowed under the bridge since the President passed away the world sees the time of Kim Il Sung still go ahead without interruption in Korea, the article said and mentioned its propellants:

"It is, first of all, because the idea of President Kim Il Sung is the eternal guiding idea of Korea. The President is father of the famous Juche idea, the guiding idea of Korea, which is followed by a large number of adherents around the world. The idea has had mammoth and critical influence on the course of the Korean people's hewing out of their destiny, for its revolutionary character, scientific accuracy and perfect content.

"Secondly, it is because his exploits are great enough to last for ever and ever. Kim Il Sung is the founder of the Workers' Party of Korea, the strongest and most prestigious party in the world, the Korean People's Army and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He defeated two formidable imperialist forces and led the anti-imperialist and anti-feudal democratic revolution and the socialist revolution to victory. For this reason, the Korean people amended their Constitution following his demise to hold him in esteem as their eternal President while praising him as the father of the socialist Korea.

"Thirdly, it is because the President was the incarnation of great and noble virtues. He was more than a saint. Regarding the people as his God all his life, he always shared weal and woe with them and dedicated his all to the welfare of the people. It is in no way fortuitous that they say that he was always on the 'people-bound train.'"

In April 2012 there were erected statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il side by side on Mansu Hill on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the President. When they stand on the hill, the people make up their mind to be true to the leadership of their national leader Kim Jong Un to accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche pioneered by the President and led by the Chairman.

*Chae Kwang Myong*

## Really Impressive



TODAY IS THE 103<sup>RD</sup> anniversary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung, and I find the number of people here [at the Kimilsungia festival] overwhelming and really impressive. It's great to come here. I haven't really been to many flower places in my life, so this is one of the first times.

Kimilsungia is very beautiful. Lots of young people, very excited, are taking lots of photos.

My father is very interested in flowers. When I saw a man buy a flower seedling here, I thought my father would be interested in reading to cultivate Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia and grow the flowers back in Scotland. I'll tell my father about this flower festival.

*Ewan Macrae, English teacher from the British Council*

**EWAN MACRAE**

## I Knew Admiration of the Koreans Better



THIS IS MY FIRST visit to the Kimilsungia Festival, but I have seen this flower a lot and I know its history well. Here I have found Kimilsungia very beautiful and, I know it's meaningful. I feel like to study more about this flower.

Looking round this show I knew a large number of organizations had made preparations for the show in good faith. This is quite an exciting event. I hear 50 000 people have come here for two days since the opening and in one hour this morning there were 10 000.

Here I have got a good understanding of the admiration of the Koreans for their leader Kim Il Sung.

I feel that the Koreans ardently follow and respect him.

*Federico Mozzicato, special representative for development and cooperation, Foreign Ministry of Italy*

**FEDERICO MOZZICATO**

# Confronted by Hundreds of Thousands of “Punitive” Troops

**T**HE KOREA TODAY EDITORIAL BOARD introduces excerpts from President Kim Il Sung's reminiscences *With the Century* (Continuing edition) on the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Korea's liberation from the Japanese military occupation.

From the autumn of 1939 to the spring of 1941 the Japanese imperialists conducted unprecedentedly large-scale “punitive” operations in the three provinces in southeastern Manchuria against the Korean People's Revolutionary Army. They called this procedure a “special clean-up campaign for maintaining public peace.” After reading the accounts of Nozoe, the mastermind of the campaign, and those of his subordinate commanders of the “punitive” forces, about their defeat in this campaign, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung told his officials, “Considering the fact that the Japanese officers, who loved to talk big, spoke dejectedly like this, they must have had a tough time of it. Not to mention the hardships I and my men went through. The battles were decisive.” He then recollected the confrontation with the enemy in detail.

This scheme of a “special clean-up campaign” was quite extraordinary.

In the first place, it involved all the Japanese and puppet Manchukuo army and police in an unprecedented “punitive” offensive.

It was, in fact, a large-scale war that was to mobilize as many as 200,000 army and police troops from Japan and Manchukuo, including even paramilitary organizations of all types, under the direct supervision and command of Umez, chief of the Kwantung Army, and the Public Security Minister for the puppet state of Manchukuo.

The top hierarchy of the Japanese and Manchukuo army and police did not confine their campaign to military operations alone, but combined it with their “surrender-hunting operation,” “ideological operation” and “operation to eradicate the basic roots.” As a result, the campaign surpassed by far all previous campaigns of this sort in scope and depth and in the elaborateness of the means and methods used.

Launching the “punitive” campaign, the Japanese imperialists described it as a “sacred war” and “sacred punishment.” We thought it quite ludicrous that they should “beautify” their campaign in that manner.

The Japanese had provoked a number of aggressive wars but they had never declared actual war, nor had they described their activities as a war. It had been their habit to rationalize and validate their acts of war by describing them as “events” or “incidents.”

Their designation of the new “special clean-up campaign” as a “sacred war” and “sacred punishment” was therefore quite meaningful. It showed that the Japanese military authorities had abandoned their previous view of their confrontation with the People's Revolutionary Army as a one-sided “punitive” campaign or a “clean-up of bandits” and began to see it as a genuine bilateral conflict.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung also explained why the Japanese imperialists had been forced to launch a total war at that time and what objectives they had planned to reach through the war.

Owing to the successive failures of the Japanese in the Sino-Japanese War and in the Battle of Khalkhin-Gol, the Japanese military was suffering from inner turmoil.

Certain sections of the Japanese military ascribed their failure in China's mainland and in Khalkhin-Gol to the factional strife among themselves, or to the backwardness of their military and technical equipment; at the same time, quite a few military bureaucrats and experts pointed the finger at the harassment of the People's Revolutionary Army in the rear, which brought about instability of their rear, disconnection of supply routes and confused war psychology. It is true that the enemy suffered great losses because of repeated attacks by the People's Revolutionary Army in the rear.

Apparently this made the Japanese come to their senses. They realized that they could carry out neither the war against China nor operations against the Soviet Union with the People's Revolutionary Army constantly plaguing them from behind. They had to change their view of the anti-Japanese guerrilla army.

Nozoe's orders took the form of the boast that he would annihilate our army.

I knew that the showdown with Nozoe would be a fierce fight, and that if we wanted to emerge victorious in this fight, we ourselves would have to work out and employ new tactics we had never used before.

► In order to frustrate the offensive of hundreds of thousands of enemy troops and ensure the continuous upsurge of the revolution, we had to invent ingenious tactics that would render our operations more elaborate and energetic than ever before. We adopted large-unit circling operations for this purpose. In brief, this meant long-term mobile operations by large forces moving around in a vast area over a number of secret routes. These operations would not be mere manoeuvres, but mobile actions combined with attacks on the enemy by various methods. Without such mobile operations it would be impossible to emerge victorious in the fight against a 200,000-strong enemy force.

It was my opinion that these circling operations should be conducted by a large force. The aim of the operations was not to avoid the enemy, but to attack him at points favourable to us. When attacking the enemy, we had to annihilate him so that he could have no chance to recover, and for this we had to perform our circling operation with a large force.

We called the first stage of our operations the expedition to Dunhua.

On the first leg of our expedition to Dunhua we did not fight large battles. We struck the enemy only when it was necessary to keep our routes secret. Nevertheless, the enemy suffered heavy casualties.

The more difficult our work and the graver our situation, the more efficiently must we conduct ideological work. I insist on the importance of ideology. I maintain that ideology must come first and I value ideology far more than any wealth. When we had to fight do-or-die battles with a 200,000-strong enemy force, we drew up a great plan for large-unit circling operations and carried it out forcefully. What did we have to rely on at that time? We relied on the perfect unity of all the guerrillas and their steadfast conviction of the revolutionary idea. Did we have planes or tanks? We had people, soldiers, light weapons, and that was all. So we fought our battles after ideological mobilization, and this proved highly effective.

While we were giving military and political training at Baishitan, the secret camp was suddenly exposed to the enemy.

On receiving information that the enemy, having discovered the whereabouts of the secret camp, was making preparations for a full-scale surrounding and attacking operation, we planned a move that would cope with the situation.

In order to lure the enemy into the trap, we had to feign to be staying in the secret camp.

As soon as we evacuated the camp, the enemy surrounded it. Seeing a quiet camp that offered no resistance, they thought that the place was as good as occupied. They charged the camp at a rush. For all that, the sharpshooters in our Guard Company did not fire a shot; they only watched the

enemy in action.

As day broke, enemy planes appeared over the secret camp and dropped bombs on the heads of their own soldiers, who were waving joyfully up at them. The others who were in the barracks rushed out at the sound of explosions. At that moment our machine-guns opened fire.

The simultaneous air-ground attack the enemy had planned turned out to be a joint operation by the People's Revolutionary Army and the Japanese air force, together annihilating the Japanese and Manchukuo infantry.

Having received the report that the enemy was strengthening its border watch, I moved the unit to a forest south of Hualazi after fighting for a few days with the enemy troops at our heels. After this we fought a big battle with Maeda's unit at Hongqiche, and thus concluded the large-unit circling operations.

In the long run it was we who emerged as the victors in this war.

Nozoe lived out the rest of his life in retirement in a rural village of Kyushu following the defeat of Japan. He wrote an article about the events of those days, which reads in part:

"Kim Il Sung's army operated in several detachments, each claiming itself to be Kim Il Sung's army. Its tactics were to give the impression that this army was everywhere. There must have been one man named Kim Il Sung, but several people went under the name of Kim Il Sung, so it was difficult to pinpoint just who the real Kim Il Sung was."

From the recollections of Nagashima, who took part in the special operations of the Nozoe "punitive" force after winning the trust of his superior for suppressing the Jiandao revolt, we can see that he also had to swallow a bitter pill because of the elusive tactics of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army. He remembered it this way:

"When I was placed in charge of special operations in the Nozoe unit, I was told about the existence of Kim Il Sung's army. I discovered that the tactics employed by this army were very curious. When it was reported that this army had appeared in a certain place, we would rush there, but almost immediately there would be a report that it had appeared in yet another place. This army seemed to appear and disappear with preternatural swiftness, but in fact the same unit did not appear here and there simultaneously; Kim Il Sung divided his army into several detachments and then had them appear in different places at once and claim to be Kim Il Sung's army."

Recollecting the hard battles fought with the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, Nagashima continued, "All the high-ranking cadres of the Anti-Japanese Allied Army were either killed, captured or surrendered, but only Kim Il Sung managed to... survive and return to north Korea at the end of the war. He is now Premier." □

## Motherly Party

**I**N THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE's Republic of Korea the Workers' Party of Korea is fondly called motherly Party. When the DPRK athletes returned home triumphantly from the 17<sup>th</sup> Asian Games last year, the mother of football star Ho Un Byol who scored many goals at the games said, "I did nothing but give birth to her. It is our motherly Party that has brought her up as a famous footballer known across the country."

The Korean people can hardly think of their life apart from the Party that takes responsible care of them and their future. So, they respectfully regard President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il—who founded and led the Party—as the Workers' Party of Korea and the Party as their mother.

One day soon after Korea's liberation from the Japanese military occupation an official told the President that he had just seen a woman transplanting rice seedlings tenaciously with her baby on her back. Then, the President immediately stopped doing his routine work and left for the spot. There he sternly reproached the local officials for their negligence as they had left the women doing rice transplanting with babies on the back. He said that they were hardly genuine parents and kith and kin of the people. Returning to his office early in the morning after taking relevant measures the President seriously said to the official, who had mentioned the woman with the baby, that they shouldn't assume such an unwelcome manner

of work because they were working just for the people, that whenever they fell in the snow field of Manchuria during the period of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, they had risen up again at the thought of their miserable fellow countrymen whom they decided not to leave as they were, and that they should avoid adopting such a careless manner of work as to neglect the trouble of the people whom they had fought for them.

The people found the image of the President—who loved them so dearly and regarded them as his God—in Chairman Kim Jong Il many years later.

In October 1984 an official was dismissed from his post for his unacceptable blunder. And the Chairman was grieved more sorely than anyone else. He saw to it that bitter comradely criticism was given to him to let him understand the root cause of his error, and that he worked among the workers to transform himself in a revolutionary manner. The official, while working on the shop floor, keenly learned the workers' loyalty to the Party and the national leader and their revolutionary fighting spirit, experiencing their dedicated struggle in one mind. After correcting his erroneous manner of work sincerely for several months he was appointed to a new post, and, a few years later, he was promoted to a more important position, and worked in a revolutionary manner. In high appreciation of his merits the country conferred the title of the Hero of the DPRK upon him.

The affection and tender care

of the leaders are carried on by the supreme national leader Kim Jong Un. The Korean people remember the remarks he made in his speech at the Fourth Conference of Cell Secretaries of the Workers' Party of Korea in January 2013. He said: "**The embrace that cares more for sick and wounded children, gives them love and affection, cures their sore wounds, helps them up and puts them forward again, instead of abandoning them—this is the embrace of our motherly Party... No matter what serious mistakes or crimes he may make, and even though we find in him 99 per cent of demerits and only one per cent of merit or conscience, we should value his conscience, boldly trust him and lead him to start with a clean slate.**"

From the words the Korean people keenly felt the great magnanimity of their national leader. There is a stanza of a poem which they chant from the bottom of their heart.

*Ah, I see my life's alpha  
and omega  
In your bosom, Workers' Party  
of Korea!  
I would return to your arms.  
If I was scattered over  
the universe or  
buried in the earth,  
I would return as your son.  
And, caressed by your gentle  
glance and warm hands,  
I shall call you mother  
in a childish voice.  
I would be nothing  
without you.*

*Sim Chol Yong*

# National Tree of the DPRK

THE PINE IS A TALL, needle-leaved tree which makes a moderate demand on soil. The species grows in the vast areas of Korea under 800 m above sea level—except the alpine regions in the northern part of the country. From olden times the Koreans used it for building materials, and its seeds, leaves, barks, resin, sap, sprouts and pollen to make foods and medicines.

The Koreans' special attachment to the tree does not come from its utility alone. They have regarded it as symbol of their national spirit and mettle, because it stands staunchly despite all rigours of nature while preserving its green foliage in all seasons. Many poets and painters of Korea chose the tree for the subject of their poems, songs, murals and other works of arts. According to old records, Solgo, a renowned painter in the 8<sup>th</sup> cen-

tury, painted an old pine tree on the wall of the Hwangryong Temple so wonderfully that it was enough to make birds fall down from the wall when they tried to alight on it. Many masterpieces by the Korean artists like Kim Hong Do, Ri In Mun and Kim Jong Hui show pine trees. And many of the names of mountains and places in the country are associated with the pine. Wang Kon, founder king of Koryo (918–1392), saw to it that pine trees were planted all about Kaesong to make it the befitting capital city of the dynasty, and named a mountain in it Mt. Songak meaning mountain of pine trees.

The poem *Green Pine on Nam Hill* composed by Kim Hyong Jik, outstanding leader of the anti-Japanese national liberation movement of Korea, became a famous song widely chanted by the Korean people. During the Japanese imperialists' military

occupation of Korea (1905–1945) he devoted all his life to the struggle to win back the country's independence and sovereignty. He put forth the idea of "Jiwon" (Aim High), which maintained that it was necessary to cultivate national strength if they were to repulse the Japanese imperialists and achieve independence of the country, and that, if so, it was essential to keep an aim high. In the autumn of 1918 he made a poem entitled *Green Pine on Nam Hill*, which reflected his faith and determination.

Now the Korean people love to sing pine-themed songs to show their spirit, while vigorously advancing forward along the road of independence, Songun and socialism and resolutely frustrating the imperialists' moves of isolation and suffocation. The song *I Think, Looking at You* produced in 1994 gives an emotional and profound depiction of the spirit of

Korea by the description of the staunch appearance of the pine tree which sways invariably with green foliage even in the stormy winter or leaf-fallen autumn.

The pine is the national tree of the DPRK. The custom of planting the pine on holidays, at wedding ceremonies and on other significant occasions is carried on continuously.



An Song Duk

# Guaranteeing the Beauty

THESE DAYS THE cosmetics bearing the brand *Mirae* are popular in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. They are produced by the Myohyang Cosmetics Factory located in Sadong District, Pyongyang. The factory started operation three years ago.

All production processes are on a high level of modernization, and the hygienic assurance and the quality of goods have reached the international standard. A dozen kinds of products in 60-odd varieties such as cream, lotion, shampoo and rinse are turned

ample, has no side effect and is suited to all ages, sexes and various kinds of skins. The consumers of the lotion say that they find it effective several days after they begin to use it. The factory's cosmetics enjoy increasing favour with the customers at different stores, including Pyongyang Department Store No. 1 and Kwangbok Area Supermarket. Not only women but also men delightfully say they feel younger and more beautiful while using the cosmetics.

This popularity is the result of the maintenance of an important



The refining process.



The finishing process.

out, and many of them have got functional effects. In particular, the materials extracted from various kinds of natural things such as the Kaesong Koryo Insam which is a special Korean product, honey, pine and ginkgo are added to the cosmetics, elevating the function of retarding the aging and wrinkling processes and improving the whitening effect. The lotion for whitening skin, for ex-

principle the factory has got since its inauguration. The principle is to produce cosmetics to suit the Korean people's skin types and the local climate based on the supply of mostly locally available materials. In consonance with the principle, the factory has steadily pushed the research work of extracting necessary substances from domestic natural resources and mixing them proportionately,

and the effort to improve the quality of cosmetics and increase the variety, by relying on its own technical personnel.

In this process the factory won a diploma of merit at a consumer goods exhibition in September 2013 and a certificate of registered state quality approval in June 2014. What is more, 15 kinds of the factory's cosmetics were highly rated at the 8<sup>th</sup> ▶



### The laboratory.

► Pyongyang Department Store No. 1 Goods Show in June 2014. Now the shower gel newly developed by the factory is popular. General Manageress Jong Kum Ok says, "We will make strenuous efforts to improve the quality of the cosmetics and increase its variety in order to make our people younger, beautiful and happy."



*Jo Song I*

# High Sense of Responsibility

THE RANGNANG TAE-song Clothing Factory, inaugurated eight years ago, produces goods to suit the needs of the developing reality and the people's tastes. Now more and more people buy goods the factory makes.

Over the past years it has paid primary attention to the technical preparation work to improve the quality, increase the variety of goods and normalize the production on a high level. The technical affairs section of the factory improved technical guidance to production processes to produce goods as required by technical tables and standard regulations of operation on the basis of designs drawn up under technical regulations. Technical consultations to grasp specifications of goods and technical norms for operation of relevant equipment, and field instruction and guidance to proc-

essing work were very effective. Technical lessons based on demonstration-combined theory were also frequently organized for the workers, contributing to enhancing their technical knowledge and skills.

In addition, all workteams including the cutting and finishing ones set a high goal to ensure more than 98% of passed goods while guaranteeing high quality of presentable goods. Taking measures in advance not to lower the quality, they introduced flow lines, supplemented new facilities and refashioned one irrational process after another. Skilled hands taught their apprentices how to choose processing methods and ensure delicacy, making it possible to make a remarkable success of production. In this course, the cutting workteam newly manufactured an automatic cloth winding and unwinding

machine which helps save a lot of labour, and the finishing workteam expanded its capacity and developed an automatic embroidery machine to make original patterns. A brandprinting machine was introduced in the last process, saving labour and improving the packing quality.

The factory has a special system of quality examination and rating as well. After examination of products in each process and re-examination in the coming processes, the final checkup is done in the finishing process. Only when the sewing is done well enough to meet the technical demand and the clothes are made to proper sizes, can the goods have a pass. Having undergone such processes, the products are favourably commented upon among the users.

The factory makes good clothes using auxiliary materials in a proper way to comply with the aesthetic norms of people of different ages and sexes and combine colours in a well-matched way. It offers service on order from customers as well.

Mentioning that the factory's workers are always in a clean environment, chief engineer Ju Tong Chol says, "Our success is a result of the workers' high sense of responsibility, who devote heart and soul to their workplace, machines and goods."

*Kim Kwang Myong*



# Pioneers

TODAY THE RESEARCHERS of the Agricultural Nanotechnology Research Institute of the Academy of Agricultural Science are called pioneers in the research of nanotechnology. The institute which had started as a small-sized laboratory about ten years ago, was raised to the present status three years ago. But its research successes have always ranked top in the field of nano sphere.

In 2013, a year after it was raised to the status of a research institute, it developed over ten nano-intellectual products including nano-organic growth promoter and nano sterilizer for agricul-



Efforts are put in developing a new variety.



tural use. For their scientific and practical values they were highly commented at the tenth national sci-tech presentation and exhibition in the sector of nanotechnology. Consequently, winners of the February 16 Sci-tech Prize, the top sci-tech prize in the country, came forth from the institute.

When Choe Song Ryong, head of the institute, went out to a farm a few years ago, he learned that a large amount of coal and expensive raw materials had to be consumed to make sterilizer for disinfecting seeds. Sometimes, it was necessary to carry the sterilizer produced in this way to some

other places at the cost of a large quantity of fuel. Every time sterilizing work was done, a huge amount of sterilizer was needed, and so farm workers took great trouble. Choe conceived the idea of applying nanotechnology to this job. However, this was a totally unexplored field because nano itself was a more untrdden area than trodden and it lacked even fragmentary data about the process of its application in cases like this. Moreover, the effects of experiments will show up when the year comes near its end, as their targets are crops. Therefore, it was impossible to foresee when the whole thing would bear fruit.

However, Song Ryong and other researchers of the institute thought it worthwhile to have a try. Though busy with the man-

agement of the institute, Song Ryong would put forward various new ideas and go out to the fields to conduct experiments, regarding it as his duty to lead the way in the project. Years passed, and they became more assured that their endeavours would bring joy of rich harvest to the farming population. At last, in 2013 they developed nano sterilizer for farm use in a unique way which had several times higher disinfecting power with much less amount of use.

When people asked about the secret of success, Song Ryong said, "Though we were busy and our work was trying, we never lost sight of our responsibility for leading the work of developing nanotechnology in the sector of agriculture. The consciousness that we are pioneers in the frontiers of science closely linked up with the food problem of the people will always make us all replete with new ideas and rising passion."

*Kim Chol Ung*

# Mushroom Researchers

NOW IN KOREA A nationwide campaign is in full swing to cultivate mushrooms, which is conducive to the improvement of the living standard of the people. The Central Mushroom Research Institute of the State Academy of Sciences is conducting a dynamic work to develop quality substrates, fungi and additives.

In February last the institute developed a new kind of additive to be applied to mushroom substrate. Earlier, corn cobs and rice bran had been used for substrate. Rice bran is widely used in many fields such as stockbreeding, and its source is so limited that they decided it was unfit for the mushroom production based on industrial methods. Head of the institute Ri Son Hui and other researchers buckled down to the research to substitute the substrate with straw richly available in the country. The point was what kind of additive should be used. They found out that the Kumgang medicinal stone has

high anti-oxidant activity, a rich stock of useful minerals and a certain degree of ammonia absorbing power.

At last they succeeded in developing an additive from the Kumgang medicinal stone which helps fungi directly absorb the nitrogen in fertilizers. Immediately, they applied it into practice. The result showed that it has the same effect as the rice bran in the growth rate of fungi per day, period of fungi cultivation, amount of fungi per ton of substrate and harvest of mushroom. As the additive also has the ability of far-infrared heat radiation it has good sterility and inhibitory effect on major bad germs while largely reducing the cost of substrate production.

The new additive is now winning public favour from the mushroom producers for its economic profit as it is made from cheap materials. With this a good prospect was opened for mass-production of mushroom

based on the raw materials rich in the country. The advantage of their success is that the method of fermenting and sterilizing is simpler than the previous ones and that there is no infection in the fungi-planted substrate. The additive production consumes less power and it can be introduced at any units. The process of substrate treatment is simple, and mushrooms can be harvested a month after fungi planting. After the two rounds of harvest the substrate can be used for highly effective manure.

Today the researchers of the institute are putting spurs to the work of developing a better method of substrate production by making the most of the advantage of the additive.

*Ri Sun Nyo*



A new species of mushroom is developed.



# Teacher with Many Nicknames

THE 15<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL Program Exhibition in the Educational Sector held at the end of last year had on show more than 1 700 programs presented by over 400 educational institutions. Of all the displays a teaching support program developed by a social science teacher won the top prize. The figure of striking fame was Ri Yong Hun, teacher at the University of Sciences.

Some time after he began his teaching career, Ri began to be called many nicknames. An inquisitive man, inventor, book-worm and master of programming are some of them, which all reasonably pertain to his passion. Ri has been making great efforts to develop proper teaching methods for improvement of cognitive faculty since he began to teach. In spite of busy days of instruction he set it his daily routine to spend his spare time finding new materials and implanting them in the teaching plan in good time. He often sat up all night, making new teaching aids to help the students clearly remember the dates of many historical events by developing the students' ability of consideration and judgment in history lectures. Once he read scores of books in a month in order to improve his teaching using his great stock of knowledge of history, literature, political economy and so on. His lectures were

composed of entertaining and interesting explanation and visual aids which help have a summary of complicated historical events. They were always popular with the students.

His lectures

were naturally awaited eagerly and his ability materialized in the students' attainments. Over the days he got some certificates of registered new teaching method and diplomas of new conception. He also wrote a dozen essays.

He, however, was not satisfied. One day soon after the new term began last year, he, on his way from lecture, happened to hear new students say, "The historical period and contents are too much for a lecture." "You can say that again. Is there any method to summarize them like solving mathematic problems with formulas?" Now he began to consider how to increase the volume of students' attainments and improve their cognitive faculty in lectures. Finally he decided to work out a teaching support program for his subject with his own effort despite his busy days. He was often seen reading the books on the computer—even on his



Ri Yong Hun (*right*).

way to and from work. Even at a break of ten minutes between lectures he examined the composition of his program. The principle he observed in making the program was to develop creativity of the students so that they could guess ten things from a single hint. In addition, he made the program three-dimensional to make sure that the students learn the contents of instruction in a unified and theoretical way in close relation with the relevant historical period at large. As a result of his energetic effort, the program was successfully completed in no more than one year. After applying that program, the result of the examination upon the students showed considerable improvement of their cognitive faculty.

Some time ago the title of October 8 Model Teacher was awarded to him.

*Ri Kum Chol*

# Improving Quality of Education

**I**N RECENT YEARS THE TEACHERS OF the Pyongyang Jang Chol Gu University of Commerce has put much emphasis on improvement of quality of education in keeping with its mission to train experts in the field of the public welfare exclusively.

The university established some new departments like those of hotel management and dietary control as required by the developing reality, and newly drawn up or revised curriculums and teaching plans scores of times to enrich the content of lecture. Along with this, it set up several subjects including Korean gastrology and intensified multimedia-based education, making successes to this end. Meanwhile, it put the allocation of the per-term time of practice on a scientific footing and directed great efforts to increasing the variety of cooking practice. It also waged the work to strengthen the instruction on specialities of Pyongyang and other localities. As a result, over 1 000 kinds of local specialities were

found to be used in teaching while being introduced to the public on several occasions so as to render service to the development of national dishes.

In the course of this, the university wrote several books such as the *Korean Dishes* and *Potato Cuisine*, drawing the concern of the students and culinary experts, and established an IT-based system for business management of public catering establishments in Hoeryong City. The improvement of the quality of practical education helps the students consolidate the knowledge they learn. The contents of the subjects related to hotel management and service are enriched to be of practical use.

The campaign to improve the quality of education is going ahead dynamically in the departments of clothing and management. The contents of subjects are getting better while up-to-date technology is introduced. The department of clothing gives lectures on four- and five-dimensional designing while the department of management develops subjects on ►





► e-commerce, supermarket technology and CAD for shopping chain. Research sections and post-graduate school deepen studies of theoretical and practical problems. The teachers and researchers have written and compiled over 430 kinds of text-

books and reference books.

Many have become professors, associate professors and Doctors. It received 98 certificates of invention of experimental apparatuses and teaching aids. Eighty-four of the teachers won the honour of October 8 Model Teacher while 118 got the certificate of registered new teaching method. The teachers obtained good results at the contest of application of heuristic method and the second national presentation of teaching experience, thus exalting the ability of university. The work to improve educational conditions and environment is also progressing in parallel with the improvement of the quality of education, making a contribution to bringing up the students into technical talent. An 8-storeyed building furnished with a comprehensive cooking facility and a practice room for service skills went up, and thus the theoretical education is combined closely with practical education.

Consequently, the attainments of the students rose remarkably. They have registered good records at national contests; some of them won special awards at the 2013 national cooking contest of university students and a national fast-reading contest of university students. They came first at the first national foreign language contest of technical colleges. The effort of the teachers to improve the quality of education is going on without let-up.

*Kim Hyong Ju*



# “Let Us Learn for Korea!”



THE SLOGAN “LET US Learn for Korea!” was put forward by Chairman Kim Jong Il in 1953 when the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea was at war against the US imperialist aggressors. It carries the profound idea that they should acquire more knowledge of practical use in the Korean revolution. All the Korean students and pupils cherish the slogan in their hearts as an aphorism generation after generation.

Throughout the country there are schools wherever there are children of school age. The most striking things about the schools are the slogans reading “Thank You, Respected National Leader Kim Jong Un!” and “Let Us Learn for Korea!”.

Some time ago we visited the Kumgang Branch of the Puhung Senior Middle School in Unsan County, North Phyongan Province. The county, a mountainous region, has got scores of primary and middle schools. The branch school in Puhung-ri, 93 percent of whose area is moun-

tainous, lies halfway up Chodae Peak that is 28 km away from the Unsan county town. This place is surrounded by Ahomi Pass (878m), Mt. Songgol (1 023m), Nujol Pass (469m) and Mt. Ojung (940m) which make up the Phinandok (1 317m) Range. Some twenty years ago the branch school newly went up there for the sake of the children who had to trek a long way across mountains to go to school. With the erection of the branch school the way to school shortened to one fifth.

Ri Yong Ok has been teaching at the branch since 1996. As a 21-year-old girl, who finished the then Sinuiju Teacher Training College, she took the first step in her social life at the branch school in deep mountains. A small trunk was her only possession. She gave her first lesson in a small classroom with no more than four desks. Looking back upon the time she says, “I wished to be a teacher since childhood. However, I never expected that I would have so few children to

teach. But I was well aware of my duty to train the children, who are part of the future of our country, as faithful citizens. I would not give up my career. Now I can hardly think of my life apart from my dear branch school and pupils.”

Time flied like an arrow, and a daughter of Kim Yong Bok, who was one of Yong Ok’s first disciples, entered the branch school in April last. Taking his daughter to school on her first school day Yong Bok went to see his old teacher and said, “I am glad to see my daughter go to school in the uniform and with the schoolbag given by the country. It seems as if I learned here only a few days ago. The school building has changed beyond recognition. I learned under the beneficial free education system, and,



► thankfully, my daughter is now under the system again. I will work hard for the sake of our benevolent country so that I will be honourable father to my children.”

The branch school that stands on a mountainside is visible from afar. In the one-storey school building with blue roof and white walls four teachers who finished the special course of teacher training give lessons to the local children. The universal 12-year compulsory education is in force there like other schools, and the same educational programme is applied. The school building and the playground are rather small but the pupils have great hopes like those in urban areas.

In 2012 a splendid celebration of the 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Korean Children’s Union took place in the presence of the national leader Kim Jong Un. Two of the pupils of the branch school were honoured to take part in the event. Ri Yu Bom, now a junior middle school student, wrote a composition after returning from the celebration, which reads: “I never expected that I, a boy born of an ordinary worker’s family in a mountain village far away from Pyongyang, would be a representative of the provincial Children’s Union organization. I

worked hard simply because I wanted to be a good student who is knowledgeable, moral and healthy. Attending the celebration, I felt as if I were in a dream. This honour—I cannot forget it all my life—is not mine alone; it belongs to all our branch school pupils. I will surely become a pillar of our socialist state by studying harder and harder.” His composition is regarded as pride among pupils, who are all working hard hoping to become a scientist, an athlete, an artist, etc. Some are in the computer club, some in the football team and some in the accordion club. Ri Chol Ryong wrote a poem about the beauty of his village and the attachment to the school, and other pupils also wrote similar

literary works.

When they leave the branch school and go on to middle school, they usually plant trees around the branch school.

Jon Pok Hui, who has been working as head of the branch school for seven years, says, “Actually our branch school is too small to be recorded on a map. However, my school is kept in my pupils’ mind as a valuable part of the country. Many of the graduates can’t forget the sound of the bell that still echoes from the small branch school and come here whenever opportunities present themselves. The sound of the bell will be ringing forever promising a bright future of socialist Korea.”

*An Nam Hui*



# Far From Dream



“IT WAS TRULY WONDERFUL. I HAD A dropsy for the third time last January due to a liver trouble, so I took pills of the Compound Milkweed Pill for Treatment of Hepatitis two times a day. Then I had a flat belly two days later. I had never expected I would have such a benefit from Koryo medicines. Earlier I had resorted to Western medications in many cases, and now I’m sure Koryo medicines are superior. And Doctor Om Song Chol is a great physician who applies scientific remedies to suit the constitution of the patients and the symptoms of diseases.” This is what I heard from Sonu Jong Suk, 44, resident in Chilgol-dong No. 3, Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, when I met her at the teaching hospital of the Pyongyang Medical College of Kim Il Sung University. Her words aroused my interest in the physician, so I went to the Faculty of Koryo Medicine of the college to see Om.

The noted doctor I met was an ordinary teacher in his 50s who was not so tall and yet looked quite intelligent. Impressive was the first remark he made with a shy smile, “My patients usually say they get well entirely thanks to my art. But that’s not the truth. If there’s any I’ve done, it’s that I’ve worked hard to introduce the excellent principles of Koryo medicine that has long been handed down from generation to generation.”

Om was once a soldier. During his military service he happened to see a patient of leucopenia fall into a critical condition accidentally from the use of paracetamol. The patient had taken it simply to cure what he had thought was a flu, but the result was almost lethal. This awakened an idea in him about how to develop as good a medication from local medicinal herbs as the Western ones. The idea settled firmer in his mind when he entered the college after service.

Choosing to major in internal Koryo medicine, he spent time unsparingly reading hereditary Korean medical documents. At first, Om felt they were all

mystery, but as he delved into them, he located a huge amount of sources of inquiry of Koryo medicine. He was almost crazy about the traditional Korean medicine. He learned he had to solve quite a few problems regarding diagnosis. Even when they had the same kind of illness, the patients had different symptoms according to their types of constitution. Om made deep-going studies of the theory on classification of the four types of constitution which had long been handed down, while making painstaking efforts to know the properties of medicinal herbs found throughout the country. In the course of this he confirmed that even the same kind of herbs have a little different effects according to their locality, which have influence on the manufacture of the medicines. He made scientific proof of this fact in his postgraduate course following his graduation by presenting a research paper on contrastive study of *astragalus* and *Radix astragalus membranaceus Bunge cv. Vir Mun et Ham*.

Well aware that theoretical lectures should be given on the basis of practical research achievements, Om paid close attention to obtaining experience in treatment and relevant achievements in the field of internal Koryo medicine. He often took his students to the Academy of Koryo Medicine for practice, and in those days knew that a good ratio of the in-patients were cases of liver diseases. There were many causes of the diseases, and the most critical one was the after-effects of chemically-compounded medications.

Om set the settlement of the problem as his own research task, and buckled down. The result of the research was the complete development of the Compound Milkweed Pill for Treatment of Hepatitis which is made up of scores of kinds of natural Koryo medicinal materials with the milkweed as the main element. It is effective in treatment of pancreatitis, hyperlipemia and digestive troubles due to different causes including cirrhosis and dropsy of the liver and fatty liver.

He continued to develop medicines of practical importance including the Brain Nourishing Pill which is effective in nourishing the brain and treating the elderly’s loss of memory.

Om travelled a number of foreign countries, including China and Bulgaria, to disseminate Koryo medicine. He has trained a good many pupils who are now playing important role in the sector of Koryo medicine.

He is always busy with instruction, scientific research and clinical treatment, but he never slackens his pace in his research as he is filled with the sense of obligation that he is duty-bound to carry on with the inherent Korean experience and tradition associated with the Korean nation’s soul. It is not long before he will realize his hope of becoming a true master physician in the realm of Koryo medicine who can satisfy the need of the developing realities.

Yom Song Hui

# Doctors Pressed for Time

PEOPLE SOMETIMES GET hurt at home or job site, or on the street. Then, they send for doctors of the external wound surgery of the Pyongyang Municipal Emergency Hospital. When I met Kim Hyon, head of the hospital, for news coverage, he told me the following story:

One day in August 2014 the doctors of the surgery were on their way home, thinking about the patients under their charge, when they got an emergency call. So, they hastily turned back to the hospital, where they saw

arrived at the hospital, the two men were at the crossroads of life and death—70% of their body was burnt, their blood pressure and pulse drastically fell and they were in coma. In a word, it was feared whether they could be brought back to life.

At the critical moment the surgeons held an emergency conference. "We must save them," said the department head. His words were short and definite as ever. Immediately, an emergency treatment team was formed. A large volume of blood was transfused, and many kinds of medicinal and nutritive solutions were injected. Tens of hours passed, but they did not come round from coma, and their temperature hovered around

40°C. The doctors stayed close to their bedsides day and night, doing their best in treatment and observation. In one week the two cases recovered their senses, and the doctors and nurses were beside themselves with joy, even tears came to their eyes.

But treatment of the burnt areas continued and skin grafting operations took place four times, which were all as hard as a real battle. Each dressing made the doctors and nurses dripping with sweat, but they tirelessly worked to cure the patients. It took two months to restore them completely to health and the day came for them to leave the hospital. Seeing them loath to part, Kim Myong Nam said, "People usually call us doctors pressed for time. And we don't hear them casually. Because their words express our conscience of bearing responsibility for the life of people."

*Kim Un Chol*



department head Kim Myong Nam getting into the ambulance. They guessed it was an urgent case. The car rushed to Sungho County, North Hwanghae Province. There were two patients, Pak Song Chol and Jo Wi Song, who had got burnt in their faces, chests, arms and backs in an accident. First aid was administered to them and the car returned. Even in the running car treatment continued. When they



# Sweeping Enthusiasm for Exercises

THE STATE PLANNING Commission took first place in total in its category at the 20<sup>th</sup> Paektusan Prize Games of Officials of National Agencies held in January-February this year. One of these days I went to the commission to know the secret.

## File of the chairman of the trade union

I met Pak Jong Won, vice chairman of the State Planning Commission, and Hyon Jong In, chairman of the trade union at the commission. Hearing why I was there, Pak wore a mild smile and said, pointing to what Hyon was holding in his hand, "You may find the secret there in his file."

I took the file, whose title was "Programme of Mass Sports Activities." I leafed through the document, and found detailed plans of this year's sports activities including athletic games, folk games, the period of maritime sports and that of public fitness examination. The file also contained weekly, monthly and quarterly schedules of mass sports activities and sporting events, and tables of competitions be-

tween departments, which were classified into different modes of league, rank and age. I could also identify the chief coordinators of sporting events who were mostly heads of departments. The book showed the targets of different departments for athletic attainment in each event, regulations on the time of physical culture, and measures to supply sports facilities and necessary conditions.

I closed the file, when a man rushed up to Pak and told him to referee their match. Pak excused himself, saying that he had to act as referee for a basketball match between the Pyongyang City Planning Bureau and the Public Welfare Planning Bureau.

## Story of the chairman of the trade union

Hyon told me a story.

Several years ago when the games of officials of national agencies were nearly finished, the officials of the State Planning Commission were sure they would be the winner in total as they had ranked high in many of the events.

The volleyball final was the

last match they had. It would decide their total rank in the games. Unexpectedly the captain of their team could not participate in the match. Alternatively, a spare was sent in, and the team's performance was a miserable failure. So they lost 3-1, leaving the commission in the second place in total at the games.

The officials had a meeting to make an analysis of the failure. Now they learned that of all the factors of the failure including the poor skills, the most important one was that sporting activities were conducted with the participation of a number of highly skilled people alone. This was a lesson both to the officials and the staff members.

Now the commission made arrangements to make all the members acquire sporting skills for more than one event. The Pyongyang City Planning Bureau was set as an example first. Director of the bureau Pak Song Chol himself used spare time to learn skills of different events, taught them to his members and organized competitions with other bureaus frequently in spare times. As the competitions with other units were decisive to the honour of the bureau, they presented good occasions for improving the members' sense of collective unity and competitiveness as well as boosting the courage of the players in actual contests. Pak himself learned skills and techniques of basketball, volleyball, table tennis and other events, and his members also became able to play more than one events.

This bureau's enthu-



# School Famed for Basketball

THE MINHUNG SENIOR Middle School in Moranbong District, Pyongyang is well known for many honours. It was the first to produce a winner of the July 15 Honour Student Prize after the country instituted it in February 1982, and the first Model Teacher of the nation. It took first place at a National Schoolchildren's Mental Arithmetic Contest. The compositions entitled *You Cannot Calculate* and *A Little Grandpa* written by the school's students brought high ranking at a National Students' Composition Contest. The school is also famous for basketball.

One day 20 years ago, a slender and good-looking girl walked into the headmaster's office at the school. She was Ko Jong Suk who was appointed as teacher of physical culture at the school after graduation from Kim Chol Ju University of Education. She said proudly, "I'll surely make our school famed for basketball." To hear her all teachers including the headmaster were surprised.

But it was a long way from saying to doing. One day Jo Tuk Hwa, headteacher, came to her and said, "I know it is a difficult task for you. Making a good start is important in any work. Ambition is not the only thing needed to bring up our students as pillars of the country. You'd better



devote yourself to the students." Encouraged, she made redoubled efforts to develop a training method suitable to psychological qualities of the students. Gradually the interest in basketball grew among the students and their skills improved step by step.

As a result the school made a debut at a schoolchildren's basketball tournament held in celebration of the Day of the Sun in April 1999 when it took first place. Later it won many basketball games year after year.

In 2003 the 29<sup>th</sup> Jongilbong Prize National Schoolchildren's Games took place. Ko Jong Suk knew they would hardly win the games unless she applied a new

training method. Jong Suk decided that high skills of basketball come only when importance is attached to the basic technical training. She worked hard to find out a scientific training method to suit the ages, physical development and heights of the players. Finally she succeeded in establishing a proper method to keep in step with the developing reality. Then she applied it to all the players. In this way the school won the games that year.

It also won the women's basketball qualifier of Pyongyang for the last 41<sup>st</sup> Jongilbong Prize National Schoolchildren's Games.

*Sim Hyon Jin*

► siasm for sport spread to scores of other departments of the commission. Officials of advanced ages and women in particular who had been content with cheering at games took an active part in sporting activities, and grew self-confident of their ability to join competition.

In order to further the enthusiasm of the masses for exercise, the commission laid more

sporting grounds for basketball, volleyball, table tennis and other events while obtaining much more equipment. There came a unanimous opinion that they felt very spirited when they returned home and that they were more enthusiastic about their work.

Hearing his words, I headed for the basketball court where Pak Jong Won was acting as referee.

I found their game as interesting and cheerful as the professional players' one for their skilled technical movements, smart sending of the ball and long shooting.

The match convinced me that the commission would make a greater success in the field of mass-based sporting activities.

*Kim Yong Sun*

# Keeper of National Tradition

SINCE ITS DEBUT IN 1947, the National Folk Art Troupe's performances rich in national emotion and tone have been favourite with the public. Whenever people give a great applause to the successful performance, Ri Song, chief director, says, "As the art always goes with life, so the national art can never develop without national features."

The troupe started its work with adaptation of national classics for operas, including *The Tale of Simchong* which shows filial devotion of Simchong—who lost her mother in her early years and grew up under care of her blind father—to her elderly father to bring sight back to him, *The Tale of Ondal* which tells how Ondal who became a general of Koguryo by training hard for martial arts performs a great feat in a war

against foreign invaders, and *The Tale of Chun Hyang* that is a love story about Mong Ryong of noble birth and singing girl Chun Hyang of low birth making seals of matrimony despite difference in the social status.

It presented many folk songs and folk dances. Whenever such folk songs as *Moran Hill*, *The Nodul Riverside*, *Ryonggang Kinari*, *Kanggangsuwollae* and *Hungtharyong* were sung by making the best use of the trill and vibrato peculiar to the Korean folk songs, they were always encored and the excited audience got up to dance to the tune of the songs. When folk dances *Yangsando* and *Janggu Dance* were put on the stage, people danced pleasantly with their shoulders moving up and down.

The rendition of national instruments is also impressive.

Performances by the *haegum*, *tango*, *okryugum* and *jangsaenap* are quite attractive and the *kayagum* ensemble leaves greater impression on the audience. In the *kayagum* ensemble several women sing together while playing the *kayagum*. This ensemble



shows marvellous performing arts ennobling the subject message of the melody, and a delicate and elegant combination of singers' clear voice and the *kayagum*'s rhythmic sound, thus drawing a ▶



► great attention of the audience.

The music and dance drama *Under the Bright Sun* produced by the troupe was performed 350 times, and the national opera *Sunshine* 1 132 times.

In recent years, good works were created successfully. The folk dance suite *People in Walled City of Pyongyang* reflects the patriotism of the people in Pyongyang in the olden times who loved their country eagerly and fought bravely to defend their



country, and the noble manners and customs of the Korean people. Song and dance pieces *Sweet Brier* and *Cuckoo* were newly created to enjoy popularity.

The troupe took performances to foreign countries as well.

In the course of this, many of the artistes were known well as

celebrated stars. The laudable tradition of the troupe is carried on by new generations. Hwang Ryon A, 27, plays the *yanggum* with four sticks (when it is usually played with only two sticks), fascinating the audience. Merited Actress Nam Un Ha, 28, is a *haegum* soloist. While learning at

Pyongyang Kim Won Gyun Conservatory she won a gold medal at the February 16 Art Prize Individual Contest. She is now a talented entertainer who can compose and play the *haegum* solos herself. The troupe has many artistes' couples.

O Yong Sik, head of the troupe, says, "We are very proud that we implant the soul of our nation in our people through performances. We'll devote our all to the effort to develop our national art on the basis of national characteristics, modernity and conventionality to each of our programmes."

*Rim Ok*



# The Benevolent System



SOME TIME AGO I WENT to see Jang Yong Suk, 100, at her home in Neighbourhood Unit No. 36, Jonjin-dong, Rangnang District, Pyongyang. Guided by her son Kim Yong Chun who was over 70, I entered her room. The old woman was at needlework without wearing glasses at all. She greeted me kindly.

Born the fourth daughter of a tenant in Kowon County, South Hamgyong Province, on February 13, 1915, she used to be a nurse-maid in her childhood and was subjected to contempt and maltreatment. Living a hard life she experienced the sorrow of a stateless people. She got married and had children, but fortune never smiled on her, who was struggling against poverty and hunger. Though she had postpartum ailment and peritonitis, she could not go to see a doctor as she had no money. Bearing the pains she went out before sunrise to dig out coal in a pit like a badger's burrow which was likely to cave in at any moment. At night she did needle

work and laundry for pay. Tears and sorrow were daily occurrences to her.

After liberation of the country (August 15, 1945) her family enjoyed a happy life. She and her husband became legitimate master of the country. She was put in charge of the supply service for the coal miners, and did her work sincerely. Whenever she was asked to take care of herself she said that she hadn't been able to go to see a doctor for want of money before liberation, and that now she was healthy as she worked comfortably thanks to the benefit of the country. Under the health care system, she got treatment at sanatoriums and was pensioned off for intensive treatment. When she became better, she began to breed pigs as she could not sit idle while receiving benefits from the state. She worked hard to supply meat to coal miners. She was called "our grandma" for her many years of sincere work for the colliers.

She did not stop working even after she settled in Pyongyang to live with one of her children. She prepared aid materials to send them to major construction projects.

One day after she moved to Pyongyang some doctors visited her at her house. They said they were there because she had not visited the local clinic for regular checkup. When the old woman said they took the trouble to come

her home when she was healthy, they replied that they were citizens who were duty-bound to observe the law on public health which stipulates that they should make a regular checkup of the elderly folks. *My benevolent system ensured that I recovered from illness I had got before liberation, and the doctors still come to look after me*, she thought. She was reminded of her siblings who had died under the Japanese rule. Afterwards, the doctor in charge visited her often to bring tonics while a local official brought her state grants and service workers daily necessities.

In February last Jang celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, and the state sent her a birthday spread in celebration of it. Receiving the spread she said in delights, "I'm grateful to the state for this care for me. Though I am old, I enjoy a happy life thanks to my benevolent system." In a rapture of delight she sang *Let the Time Go* and danced before her 52 descendants.

*I remember the willow wood  
where we whispered  
our love first.  
The willow leaves are still  
green in our wrinkled faces.  
Songun gives me prime of life  
in my 90s.  
Let the time go, and we always  
have a youthful mind.*

*Kim Yong Un*

# The Changed View of Lake Yonphung

LAKE YONPHUNG LOCATED between Anju and Kaechon is one of the big man-made lakes in Korea. This lake waters 100 000 hectares of cropland in Anju, Mundok, Sukchon and Phyongwon counties. Its construction started in 1947 and finished in 1956. When it was completed, President Kim Il Sung came to the place and named it "Lake Yonphung," saying that now the Yoltusam-cholli Plain would be visited by a good harvest every year. There is a monument to the history of irrigation work in South Phyongan Province on the bank of the lake.

The lake is surrounded by hills heavily wooded with pines, Korea larches, chestnut trees, pine-nut trees, oaks and poplars, offering good habitats for birds such as cuckoos, wild ducks and rollers. In spring the air is fragrant with full-blown azaleas, *Androsace saxifragae* and apricot blossoms, and in autumn the view is superb with scarlet autumnal tints reflected on the water. The lake teeming with fish like silver carps, roaches and carps is busy with excursion ships coming and going on the blue water, reminding people of a picture scroll. The hill on the north of the lake is topped by the Yonphung Pavilion that commands the panoramic view of the lake and the surrounding scenery, and on the shores of the lake are a sanatorium, a rest home and a recreation park for the working people plus a Children's Union Camp.

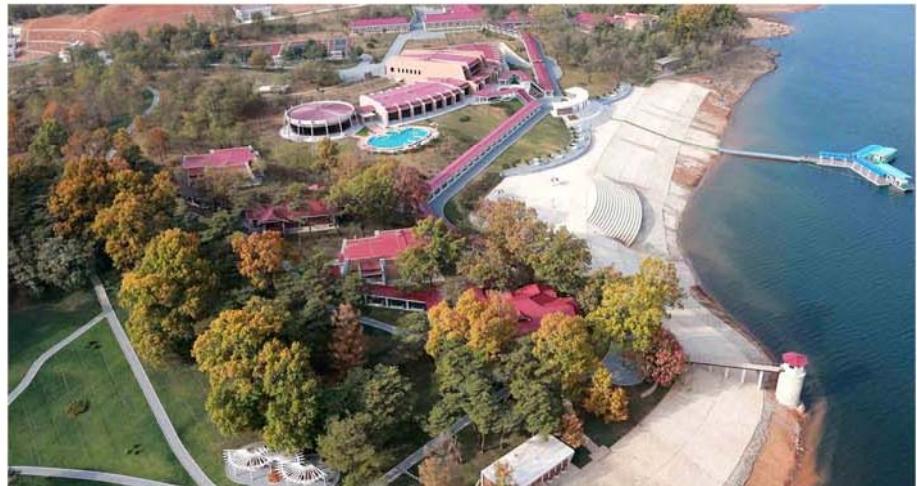
The respected leader Kim Jong Un proposed the construction of a home for scientists and named it Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp. He had designated its construction site on the shore of the lake, and in January 2014, after finishing the field guidance to the State Academy of Sciences, came to the lake to finally fix the site for the camp. He was pleased with the fine winter view of the lake while its summer scene was wonderful with its beautiful waters surrounded by thick foliage. He took all necessary measures to build the camp in fine style on the best-suited location. After that, in May and August, he inspected the construction site and said that he hoped for nothing more than a good camp provided with all fine conditions and circumstances for the scientists to relieve their fatigue of long scientific research work. In October that year, the camp was completed in a little over four months, adding to the scenic beauty of the lake.

It consists of nine blocks and accessory buildings. The general service building houses dining

rooms, a banquet hall, public service facilities, an indoor swimming pool, an e-library, a video-projection room and a council room for discussions on the results of and experience in research work. The blocks are linked with hundreds-of-metres-long corridors. The buildings look like swans that come down on the shore of the lake. The corridors and paths in the premises are paved with slates to match well with the nature around so that people feel as if they were walking in the forests. The playground is fit for volleyball, tennis and badminton, which can be changed over to a skating rink in winter. Turfs, trees and grapevines have been planted around the camp, adding to the scenic beauty of Lake Yonphung. The camp emerging in the woods has changed the scenery of the lake beyond recognition.

The camp is called a house of comfort for the scientists. Happy laughters from the completely changed shore of Lake Yonphung are wafting endlessly over its blue waters.

Rim Sang Jun



# Traditional Dishes of Korea (1)

## Dishes of Pyongyang and Phyongan Province

**P**YONGYANG AND THE PHYONGAN Province area have a wide variety of materials for food because they have mountains and fields, and rivers and sea uniformly. Their

foods are big-sliced, appetizing and plentiful, reflecting the character and the taste of the local people who are progressive and broad-minded.



*Pyongyang onban.*



*Pyongyang pibimbap.*

### Pyongyang *Onban* (warm rice)

Pyongyang *onban*, one of the typical dishes of Pyongyang, is a dish of rice in chicken soup garnished with fried mung-bean pancake and mushroom. It was originated from the eating habits of the Korean people taking rice served in different soups.

When the rice in chicken soup became popular from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and spread widely across the country, it was known by the name of *onban*. Long ago there was a man called Hyong Dal, a runner at the Pyongyang yamen, and a maiden by the name of Ui Gyong, and they loved each other. In cold winter Hyong Dal was imprisoned on a false charge. Ui Gyong doused the rice in hot soup and put a mung-bean pancake, and took it to the jail for him. The name “*onban*” came to stay from it.

The soup is seasoned with salt instead of pungent spices and garnished with mung-bean pancake.

### Pyongyang *Pibimbap* (rice with assorted mixture)

Pyongyang *pibimbap*, one of the special foods peculiar to Pyongyang, is rice garnished with roast beef, mung-bean sprouts, parsley, bracken, *songi* mushroom, roots of broad bellflower and laver which is roasted and crumbed over it. Then it is served with hot soup, kimchi made of sliced radish and red pepper paste. The Pyongyangites love to have the dish as a seasonal food in the heat of midsummer. They often use pork and spinach and crown daisy instead of beef and parsley.

### *Nochi*

*Nochi* is a well-known food of Phyongan Province along with mung-bean pancake. It is made by mixing fermented glutinous rice flour and malt powder and frying it with lard before being soaked in corn syrup or honey. Another kind of *nochi* is made by mixing glutinous rich flour with millet and kaoliang powder, sprinkling malty powder over it, steaming and sprinkling malty powder over it again before frying. The people of Phyongan Province used to make it largely as *chusok* (the lunar August 15<sup>th</sup>) ▶

- cheer. It was also used as a snack in the harvest time and for the children. As it keeps long, people would take it on a journey for meal and make a large amount of it to eat for months.

### **Pyongyang *Raengmyon* (cold noodle)**

*Pyongyang raengmyon*, one of national dishes, is typical of Korean noodles for its taste and nutritive value. From of old, noodles were made mainly of buckwheat in Korea, and the cold noodle of Pyongyang was best known of them. The old records say that the cold noodles of the northwestern part of Korea (Phyongan Province) were well-known, of which Pyongyang *raengmyon* prepared with radish or celery-cabbage kimchi and pork had the greatest name in the country. It is made from pure buckwheat flour, soaked in broth prepared with a mixture of meat juice and radish pickle to give a fresh and savoury tastes, and garnished and spiced in a peculiar way.

Restaurants specializing in Pyongyang *raengmyon* are everywhere in the country. In particular, the modern Okryu Restaurant on the Taedong river-side serves cold noodles of special ingredients with high nutritive value and an appealing taste. The cold noodle of this restaurant is widely known at home and abroad.

### **Taedonggang Mullet Soup**

The soup is one of the specialities of Pyongyang. Sliced flesh of mullet is boiled in a pot with black pepper wrapped in cloth in it. The old records say that the taste of mullet and its roe is excellent.

In the area of Pyongyang, therefore, the feast table was regarded as up to standard only when there was steamed mullet among the delicacies served.

Taedonggang mullet soup was famed across the country for its peculiar taste and high nutrition. Accordingly, the people who visited Pyongyang

**Taedonggang mullet soup.**



**Pyongyang *raengmyon*.**

thought they were well treated in the city if they were entertained with mullet soup. So, "Have you enjoyed the taste of mullet soup?" was the usual greeting to those who had been to Pyongyang.

### **Mung-bean Pancake**

Mung-bean pancake is so tasty and good for health that it was a favourite food in different regions of the country. In particular, the mung-bean pancake of Phyongan Province has vegetable and pork fat in it. The people of Phyongan Province, known for their open-minded and warm-hearted nature, would make it three times larger and twofold thicker than those made in other provinces. They set it on the feast, wedding and memorial service tables. People used to have it as a special food in ordinary time. Today it is widely known as one of health foods and, internationally, it is highly appraised abroad as one of three representative foods of Korea together with kimchi and grilled meat.

*Jo Yong II*

**Mung-bean pancake.**



# I Can Give Even a Little Help to My Country



**L**AST OCTOBER I TOOK PART IN THE swimming event of the 2014 Asian Paralympics and I took third place.

I am an amputee of both femurs, and my win can hardly be thought without the great effort of my swimming coach Kang Ho Jin, who had worked hard to help me, a disabled boy, make a career.

When I was a child, I was often scolded by my neighbours, because I used to be a mischievous boy. Sometimes I played on a tree, and I was always fond of doing dangerously mischievous things playing with my friends. Finally it broke my life. Seven years ago I lost my legs in an accident. Although I got well under the beneficial socialist medical system, I could not recover my legs. It was all the past things that I played with my friends and frolicked home after I received school uniform.

I was often gripped with the fear that I could never walk in this land, and tears welled up in my eyes though I was a child. My mother got tearful in her own way more often than not. I was helpless and hopeless.

My friends came to see me on holidays and Sundays, but I felt it a nuisance. Sometimes I felt like taking my own life.

But as the days went by my neighbours and villagers' care became deeper and deeper. I was ashamed to see them. Gradually I felt like to do anything to be worthy of their care. So, I finally decided to learn to repair simple electronic appliances at home. I started to learn from a next-door man bit by bit.

As I spent time repairing, the loneliness disap-

peared a little, but it became tedious days later.

One of those days a swimming coach, Kang Ho Jin by name, working for the Korean Sports Association of the Disabled came to see me at home. He said to me, "In our country the disabled persons like you are duly respected and ensured the same social and political right, freedom and benefits as the normal people. I think you are in a condition good enough to go swimming, aren't you?"

I readily agreed without any idea. But my mother would not give a consent, saying I, a crippled boy, could not go swimming.

At that time Ho Jin persuasively spoke to my mother, "I know this is not an easy task, but I'm sure Sung Hyok should find any work at least for the sake of his own. Then he will regain a hopeful and cheerful life."

Finally I arrived at a training centre of the association on the back of my coach. My daily schedule of training began with getting on my coach's back and ended with getting off. At first I trained with tiny appliances and gradually learned the barbell lifting and the movements in water. The days of exercise gave me pride in my life and then a hope to go for a competition.

In that situation I put more effort in developing my arms and waist considering my condition. I successfully learned swimming for four months by working with resolution. Finally I took part in the swimming event of the 2014 Asian Paralympics and won a bronze medal.

When I returned home, my mother, neighbours and my friends heartily congratulated me giving the bouquets. At that time I felt proud of myself, thinking that in the past I was ashamed to see people, always trying to avoid meeting them, but that now I could see them with sort of self-satisfaction. I felt like giving my thanks to my country.

And I told myself, "I know I can do something for my country! This time I brought a little pleasure to my countrymen. In the future I will win a gold medal and give greater happiness to my people. In this way I'm going to add to the glory of my country." This is how I have regained an enjoyable life.

*Sim Sung Hyok, member of the  
Korean Sports Association of the Disabled*

# After Many Years

*By Ri Hui Nam*

(Continued from the last issue)

“**A**FTER YOU LEFT here,” the chief engineer explained, stroking his face with his hand, “we had to discard nearly all our trucks, which had lived their lifetime for ten years. But the one driven by Kyong Hun remained as good as a new one. It was a great surprise, and now people realized that as Truck No. 87 had been driven by Kyong Hun it had given birth to Pak Jong Gu, an innovative worker, and stood in the van.” He seemed to be recalling the time when he had said, “Truck No. 87 is always leading the company since it is driven by Jong Gu, the model driver,” the truth of which he was now denying—after many years.

Suddenly Jong Gu remembered Jong Ok Gum’s stinging words: “To tell the truth, you have been the leader of the innovation thanks to Kyong Hun. But why didn’t you tell the meeting that the really innovative worker is Kyong Hun?” Then came the vivid memory of a monthly review of production when Kyong Hun stood up indignantly to protest Jong Gu’s complimentary remarks for his saving the face of the workshop by transporting the record high amount of ores, saying, “Just shut up, will you? I’m rather embarrassed to hear such a compliment. I insist on making innovations on a regular basis instead of trying to achieve lopsided innovations.” It had been quite an unacceptable advice at the time, but now they dwelt deep in his mind like the water seeps

into the earth. *What’s the reason?* Jong Gu lapsed into a deep thought, with his eyes fixed at the window pane looking like a mirror. The words that had driven him into a corner were in no way an expression of any indignation but an earnest appeal for conscience.

The noise from the street turned much soft. Silence began to fall. It seemed as if he could hear the earth breathing in and out deeply and pleasantly.

“That’s not all,” the chief engineer resumed his narration. “You can see the worth of a person in hard times. As the time of the Arduous March set in, his existence became distinguished. Many drivers stopped the operation of their trucks for the short supply of spare parts, but Kyong Hun kept working his truck carrying ores as steadily as ever by obtaining spare parts by himself despite such hardships. Thanks to such a kind of people, the mine kept making progress. So, Kyong Hun had a lot of sufferings and troubles, which steeled him harder—like the tree becomes strong while weathering the wind. I’m sure the branch Party secretary would be very happy to see Kyong Hun, because he had been carefully looking after him in every corner of his life. To our great sorrow he died of an illness five years ago. I can’t forget the image of Kyong Hun who sat in front of the grave for a good while at the funeral.”

It was the first sad news Jong Gu heard on the visit to the mine. A short, heavy silence reigned in memory of the dead.

“There are really a lot of kinds of human beings,” the chief engineer resumed his story. “Some people live quite a flamboyant life, and others let themselves known after a lapse of time—like Kyong Hun who is indeed a conscientious and welcome kind of person who has sealed both the initial and last days of his life securely by means of the heavy-duty truck.”

After leaving the chief engineer’s house that evening, Jong Gu strolled the night street of Musan for many hours. The bright windows looked like the eyes of the night that were working untiringly. A sweet sound of the guitar rang and reverberated, playing the tune of the *Song of Friendship*. What a wonderful image his old friend wore! It seemed as if a good deal of jewel buried deep for so many years had come into sight at last.

Jong Gu walked and walked, for he wanted to walk throughout the night giving vent to the words of his heart after the shock. The old memory came to life, like a periscope rising from under the sea to have an open eye at the surface. The days of his own innovative work were flickering dimly—like a distant light. It was the light of his own pride, that of styling himself as a rapid current of the times. A scrutiny of the light would disclose some sooty corners of shadow which could not be washed off at all. The flow of the time removed the veil of the light which was far from truth and conscience. With the passage of time, however, those ordinary and unassuming people who ►

- chose a conscientious way of life without any trial for all kinds of fame and glory turned out to be the rapid current of the times.

The train began to run again. The soft and monotonous sound of the wheels and the magnificent dash through the darkness returned again. The life moves ahead and leaves behind foot-steps. The genuine traces of life are to be found only after the life has passed. If not the work of the train maintenance workers, the train could not run smoothly ahead.

Now Jong Gu was reminded of what Jong Ok Gum had said proudly of his husband when he met her in the guesthouse. At the time he had had no idea why she had been so proud of his husband for his lifelong work as a heavy-duty truck driver. He had got to know what she had meant only when he had gone to see Ri Kyong Hun at his house.

Kyong Hun was not yet at home when Jong Gu went to his house to see him.

"Here's another story," Jong Ok Gum said in a sentimental voice, like the flow of a country stream. "Once there was established a new position called chief of the truck management section at the ore transport company. The general manager of the company called my husband one day. Thinking that things were going as I had expected, I prepared a good table that evening, and waited for him to return. After a while he came back. With a smile I asked him hastily, 'How are things with you?' Kyong Hun answered, 'It's OK.' I cried gladly, 'Then, you're the chief of the truck management section now?' I was quite happy. But at the moment he said that a young man who had

just finished college would be the chief of the truck management section. I felt as if something were collapsing heavily in my heart. My husband told me what had happened: the general manager of the company asked him to look after the truck management section, but he refused and recommended a young man for the position, saying he was now old and that a man who could afford a scientific and technical management of the trucks should be put in the position. I felt quite sorry. Why on earth should he refuse to accept the position? I couldn't contain my temper. Then, my husband wore an awkward smile on his face, asking not to be so sorry about it. He blinked his mild eyes and forced a smile again. I couldn't but understand him, and changed my mind." Jong Ok Gum murmured her words.

Jong Gu looked up at the ceiling, blinking his eyes himself. The sight of Cholsan Hill in the rosy twilight returned to his mind's eye, the sight of grandiose, firm and wonderful image associated with beautiful affection and lot. Jong Gu had spent the many years without understanding it, thus leaving behind a disgraceful blank in his life, the blank of truth and conscience. That was the cause of Jong Gu's anxiety. Probably it might be an eternal cause of anxiety. A painful memory remains heartbreaking, anyway.

For the last bidding of farewell, the two friends stood side by side in the platform of the railway station.

"Please pardon me," Jong Gu said cordially, taking Kyong Hun warmly by the hand.

Kyong Hun became wide-eyed at once, when Jong Gu noticed his grey earlock for the first time.

"I'd like to pay you my tribute

from the bottom of my heart," Jong Gu said.

"Don't mention it," Kyong Hun said calmly. Something seemed to be filling Jong Gu's heart to the full, like the water saturating the earth in the dry season of spring. It was the warm and lofty feelings toward his friend.

"My dear," the woman in the opposite side called in sleep. Even in sleep, she must be wishing their love would remain invariably true and genuine for all ages.

The silent girl next to Jong Gu was dabbing her eyes, while reading. She must have come across a moving scene at last.

The soft and monotonous sound of the wheels and the magnificent dash through the darkness were going on. Was the invariably smooth sound like that of a galloping horse coming from afar, or that of a lullaby soothing the passengers into sleep? No. It was the whisper of advice regarding what man should leave to be memorized.

Days later, Jong Gu, while immersed in his work, heard the news that the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly Presidium had issued a decree on awarding the title of Labour Hero on Ri Kyong Hun, heavy-duty truck driver of the Musan Mining Complex. At the time he stood solemnly at the window of his office. Labour Hero Ri Kyong Hun was now known across the country. Something significant began to whirl in Jong Gu's heart. While he was oblivious of his friend, Kyong Hun had proved himself as a true character to the full. As he demonstrated his skill of strike at a volleyball match in his youth, Kyong Hun made a successful career of his life.

*(The End)*

# Korean Industrial Arts (3)

## Metalwork

THE KOREAN PEOPLE HAVE LONG MADE various kinds of beautiful metal craftworks by accurate and delicate toretic methods. In the Bronze Age in the late primitive times they began to make metal craftworks such as buttons, bells, rings and bracelets which were dull and simple and founded by using molds.

Metalwork was rapidly developed in the ancient times. Metal craftworks were based on good combination of utility with artistic value; typical of them are a *pipha*-shaped dagger and spear, a narrow-bladed brass dagger and spear, a mirror with a fine-lined pattern, horse-band buttons, a bell and a bracelet. In particular, the *pipha*-shaped dagger and the mirror with a fine-lined pattern are representative of the metalwork in the Ancient Joson period, for they are credited with extraordinary shapes and decorative patterns.

In the period of the Three Kingdoms (early 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C.–A.D. late 7<sup>th</sup> century) the metalwork came to be more exquisite and delicate and developed in a multifarious way. The precious metal craftworks alone included in its kind gold crowns, earrings, necklaces, bracelets, rings, rod-like hairpins, buttons and shoes—these all had ingenious shapes, luxurious and beautiful decorations and smart treatment. Decorative patterns were based on dragon, phoenix, Four Guardians, lotus flower and vines, and the decoration methods included filigree, openwork, *cloisonne* and jade wing.

These traditions and successes in metalwork were further developed in the time of Palhae and Later Silla (late 7<sup>th</sup> century–early 10<sup>th</sup> century). The craftworks included such trinkets as rings, earrings, rod-like hairpins and bracelets, such tableware as small bowls, large bowls, cups and spoons, and such everyday necessities as buttons, scissors, bells, charcoal braziers, candlesticks and mirrors. Various patterns like lotus flower, vines, water waves, chrysanthemum, cloud, line and oblique line were introduced in them with different techniques.

Typical metalwork pieces of the Koryo dynasty (918–1392) are such kitchen utensils and tableware as large bowls, bottles, pots, jars, brass bowls, kettles



*Pipha*-shaped daggers.



A fretwork-patterned ornament with a gilt-bronze band.

and cups, trinkets like bracelets and rod-like hairpins, and everyday necessities such as needle cases, charcoal braziers and mirrors. Most famous was the mirror making. Though the manufacture of Korean metal mirrors began with the mirror with a fine-lined pattern in ancient times, its heyday came in the period of the Koryo dynasty. The Koryo mirror was original and various in its shape and was carved in relief, intaglio and line incision after the patterns of plant, scenery, letter and architectural geometrical forms.

In the period of the Feudal Joson Dynasty (1392–1910), the metalwork further developed based on existing achievements. Unlike the smart and gorgeous Koryo craftworks, the metal craftworks made in these years were simple and plain with bold arts and devoid of affectation and exaggeration in shape and decoration. Their kinds were varied—tableware, wedding fittings, memorial fixtures, lamp stands, heating facilities, stationery and decorations. These things were made of silver, copper, iron, lead, tin and different alloys by the methods of casting, forging, chasing and gilding.

The tradition and various techniques are developing as required by the times in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Kim Kwang Jo,  
researcher of the Folklore Institute,  
the Academy of Social Sciences

# Cliffs of Fantastic Shapes in Mt. Paektu





# An Jung Sik and Association of Painters and Calligraphers

THE JAPANESE IMPERIALISTS committed the unprecedented brutal atrocities against the Koreans to enforce the policy of obliterating the national character of Korea during their military occupation of Korea (1905–1945). In the field of fine arts, too, they not only restrained fine arts development of the Korean people but also made vicious attempts to obliterate the Korean tradition of fine arts.

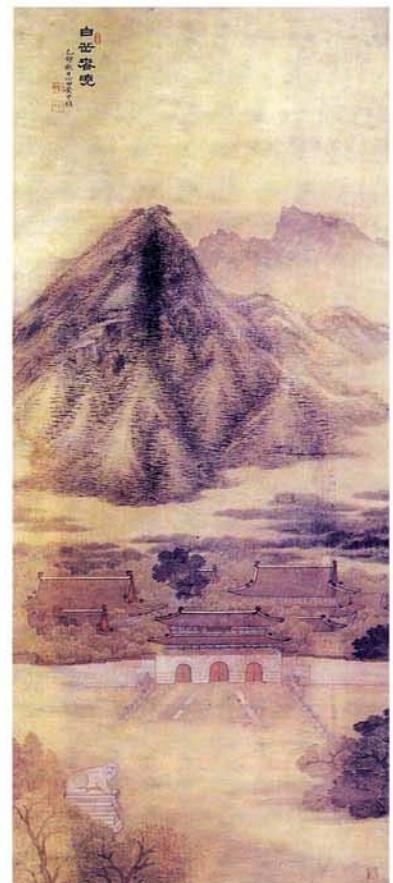
The patriotic-minded artists of Korea organized the Association of Painters and Calligraphers, a national fine arts organization, in order to maintain and develop the tradition of their national arts. The association set the training of reserves of national artists as its main objective and established a fine arts exhibition hall to push ahead with the work to widely disseminate both the Korean painting and calligraphy. It gave a three-year course—divided into the men's class and the women's—to teach the Korean painting and calligraphy. When there were many applicants evening classes were also arranged. There were textbooks concerning methods of painting mountains, rivers, sea, rocks, birds and flowers, and making decorative handwritings.

*Reed and Wild Geese.*



Along with the work of instruction the association set up fine arts and calligraphy exhibition halls in Pyongyang and Kyongsong (Seoul) which were worth mentioning as art gallery for the first time in Korea and put on display collected artefacts in numbers to advertise the superiority of the national fine arts. Since the opening of the first fine arts exhibition in 1921, it organized 19 rounds of exhibitions up to the late 1930s, contributing to the effort to carry forward the traditional calligraphic and painting arts of the nation and boosting the national pride and honour among the Koreans. In 1927 the association began to issue the *Magazine of the Association of Painters and Calligraphers*, which was conducive to the development of national fine arts and its dissemination.

The first president of the association was An Jung Sik. He studied in depth the earlier achievements of the Korean painting and made efforts to maintain them. Meanwhile, he worked hard to train young artists and create art pieces. In this way he became one of the prominent figures in the arts circle at that time. He also rendered ser-



*Mt. Paegak.*

vice to the effort to keep up the lifeline of the Korean painting.

He was good at writing and painting, and his forte was that he made marvellous pictures of mountains and waters, figures, flowers and birds. His landscape was well known in particular. Some of the masterpieces are *Folding Screen with Landscape Paintings*, *Autumn and Green Mountain*. Over 50 pieces of his work are now kept in the Korean Art Gallery and history museums in provinces, including the eight-fold screen *Reed and Wild Geese*, the six-fold screen *Scenery, Hawk, Night and Peony*, *Figure Painting* and *Apricot-Bloomed Winter Scenery*.

*Jo Yong II*

# Why Are They Denying Facts?

THE US IMPERIALISTS committed the crime of using germ and chemical weapons in the Korean war (June 1950–July 1953) in violation of the international laws and rules. They dropped lots of infectious viruses like smallpox in insidious ways in many areas including Pyongyang.

Colonel Frank H. Schewable of the US Marine Corps who was captured in the act of germ warfare said, “The general plan for bacteriological warfare in Korea was directed by the US Joint Chiefs of Staff. The bacteriological warfare was further expanded in May 1952 under the orders of the US 5th Air Force.”

The US aggressors used openly the internationally forbidden chemical weapons as well. Having suffered crushing defeats repeatedly they fired suffocating and tear shells 41 times on the trenches of the Korean People's Army and killed innocent people by dropping gas bombs 33 times in different areas of the northern

half of Korea.

Their atrocities of germ and chemical warfare committed against the Korean people in the war were recorded in world history as most barbarous and inhuman crimes. The investigation teams of the International Association of Democratic Women, International Association of Democratic Lawyers and progressive scientists of the world visited Korea in 1951 and 1952 to examine the details of the US imperialists' crimes and exposed their evil deeds to the world by sending to many mass media of the world articles, reports, communiqués, appeals and protest letters accusing the Yankees of their unprecedented crimes. A member of the investigation team of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers strongly denounced the US imperialist brutes who he said would outshine even the demons appearing in the hell of Dante's *The Divine Comedy* and that if Hitler and Mussolini had seen the

atrocities committed by Americans, they would have been astounded. Nevertheless, denying their inhuman crimes, the US imperialists are making fuss about someone's development of biochemical weapons and human rights issue. Then why are they picking on Korea, denying their own war crimes?

According to the international laws and rules of war, using the germ and chemical weapons and other weapons of mass destruction must be forbidden and the users should be defined as grave criminals and called to account for their crimes under the criminal law. Korea and the US are now in the state of armistice. So, if the US acknowledges their crimes, they must be called to account under the criminal law as a war criminal. Therefore, denying their exposed criminal acts, the US is spreading false reports about threats from the DPRK and its human rights issue, like a thief crying “Stop thief!” In case of another Korean war, the US imperialists have made meticulous preparations for using not only nukes but biochemical weapons. In 1998, they carried out a war exercise for simulated chemical attacks on the DPRK at Seymour Johnson air base in the west of ▶



Captives of the US Air Force testify to their atrocities of germ warfare.

Various cartridges of germ bombs.



# Abuses of Children and the Aged in South Korea

## Rampant Maltreatment of Children

**R**ECENTLY IN SOUTH KOREA ILL-treatment of children at Children's Homes and kindergartens happens one after another, evoking tremendous public criticism.

According to a south Korean radio, it is an everyday occurrence in a kindergarten in Inchon that the kindergarten teachers throw children to the floor, snatch off the chairs from under the children to make them fall backward, drag them along the floor, slap them hard across the face and kick them. Moreover, they even deny the little ones meals without scruples for the reason that they are disobedient.

The children at the most mischievous age are holding their breath in fear of outrages committed against them incessantly in the kindergarten. Nevertheless, the south Korean "National Assembly" rejected the bill on infant protection aimed at preventing child abuse. Such a move of the south Korean puppet regime is reminiscent of the shocking *Sewol* disaster of last year which sent hundreds of

children to the bottom. The world public was astounded at the south Korean regime's behaviour of leaving the children to go down with the ship when they could be rescued on all accounts. When the families of the victims were wailing, demanding that their children be saved, it was reported, Park Geun Hye invited those who were rich and powerful and held an emergency meeting on public welfare measures, and discussed with them how to divert the *Sewol* disaster from doing harm to their administration and business affairs. At the meeting Park went so far as to label the people enraged at the disaster as obstructive and rebellious forces detrimental to the economy.

Owing to the anti-popular policy of the south Korean authority that is incapable of protecting the lives of children, their destiny faces a crisis. The south Korean puppet regime, overlooking their own atrocious human rights violations and anxious to maintain power, is bent on revising the "National Security Law" and enacting the "Law on Human Rights in the North" and the "Law on Preventing Terrorism." ▶

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Korea in April 2013, and played the pivotal role in the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle joint military exercises last year.

In the final analysis, the US is out to commit another war crime in Korea. This year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Korea's liberation and the 70<sup>th</sup> year of US occupation of south Korea. It is also the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of fascism's defeat. Many countries take this opportunity to hold commemorations and also some functions to prevent the repetition of the bitter past.

On such a historic occasion, the US must acknowledge their grave germ and chemical war crimes which took a heavy toll of Korean lives and contaminated the Korean soil and make reparation to the Korean people for the stupendous injuries done to them.

*Kim Il Bong*

## ► “Please Take My Body After My Death”

It is said that today the old people in south Korea are ceaselessly ringing up hospitals, asking them to take their bodies after their death. This is the tearful appeal of the aged before their death who are living alone forsaken by their children. According to the report of the south Korean Labour Research Institute, the rate of poverty of the solitary old people reached 74% as of 2013, which stood first among the member states of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

As the number of old people who die after living alone, deserted by their children, increases, a new word *kodoksa* (lonely death) has been coined in south Korea. The cases of cruelty and violence against the old people continue to happen, and their number reached 3 520 in 2013, 32% higher than in 2009. There are 1.75 million vagrant old people who are begging on the streets and rummaging dustbins. Murders, rapes and robberies against the aged take place ceaselessly; some of them are killed by their own children for reasons of money, and even those aged 80 are sexually violated. Helpless old people kill themselves, and daily cases of their suicide reach 11 on an average. The Asian Human Rights Committee has expressed concern that the rate of suicide at the age of 65 and over has increased four times recently.

**South Korean people turn out in the struggle against the Park Geun Hye regime.**

But after she took office, Park Geun Hye betrayed without any regrets her election pledge “to promote the old people’s well-being” on the pretext of insufficiency of funds. This is driving those who are groaning in the dead end of their life into an abyss of despair. Moreover, the south Korean regime is trying to cut the trifling sum of the old-age pension.

Referring to the south Korean regime which exploits the old people as means of maintaining its power, instead of giving them social protection, the south Korean branch of Amnesty International issued a report that the status of human rights in south Korea has deteriorated in all aspects during the two years of rule by the Park Geun Hye regime.

*Kim Hyon Ju*



# Debt to International Law

**A**FTER IT GOT ON THE ROAD OF CAPITALIST development following its bourgeois revolution called Meiji Restoration 1868, Japan launched aggression of the Asian continent in full scale in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

An important task in establishing the domination of Korea which would serve as the springboard for aggression of the Asian continent was how to deal with the neighbouring nations and the Western powers. Looking through the ambition of Japan, the US chose to conceal its own ambition for aggression of Korea and instigate Japan's occupation of the country considering that its position was insecure in the Far East.

The two wars Japan fought against China and Russia respectively to occupy Korea were the result of the Americans' sinister policy. When the UK and other European powers, scared at a rash of Japan's moves, seemed to make intervention in the 1894 Sino-Japanese war the US tried to deter the intervention arguing for "non-intervention" while encouraging the insular nation saying, "It is inadvisable to stop advance before taking Beijing... If you occupy Beijing, you will be able to create the condition for peace as you want."

In January 1904 when the contradiction between Russia and Japan reached the extreme over the matter of the Korean peninsula, the American President Roosevelt threateningly warned Germany and France that it would aid Japan and make intervention in the war in case the two countries sided with Russia. This enabled Japan to head for provocation of the war without any worry about making an enemy of any other countries than Russia. When Japan was gaining success in the war the Americans supplied Japan with a huge amount of loan and strategic materials. Even before the war came to an end, they notified Germany of their policy that "Korea should be placed under Japan's occupation," thus wresting Germany's silent agreement. Meanwhile they acquired positive support from the UK.

Japan had a secret negotiation with the US on July 29, 1905 and cooked up the so-called "Taft-Katsura" agreement, which guaranteed the US's legal backing for Japan's occupation of Korea. After occupying Korea illegally backed by the US, Japan started another aggressive war in an attempt to set up the Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere, which would establish its leadership in Asia.

Scores of years have passed since Japan was defeated on August 15, 1945 in the war it had started with an ambition to conquer Asia while committing

extra-villainous crimes against the Korean nation. The international community enacted a law, stipulating Japan as criminal nation and restraining the country from committing such crimes any more. The basis was laid when there came the Potsdam Declaration.

The Japanese government is bound to an international obligation to refrain from use of armed force and military actions against foreign countries and to maintain the legal status as a pacifist nation. Therefore, the country enacted the constitution in November 1946 which has some important articles including Article 9 that stipulates that the nation shall eternally renounce the right to use of armed force as a means of settlement of international dispute and that the nation's right to belligerency shall not be recognized. The constitution went into force in May 1947.

Japan, however, has fooled the international community under the cloak of "peace." Ascribing its defeat in the Second World War to its insufficient power, it has built up its "Self-Defense Forces" by making a reverse use of the relevant international laws. Whether ground, maritime, or air force, the "Self-Defense Forces" have boosted their mobile striking power and operational abilities enormously, and the equipment has been rapidly modernized and renovated along offensive lines. Japan has already acquired almost all the components of modern, large-scale armed forces sufficient enough to carry out overseas military operations. It now has got the second largest maritime force in the Pacific region after the US; and the ground "Self-Defense Force" is greater in strength than the British ground force and marines put together.

In the Japanese society the militaristic trend is gaining momentum; the war criminals who were given death penalty for their crimes of inflicting misery and pains on the Asian peoples in the aggression war in last century are eulogized, while government officials often visit the Yasukuni Shrine, which is the symbol of militarism. The public atmosphere of beautifying the past crimes is feeding the frenzy for amendment of the constitution.

Japan that caused immeasurable disasters to the Korean and other Asian nations is strongly advised to remember that it is just a debtor to international law, a war criminal in the Second World War that has much more obligations to observe than right to enjoy.

*Choe Kwang Guk*

# Changsong Confucian School

**A**MONG THE KOREAN ARCHITECTURAL heritage is the Changsong Confucian School in Changsong County, North Phyongan Province. Situated in the southern face of a thickly-wooded mountain about 300 metres northeast of the Nae Stream flowing across Changsong town, the school was first established as an educational institution in the early period of the Feudal Joson Dynasty.

The foremost building of the school is Myongryun Shrine which stands on an elevated embankment piled with natural stones. As a comparatively big building with no walls, it is 15.4 metres wide and 5.6

metres long and has a hip-saddle roof with double eaves.

Behind the shrine there are two gabled houses called Tongmu and Somu with a high staircase between them. A great shrine is seen behind them. It is also a gabled house with double brackets on tapering pillars. It is 11.15 metres wide and 7.1 metres long. There are slender-ribbed windows that open sideways.

The Changsong Confucian School is valuable heritage showing the Korean people's architecture.

*Ri Sun Nyo*



Tongmu.



Somu.



