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Crystal Flower Vase

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un received the gift from the general manager (Egyptian) of the Arab Contractors Company, Kuwait, in January 2013.



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Young people are standing in the van of the nationwide campaign to be well-versed in science and technology true to the intention of the Workers' Party of Korea.



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Front Cover: Young scientists work on stem cells transplantation

Photo by Ri Song Ik



Back Cover: A scene from the grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance "The Land of the People"

Photo by Kim Ji Ye

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Strategic Resources of Korea

IN HIS POLICY SPEECH AT THE FIRST Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea held in last April, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un stressed that the country should adhere to its valuable strategic resources to revitalize the national economy and raise it to the advanced international level in the shortest possible period.

Then what are the strategic resources of the country for revitalizing the national economy?

The DPRK has invariably maintained the line of building an independent national economy in its economic construction.

When the country was liberated from the military occupation of the Japanese imperialists in August 1945, its economy was in poor conditions; the colonial lopsidedness and deformity of the economy was very serious, and moreover, it was severely destroyed by the Japanese imperialists.

At this juncture, the country set forth the line of building a national economy equipped with comprehensive and modern technology, the line of building a self-supporting economy free from the yoke of others, which develops by relying on the country's resources, strength and technology and serves the country. Holding this line, the Korean people rehabilitated the devastated economy on the debris after the Korean war (June 1950–July 1953) and stabilized the people's livelihood, and achieved socialist industrialization in a short span of 14 years.

In the hard periods of the "Arduous March" and the forced march in the 1990s they defended socialism invariably, and in recent years they have made remarkable development in the economy amidst the tenacious sanctions and blockade of the imperialists. All these successes are attributable to the solid foundations of the independent economy that have been consolidated for scores of years.

The competent scientists and technicians always have guaranteed the economic construction and development in the country. It is an immutable line of the country to regard the people as masters of the development of science and technology, not merely enjoyers of it. Making all the people intellectuals has long been a matter of crucial importance in the country. While executing universal 11-year compulsory education, it made preparations in a far-reaching way for enforcing compulsory higher education. Together with this, it consolidated the cadre training bases, and increased the number of higher educational institutions in such a way as to

develop the study-while-you-work system.

Entering the new century Korea set the goal of ensuring that all the people are well-versed in science and technology to promote economic development with science and technology as an engine. Accordingly, it enforced the universal 12-year compulsory education, established an all-people study system, and set up sci-tech learning spaces across the country, thus stoking the flames of learning science and technology and creating new techniques among the working people. It has become a social practice for all the members of society to learn and create new things. This has produced millions of talented people.

Thanks to the indomitable spiritual strength of the Korean people who cherish the spirit of self-reliance and burn their hearts with patriotic enthusiasm, the country has been able to achieve sustained development in economic construction.

In September 2016, a gale and a heavy rain hit the Tuman River basin in northern Korea; the heavy rain unprecedented in meteorological observation since the country was liberated in August 1945, destroyed or inundated tens of thousands of houses, industrial establishments, other public buildings and farmland and severed traffic, telecommunications and power supply networks. At that time, large-scale construction of Ryomyong Street was in full swing in the country. The whole country, however, enlisted all manpower, material and technical potentialities and built socialist fairyland there in only two months, true to the intention of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government that the news of flood victims' moving to their new houses would be thousands of times more valuable than the joy of the completion of the street.

Such kind of examples are numerous—the CNC machine tools, earth satellite, Juch-based production system of iron, and Mirae Scientists Street. All these are products of the people's strength and mental power.

The past history vividly shows that Korea, which has advanced by dint of its strategic resources—firm foundations of the self-supporting economy, well-qualified, able sci-tech forces and unyielding mental strength of the people—will march forward along the road of remarkable development with unimaginable strength that others cannot estimate.

Ri Mun Sim



Young People in the Van

SOME TIME AGO A KOREA TODAY reporter had a talk with vice head Song Nam Ung of the Working Youth department of the Central Committee of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League on young people taking the lead in making all the people well versed in science and technology.

At present young Korean people are in the van of the endeavour to learn modern science and technology in accordance with the Workers' Party of Korea's policy of making all the people well versed in science and technology, and the role of the youth league organizations is important in this endeavour, I think.

Right. We now work with a special emphasis put on preparing all young people as pioneers of new technology as required by the era.

We put primary effort to making sure that youth league organizations at all levels recommend young workers to the study-while-you-work system, including online colleges, in contact with officials of their units. Young people are sensitive to the new and have a strong enterprising spirit. It is the very mission of the youth league organizations to actively develop such characteristics and give preference to them. We keep selecting those who want to learn even one more thing and recommending them to officials concerned so that they are enrolled at online colleges and evening colleges to develop their talent.

And we make sure that young workers themselves strive to raise their technical knowledge and skills. We encourage them to take the lead in

making and introducing more than one invention or innovative plan for production. At present every production unit is maximizing the efficiency of production while consuming as less materials, labour and energy as possible, and success is being made in diversifying intellectual products and making production lines flexible. Young workers are just in the van of the endeavour. In any factory or cooperative farm there can be seen young people working vigorously and things associated with their creative wisdom and enthusiasm.

We also organize technical innovation achievement exhibitions, technical innovation experience presentations and others so that young people develop into masters of the endeavour to make all the people well versed in science and technology. And many of them are developing into able scientists and technicians amidst a dynamic drive to overtake and learn from others and exchange experience with one another.

I want to know about the result of the endeavour.

The achievements made in recent years can be cited.

On display at the national young people's sci-tech achievements exhibition held in 2017 were 5 500-odd achievements that had proved effective in different sectors of the national economy.

Last year 4 000-odd similar achievements made by young people were on display at the Sci-Tech Complex, arousing the visitors' interest. An automatic control system of intermittent fluidized bed gasification presented by Min Kang Il, a researcher ▶

► at the State Academy of Sciences, was highly appreciated as the system can control the fluidized bed water gasification process correctly and safely without a coal briquette production line and an oxygen plant. A natural activated liquid fertilizer presented by Jon Hyong Chol, a member of the High-Speed Youth Shock Brigade, was highly rated by relevant experts as it was based mainly on natural substances available at home.

A young man, who works at a factory under the Tideland Reclamation Complex of South Hwanghae Province and is enrolled in the study-while-you-work system, succeeded in developing modified polyvinyl alcohol to enhance the adhesive strength of cement mortar for pasting finishing materials,

bringing a great benefit to the State.

The abovementioned sci-tech achievements are the fruition of our young people's intention to take the lead in making all the people well versed in science and technology.

They are now standing in the van of the efforts for implementing the slogan "Let us make a leap forward by dint of science and guarantee the future by dint of education!" put forward by the Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Incomparably strong is our young people's zeal to leap forward higher and faster by dint of science and technology, and they will surely step up the building of a powerful socialist country. □



Primary Attention to Training of Technical Personnel

Supporting Pillars

THE KOREAN PEOPLE LAUNCHED A vigorous campaign for building a new country after it was liberated from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation on August 15, 1945. At the time the widest-ranging problem was the shortage of technicians and the biggest difficulty was the lack of functionaries.

Having acquainted himself with the prevailing situation Kim Il Sung, leader of the new Korea, proposed to establish the then Pyongyang Specialized School of Technology and gave specific guidance for speedy progress of the project.

Thus the opening ceremony of the school took place in early November 1945. Kim Il Sung attended the meeting to deliver a congratulatory message. He said emphatically that the special school of technology, whose opening ceremony they were having that day, was of tremendous importance in the Korean history as it was to train national technical personnel who would develop the national economy of the country relying on the Koreans' own effort.

Giving a gentle glance at the excited faces of the students, he stated that the young people and students of Korea were charged with a gigantic and critical task of facilitating revival and development of the national economy and building of a democratic and sovereign state. He appealed to the young people and students to learn to their heart's content and conduct scientific research energetically so as to develop themselves into supporting pillars of the country.

Hub of Information Education and Science

Chairman Kim Jong Il examined a relief map of prospective model of Kim Il Sung University on March 19, 2009.

While hearing about the project of building a new e-library, he suggested refurbishing the main building of the university for the e-library rather than erecting a new building. Now he said, casting a gentle glance at the accompanying officials, that if they established a modern e-library in the main building it would always be crowded with a

lot of visitors and that it would be a favourite resort of the teaching staff and students and the centre of Kim Il Sung University. Later he looked after every stage of the project ranging from the purchase of facilities to trial operation as well as the designing and construction. Then, he wrote an autographic statement and sent it to the university which reads, "**Keep your feet planted firmly on this land and look out over the world! Become reliable pillars of the Songun revolution with an ennobling spirit and profound knowledge! Redouble your efforts for the great Party and Kim Il Sung's Korea to be admired by the world!** Kim Jong Il December 17, 2009"

Thanks to his lofty and loving care the e-library of Kim Il Sung University went up as hub of general information education and science equipped with a tremendous database and latest server.

Honorary President

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited Pyongyang University of Architecture one day in November 2013. While looking round different places of the university, he said that a huge number of structures to be seen all across the country are associated with patriotic spirit and creative talent of the teaching staff and students of the university.

When he was in the art practice room, he looked into a collection of designs for architectural formation, giving in easy and understandable words an explanation about creative view, space-presenting capacity, perception and aesthetic sense. Then pointing out the merit and demerit of each of the students' pictures, the leader said that the building of a civilized socialist nation depends on the students and that the design of such a nation is made by their hands.

Kim Jong Un stressed that the students of Pyongyang University of Architecture should engross themselves in learning conscious of their obligation that they are charged with the task of designing a civilized socialist nation and keeping the ambition to beat world-famous designers. Then, he declared that he would be the honorary president of the university.

Kim Hyon Ju

Promising Young Scientists

KIM CHAEK UNIVERSITY of Technology is a leading base for training scientific and technical personnel of Korea. The teachers and researchers have undertaken a series of projects to solve many problems of practical significance in reality, giving a powerful impetus to the country's economic growth.

Young people are at the forefront of them.

Desire

Jon Chung Hyok is a teacher at the robot control engineering department of the automation engineering faculty at the university.

Earlier, as a student, he joined in the development of a control system of tower crane, and presented several research findings already in his university years.

As a lecturer, he took part in the development of an integrated automation system for the oxygen blast furnace of the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex and a computer-controlled system of RH vacuum refining furnace, which later became achievements of national significance.

The oxygen blast furnace at the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex to which he devoted his wisdom and thought began to turn out molten iron using anthracite instead of coke last year.

Most recently, his dissertation on improved performance of the control system of machinery and equipment was published in an SCI-class magazine.

"In the past I only had a strong desire to possess extensive knowledge, but now I want to teach the students well to help them become pacesetters for advanced science and technology," says Jon, 29. His desire is growing steadily and he is doubling his effort to fulfil it.



Jon Chung Hyok.



Ryu Song Il.



Ri Won U.

First creation

Ri Won U has worked for only three years as a researcher at the semiconductor institute.

Yet he has been thrust into the limelight for his invention of a differential pressure transmitter badly needed for various economic sectors. It is his first creation.

A device to measure the difference in pressure and send it from one place to another by using a certain signal, the transmitter is much needed for measuring various kinds of discharge.

It was not an easy job for him

to design and make a device of quality with a simple structure. He drew up the designs and made trial products dozens of times, and conducted tests repeatedly. But they failed to reach the targeted indexes and characteristics, so he had to change the mode of development several times.

After years-long painstaking efforts, he completed the transmitter with high technical specifications.

"I have come to realize how difficult yet worthwhile it is to create a new thing," he said with tears in his eyes.

He is a renowned soloist of the institute as well. A vast stage of activities for creation is open for the young scientist who loves music and science.

Family line continues

Ryu Song Il was awarded associate professorship in February this year. It is very uncommon for a teacher in his thirties to be honoured with the academic title in over a dozen years since he began his career.

He teaches at the oil extracting-machine department of the mining engineering faculty. He majored in it, following in his father's footsteps. His father dedicated his all to making oil boring machines to develop the country's oil industry. His intention is carried on by his son today.

Ryu's painstaking efforts to continue his family line is evidenced by many certificates of national patents, introduction of invention and registered national sci-tech achievements he has obtained.

He is a model teacher at the university and a master of new teaching methods as well.

Rim Ok

Innovative Factory



From left: Ri Jun, Ham Myong Chol and Pak Chol.

THE TAEDONGGANG Foodstuff Factory is well known not only for the producing of Pyongyang Soju, the national liquor of the country, and Pyongyangju but also for a large number of innovative workers.

Knowledge is power

Ri Jun at the raw materials workteam is a young man with a short-term career at the factory, but he is a passionate man with a spirit of inquiry.

Two years after he started working at the factory, the electric motor of the raw material crusher suddenly became hot.

He grew confused because such a phenomenon was the first time for him; he went here and there to ask for help. The cause was

that the moist raw material was mixed with corn kernels whose germs and coats had not been removed properly.

Later he enrolled himself at the machinery course of the food machinery faculty of the Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry online. The more he learnt, the more everything became new to him. In this course, he developed an idea of manufacturing a machine that is capable of removing germs and coats from corn kernels completely. However, it was merely an initial step.

Under the guidance of the teachers at the university and technical engineers of the factory, he studied the parts of some equipment, and began designing. To solve knotty problems,

he sometimes studied all night.

He completed designing a system of separating fine corn kernel coats by flotation in a year and introduced it to produc-

tion; this increased the quality of raw materials, economized on labour and cost, and made the production line simple.

The system was highly appraised at the 34th Pyongyang Municipal Sci-Tech Festival held in March this year. Knowledge is power, he says.

Big thing from small one

Pak Chol works with Ri Jun at the same workteam. They were employed by the factory in the same year, and are now studying at the same course of the same online university. They always exchange their opinions while studying.

It was when the raw material delivery work was underway. While seeing the raw materials being carried on the flow line to the crusher, Pak noticed something strange. He hurriedly took it out, and was quite surprised; it was a small piece of iron fallen from a machine during the pro-



Pyongyang Soju is produced.

Magnet was highly appreciated at the aforesaid sci-tech festival.

Besides them, some workers including Ham Myong Chol at the raw material workteam and Ri Chung Hyok at the electric power workteam have also produced novel ideas for the normalization of production.

Pak Jong Im, a diffuser of science and technology, says, "In the near future, dozens of graduates from online universities will claim a large share in production, giving an impetus to the development of the factory."

Sim Yong Jin

Class Honoured with Scientific Research Prize



A joint discussion on an architectural design.

By March this year all members of Class 1 of the sixth grade of the architectural science department of the Architecture College of Pyongyang University of Architecture had won the scientific research prize. Some time ago I had an opportunity to meet them.

The first winner of scientific research prize

DRAWING PICTURES WAS PLEASURE OF life to Choe Kwang Il from his childhood. When he came back home after school, he used to hold pencil in his hand and draw something on the book enthusiastically—he repeated erasing and drawing so many times. His parents as well as his teacher said he should be an artist in the future.

But after graduation from the middle school he joined the Korean People's Army. The day he joined the army his father told him, "Until yesterday you drew your dream on paper. From now on you must defend the dream."

During his military service he saw newer styles

of better apartments mushrooming, when he decided his career.

I'll become a designer and build more excellent and magnificent houses for the people.

After being discharged, he was enrolled at Pyongyang University of Architecture. He began to delve into the world of architecture; sometimes he was faced with difficulties, but he set it as his target to solve important issues arising in building energy-saving apartment houses, a trend in the world nowadays. He presented a paper, titled, *Study on the Indoor Architectural Designing with the Pumice from Mt Paektu in Construction of Energy-saving Houses.*

The paper was appreciated for the use of domestic materials, and he was awarded the scientific research prize.

► Enthusiasm

Born in Hamhung, South Hamgyong Province, Sim Kwang Hyok is called an enthusiast in his class.

Once his teacher explained during a lecture a method for solving the problem of water shortage, the most knotty problem in the present world. The teacher said that recycling is important in solving the problem, and asked the students about it. At that time Sim replied what he knew about the things relating to its recycling. After hearing his explanation the teacher said that his explanation was based on the established theory, and asked him again what conclusion he had found from it. Now Sim could not give an answer. He knew water is the main thing in human life, but he had failed to master the field of recycling it as he had followed the existing formulas.

From that time on, he made a research to solve the matter of recycling water. He often stayed all night at the e-library to find out solutions or went to see experts to learn the relevant knowledge. Without clinging to the previous theories, he tried to seek his own way, and at last, he presented a paper, titled, *Study on Recycling of Heavy Water in Construction of Energy-saving Industrial Buildings.*

The paper was favourably commented upon by the university teachers and members of the committee for the deliberation of papers. He, too, won the scientific research prize.

We are masters of the future

The youngest in the class is Choe Kuk Hui.

Once the class helped the construction of a building they had designed in a suburbia of the city. As she was the youngest, she was entrusted with designing an easy sector. She thanked for her colleagues' sincerity, and said, "I'm the youngest not only in my class and but also in my family. I, however, would not be the youngest on the road of studying architectural science."

In order to solve core problems arising in the reality, she consulted her father, a teacher, and even went to the workplace of her mother who works at the Pyongyang Municipal Building Materials Management Bureau. She succeeded in developing blocks with coal cinders.

The day she received the scientific research prize, she said proudly, "We are masters of the future."

Kim Il Bong



Some of the designs created by students.

AT SCI-TECH COMPLEX

THE SCI-TECH COMPLEX IN PYONGYANG TAKES a large share in making all the people of Korea well versed in science and technology. It can be said that it plays the role of a guide in opening an era of prosperity and bringing about a turn in the building of a powerful socialist country by dint of science. Not only different sectors of the national economy but also educational institutions have registered many sci-tech achievements. This is inconceivable separated from the role of the complex.

I visited the complex to learn how it is operated.

► Multifunctional centre

The complex is in the form of a large atomic structure symbolic of the world of science. Kim Pok Sil, a lecturer at the complex, said that it is a multifunctional centre for diffusing advanced science and technology and for social education, adding that as a large-scale comprehensive e-library, it has e-reading areas

and indoor and outdoor sci-tech exhibition halls.

In the centre of its entrance hall stands a model of a satellite carrier rocket soaring into the sky. The four-storey building houses e-reading areas, a hall for children's dream, a hall of history of sci-tech development, a



► frontier sci-tech hall, a basic sciences hall, applied sci-tech halls and a hall for scientific study. Indoor sector-specific sci-tech exhibition halls have exhibits, which visitors can feel and operate, and sector-specific reading rooms, which draws the attention of those who want to pioneer new fields of science.

In rest halls with tiered seats visitors can watch sci-tech data on TV. And they can borrow computers to read any necessary data at any place in the complex.

The reading area for people with disabilities provides videos, data on health protection facilities and e-books and videos on other themes so as to help them improve their health, education and culture; it also provides equipment, specially-designed seats, audio programs and so on for them.

Visitors increase in number

According to Kim Pok Sil, the number of visitors to the complex has steadily increased since its inauguration, for example, over 5 000 a day on average or more than 10 000 a day at maximum, and those who contact it through the network number 30 000 to 40 000 a day on average. She continued that the number of frequent visitors to the complex is increasing as they



got intimate with its librarians and researchers.

I met those who had frequented the frontier sci-tech hall.

When I asked Kim Hak Bong, a researcher at the Electrical Engineering Faculty of Kim Chaek University of Technology, why he frequented the hall despite all the necessary equipment in his university for scientific research, he replied, "Of course, my university has everything necessary for researchers. But here I can meet not only mathematicians, physicists, bio-engineers and other scholars but also skilled workers. Discussion with them enlightens me on new ideas. One of the ideas enabled me to make a forced AC contactor capable of raising the rate of electricity utilization. This brought a benefit to the State."

General Manager Jo Kum Ju of the Pyongyang Hosiery Factory said she, too, frequented the place, and told the following story.

While thinking repeatedly about how to improve the quality of products and normalize their production, she happened to read data of the complex through the national network. So she found time to visit the complex, and she was surprised at the sight of her counterparts of other factories and enterprises learning new technology with the help of librarians and researchers there. She was filled with remorse as she failed to do like they did although she had often referred to development of science and technology as the key to the normalization of production. From then on she frequented the complex as an avid reader. Thus she helped her factory make by itself stainless steel bobbins which had been said to be difficult to do, making it possible to produce quality hosiery.

Ri Yong Ran, a researcher of a scientific question-and-answer room, said she got to know many people through the national network. Among them are officials and technicians of factories, enterprises and farms and those of different sectors of the national economy who always keep in contact with the natural science-related question-and-answer room in order to better their workplaces as required by the era of knowledge-based economy. Their number is still increasing.

I was confident that the more such frequent visitors to the complex increase in number, the faster the sci-tech development of the country and the building of a powerful socialist country will become.

Rim Hye Gyoung

Young People Lead Innovation



The general production control room.



Joint efforts are directed to solving problems.

A GROWING NUMBER OF factories and enterprises are reaping benefits by relying on locally available materials and fuel and by dint of science and technology. This is the outcome of the policy of

making all people well versed in science and technology put forward by the Workers' Party of Korea. The policy reflects the requirements of the present age of knowledge-based economy.



► This is an era of science and technology as well as an age of knowledge-based economy. At present, unlike in the past, science and technology play a leading, pivotal role in propelling economic development.

With science and technology developing at lightning speed and playing an increasingly important role in production and economic growth, the present age requires more and more personnel with great intellectual capacity.

The East Pyongyang Thermal Power Station directs much effort to training proficient technicians needed for increasing power generation.

According to Chief Engineer Choe Sun Dok, the power plant introduced an anthracite igniting technology using high-temperature air to increase power generation and reduce the production costs, thus bringing great benefits to the country.

The project was carried out by its technical staff, especially young people.

At the beginning of the introduction, some expressed apprehension. They doubted whether the young men who had had no professional education could do it with mere ambitions.

However, the young

At a break.



At an online lecture.



pathfinders buckled down to the work with the determination to fully rely on locally available raw materials and spearhead the campaign for smashing the economic sanctions of hostile forces.

The power station already had dozens of online college students. They would gather at the sci-tech learning space after shifts to explore the way.

The chief engineer and other technical officials gave presentations twice a week to inform them of new technologies, with an experience-sharing meeting arranged on a regular basis.

The young pioneers sometimes burnt the midnight oil to solve a technical problem, consulted college teachers and went to the Sci-Tech Complex on Sundays to obtain new data.

In the course of this, they found a material that prevents slag from sticking to the combustion tube, which was one of daunting challenges to them.

A skilled old-timer at the station was deeply impressed by their success, saying he was ashamed of having been contented with his experience and adding that science is mighty and that he would enrol at an online college though

belatedly.

This served as an occasion for a boom in online college entrants and it became fashionable among worker students to devise new techniques.

Such zeal was also manifested at the time of manufacturing and installing overhead cranes.

The young men and skilled workers put their heads together and decided to design, make and install them with their own efforts.

Doing away with the practice of making an overhead crane in a month's time, they built and installed over a dozen new cranes in three months.

According to Jong Pom, leader of the repair workteam of the turbine workshop, young men in his workteam joined efforts with technicians of the station to fix up a vertical condensate pump which can ensure high efficiency with less power consumption, thereby contributing to the production of electricity.

The young men and women of the station are all eager to become well versed in science and technology.

With such youths in the van, a powerful socialist country will be built earlier.

Kim Il Bong

Parental Care for Soldiers

IN THE DEMOCRATIC People's Republic of Korea the people often use the word *parents* to express their affection and reverence for their national leaders.

On August 25 every year they look back upon the early 1960s.

At that time the imperialists were not only interfering in the internal affairs of other countries and committing invasions but also hell-bent on preparing a new war against Korea.

On August 25, 1960, Chairman Kim Jong Il started his Songun-based revolutionary leadership with his inspection of the Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105th Tank Division.

From then on he kept visiting Korean People's Army units and was always with soldiers.

He once said: Now lots of my sons and daughters are defending the country on front-line posts. I should acquaint myself with the military service of my children standing on their guard on the front line, and encourage them. So I should go to the front-line areas.

And he often said he was most pleased when he was with soldiers.

One August day in 1967, during his visit to a combined unit of the KPA, he had a long talk with a commanding officer. Hearing that some sections of

the unit did not put in due effort to create an atmosphere of militant training, Kim Jong Il said earnestly that training was essential in implementing the slogan of "A match for a hundred!" and that they should hold fast to the principle whatever the situation might be.

One day when he visited an air unit he directed the landing of planes with the commanding mike in his hand, saying that on such a windy day it would be difficult even for a veteran airman to land.

He was meticulous about everything related to soldiers.

In late September 1997, during his inspection of a KPA unit, he was acquainted with how

the unit organized the "day for soldiers." Then he said it was a very good thing, and spoke highly of its commanding officers. He went on to express his great satisfaction saying that he was glad to see his soldiers leading a happy life.

One year, when a sample of a new soldier's uniform for summer was completed, he tried it on saying with a broad smile that it was made very well.

One November day in 1996 he stopped his car on the way to a KPA unit. Mentioning that it was yet long before the soldiers had to get up and that he was afraid he might disturb soldiers in bed if he got to their place

without prior notice, he stopped on the road for over two hours in the dewy morning.

We should spare nothing if it is for the good of soldiers, and they are entitled to all the best in the world—this was his unshakable creed and principle of army leadership during the whole period of his Songun-based revolutionary leadership.

In early March 1997 he inspected an artillery unit. As usual, he did not forget to look into the mess. Observing the colour of soy sauce in a bottle on a table, he said he was glad to hear that the soldiers liked the sauce, and he instructed that nothing should be spared if it was for the improvement of their meals.

During his inspection of a women's coastal artillery company, he took a measure to provide them with cream, and during his inspection of a newly built refined salt factory, he said with great delight that his desire came true to provide service personnel with quality and tasty soy sauce and salt.

Every story woven about his long march of Songun-based leadership is associated with his love for and trust in soldiers that will be remembered forever.

Kim Jong Il is alive in the mind of the service personnel and all other Korean people as their eternal father.

Kim Son Myong

True to Intentions of Preceding Leaders

Kim Il Sung, eternal President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Kim Jong Il, eternal General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, made a great contribution to not only peace and stability of the Korean peninsula but also friendship and solidarity with peace-loving peoples of the world.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un is invariably maintaining the fine tradition established by the President and the Chairman.

Enduring Tradition

THE KOREAN AND CHINESE PEOPLES are intimate comrades-in-arms and class brothers who have long fought shoulder to shoulder in their protracted joint struggle against imperialist aggressors.

The friendship between the two countries is the dearest and most precious, which was formed by their elder-generation leaders based on the understanding of their common thought, idea, and noble purpose, and deep fraternal relations.

Thanks to the leaders the historical DPRK-China friendship took root and grew in the common front of the anti-Japanese struggle.

The traditional kinship relations of the two countries sealed through cutthroat ordeals have steadily strengthened based on the special comradely trust and revolutionary obligations of their leaders.

Over the years the two peoples have shared the same purpose and will advancing along the socialist road and supporting and helping each other. Even when the wind of antisocialism swept the whole world fanned by the imperialists after the end of the Cold War and relations between countries took a sudden turn, the deep-rooted DPRK-China friendship revealed no sign of vacillations.

Nowadays the DPRK-China friendship which has survived and further strengthened in all difficulties and ordeals, has entered a new phase of development.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un is building up

the DPRK-China friendship in keeping with the requirement of the new century, which is the valuable inheritance the leaders of the elder generations of the two countries handed down. It is widely-known that his three rounds of visit to China within 90 days last year were remarkable events in boosting strategic communication and traditional ties of friendship and cooperation. In his New Year Address 2019 the Supreme Leader stated that the WPK and the DPRK government would continue to bolster up unity and cooperation with the socialist countries under the ideals of independence, peace and friendship. Then he visited China as his first political schedule of the new year.

The top leaders of Korea and China had an in-depth and candid exchange of views over the issue of further boosting the friendship, unity, exchanges and cooperation between the two Parties and countries and over the international and regional issues of common concern, especially the joint study and coordination of the management of the situation of the Korean peninsula and the process of negotiations for denuclearization. And they expressed mutual understanding, support and solidarity for the independent stands maintained by the governments of the two countries in external relations.

Kim Jong Un said that the DPRK-China friendship had been forged and developed by the leaders of the elder generations of the two countries and was developing more successfully under a special situation, and that the WPK and the DPRK government would as ever act in unity with the Chinese side and make fresh efforts to continuously consolidate and develop the friendly ties by carrying on the tradition of close cooperation between the two Parties and the two countries.

- Chinese side and make fresh efforts to continuously consolidate and develop the friendly ties by carrying on the tradition of close cooperation between the two Parties and the two countries.

He also noted that the meetings of last year between the top leaders of the two Parties and the two countries had served as a firm foundation and a powerful engine that boosted the bilateral ties in line with the requirements of the new era, and expressed his determination to join hands with the Chinese comrades this year, too, in order to go on writing a beautiful epic of the DPRK-China friendship to be envied by the world and handed down to posterity, and safeguard peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and in the region by the concerted efforts of the two countries.

His visit to China served once again as an opportunity to demonstrate to the international community that the DPRK-China relations which had reached a new strategic position would be intensified day after day.

The American *New York Times*, referring to Kim Jong Un's fourth visit to China, said that the international community was expecting peaceful dialogue for solving the Korean peninsula issue, and that the political settlement of the issue was meeting an unprecedented historic opportunity.

Some 160 days later in last June, Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and president of the People's Republic of China, visited Pyongyang.

As it was in the run-up to the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and China, his Pyongyang visit served as an important occasion for consolidating the traditional friendly relationship between the two Parties and the two countries formed with the same intention and feelings in the common struggle for independence and socialism against imperialism; it also meant a support and encouragement to the Korean people in their cause of justice.

In the talks, stressing that it is the consistent stand of the Parties and the governments of the two countries to steadily and energetically develop the traditional DPRK-China friendly and cooperative relations as required by the times and that it fully conforms with the aspiration, desire and basic interests of the peoples of the two countries, the top leaders proposed brilliant plans for greeting the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and China with more

significance, and exchanged their views on them.

Both sides agreed on making positive joint efforts to promote close strategic communication between the two Parties and the two countries, deepen mutual understanding and trust, maintain the tradition of high-level visit and strengthen exchange and cooperation in every field.

The supreme leaders also exchanged extensive views on important international and regional matters, including the situation of the Korean peninsula, and appreciated that to further develop in depth the relations between the two Parties and the two countries conforms with the common interests of the two countries and favours the regional peace, stability and development now that serious and complicated changes are happening in international and regional situations.

Xi Jinping enjoyed the grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance "Invincible Socialism." Beautiful and graceful rhythms, virile movements and the kaleidoscopic large-scale background display in the performance showed well the Korean people's will to share the fortune with socialism for ever keeping ardent love for the socialism they have maintained century after century. Displayed on the background were pictures of historic significance presenting the deep comradely trust and friendship which was brought about by the leaders of the elder generations of the two countries and which is steadily carried forward by the top leaders of the Parties of the two countries at the moment.

Visiting the Friendship Tower, symbol of the DPRK-China friendship, Xi Jinping wrote in the visitor's book:

"Friendship will be handed down through generations with longing for the martyrs."

Xi Jinping June 21, 2019"

The two meetings of this year were significant in that it helped Kim Jong Un and Xi Jinping to deepen their comradely trust and friendly relations and express their will to foster full-scale prosperity of DPRK-China friendship as required by the times.

The long-standing history of the DPRK-China friendly relationship development confirmed that only when they keep struggling hand in hand would it be possible to reject any challenges and demonstrate great power.

It is the consistent stand of the two Parties and the two countries to firmly maintain the great tradition of DPRK-China friendship and carry it on generation after generation.

- Xi Jinping's visit to the DPRK was indelibly etched in the history of the DPRK-China friendship, giving a greater impetus to the relations.

After Lapse of 55 Years

In March last Kim Jong Un paid an official goodwill visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. His visit to the country was the first one of its kind in 55 years after President Kim Il Sung visited it in 1964. It was of greater importance as it was made in the run-up to the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Kim Jong Un paid a visit to Vietnam with a will to invariably maintain the historic tradition of friendship between the two countries despite the rapidly changing world political situation, and develop the bilateral relations onto a higher stage to meet the requirement of the new century.

During his visit he said that it was the consistent stand of the Korean Party and state to carry on generation after generation the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and the two Parties forged with blood true to the intentions of the older-generation leaders. He continued to say that Party- and government-level exchange of visits should be promoted vigorously and cooperation and exchange normalized and developed onto a new higher level in all fields of the economy, science and technology, national defence, sports, culture, the arts and the media.

Vietnamese President Nguyen Phu Trong said that the friendly and cooperative relations between Vietnam and the DPRK are the traditional ones provided and cultivated by President Ho Chi Minh and President Kim Il Sung and that the Vietnamese Party, government and people always remember and are thankful to the DPRK for having rendered great support to the struggle for independence of Vietnam and its national liberation. He added that it is the steadfast stand of the Vietnamese Party and government to always attach importance to the bilateral ties and bolster up the relationship between the two Parties and countries in the interest of the peoples of the two countries and regional peace and stability.

The Korean leader, during his sojourn in Hanoi, visited the mausoleum of President Ho Chi Minh, and the Monument to Heroic Martyrs and laid wreaths at them; this was his expression of a firm

will to continuously carry on the traditional friendship provided by the older-generation leaders.

Historic First Visit

Kim Jong Un's visit to the Russian Federation in April last marked his first to the country after he was elected the supreme leader of Korea. The meeting of the top leaders of the DPRK and the Russian Federation took place in Vladivostok far from the capital.

Saying it is a due responsibility before the times and history to put the DPRK-Russia relations on a higher stage as required by the new century, Kim Jong Un expressed his determination to usher in a new heyday of the DPRK-Russia relations true to the intention of the preceding leaders.

He said the peoples of the two countries had been closely bonded together with the feeling of comrades-in-arms through the joint struggle in the great anti-Japanese war in last century and that the brave officers and men of the Red Army had unsparingly dedicated their warm blood to the liberation of Korea, adding the Korean people cherish the noble internationalist exploits of the sons and daughters of the Russian people, who laid down their precious lives for the sacred cause of Korean liberation, even though several decades have passed, and that they will always remember them in the future, too.

During his stay Kim Jong Un visited the Lesnaya Zaimka Restaurant in Vladivostok, which Chairman Kim Jong Il had visited during his visit to the Far Eastern Region of Russia in August 2002. Seeing a tablet set at the entrance to the restaurant to honour the Chairman's memory, the Supreme Leader expressed deep thanks to the friends in the Maritime Territory of fraternal Russia for treasuring and perpetuating the memories of the Chairman.

The Korean leader visited the Russia-DPRK Friendship House in Khasan in the DPRK-Russia border and expressed deep thanks for finely building and tidying up the house, a symbol of friendship between the two countries, and had an amicable conversation with Russian friends.

His visit to the Russian Federation was an event of great significance in the development of the friendly relations between the two countries.

Ri Jong Nam

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

In Anticipation of the Day of Liberation

AFTER THE FORMATION OF THE IAF (International Allied Forces—Ed.), we underwent intensive military and political training while carrying out brisk small-unit actions and reconnaissance activities.

Our comrades learned much in those day—military theory, and the strategy and tactics of modern regular warfare.

The education in the period of the IAF was not confined to military affairs.

We studied political economy, philosophy, the theory of party-building, and economic management.

With the long-awaited day of national liberation drawing on, mountains of work piled up, calling for my attention. The matter of the greatest concern for me then was how to build a new country in the liberated homeland.

We would have to build the Party, the state and the army and develop the economy and cultural undertakings. But we were short of cadres, the leading and hard-core elements of the revolution. That was the most difficult problem.

At that time I thought of training the anti-Japanese fighters, who had been tempered and tested in the arduous armed struggle, into competent cadres with versatile capabilities, equal to any challenges not only in the military field but also in the fields of Party work, state administration, economic management, education and culture.

Setting about the military and political training, we took active measures to awaken the men to the need for this training. The Party members' groups and YCL (Young Communist League—Ed.) organizations held meetings and made public their resolutions by means of newspapers and billboards, as well as over the radio in the camp.

Each contingent selected able cadres as political teachers.

...I saw to it that the Ten-Point Programme and the Inaugural Declaration of the ARF (Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland—Ed.), The Tasks of the Korean Communists, and some other books we had previously regarded as essential reading were included in the teaching materials, and that Korean history and geography were taught.

The political teachers took much trouble to prepare their lectures. As they had to prepare and give

lectures while participating in training, they were always under heavier pressure of work than the ordinary soldiers.

The lectures were fairly good. They were convincing because they were supported by the teachers' rich fighting experience.

More than once I listened to An Kil's lectures, and I found them very interesting. An Kil, a veteran political worker, had an original way of giving political lectures.

Rim Chun Chu was good at giving lectures, and even better at tutoring.

Kim Kyong Sok was also a good teacher.

The lectures given by An Yong, Jon Chang Chol and Ri Pong Su were also popular among the trainees.

Liu Ya-lou, a graduate of the Frunze Military Academy, also gave good lectures.

I myself also often gave political lectures.

At the reviews of military and political training, the soldiers of the Korean Contingent always won the highest marks.

Even Feng Zhong-yun, who was working in the political department of the unit, admired the results of the training of the soldiers of the Korean Contingent. He even asked me what the secret of their good results was. I said, "No secret at all. They have just worked hard, with towels tied round their heads, and cooling their faces with cold water." Then he commented, waving his hands: "Well, no one can match the Koreans in diligence."

Indeed, our comrades were very diligent in those days. It was exactly their sense of responsibility for the revolution that stimulated the soldiers of the Korean Contingent to be exemplary in military and political training.

[Pak Rak Kwon] was a brave fighter who was ready to go through fire and water. He was full of wit and swift in action as befitted a commanding officer.

[He] had a special skill in handling weapons.

...He applied himself to theoretical study with a firm determination.

He participated in the battle to liberate Chang-chun (of China—Ed.) in command of a regiment.

"Study is also battle."—this is a truth we learned in actual life. A revolutionary must study to the last moment of his life, without a moment's interruption. ▶

► Unless he studies, his mind will get rusty. Then, he will be devoid of foresight.

It is precisely for this reason that Comrade Kim Jong Il always emphasizes the need to study hard, regarding it as the first part of the process of training people to be revolutionaries.

We also educated the men and helped them widen their political horizons through the facilities for extracurricular activities and the means of information and agitation available at the base.

We carried out both the study of military theory and military exercises in real earnest at the Far East base. We did tactical training, and all kinds of drills such as shooting, swimming, skiing, parachuting, and radio communication, to get ourselves ready for modern warfare.

We spent much time on offensive and defensive training, with emphasis on tactical problems. We also studied artillery, topography, sanitation, engineering, and anti-chemical warfare.

The training for guerrilla warfare was concentrated upon raids and ambushes.

During military training, we would pitch our tents over a vast plain....

When I directed the training, the company commanders and platoon leaders prepared their plans and carried them out. We made it a principle to undertake our style of training suited to the terrain of our country and the physical constitution of the Korean people, drawing on experiences in the anti-Japanese war and the Soviet-German War.

The Korean Contingent was also the best of all the allied forces in marksmanship.

In our days at the training base in the Soviet region of the Far East, we also had a lot of skiing and swimming drills. Anticipating the great event of the country's liberation, we needed to learn such skills for the guerrilla actions we were to carry out by basing ourselves in the Rangnim or Hamgyong Mountains, and for our operations to liberate the homeland by crossing the Amnok or Tuman Rivers.

The swimming drill was followed by a river-crossing drill, making them an all-round drill, so to speak. After a forced march of about 25 kilometres in full kit, the soldiers made a raft for each platoon to cross the river.

We also had landing exercises. Since our country is sea-bound on three sides and has many rivers, river-crossing and landing operations were essential for future campaigns against Japan.

...We cultivated idle land to obtain additional food. We planted potatoes, soy beans and vegetables. We benefited a lot from the side-line farm.

We also gathered edible herbs to supplement our diet. The area surrounding the training base was

green with bracken, *Atractylodes japonica*, aralia shoots, and other edible herbs.

Our comrades organized a hunting team to catch wild animals, and on holidays went fishing in the Amur.

We also conducted wireless communication drill at the training base.

In those days Kim Jong Suk, while participating in a variety of drills such as those for wireless communication and parachuting, went to various parts of the homeland to carry out small-unit actions there.

Although the training was intense, and we could not get enough sleep and were not strong enough, we endured all the hardships and trials with a smile for the future of the liberated country.

Our veterans still hold those days dear.

Everyone has a time of youth. It is by no means easy, however, to spend one's youth so as to recollect it with a high sense of honour and pride even in the distant future. How valuable and noble it is to devote one's life to the cause of the country and the nation, overcoming all manner of hardships, full of ardour and fighting spirit!

I firmly believe that our young people, too, will make a staunch struggle for the motherland and revolution, braving difficulties and hardships, by inheriting the spirit of the martyrs who laid down their lives in the anti-Japanese revolution.

... I decided to teach the soldiers the Juche-oriented line of the Korean revolution and about their motherland.

...The sweat they shed and the efforts they made bore fruit in the liberated homeland.

The anti-Japanese veterans were conversant with any duty.

Revolutionaries must plan their work and push ahead with it in anticipation of events that will take place in the distant future, while dealing with the tasks in hand.

How good it is to rise above hardships, plan for the future and create life by anticipating approaching events, rather than to complain about difficulties! Compressing time and speeding up the coming of the future is characteristic of the positive spirit. When we were looking forward to the final victory of the anti-Japanese revolution, we constantly speeded up military and political training to hasten the day of national liberation, full of revolutionary optimism and confidence.

Only those who work day and night for their motherland's future, overcoming today's difficulties with a smile, only those who plan the future for their posterity, thinking and studying ceaselessly, can become genuine communists and ardent revolutionaries. □

Light Industry Develops

SOME TIME AGO A KOREA Today reporter had a talk with bureau director Kim Pyong O, office head Jo Sung Nam and senior staff member Son Il Gun of the Ministry of Light Industry.

Now the sector of light industry is striving to produce different kinds of consumer goods to the liking of the people under the banner of modernization, domestic production and quality improvement, I think.

Kim Pyong O: You're right. The Kumkhop General Foodstuff Factory for Sportspeople, Pyongyang Children's Foodstuff Factory, Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory, Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory and Ryuwon Footwear Factory have been renovated. And many light industry factories including the Pyongyang Bag Factory and Ryugyong Kimchi Factory have modernized different production lines by dint of self-reliance. Meanwhile, integrated production systems have been established in many similar factories, and workplac-

es have been made germ-free by dint of air cleaning sterilizers. And valuable achievements have been introduced in production, including a skin analysis system, a three-dimensional laser foot measuring instrument and a laser cutting machine.

Vigorous efforts are continuing to ensure the domestic production of raw and other materials, introduce CNC technology into machinery and equipment and production lines and achieve their full automation and development of new functional goods.

Jo Sung Nam: Remarkable achievements have been made in the sector of the textile industry. Primary efforts are put in to ensure the domestic production of equipment. Last year the Pyongyang Textile Machine Factory developed flexible shaft looms which run at 359 rpm, and then air-jet high-speed looms which run at 600 rpm. The serial production of the second model of loom started early this year.

The Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill has established a

process of producing gauze fabric for footwear, the Sariwon Textile Mill a shirt cloth production line and the Sariwon Disabled Soldiers' Sewing Thread Factory a rayon yarn production line.

The Pyongyang Rayon Yarn Factory is striving to recycle by-products of production.

Meanwhile, workers of Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk, Sinuiju, Kusong and Sariwon textile mills are conducting a movement of tending many spindles and looms by workshops and workteams.

Son Il Gun: Achievements have been made in the sector of the footwear industry, too.

The Ryuwon Footwear Factory has ensured the production of light shoe soles by introducing a technique of making foam-rubber soles by dint of super-critical carbon dioxide, and the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory has made its products varied in range and light in weight by developing over 100 new sorts of shoes.

The Footwear Research Institute has completed the project of making vinyl chloride soles light and elastic, and has successfully introduced the related result in production at Wonsan and Pyongyang leather shoes factories. And through the research for examining the comfort of shoetrees of sport shoes and confirming the size of shoetrees for male and female athletes, the institute has laid a foundation for the production of sport shoes for various events including basketball, volleyball, wrestling and tennis.

Recently there have been held spring and autumn footwear exhibitions in our country, and visitors highly appreciated varieties of shoes on display.

Kim Pyong O: We'll keep striving to provide the people with cultured living conditions. □



Popular *Taesongsan*- brand Products

ENTER THE SPORTS Village in Chongchun Street, and the first building that comes in sight is the Pyongyang Sports Goods Factory. First built as the Pyongyang Sports Apparatus Factory at the shore of the Pothong River, it was changed into its present name when it was moved to the present site in 2016.

With the change of its name, many successes were achieved in this factory, and people's opinion on its products has changed.

Fully furnished with modern equipment, it is producing high-quality sports goods by putting production and business activities on a modern, IT basis.

The quality is guaranteed by



its tight quality control system in conformity with international standards; the system consists of ball globularity measuring device, elasticity inspection device, water absorbency checking device, ball-launching device, etc.

Without resting on the laurels, the factory is doing its best for meeting the increased demand of the people. When they were developing shoes and gloves for Taekwon-Do practitioners, the factory's technicians went to see the practitioners. Seeing them practising the martial art with the newly-developed shoes and gloves on, they discovered many faults, as well as methods for solving them. The new shoes and gloves produced based on the

opinions of the martial art practitioners, won their hearts, and demands for them are increasing.

Sportswears of this factory are also favoured by ordinary people.

Many individuals, enterprises and sports clubs order the sportswear of this factory for each sport event.

In the course of this, the capacity of developing new products has increased; in the past the range of its products was 30-odd kinds; now it produces 160 varieties of 60 kinds.

The factory is now developing more than 10 varieties.

Chief Engineer Kim Thae Sok says, "Our goal is to give strong impetus to the develop-

ment of sports techniques of the country. We mass-produce sports goods which are in great demand among athletes, as well as youth, children and working people."

Taesongsan-brand products from the factory are sold in commercial outlets in various parts of the country, including sportspeople's stores and department stores. Amid the hot wind of mass sports activities sweeping the country, many goods from the factory can be seen in parks and stadiums where sports games are held.

The products of the factory are getting more popular among the people as the days go by.

Rim Sang Jun



Different kinds of sporting goods are manufactured, and some of the products from the factory.

Roots

IN KOREA THERE ARE LOTS OF teachers who are devoting their patriotic enthusiasm to training the younger generation into masters of the future. Among them are those at the Changgwang Senior Middle School in Central District, Pyongyang.

As a tree grows well when its roots are healthy, so teachers' high qualifications help train their students as pillars of the country—this is the principle consistently maintained by the teaching staff of the school.

The school was established in 1987 when Changgwang Street was built. Though it has not so long history, the teaching staff pooled their efforts and wisdom, and furnished their school with multifunctional classrooms, physical, chemical and biological laboratories, an art room and a gym.

Recently, it is giving a primary effort to improv-

ing the teachers' qualifications as required by the developing reality under the slogan "Let us make a leap forward by dint of science and guarantee the future by dint of education!"

All the teachers make strenuous efforts to improve their abilities and qualifications. They often gather by department to exchange experience and develop new teaching methods. At the seminars organized regularly divided into grades and departments, they solve problems and methods arising in lessons through collective discussion.

They have participated in the national and municipal demonstration classes for presenting new teaching methods and scores of them have been highly appreciated for their new teaching methods suited to the pedagogical principles and students' psychological peculiarities.

The multifunctional classrooms are proving effective: in these classrooms, the students not only



- ▶ assimilate what they learn at class and get a broad knowledge through the intranet but also get study guidance and appreciation on their academic performance. At the experiment and practice rooms for basic and natural sciences, they conduct communication and data sharing as well as inspection of others' experimental lessons through the local area network.

When creating one experimental apparatus, the teachers try to make them to be useful even in the distant future. These apparatuses and teaching aids help the students improve their academic performance.

In this course, several teachers won certificates of registered new teaching methods and of registered new experimental apparatuses and teaching aids, and many students came within the top three places, some of them winning special prizes, in the recent national multi-subject academic contest.

Besides, the school is directing a great effort to the physical and art education by operating dancing, football, volleyball and basketball circles. Han Nam Su, headmaster of the school, says, "In the future, too, we'll make strenuous efforts to create better educational conditions and environment."

Sim Yong Jin



Competent Artists Trained



Hearings of teaching experience take place on a regular basis.

ONE OF THESE DAYS I visited the Sinuiju School of Arts in Sinuiju, North Phyongan Province. Passing through a resting place lined by good species of tall trees and a grapevine-shaded studying place, I entered the school campus. Welcoming me, its headmaster Cha Tok Yong said, "We have done a lot for better educational conditions and living environment of the school amid the growing atmosphere of the whole country attaching importance to and supporting education."

Mentioning that the school consisted of three buildings, the headmaster led me into building No. 1. Different kinds of visual boards were hung on corridor walls to suit the psychology of students.

"We've renovated all the buildings like this. All visitors to my school say it looks wide and neat and that it really is

arranged in a unique way," he said before guiding me to a vocal music training room on the first floor, where I met vocal music department head Ri Jong Ho who had previously trained many vocalists. While I was listening to students' merry singing, Ri talked about his experience, saying, "In order to train students into able vocalists we teachers should be prepared to competently play their accompaniment on the piano. And we should introduce a scientific method of guiding the students in vocalizing music so as to teach the latter vocalism in a creative way and through theoretical explanation to suit their physiological constitutions, and we have to be possessed of high educational qualifications and artistic skills enough to meet depictive and technical requirements."

Next I looked round a dance

practice room before going to the next building.

Inside the building I dropped in at a room from which a unique sound of *Jangsaenap*, a kind of Korean woodwind instrument, was coming. In the room there were students engrossed in learning to play the instrument

- ▶ under the guidance of teacher Ri Kuk Hyon. There I met Choe Chun Yong, head of the national instrumental music department, who said Kuk Hyon had been working at the school for over 40 years and that though advanced in years he was still teaching the students as energetically as in his youth.

I was making for the third two-storey building when there came a melody from the campus radio to tell the time for a recess. Still, the sound of an accordion kept coming from somewhere. Out of curiosity I went there and found Kim Kwi Nam, head of the accordion and bayan department, playing the accordion. Mentioning that Kim was a teacher of very high ability, the headmaster said he had written eight textbooks, teaching manuals and reference books, and

that he was now preparing for a joint discussion about teaching melodies.

In the third building I looked round a fine arts classroom where I met Hwang Yong Sik, head of the Korean painting and pictorial art department. "My school selects students with an instinct for music from across the province, give them special lessons every day and four hours of tutoring a day," Hwang said, and added that there would take place a skills presentation of students in the afternoon.

On the way to an auditorium, the venue of the skills presentation, I met Ri Kyong Ho, chief of the scientific research and teaching guidance section. "The teachers are striving to improve their qualifications in accordance with the school's plan and their own, and every Thursday

we have department-specific presentations and discussion about teachers' own teaching materials for the purpose of getting public evaluations," the section chief said. As the level of the students' skills depended on their teachers' qualifications and ability, he added, the school was making great efforts to enhance the ability of the teachers.

In the auditorium I was also glad to see students fully display their skills.

The headmaster said, "Many of my school's graduates are now distinguishing themselves at famed art troupes. We'll strive to train more competent artists in greater numbers by further improving our teaching conditions, environment and methods."

Pak Un Yong



University Proud of Scholars in Medicine



Ryu Myong Chol
(second left).

NOT LONG AGO I visited Kanggye University of Medicine in Kanggye, Jagang Province, after hearing that it had scored many sci-tech achievements.

The first I met was Associate Professor Ryu Myong Chol, 54, head of the traumatic orthopaedics faculty. A man of solid build 1.8 metres in height and with expressive eyes, Ryu looked like a sportsman rather than a medical scholar at first sight. Actually, he is fond of sports, especially volleyball, and he is unusually competitive and always makes exact demands on himself. After graduation from university he set it as his first research task to establish the method of treating aseptic necrosis, one of the obstinate diseases in the world.

He said, "Over twenty years have passed. I faced repeated failures and manifold difficulties and trials. We, however, managed to confirm the indexes for clinical diagnosis of aseptic necrosis and establish a new minimally invasive method of homo-osteoplasty, and invented relevant operating appliances."

The method is less invasive during operation, costs very less and is highly efficacious, and thus it was highly rated at a national sci-tech festival and a national invention exhibition.

In addition, Ryu developed other operating and treating ap-

pliances including a traumatic orthopaedic bone reposition appliance and an osteo-foreign metal body locator, and established different methods of treatment and operation, including electroless plating of bones and skin, thus winning many certificates of registered sci-tech achievement and of invention.

In February last he was chosen as the best scientist in the province.

I also met Merited Scientist and PhD Song Myong Won, 72, head of the university's advanced technical product development company. Though in the twilight years of his life, the associate professor is still devoting himself entirely to the development of Koryo medicine.

Jong Ho Nam, a teacher at the neurosurgery faculty, who counts among the best at micro-operation and anatomy of the brain, and other teachers I met were all devoting themselves for the development of the country's medical science.

That was not the first time I met him.

I had previously met him after he won the highest prizes



Song Myong Won
(centre).

and technical prizes at different international exhibitions such as the China international patent technique and goods exhibition held in 2006 and the Pyongyang international sci-tech exhibition of medical appliances for health and family use. Ultrafine powder-based *Ryongsinhwan* pills, activated insam liver tonic, anti-hepatitis insam capsule and other Koryo medicines of his invention had been highly rated at intellectual products exhibitions and national sci-tech festivals.

He said he was now making progress in developing medical appliances.

Actually, in 2016, he invented and introduced a Koryo medicinal material micro-pulverizer, thus making it possible to raise the efficacy of relevant medicines by 50% while using 50% less raw and other materials; in 2017 he invented and introduced a pharmaceutical depressed concentrator capable of doing extraction, concentration and drying simultaneously, and a vacuum drier this year, making a great contribution to the development of Koryo medicine.

Jong Ho Nam, a teacher at the neurosurgery faculty, who counts among the best at micro-operation and anatomy of the brain, and other teachers I met were all devoting themselves for the development of the country's medical science.

Choe Sol Mi

LONG LIFE IN GOOD health is a dream of mankind.

The 20th century was an era of medical and surgical treatment against diseases, an attempt to realize the dream.

This century, however, is regarded as an era of cell treatment because obstinate diseases for which there is no ideal clinical treatment can be treated by using stem cell, which is called a source of life and mother of cell.

Stem cell is a cell capable of proliferation, that is, autoreproduction.

It is a global trend to use stem cells to make and implant necessary kinds of cells, tissues and artificial organs to cure obstinate diseases and retard aging.

The stem cell research findings from the Branch Academy of Bioengineering under the State Academy of Sciences have opened a new way to treating diseases in the public health sector.

At first, its researchers got interested in separating, cultivating and implanting stem cells into focal parts because they had found that the human body gets ill when the number of stem cells decreases making it impossible to produce new cells.

Through long research and clinical practice they conducted in cooperation with the Kim Man Yu Hospital and other medical institutions, the researchers confirmed the passages for inserting stem cells for different diseases and the kinds of such cells to be chosen, and scientifically proved the methods of implanting the cells and the time and parts for implanting and the time for re-implanting for different diseases.

The Kim Man Yu Hospital

Stem Cell, New Means of Treatment

succeeded in treating patients with cervical vertebrae fractures, cerebral apoplexy, liver cirrhosis, diabetes, eye diseases, chronic kidney troubles and other diseases.

The branch is conducting the research to develop injections for regeneration of bone and nerves and other functions.

Dr Son Kyong Su, PhD and pioneer of stem cell research in Korea, says, "Stem cell research is one of the ten most important research subjects in this century. The stem cell research technology and relevant products constitute an important criterion with which to decide the level of scientific and technical development of a country and its people's health."

Researcher Kim Ryon Hui says, "Not only patients with chronic diseases but also healthy people demand stem cells. At present these cells have emerged as ideal means of medical treatment that can help realize the dream of mankind. We'll further improve the stem cell technology to make an active contribution to the endeavour to make a radical innovation in the mode of clinical practice."

Rim Ok

A new injection is developed.



Day Spent with Sports Club

SOME TIME AGO I VISITED THE Pyongyang Jang Chol Gu University of Commerce Sports Club.

So Chol Nam, head of the club, said, "According to a measure taken by the State on organizing a sports club in every university, my club was organized in June 1996. We have handball, table tennis, judo, figure skating and athletic teams. Though small, we have achieved many successes."

We met handball coaches O Yong Sok and Ri Hui Yong, who were guiding players training in the playground. O had been a coach of the Rimyongsu Sports Club and Ri had been one of his players.

When Ri had been in the Rimyongsu Sports Club, she, as wing and foul-shot player, had made a remarkable contribution to the team's success in the games at home and abroad.

After being appointed as a coach, she devoted all her wisdom to training her disciples capable for playing at the national team; she intensified training, throwing, catching, dribbling, throw-in, dodging, especially making a two- or three-player formation after one of them got past the defender.

Her disciples, Kwon Un Gyong and Yun Su Hyang, have made a great contribution to the team's success in the games at home and abroad from 2014, ▶

such as the Mangyongdae Prize Games, Pochonbo Torch Prize Games and IHF Cup tournament.

She said, "A game for selecting players for the national team will be held soon. Some of my players may be selected as reserves, I think."

We proceeded to the tennis court. Two girls with white shirts on were keen on playing tennis.

So Chol Nam said that Kim Kuk Chol, a young coach, had already won 108 medals in domestic games, and that a player he coached won in the Fifth Azel Soft Tennis World Tour Competition held in Thailand this year.

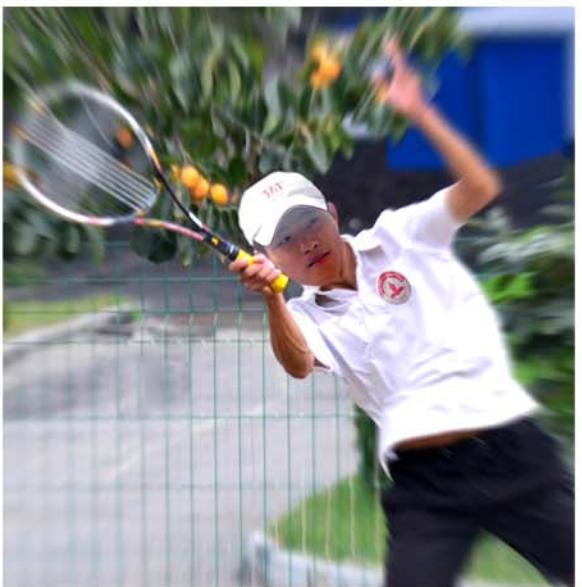
Kim Kuk Chol said, "More than one hundred players from China, India and other countries participated in the competition. It was the first time for our players to participate in such a game. But they played with self-confidence, lifting four trophies and one silver cup in the finals. Ri Ryong Hae, though young, won a gold in the youth singles event. A foreign expert said that the Korean players, though they were participating in the competition for the first time, displayed their high skills. In the future, too, I will strive to prepare the players strong physically and technically and infuse indomitable mental strength into them so that they can win international games."

With a firm conviction in their future success, we walked towards the judo training hall. We met head coach So Song, who had won gold at the Pyongyang international judo tournament. He was busy training the players enthusiastically. His passionate looks reminded us of his days as a young judoist.

The head of the club said, "Even though my club plays a few athletic events, not a few of my players have participated in international games, winning a lot of medals in a number of events including figure skating and the track and field. My club has never failed to become one of the Best Three in the university games."

We left the university with the confidence that the sports club would produce numerous ace players in the future.

Sim Hyon Jin





Believe in Yourself

(Continued from the last issue)

Run, Korea

BACK FROM THE THIRD U-20 WOMEN'S World Cup Kyong Hwa was honoured with the titles of Labour Hero of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and People's Athlete, and she was admitted to Group A of the women's football team of the April 25 Sports Club.

In late November 2006 there took place the 15th Asian Games in Qatar in which the Korean women footballers beat their Vietnamese, Chinese and Japanese rivals, winning victory.

After the Games the Korean young women's football team was selected as the best team of Asia of 2006, and Kyong Hwa became a member of the world young women masters' team and one of the DPRK's best players of 2006.

The AFC selected the top eight winners of the Asian women's football championship held before for qualifying matches for the Beijing Olympics, and decided to start home and away matches between the teams, divided into two groups, from April 2007 to choose two top teams ultimately.

The national women's team of Korea belonged to Group B together with those from Chinese Taipei, Chinese Hong Kong and Australia, and it had to beat all the rivals to qualify for the Beijing Olympics.

In April the Korean team won both home and away matches with Hong Kong's 4-0.

On June 3 they beat the Australian rivals in a match held in the Yanggakdo Football Stadium, Pyongyang. The second match took place in a local town of Australia. The first half of the match ended in a draw. Kyong Hwa went out in the field in the second half. As she was small in stature, the Australian players gave little attention to her, taking the Korean team's intention for an attempt to strengthen its defence force.

However, the Korean team's performance changed noticeably since Kyong Hwa was on the ground. The team's speedy counterattack based on her correct and strong long-distance passes began to take effect. About 26 minutes after the beginning of the second half she scored a goal by dint of a strong long-distance shot.

Amidst the Australian team's fierce attack there was a melee in the goal area of the Korean team three minutes before the end of the match. The Korean players put up team defence in an effort to al-

low no goal. The moment an Australian centre forward of great stature jumped in an attempt to head the ball flying from a side, Kyong Hwa also jumped with full force to head it. Both of them, however, fell down shrieking with pain in a serious collision. The Australian centre forward collapsed on the spot with her chin hit by Kyong Hwa's head, and the latter seriously hurt her waist caught under the body of the former. As they failed to get to their feet, doctors of both teams rushed to them followed by stretcher-bearers.

The match resumed only to end in less than a minute.

The Korean players and their senior coach Kim Kwang Min embraced one another with joy for their victory.

Back home Kyong Hwa recovered fully through two months of treatment under the concern of the state.

Later in August 2007, during the Korean team's match with the team of Chinese Taipei, the last one to qualify for the Beijing Olympics, Kyong Hwa fully displayed her high skills making a great contribution to her team's winning the match 6-0. Thus the Korean team got qualified for the Olympics.

In September that year there took place the 5th Women's World Cup in Shanghai, a coastal city of China.

In the first game of the Group B league matches the Korean team was to compete with American rivals. The match held in Chengdu ended in a tie, 2-2.

After the match the American team's senior coach, asked about impressions of it by a reporter, replied: This is the first time we've played such a difficult match. We nearly lost our reputation. Only at the last moment did we manage to tie the score.

The Korean team won the second match—with the Nigerian rivals, the African women's football champion—by two goals, thus becoming one of the top eight winners.

That year FIFA officially announced that the Korean team was at the fifth of the world women's football rankings.

Kyong Hwa became the captain of the national team in 2010.

It was during the finals of the 16th Asian Games held in Guangzhou, China.

Kyong Hwa, who took part in the event of women's football at the Games, kicked several successful long-distance shots in the group league matches,

- ▶ helping her team beat the rivals from Myanmar, Vietnam and Chinese Taipei by lopsided scores.

But the last match of the group series between the Korean team and its Japanese rivals was drawn 0-0, and the Korean team went on to the semifinal as the runner-up because of difference in gains and losses.

During their match with the Japanese Kyong Hwa could neither score even a single goal nor organize attacks properly owing to man-to-man defence by two opponents following her like a shadow.

Now in the semifinal Kyong Hwa's long-distance shot was successful, which helped her team beat the south Korean rivals and go on to the final.

In the final the Korean team had to compete with the Japanese again. The first half of the match ended scoreless. In the second half Kyong Hwa made tremendous efforts to have an opportunity for a shooting while doing bold headers against the two tall Japanese centre backs. Then, two minutes before the end of the match, she had an opportunity to shoot on a spot 20 metres away from the opponents' goal. When she was about to kick the ball a tall Japanese back recklessly jumped and fell down over her back—because she knew that if Kyong Hwa was allowed to kick the ball they would lose the match.

There was a whistle to announce a foul, but Kyong Hwa writhed on the ground with a shriek. She felt a sharp pain in the waist as if it had just seemed to break.

She got treatment until the end of the Asian Games but it took no effect.

Back home she was put under intensive treatment at a hospital for three months. The doctors had a consultation after a general examination of her waist, and concluded that though it was difficult for her to act as a player she could work as a football coach and the like.

Kyong Hwa insisted that she should take part in the coming Asian championship and the 5th Women's World Cup but in vain.

Consequently, Kyong Hwa was appointed coach of a reserve women's football team.

While attending the correspondence course of the Korea University of Physical Education she strove to acquire the qualities and abilities of a coach.

She often tells her charges about how she could become a member of the national team and distinguish herself as a master shooter though she underwent mental agonies several times because of her small stature.

She is now devoting all her wisdom and energy to her charges' training.

The end

National Intangible Cultural Heritage (33)

Jaranaegi

JARANAEGI IS ONE OF THE KORYO medical treatments, which prove efficacious in clinical practice. It is a method by which to incise a certain part of the human body or the skin on acupoint to excise a little amount of subcutaneous fatty tissue or give mechanical stimulus to the surroundings of the incised part so as to enhance the body's immunity to diseases.

The treatment is mainly for children, and it has long been employed. Chapter of diseases incident to childhood in Vol. 7 of the Koryo paediatric classic *Kupyubang* (Jo Jong Jun, Vol. 13, 1749) describes *Jaranaegi* as *haljiryobop* which means that it treats a relevant disease by cutting off the part protruding when the palmar skin between fingers is incised. At that time the therapy was known as *Jallanaegi* among the people, and with the passage of time, the term gradually changed into *Jaraenaegi* for easy pronunciation.

At first, the therapy had been widely used for curing those diseases incident to childhood. Later it was widely known among the people as it proved efficacious in treating different diseases.

With the establishment of the Koryo Paediatrics Department in the Koryo Medicinal Faculty of the Pyongyang Medical College of Kim Il Sung University, the therapy began to be regarded as important in the prophylactic treatment of children's diseases. And special education in the treatment is given at medical colleges specializing in the education of Koryo medicine. It has been introduced through TV programs, scientific symposiums and exhibitions, and the relevant research is under way. In families, parents themselves apply the therapy to their children or tell them about it as common knowledge.

Academician, professor and doctor Chon Un Ju, a teacher of the Koryo Paediatrics Department of the aforesaid Koryo Medicinal Faculty, says, "Jaraenagi is characterized by efficacy in harmonizing spirits and improving the digestive and absorptive ability of spleen and stomach, and simple treatment. It is proved scientifically that the therapy is highly efficacious in treating some diseases modern medicine fails to cure."

The therapy not only treats diseases of different systems of the human body but also helps enhance immunity and promote the growth of children, so it is recognized as a popular and profitable treatment.

It has been put on the list of the national intangible cultural heritage.

Rim Ok

Good at Training Reserve Players

KIM CHANG SUK, A table tennis instructor at the Sosong District Juvenile Sports School in Pyongyang, is well known for her many certificates of invention.

It happened in September 2000 when she was appointed as the table tennis instructor of the school. Some of its teachers doubted that she, as a young woman fresh out of the Korea University of Physical Education, would be able to fulfil her duty.

Three years later, however, something happened that dissipated such doubt. Her table tennis circle members won first place in the national table tennis contest of juvenile sports schools. When asked about the secret of the success, she said that she had only tried to apply scientific training methods.

Since beginning to work as an instructor, Kim steadily made training plans with deep speculation in order to train reserve table tennis players. *To develop and strengthen players' bodies harmoniously and in a proportionate way is a decisive guarantee for making them display their spiritual strength, techniques and tactical ability in*

games. Then we should establish an integrated training system along with technical, tactical and psychological exercises, she thought.

She also intensified the research to apply new sports science and technology to training. Thus she not only invented ladder-style, roller-style, jumping and other training equipment but also created a balance ball-based muscular strength training method, an elastic string-based bounce training method and an elastic belt training method and positively introduced them to training.

Thus her efforts began to bear fruit as aforesaid.

In recent years, too, her circle members have been displaying their abilities to the full in annual national contests. Keeping in mind that students' ability depends just on a teacher's, she set a higher goal to fulfil her responsibility.

She presented many inventions such as general ball concentration training equipment for table tennis players, hand sensation measuring equipment for table tennis players, comprehensive table tennis measuring equipment,

a table tennis training aid system, an e-emulation graph and an integrated table tennis training management system to the national sports scientific and technological achievements exhibition from 2005 to 2018. Her exhibits were highly appreciated for their novelty and practical points.

In 2011, she was awarded a DPRK certificate of invention for developing the reaction training and estimating equipment related to table tennis ball direction.

Her table tennis return measuring equipment won the technical prize at the Pyongyang international health and sports science and technology exhibition held at the Sci-Tech Complex in the city in November 2018.

Like this, her high ability was clearly proved in every contest, and the circle members she had trained were chosen as members of national sports clubs including the April 25 Sports Club, the Amnokgang Sports Club, the Rimyongsu Sports Club and the Pyongyang Sports Club.

In 2016, the International Table Tennis Federation carried an article of Kim Song I, a Korean table tennis player who took part in the women's singles event of the Olympic Games held in Rio de Janeiro. It reads in part: Among the players who drew public attention in the first five days of the games is Kim Song I, a woman table tennis player from the DPRK. She is a defensive player, but she played the game by combining forehand drive and defence well, delighting the spectators in Rio Centro Stadium 3.

Kim Song I is one of Kim Chang Suk's disciples.

Sim Chol Yong



Key to Famous Dish

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE Korea Cooks Association registered over 20 kinds of dishes as famous dishes of provinces or restaurants last year. One of them is cold noodles from the Pongnam Noodle House under the Phyongchon District Restaurant Chain in Pyongyang.

Secret Method

The Pongnam Noodle House was already famous for cold noodles. Its cold noodles have acquired greater popularity since a few years ago.

The cooks and raw materials are the same as ever, and what could be the secret?

Pak Hye Ok, manager of the noodle house, says, "Our cold noodles are prepared by the traditional method. If there is any secret method, it is that we prepare them with all our sincerity to satisfy the demands of those who are specially fond of cold noodles."

Pak was appointed as the manager six years ago. Since then, she always thought about how to make the cold noodles more delicious.

Whenever she heard that the cold noodles prepared by a restaurant were delicious, she would go there without fail to have a taste. She met the cooks of the Okryu Restaurant famous for cold noodles and teachers of Pyongyang Jang Chol Gu University of Commerce. She also discussed with her employees. In the course of this, many great ideas were presented to improve the process of making cold noodles.

But the biggest problem was that the strips were not tough enough. In the past the dough was kneaded once; they succeeded in making the noodle strips smooth and tough by kneading the dough twice.

It is said that the taste of Korean cold noodles finds in the taste of meat stock. By pooling their wisdom, they developed a refrigerator for meat stock so as to make the stock always cool and sharp even in sultry weather.

Another secret was in the seasoning.

Kim Song Hui, a cook, says, "In the past, the seasoning was prepared in the same way for all seasons. Nowadays we make it a bit sweeter in autumn and winter, and less salty in spring and summer according to the people's sense of taste that changes by season, and continuously improve its taste."

Their endeavour has led to the high appreciation at cooking contests including noodle contest that takes place every year.

Proud of victory.

The noodle house won high appreciation at seven cooking contests in 2018, and one of the walls in the dining room is full of certificates and medals of honour awarded to it. One of the certificates reads that the cold noodles of this restaurant is registered as famous cold noodles for their uniqueness, high quality and wide popularity.

These certificates and medals, which one can see the moment one enters the noodle house, are attracting a growing number of customers.

Popularity of the Cold Noodles

It is not easy to have a taste of the cold noodles at the Pongnam Noodle House.

With the number of customers increasing, the building was expanded into a two-storey one, but there are still many customers waiting for their turn. Some ask for a second helping.

Whenever customers, after eating the cold noodles, say that the smooth and tough strips, meat stock and seasoning make a good harmony, the staffs of the noodle house feel happy for having worked for all its worth.

Ri Yon Hui, senior cook, said that 2 000-2 500 bowls of noodle are served every day and over 4 000 bowls on holidays.

Though busy, the cooks feel satisfied whenever they listen to the customers asking for the cold noodles of their preparation.

The Pongnam Noodle House always bustles with people who come to it individually or with family members or colleagues, and on their birthdays or on holidays.

Kim Chol Hyon

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Let the Days Go By

IN APRIL THIS YEAR I visited the newly inaugurated South Hamgyong Provincial Old People's Home. I found the □-shaped building of the home with a gable roof of Korean style going well with the beautiful surrounding scenery.

After welcoming me, Kim Jong Sik, 46, manager of the home, led me into the entrance hall.

The interior of the building consisted of two floors, and there was a wheelchair path up to the second floor as well as a staircase.

According to the manager, the predecessor of the home had been in Sinpho, and last year the provincial officials and builders began to construct the new one there in the seat of the province. During its opening ceremony, he said, the elderly, who moved into it, were all moved to tears at the state's meticulous care for them while looking round scores of rooms furnished to

their liking, an amusement room, a fitness room, a medical room, a barber's, a beauty salon and so on.

And I happened to meet Tong Myong Chol, a senior staff member of the public health bureau of the Provincial People's Committee, who was there together with doctors to examine the old people's health. Tong said the province made sure that the elderly got medical examination once a month so that they could enjoy the rest of their life in good health.

Now I met Choe Myong Ok, 72, who had just come from her medical examination. She said, "I was a worker at the Hamhung Fishermen's Clothing and Fishing Equipment Factory for decades. I never imagined that I would enjoy the rest of my life comfortably here in this palatial home. I've been grateful to the state for having built this home for us. And now I'm moved to tears as we get a general medi-

The elderly enjoy their life in good health.



cal examination every month. Our social system is really a good one for the sake of the people."

I looked round the amusement room on the ground floor where several old men were engrossed in Korean chess. Outside advisors were shouting, "Checkmate!" and "Out of check!" more excitedly than the players. On one side there were old women playing *yut*, a kind of stick game, which was at its height. And they all looked happy without exception.

Meanwhile, an old man stood up perhaps because the chess ended. When I asked him about the result of the game, he said he had lost and that he would surely win next time. He went on to say he was pleased though he had lost and that he found everything pleasant as he had nothing to worry in life. He was Kim Yong Hwa, 85, who had served as a Korean People's Army officer for a long time. He said, "I benefited from the state's care in my youth, and now I feel awkward enjoying the rest of my life still under the care of the state."

While looking round a film show room, a library and so on, I heard singing of the song *Let*

the Days Go By to the tune of *Kayagum*, accordion and drum coming from somewhere.

*The springtime is long gone
and, our life is in autumn.
We're grey haired but still
live a green life.*

The song that reflects the mind of old people is the one all people as well as the elderly love to sing.

I went upstairs and saw old men and women singing and playing musical instruments. Those in Korean costumes were dancing, their shoulders moving up and down. It seemed that they were young again. The sight of them dancing and singing gladdened me as well.

*We look back on our fruitful
past life.
We look forward to our
future full of happiness.
Supporting our Party, we'll
remain youthful for life.
Let the days go by, and we
always have a
youthful mind.*

I left the home wishing the old people a long life in good health.

Sim Chol Yong

Techniques of Korean Painting Develop

THE KOREAN CENTRAL FINE ARTS STUDIO is located at Thongil Street, Rangnang District, Pyongyang, where high-rise and skyscraping apartment houses well harmonize with various amusement facilities.

The studio is well known at home and abroad for its artistic products, which were created in various genres including Korean painting, oil painting and embroidery.

"We have created masterpieces with different techniques. Especially we have honed and developed techniques of the time-honoured Korean painting to preserve its unique characteristics," said Hong Song Il, chief of the arts studio, when we met him.

Artists of the studio, who participated in the art exhibition "Pine—National Tree of the DPRK" to mark the Day of the Shining Star last February, fully demonstrated their skills. Seven pieces of Korean painting were presented, which well represented the single-stroke technique and the miniature technique while developing the seed of works as required by the times, and they were all ranked among the top three.

Especially, Pae Pom Sun, Korean painting artist, drew particular attention of judges and visitors for the resolution, neatness and delicacy of her work. Trying to make her work as perfect as she could, she took pictures of pines in Sinphyong, North Hwanghae Province, where ▶



A panel discussion on works.



Pae Pom Sun, an artist of Korean painting.



▶ precipitously high cliffs stood. Looking for the best pine of her picture, she climbed cliffs, sometimes losing her way. After all, she found out the best object and produced a painting of a pine on a cliff in a month.

Pae, who gave a unique representation of the pine's toughness, had a gift for painting from childhood. During her school years, teachers found out her aptitude and assigned her the task of issuing wall paper and admitted her to the fine arts circle.

In the circle she learned painting and calligraphy, and she was highly appreciated at several rounds of national schoolchildren's art contests. After graduation, she entered Pyongyang University of Fine Arts and got in-depth knowledge of Korean painting. Now she is an able artist.

Last April she created Korean paintings "Folk Games" and "Habiro Cell in Summer," which contribute to the treasure house of national culture.

"Korean painting has a long history and it has developed in its own way. I think it is my duty as an artist to value the advantages of our nation and further develop them," says Pae whenever she is praised for her work.

The studio presented over 20 pieces of fine arts to the national arts exhibition held in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the DPRK and all of them were placed in the top three ranks. Several of them, including "Jubilee of New Korea" and "With Patriotic Mind" were highly appreciated.

Now the artists of the studio are pooling their efforts to preserve and further develop Korean painting techniques.

Pak Yong Il



New Attractive Tourist Destination

TOURISM HAS NOW become a most rapidly developing field of industry, a largest economic field, in the world.

According to a report by the World Tourism Organization, international tourists numbered 25 million in 1950 and 277 million in 1980, and the number was more than one billion in 2012; it is estimated to reach 1.8 billion in 2030.

Amidst the rapid development of the tourist industry, the DPRK has been drawing the attention of tourists as a new destination.

The country abounds in tourist resources. Widely known as a land of golden tapestry from of old, it has many resources for geological, geographical and climatic tour and social resources for cultural and economic tour.

The Paektusan Biosphere Reserve, Kuwolsan Biosphere Reserve, Myohyangsan Biosphere Reserve and Chilbosan Biosphere Reserve are inscribed on the UNESCO list of international biosphere reserves. And across the country are distributed many other reserves like the Ogasan Nature Reserve, Rason Alsom Seabird Reserve and Uam Seal Reserve.

Meanwhile, the country has urban tourist attractions, including its capital city of Pyongyang; Kaesong, the capital of Koryo (918–1392), the first unified state in Korea; and the border city of Sinuiju; historical relics that represent the time-honoured Tae-

dongang culture and the periods of Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668), Koryo and the feudal Joson dynasty (1392–1910); and other resources for theme tour like spa, mud bathing, skiing and rural life.

It is also rich in geological tourist attractions including the Songam Cavern and Ryongmun Cavern and culture tourist attractions including the West Sea Barrage.

Its tourist attractions are constantly increasing with the construction of recreational centres such as the Munsu Water Park, Mirim Riding Club, Mirim Aviation Club, People's Open-Air Ice Rink and Meari Shooting Gallery. The government is increasing its investment in developing new and interesting theme tour including sports, cycling, marathon, mountaineering and seasonal bird observation, and in improving the quality of services.

The country also has enough human and material resources needed for developing tourism. The Pyongyang University of Tourism and other tourism-related educational institutions

annually produce a large number of tourist officials and interpreters of high ability and good personality. And with State investment and under the public concern new tourist attractions are under development and construction, including Samjiyon County, an alpine area; Wonsan Kalma Coastal Tourist Special Zone; and Yangdok County Hot Spring Resort in South Phyongan Province. In addition, the existing hotels such as the Majon Hotel and Hyangsan Hotel are under renovation, and many hotels are under construction.

The tourist attractions are furnished with necessary commercial, catering and welfare service and recreational facilities, and the quality and level of services are steadily improving.

Women, children, the ▶

- ▶ elderly, war veterans and persons with disabilities are entitled to enjoy priority, and international cooperation is being intensified for the development of tourism in the country.

The country is regarded as an ideal tourist destination mainly because the Korean peninsula is in the process of turning into a zone of durable peace and security.

Mankind unanimously loves and aspires after peace.

An atmosphere of peace has been eventually created on the peninsula under the wise leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea, and the world is optimistic about peace on the peninsula and the future of the country's tourist industry.

*Prof Jong Hye Gyong,
Pyongyang University
of Tourism*



Mt Kumgang (6)

Outer Kumgang (5)

FROM OF OLD PAEKJONG-bong district in Outer Kumgang has been known as small Kumgang. In the district there are stony Paekjong Peak and Pari Peak.

On Paekjong Peak there are many hollows that look like pots on the rock, hence the name. It consists of two peaks; the gradual stony peak to the north is Lower Paek Peak (*Hapaekjongbong*) and the higher one to the south is Upper Paek Peak (*Sangpaekjongbong*).

Lower Paek Peak has rocks of fantastic shapes resembling a duck, a beauty and a horseback, and Paekjong Pool. Many hollows are found on a flat rock. Cuppy, round, flat, cuppy and flat, hollowed long or zigzag and full of clean water, they look as if humans dug them out.

On Upper Paek Peak there are countless fantastic rocks like Koraedung and Pyongphung. On its beautiful summit one can enjoy the fine view of Mt Kumgang. Pari (bowl) Peak there, just as the one of the same name in the Sujongbong district, looks like a round bowl lying upside down, hence the name. The top of the peak is formed of round big rock and surrounded by rocks of similar shapes. Here and there on the rocks are hollows of different shapes filled with rainwater, in which bell toads live. It commands a panoramic view of the wide area of Outer Kumgang to the northwest, the East Sea of Korea to the east, and sharp rocky peaks and Yongsondae, Kangsondae and Sungsondae, where heavenly fairies descended to play, to the north. In particular, when you look down the cliff of Sejon Peak between the cone-shaped rocky cliff under Jipson Peak and the Tongsokdong Valley, you will feel an unusual, rare feeling.

In the Palyonso district, there are concentrated noted spots like Pari Pool, the Mujigae Bridge, a tilted waterfall and ▶

like Jipson Peak with knife-shaped peaks and fantastic and beautiful Chaeha Peak, and waterfalls, pools and fantastically-shaped rocks in Sonhadong, Tongsokdong and Sechaedong.

In Tongsokdong there is a broad and flat rock on which a hundred persons can stand. The big rock weighing scores of tons sways when moved with the help of a lever supported by a small rock, hence the name Tongsok (moving rock), and the valley is named Tongsokdong after the rock. Near the rock is Yongchundae on which spring comes earlier than others in Mt Kumgang and where you can command a fine view. It is surrounded by the Pandal Pool, Pandal Cave and Pae Rock.

In Sechaedong there are scenic sports like Toksu Falls and Mokran Pool.

In Sonhadong, there can be seen many waterfalls like Paengnyon, Hapsumok, Ryonju and Sonha and pools like Ryonju, as well as fantastic rocks like Kobuk, Chollima and Pongson. The top of Jipson Peak commands a view of the wide area of Outer Kumgang to the northwest, the East Sea of Korea to the east, and sharp rocky peaks and Yongsondae, Kangsondae and Sungsondae, where heavenly fairies descended to play, to the north. In particular, when you look down the cliff of Sejon Peak between the cone-shaped rocky cliff under Jipson Peak and the Tongsokdong Valley, you will feel an unusual, rare feeling.

In the Palyonso district, there are concentrated noted spots like Pari Pool, the Mujigae Bridge, a tilted waterfall and ▶

► Ryongsin Falls.

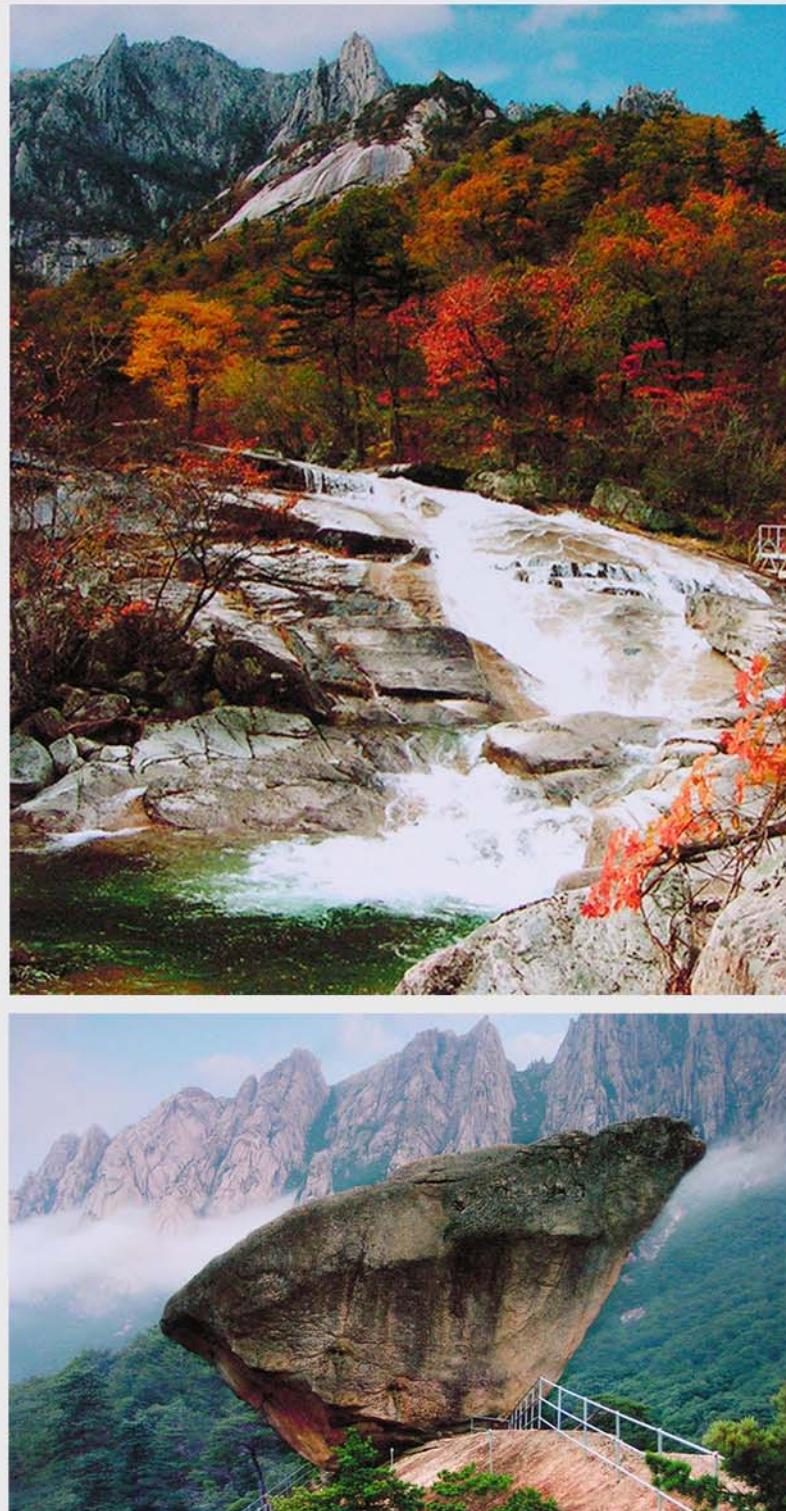
In Ryongsindong, the waterfalls are connected to pools, presenting peculiar natural beauty of valleys and demonstrating a masculine spirit. There are waterfalls like Jonju, Odan (five-step), Ryongyon and Ryongsin Falls and pools like Jonju and Ryongyon, as well as an opening, where a dragon is said to have passed, at the foot of Jipson Peak.

In Palyondong, there is the Pari Pool. It looks like a bowl full of clean water, hence the name. There are three pools on a big broad and flat rock formed step by step beside a rocky cliff. The one in the centre is called Pari Pool, the one above Upper Pool, and the lower, big one Lower Pool. The pools look quite unique, and its surrounding scenery is very fine.

The Mujigae Bridge, which looks like a rainbow, is formed of granite. It is located in a picturesque place where a crystal-clear stream flows down across the forests of pine, oak and maple trees. The bridge is associated with a legendary tale about a grey-haired monk who, while passing by the Palyon Temple, made a fool of a miserly monk.

In the middle of a white broad and flat rock around the bridge is a tilted waterfall of scores of metres long. Of the similar tilted waterfalls in Mt Kumgang, it is the one known most widely from of old. It is outstanding for its shapes; it is more famous as a playing site as one can slide down with the falling water. The trough floor, washed away by the cascade, is wide enough to keep one person who has slid down. It is also called Chiphok. Above it are the Kyesurabong Rock, Palyon Cave and the Kyesudae.

Pak Thae Ho



Hapsumok Falls in Sonha Valley (above).
Pae (boat) Rock in Tongsokdong (below).

Using a Carp

IT WAS IN 28 WHEN foreign aggressors invaded Koguryo (277 BC-AD 668).

The aggressors, scores of thousands strong, crossed the border and rushed to Winaam Fort, which was one of the bulwarks in defence of the capital of the country. They, however, met with Koguryo troops' stout defence. So they took the tactic of making the troops and other people in the fort surrender under stress of thirst by besieging it for a long time.

The fort stood on a rocky area, and there were few springs. The fort's source of water supply was a pond in it. But the water began to decrease owing to a prolonged drought.

King Taemusin of Koguryo, who reigned from 18 to 44, became quite uneasy. If the situation continued the people in the fort might collapse before the enemy, the king thought.

At the time Ul Tu Ji, one of the top government officials, proposed the king a trick he had conceived. Ul said: According to our agent, the enemy is waiting for water in the fort to dry up, seeking to launch an attack when our people break down under stress of hunger and thirst. We know the enemy troops are also exhausted as they have come a long way without eating properly owing to our tactic of leaving the fields empty while defending the fort. So, if we make them "recognize" that there is plenty of water in our fort, they will withdraw realizing that theirs is an absurd tactic.

Then Ul asked the king to allow him to catch a carp from the



pond and take it to the enemy commander along with wine.

The king approved the proposal.

Ul caught a carp from the pond, wrapped it with a water plant and sent it to the enemy commander along with wine and a letter signed by the king.

Seeing the carp writhing in the water plant the enemy began to vacillate because they "knew" that there was plenty of water in the fort.

As long as there was plenty of water in the fort it would be unreasonable to wait for its people to collapse under stress of thirst.

The enemy commander soon decided to withdraw and wrote a letter to the king of Koguryo. The letter read, "My king, without thinking of my stupidity, ordered me to bring troops to reprimand Your Majesty. So I

had to cross the border of your country and have come here. But I've been at a loss to know what to do. Then, fortunately, I've received the food and the letter associated with your sincerity, and I'm struck with boundless joy by your quite mild and polite words. Now that I have what I should say to my king, I'll return."

The enemy force finally began to retreat.

At the sight the king of Koguryo said, "I'm sure there is no parallel like this tactics in history. What a wonder it is to repulse such a powerful enemy by using a carp! Ul's stratagem deserves Heaven's praise."

The Koguryo troops, in high spirits, continuously made surprise attacks on the retreating enemy at all points, inflicting wholesale deaths upon them.

Rim Ok

Instigators of Fratricidal Strife

LAST YEAR WITNESSED a dramatic change in the north-south relations, the first of its kind in the history of national division. Thanks to the DPRK's proactive measures and efforts there was created an atmosphere of dialogue and peace in the Korean peninsula, and the improvement of the north-south relations became the trend of the times.

The adoption of the historic Panmunjom Declaration and the September Pyongyang Joint Declaration and the ensuing developments aroused great support and welcome from all the Koreans at home and abroad and the international community that are desirous of détente and peace in the Korean peninsula, improved inter-Korean relations and reunification of the nation.

Organizations of all social standings in south Korea contend that if the two declarations are thoroughly implemented it will bring about better changes in the inter-Korean relations, and that practical measures should be taken to that end.

But the south Korean conservatives are disregarding the trend of the times and the public sentiment. Last year the south

Korean conservatives, including the Liberal Korea Party, incited the spirit of confrontation with the DPRK, maliciously describing the north's patriotic measures for improvement of the north-south relations as "camouflage peace offensive" and a means to give rise to "discord in the south." When there took place north-south summit meetings and talks with the adoption of the Panmunjom Declaration and the September Pyongyang Joint Declaration, they made such reckless remarks as "camouflage peace show" and "north-dictated declaration."

The south Korean conservatives are disparaging the present development of the situation in the Korean peninsula—welcomed and supported by all the fellow countrymen and the international community as a "serious security crisis." This proves that "peace," a favourite word of the conservatives, means nothing but confrontation and war.

The Liberal Korea Party and other south Korean conservative opposition parties and press are groundlessly finding fault with north-south cooperation projects, referring to it as "unilateral

openhanded donation to the north."

Inter-Korean cooperation and exchange is not "unilateral openhanded donation" to anybody but an undertaking for coordinated progress and common prosperity of the nation and the one to greatly benefit the economy and the people's livelihood in south Korea.

Voices for revitalization of north-south cooperation are now ringing out from the political, economic and public circles in the south. Only the conservatives are desperately trying to apply the brake to the inter-Korean cooperation and exchange, speaking spiteful words about the undertakings. This reveals the wicked intention of the anti-reunification elements who are carried away by feelings of unconditional rejection and hostility against their fellow countrymen.

The south Korean conservatives themselves have revealed their ugly color as the troublemakers and cancers of the nation who do not aspire after national reconciliation, unity, peace, prosperity and reunification in the least.

Kim Kwang Song

Owing to Ambition of Reinvasion

JAPAN, WHICH LIKES TO boast its bulging moneybag in the international arena, is now floundering in a welter of debts. Some time ago, the Japanese Finance Ministry announced that Japan's state debt reached 1 100.5266 trillion yen as of the end of last year. This is the first time that the debt of the country has surpassed 1 100 trillion yen.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development already made public that Japan's state debt amounts to 219% of its GDP in 2016. It snowballed, and broke the highest record in history in 2017 and 2018 in succession.

The country's state debt divided by the present number of its total population, is over 8.7 million yen per capita. Despite the fact, the Japanese authorities set up a plan of issuing new government bonds of over 32.6 trillion yen as to the budget for the fiscal year 2019. Critical voices are ringing out here and there that the situation will go from bad to worse.

The situation of Japan is so miserable though it is bragging about its economic development. It is said that the businesses that went bankrupt in the country last year numbered more than 8 200. A research institute in Tokyo, reporting on the fact, commented that much more businesses are expected to

go bankrupt this year owing to the shortage of manpower. And international economic organizations are pessimistic about the prospect for Japan's poor economy. The IMF, in its report released at the end of last year, announced that Japan's GDP would be reduced by over 25% in coming four decades.

The Abe clique is insisting that the state gets into debt because it has no choice but to issue government bonds to meet the increasing social security expenses due to the aging population.

This means they unwillingly load over 8.7 million yen on the back of even a suckling child because of the fund for supporting the elderly. But when observing it carefully, one can understand that it is nothing but a mere pretext to deceive the public. It was already brought to light that Abe's economic policy, called Abenomics, is just no more than a mirage far from the reality. It is no secret that Abenomics, praised as a means to revive Japan's declining economy at once, has blown up like a balloon, driving its people into despair.

Another problem is where the Japanese authorities, who are shamelessly complaining that they have to be deep in debt to meet the social security expenses due to the aging population, are spending a colossal sum of the state tax paid by the sweat

of the people's brows. For the implementation of the defence programme and the midterm defence capacity maintenance programme they adopted in December last year, 27.47 trillion yen will be paid for military expenditure for several years.

Though the Japanese people are groaning under the yoke of debt, Japan's military expenditure is on the increase every year, setting the highest records.

The present Japanese authorities, obsessed with reinvasion hysterics, are frantically trying to revise the constitution to make their country into the "one capable of going to war," and turn it into a military giant. They only want to satisfy their sinister political ambition and lust for power regardless of such immorality and depravity as consanguineous killings owing to the ever-worsening economic situation and hardships in living, and the country's ill fame as the one with lots of suicides. This reflects the shamelessness of the Japanese politicians who are fond of saying silly things about the "people's life" while putting their whole country on a heap of debts.

Unless the reactionary rulers of Japan correct their ill-natured thinking, they will never be able to get rid of the mammoth debts.

Kim Kyong Sung

Unwarranted Scheme for Permanent Occupation of Syrian Golan

RECENTLY PRIME Minister Netanyahu of Israel told a meeting that the international community should recognize the dominion of the Jewish State over Syrian Golan. This year he often touched on the issue on different occasions.

As has been recognized by the international community, the occupied Golan belongs to Syria. Trying to find a chance of aggression carried with a fever of territorial ambition, Israel took the Golan through the third Middle East war in 1967 under the positive Western patronage. At the same time the Israelis took the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as well as the Golan.

The Syrian people have waged a strenuous struggle for dozens of years to take back their lost territory, but to no avail because of the shameless policy of the Israelis for permanent occupation of the area. Although Syria took back some part of the lost land during the fourth Middle East war, most of the area is still in the Israeli hands.

Since it took the Golan Israel has set up a lot of settlements in the area and moved a large number of Israelis there. In 1981 it adopted a law on the Golan unilaterally so as to annex the area to its territory, and is now working to perpetuate its occupation.

Once in the past a high-ranking Israeli official in charge of the Jewish settlement project said that he would let the Syrian president look out of his own

home window to see how the Golan prospers as part of the Israeli territory. He went so far as to talk blatantly, "The Golan belongs to us, and we won't return it. It is high time to mark it as part of the Israeli land on the map."

The Israelis' refusal to give up the Golan comes from their awareness that the area is of strategic importance.

Geographically the Golan lies higher than Israel, and it has a rich source of water as a lot of streams empty into a lake in the area. Some 40% of the water supply in Israel comes from the lake, so the Golan is believed to be the water tower of Israel. Besides, agriculture and tourism in the area are in no way negligible. Yet there is a much more important reason for the Israelis to keep it under its control perpetually; the area serves as a vantage point for Israel in its scheme to be a regional power in the Middle East by expanding its territory ceaselessly through aggression war.

This is just the reason why it is doggedly expanding Jewish settlements despite international shower of denunciations while rejecting peace proposals of the Arab nations for the solution of the issue.

These days Israel is fanatically enthusiastic in its attempt to get its dominion over the Golan recognized in the international arena because the situation in Syria is developing

against the Israelis' scheme. Israel wants to see the civil war in Syria continue endlessly leading to a worse and worse situation so that the country will not be able to concentrate on its effort to regain the Golan.

But the reality is going in reverse to the Israeli intention. The civil war in Syria is coming to an end thanks to the Assad government and the rehabilitation campaign is progressing dynamically.

Israel is jittery about the situation. It knows well that as Syria has often expressed that it will regain the Golan from Israel without fail it will undoubtedly foil Israel's moves of territorial expansion once it brings the civil war to an end and straightens out the situation. What Israel is seeking is to make its occupation of the Golan accepted lawful internationally before the Syrian situation gets peaceful finally.

Syria is flatly rejecting the attempt of Israel for perpetual occupation of the Golan, denouncing it as flagrant violation of international law.

The international community hears voices rising ceaselessly for Syria's dominion over the Golan, but Israel is giving no ear to them persisting in its attempt to keep possession of the area.

The international community is required to check the aggressive scheme of Israel for territorial occupation.

Kim Kwang Hui

