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Kim Jong Un presides over first workshop for Party chiefs at city, county levels

The first short course for chief secretaries of city and county Party committees was opened at the conference hall of the office building of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea on Wednesday.

The course drew chief secretaries of city and county Party committees across the country and chief secretaries and officials of relevant departments of provincial Party committees.

It was also attended by secretaries of the Party Central Committee, directors and first deputy directors of its relevant departments and its officials related to local Party affairs.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the WPK, appeared at the hall to guide the short course.

In the opening address, Kim Jong Un said that the short course was organized before anything else after the dissemination of the ideas of the Eighth Party Congress and the Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee by attaching special importance to the significance of innovating city and county Party work in developing all sectors of socialist construction onto a new

stage and promoting the balanced and simultaneous development of the whole country.

The General Secretary referred to the importance of the city and county as the lowest-level guidance and executive units for the implementation of Party policies, as the regional bases directing the rural and local economies and as the powerful fortresses supporting the comprehensive development of the country, and to the position of their Party committees.

Our socialist construction that has entered a new phase urgently requires providing great traction

power to promote the development of cities and counties on a full scale, he said, noting that the role of chief secretaries of their Party committees, who are delegates sent by the Party Central Committee, is very important in making the city and county Party organizations steer the development of their regions.

He described the chief secretaries of city and county Party committees as the hard core of the Party in charge of regional bases for socialist construction and the field political workers who bear the heavy responsibility of taking care of people while living nearest to them, and emphasized that

the decisions of the Party congress can be carried out and Korean-style socialism can advance and develop rapidly when the chief secretaries bring about fundamental changes in their work with revolutionary political awareness.

Saying that now that the Eighth Party Congress clarified important policy orientations for developing cities and counties across the country in an independent and many-sided way, everything depends on the strenuous efforts and role of the chief secretaries, he noted that under the present situation, the Party Central Committee decided to raise the level of their working ability and improve their style of work above all to provide a new turning point in the development of cities and counties and specially arranged the short course with much effort.

He said that through the course, the chief secretaries should review their work in an all-round way before the Party Central Committee and study in a positive, responsible and earnest manner to find definite ways for shoring up their cities and

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counties as they exchange and share good experiences with a correct understanding of the importance and political needs of the strengthening of the regions.

He stressed that the chief secretaries should be deeply conscious of their heavy duty and responsibility of defending the important strategic fortresses and bases of the Party and the state and earnestly study how to turn the regions in their charge into socialist paradises in order to meet the demands of the people and live up to their great expectations and how to turn them into steel fortress and solid cornerstone impregnably defending the Party and the state.

He urged the chief secretaries to deeply grasp the principles and methods of Juche-oriented Party work embodying the people-first principle and bear in mind the methodologies one by one for effecting a decisive turn in city and county Party work with a view to acquiring substantial political and practical qualifications and abilities to lead their regions.

He expressed his belief that the short course as the first sectional meeting for implementing the decisions of the Eighth Party Congress would be an important occasion in fundamentally innovating the ideological viewpoint, work style, qualification and spiritual and moral traits of the chief secretaries of city and county Party committees and providing a fresh turning point for the development of cities and counties as planned and intended by the Party Central Committee, before declaring the first short course open.

As part of the short course, a meeting was held to comprehensively analyse the work done by the chief secretaries of city and county Party committees in recent years, review success, experience, mistakes and their reasons and take measures for practical improvement.

Jo Yong Won, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretary in charge of organizational affairs of the Party Central Committee, made a report calling on the chief secretaries to thoroughly implement the Party's line and policy of strengthening cities and counties by concentrating their efforts on

Party work.

The report made an anatomical analysis of shortcomings being revealed in the work of some chief secretaries and some city and county Party committees.

The meeting announced the city and county standings decided by the Party Central Committee on the basis of the appraisal of the result of work done by city and county Party committees to implement Party policies.

The speakers, in their speeches, referred to the successes and experience gained in the Party work, economic work, improvement of the people's standards of living and development of education in their cities and counties.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un made an important concluding speech.

Saying that improving the work of the city and county Party committees now presents itself as a more important issue in strengthening the entire Party, enhancing its leadership function and role and accelerating the development of cities and counties, he noted that only when the city and county Party committees across the country fulfil their mission and role, can the overall work of the Party and the state go well and the overall development of Korean-style socialism be promoted.

He said that if the Party Central Committee is the supreme General Staff of the Korean revolution, the city and county Party committees are the political general staff organizing and guiding every work in their areas, and success or failure of the work of the city and county Party committees holding such an important position entirely depends on the ability and activities of their chief secretaries.

He set forth important tasks and ways for enhancing the role of chief secretaries in intensifying the Party work and developing cities and counties.

He underscored the need to direct efforts to internal Party work before anything else to firmly cement the revolutionary position, class position.

Saying that internal Party work is an important part of the Party work for strengthening the WPK organizationally and ideologically, training the officials and Party



members to be fighters faithful to the Party and revolution and rallying all the people closely around the Party to vigorously stimulate them to implement Party policies, he noted that the chief secretaries should keep up the internal Party work as an iron rule and main task whatever difficulties.

Special efforts should be directed to building up the ranks of cadres, he said, specifying the tasks to be tackled in forming the ranks of cadres with elite ones by strictly observing the Party principles, revolutionary principles in the personnel administration and improving the personnel administration system in an innovative way to this end.

He referred to the need to conduct the work of increasing Party membership and control over the Party ranks in a responsible manner, strengthen basic Party organizations and effectively organize and guide the Party life of officials and Party members.

He said that the chief secretaries should bear in mind the intention of the Party Central Committee which attaches importance to basic Party organizations and turn the work with primary Party committees and Party cells into that of the city and county Party committees, thus leading the basic Party organizations well to improve their work as required by the developing reality.

He said that as it is a main link of the whole chain of the Party work and a guarantee for consolidating the Party ranks organizationally and ideologically to intensify Party life, the city and county Party committees should make sure that the basic Party organizations organize the organizational and ideological life of Party members like meeting for review of their life and study of the Party's line and policies in a regular and effective way and steadily improve the method of conducting Party meetings to raise the level of Party life of officials and Party members.

He stressed the need for them to pay particular attention to intensifying the study of the newly-amended Rules of the Party and the Explanations about the Rules of the Party, establishing the habit of thoroughly observing the rules in the whole Party and orienting the organization of and guidance to

Party life to the implementation of the decisions made at the Party congress.

Referring to the importance of consolidating the class position in the rural communities by strengthening the rural Party work, he said that the city and county party committees should build up the ranks of rural junior officials like secretaries of ri Party committees and chairpersons of farm management boards and strengthen the Party guidance to enhance their role and sense of responsibility.

He noted that the chief secretaries should not lay stress only on the farming in their guidance to rural areas, but concentrate on pushing ahead with the three revolutions and boosting the work of ri Party committees.

He stressed that city and county Party organizations should constantly seek and apply effective methods of educating and awakening the masses so as to make the revolutionary and sound way of life definitely prevail in the whole society and turn the struggle for suppressing and eradicating anti-socialist and non-socialist practices into the work of the masses themselves.

He said the chief secretaries should strengthen guidance and control over the departments of city and county Party committees to correctly organize and conduct every work of cities and counties as intended by the Party Central Committee and should inspire officials, Party members and other working people to successfully carry out revolutionary tasks.

Since they are leading Party officials responsible for the overall work of relevant areas, the chief secretaries of city and county Party committees should decisively enhance their political and practical qualifications and work ability and steadily improve their style of work and personality traits, he stressed, and went on:

The most important criterion for the chief secretaries, the chief delegates of the Party Central Committee, is the strong Party spirit and political and practical qualifications.

The chief secretaries of city and county Party committees should make strenuous and purposeful efforts to be



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well versed in the ideas and line of the Party so as to be well informed about Party policies, and make the whole process of organizing and reviewing work a course of education to implant the policies in the minds of officials as their faith.

At the same time, they should strive to be conversant with the actual affairs related to Party work and acquire many-sided knowledge and high cultural attainments.

In the present times when we are going to make all cities and counties across the country develop in an independent and many-sided way, the qualifications of their chief secretaries precisely mean their level of development.

Their chief secretaries should make energetic and strenuous efforts not only to be well versed in Party policies and actual affairs related to Party work but to acquire advanced technologies and knowledge about agriculture, industry, architecture, land management, education, public health and other fields.

Noting that the people actually perceive the dignity and prestige of the Party Central Committee and the love and trust of the motherly Party through the county Party committees, through the working method and style of their chief secretaries in particular, Kim Jong Un repeatedly stressed the need for the chief secretaries to definitely improve their working method, style and manner.

It is the most general and basic requirements for making our Party maintain its mode of existence and

revolutionary Party traits and realize the people-first politics that county Party committees should become the parental home to which the people come to open their hearts and the committees which take root deep among the people and that their chief secretaries should become the “mothers” of counties, he said.

He strictly pointed out the practices devoid of loyalty to the Party and revolution, devotion to the people, respect for comrades and sincere attitude towards work which are being revealed in the work and life of some chief secretaries, and cleared up their ideological origin.

He told the chief secretaries to train and cultivate themselves in a revolutionary and thoroughgoing way and become examples of cadres and Party members in terms of loyalty to the Party and revolution above all.

He also said that the chief secretaries should be the first to grasp and apply the proper methods of Party work for rousing Party organizations and members to action and prioritizing political work and educate their subordinate officials with practical examples.

Kim Jong Un underscored the need for the chief secretaries of city and county Party committees to apply efficient methods of mass work.

He said that they should naturally become standard-bearers and models in applying the Party’s popular character and people-first politics, calling on them to become genuine Party officials who prioritize the work of eliminating the people’s suffering in living, treat everyone like their own

parents and children and know how to read their minds from their eyes, expression and common words and take due measures.

And he stressed that they should find themselves among the masses to depend on them, stimulate their spiritual strength and wisdom and achieve successes in work on that strength by following the Party’s traditional methods of mass work.

He said that they should become examples for the masses in all aspects and, to this end, they should not regard themselves as the privileged, but respect their subordinates and the people anywhere and anytime and honour revolutionary seniors.

He noted that the chief secretaries should become examples in observing the proprieties, always bearing in mind the dignity and prestige of the Party Central Committee, which dispatched them, and the revolutionary climate of the Party.

They should not abuse power and indulge in bureaucracy, irregularities and corruption but be honest in their work and life, he said, stressing the need for them to remain upright before the Party and people, keep their families and relatives from seeking after selfish interests and desires and hold under strict control all the officials in their counties to keep them from abusing power and indulging in bureaucracy, irregularities and corruption.

Noting that the chief secretaries should bring definite and actual results in the economic work of their cities and counties and the improvement of the people’s living standards by scrupulously planning

and guiding the work to implement the tasks set forth at the Eighth Party Congress and the Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee, he continued:

The primary economic task for the chief secretaries of the city and county Party committees is to decisively increase agricultural production.

They should always attach importance to vigorously rousing agricultural officials and workers to the struggle for carrying out the Party’s agricultural policy and concentrate the Party-wide efforts on it.

They should raise strong demand to make cooperative farm management committees of their cities and counties map out farming plans in a scientific and detailed way in conformity with their regional characters and thoroughly carry them out, and help the management committees substantially guide the farming of their cities and counties by supporting their authority in work.

In particular, it is necessary to wage an intensive struggle for getting rid of the habit of talking big taking root deep in the agricultural sector.

It is the natural duty of the chief secretaries to spruce up their counties and make their residents well off, he said, emphasizing the need to map out a realistic plan for sprucing up their cities, county towns and rural villages as required by the civilization of the times and rely on their own skilled working forces and construction equipment in dynamically pushing ahead with local construction.

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He called for taking advantage of their own natural and geographical conditions to revitalize local industrial establishments and increase the production of consumer goods and for improving the people's living standards by promoting animal husbandry including the raising of grass-eating domestic animals and breeding fishes.

He told the chief secretaries about detailed ways of working out correct strategy to develop their cities and

counties and improve the people's standard of living and of making the most of their economic foundations and potentials.

He stressed that the chief secretaries shouldering the heaviest tasks in upholding the great people should certainly become genuine revolutionaries and communists and, to this end, they should make constant efforts to share the idea, intention and will with the Party Central Committee.

He expressed the belief that the short course would serve as an occasion

for the chief secretaries to further develop their discrimination and heighten their political consciousness and revolutionary zeal and thus they would take a fresh stride in turning their cities and counties into well-off and civilized socialist paradises.

They should bear in mind that this year, too, we are faced with gigantic tasks, conditions are unfavourable and the people's expectations for the Party and their desire are greater than ever before, he said, adding that it is high time to thoroughly maintain the correct line set forth by the Party

Central Committee and provide correct political leadership. That is why the responsibilities given to the chief secretaries of the city and county Party committees are very heavy yet important, he stressed again and again.

He ardently called on the chief secretaries, who are filled with surging excitement and fresh confidence, to join efforts to fight for the great Party and great people.

The short course continues.

KCNA

MEETING

14th SPA Standing Committee meets for 13th plenum



The 13th Plenary Meeting of the Standing Committee of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK takes place at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on March 3.

The 13th Plenary Meeting of the Standing Committee of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK was held at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang on Wednesday.

Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, first vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and chairman of the Standing Committee of the SPA, presided over the plenary meeting.

It was attended by vice-chairmen Thac Hyong Chol and Pak Yong Il, Secretary General Ko Kil Son

and members of the Standing Committee of the SPA.

Present there as observers were relevant officials of the SPA Standing Committee and the Cabinet.

Presented to the meeting as agenda items were the issues of adopting the DPRK law on social insurance and social security and the DPRK law on disinfection of imports and approving the national economic development plan of the DPRK for 2021 and the master plan for land development in the east coastal area.

An explanation was given at the meeting about the main

contents of the law on social insurance and social security and the law on disinfection of imports examined by the SPA Legislation Committee.

The law on social insurance and social security refers to the protection of the people's health and provision for them with stable and happy living conditions, specifying in detail the collection and expenditure of social insurance money, organization, operation and duty of social insurance organ and others.

It also deals with principled matters arising in the observation and implementation of the law.

It heard reports on the national economic development plan for 2021 and the master plan for land development in the east coastal area.

It adopted the decrees of the SPA Standing Committee "On Adopting the DPRK Law on Social Insurance and Social Security", "On Adopting the DPRK Law on Disinfection of Imports", "On Approving the National Economic Development Plan of the DPRK for 2021" and "On Approving the Master Plan for Land Development in the East Coastal Area".

KCNA



The South Phyongan Provincial Old People's Home has been built and opened.

Built in the picturesque place of Ryongi-ri, Phyongwon County, the home is provided with all the conditions needed for the healthcare of residents and their cultural and emotional life.

An Kum Chol, chief secretary of the South Phyongan Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and Kang Hyong Bong, chairman of the provincial people's committee,

INSPECTION

Premier Kim visits various economic sectors

Premier Kim Tok Hun, who is also member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, inspected different sectors of the national economy.

Looking round the construction site of the project for creating the C1 chemical industry, he stressed the necessity to prepare reliable technical forces for further improving the self-sustenance of the chemical industry, carry out the construction plan as scheduled without fail and increase the proportion of homemade equipment and materials.

At the large machine



Premier Kim Tok Hun (second from left) discusses with officials to establish the C1 chemical industry.

looked round the newly-built home on February 28.

Art theatre inaugurated in Jagang Province



The Jagang provincial art theatre was inaugurated on Tuesday.

Built on the banks of the Jangja River flowing through the centre of Kanggye City, the theatre has a 1 500-odd seat auditorium, entrance hall and other facilities.

building workshop of the Ragwon General Machine Enterprise, he took measures for increasing the production of highly efficient machinery and equipment.

At the Sokha Cooperative Farm in Sinuiju, he said that it should improve soil fertility and actively introduce high-yielding varieties which proved to be superior in reality.

The field consultative meetings discussed realistic ways to bring about practical changes and substantial progress in fulfilling the first-year tasks of the new five-year plan.

KCNA

Nationwide

Unjong Tea Factory inaugurated



The Unjong Tea Factory was wonderfully built and inaugurated.

The factory equipped with all processes ranging from water purification to packing produces health tea with unique flavour and fragrance.

A water-purifying process,

a tea-filter process and other production processes have been completed on a highly automatic and streamlined footing, and the factory is put on a perfect germ-free and dust-free basis.

The factory now turns out green tea, black tea and Cholgwani tea.

Premier Kim Tok Hun, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Ju Chol Gyu, vice-premier and minister of Agriculture, and officials concerned looked round the Unjong Tea Factory on February 26.

Old people's home opens in South Phyongan

Ri Hyong Gun, chairman of the Jagang Provincial People's Committee, was present at the inaugural ceremony.

Canned fish factory remodelled

The Sinpho Canned Fish Factory has been remodelled and inaugurated.

Provided with a computer integrated manufacturing system for production and management control, the factory ensures hygiene and security of its products on a high level.

Song Chun Sop, minister of Fisheries, and officials concerned looked round the factory on February 28.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES



Congratulations to women

The word "woman" has been used as a synonym for love and affection from time immemorial. Family, society and furthermore humankind are unthinkable without women.

To mark March 8 International Women's Day, we extend warm congratulations to all women who, with all-burning love and passion, devote themselves to the harmony of families and society and the prosperity of their countries.

Korean women could significantly celebrate their international holiday only after their country was liberated from Japanese military rule in 1945.

The DPRK put forward the women who had been maltreated and oppressed in the past as legitimate masters of the country and society and administered politics of attaching importance to women and respecting them.

In the country, women have played the role of turning one of the two wheels of social development. They work devotedly for the country shoulder to shoulder with men

at factories and farms and in all fields like science, education, public health and sports and fulfil their responsibility as they promote harmony and unity of society and families and raise children.

Their status in the DPRK is highlighted by the Chollima Statue in the capital city on which one of the two riders is the female farmer carrying a sheaf of rice and the three-person group sculpture at the Tower of the Juche Idea standing high on the banks of the Taedong River which represents a working woman.

Women form the absolute majority of workforce in such sectors as education, public health, culture and commercial service and many women hold important office at state organs.

Women exercise the same right as men in all domains of politics, the economy and culture and enjoy such social benefits as maternity leave. Preferential treatment is accorded by society to them including preferential health care service for prolific

International Women's Day

International Women's Day was designated at the second international socialist women's conference which was held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1910, with about 100 women representatives from 17 countries in attendance. The meeting expressed firm solidarity with women workers in Chicago, the US, who went on strike and demonstration on March 8 1909 against ruthless exploitation and oppression by monopoly capitalists and for sexual equality and freedom, and decided to mark March 8 as the international day of working women in the world.

mothers.

Basking in love and respect in society, Korean women dedicate their all to national prosperity as they infuse vigour and optimism into the grand harmonious socialist family.



Kim Son Sil, department director of the State Planning Commission, finds the worth of life and happiness in her work.

Though she has a family to look after, she works hard from the morning until late hours in the evening.

Of course, her considerate husband who heartily understands her job and joy and her son who is very respectful and loving to her have given great encouragement to her.

Kim was appointed a public servant of the State Planning Commission in her thirties.

Having graduated from the University of National

Economy with honours, she got well versed in her line of work as she worked as a staffer, section chief, deputy department director and department director in succession.

"Our work at the department is quite demanding for it involves close collaboration with ministries, national agencies and other departments of the commission. Sometimes we have to deal with numbers all day long. However, we work with a great sense of responsibility whenever we are faced with laborious tasks," said Kim.

Although she is highly experienced in her field, she never stops thinking to find more effective working methods and to improve her capabilities.

So she is always short of time.

But she hardly neglects her duty as a wife and mother.

Even after returning home late at night, she would pay attention to household chores and the health and work of her husband and son.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

From stage to school platform



“

Ri In Hui is really an admirable teacher envied by all. She has trained many talented vocal reserves with her wisdom and good heart.”

O Jong Yun, chief of early vocal music course at the school

from the audience at home and abroad. In her 40s, she thrust herself into training young art talents.

"I wanted to follow in the footsteps of my father and other praiseworthy teachers who cultivated my inborn talent," she said.

Since then, she has devoted her wisdom and passion to developing the early vocal music education for over three decades.

She blazed the trail for many subjects and came up with new education curricula and lots of teaching methods.

Such decades-long experience served as good examples for other early vocal music educational institutions across the country.

During the period, she was honoured with the title of People's Teacher and other high official commendations and became a central meritorious person of socialist patriotism.

She also received a birthday spread sent by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un on her 70th birthday.

Ri In Hui, teacher at the early vocal music course of Tongan Senior Middle School in Central District, Pyongyang, is celebrating March 8 International Women's Day this year with unusual pride.

Many disciples have already sent her congratulations as she has devoted her all efforts to the training of talented vocal reserves despite her advanced age of 70.

Among them are chiefs and stars of major national art troupes and lecturers at educational institutions of arts.

"Ri In Hui is really an admirable teacher envied by all. She has trained many talented vocal reserves with her wisdom and good heart," said O Jong Yun, chief of the early vocal music course at the school.

She had a gift for music and sang songs under the influence of her father, who was a music teacher, in her childhood.

After graduating from the then Pyongyang arts school, Ri became a singer of female duet at the Phibada Opera Troupe.

A lot of old people still remember her who made her appearance on the stage like a white dove and performed a folk song duet with her clean and pretty voice.

She continued her career as a singer for 20 years while receiving a big hand

Rising to fame as labour innovator



“

She has so far woven well over two million metres of cloth, which is the longest among the weavers.”

An official of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill

her working circuit also brought up the volume of production and she carried out the production plan for two years in seven months in 2009.

That year she met Chairman Kim Jong Il who visited the mill on July 30, the anniversary of the promulgation of the Law on Sex Equality. The Chairman shook her hand, calling her a labour innovator of the new generation and had a photo taken with her. Ri made up her mind to work harder to live up to his expectations.

After finishing her annual production tasks, she set higher goals and worked harder to attain them.

She came up with a novel idea to double the daily production of cloth per loom by newly improving the method of working the circuit.

"She has so far woven well over two million metres of cloth, which is the longest among the weavers," said an official of the mill.

By Pang Un Ju PT

Career woman finds happiness in work



Kim Son Sil, department director of the State Planning Commission, finds the worth of life and happiness in her work.

Though she has a family to look after, she works hard from the morning until late hours in the evening.

Of course, her considerate husband who heartily understands her job and joy and her son who is very respectful and loving to her have given great encouragement to her.

Kim was appointed a public servant of the State Planning Commission in her thirties.

Having graduated from the University of National

By Kim Rye Yong PT

EDUCATION

University contributes to music development of country



Lecturers of the Western vocal music department hold a discussion as they hear the song of a teacher at Pyongyang Kim Won Gyun University of Music.

Pyongyang Kim Won Gyun University of Music was founded on March 1 1949.

The university is named after Kim Won Gyun, who created many famous works of music like *Song of General Kim Il Sung* and *Patriotic Song*, and it is the country's reliable training centre of talents in musical art.

The bust of Kim Won Gyun stands in front of its main building and he was the president of the university between 1961 and 1963.

The university has such faculties as composition, vocal music, national and Western instrumental music, piano, instrument manufacture, primary and secondary education and pedagogy.

Besides, it has the institute of Korean national music and the two-wind instrumentation orchestra.

According to university president Ryom Tong Son, its educational system is all unified, from primary education to higher education. The university selects and admits students with artistic talents, natures and skills and only those who have passed an examination of promotion from the second grade can be moved up to the fourth grade.

Most graduates of the university play active part in central art organizations.

Lecturers are experienced artistes who engaged in artistic production activities at central

art troupes in the past and many of them conduct both artistic creation and education work.

The university deals with lots of works related with national music in its teaching courses, as well as world-famous works from classical music to modern music.

It has recently developed new educational presentations and programs to increase pedagogical efficiency. Typical examples include programs for studying songs, Korean tunes and folk songs and basic piano accompaniment practice for vocal training.

It has so far produced a large number of excellent talents in musical art after its establishment.

Graduates of the university play a pivotal role at the State Merited Chorus, Mansudae Art Troupe, National Symphony Orchestra, Samjiyon Orchestra, Wangjaesan Art Troupe and other major art troupes of the country.

Some of them earned fame in international musical art festivals and others made a brilliant figure on international stages during university days.

The university promotes many-sided exchanges and cooperation with musical art education and scientific research institutions of many countries in the world.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

ANNIVERSARY

Reform transforms age-old feudal land ownership

March 5 this year was the 75th anniversary of the promulgation of the law on agrarian reform in the DPRK.

The land problem arose as the most urgent task facing the Korean revolution in the period of building a new Korea after its liberation in 1945.

The issue was to realize the centuries-old desire of peasants who took the majority of the then national population.

President Kim Il Sung set agrarian reform as the primary task in carrying out the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution after liberation.

In February 1946 he visited a thatched house in a village in the then Sijok Sub-county of Taedong County, South Phyongan Province, and had a chat with the house owner to acquaint himself with the rural situation and demands of peasants.

As he visited several rural areas and talked with peasants without reserve between December 1945 and February 1946, he made an in-depth analysis of the complicated feudal land ownership and was convinced that without carrying out land reform, it would be impossible to free peasants from feudal exploitation and subordination and revive and develop the backward rural economy and the overall national economy.

On the basis of meticulous preparations, he promulgated the Law on Agrarian Reform in North Korea on March 5 1946.

Kim Il Sung put forward the slogan "Land to the tillers!" and set it as the basic principle of agrarian reform to make peasants owners of land, before advancing a policy for applying the principle.

For a successful land reform, students of the Pyongyang Institute and vanguard workers were dispatched to rural areas to support it.

As a result, the agrarian reform to eliminate centuries-old backwardness and penury and bring about a great social change was carried out in less than a month.

Through the reform, over a million hectares of land owned by the Japanese imperialists, pro-Japanese elements, traitors to the nation and landlords were confiscated without compensation and distributed gratis to peasants with no or less land of more than 720 000 households.

The land reform was a historic event which put an end to feudal exploitation relations that held sway over the countryside for thousands of years and which promoted Korean peasants to the status of owners of land and the country.

Ji Myong Chon

FLOWER

Beautiful flowers in bloom

Beautiful flower buds have burst as if to add cheerful spring mood at greenhouses of the Pyongyang Floriculture Institute.

"Our institute widely cultivates world-famous flower species after acclimatizing them to meet the ever-growing aesthetic demand of people," said Ri Chol Jun, deputy director of the institute.

He added that 20-odd microtherm and mesotherm flower

species bloomed in February.

Flowers growing in greenhouses of the institute include *Cymbidium Manbokhwa*, *Cyclamen persicum*, *Kalanchoe blossfeldiana*, *Matthiola incan*, and *Cymbidium virescens* which appear in winter and such seasonless flowers as *Impatiens holstii*, *Viola wittrockiana*, *Begonia semperflorens* and *Gypsophila paniculata* with ornamental value.

Cyclamen persicum with different flower colours, *Cymbidium Manbokhwa* with large flower blossoms in white, pink and red colours, *Cymbidium virescens* with different coloured flowers including white, yellow and light pink, and *Gypsophila paniculata*, which is claimed to produce ten thousand flowers on a pot, give peace and warmth for their freshness and beauty.

Especially *Cymbidium Manbokhwa*, a mesotherm flower, is highly resistant to low and high temperatures, can be easily cultivated in families and offices and produces 15-20 flowers on a stalk in the period between December and the following April.

"Flowers cultivated by our institute win popularity and are widely spread for their beauty," said Kim Song Hui, researcher of the institute.

The flowers cultivated at the institute are used to decorate flower beds on streets and supplied to flower shops.

By Sin Pyol PT



A researcher works to rear a new type of flower at the Pyongyang Floriculture Institute.



Cymbidium Manbokhwa



Viola tricolor



Cyclamen persicum

RELATIONS

DPRK-Vietnamese relations of friendship and cooperation flourish

The ties of friendship and cooperation between the DPRK and Vietnam have a long tradition.

At the invitation of President Ho Chi Minh who had visited the DPRK in July 1957, President Kim Il Sung paid a goodwill visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (Democratic Republic of Vietnam at that time) in 1958 and visited it again in 1964.

His Vietnam visit in 1964 when the Vietnamese people were undergoing ordeals of war, in particular, was an expression of his noble internationalist obligation, which contributed greatly to further deepening the bond of friendship between the two countries.

That was why Ho Chi Minh said that Kim Il Sung was a genuine friend of the Vietnamese people, adding that no one but he rendered sincere assistance to the country which was in a difficult situation.

The bilateral relations of friendship have reached a new stage with the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un's goodwill visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in early March 2019 as momentum.

As he expressed the stand of the Korean Party and state to carry forward the ties of friendship and cooperation sealed in blood between the two countries and two Parties through generations, true to the intention of the preceding leaders, at the talks with Nguyen Phu Trong, president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Kim Jong Un affirmed the will to join efforts in the sacred struggle for providing the peoples of the two countries with happy future.

Nguyen Phu Trong said that the Vietnamese Party, government and people would not forget forever, but feel grateful for the great support and encouragement the DPRK gave to Vietnam in its

struggle for national independence and liberation, adding that it is the firm stand of the Vietnamese Party and government to further develop the bond between the two Parties and two countries in the interests of the peoples of the two countries and for regional peace and stability while constantly attaching importance to bilateral relations.

Last year, the two countries celebrated the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and they kept close ties with each other this year, too.

Party congresses of great significance were held in the two countries along with the start of this year.

The Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea elected Kim Jong Un general secretary of the WPK and discussed detailed orientation and ways for its epochal advance of socialist construction in the DPRK.

Meanwhile, the 13th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam held in the country set forth phased goals until 2045 to build a developed state in the mid-21st century, and Nguyen Phu Trong was reelected as general secretary of the Party Central Committee.

In the messages sent in congratulation of each other's political events, the leaders of the two countries sincerely hoped that new progress would be achieved in their state building for prosperity.

The traditional friendly and cooperative ties of the two countries, which have always encouraged and supported each other in the efforts for independence against imperialism and for socialism, will further be strengthened and developed in the future.

Pak Jong Rok

Koreans to death with bayonets and hanged them," said Japanese scholar Shinobu.

According to elementary statistics, over a hundred thousand Koreans were cruelly killed by the Japanese during the March First Popular Uprising.

This is the tip of the iceberg showing the wrongdoings committed by the Japanese imperialists against the Korean nation during their colonial rule spanning decades.

This notwithstanding, Japan is still making desperate attempt to evade responsibility, as it whitewashes heinous unethical crimes it committed against the Korean people in the past.

The hot blood of March 1 shed by the Korean people during the uprising has not yet cooled down.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

WRONGDOING

Uprising still a good reminder of Japan's sinful past

patriotic resistance.

Much upset by the fighting spirit of the Korean people, the Japanese imperialists immediately mobilized large numbers of military and other policemen and committed fully armed garrison forces to putting down the uprising. Their troops stationing in Korea joined in the repression of the revolt and elite forces were sent as reinforcements from the mainland. Even the Japanese residents in Korea brutally killed Koreans by wielding lethal weapons.

The enemies brutally cracked down upon demonstrators

with bayonets. They cut down the right arm of a schoolgirl, who shouted "Long live the independence of Korea!" while waving a flag, and her left arm as well when she gave cheers holding it with the left hand.

The Japanese imperialists cooked up a "special arrest team" and mounted assaults on the villages in the region where demonstration took place, thereby arresting, imprisoning and cruelly killing the Korean people.

"The Japanese military policemen run amuck to mount hideously harsh crackdown on protesters. Their ferocity is indescribable. They stabbed

COVID-19

Varietal viruses arouse concern of international community

of infected persons and deaths would sharply increase in the country in the near future due to new kinds of varietal viruses.

Germany, the Netherlands, Canada and many other countries and regions are driven by misgivings that the rapid spread of varietal viruses with strong infectivity may cause a new wave of pandemic.

The African centre for disease control and prevention said that the infectious disease control situation has already deteriorated in dozens of countries in the continent due to the spread of

the varietal viruses.

Meanwhile, researchers at Columbia University of America declared that they found another varietal virus in large quantities from samples gathered in New York and its vicinity, which was different from those discovered in South Africa and Brazil.

This virus continued to spread from late December last year, and expanded rapidly during the recent two weeks, and it is known to have stronger infectivity than the existing varietal viruses.

Other varietal virus was detected in ten countries and regions including the UK, Denmark and Australia. Experts asserted that it seemed to be similar to that found in Britain for the first time, but it revealed more serious characteristics.

A new varietal virus was also detected in the southern area of Finland.

Some health experts called on the international community to be further alert and observe it carefully against its danger.

By Om Ryong PT

Briefly

China

President Xi refers to progress in poverty relief

Chinese President Xi Jinping at the national conference for reviewing the campaign to alleviate poverty and for commendation on February 25 referred to the important historic achievements the Communist Party and people of China made in the campaign by overcoming trials and difficulties in the past eight years.

The success in eradicating rural poverty is a significant contribution to achieving the target of building a comprehensively well-off society, he said.

He added that the people of different nations in the country should unite more closely around the Party and advance vigorously to attain the "Second Century" goals with firm confidence.

Cuba

President underlines importance of history education

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez said at the meeting of teachers on February 23 that it is a matter of key importance to inform new generations of past history in defending and successfully pushing the revolution.

Young people will not be able to defend the country nor the revolution if they are ignorant of history and fail to get an answer to solve problems suffered by Cuba at present, he noted.

Venezuela

EU ambassador expelled

Venezuela declared the EU ambassador to it persona non grata and demanded he leave the country within 72 hours on February 24.

It is reportedly a countermeasure against the EU that recently imposed sanctions on 19 Venezuelan officials, finding fault with the legality of the country's parliamentary election held in December last year.

The Venezuelan Foreign Minister said that the sanctions against his country were intolerable, describing them as interference in the country's internal affairs.

Iran

FM voices full support for Syrian government

The Iranian foreign minister said in a telephone conversation with the Syrian minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates on February 26 that his country would make positive efforts to support Syria in different fields and in its efforts to ensure its security and stability.

PROFILE

Three-time world Taekwon-Do champion

A Taekwon-Doist stood on the winner's rostrum at the 10th ITF Taekwon-Do World Championships held in Russia in 1997 amid warm applause from experts and fans. Though she sustained an arm injury during her first match in the women's 63kg-category individual sparring, she managed to advance to the finals and finally won a gold medal. She was Kim Yong Sun (pictured) from the DPRK.

As she played the difficult first match against a German due to a fracture of the right humerus, spectators thought she would be unable to have the next bout.

However, she defeated all the opponents with her arm injured, making a deep impression on everyone.

"None of us could even imagine her advancing to the finals with the injury. What amazed even us men were her great mental strength, high sense of game play,



outstanding physical abilities and remarkable skills," said People's Athlete Jong Hwi Song who accompanied her to the championships at that time.

Born in Huichon of Jagang Province, she acquired basic skills of Taekwon-Do faster than others and distinguished herself in sparring in particular.

She made her international debut at the 8th ITF Taekwon-Do World Championships in her teens and bagged four golds

including the one for the 58kg-category individual sparring. Afterwards, she won all the individual and team events at the 1st ITF Asia-Pacific Taekwon-Do Championships.

She took the world championship for the third time at the 63kg-category individual sparring of the 11th ITF Taekwon-Do World Championships in Argentina in 1999.

She snatched a total of 18 gold medals in individual and team events during her playing career.

The seventh-dan Taekwon-Do master is People's Athlete and a Class-A international referee.

She is now instructing girls in the Korean martial art at the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace.

"I will devote my all to imbuing schoolchildren with the soul and spirit of Taekwon-Do, a traditional martial art of our nation," said Kim Yong Sun.

By Min Chol PT

FOOD

Favourite national dishes in spring

The weather becomes warmer and plants start to sprout in the DPRK as spring fairly sets in March.

Since ancient times, the Koreans have cooked various dishes with fresh edible greens to use them in their diet in order to invigorate the body and enjoy freshness in the period.

Typical examples are watery kimchi made of sliced radish, soup of pickpurse, bean paste stew of giant garlic, aralia shoots salad and rice-and-mugwort cake.

The watery kimchi made of sliced radish is prepared by chopping radish or red radish which grows in spring into appropriate pieces before mixing them with spices and

fermenting them.

It is featured by larger amount of juice than other kinds of kimchi. When you pickle it along with parsley or giant garlic in spring, it gives more refreshing and savoury tastes.

The soup of pickpurse is made by boiling pickpurse, which is seen for the first time on mountains in early spring, with bean paste. The sweet and savoury soup has good medicinal effects on those with hypertension and chronic bronchitis.

The bean paste stew of giant garlic is a food enjoyed by all in spring as it preserves well the aroma and sweet taste of giant garlic and the delicate flavour

of bean paste.

The aralia shoots salad is processed by parboiling young sprouts of angelica tree before seasoning them with spices.

The young sprouts are collected around April and May before thorns grow on its trunk and are often used for side dish.

The rice-and-mugwort cake is one of the special dishes favoured by the Korean people from a long time ago for its distinctive scent and taste of wormwood.

As it is prepared by crushing young mugwort, adding it to dough and boiling it until it is dyed green, it is chewy and tasty and hardly becomes putrid and stiff.

When such materials as adzuki, mung bean, jujube and chestnut are added as fillings to make the cake, its nutritive and medicinal value increases a lot.

Especially, glutinous rice-and-mugwort cake stuffed with red-bean jam is very popular.

By Yun Ki Song PT



Rice-and-mugwort cake.



Kimchi made of aralia shoots.

HERITAGE

Kwangbop Temple

Kwangbop Temple on Mt Taesong in Pyongyang was built in 393, the period under the reign of King Kwanggaetho of Koguryo (277 BC-AD 668).

It was rebuilt in 1727, the period of feudal Joson dynasty (1392-1910), and was totally destroyed by the enemy bombing during the Fatherland Liberation War (1950-1953) and restored to its original state after the war.

Covering a total area of over 28 410 square metres, the temple consists of the Taeung Hall, an octagonal five-storey pagoda, Haethal and Chonwang gates and east and west Buddhist monasteries.

The Haethal Gate is the entrance to the temple. On both sides of the passage inside the gate, there are sculptures of two young monks.

The Haethal Gate is followed by the Chonwang Gate. Inside the gate there are sculptures of Four Devas treading on devils.

And then, the octagonal five-storey pagoda is seen at the centre of the yard. There are the Taeung Hall behind the pagoda

and monasteries on its east and west sides.

The Taeung Hall, the main building of the temple, is a two-storey structure with gable roofs. It has three partitions at the facade and another three at the side on the stylobate built with well-trimmed stones and in the hall there are the three Buddhas.

In the temple there stands the "Monument to the Kwangbop Temple" erected in 1727.

The opening sentence of the inscription carries a sentence that in the Orient there is the country of King Tangun and in the east of the country there is Mt Kuryong, that is, Mt Taesong. It is a piece of historical data proving that Pyongyang was the capital of Ancient Joson, the first state of the Korean nation.

The inscription also tells the long history and cultural property of the temple in detail.

The temple is now under good protection as a historical relic of national treasure value.

By Kim Kum Myong PT



The Taeung Hall of the Kwangbop Temple.

ICH

Legendary Moran Hill

Many legends tell about Moran Hill which has been a source of pride of Pyongyang since olden times.

"The legends reflect the Korean people's love for the beautiful hill, their noble patriotic spirit to defend it from foreign invaders and the life of the people who lived in amity helping each other with tender hearts as beautiful as Moran Hill," said Pak Chol Jin, section chief of the Korean National Heritage Preservation Agency.

Among the stories are those about a mysterious spring water on the hill, beautiful Chongnyu Cliff which the Dragon King formed impressed by a kind-hearted young man in Pyongyang and a Kangdong boy who tried to heal the pains of a girl living at the foot of the

hill.

Most well-known legends are "General Ulmil" who fought to defend Pyongyang and Moran Hill, "Eight Bravos during the Imjin Patriotic War" who bravely fought on the hill to defend the city during the Japanese invasion of Korea in 1592, "Kye Wol Hyang and kite-flying" showing the struggle of the woman who fought against the aggressors and "Sanggapsa" which tells that even rats on the hill turned out in the fight against the invaders as they were touched by the struggle of the people of the Walled City of Pyongyang.

The legend of Moran Hill was inscribed on the list of national intangible cultural heritage of the DPRK in December last year.

By Han Kwi Hun PT

