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6





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FRONT COVER: The Tower of the Juche Idea standing in the centre of Pyongyang,
an imposing display of the might of socialist Korea

Photo: Kim Chol

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



Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un of the DPRK meeting with
President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of the Russian Federation

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un Visits Russian Federation

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, paid an official goodwill visit to the Russian Federation at the invitation of President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin.

He was accompanied by leading officials of the Workers' Party of Korea, government and military organs.

The private train of the DPRK Supreme Leader arrived at the border railway station in Khasan of Russia on the morning of April 24.

The Supreme Leader got off the train to exchange greetings with the Russian officials from the capital and local areas and

had an amicable talk.

At 18:00 local time, he arrived in Vladivostok of the Russian Federation.

A ceremony for welcoming the DPRK leader to the Russian Federation was held in the plaza in front of Vladivostok Railway Station.

The DPRK Supreme Leader reviewed the honour guard of the three services of the Russian Federal Armed Forces.

On April 25 Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un had the first meeting with President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin.

After posing for a photograph against the background of the flags of the two countries, the top leaders exchanged greetings with senior officials of the two countries respectively.



Kim Jong Un arriving at Vladivostok of Russia via Khasan, a border railway station of Russia



Kim Jong Un and Putin posing for a photograph



Kim Jong Un and Putin having one-on-one talks



Talks held between Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un and President Putin





Russian President giving a grand banquet in honour of his DPRK counterpart



They had one-on-one talks in which they agreed unanimously that their meeting and talks were a good occasion of great significance in developing more solidly and soundly the friendly relationship between the two countries with a long history and tradition of friendship and in strategically managing the unstable situation of the Korean peninsula in the wake of the second DPRK-US summit.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un had talks with President

Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin on April 25.

At the talks Putin expressed his deep thanks to his Korean counterpart once again for accepting his invitation and visiting Russia, and stated the firm stand and will of the Russian government to carry forward and develop the history and tradition of the Russo-DPRK friendship.

Kim Jong Un, saying that carrying forward the traditional DPRK-Russian relationship and promoting it to a new higher



level as required by the new century is a due responsibility before the times and history, expressed his determination to usher in a new heyday of bilateral relations true to the intention of the preceding leaders.

The top leaders of the two countries had a discussion on promoting high-level visits including top-level meeting and contact and developing cooperation, exchange and collaboration between the governments, parliaments, regions and organizations

of the two countries in various forms.

Kim Jong Un invited Putin to visit the DPRK at a convenient time and the invitation was readily accepted.

Both sides held in-depth conversations about vital issues of mutual concern in an amicable atmosphere overflowing with trust.

On the same day the Russian President gave a grand banquet in honour of the DPRK Supreme Leader.



Kim Jong Un exchanging fond farewell with Putin, promising to meet again



Kim Jong Un laying a wreath at the Monument to Military Glory of the Pacific Fleet



Kim Jong Un at the luncheon given by the governor of Maritime Territory of Russia



Kim Jong Un visiting the Russo-DPRK Friendship Pavilion before leaving Russia

The two leaders received enthusiastic welcome from the participants.

Putin made a congratulatory speech.

Noting that the two countries celebrated the 70th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations with splendor last year in spite of complicated international situation, Putin said that the situation around the Korean peninsula is becoming stable at the initiative of Kim Jong Un and that Russia supports the DPRK leadership in the efforts for the DPRK-US dialogue and the improvement of inter-Korean relations.

Kim Jong Un spoke in return.

He said he rejoiced that the fraternal Russian people are achieving remarkable success in their efforts to build a powerful and prosperous country by overcoming all challenges at home and abroad as they uphold the energetic leadership and strong and firm will of President Putin, and sincerely hoped that Russia would certainly thrive as a powerful, dignified and great country under the vigorous guidance of Putin.

The banquet proceeded in an amicable and friendly atmosphere. Russian artistes gave an art performance to

congratulate the DPRK Supreme Leader on his visit to Russia.

Expressing his deep gratitude to the Russian friends for their enthusiastic and warm hospitality once again, Kim Jong Un said farewell with the Russian counterpart, promising to meet again.

On April 26 Kim Jong Un laid a wreath at the Monument to Military Glory of the Pacific Fleet, and was invited to a luncheon hosted by the governor of Maritime Territory of Russia.

The Supreme Leader left Vladivostok on April 26 after successfully winding up the visit to the Russian Federation.

On his way back home he visited the Russo-DPRK Friendship Pavilion in Khasan.

Kim Jong Un's goodwill visit to the Russian Federation marked an epochal occasion in demonstrating the solid DPRK-Russian friendship that continued from one century to the next and from one generation to the next, overcoming harsh trials of history, and encouraging further development of the traditional bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation in the new situation and as demanded by the times.



Kim Jong Un leaving Khasan Railway Station after winding up his visit to the Russian Federation



Visit to Kumyagang Power Station Unit 2

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un provided field guidance at Kumyagang Power Station Unit 2 on May 4.

After being briefed on the circumstances and actual conditions of construction of the power station, the Supreme Leader made the rounds of the dam, generator room and other parts of the power station to learn about construction, technical equipment and power generation.

It is admirable that Kumya County is determined to build power stations by its own efforts and put power production on a normal footing in hearty response to the Party policy on building small- and medium-sized hydropower stations to meet the specific local conditions so as to ease power shortage, he said, speaking highly of the laudable feats performed by the locals who created an eternal asset of the country by giving full play to the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude.

Being informed that the power station can normalize the electricity production even in the dry season, as it has its water sources from those being drained on a regular basis from the large-sized Kumyagang Army-People Power Station and flowing down through different gorges, he was very satisfied with the

scale of the power station proper for a medium-sized one and cost-effectiveness in construction based on accurate calculation for making best use of hydraulic energy sources.

When the power station installs thousands of kW power generators as planned and generates electricity at full capacity, it will please the people as it can supply enough power to residential quarters, to say nothing of industrial establishments and cooperative farms in the county, he said, repeatedly praising the indomitable fighting spirit displayed by the county officials and other working people who have provided an important asset for the affluent economic life of the county by dint of stubborn will.

He hoped that the county would properly manage and operate the power station, a great treasure, to make the people substantially benefit from it and contribute to the development of the local industry and the improvement of the county people's livelihood and thus prosper as a beautiful county good to live in and develop with vitality.

Article: Pak Pyong Hun





Fire Strike Drill of Eastern Front Defence Units Directed

Supreme Commander Kim Jong Un of the armed forces of the DPRK directed the fire strike drill of defence units of the front line and eastern front mounted in the East Sea of Korea on May 4.

The objective of the drill was to assess and inspect the ability to handle large-calibre long-range multiple launch rocket systems and tactical guided weapons of the front line and eastern front defence units and the accuracy of their discharging of firing duty and the combat performance of military hardware, and, with this as an occasion, to stoke up the flames of the crack shot movement in the entire army and perfect its regular combat readiness.

At the observation post the Supreme Commander learned about the plan of the fire strike means of different calibres and checked the process of preparations for fire including the advance and deployment of the multiple launch rocket systems and guided weapons in firing areas.

He set the order and method of fire strike and gave an order to fire.

In an instant the firing ground was enveloped in thunderous booms and spouting gushes of flame.

The drill manifested a steadfast will of the service personnel of the heroic Korean People's Army to deliver prompt counterblows to any forces, never tolerating their attempts to violate the country's sovereignty, dignity and right to existence.

After the drill the Supreme Commander said that the KPA service personnel handle the modern large-calibre long-range multiple rocket launchers and tactical guided weapons well, all are crack shots and they have built the capacity for carrying out their duty with which to promptly tackle any situation as they are well versed in modern weapon systems and have had intensive military training. The fire strike drill was organized unexpectedly without prior notice, but it was successful, he noted.

Expressing great satisfaction with the rapid response capability of the defence units of the front line and eastern front that are fully ready to go into action immediately at any time and at any moment when the order is issued, he gave important instructions on how to improve and intensify the operation and combat drills of the Korean People's Army.



All the KPA officers and men should cherish the philosophy that genuine peace and security are ensured and guaranteed only by powerful strength and work harder to strengthen the combat capability while remaining on high alert, so as to safeguard the political sovereignty and economic independence of the

country and defend the gains of the revolution and security of the people from threats and invasion by any forces, he said.

Article: Choe Kwang Ho





Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un directed the fire strike drill of the defence units of the Korean People's Army on the front line and western front on May 9.

The drilling ground seethed with excitement of the KPA service personnel who would perform drill under the guidance of the Supreme Leader.

At the command post the Supreme Leader learned about the fire drill plan of several long-range strike means and gave an order to start the exercise.

In an instant the firing ground was enveloped in thunderous booms and sputtering gushes of fire rushed toward targets.

The training that was arranged to check the rapid response capability of the defence units and conducted by combining manoeuvre and fire raid came to a successful end, demonstrating the might of the respective units on the front line and western front that were prepared stoutly to discharge any operational and combat missions proficiently.

Expressing satisfaction with the successful drill, the Supreme Leader said that the defence units of the western front, as well as those of the eastern front, are also well prepared and those on the front line have wonderful capabilities to carry out fire strike assignments.

He specified important tasks concerning the orientation in further increasing and improving the fire strike capabilities of the defence units on the front line and western front.

Article: Kim Son Gyoung



Live-Fire Strike Drill of Western Front Defence Units Inspected



MT MYOHYANG, CELEBRATED MOUNTAIN OF KOREA



Mt Myohyang has been known as one of the eight scenic spots in Korea for its magnificent and mysteriously-shaped peaks and rocks, deep ravines and steep cliffs, crystal-clear streams and waterfalls, and dense forests.

It covers a wide area of Hyangsan and Kujang counties of North Phyongan Province, Nyongwon County of South Phyongan Province and Huichon of Jagang Province in the DPRK. It is divided regionally into Mt Sinhyang (Naehyang) and Mt

Oehyang.

The best scenery is found in the Mt Sinhyang area, where there are chains of peaks and rocks of mysterious formations with the Myohyang Stream in between, the beautiful ravines of Sangwondong, Manphokdong, Chonthaedong and Chilsongdong, and numerous waterfalls. By the Hyangsan Stream between Sangwondong and Manphokdong is found a mineral water with remarkable medicinal properties.

Many historical relics and remains are preserved in Mt Myohyang, such as old buildings, sculptures, pagodas and monuments, paintings and artefacts, and printing blocks, all showing the time-honoured history, brilliant culture and creative talents of the Korean people.

Among them the Pohyon Temple built in the 11th century, the 80 000 Blocks of the Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures, and the octagonal 13-storey and rectangular 9-storey stone pagodas

typify the excellent architectural art, printing techniques and masonry in the middle ages.

The International Friendship Exhibition House that displays gifts presented to President Kim Il Sung, Chairman Kim Jong Il and Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un by heads of party and state of many countries, prominent personages from all walks of life, adds more fame to natural beauty of the mountain.

The area of Mt Myohyang is surrounded by

high mountains, so it is comparatively warm with little wind. It is, therefore, an ideal habitat for many species of plants growing in alpine and low land, and is also thickly wooded.

Dense forests of pine, oak, Mongolian oak, chestnut, fir, spruce and other trees are found at different altitudes, and at the summit of the mountains are seen *Pinus pumila* and *Sabina sargentii*.

Mt Myohyang abounds with medicinal herbs,

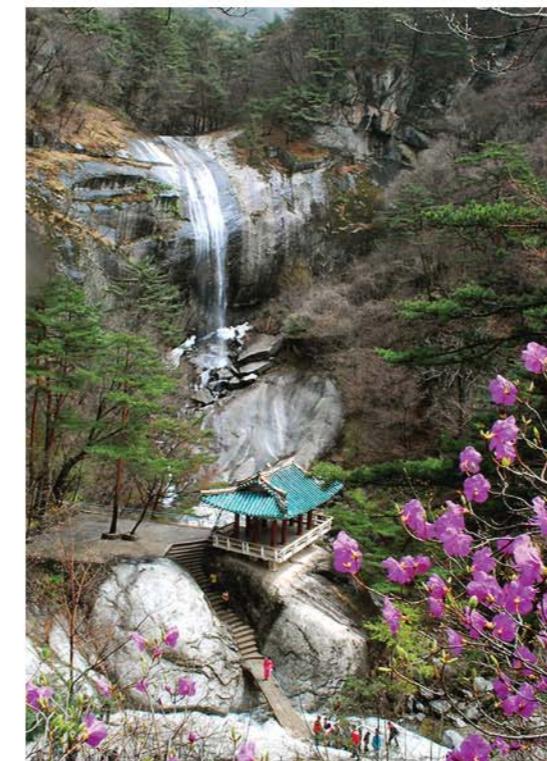
wild fruits and mushrooms, and is inhabited by 40 odd kinds of animals and 198 kinds of birds. The Hyangsan Stream and other streams in the mountain teem with rainbow trout, sweetfish, minnow and other freshwater fishes.

Mt Myohyang, one of the six celebrated mountains in Korea, was designated as a world biosphere sanctuary in May 2009.

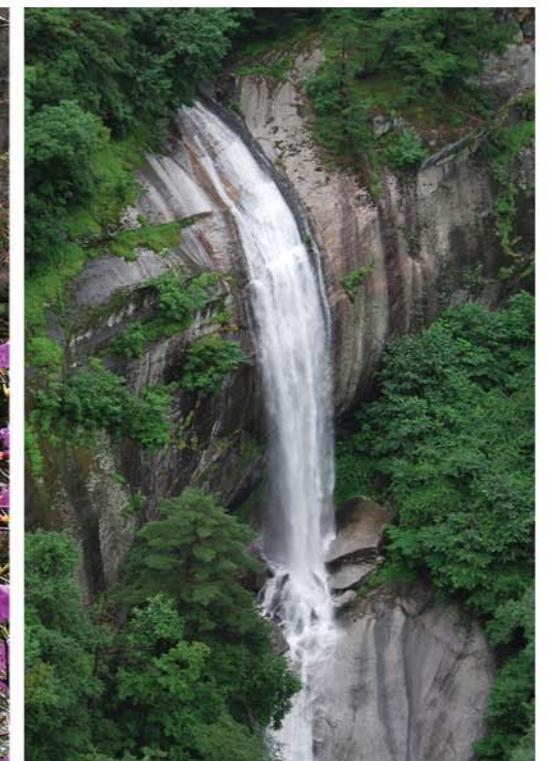
Article: Kim Hyang Mi
Photo: Kong Yu Il, Jon Son Il



International Friendship Exhibition House



Waterfall at Mt Myohyang



Waterfall at Mt Myohyang



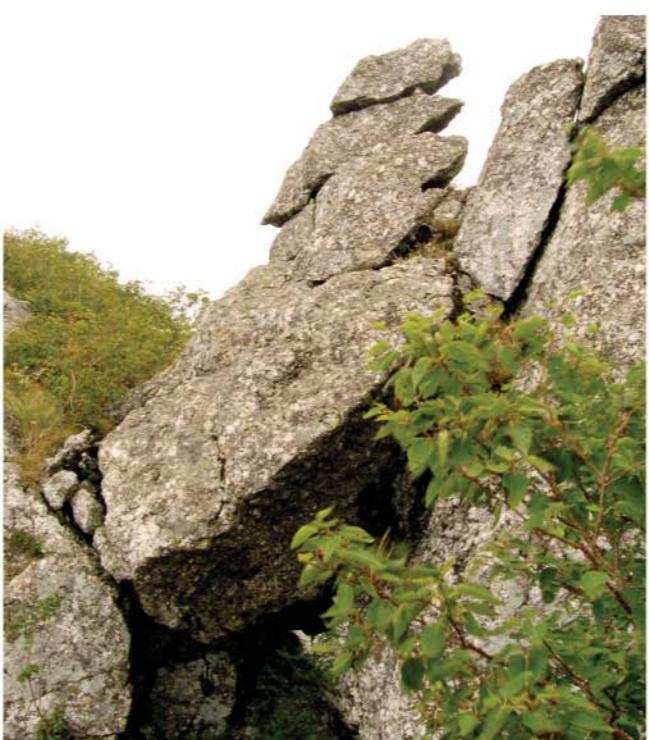
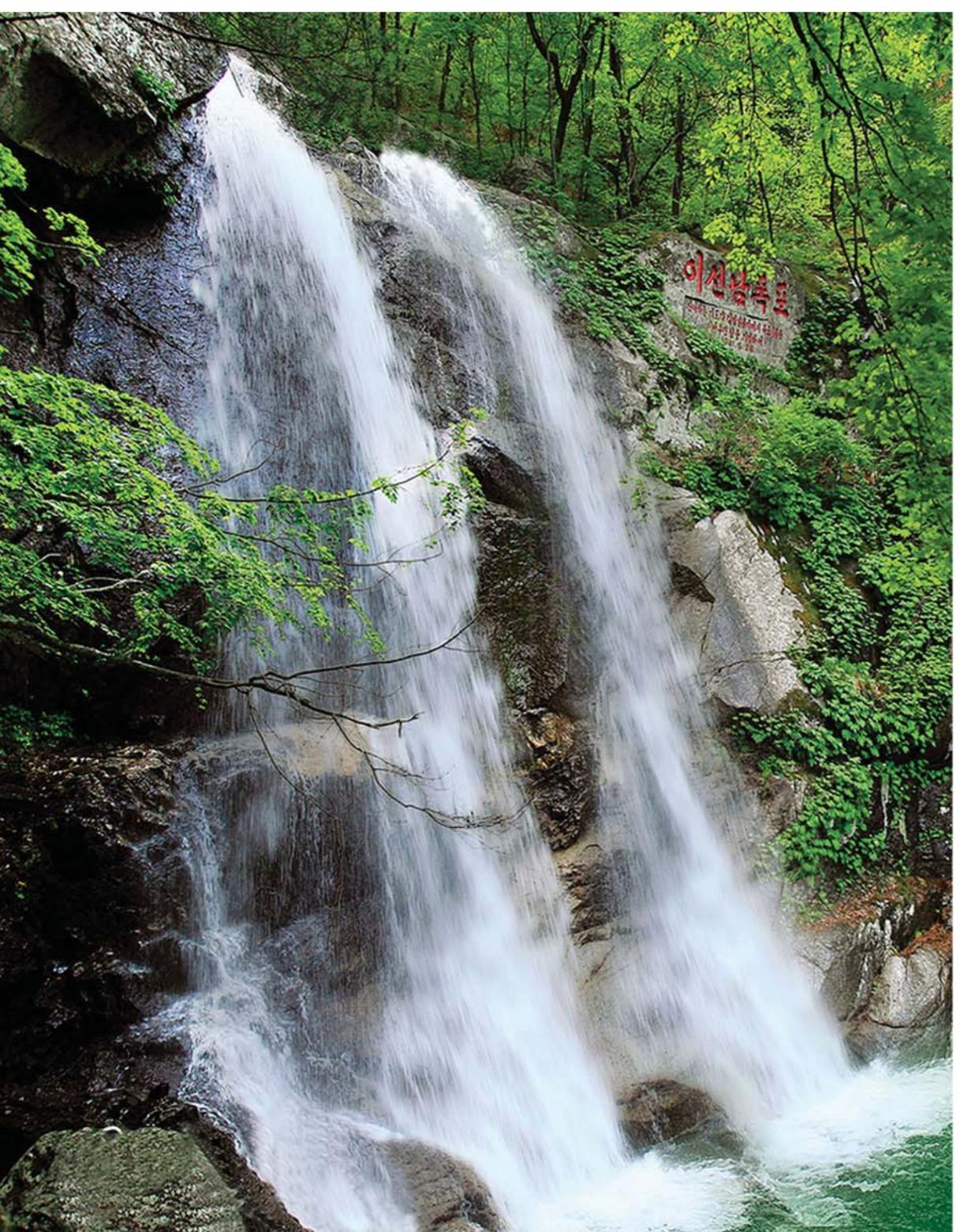
Mt Myohyang in four seasons



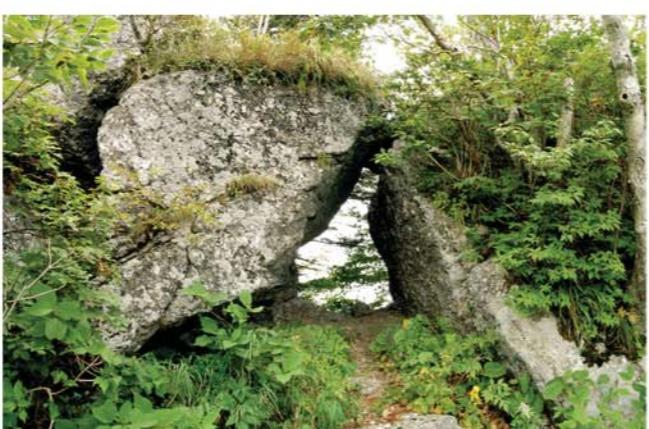
Saja Pool



Hyangsan Hotel



Pulthap Rock on Wonman Peak and Wonman Gate



Isonnam Falls



Many historic relics, such as the octagonal 13-storey stone pagoda in front of Taeung Hall in Pohyon Temple, are preserved in Mt Myohyang





TAEKWON-DO

Enjoying Worldwide Popularity



Taekwon-Do practitioners are growing in numbers in China, Russia, South Africa and other countries of the world



Taekwon-Do, originated from ancient martial arts of Korea, has developed on a modern basis by introducing scientific principles to its long-established techniques and training methods. It has been widely disseminated throughout the world since half a century ago.

The Korean Taekwon-Do Committee, in order to preserve orthodoxy of Taekwon-Do and achieve friendship, unity and technological

progress among Taekwon-Doists across the world, dispatches international instructors to many countries at the invitation of their national associations.

Taekwon-Do has ten *gup* for practitioners and nine *dan* for professionals in its ranking system. Those with 4 to 6 *dan* are certified as instructors. When they have finished the higher education course and been certified by the International

Taekwon-Do Federation, they get qualifications as international instructors.

Since the early 1980s the international instructors of the DPRK have conducted brisk activities of disseminating Taekwon-Do.

Under energetic guidance of instructors practitioners train in Taekwon-Do by learning basic techniques of individual movements, patterns, sparring, self-defence and spiritual development.





International instructors disseminating Taekwon-Do to foreigners



Training courses for Taekwon-Do judges are held

They also regard the instructors with high technical proficiency, kindness and superior intelligence as the role models worthy of emulation, and manifest their greater zeal for the training.

The DPRK's international instructors acted in over 80 countries and produced a lot of international and domestic stars.

Article and Photo: Kim Phil



New-Model Tramcars Run

New-model tramcars are put into service in the capital city of Pyongyang.

They were manufactured by the Bus Repair Factory under the Bureau of Passenger Service in Pyongyang.

Last year officials, technicians and workers of the factory set a high goal of manufacturing tramcars of a new model by their own efforts and technology on the occasion of the 70th founding anniversary of the DPRK. Relevant units and several technological research groups of the bureau joined in the work.

Researchers and technicians pooled their creative wisdom and efforts to manufacture a new-type motor with less production cost and develop the transmission and control program.

They also manufactured braking devices and other accessories, thus hastening the tramcar production.

Thanks to their efforts, a new-model tramcar with excellent technical specifications was turned out in several months.

All employees of the factory proved clearly that the lack of machinery, equipment and other material conditions is no more an obstacle, when they rely firmly on their own strength and science and technology, and exert themselves.

They are now striving to turn out tramcars in larger numbers.

Article: Pak Pyong Hun

Photo: Ri Myong Guk

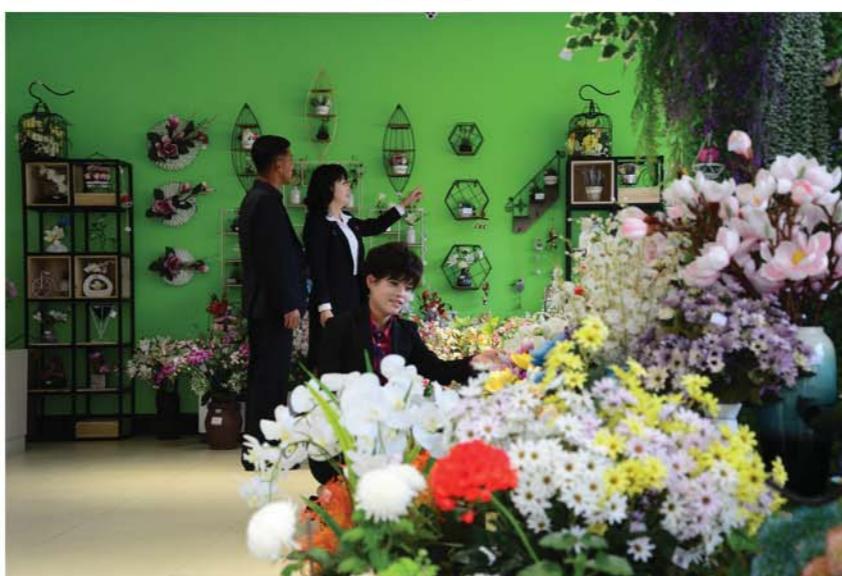


Mass technical innovation campaign boosts production





Daesong Department Store



The Daesong Department Store has been remodelled into a comprehensive and all-purpose centre with commercial, public and catering service facilities and started its service last April.

Occupying a total area of over 16 350 square metres in the Munsu area of Pyongyang, the department store is flawlessly laid out with diverse ways and styles of exhibition and excellent environment.

The first floor of the department store displays a wide range of foodstuffs, and it is linked with

outdoor exhibition area for furniture and building materials.

Conspicuous features of the area are the playing ground for children, aquariums and large water tanks for keeping fishes and shellfish, including snakehead mullet.

Various household goods, children's goods, garments, pharmaceuticals, craftworks are on display on the second floor, while famous-brand goods being exhibited in a distinctive way on the third floor.

The fourth floor is occupied by dining rooms

serving Korean and other famous dishes of the world. An electronic recreation hall, billiard room and soft drink stalls are laid out on the fifth floor.

Officials and assistants of the department store make strenuous efforts to satisfy the customers in service activities.

The department store is always crowded with people.

Article: Kim Chung Bok

Photo: Choe Won Chol





By Dint of Science and Technology



The factory channels efforts into raising the quality of products and developing new ones



The Ryonghung Pharmaceutical Factory started its operation in 1995 by manufacturing seven kinds of reserve medicines, and now it mass-produces more than 180 kinds of medicines.

Koryo medicines of the factory produce prompt pharmacological effects and are convenient to use, so they are enjoying a wide popularity.

The factory's business strategy is steady improvement in quality and development of new products.

To this end, it has modernized all its processes and established a perfect system of quality assurance based on state-of-the-art analytic instruments and cutting-edge technology.

Competent scientific and technological personnel are the most valuable asset of the factory.

Qualified pharmacologists and medical experts account for 70 per cent of the factory's staff.

Their high spirit and boundless enthusiasm for developing efficacious pharmaceuticals conducive to the people's health promotion give a great spur to sustainable development of the factory.

Scientists and technicians of the factory have long conducted the study of enhancing beneficial effects of Koryo medicines, and finally established a new method of extracting the maximum quantity of active substances from medicinal stuff.

They were also successful in preserving excellent properties of Koryo medicines and reducing the possible side effects in administration.

Koryo medicines in the form of pill, injection and capsule made with Kaesong Koryo insam, well-known panacea in Korea, dried rootstalks of angelica, and milkweed, are highly effective in activating functions of human body and treating thrombosis and hyperlipemia. They obtained domestic patents.

Vitamin C injection, *Pujarijunghwan* and other medicines of the factory were highly appreciated at the exhibitions held in China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Mongolia and other countries.

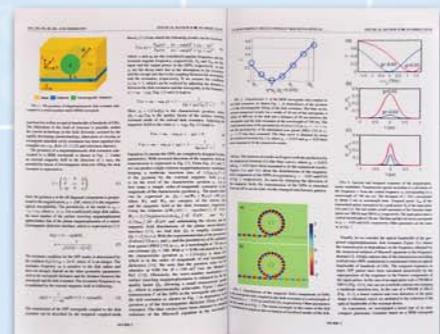
Article: Ri Mi Ye

Photo: Choe Myong Jin

Rising to International Prominence



Im Song Jin



Thesis published in an international academic journal

Prof Im Song Jin, PhD and researcher at Physics Faculty of Kim Il Sung University,

published more than 80 scientific papers, and 26 of them were carried in the journals of OSA, the

physical society of Britain and the similar institutes.

He won February 16 Science and Technology Prize, top award for scientists in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in 2017, and won the 2018 Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award.

He is the author of the textbooks titled *Nonlinear Optics* and *Quantum Optics*, and the booklet *Progress in Nonlinear Nano-Optics* published in Germany.

He is a reviewer of international academic journals of OSA, IEEE and a prestigious science publishing company.

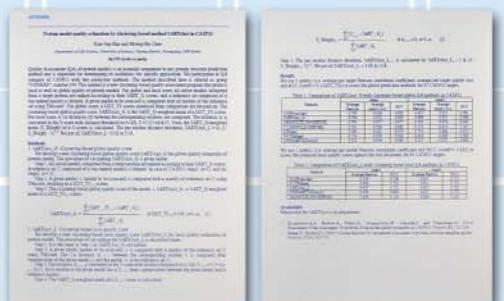
The international protein structure prediction contest is a biennial event that was held since 1994. It serves as a worldwide competition arena in the field of the life science and an important occasion of showing off each country's scientific and technological strength.

Last year's contest was its 13th round, and Han Kun Sop, researcher from the natural science institute under University of Sciences of the DPRK, presented his method for the critical assessment of techniques for protein structure prediction

and won the top place.

The 38-year-old Han ranks in the world's most prestigious six scientists in this sphere.

Article: Choe Ui Rim
Photo: Ri Myong Guk



Scientific paper presented to the international protein structure prediction test



Han Kun Sop



Students from Kim Chaek University of Technology participating in the finals of the contest



Korean Students Winning International Prizes

The 43rd Annual ICPC World Finals took place in Portugal between March 31 and April 5 this year.

ICPC, International Collegiate Programming Contest, has been held since the 1970s, and it is one of the influential competitions of universities worldwide for judging their educational

development.

The recent contest drew 3 200 odd universities from 110 countries in the regional preliminaries, and the finals were participated in by 405 selected contestants from 135 universities in 47 countries and regions.

Mun So Min, Kim Song Il and Ri Kuk Song

from Kim Chaek University of Technology won the silver medal and the prize of Asia East Champions.

They had previously shown off their abilities in the past internet program contests.

Article: Ri Mi Ye
Photo: Hong Kwang Nam



Ri Kuk Song



Kim Song Il



Mun So Min

Depicting National Prides in Embroidery



Traditional embroidery techniques are preserved

Pyongyang Embroidery Institute was founded as a small studio in May 1947, and moved to a Korean-style building erected on the bank of the Pothong River in May 1978.

It houses excellent embroideries in its show hall and other places, conjuring up an image of an art gallery.

The institute is staffed with excellent embroiderers who have acquired multifarious techniques and skills of the Korean embroidery with a long tradition.

However, techniques are not all needed for realistically portraying original designs in embroideries. Every embroidery work requires tremendous concentration and extraordinary patience of the creators, who work with needles using different types of stitching and threads for several days and even for months.

Embroiderers of the institute devote their all to producing fine embroideries, depicting variable motifs.

Recently they have created elaborate embroidery works of national symbols of the DPRK, such as magnolia, pine tree, goshawk and Phungsan dog.

Steady efforts are made to improve the embroiderers' level of technical knowledge and skill, develop new techniques



and arouse the public awareness to embroidery.

A large number of reserve embroiderers are trained under the instruction of professional embroiderers with versatile knowledge and rich experience.



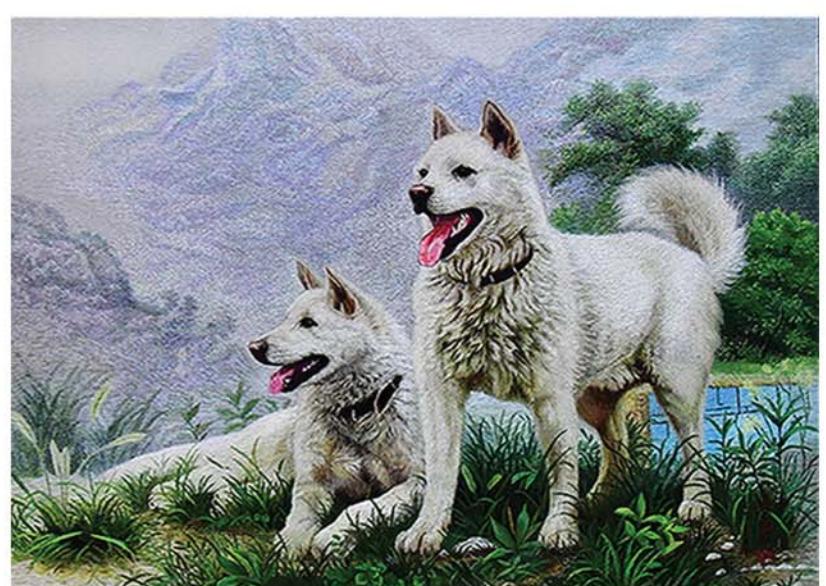
Pine Tree and Goshawk



Magnolia



Goshawk and Magnolia



National Dog Phungsan

A lot of embroideries produced by the institute, including both-sided embroidery, *Paektusan Secret Camp in Spring*, are

preserved as national possessions.

Article: Mun Jin Yu

Photo: Ri Ta Jong

“Nursery” of Talents



Ponbu Kindergarten in Sinuiju was established on November 1, 1954, for the preschool education of the children in the residential quarter. It has a long history among similar institutions in the country.

Since the early 1980s it has given the children in the city early education in art.

At first it was engaged in the education of children in the rudiments of such Korean musical instruments as *janggo*, *jottae* and *kayagum*, and later taught children with aptitudes for singing, writing, brush-writing and painting. In recent years it has expanded its scope of education to computer, *paduk* (*go*) and maths.

Children with exceptional talents and aptitudes are selected after thorough deliberation and then

Ponbu Kindergarten in Sinuiju brings up talented children

Many parents would overlook the talents of their children. But the kindergarten teachers find out budding talents in the children, however trivial they might be. They say in unison that inborn qualities are the most important in prodigy-training.

Those who are learning singing and musical instruments take exclusive lessons in sound detection and sight-reading.

The teachers always observe their children

given systematic and special education. They thus have teachers respectively for systematic education and special course.

and detect their characters, psychological features, aptitudes and intellectual standards in order to apply creative and reasonable teaching methods.

They have invented and made more than 320 000 teaching aids, nearly 500 of which won the certificates at the national shows.

About 20% of the graduates from the

kindergarten received specialized education in music, painting, brush-writing, composition, maths, computer and the like.

The Ponbu Kindergarten in Sinuiju was awarded Kim Jong Il Prize in 2015.

*Article: Kim Son Gyong
Photo: An Chol Won*

Lifelong Affection for *Kayagum*



Old couple among little *kayagum* players



Han, still in youthful vigour, arranges music pieces for *kayagum*



Pak has devoted her life to bringing up talented *kayagum* players

Last year the grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance *The Glorious Country* was staged at the May Day Stadium in Pyongyang.

The extravaganza included a spectacle of over 1 200 people playing the *kayagum*, a traditional stringed instrument of Korea. What was most impressive was a gray-haired old man playing *kayagum* enthusiastically in the centre.

He was Han Chol, a *kayagum* player and composer as well. He is 70 years old.

His wife Pak Song Hye is also a *kayagum* player.

They entered the specialized course of the Pyongyang University of Music (Kim Won Gyun University of Music at present) at the age of 12, and were tutored in *kayagum* playing by Jong Nam Hui, faculty head of the traditional music and the country's *kayagum* maestro.

The two were the favourite disciples of Jong and also made an excellent pair.

After graduating from the university with honours, they worked together with the then

National Folk Opera Troupe and got married.

The couple were affectionate toward each other in life, but were very strict in preserving and enriching the traditional methods of *kayagum* performance.

Since in his 30s, Han Chol created a lot of musical works, such as *kayagum* solos and concertos, and was awarded the title of Merited Artist in 1995.

Even working as the head of the National Folk Art Troupe and vice-minister of culture, he never abandoned *kayagum*.

Her wife Pak Song Hye who has trained many excellent *kayagum* players at the Pyongyang Music School No. 1 attached to the Kim Won Gyun University of Music since 1987, is an associate professor.

The couple's lifelong affection for *kayagum* is being carried forward by their son and daughter, both composers.

Article: Mun Kwang Bong
Photo: Hong Thae Ung

Skilful Violin Maker

It is a long-established notion that violin makers must possess not only excellent workmanship of woodwork but also keen ears for sounds.

But a violin maker with hearing disability from the Korean Art Association for the Disabled produces excellent violins.

He is Kim Sung Il, 34 years old.

He studied at the school for the deaf and started his social life at a public service unit in Sosong District, Pyongyang. At that time he hardly imagined he would become a violin maker.

Since his boyhood, Kim would spend his leisure time making several objects by hand, and later frequented the Grand People's Study House to acquire a wider range of knowledge.

Kim's parents who contented themselves by seeing their son dancing for the art association of the disabled took no notice of their son's habit.

However, officials from the art association discovered this bud of talent in Kim and recommended that he studied at the vocational school for the disabled.

In 2015 Kim began his new occupation at the stringed instrument manufacturing shop under the art association.

He dedicated all his enthusiasm and skill to producing his first violin, which was appraised as having a good appearance but failing to be acoustically perfect. He was overcome by despair, because he was unable to identify sounds by ear.

At that moment, Song Hak Mun and other colleagues encouraged Kim to buckle down again to the work.

Since then Kim made persevering efforts to create his own way of violin making, particularly cultivating the ability to identify sounds by feel. Despite his repeated failures, he braced himself up and redoubled his efforts. In the course of this, his workmanship also matured.

Thanks to his tireless efforts, his violin was awarded the technical prize at the ninth Pyongyang musical instruments show held in September 2017, drawing the admiration of the people.

A foreigner who visited the Korean Art Association for the Disabled saw Kim and said: It is quite amazing that Kim with hearing disability makes violins excellently and is so fond of his occupation. I wish Kim would make violins with beautiful shape and tones.

Kim's violins are also well commented abroad.

Article: Kang Su Jong
Photo: Ri Myong Il



Kim working in a stringed instrument manufacturing shop at the association



Technical prize awarded at the ninth Pyongyang Musical Instrument Show

Four-time World Judo Champion



Kye Sun Hui



Kye who took her first championship for the 52kg category of women's judo at the 2001 world judo championships, won many other international games, bringing glory to her country

The news that Kye Sun Hui, four-time world judo champion and Olympic gold medallist, would coach the women judoists at the Moranbong Sports Club took everybody by surprise and wonder seven years ago.

When her retirement from judo was a forthcoming event, Kye was invited to many sports clubs and other relevant institutions.

Since she made an international debut in her teens, Kye achieved many successes in domestic and international games during her judo career.

In the 26th Olympic Games, her first international performance, she fully demonstrated her ability. She competed in the finals of women's 48kg category with the Japanese rival known as invincible and captured her first Olympic gold, thus being thrust into the worldwide limelight as "a new star of women's judo" and "a legendary girl who struck the world judo circle with wonder."

Afterwards, Kye won her first world championship in the women's 52kg category event at the 2001 world judo championships, and three straight titles in the 57kg category at the world judo championships in 2003, 2005 and 2007. After she became a four-time champion, she won many other international games.

Saying good-bye to her professional career, she became the coach of women judoists at the Moranbong Sports Club which puts main emphasis on training reserve players.

One year later, her disciples distinguished themselves at the domestic competitions like Paektusan Prize Games, Mangyongdae Prize Games and the national juvenile games.

Jo Son Hyang who had been instructed by Kye from the age of 14

won the 2015 Asian Junior and Juvenile Judo Championship.

Whenever people congratulate her on the successes she achieved as a coach, Kye would look back on her past.

She recollected the days at the juvenile sports school when she developed her talent for judo under the guidance of her instructors, those at the sports club full of delight in winning gold medals, and her student days of acquiring new knowledge in sports science and technology at the Korea University of Physical Education.

The state highly appreciated her successes in the international games,

calling her a proud daughter of the Korean nation, and awarded her Kim Il Sung Prize and titles of Labour Hero and People's Athlete.

With a single desire of proving herself worthy of gratitude to the country, she sheds sweat the same as her players do in training.

It is difficult to distinguish the chief coach from players in the training field as she is engrossed in instruction, herself wearing the same uniform.

More exactly, more quickly and more agilely—these are strict demands she makes on not only the players but also herself.

Her goal is to train excellent judoists who will demonstrate the honour of the country by winning gold medals.

Article: Choe Ui Rim

Photo: Ko Sung Hyok



Dedicating her enthusiasm to the training of judoists



Happy family



Sixth Round of the National Dog Show



Phungsan dogs (male-left, female-right) that won top prizes in the show

The Phungsan dog show was held in Sariwon of North Hwanghae Province last April.

The show aimed at surveying and registering the dogs, preserving thoroughbreds and increasing their number by disseminating knowledge in standard

types and biological features of the Phungsan, the national dog of the DPRK. It was attended by scientists and technicians from the zoological field in the city, local residents rearing Phungsan dogs and other people hoping to grow them.

Rankings were decided through several stages of examination.

The first prizes went to the male dog of a resident living in Kuchon-dong No. 1, Sariwon, and the female one of a resident from Munhwa-dong.

As part of the show there were a presentation of experience by a resident in Sariwon gained in the course of rearing Phungsan which had two wins, and a technical workshop for those rearing Phungsan dogs on scientific and technological

problems in preserving thoroughbreds. Through the show many Phungsan dogs which had been reared individually were registered, and good experiences exchanged.

Phungsan was designated as a living monument

in April 1956 and as the national dog in 2014.

The recent one was the sixth round of the Phungsan dog show that commenced in April 2014.

Article: Kang Su Jong

Photo: An Chol Ryong

Historical Relic

Suyangsan Fort



The Suyangsan Fort known from long ago as one of the three mountain fortresses in the then Hwanghae Province, was built in the period of Koguryo (277 BC – AD 668).

Now located in Hakhyon-dong, Haeju, South Hwanghae Province, it is surrounded by high peaks of the Suyang Mountains like a big folding screen in the north, the vast Yonbaek Plain in the southeast and Haeju Bay in the south.

Thickly-wooded forests, streams flowing down through deep valleys, and the famous Suyangsan Falls are scenic attractions in the fort.

The fort is comparatively high in the east, south and north and low in the west, and has two ravines and a wide space inside. It is 6 - 7 metres high, 7 - 8 metres wide at the bottom and 3 - 4 metres wide in the upper part, and 5 258 metres in circumference, linking peaks with Jangdae Peak in the west as the centre.

Topographical and natural features around were made to good use in the construction of the fort, which was erected mainly on rocks and reinforced with stones piled up on both sides.

It had gates in all directions. There are many

sites of terraces and houses.

The fort carries a lot of tales associated with the Korean people's struggle against foreign invaders.

A priceless cultural heritage showing the Korean ancestors' excellent fort-building techniques and patriotic spirit, the Suyangsan Fort is well preserved. It is also a favourite resort for people's cultural and leisure activities.

Article: Pak Yong Jo

Photo: Hong Kwang Nam

