

Fifth Politburo Meeting of Eighth WPK Central Committee held



The Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee adopts resolution on convening Fourth Plenary Meeting of Eighth Party Central Committee



Politburo of WPK Central Committee announces resolution

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea announced a resolution on convening the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK on December 1.

According to the resolution, the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK is to be convened late in December to review the implementation of major Party and state policies for 2021 and to discuss and decide on work plans for the new year.

KCNA

The Fifth Political Bureau Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea took place at the office building of the Party Central Committee on December 1.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the WPK, was present at the meeting.

Also attending the meeting were members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK and members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee.

The meeting discussed the issue of convening the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un presided over the meeting.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un referred to the fact that the major policy targets decided at the Eighth Party Congress have been pushed forward forcefully and militantly all the year round thanks to the correct guidance of the Party Central Committee though difficulties still lie in developing the country's economy.

Saying that the successes registered by us show that the overall affairs that had been planned to lay a foundation for the economic development of the country and the improvement of the people's living standards have been vigorously pushed forward and that they give self-confidence in a fresh victory of our own-style socialism,

he gave an appraisal of the Party Central Committee that this year is the year of victory in general.

Noting that next year will be an important one as we should wage as giant a struggle as we did this year, he said that the Party Central Committee should work out plans for new year well to be dynamic, onward, scientific and detailed to consolidate the foundation for implementing the five-year plan.

He gave assignments for the preparation of the plenary meeting.

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK adopted a resolution on convening the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Party late in December and discussed what to put on the agenda of the plenary meeting.

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Annual plans fulfilled in different economic sectors

KCNA

technological way.

The Wonsan Army-People Power Station introduced a new-type efficient water turbine and new cooling water system to increase the efficiency of generating facilities and transformers and carried out the annual electricity production plan at over 140 percent by increasing the cycle of repair more than before to save labour and materials.

The Jaeryong Mine has exceeded its annual iron ore production target by 10 percent as of now. The Puryong Power Station overfulfilled its yearly electric-power production plan by 15 percent by finishing the overhauling of generator a week earlier and conserving hydraulic structures including the repair of hole for intermediate intake in a scientific and

equipment as a press to improve the quality of products and increase productivity and recycled the scrap of materials.

The Kyongsong Insulator Factory refashioned the major part of induction furnace and introduced rational jigs and equipment to gain successes in the production of various kinds of insulators and electric facilities, while the Taean Electric Appliances Factory hit annual production targets of transformers and electric motors by decreasing production costs by using idle materials and giving priority

to processing accessories. Over 70 youth shock brigades in the coal-mining sector have wound up their economic plans for three, two and one years.

Kim Hyok and Kim Jin youth shock brigades at the Ryongdae Youth Coal Mine, Kang Ho Yong and Kim Hyok youth shock brigades at Chonsong Youth Coal Mine and others increased the proportion of work done by machines in mining and transport to round off their annual production plans ahead of schedule.

Local industry factories in North Phyongan Province have completed yearly economic plan ahead of schedule.

Units that have implemented their annual economic plans are on the increase.

The Jaeryong Mine has exceeded its annual iron ore production target by 10 percent as of now.

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mining rate and waged a high-speed heading movement for securing reserve coal pits, thereby fulfilling economic plan for three years.

The Sinuiju Bag Factory overfulfilled its annual plan by 10 percent.

The Sinuiju Jangwon Disabled Soldiers' Essential Plastic Goods Factory established production processes of various kinds of daily necessities and put production on normal track, and the Pakchon County essential chemical good factory produces quality coating materials.

schedule.

The Sinuiju Bag Factory overfulfilled its annual plan by 10 percent.

Attaching importance to science and technology

Science and technology improves taste and quality of beer

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

The Taedonggang Brewery channels efforts into the development of science and technology and is eager to learn, it demanded each workteam come up with more than one technical innovation plan every month while establishing a system of strictly examining the application possibility, scientific accuracy and technical and economic effectiveness of the collected innovation plans at the end of month before their introduction into production.

"We assign a high priority to science and technology and encourage all employees to turn out as one in technological innovation," said Ri Hae Nam, chief engineer of the brewery.

Having set it as a goal to train all employees as qualified workers, the factory found the solution to it in building and running the sci-tech learning space well and giving full play to the advantages of the study-while-you-work system.

First of all, it equipped the sci-tech learning space with full sets of computers and other IT means, input over 400 000 pieces of sci-tech data related to beer brewery and ran the facility in an effective way. It made sure that all employees under 35 years of age compulsorily enrolled in online courses at universities or colleges and heads of departments

or workshops took full responsibility for their study.

As every employee shows enthusiasm for the study of science and technology and is eager to learn, it demanded each workteam come up with more than one technical innovation plan every month while establishing a system of strictly examining the application possibility, scientific accuracy and technical and economic effectiveness of the collected innovation plans at the end of month before their introduction into production.

The factory brewed high-concentration beer with the help of additives made with waste yeast, enabling it to perfect a production method in line with fermented beer production capacity.

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It introduced a new process disinfecting method with the rotating washing and sterilizing spray which can further improve the control of microorganisms while minimizing the consumption

YUN KYONG IL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Bottled beers roll off the production line at the Taedonggang Brewery.

collection process comprised of a gas purification system, absorption dryer, compressor and others and introducing a new compressor cooling method based on glycol, thereby making it possible to supply enough carbonic acid gas needed for the production of high-concentration beer.

It expanded the carbon dioxide production capacity 1.5 times by additionally setting up a carbon dioxide collection process comprised of a gas purification system, absorption dryer, compressor and others and introducing a new compressor cooling method based on glycol, thereby making it possible to supply enough carbonic acid gas needed for the production of high-concentration beer.

All these technical innovation plans helped the brewery improve the taste and quality of beer and put the production on a normal footing.

Pak Sun Sil, workshop manageress at the Pyongyang Thermal Power Station.



There is a workshop manageress who is respected as an indispensable technical talent and treasure at the Pyongyang Thermal Power Station.

She is Pak Sun Sil who was recently honoured with the title of Central Meritorious Person of Socialist Patriotism.

She has many certificates of inventions, introduction of sci-tech hits and contrivances she has received so far as she has devoted her wisdom and passion to increased production of electricity.

In the course of this she remodelled a filter, which had remained idle in the workshop, to meet the growing need for desalinated water and solved the problem of filter materials by a chemical cleaning method.

"I also went through difficult times. Then I would whip myself who prided myself on working and living faithfully like my father," recalled Pak.

As she climbed the career ladder from the chemical lab chief to the workshop manager, she gave full play to her ability.

She found out that the repair cycle could

be rationally fixed by assessing the state of transformer in operation by way of analysing the gas in the transformer oil, thereby making it possible to save labour and materials used in repairing the transformer.

Her workplace was a not so big analysis table at an end of the chemical treatment plant filled with large filters. She got attached to the place which was not so attractive and which was scarcely visited by others.

Pak was a tester who would collect water samples in such processes as precipitation, purification and filtration to analyse the purity of water and take necessary steps.

She proceeded to develop and introduce the method of measuring the turbidity of industrial water to contribute to putting production of desalinated water on a more scientific footing.

She also directed efforts to training employees of her workshop as technical talents and skilled workers.

Her wish is to get her workshop to discharge any difficult tasks with competence and actual results.

New process added to foodstuff factory

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

The Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory has newly established an isomerase production process.

Isomerase plays a big part in changing glucose into isomerized sugar.

"We buckled down to producing enzymes based on locally-available raw and other materials over 10 years ago and ensured the domestic production of several enzymes needed for the production of starch syrup and glucose," said workshop manager Pak Song Gun.

According to him, sugars treated by such enzymes are well absorbed into human body and helpful to curing diabetes, obesity and gastric disorders and lowering the content of blood sugar, while causing less caries.

In the course of this, researchers succeeded in cultivating excellent

AN YONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
An analysis is made at the enzyme analytical lab (left). A worker monitors enzyme production at the enzyme workshop.

isomerase-generating bacteria after finding out technical features of the bacteria, ascertained culture conditions suitable to biochemical requirements of the bacterial and solved some technological problems for ensuring the mass production of isomerase.

This year, the factory set it as a technical innovation task to ensure the domestic production of isomerase playing a pivotal role in producing oktag sugar 1.4 times sweeter than normal sugar, and pushed ahead with it.

In the course of this, researchers succeeded in cultivating excellent

efforts into making such facilities as culture tanks and isomerase moulding machine.

"The completion of the industrial production foundation for isomerase, made it possible to put an end to the last index of imported goods for the factory," said manager Pak Hyong Ryo.

They also channelled great

HOME NEWS

KCNA

Landscape improves

Preparations are being pushed ahead in Pyongyang for better landscaping it next year.

North Phyongan Sinuiju Chicken Farm remodelled



The Sinuiju Chicken Farm has been renovated in North Phyongan Province.

It rebuilt a hatchery and dozens of chicken and duck houses and built a sci-tech learning space, ground for producing organic compound fertilizer and others.

An inaugural ceremony took place on November 28.

Veterinary biological medicine institute renovated

The Paengma veterinary biological medicine institute has undergone renovation in North Phyongan Province.

The modernization has made it possible to put the production of preventive medicines for domestic animals on a scientific basis and keep up production at a higher level so as to ensure the sustainable development of animal husbandry.

Pyongyang Meeting highlights founding of design institute

A meeting was held on November 30 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the electronic automation designing institute.

It was attended by O Su Yong, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Ju Yong Il, minister of Information Industry, relevant officials and officials and employees of the institute.

Over 80 young people of the Kim Jin Youth Shock Brigade of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex carried out a difficult task in building an energy-saving oxygen blast furnace in just over 30 days. Young people of the Pukchang Thermal Power Complex are contributing to white, adding to its scenery in winter. Seeing the ice crystals glittering in the bright sunlight, all citizens marvel at the infinite world of purity and enjoy the beautiful scenery at the beginning of this winter.

Young people work miracles, make innovations in major economic sectors

Young people are working miracles and making innovations on major fronts of economic construction.

It was attended by O Su Yong, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Ju Yong Il, minister of Information Industry, relevant officials and officials and employees of the institute.

At the meeting, Kim Jae Song, head of the electronics industry management bureau, made a report, followed by other speeches and the adoption of a resolution.

Snowscape unfolds in Pyongyang



HONG KWANG NAM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
It snowed on December 2 in Pyongyang, turning the capital city into a world of white and presenting a fantastic view of snow all over it. Modern streets lined with high-rise apartment buildings of various forms and shapes, time-honoured cultural heritage sites, Moran Hill, Rungna Islet and other scenic attractions are all covered with white, adding to its scenery in winter.

Seeing the ice crystals glittering in the bright sunlight, all citizens marvel at the infinite world of purity and enjoy the beautiful scenery at the beginning of this winter.

BUSINESS ACTIVITY/PROFILE

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Following the road of patriotism

DAUGHTER FOLLOWS IN HER FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

Pak Sun Sil, workshop manageress at the Pyongyang Thermal Power Station.

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In the course of this she remodelled a filter, which had remained idle in the workshop, to meet the growing need for desalinated water and solved the problem of filter materials by a chemical cleaning method.

She has worked at the power plant for over 40 years since her maidenhood. Her father was one of first-generation technicians of the plant and manager of its chemical workshop. The workaholic father spent almost his entire time at his workplace and unexpectedly passed away when she was 18 years old.

Pak Sun Sil volunteered to work at the chemical workshop with the resolve to follow in her father's footsteps.

Her workplace was a not so big analysis table at an end of the chemical treatment plant filled with large filters. She got attached to the place which was not so attractive and which was scarcely visited by others.

Pak was a tester who would collect water samples in such processes as precipitation, purification and filtration to analyse the purity of water and take necessary steps.

She also directed efforts to training employees of her workshop as technical talents and skilled workers.

Her wish is to get her workshop to discharge any difficult tasks with competence and actual results.

Farming villages transformed into socialist fairyland

Hwang Chun Son

The construction of farm houses is briskly conducted in rural areas of the DPRK.

This project is an important undertaking for carrying out the grand plan of the Workers' Party of Korea, which is determined to make not only urban people but also rural residents enjoy happy and civilized life with nothing to envy in the world while living in modern houses.

The Eighth Congress of the WPK put it forth as one of the immediate tasks for rural construction to build rural villages in a balanced way so that they preserve regional characteristics.

In recent years, a new history of building the countryside has been ushered in in the DPRK and model units of rural advancement mushroomed under the wise leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

The village of the Junghyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm was built as the model of modern socialist farm house construction, and the movement of learning from and overtaking others was fiercely conducted with it as the source kindling the movement.

Socialist fairyland villages

have been built in many rural areas including Taechong-ri of Unpha County and Kangbuk-ri of Kumchon County in North Hwanghae Province and Unpho Workers' District of Hongwon County and Haksadac-ri of Riwon County in South Hamgyong Province.

Under the energetic guidance of the General Secretary to turn the City of Sanjiyon in Ryanggang Province into the fine archetype of mountainous cultured city, an ideal model local city, the construction of the city that has been pushed in three stages in the past four years is expected to be finished this year.

Thousands of dwelling houses, public and production buildings, educational facilities, water supply and drainage and transmission systems and roads were built and landscaping was carried out in some ten dong and ri in three stages, in the wake of the completion of the town area of the city. Thus, not only the town area but also different other areas and farms in the city have been turned into model units as befit those of the socialist mountainous cultured city and into standards of rural advancement.

Constructors build dwelling houses by introducing different construction methods in conformity with their specific conditions and by relying on locally-available raw and other materials.

Multi-, low- and single-storey houses add to the scenery of rural villages.

with enough water, and North Hamgyong Province completed the Orangchon Reservoir to irrigate water to farmland in Orang and Myongan counties.

At present, the construction of gravity-fed waterway linking the Chongchon River with the Phyongnam irrigation system is propelled in South Phyongan Province to supply the water of the Chongchon River to Yoltusamcholli Plain as irrigation water, while North Hwanghae Province pushes ahead with a Hwangju Kindung waterway project to provide water to the Hwangju Kindung Plain.

South Hwanghae Province spares no effort to make and install again the floodgate for the dam of Lake Yonback and rearrange waterway so as to improve water transit capacity and expand the abilities of irrigation facilities in waterway terminal areas and pumping facilities.

The province removed hundreds of thousands of cubic metres of huge earth and built well over a hundred structures, thereby finishing well over a dozen-kilometre waterway project in a short period of time. As a result, a foundation has been provided to increase grain production by supplying enough irrigation water to Hwanggido tidal land and vast expanse of Sonchon County.

South Hamgyong Province built a 40-kilometre-long gravity-fed waterway in North Phyongan Province from the Tongraegang reservoir to Hongondo tidal land in rows to socialist cooperative fields.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

Irrigation canals stretch to the Ryongmae Islet in South Hwanghae Province, as well as a large artificial lake. They have made it possible to supply enough irrigation water to tens of thousands of hectares of farmland and Ryongmae tidal land without using much electric power and pumping equipment and ensure high and stable yields by preventing drought and flood damage, develop fish farming and provide people with pleasant cultural recreation environment.

Starting in January 2012, the project was divided into two stages. The first-stage task was completed in five years and the second one in a little over three years.

Well over a hundred kilometres of waterway was built through mountains and fields in Pongsan and

tideland.

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Projects are underway to restore irrigation system and facilities, expand irrigation area and

for the dam of Lake Yonback and rearrange waterway so as to improve water transit capacity and expand the abilities of irrigation facilities in waterway terminal areas and pumping facilities.

A partial view of the waterway in South Hwanghae Province.



Irrigation waterways stretch to fields

By Yun Kyong Il PT

The waterway project, which is the largest in gravity-fed irrigation network, was completed in South Hwanghae Province in May last year.

Starting in January 2012, the project was divided into two stages. The first-stage task was completed in five years and the second one in a little over three years.

Well over a hundred kilometres of waterway was built through mountains and fields in Pongsan and

SCIENTIFIC FARMING METHODS INTRODUCED

By Kim Il Jin PT

The Jangchon Vegetable Cooperative Farm in Sadong District, Pyongyang, produces more vegetables by introducing scientific farming methods.

"This year, our farm put

big efforts into improving the fertility of soil in line with characters of greenhouse vegetables with high productivity per unit area while concentrating on crop cultivation," said Cha Chol Jin, vice-chairman of the management board of the farm.

To this end, the farm increased per-hectare vegetable output by 20 percent by spreading hundreds of tons of homemade manure

per hectare, which was produced with organic manure made from the ash of coal rich in the contents of phosphorus, iron, manganese and other five elements and the excrement of domestic animals.

It applied growth promoters like natural bioactivator, microelement nano-fertilizer and carbonic homemade manure from early period of growth at certain intervals to provide favourable conditions for the growth of vegetables, thereby improving photosynthesis and activity of roots.

It also introduces seeds of superior vegetable strains.

At present, a total of 18 high-yield varieties of vegetables are cultivated in greenhouses,



Healthy tomatoes grow in a greenhouse of the Jangchon Vegetable Cooperative Farm



Om Yong Gum (left), Choe Son Gyong (second from left) and Ri Chang Sil (right) who volunteered to work at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill have an apprenticeship with the help of a skilled worker.

Middle school graduates volunteer as weavers

the workshop.

"It is an intrinsic nature of humans to try to repay the love shown for them. My mother would always see me off with pleasure when I went to school wearing the new uniform provided by the country," said Yong Gum, when asked why she wanted to become a weaver.

Her mother began to suffer from a heart disease when she was three and gradually became unable to move around, she said.

Though it was not because her lack of mind but the serious illness, she usually felt sorry for her daughter.

So whenever Yong Gum returned home and tried to attend to her, she didn't allow her daughter to do so.

Before graduation, she told her mother that she wanted to become a weaver who makes cloth for school uniforms at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill. She hugged her daughter and fully supported her decision, saying: "I've not made up our mind to live and work like them," said Choe Son Gyong, a weaver at weaving workshop No. 4.

with my own hands, but the country has brought you up well."

According to Ri Kum Byol, a skilled worker at the workshop, the girl volunteers play their part though it is only a few months since they got their jobs.

"We are just beginners, but we were honoured to attend the Youth Day celebrations and have a photo taken with the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un in August. We are determined to repay the love by weaving more cloths," said Yong Gum.

The girl volunteers to the mill are unanimous in their resolve.

"The general weaving workshop has produced nine Labour Heroes. Mun Kang Sun and Ri Myong Sun, labour innovators well-known throughout the country, are also weavers of the general weaving workshop. We've made up our mind to live and work like them," said Choe Son Gyong, a weaver at weaving workshop No. 4.

So they are now serving an apprenticeship as weavers at

More than ten volunteers to Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill resolve to live and work like labour innovators well known to the country

By Kim Rye Yong PT

Over a dozen girls have volunteered to work at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill this year.

They are all senior middle school graduates

who received certificates of volunteer before citizenship cards.

They have different native villages and dreams, but they have met at the mill, because they have one fervent desire in mind.

"The country provided us

with new uniforms every year, 'Sonamu'-brand satchels and other conditions for study free from worries. It is natural for us to repay the favour and love shown by it," they say.

Of them, three girls including Om Yong Gum,

who volunteered to work at the mill after finishing Taechon Senior Middle School in Ryongsong District, Pyongyang, applied for weavers at the general weaving workshop.

So they are now serving an apprenticeship as weavers at

Youth league official volunteers as farmer

By Ri Sung Ik PT

An increasing number of young people have volunteered for difficult and labour-consuming sectors of socialist construction across the country since the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea in January.

Among those volunteers, who have deeply impressed many local people throughout the year, is Kim Chung Song

(pictured) who, as a junior official of the Ryonggang County youth league committee, volunteered to work as a farmer at the Okto Cooperative Farm in Ryonggang County, Namp'o.

Short and sturdy, he was an ordinary young man with nothing to specially attract others' attention.

One day when he talked with young men about the need for them to take the lead in strengthening the position of the Workers' Party of Korea in socialist rural areas by upholding the decision of the Eighth Congress of the WPK, the young man casually spoke to Kim, "I wish you would come with us."

It was an expression of his candid feeling of unwillingness to part from generous and broad-minded Chung Song.

"Whenever I saw officials respected and loved by the people on newspapers, radio and TV during my military service, I could hardly control a strong



impulse to live like them and really wanted to work hard for the people to enjoy their love and respect," said Kim Chung Song.

It was his desire. But he took a U-turn in his career as he came to receive an unexpected request from a youth league member.

In his speech at the tenth youth league congress held in April, he swore an oath promising to uphold the Party with increased rice production by devoting his youth to farming on behalf of all the fellow volunteers.

Still, Chung Song receives a flood of letters from young people across the country including a hero miner, members of the girl workteam at the Taeung Youth Hero Mine and students at Kim Chaek University of Technology.

They encouraged Chung Song in the letters, saying "Our country will continue to prosper as it is supported by many people like you. Let all of us always be in the vanguard of the times at our posts."

In August, he attended the Youth Day celebrations and had a photo taken with the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un together with other delegates to the events.

decision to go to farm with his wife.

Following his example, more young people in the county volunteered to work at the farms.

That day, General Secretary Kim Jong Un patted him on the back and shook hands with him. He said that he fully supported such young people as Ju Hyok for starting a new life at the most difficult and challenging posts for the prosperity of the country after breaking with their dishonourable past as they felt sincere gratitude to the Party and the socialist system that embraced and brought them up. He also called on Party and youth league organizations to take warm care of the work and life of the young people who volunteered for the areas and units in their charge, support them when they are in a difficult situation and give them a push and guidance when their pace becomes slow so that they can lead the most excellent life.

After his demob, he went to a coal mine with fresh determination.

"It is a mistake to do wrong, but it will be a greater mistake not to start life afresh, I think. I am going to settle down in this coal mine. I will start with a clean slate here," he wrote in a letter to his mother.

He is now well known to the country.

Less than a month after he volunteered to work at the coal mine, he had the

Erstwhile naughty boy becomes model for others

By Ri Myong Jun PT

Ri Ju Hyok, tunnelling worker of the Hungnyong Coal Mine under the Kangdong Area Coal-mining Complex, was once a source of anxiety to his parents, relatives and friends as he deviated from the right path.

Whenever he became a gossip of others as a bad boy, his mother nearly died of shame before his class teacher and her neighbours.

Ju Hyok joined the army after finishing his middle school course and kept feeling regret about his past mistakes.

After his demob, he went to a coal mine with fresh determination.

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for playing well *oungum*, four-stringed Korean musical instrument.

Wasan Technical Senior Middle School in Sosong District, Pyongyang, is noted

for playing well *oungum* in order to implant national sentiment into the hearts of coming generations and inherit and develop national music," said Pak Son Hui,

teacher of the artistic group. The sound box of *oungum* is in the shape of bottle gourd and the decoration of head looks like a rod-like hairpin, which was favoured by Korean women, stuck in hair.

The school made its debut in the artistic festival of schoolchildren throughout the country in 2000 with an ensemble of *oungum* and won high appraisal. The school has so far dominated the competition and taken part in the New Year's performance of schoolchildren every year since some years ago.

Many members of the group after finishing the school enrolled at Pyongyang Kim Won Gyun University of Music and Pyongyang Teachers Training College thanks to their high artistry and some of them are active as players of national instruments at different art troupes.

The number of students who want to learn how to play national instruments is on the increase from year to year. We'll continue to carry on the tradition of our school by promoting the education in national instruments," said Pak Son Hui.

It also encourages students to enrich their artistry

For preserving timbre peculiar to *okryugum*

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Okryugum, which was invented in the early 1970s in the DPRK, is a national musical instrument which was made by improving *wagonghu*, an old musical instrument of Korea.

Okryugum, which was named thus as it produces clear sound like gem, has beautiful sound and rich sound volume and can make reverberation," said Kim Suk Yong, lecturer at Pyongyang Kim Won Gyun University of Music.

It consists of the rhomboid-trapezoidal sound box and legs supporting it.

There is a round sound hole and 34 strings on the sound box.

The instrument is designed to sharp or flat any note by



Students learn various skills of *okryugum* playing.

okryugum solo and ensemble superbly.

"According to the playing methods and the position of plucking the strings, the instrument produces the sound similar to harp, *kayagum* and guitar and such sounds harmonize with each other to make gemlike sound.

"Its beautiful timbre is very moving and stirring and it is my dream to be an excellent *okryugum* player."

Hwang Ye Jong, student of Pyongyang Kim Won Gyun University of Music

School noted for splendid *oungum* performance

By Pang Un Ju PT

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HONG KWANG NAM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Financial management app welcomed by housewives

By Kil Chung II PT

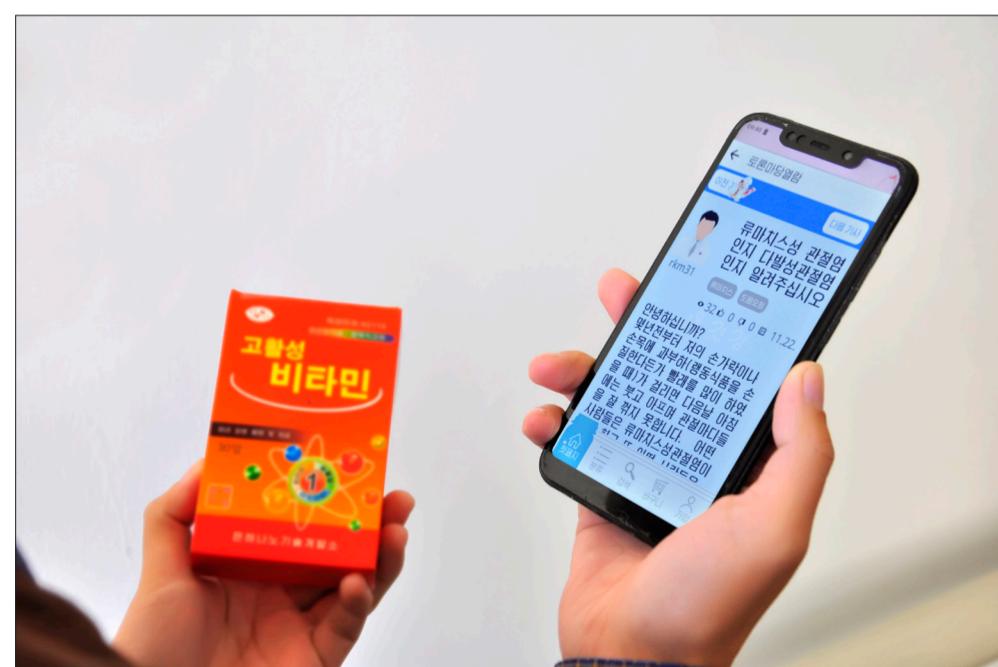
Financial management app Mulpangul (water drop) 1.0, a special program for housewives developed by the Unphasian IT Exchange Centre, is enjoying huge popularity among users.

It enables them to list income and outgoings of individuals and families according to sorts, including detailed accounts, so that they can access their financial records at any time. It has also different useful functions for financial control including cash flow, budget planning, statistics and the management of debts and credits.



Website 'Kongang' catches public eye

Subscribers can read detailed explanations of more than 2 000 pieces of medical supplies and medicines, get a rapid and correct free delivery service



HONG KWANG NAM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Kim Kum Myong PT

Although she ruined her lung due to Alobar pneumonia and suffered different complications including type II diabetes, Ri Ok Son, old woman living in Moranbong

District of Pyongyang, has maintained her life for over 20 years.

Neighbours praise her daughter Kye Ok Hui for sincere devotion, but Kye said that a household doctor and medical website Kongang (health) were of great help. She added that subscribers

can read detailed explanations of more than 2 000 pieces of medical supplies and medicines on the website and get a rapid and correct free delivery service through the website, and this is another great help.

Once Ri's condition took a sudden turn for the worse as she had low blood sugar and the fluctuation of blood pressure.

That day, she got a good prescription through the website as she consulted with a doctor and drew on experience from others. When she gave an order for some pills, it was nearly at midnight. Feeling sorry for ordering the medicine too late, she heard the bell ring after a while. It was a delivery man who brought the pills ordered through the Kongang homepage.

Numerous subscribers enjoy the benefits of the website like her. Messages of thanks posted on it every day clearly show public confidence in the website.

According to her, consultations with special medical workers and the experience or opinions of other patients suffering from similar diseases she learned through the website were a great help to curing her mother.

She added that subscribers

on the ratio of income and expenditure on a daily, weekly, monthly and yearly basis.

They can also draw up a budget and ideally control income and outgoings based on statistical data.

Its function on claim-obligation relationship helps them maintain credit in business.

"It greatly relieves the mental burden on housewives in controlling family finances," said Ham Chong A living in Sosong District of Pyongyang.

She added that it is very useful as it has the function of estimating cash income, expenses and balance with

such warnings as "very risky", "risky", "safe", "good" and "very good".

As small drops of water gather to make a stream and river, every penny, like a mere drop of water, will be helpful to enriching life."

Paek Chung Song, lead developer and section chief of the Unphasian IT Exchange Centre

Samhung IT products get closer to people's life

By Kim Rye Yong PT

Smart phone-based IT service is now indispensable to all in life.

At present, more useful and convenient IT products are being unveiled one after another.

"Our IT products are in great demand. Our goal is to provide better products by relying on the nationwide integrated information service system," said Ko Hyok Nam, director of the Samhung Economic Information Technology Company.

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Most recently, the company divided book and karaoke parts with high frequency in use in general browsing app My Companion to provide more convenience to users.

My Companion (book) 1.0 has over 4 000 books and offers such functions as of listening to their recorded texts, changing font size, searching books according to fields, themes and readers and seeing the outline of each book.

And added to My Companion (karaoke) 2.0 are the screen view mode that offers images as vivid as those on TV and the functions of searching songs by dint of users' voice, humming and content.

The updated multilingual comprehensive dictionary contains over 1.5 million entries in six languages. Any word can be searched by dint of picture, voice and handwriting. The number of users has soared as pharmaceutical and medical dictionaries were added to it.

The apps which guide users all across the country including Pyongyang is also popular. It has the modes of determining correct position and viewing routes, objects and mileage.

"We will bring our IT products closer to people as their good companion by enabling them to conveniently use information badly needed in life," said Kang Kum Chol, a department head of the company.

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RA PHYONG RYOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Top: Officials of the Central Committee of the Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled discuss how to improve the protection of the disabled. Above: Art group members under the Korean Art Association of the Disabled rehearse a dance for performance.

PROTECTION OF DISABLED PROCEEDS IN HIGH GEAR

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Risk activities are conducted to protect persons with disabilities by the Central Committee of the Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled.

The federation now works to bring up more than 40 children, who have been diagnosed with autism, cerebral palsy and hypacusia and registered at the Korean Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Disabilities, and to help them recover from the illnesses. The centre is run in the form of a weekly kindergarten and ensures that their daily life becomes the process of rehabilitation.

"They give excellent artistic performances on different occasions like the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, and a video showing their happy looks entitled "Persons with disabilities give artistic performance" will soon be released," said Cha Hyok, secretary general of the association.

The vocational school for the disabled is actively operative to teach them techniques related to haircut, beauty art, clothing, carpentry, cooking and computer according to their wishes.

Through lessons given by competent teachers with sufficient practices, they cultivate their talents with confidence in the future.

The federation scrupulously organizes work with officials of the Korean Sports Association of the Disabled

so that the disabled who hope to take part in the training of table-tennis, badminton, swimming and other sporting events can participate in it while receiving the regular treatment for recovery at the Munsu Rehabilitation Clinic.

The Korean Art Association of the Disabled makes sure that they take part in artistic group activities including instrumental music, vocal music and dancing in conformity with their hopes.

"They give excellent artistic performances on different occasions like the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, and a video showing their happy looks entitled "Persons with disabilities give artistic performance" will soon be released," said Cha Hyok, secretary general of the association.

The federation also offers a free taxi service for the convenience of the disabled.

The e-dictionary of sign language, developed by the information technology company for the disabled, is sought-after among users, and the Web electronic conference system 1.0 was given IT prize at the national exhibition of IT achievements-2021.

The federation posts successes made in the protection of the disabled on the Huimang website on a regular basis.

SUSTAINED EFFORTS FOR ENHANCING CAPACITY OF HEARING-IMPAIRED PERSONS

The extensive experience and sincere assistance of the members of the Korean Association of Deaf and Dumb give students a great deal of encouragement.

By Pang Un Ju PT

The Sign Language Interpreters Association of Korea has produced hundreds of TV presentations with sign language subtitles for persons with hearing impairment this year.

The presentations on various themes, including the feature, travelogue series, artistic and literary show, introductory video and collection of world-famous juvenile stories, get high audience rating of hearing-impaired persons.

Especially, the collection of world-famous juvenile stories which was edited this year is said to be a presentation much waited by

hearing-impaired children.

The Korean Association of Deaf and Dumb is cooperating in the training of teachers with disabilities for the school of hearing-impaired students.

The Education Commission launched the training of disabled teachers this year in order to provide disabled students with kinder and more effective education and the Korean Association of Deaf and Dumb works together to give future teachers the practical training in hairdressing, clothes making and carpentry.

Hearing-impaired students who wish to become teachers attend months-long practical training courses at relevant practice rooms furnished in

RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Sign language announcers conduct practical training to put sign language subtitles into TV presentations.

Club focuses on scientific training to retain dominance



By Han Kwi Hun PT

The sports club of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill is continuously directing big efforts to the development of tennis.

"We are instructing and training players on a scientific basis to maintain our national dominance in tennis," said head coach Ri Kwang Chol.

Tennis coaches of the club are increasing the training efficiency by introducing

scientific training means and methods while enhancing physical and technical abilities of players.

At the same time, they are scrupulously organizing the guidance on training with the main focus placed on developing the players' ability to apply different tactics.

Especially, they are intensifying instruction of players with fortés by encouraging them to refine their special skills and providing them with comprehensive training in

combination and tactics.

The club frequently organizes training matches so as to prepare players to be able to actively apply their fortés and various drives in any situation.

"Our players are always under pressure and tension with the thought that they should retain national dominance and since most of the leading players in the national tennis rankings are in our club, there is an intense rivalry between them," said Ri, adding these factors have

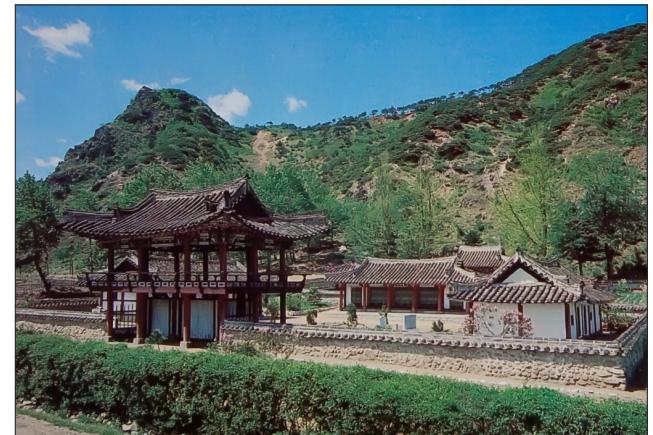
good effects on stimulating their zeal for training and developing the sport.

An Chung Il and Kim Sung Hyok who have produced good results at many national events are making redoubled efforts to attain a higher goal in training.

"We often confront fellow players of the club at official events. It leaves us at full strain since we know about each other just too well. So, we attach much importance to training matches," said An.

AN YONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A tennis coach of the sports club of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill teaches players how to take a correct posture of playing.



RI MYONG GUK / PICTORIAL KOREA
Jongbuk Temple, historical relic in North Hamgyong Province.

Jongbuk Temple

By Jong Chol PT

The Jongbuk Temple is a shrine located at the southern foot of Mt Sungam in Sungam Workers' District, Kyongsong County, North Hamgyong Province.

It was built in memory of four renowned persons who performed feats in opening up the northern region of Korea, including Yun Kwan in the period of Koryo Kingdom (918-1392) and Kim Jong So during the feudal Joson dynasty (1392-1910).

It was originally called Ro Hall when built in 1437 and renamed Jongbuk Temple in 1845.

It was destroyed by foreign invaders in 1868 and rebuilt at the same site in 1901.

The temple surrounded by a square fence and there is

the Jongbuk Pavilion at the front as an entrance to the temple.

In the middle of the area inside the fence there is the Yanghyon Hall.

Behind the lecture hall there are the main temple and a pavilion built in memory of Yun Mun Suk who was a government official in the period of Koryo.

The two-storey Jongbuk Pavilion with gabled roofs is painted colourfully.

The Yanghyon Hall is a gabled building on the stylobate and its right and left rooms have underfloor heating.

The Jongbuk Temple is in good preservation as a historic site which provides valuable information about the architecture of the feudal Joson dynasty and the history of opening-up of the northern region of Korea.

UNESCO-listed Paektusan Biosphere Reserve

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Mt Paektu is the sacred mountain of revolution and the ancestral mountain of Korea which is associated with immortal leadership exploits of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

The Paektusan Biosphere Reserve covers an area of 126,126 hectares.

It is made up of volcanic cones in a lava field consisting of heaps of lavas and pumice stones, the output of volcanic eruption.

Its terrain is low around its margins and becomes gradually higher with Janggun Peak at the centre. There are a basin formed by the collapse of a crater on the ridge of Mt Paektu and more than 20 peaks of the outer rim around the basin.

Janggun Peak is the highest one of the peaks on

Mt Paektu with an altitude of 2,750 metres above sea level.

The basin takes an oval shape lying north and south and there is a vast expanse of Lake Chon.

The lake is 2,190 metres above the sea and the deepest place is 384 metres deep.

The volcanic basin is 944 metres deep and is regarded as an unusual crater in the world.

The reserve is the coldest region in Korea as it is at high altitude in the northern alpine area far away from the sea.

As winter continues for more than 170 days in a year, the reserve is covered with heavy snow.

The atmospheric pressure is low.

As it is located in the highest part of Korea, it has diverse fauna and flora according to different

climatic zones.

In the reserve 2,901 species of plants grow.

Although they number little in species, gymnosperms take the major part of plants in the Mt Paektu area. Such trees as *Abies nephrolepis*, *Picea Koraiensis*, Korea larch and

Siberian larch take a large proportion.

Its fauna and flora have been steadily updated due to several volcanic eruptions through the long passage of time. It has unique fauna adapted to severe climatic conditions and geological and geographical features as

it occupies the alpine area connected by land with the Asian continent.

It is home to lots of animals including 61 species of such mammals as tiger, deer, red deer and brown bear and 235 species of such birds as heat cock and pheasant.

Thanks to its uncommon topographical conditions, it is rich in fauna and flora and can be claimed to be a natural zoo.

Its natural and living monuments include blueberry on Mt Paektu, pine on Yonji Peak, heat cock in

Samjiyon, Korean tiger on Mt Paektu, deer and red deer in Samjiyon, Lake Chon on Mt Paektu and Rimyongsu Falls.

"The Paektusan Biosphere Reserve was created in April 1989, making it possible to develop the work for preserving and protecting biodiversity in the area of Mt Paektu as a matter of global concern," said Ri Song Il, chief of the nature conservation lab of the Central Committee of the Nature Conservation Union of Korea.



Animals and plants in the Paektusan Biosphere Reserve.

RI CHOL JIN / PICTORIAL KOREA

