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DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
KOREA

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Pictorial KOREA is published in
Korean, Chinese, Russian and English.

FRONT COVER: The DPRK students bring honour to their country
(At the 28th World Memory Championships)

Photo: Choe Jin

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Visit to Sunchon Phosphatic Fertilizer Factory under Construction

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, gave field guidance at the Sunchon Phosphatic Fertilizer Factory under construction.

The Supreme Leader was briefed on the master plan for the construction of the factory and scientific and technological

problems, and acquainted himself with the construction progress in detail.

The goal should be oriented to automating all elements and processes of the factory and completely building a labour-saving industry, he said, adding that close attention should always be paid to ensuring the reliability of automatic control system and the safety of production processes, building up the technical force

of the factory and training producers into those with deep technical knowledge and high skills.

He stressed the need to scientifically examine issues which may affect the surrounding ecological environment in the course of the construction and operation of the factory and take measures to resolve them scientifically.

However grave the situation may be

and however enormous difficulties may stand in our way, our ideal and aspiration will surely be achieved by our hands if we cherish the justness of our cause as the faith, believe in our own strength and steadily work harder more responsibly, more devotedly and more positively, the Supreme Leader noted.

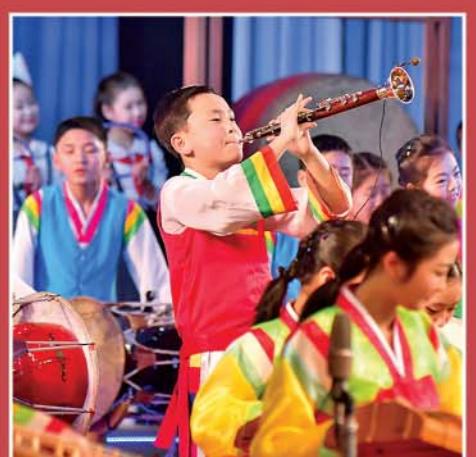
Article: Kim Phil



A gala performance took place at Kim Il Sung Square on December 31, 2019.

New Year 2020
Greeted with Hope for Brighter Future





A performance *Snow Falls on New Year's Day with the Blessings of Mt Paektu* was given by schoolchildren at the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace.

Photo: An Chol Ryong, Hong Kwang Nam



On the summit of Mt Paektu, the sacred mountain of the revolution

Let's Go to Mt Paektu

The area of Mt Paektu, located in Ryanggang Province of the DPRK, is closely associated with the everlasting history of anti-Japanese war organized and led by Kim Il Sung to liberate Korea from Japanese military occupation in the first half of last century. There are many historical relics and remains, such as secret camps, bivouacs and battle sites, which tell arduous struggle waged by the anti-Japanese revolutionary forerunners.

A strong wind of making study tours of the Mt Paektu area is now sweeping through the country, and all the people, including the service personnel and young people, visit the area not only in warm and mild weather but also in winter.

They tour the battle areas of Mt Paektu, experiencing hardship and cold as the anti-Japanese guerrilla fighters did; they push their way through deep snow in the blizzards, and warm their

frozen bodies around the campfire and bivouac in the tents. They also hold question-and-answer contests and amusement parties during the march.

Through the study tours the Korean people feel keenly trials and ordeals the revolutionary forerunners had to overcome for the happiness of the younger generations and cherish the bloody history of the anti-Japanese war.

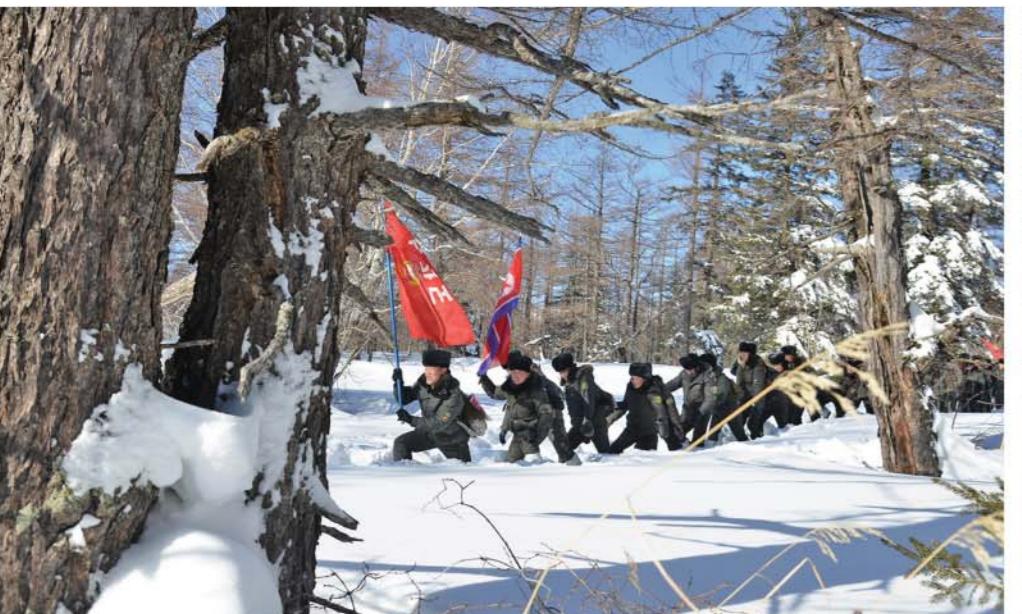
It is why they refer to the study tour of revolutionary battle sites in the Mt Paektu area as the course of "Paektusan University."

Article: Kim Son Gyong

Photo: Hong Hun, Pyon Chan U,
Kong Yu Il



People cherish the revolutionary spirit of Paektu, the spirit of blizzards of Paektu, through their study tour of revolutionary battle sites in the area of Mt Paektu



Infinite Reverence for the Great Person



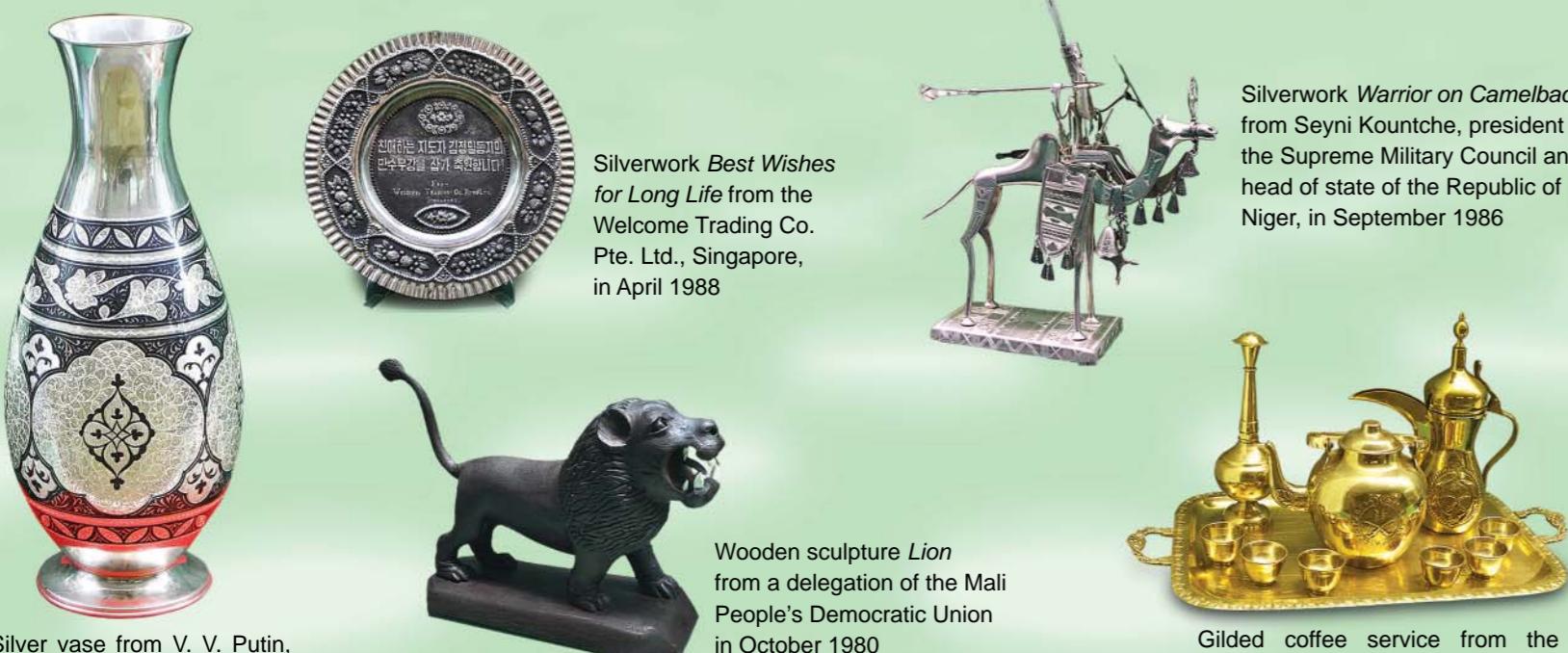
Chairman Kim Jong Il of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea performed immortal exploits throughout his life for the victory of the socialist cause, and global peace and security, holding aloft the banner of anti-imperialism and independence.

In reflection of ardent admiration and infinite reverence for the Chairman, party and state leaders of many countries as well as personages from all walks

of life have sent their gifts, over 40 000 in total, during his lifetime and even after his demise.

Foreign visitors to the International Friendship Exhibition House look at those gifts of sincerity with great admiration.

Article: Choe Ui Rim



Silver vase from V. V. Putin, president of the Russian Federation, in February 2007

Silverwork Best Wishes for Long Life from the Welcome Trading Co. Pte. Ltd., Singapore, in April 1988

Silverwork Warrior on Camelback from Seyni Kountche, president of the Supreme Military Council and head of state of the Republic of Niger, in September 1986



Wooden sculpture Lion from a delegation of the Mali People's Democratic Union in October 1980

Gilded coffee service from the Managing Director of the Shahnoor Tanneries Mill, Lahore, Pakistan, in February 1982



Textilework Cranes and a Pine Tree from Wen Jiabao, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CC of the CPC and premier of the State Council of the PRC, in October 2009



Sword from Bashar al-Assad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, in December 2006



Butterfly-wing mosaic Sun from Andre Kolingba, president of the Military Committee of National Redressment and head of state of the Central African Republic, in February 1993



Crystalwork Monument of Petra from Hussein I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in June 1994



Table clock from President of the ABC of the USA in April 1995





Yangdok Hot Spring Resort Starts Service



The Yangdok Hot Spring Resort, a comprehensive spa treatment centre and multifunctional sporting and cultural complex, started its service last January.

Modern service facilities and skiing ground blend well with picturesque scenery of the area, giving holiday-makers great delight.

They spend pleasant time in spa baths arranged indoor and outdoor for the couples and families and for medical treatment and other purposes.

One of their favourite choices is an indoor spa pool that has fish for cleansing the bathers' skin.

There are also ten-odd spa baths infused with medicinal herbs, including pine needles, absinth, mint and Kumdang flower, and they are very popular among the people.

The outdoor spa bath ground in terraced style nestles in the groves of snow-covered pine trees. Each spa pool measures above 40°C in temperature. Those bathing inside the pools experience summer and winter sensations at the same time.

They also have mud, paraffin and sand baths and massage to get the medical treatment according to their physical constitutions.

The site of boiling eggs in hot spring water at a temperature between 70°C and 80°C is another lure.

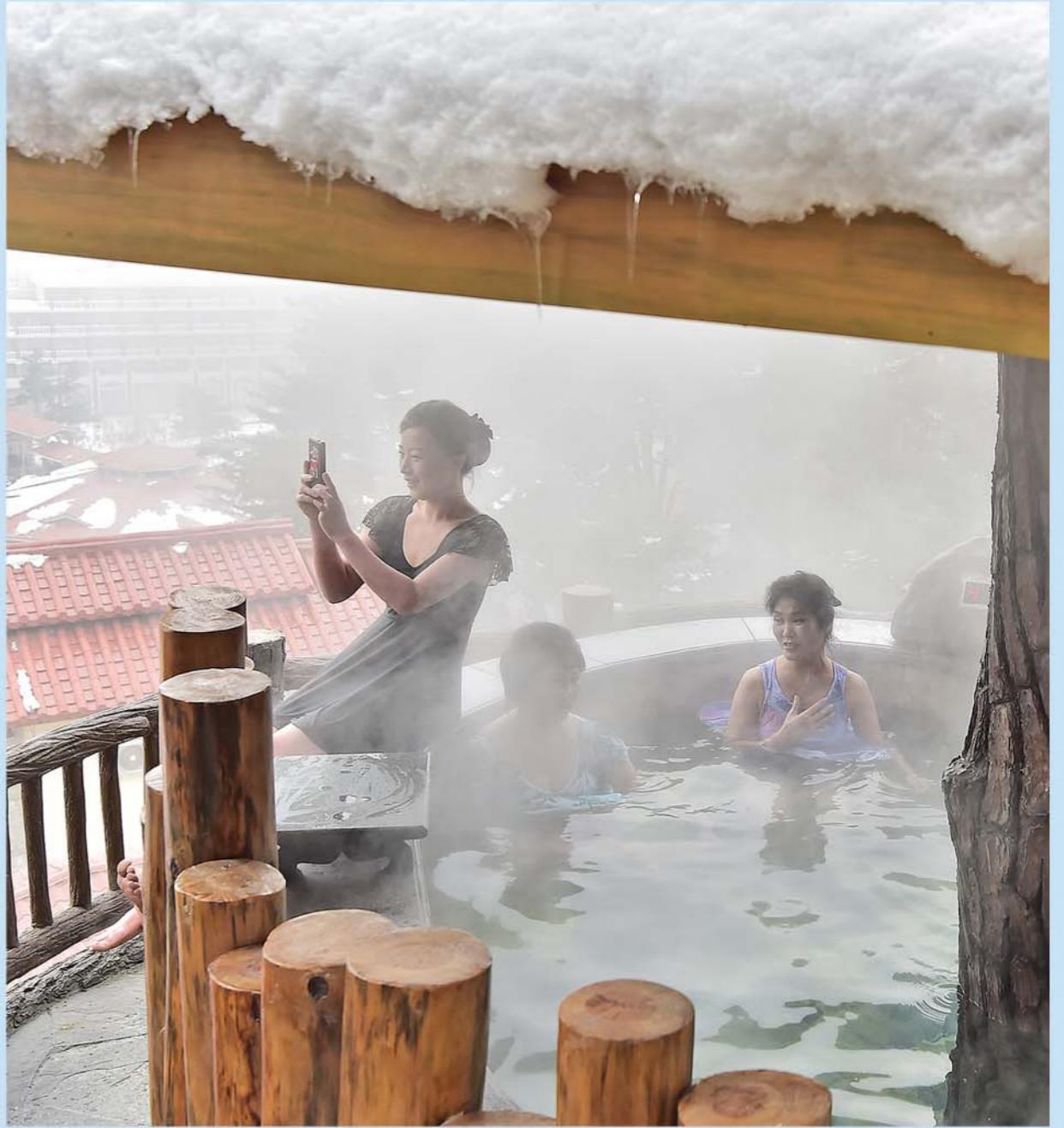
The skiing ground with three ski slopes and a children's sleigh-riding area makes people feel greater delight after bath.

Every day several hundred people visit the Pyongyang Koryo International Travel Company to make reservations for their holiday-making at the hot spring resort.

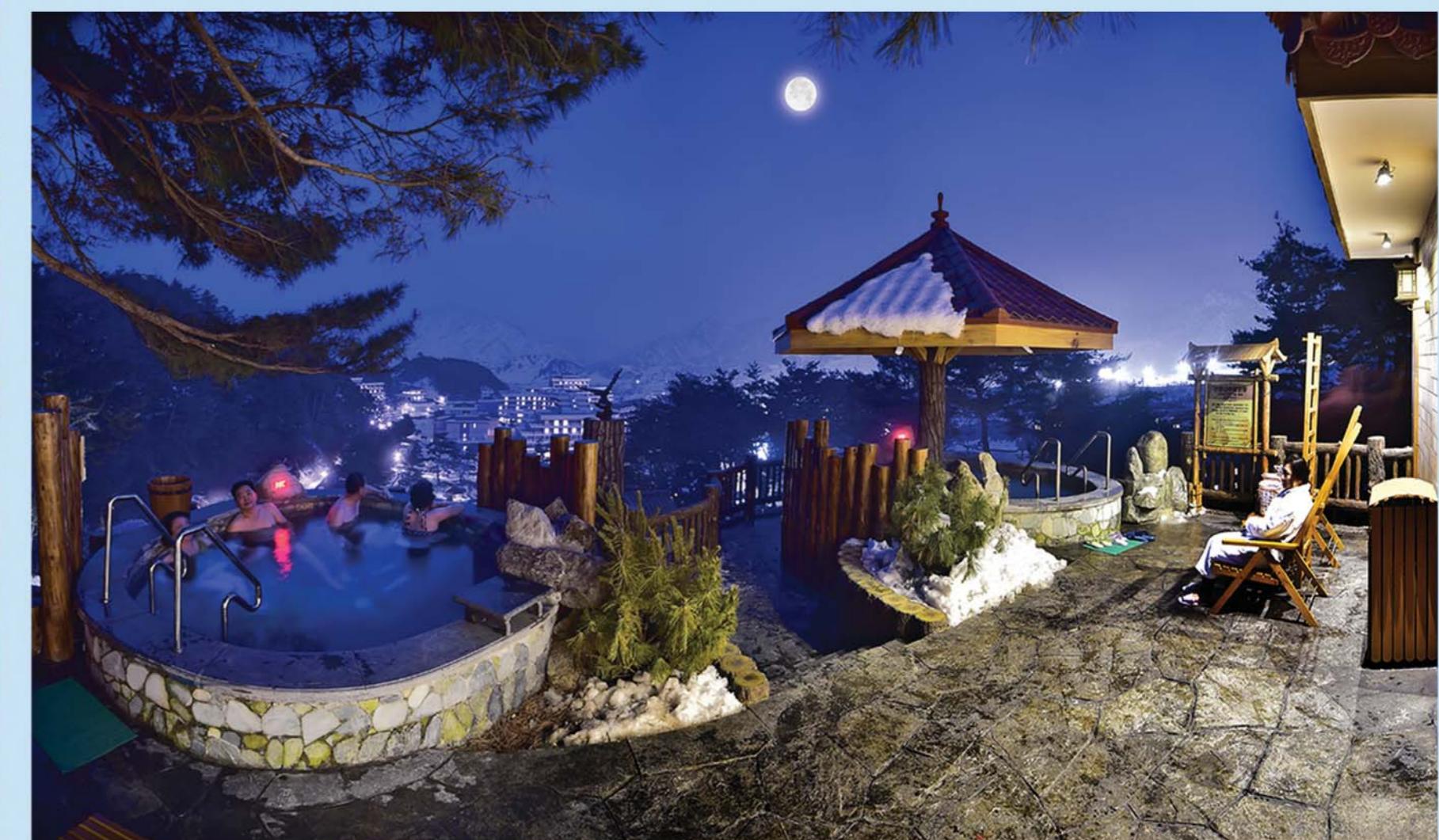
The reservation services include guide, travel and accommodation.

Article: Kang Su Jong

Photo: An Chol Ryong, Hong Kwang Nam











Grand Masters of Memory

The 28th World Memory Championships took place in Wuhan, China, in December last year, drawing over 500 contestants from 40 odd countries and regions.

It was the second participation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the championships, and its contestants competed in the adult group. They were Kim Su Rim and Ri Song Mi of Kim Hyong Jik University of Education, Jon Kum Phyong and Kim Ju Song of Kim Chaek University of Technology and Ryu Song I and Jon Yu Jong of Pyongyang University of Foreign Studies.

From the first day of the championships, they broke world records, stunning their rivals as well as jurors.

Ryu Song I renewed world records in three events and won seven gold medals in total. The DPRK students bagged eleven golds, eight silvers and nine bronzes, thus taking the first place in the country standings. And they were all awarded the International Grand Master of Memory, the top prize of the World Memory Championships.

Chief arbiter of the World Memory Sports Council said: It is really beyond imagination. The DPRK established the best record in the championships as all their six contestants won the title of International Grand Master of Memory. The world must look into the education of the DPRK.

In the DPRK, where there is a well-established system of super speed reading education in middle schools No. 1 and universities and national SSR contests are held every year, people are eager to master the SSR methods and adopt them in their work.

Article: Mun Kwang Bong

Photo: Choe Jin





From the 30th National Photo Contest



Blizzards of Mt Paektu

By courtesy of Choe Chol Min



Star cluster over Hyangdo Peak

By courtesy of Ri Yong Nam



Mountain chains seen from the summit of Mt Paektu

By courtesy of Ri Yong Nam



From the 30th National Photo Contest



Waves of Sea Chilbo

By courtesy of Kim Yong Il



Mt Kumgang's Jipson Peak shrouded in clouds

By courtesy of Ri Chung Song



Mt Chilbo in autumn

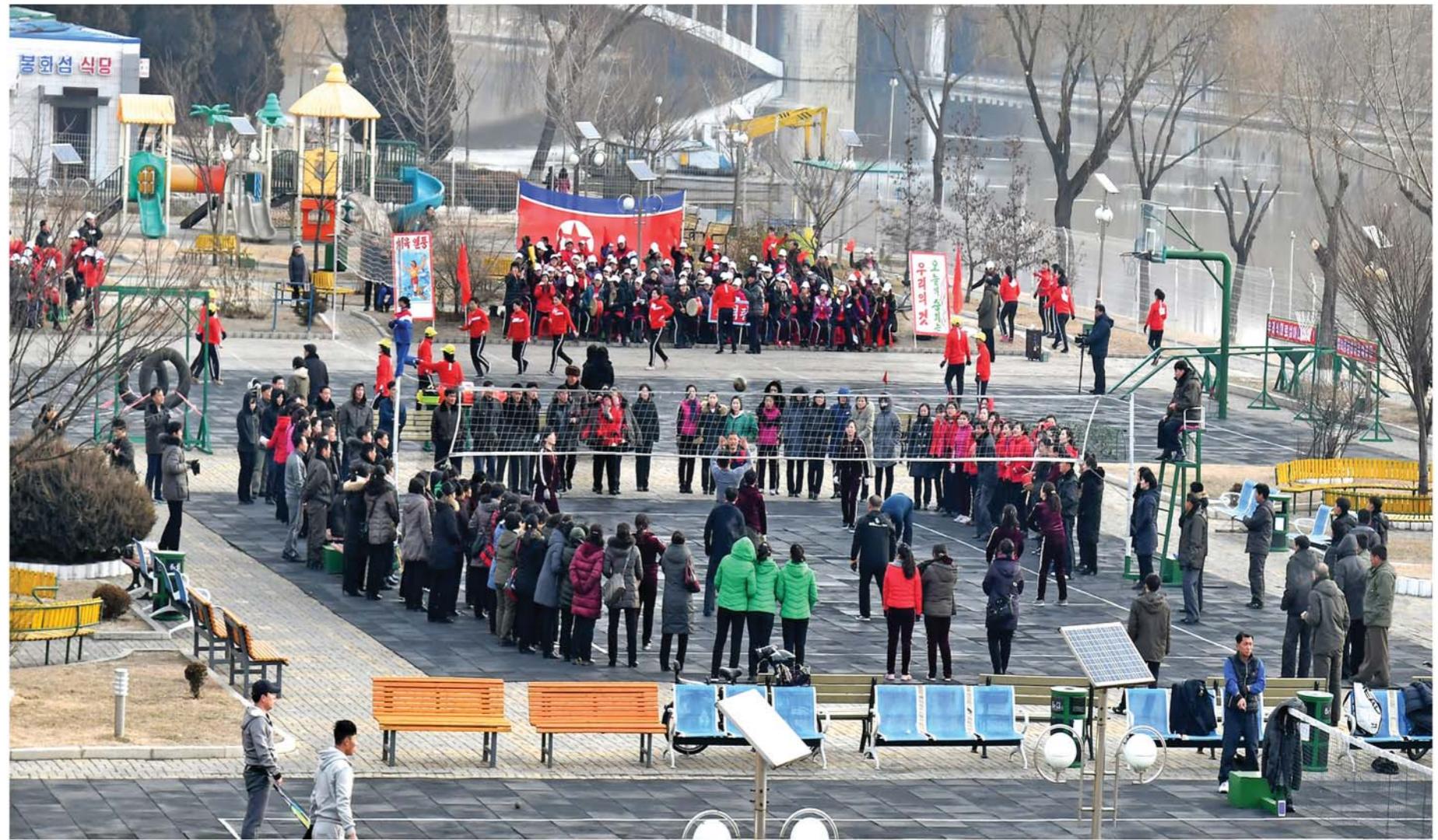
By courtesy of Ri Myong Il

Seething Enthusiasm for Mass-based Sports Activities

Photo: Ri Kwang Song, Choe Won Chol



The first sports day of the year 2020 was observed on January 12 with diverse sporting events. Civil servants of commissions, ministries and national agencies did group running at Kim Il Sung Square. And a variety of sports games, including volleyball and basketball, were held in Pyongyang and provinces.





The manufacturing technique of marbled porcelain is inscribed as a national intangible cultural heritage element of the DPRK.



Marbled porcelain, along with Koryo celadon, black porcelain and cinnabar-coloured inlaid celadon, was a typical ceramic ware of the Koryo dynasty (918-1392), but it faded away with the lapse of time.

It has been revived by the painstaking efforts

of Yu Kwan Jun, a 70-year-old ceramist residing in Chumok-dong, Sunam District, Chongjin of North Hamgyong Province.

When Yu was conducting surveys of classical documents on the country's pottery culture scores of years ago, he happened to see in one of the illustrated books of the Korean historical remains and relics a brief information on the marbled porcelain.

According to it, the marbled porcelain traced its history back to the late 11th century – mid-12th century and only a few samples remained.

It was manufactured in a limited number of areas during the Koryo period, and its techniques were too complicated and strict to be fully mastered and spread widely.

Seeing it, Yu was determined to revive the manufacturing techniques of the marbled porcelain.

It was not an easy job.

He travelled various places in Kyongsong County of North Hamgyong Province, a well-known centre for pottery making, to obtain porcelain clays of white, cobalt, black and other colours as well as various substances for pottery manufacture. And he tried to define the most rational proportions of mixture.

He made tireless efforts to master artistic skills and workmanship in executing designs unique to the marbled porcelain.

Thanks to his diligent studies and earnest efforts for over a decade, the materials, processes and techniques of marbled pottery making were finally established.

Yu's first product made its public appearance in February 2007.

Afterward, he produced a large number of marbled porcelains, and seven of them, including the marbled vase (2012), gourd-shaped marbled vase (2013) and marbled vase decorated with scenic spots of Mt Chilbo (2013), were designated as national treasures and preserved at Korea Fine Art Museum.

Article: Pak Pyong Hun
Photo: An Chol Ryong



Yu Kwan Jun



Yu Song, eldest son, follows his father into marbled pottery making.





Natural History Museum at Kim Il Sung University

The Natural History Museum at Kim Il Sung University was remodelled at the end of last year.

It was erected in April 1976 as the first of its kind in the DPRK and has made a tangible contribution to the university's education and research.

The remodelled museum has 14 halls for exhibiting more than 10 000 specimens of fossils, animals, plants, and minerals, including over 3 680 gift specimens sent by President Kim Il Sung, Chairman Kim Jong Il and Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

Free from the former practice of displaying categorized specimens in cases and stands, the collections are exhibited in sectoral halls with dioramas of natural environment of relevant geological periods, regions and waters of the country.

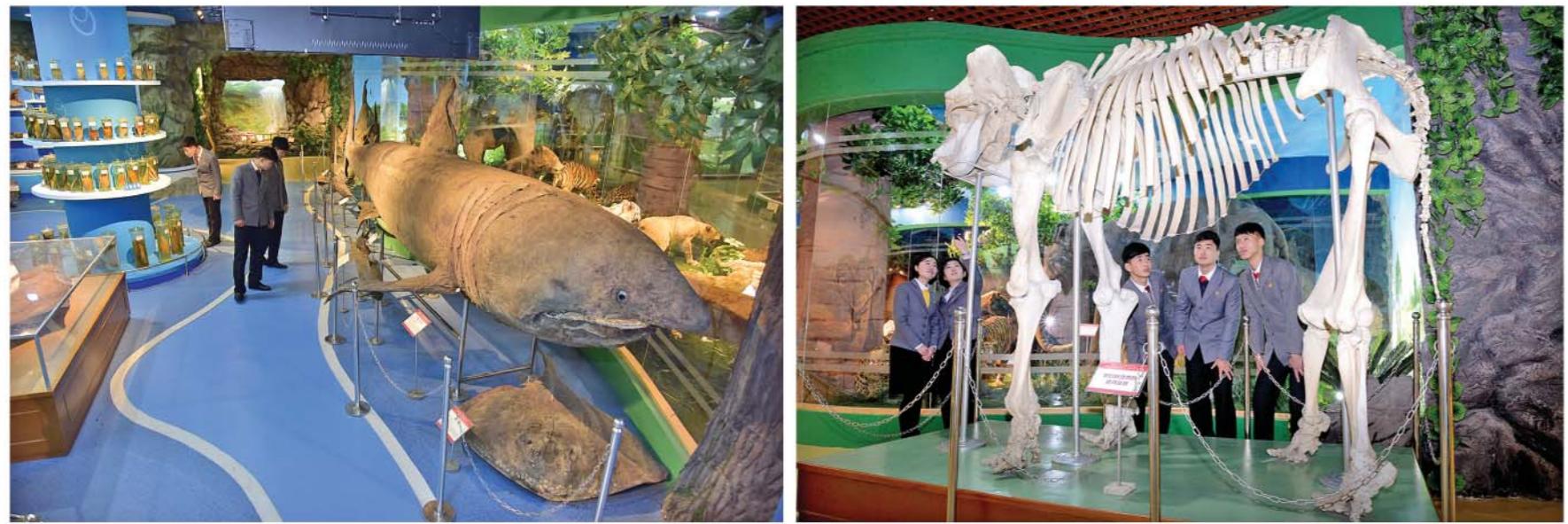
Biological specimens are organized in the order of evolution.

A wide variety of electronic display means are introduced to help the students not only get correct answers to what they want to know but also broaden the scope of their knowledge.

Article: Kim Mi Ye
Photo: Ri Myong Guk



Hall of landscape plants



Halls of fishes and mammals



Mausoleum of the Second King of Koryo Unearthed



The mausoleum of Hyejong, second king of Koryo, was unearthed in Kaesong which was the capital of Koryo (918-1392), the first unified state in Korea.

Researchers of the Korean National Heritage Preservation Agency and the Archaeological Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences, and lecturers and students of Songdo University of Education discovered the tomb at the mountain ridge near the northern shore of the Songdo Reservoir, northeast of the city.

The tomb is divided into three sections. There are the mound, 13m in diameter and 3m in height, protective facilities and a monument in the upper section, two sculptures of civil officials, one on each side, in the middle section, and the site of a memorial service hall are in the lower section.

Its chamber is 4m long, 3.4m wide and 2.2m high, the biggest among the

royal tombs of Koryo which have been unearthed so far.

Also unearthed were a tombstone inscribed with the Chinese characters reading king's mausoleum of Koryo, and fragments of inlaid celadon saucer, petal-patterned antefix tile, pieces of dragon-shaped *chimi* (sculptural ornament installed at both ends of the roof ridge) and other relics.

The Archaeological Society of the DPRK confirmed that it is the tomb of King Hyejong, on the basis of the detailed deliberation and analysis of its style, location, relics and historical records.

King Hyejong was the son of King Wang Kon, founder of Koryo, and his second wife Queen Janghwa, and he reigned for two years from 944.



Consumer Developed into Producer

Chicken Farm 927 which is situated in Ryokpho District, Pyongyang, energizes its management activities by establishing a power generation system based on various energy sources.

It has a solar power generating system with a capacity of over 200kW.

It also produces 1 000m³ of methane gas every day by treating chicken excrement and fermenting them. Methane gas is used in generating 200kW of electricity with an engine generator and producing heat for the service facilities. By-products of the methane gas production are applied to fields as quality organic fertilizer.

The farm is also equipped with a power generating system with a capacity of 300kW relying on the gasification of rice chaff.

Its officials and technicians made a thoroughgoing study and analysis of engine generating facilities used in several other units, and, based on it, manufactured generators and erected a gas-generating furnace as suited to the actual conditions of the farm. They solved by their own efforts and technology all the problems arising in the design and manufacture of machines and facilities and in the improvement of rice-chaff gas quality.

The farm employees are striving continuously to advance by dint of self-reliance.

Article: Choe Kwang Ho

Photo: Choe Won Chol



Electricity is generated by means of solar energy, and methane and rice-chaff gasification.

Fish Processing Factory on the East Coast



The sea off Thongchon County, Kangwon Province, is well known for its abundance of marine resources and thus lures lots of fishing vessels from fishery stations on the eastern coast every year.

The Thongchon Fish Processing Factory was inaugurated in the Kosong area of Thongchon County town in December last year to store and process the caught fish promptly and supply fresh fish to people.

The factory occupies a floor space of over 9 800m² in a total area of over 38 000m².

The harbour is built to serve several fishing vessels at a time and is also equipped with modern unloading facilities.

The fish, after being unloaded from the open holds of the vessels, are transported to the freezing and processing grounds to be washed and selected before being transferred to perpendicular freezers by different conveyors.

After a short span of time deep-frozen blocks of fish are delivered to the cold-storage chamber with a storage capacity of 3 000 tons.

Erection of the processing factory near the fishing ground makes it possible for fishing vessels to catch a larger amount of fish in intensive fishing seasons, saving much fuel and time. And the frozen and processed fish are provided to people to enrich their dietary life.

The factory processed several thousand tons

of fish at the end of last year and supplied them to people in various parts of the country.

Officials and workers of the factory are striving to operate all the machines and facilities as demanded by the technical regulations and raise the productivity.

Article: Pak Pyong Hun

Photo: Ri Myong Guk



Amusing Folk Games

Photo: Sin Chung Il, Ri Jin Hyok



