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Chairman Kim Jong Un of the Workers' Party of Korea directing the plenary meeting

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COVER: The national flag of the DPRK fluttering high, demonstrating the might of Juche Korea
Photo: By courtesy of the KCNA

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Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh WPK Central Committee Held

The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea took place in Pyongyang on April 10.

Chairman Kim Jong Un of the WPK directed the plenary meeting.

The plenary meeting discussed the following agenda items:

1. On holding higher the banner of self-reliance in socialist construction
2. On the plan for the formation of state leadership bodies to be submitted to the First Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly
3. Organizational matters

Chairman Kim Jong Un delivered a report on the first issue.

He reviewed and analysed the successes achieved and faults revealed in the struggle to speed up socialist construction under the uplifted banner of self-reliance after the Seventh Congress of the WPK, and set forth immediate goals to be achieved and tasks to be carried out without fail in further demonstrating the might of the self-reliant national economy.

He stressed that self-reliance and self-supporting national economy constitute the bedrock of the existence for our Korean-style socialism, the motive power of its advance and development and the eternal lifeline decisive of the destiny of the Korean revolution.

The meeting discussed the second and third agenda items.

Chairman Kim Jong Un made a historic conclusion at the meeting.

He described the plenary meeting as a landmark event that set up an important milestone in putting forward self-reliance as the eternal lifeline of the Korean revolution, safeguarding and adding brilliance to the undying exploits of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, who had laid a strong foundation for the building of an independent economy, and advancing the cause of building a powerful socialist country from the firm standpoint of Juche.

The basic spirit of the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Party Central Committee is to bring about a great upsurge in socialist construction by courageously mounting an all-out offensive, an all-out death-defying campaign, involving the whole Party, the entire country and all the people, with self-reliance as the treasured sword for prosperity, now that the building of an economic giant has come up as a key political task, he noted.

The plenary meeting served as a historic occasion for setting up a milestone in the struggle for strengthening the WPK into a more powerful guiding force of the revolution and increasing the overall strength of the DPRK to the maximum by effecting a revolutionary upsurge in all sectors of socialist construction, holding fast to self-reliance as the priceless sword for prosperity.

Article: Kang Su Jong



The First Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which was held in the stirring period when the whole country was making a grand advance of single-hearted unity and self-reliance according to the gigantic blueprint of socialist development unfolded by the Seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, elected Kim Jong Un as chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Supreme People's Assembly, on behalf of all the Korean people, solemnly declared to the world that Kim Jong Un, who has made a new history of modelling the whole society on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism with his outstanding ideological and theoretical wisdom and experienced and seasoned leadership and is demonstrating the politico-ideological might and inexhaustible national strength of socialist Korea on the highest level with the people-first and our state-first principles, was elected chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission.



Kim Jong Un Elected Chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission



Chairman Kim Jong Un Delivers Policy Speech

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, made a policy speech, titled, *On Socialist Construction and the Internal and External Policies of the Government of the Republic at the Present Stage, at the First Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK*.

The following is the excerpt from it:

Accomplishing the socialist cause under the unfurled banner of modelling the whole society on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is a great and historic task facing the government of the Republic.

Modelling the whole society on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is the highest programme of our Party and the government of our Republic and the general direction and general goal of the construction of a socialist State.

The revolutionary line of independence should be carried out in State building and activities.

Independence is the political philosophy of our Republic, and it constitutes the core of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist ideas of State building.

A crucial factor in applying the revolutionary line of independence to the building and activities of our State is to strengthen the motive force of our revolution and develop all fields of social life in our own way.

It is important to apply the people-first principle to the letter in all aspects of State activities and social life.

This principle embodies the Juche-oriented revolutionary philosophy that the people are the most precious and powerful beings in the world; it reflects the unwavering commitment of our Party and the government of our Republic to love the people dearly and satisfy their demands and interests.

Party leadership over the overall affairs of the State should be provided in every way possible.

The government of our Republic should remain faithful to the Party's ideas and leadership, so as to perform its missions of representing the rights of the masses of the people to independence, organizing their creative abilities and



activities, taking care of their lives and protecting their interests.

The central task facing our Republic at the present stage of the struggle to build a powerful socialist country is to solidify the material foundations of socialism by concentrating all national resources on economic construction.

Noting that the strategic policy pursued by the Party and the government of the Republic in promoting socialist economic construction is to make the national economy Juche-oriented, modern, IT-based and scientific, the Chairman pointed out tasks and ways for the implementation. He said that the political and military might of the Republic should be built up and then clarified the tasks facing each branch of socialist culture in order to develop it.

He also advanced the tasks for the people's government organs and their officials, stressing that they should enhance their functions and roles in order to successfully carry out the enormous revolutionary tasks facing the government of the Republic, and continued:

At present, our historic struggle for national reunification, a long-cherished desire of the nation, has entered a new phase.

We have taken momentous measures in succession to improve inter-Korean relations and ensure peace on the Korean peninsula with a firm resolve to achieve without fail the cause of national reunification, into which the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il put their heart and soul all their life.

The south Korean conservative forces, however, are responding to the aspirations of the nation and the unanimous expectations of the international community with too perfidious words and behaviours, and are struggling to bring inter-Korean relations back to those in the period before the publication of the Panmunjom Declaration.

The United States openly forces "speed adjustment" on the south Korean authorities and tries in every way to subordinate the implementation of inter-Korean agreements to its anti-DPRK policy marked by sanctions and pressure.

As a result, a grave situation has been created for us to decide whether to ease the tension on the Korean peninsula and continuously carry on the atmosphere of inter-Korean rapprochement or to return to the past when the tension spiralled up towards a catastrophe with the danger of war looming larger.

We cannot look on with folded arms the current situation which causes serious concern over the destiny and future of the nation and peace and security in the region, but we have to take proactive measures without delay to straighten it out in line with the unanimous aspirations of all the fellow countrymen.

To this end, it is needed above all to take a proper stand and attitude with which to invariably adhere to and implement the inter-Korean declarations encapsulating the unanimous will of the nation, whatever difficulties and obstacles in the way.

I would like to make it clear once again that as I already declared, it is my firm determination to turn, together with the south Korean authorities, inter-Korean relations into a lasting and durable relationship of reconciliation and cooperation and write a new history of the nation that achieves peace and prosperity as desired by all the countrymen.

In order to untangle the prevailing unsavoury situation, heighten the good atmosphere for improved relations north and south created with much effort and make it bear meaningful fruit of peace and reunification, it is important to put an end to big-power worship marring the spirit of independence and to the policy of dependence on foreign forces encroaching upon the common interests of the nation, and subordinate everything to the improvement of the relations.

All the fellow countrymen in north and south and abroad should, staking the destiny and future of the nation, resolutely check and foil the moves of the United States and south Korean conservative forces that go against the historic current towards improved inter-Korean relations and peaceful reunification.

Our Party and the government of our Republic will continue to make sincere and persevering efforts to achieve the sustained development of north-south relations and peaceful reunification of the country, solemnly cherishing the aspirations and desires of the nation in the future, too.

The first-ever DPRK-US summit meeting and talks, which were held in Singapore in June last year under the world's spotlight, were a momentous occasion that brought the hope of settlement of peace to the Korean peninsula where fire had been exchanged; and the June 12 DPRK-US Joint Statement was a historic declaration announcing to the world that the two countries which had been hostile to each other from one century into the next would write a new history of relationship, and therefore it won full support and approval of the international community aspiring to peace.

The DPRK voluntarily took crucial and significant measures including the discontinuation of nuclear test and test-fire of intercontinental ballistic missile, thereby taking the first step towards confidence-building which is the main key to the removal of bilateral hostile relations, and it also took the broadminded measure of realizing the repatriation of the remains of US soldiers, which had been requested by the US President, as a show of its will to sincerely implement the June 12 DPRK-US Joint Statement which serves as a milestone in the establishment of a new bilateral relationship.

At the second DPRK-US summit talks held in Hanoi last February we expressed our resolve to set the essential stages and course to be followed without fail for the implementation of the June 12 DPRK-US Joint Statement in the interests of both sides and to take more prudent and trustworthy steps, and looked forward to a positive response of the United States.

But the United States came to the negotiating table after thinking only about completely unrealizable methods.

In other words, they were unprepared to solve problems with us at the table

and they had no definite orientation or methodology.

By that sort of thinking, the United States will not be able to move us one iota nor get what it wants at all, even if it sits with us a hundred times, a thousand times.

It has recently conducted a test for simulated interception of our intercontinental ballistic missile and resumed military exercises the US President committed himself to suspending, while making other hostile moves contrary to the spirit of the June 12 Joint Statement in a more undisguised way. These seriously get on our nerves.

I am very displeased with such a trend.

As waves rise when wind blows, the more pronounced the US policy hostile towards the DPRK becomes, the tougher our counteraction will become.

Although it strongly hints at the settlement of issues through dialogue as it thinks about the third round of DPRK-US summit talks, the United States still looks away from the withdrawal of its hostile policy, the basic way for establishing a new bilateral relationship; rather it mistakenly believes that if it pressures us to the maximum, it can subdue us.

We, of course, attach importance to the settlement of issues through dialogue and negotiations, but the US-style dialogue of unilaterally pushing its demands does not fit us, nor are we interested in it.

Though the United States calls for a negotiated settlement of issues, it is stirring up hostility to us day after day, which is an act that is as foolish and risky as an attempt to put out fire with oil.

Given the deep-rooted animosity between the DPRK and the United States, in order to implement the June 12 Joint Statement both sides should give up their unilateral terms and seek a constructive solution that meets each other's interests.

To this end, it is needed above all for the United States to approach us with a new way of calculation after putting aside the current one.

If the United States were to ask for the third round of summit talks, it would be with the condition that the United States has the right attitude and finds a methodology that can be shared with us; then we are willing to give another try.

But in my opinion at this moment, it comes to my mind that there is no need for me to obsess over the summit talks with the United States out of thirst for the lifting of sanctions.

Anyway, we will be patient and wait till the end of this year to see whether the United States makes a courageous decision or not, but it will obviously be hard to get a good opportunity like the last time again.

In future, I will put my signature on an agreement without hesitation only when it contains fair clauses which conform to the interests of both sides and which are acceptable to them, and this depends entirely on the stand the United States takes and the way of calculation it comes up with.

The government of the Republic will strengthen and develop the bonds of friendship and cooperation with all the countries of the world that respect the sovereignty of our country and are friendly to it, and will advance hand in hand with all the peace-loving forces of the world to establish a lasting and durable peace mechanism on the Korean peninsula.

Nothing can reverse or stop the dynamic advance of our State and people that have unshakable faith and will to pave their own way by themselves with confidence in their own strength.

Let us all make a general advance to successfully accomplish the cause of building a powerful socialist country, holding higher the banner of the great Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism and firmly rallied behind the Party and the government of the Republic.



First Session of the 14th SPA Held

The 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK met for the first session at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang on April 11 and 12.

Newly-elected deputies to the SPA attended the meeting. Present there as observers were officials of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the SPA Presidium, the Cabinet, military organs, ministries and national agencies, and other institutions.

All the participants observed a moment's silence in reverence for Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, eternal leaders of the WPK and the Korean people.

The session decided the following agenda items.

1. Election of chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK
2. Election of state leadership bodies of the DPRK

3. Revision and supplementing of the Socialist Constitution of the DPRK

4. Results of the implementation of the state budget of the DPRK for 2018 and the state budget for 2019

In the discussion of the first item on the agenda, Choe Ryong Hae courteously proposed the SPA elect Kim Jong Un as chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission, the supreme representative of all the Korean people and supreme leader of the country, which met with full support and approval of all the participants.

The session declared that Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, who is victoriously leading the revolutionary cause of Juche pioneered on Mt Paektu under the unfurled banner of the great Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism, was elected chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the

DPRK.

In the discussion of the second agenda item, the session elected the state leadership bodies of the DPRK.

The session discussed the third agenda item and adopted an ordinance of the SPA on revising and supplementing the Socialist Constitution of the DPRK.

It also discussed the fourth agenda item, and adopted decision of the SPA "On approving the results of the implementation of the DPRK state budget for 2018" and ordinance of the SPA "On the DPRK state budget for 2019".

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission, attended the second-day meeting and delivered a historic policy speech.

Noting that the modelling the whole society on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism

is the highest programme of the WPK and the government of the DPRK and the general direction and general goal of the construction of a socialist State, he pointed out the major fighting task in the efforts for its implementation.

He also advanced the central task facing the DPRK at the present stage of the struggle to build a powerful socialist country and practical measures to be taken to this end, and clarified the policy and stand of the WPK and the government of the DPRK to be maintained in conducting external activities based on the analysis and review of the present situation.

The session greatly encouraged all the Korean people and service personnel in their general advance for building a powerful socialist country under the leadership of Kim Jong Un.

Great National Event, Unshakeable Will



A national mass rally took place at Kim Il Sung Square on April 13 in celebration of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un's election as chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK.

The square was thronged with people who were filled with infinite national pride and dignity of having the Supreme Leader at the top post of the DPRK in such an important period when a new turning point was being brought about in the building of a powerful socialist country under the wise leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Attending the event were officials of the Party Central Committee, officials of ministries, national agencies, officials of institutions and industrial establishments in Pyongyang and working people, students and other young people, and service personnel.

A celebratory report and speeches were made at the rally.

The reporter said that Kim Jong Un's election as the top leader of the Republic at the First Session of the 14th SPA of the DPRK and his policy

speech made there are a historic event of Juche Korea and a great auspicious one as they have redoubled the confidence in victory and fighting spirit of all the people opening a new road of advance for the socialist construction.

The other speakers said that today's auspicious event is a clear manifestation of the invincibility of the Republic dynamically advancing along the road of Juche under the guidance of Kim Jong Un who devotes himself to bringing earlier the future of a powerful socialist country while demonstrating the dignity and might of the country over the world.

They made pledges to perform feats and miracles in the sacred and worthwhile struggle for the building of a powerful socialist country, true to the idea and leadership of Kim Jong Un, and cherishing our State-first principle as their faith.

Article: Kim Phil
Photo: By courtesy of the KCNA





Kim Jong Un visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun on the occasion of the Day of the Sun

Eternal Spring Holiday of Socialist Korea

The Korean people, who are accelerating the grand march of self-reliance to accomplish the cause of building a socialist power, significantly celebrated the 107th birth anniversary of Kim Il Sung, founder of socialist Korea and eternal President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

On the occasion of the Day of the Sun, Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun on April 15 to pay tribute to President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

A national meeting took place at the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium.

Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK, first vice chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission and president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, made a report, titled, *Undying exploits of President Kim Il Sung constitute the ever-lasting foundations of the building of a powerful socialist country and eternal banner of victory*.

All the participants in the meeting recollected the revolutionary career of the

President who devoted his tireless efforts to the prosperity of the country and well-being of the people, and made a firm resolve to achieve without fail the historic cause of building a powerful socialist country by waging a courageous general offensive to carry out the tasks Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un set forth in his policy speech and at the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh WPK Central Committee.

Similar meetings also took place in all provinces, cities and counties and industrial complexes.

Senior Party and government officials, the chairman of a friendly party and officials of ministries and national agencies visited Mangyongdae, the birthplace of President Kim Il Sung, and looked back on the sacred life of the President who had cultivated the ennobling love for the country, nation and people and grew to be a great revolutionary.

A lot of people visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the sacred temple of Juche, and paid tribute to the great leaders before their smiling portraits at the plaza of the palace.

Working people, youth and students and service personnel of the Korean



National meeting was held to celebrate 107th birth anniversary of Kim Il Sung

People's Army visited the statues of the great leaders on Mansu Hill and their statues and mosaics depicting their smiling images in other parts of the country to pay tribute to them.

Many people visited the 21st Kimilsungia Festival in Pyongyang and Kimilsungia exhibitions in every province.

Celebration performances, including a concert by the Samjiyon Orchestra at its theatre and performances by the participants in the 6th April Spring People's Art Festival, were staged at many theatres and halls of culture in

Pyongyang.

Colourful artistic performances were also given by artistes, working people from all walks of life, youth and students across the country, and sports games took place.

To mark the Day of the Sun young people and students held dancing parties in Pyongyang and every province, and the first-term camping started in schoolchildren's camps across the country.

(To be continued on page 16)



Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited the Sinchang Fish Farm



Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un oversaw the flight drill of a unit of the Air and Anti-aircraft Force of the Korean People's Army

Field Guidance Given to Several Sectors

Field guidance tours of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un for the country and people continued in April.

The Supreme Leader, together with his wife Ri Sol Ju, visited the Sinchang Fish Farm on April 16.

As he made the rounds of a newly built hall dedicated to education with revolutionary relics, he highly appreciated it and said he felt stronger yearning

for President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il who had been so solicitous of the people and service personnel all their lives. The present Sinchang Fish Farm is unthinkable apart from the devoted efforts of the Chairman who inspected the farm on several occasions during the Arduous March and forced march in particular to wisely lead the efforts to upgrade it into a model unit of fish farming and a world fish-farming base, he recalled.



He acquainted himself with the management and operation of the farm as he looked round fish ponds, hatching grounds and other places.

The Sinchang Fish Farm should continue to take the lead in putting fish farming on a Juche, scientific, modern, industrial and intensive basis so as to live up to the Party's trust and expectation that it should perform the mission and role as a standard fish farm serving as the yardstick in the development of the country's fish farming technology and a model and educational unit in developing the country's fish farming, he emphasized.

That day Kim Jong Un oversaw the flight drill of combat pilots of a unit of the Air and Anti-aircraft Force of the Korean People's Army.

As he saw the aviation ability of the pilots performing all flight operations

including takeoff, air combat actions and landing skilfully and elegantly, he expressed great satisfaction with the fact that they are fully ready to carry out any aerial combat task with credit irrespective of conditions and environment.

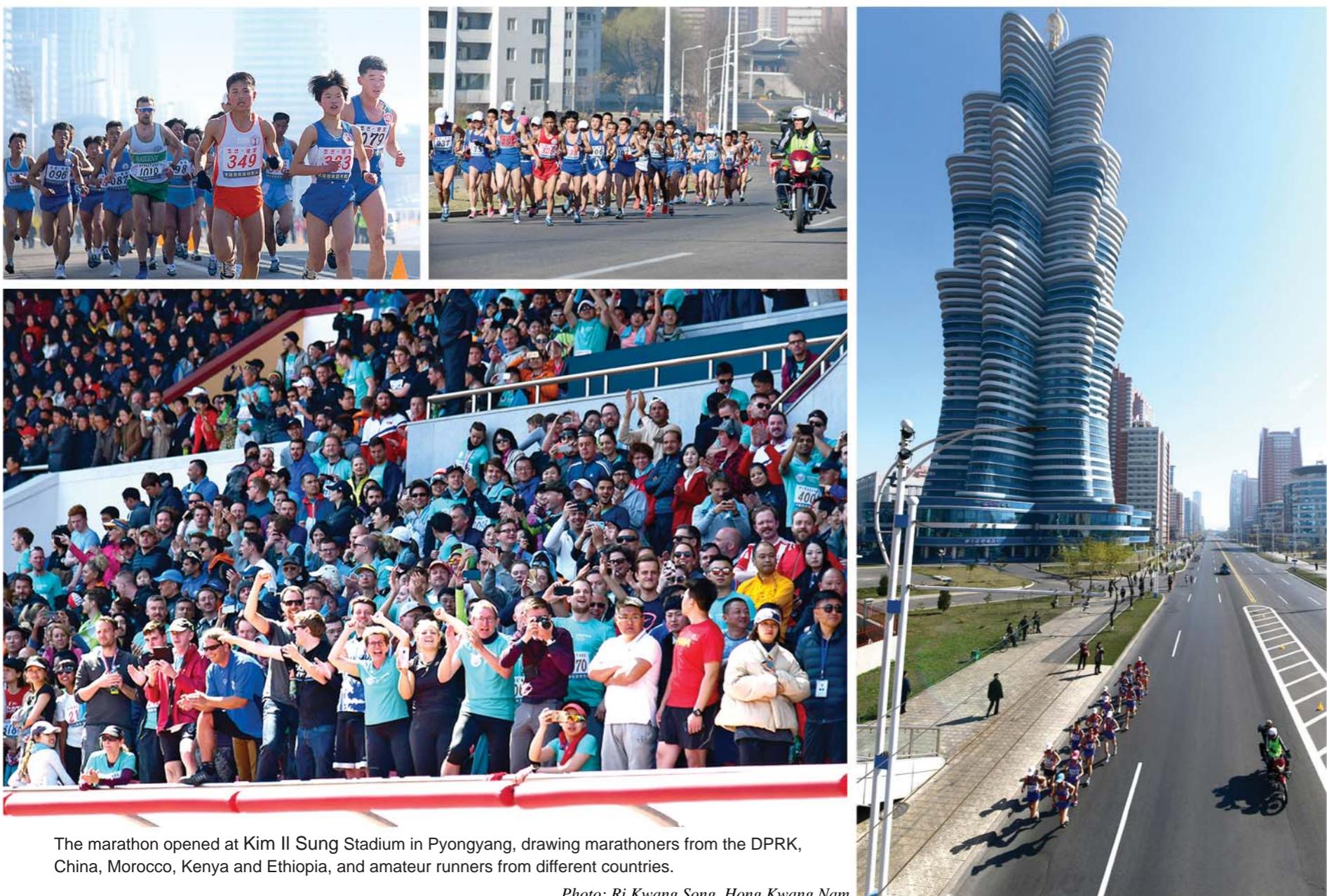
He said that as our pilots reliably defend the territorial sky of the country with a pure conscience, overcoming physical burdens in the sky with neither signposts nor wire entanglements on the demarcation line, happy future of our people is safeguarded and our socialist country is making a dynamic advance, and instructed that all the pilots should prepare themselves to be indomitable fighters who, keeping in mind the expectations of the country and people, creditably carry out combat tasks.

Article: Choe Ui Rim





30th Mangyongdae Prize International Marathon Held



The marathon opened at Kim Il Sung Stadium in Pyongyang, drawing marathoners from the DPRK, China, Morocco, Kenya and Ethiopia, and amateur runners from different countries.

Photo: Ri Kwang Song, Hong Kwang Nam

“Spring Sunshine” Given by Vietnamese State Art Troupe



Photo: By courtesy of the KCNA



21st Kimilsungia Festival



(Continued from page 11)



Participants in the 6th April Spring People's Art Festival gave performances at the theatres in Pyongyang

Article: Kim Son Gyong
Photo: By courtesy of the KCNA

Steel Production Increases



New technical methods boost steel production



The Chollima Steel Complex strives to perfect the Juche-oriented production lines in a scientific and technological way so as to increase production.

Officials of the complex set an ambitious goal for increased production and technical development and inspire technicians and workers to its fulfillment.

Technicians and smelters of the steel workshop improve the operation and management of electric furnaces to turn out more molten iron per charge and introduce technical initiatives for shortening the melting time, thus lowering the production cost.

Officials, technicians and workers of the rolling workshop channel great efforts into the technical management of equipment and strengthen cooperation between processes so as to make innovative successes in producing rolled steel. They promoted thermal efficiency by introducing the heat radiator, articulated waste-heat cut-off gate and semiwater gasification system into the high-

temperature air combustion heating furnace, and thus raised productivity more than 1.2 times.

Workers of the gas generator workshop check and repair the gas generating system on a regular basis, operate at full capacity pulverizer, oval briquette shaper, conveyer and other facilities, and introduce reasonable technical innovative plans conducive to saving raw materials, improving the quality and increasing the quantity of oval briquette.

Steel production keeps growing thanks to the redoubled efforts of all employees of the complex, who are filled with a determination to produce and supply enough iron and steel needed in different sectors of the national economy.

Article: Kim Son Gyong
Photo: An Chol Won



Big Efforts Directed into Growth of Technical Strength



Every employee is taking an active part in an effort to increase production and develop new products by dint of advanced science and technology

Though not big, the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory in Naewonsan-dong in Wonsan, Kangwon Province, is widely known across the country for its famous *Maebongsan*-brand products.

As it makes innovations in production by continuously enhancing its technological ability, the factory achieves successes in the efforts to ensure a complete reliance on locally-available raw and other materials and improve the quality of products.

It recently developed a new adhesive and a domestic substitute for imported toluene and introduced a bond strength measuring device and automatic sole gumming machine so as to eliminate harmful labour and remarkably improve the quality of goods.

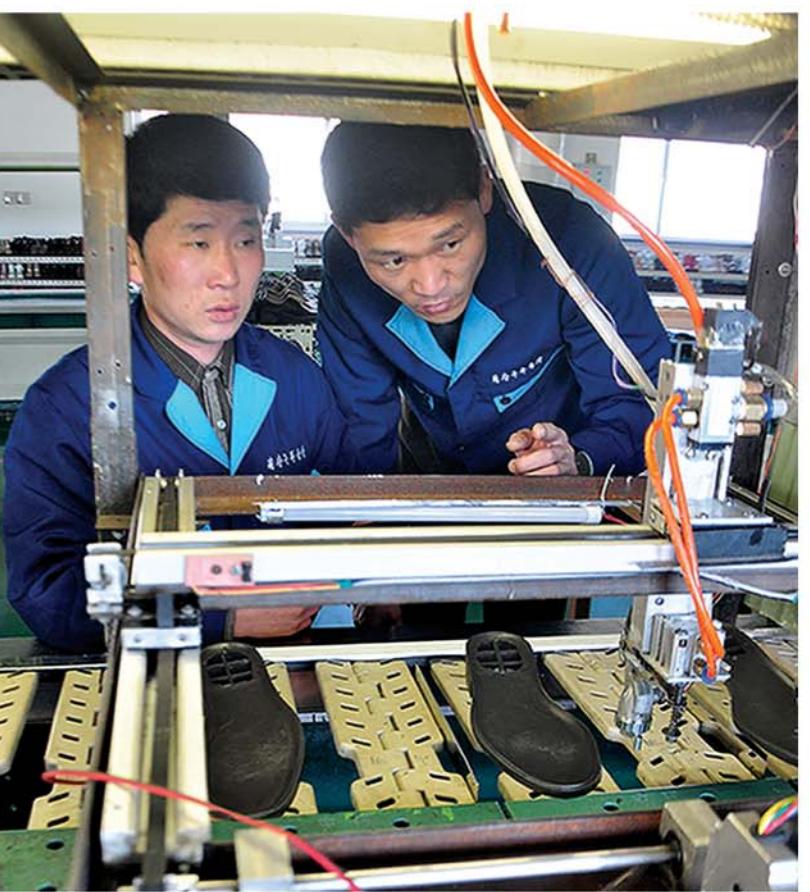
Many employees of the factory are the students of online colleges of Kim Chaek University of Technology and Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry. Not only designers but also workers like machinists and shoemakers are active in devising plans for reenergizing production by dint of latest science and technology.

Discussions of design and products shows are held on a regular basis by including all employees. Last year alone, they presented more than 160 designs, over 70 of which were introduced into production.

In the course of this the varieties of goods increased 1.3 times more than the previous year, and *Maebongsan* leather shoes were appreciated as popular and famous products at the 2018 National Footwear Exhibition.

This year, too, workers of the factory are striving to attain higher goals with innovative spirit.

Article: Pak Yong Jo
Photo: Ri Myong Guk





Animation Producers

Hardly any children grow up without enjoying animation films and singing their theme songs during childhood.

That's why the Korean April 26 Animation Studio is dear to the Korean people, both young and old.

Since its establishment in September 1957, the studio produced a lot of excellent animation films to have positive effects on the children's psychology and sentiments. At present, it works on animations that infuse not only youth and schoolchildren but also other people with the principles and lessons of life as well as abundant knowledge.

To this end, the animators had to do away with old methods and styles of creation the main emphasis of which was put on representing psychological features of the children, and break new ground in selecting seeds and setting thematic subjects.

They thus set a new goal of making the sequels to the 50-part animation series

The Boy General to complete it in 100 parts, and are pooling their efforts and wisdom to realize it.

It has buckled down to the production of historical animation *Ko Jumong*, based on its past success and experience.

Ko Jumong (298 BC – 259 BC) is the founder king of Koguryo (277 BC – AD 668), the first feudal state of Korea.

It is no easy job for the animators to create an historical animation on the basis of the actual historical facts and real person, but they do not hesitate.

Putting an emphasis on portraying in an artistic and vivid way *Ko Jumong*, the hero, as an ordinary man in those days and as the one who devotes his all to the unity of the fellow countrymen, braving untold trials and hardships, they press on with the production of gigantic work, from script-writing to introduction of up-to-the-minute techniques.

As soon as each part of *Ko Jumong* was broadcast, it was a huge box office success.

Now the studio exerts continuous efforts into creating animations of various themes and styles suited to the feelings and sentiments of the Korean people.

Article: Pak Pyong Hun
Photo: An Chol Ryong



Rich Traditions of Mass Gymnastics in Korea

Development of mass gymnastics in the 1960s and 1970s



Grand mass gymnastics *The Era of the Revolution* (1965)



People's Prize-winning mass gymnastics *Under the Banner of the Workers' Party* (1972)



Grand mass gymnastics *Following the Banner of Juche* (1975)

Development of mass gymnastics in the 1980s



Mass gymnastics *Forty Years of Our Republic* (1988)



Grand mass gymnastics *Korea Today* (1989)

Held at the May Day Stadium in Pyongyang of the DPRK between September and November last year was the grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance *The Glorious Country*, attracting a lot of visitors at home and abroad.

After Korea's liberation from Japanese military occupation mass gymnastics was encouraged as a powerful means for the youth and schoolchildren and the rest of the people to train their bodies, and was very popular in Pyongyang and other provinces, cities, counties and educational institutions across the country.

In September 1961 the grand mass gymnastics *The Era of the Workers' Party* was held in Pyongyang in celebration of the Fourth Congress of the Workers'

Party of Korea. The performance that portrayed in gymnastic and artistic images brilliant successes achieved by the Korean people in the socialist revolution and construction was excellent in content and standard of representation. It also boldly broke with the previous formalities and introduced new methods of creation, which opened a new chapter in the history of mass gymnastics in the DPRK.

Since then, it developed as a composite sport which ensures a high standard of athletic finesse and artistic skills by employing diverse means of athletic representation, background art, band music, *pangchang* (off-stage chorus), rhythmic dance and other artistic means.

The establishment of the Korean Mass Gymnastics Production Company in



Development of mass gymnastics in the 1990s



Grand mass gymnastics *Single-hearted Unity* (1990)



Grand mass gymnastics *My Country Led by the President* (1992)

November 1971, involving talented experts in gymnastics, fine art, music and other fields, gave powerful impetus to its progress.

During the last century the company produced such People's Prize-winning works as *Song of Korea*, *Under the Banner of the Party* and *The People Sing of Their Leader*.

It also helped many countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America develop mass gymnastics.

Entering the new millennium, it rendered a great contribution to creating the Kim Il Sung Prize-winning grand mass gymnastics and artistic performances *Ever-Victorious Workers' Party of Korea* and *Arirang*.

Through the creation of the grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance *The Glorious Country*, the company demonstrated remarkable abilities of its competent and seasoned creators.

Development of mass gymnastics in the 2000s



Kim Il Sung Prize-winning grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance *Arirang* (2008)



Arirang won the certificate of its registration in the Guinness Book of World Records

Article: Kang Su Jong

Development of mass gymnastics in the 2010s



Creators of mass gymnastics



Production department

Music department

Athletic representation department

Background art department

Korean mass gymnastics were widely disseminated in many countries



The Korean Stamp Museum is located on Changgwang Street of Pyongyang. It was originally set up as a stamp exhibition house, and was enlarged into the museum in 2012. It functions as a centre for disseminating the stamp culture of Korea and exhibiting and selling stamps.

The museum exhibits postage stamps and postcards, including historical data and relics, showing the long history of mail service in ancient and middle ages of Korea and the establishment of modern postal system. Also displayed there are those that were issued after liberation of Korea from the Japanese military occupation (August 15, 1945).

Rose of Sharon and Samson Rock were the first stamps of new Korea issued on March 12, 1946, to mark its launch of the postal service.

Since then the Korean stamps not only played their intrinsic role for the payment of postal charges but also were widely utilized as the means of broadening the range of knowledge of the people and enriching their cultural and leisure activities. Up to now, even when the telecommunications have gained remarkable progress, the stamps have still retained their charm.

The DPRK has issued on the occasion of the Day of the Sun, the Day of the Shining Star and other national holidays a lot of commemorative stamps as regards the patriotic careers and immortal achievements of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, the great leaders whom the Korean people acclaimed for the first time in their history spanning 5 000 years. Among the commemorative stamps are those showing remarkable successes the DPRK made in the fields of politics, the economy, science, culture and others during the past 70 years.

The museum is the renowned venue for the national stamp exhibitions held to mark such anniversaries, attracting a huge crowd to the exhibits showcasing the proud annals of the DPRK.

Displayed in the museum are the stamps representing the Korean people who value and sustain national traditions and customs and significant events in the international politics, sports and others, as well as those satisfying the philatelists.

In addition, diplomas, cups and medals awarded to Korean stamps at international stamp exhibitions can be seen there.

There are boards for displaying stamps of national symbols, history and culture of Korea, animals and plants, national customs and other subjects, a stamp stand, and a souvenir stall.

The Korean Stamp Museum was renovated recently to offer a better environment for visitors.



KOREAN STAMP MUSEUM



Article: Kim Chung Bok
Photo: Hong Kwang Nam

A Day Spent With Old People

In recent years old people's homes in the provinces of the DPRK were newly built or reconstructed as demanded by the times, so as to provide the elderly with better living conditions and environment, thanks to the state's policy of respecting the elderly as the revolutionary forerunners and looking after their life.

The North Phyongan Provincial Old People's Home was built in the picturesque Taesan-ri area, Uiju County in North Phyongan Province in April last year.

A two-storeyed, square building with red tiled-roof, the home has 32 bedrooms, and rooms for recreation, video-watching, physical exercise and



others. They are well furnished for the old people to enjoy cultural and leisure activities as they like.

The home has also welfare service facilities, including dining hall, medical treatment room, bathrooms, barber's, beauty salon and laundry, for the convenience of the dwellers.

At present, there are over 100 old people, who lead a happy life in the twilight of their years. They take in sufficient nutrition, and have moderate labour, amusement and exercises, in accordance with their health conditions, hobbies and tastes.

Management officials and employees of the old people's home take care of them in every aspect of their life like their family members. Officials of the Party and power organs, enterprises, and organizations, as well as residents and schoolchildren in the province and county frequent the home, taking with them various goods they prepared with sincerity.

When they get together like one family, they sing loudly *We Are the Happiest in the World*.

Article: Pak Pyong Hun
Photo: Hong Thae Ung





Sixth Top Prize

The DPRK's physical stunt *Wire-rope Walking* snatched the top prize at the Idol-2018 World Acrobatic Art Festival held in Moscow, Russia, in September last year.

The festival drew more than 130 acrobats who came from 13 countries including the DPRK, China, Russia, Germany and France, with 30

odd acrobatic pieces.

The Korean acrobats performed on a six-metre-high wire-rope without a safety net and safety belts, such difficult movements as backward somersaults and jumping over three men, capturing the admiration of the jurors and audience.

So far, the Korean acrobats won gold prizes six times.

Article: Choe Ui Rim

Winners of Gold Elephant Prize



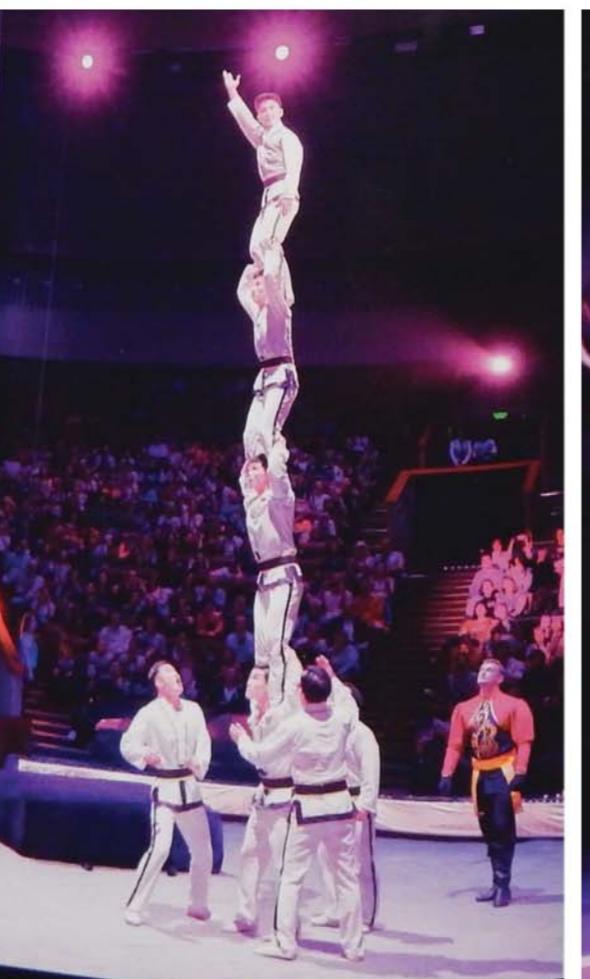
Physical stunt *Spirit of Nalpharam* won the Gold Elephant Prize



demonstrated the developing acrobatic art of the DPRK with their polished and enthusiastic depiction and high skills.

Spirit of Nalpharam was awarded the Gold Elephant Prize, the top prize of the festival.

Article: Kim Mi Ye



With Excellent Educational Environment



In 2017 Ryomyong Street sprang up in Taesong District of Pyongyang, and the Pyongyang Kumsonggori Primary School spruced up its appearance and was renamed Ryomyong Primary School.

The primary school of two buildings is located in the heart of the street and complements well the neighbouring high-rise apartment buildings.

The school has 40 odd classrooms and other laboratories for studying natural science and other subjects as well as preserving specimens of animals and plants.

It has put its lessons, extracurricular activities, teaching administration, and school management on a modern and IT footing.

In keeping with the improvement in the

contents and levels of education in the primary school sector, the school makes strenuous efforts to enhance the sense of responsibility and role of its teaching staff.

In the fierce flames of the collective competition waged among teachers for raising their qualifications, a lot of new teaching methods as well as various teaching aids were designed and

introduced into teaching practices.

They greatly pay off in the cognitive development of the pupils and effective applicability of the teaching.

The school has produced honour pupils in larger numbers and remarkably improved the academic performance of the pupils.

It pays close concern to the after-school

activities of the pupils, so that they engage in various sports and art groups, including Taekwon-Do, table tennis, music and dance groups.

Last year the members of the Taekwon-Do group won the third place at the 44th Jongilbong Prize national games of schoolchildren.

Nam Ryong and Han Thae Ung in the fifth grade and Kim Jin A, Hwang Tam I and Kim Chol Ju in

the fourth grade were awarded the Our Classroom Literature Prize.

All the pupils from Ryomyong Primary School and their parents are proud of the school.

Article: Kim Son Gyong

Photo: Ri Chol Jin





Retaining Fine Qualities of Korean Costumes

The Korean Dressmaker's in Mirae Scientists Street opened four years ago. It has the shortest history among similar shops in Pyongyang, but has already won reputation for its excellent dressmaking.

Located on the ground floor of the 53-storeyed apartment building, an emblematic one in the street, the shop makes traditional costumes, such as *chima* and *jogori* (traditional women's skirt and jacket), *paji* and *jogori* (traditional men's trousers and jacket), and children's costumes. The costumes of casual and holiday wear made at the shop are well commented by customers as they preserve graceful and beautiful features of the Korean costumes.

The shop's main characteristic is its distinctive design.

The key to sustaining the peculiar features of the Korean costumes is to combine well various colours and

decorative patterns, and it depends entirely on the ability of designers.

The shop's manager, Pak Kum Son, is a graduate of Pyongyang University of Fine Arts and a qualified costume designer.

She considers not only the orders of the customers but also forms of their faces and bodies, and even occupations and ages in designing costumes. Her designs of soft colours going well with graceful decorative patterns always satisfy the customers.

Good workmanship of dressmakers is another distinctive feature of the shop.

They give full play to their skills in retaining beautiful curvaceousness of the silhouettes, one of fine qualities of the Korean costumes, and devote themselves to satisfying the tastes of the Korean people who prefer wearing clean, simple, elegant and soft-coloured costumes.

The traditional costumes of the shop were highly appreciated at several national Korean costume shows.

Not only Pyongyang citizens but even overseas Korean compatriots visit the shop to have their Korean costumes made.

*Article: Jong Ki Sang
Photo: Choe Won Chol*



Tailors express their sincerity in making beautiful and charming Korean costumes





Choe Jong Sim, full of vigour at her advanced age, devotes herself to education work



Honourable Life

There is a woman whom people call dearly a midwife hero. She is Choe Jong Sim, lecturer of the Pyongyang Continuous Medical Education College. Working in the obstetrical field for over 60 years, Choe assisted a total of 80 000 women in childbirth.

When she began her career as a midwife at the Hoeyang County People's Hospital in Kangwon Province, Choe was 19.

At that time, women in the mountainous area were reluctant to trust the maiden midwife. However, Choe visited every pregnant woman in the county, registered them and took care of them with all sincerity. In case of critical cases on the verge of death, she unhesitatingly injected her blood into the patients to resuscitate them.

She trained tens of assistant midwives within three years, so all of the pregnant women in the county were able to deliver babies safely with their aid.

Choe Jong Sim was awarded the title of Labour Hero in June 1961 for her meritorious performance to carry out the policy on public health of the state that regards the people's lives most highly. She was 22 years old.

After she graduated from the Pyongyang Medical College and got married to an officer of the Korean People's Army, she followed her husband to Jagang Province. There she worked as a head of obstetrical and gynecological department at the Kanggye Medical College Hospital for over a decade. In 1980 she was promoted to an obstetrical department head of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, a comprehensive medical service centre for women, and spent 20 odd years there, delaying her retirement for ten years.

Even the retirement from her work did not dampen her enthusiastic devotion to women and their babies. She began to write references on midwifery and frequently visited her native county to render active assistance to its medical service.

When she was appointed a lecturer at the Pyongyang Continuous Medical Education College in June 2007, she was delighted to greet another florescence of life at the age of 68.

She made ceaseless effort to improve her qualifications and employ new teaching methods in her lectures, which earned her associate professorship. She also made an indepth study of establishing a nationwide system of diffusing information on prenatal care while continuing her writing.

She wrote a reference book on clinical study of abnormalities in obstetrics,

which generalized her clinical experiences, and this book with enlarged edition is a major requisite for obstetricians across the country.

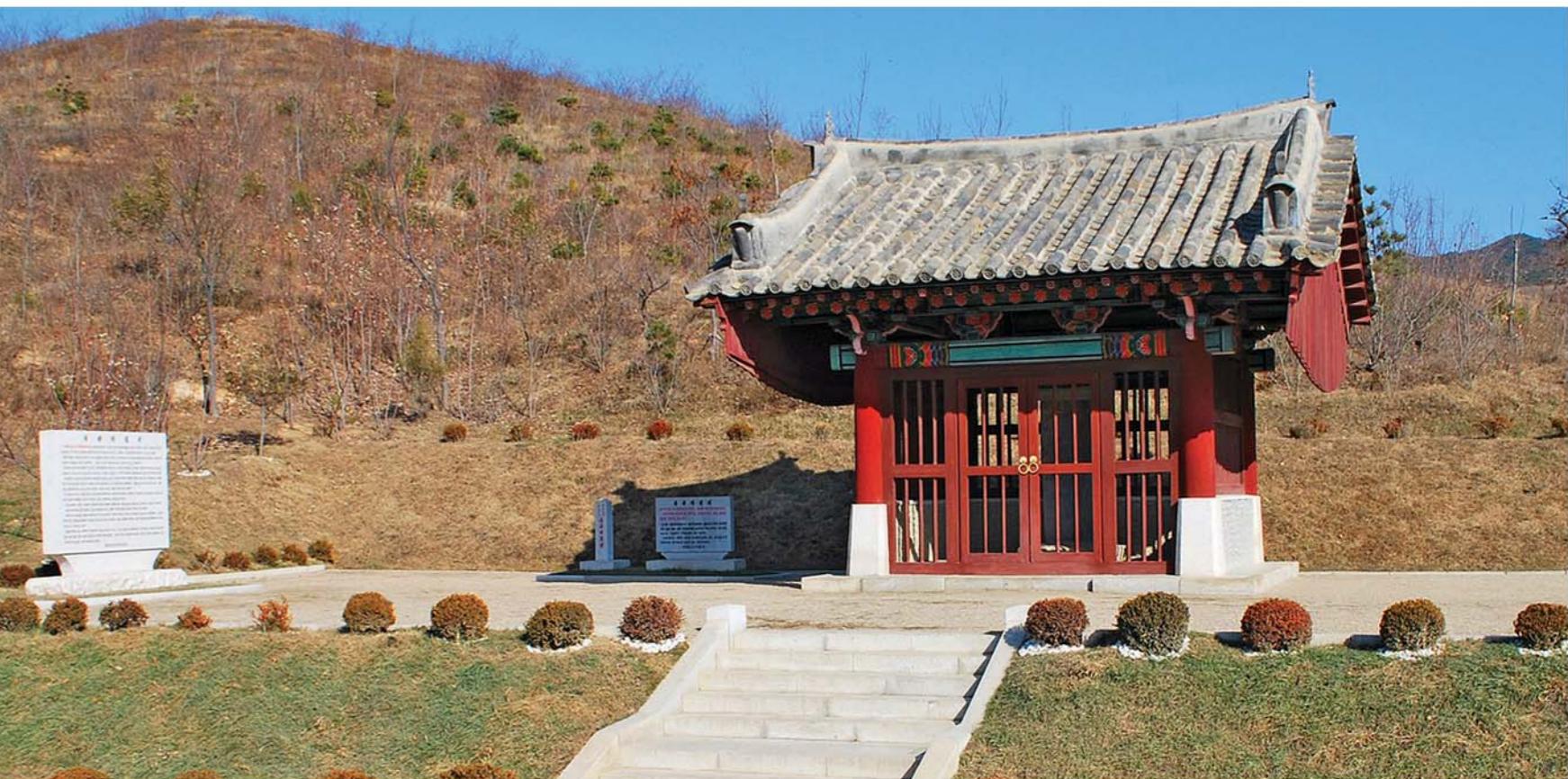
Her other books *Pregnancy and Health* and *How to Bring up Intelligent Children* (first edition issued in 2011 and published with additions two years later) are enjoying increasing demand at home.

In July 2016 she was awarded the title of PhD for her long-studied thesis on painless delivery.

Article: Choe Kwang Ho
Photo: Ri Ta Jong



Choe in her university days (above) and as a department head at the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital (below)



Monument to the Great Victory in Pukgwan

The Monument to the Great Victory in Pukgwan stands in Rimmyong-ri in the city of Kim Chaek, North Hamgyong Province of Korea.

It was erected in 1708 to the memory of the great victory achieved by the Jong Mun Bu-led volunteers who defeated the Japanese invaders in the areas of Hamgyong Province during the Imjin Patriotic War in the late 16th century.

Jong Mun Bu, an aide to the provincial military commander, led the volunteer corps to fight the victorious battles in Rimmyong, Ssangpho and Tanchon areas and win an ultimate victory in the area of Paekthap, thus driving the invaders out of Hamgyong Province.

The monument is 187cm high, 66cm wide and 13cm thick, and has more than 2 000 engraved characters, telling that Japan invaded Korea and the Korean volunteers won brilliant victory in battles against the invaders.

In 1905 a military officer of the Japanese aggressor troops that intruded into Korea during the Russo-Japanese war happened to see the monument near the village in Rimmyong of Kilju. In order to cover up the true nature of aggressive acts of Japan and its ignoble defeat and devastate the valuable historical relics of Korea, he shipped the monument to Japan secretly in 1906.

The Japanese imperialists tried to destroy it at first, but they were struck with admiration by the quality of the monument and its excellent craftsmanship, so they left it untouched, saying that they brought it from their colony.

The whereabouts of the monument were unknown for a long time, until a Japanese newspaper revealed in August 1983 that the Korean monument was abandoned in the Yasukuni Shrine that houses the name tablets of the Japanese war criminals. Worse still, the Japanese reactionaries put a rock weighing over one ton on the monument, in the meaning of obliterating the soul of the Korean nation.

The Monument to the Great Victory in Pukgwan was brought back to Korea in March 2006 by the concerted efforts of the Korean nation and was set up in its original spot.

It accuses Japanese reactionaries of violating human morality and ethics and devastating the cultural heritage.

Article & photo: Pak Yong Jo

