



# KOREA TODAY

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## Ceramic Vase

The gift presented to President Kim Il Sung by Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, in April 1983.



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**Front Cover: At the Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm**

*Photo taken by An Chol Ryong in January 2020*



**Back Cover: The Moon Gate in Sea Chilbo**

*Photo by An Kang Rim*

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**Edited by An Su Yong**  
**Address: Sochon-dong,**  
**Sosong District,**  
**Pyongyang, DPRK**  
**E-mail: flph@star-co.net.kp**

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# Brisk Recycling in Korea

**N**OT LONG AGO A *KOREA Today* reporter had a talk with Kim Chol Bok, bureau director of the Ministry of Light Industry.

**At present recycling is brisk across the world. So is it in the light industry sector of Korea, I think.**

Sure. In my country by-products and waste materials from factories have already been used to make minor goods to the liking of the people so as to satisfy their increasing material and cultural needs. Among the goods are small articles for daily use made of wood, iron, plastic and glass, miscellaneous textile articles and so on. Such goods have been produced by factories and enterprises and domestic craft workteams, and they are called August 3 Consumer Goods.

Now in the world the shortage of resources arises as a serious problem along with the rapid development of the economy. Several years ago an international organization presented a report which warned that resources twice as much as those of the earth will be needed by 2030 if natural resources are being consumed like today, and that crisis has befallen the global resources and environment.

Considering the fact we are mapping out detailed plans and further deepening them in order to win victory without fail in the offensive for a frontal breakthrough set forth by the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea. Such plans are aimed at completely getting rid of the wrong tendencies in the previous work attitude and realizing recycling, not sitting idle and worrying about the

shortage of raw and other materials. And the main goal is to increase production and practise economy to the maximum. We set up as models of the present era those people who strive to this end, that is, the people who regard the spirit of economy as part of their mental qualities.

**I think the sphere of recycling has been expanded today.**

You're right. Such things can be useful resources for recycling as waste from production process and unused sediments and leftovers plus discarded machines, electric wires, different electronic apparatuses, vehicles, electric appliances for family use, synthetic resin, paper packing, rubber, nonferrous metal and precious metal. There are a lot of other resources to be recycled in the country.

**Such units are constantly on the increase as those which are practically benefiting from recycling.**

Certainly. One of them is the Pyongyang Plastic Building-materials Factory. It found the way to solve the problem of raw materials needed for production in recycling and established a perfect system of recycling waste plastic, thus reenergizing the production by using several tons of recycled plastic a day.

The Suncheon Leather Shoes Factory put forward the recycling of raw and other materials as an important technical innovation target, and encouraged its technicians and workers to renovate equipment and introduce into production new inventions to use spent ore to increase the tensile strength and elongation of reclaimed rubber, thus making it possible to produce scores of tons of rubber annually and substitute idle materials for



80 percent of plastic needed.

Meanwhile, all the textile mills in the country, based on the experience the Sinuiju Textile Mill achieved during its modernization, are turning their fabric production processes into labour-, power-, and land-saving ones. And the Pyongyang Tannery is focusing its scientific and technical forces on modernization, and making efforts to recycle waste pieces of leather from production.

**Procurement of idle materials is briskly ongoing in the country, I think.**

Recycling can be done only when factories, enterprises, different business organizations, dongs and neighbourhood units and all people turn out as one in the work. So we are providing the relevant conditions to let industrial establishments and neighbourhood units collect idle materials by item in order to establish a close link of collection and recycling.

And we set rational procurement indices and prices to let people be interested in procurement, thus encouraging them to do procurement and collection of idle materials.

Recycling will create more and more reserves for the economic development, and the environment will be further improved. □

# Treasure from Waste

AT PRESENT THERE IS A strong movement on foot to recycle waste materials. The business activities of the Pyongyang Plastic Building-materials Factory can be cited.

The factory is producing various plastic building-materials with plastic wastes, and the products are in great demand.

It was in the mid-1990s that the factory started to recycle plastic waste as raw materials. At that time the country was in difficulties, and the factory was short of raw materials. So, they paid attention to plastic wastes.

At first they used the waste to produce vinyl pipes. Thus they attained many advantages at one move: The factory achieved rapid growth in production in a cost-effective way; and it was effective in protecting the ecological environment.

Gradually using plastic wastes to produce goods became the business strategy of the factory. There were some difficulties. But the management and workers of the factory pooled their wisdom and efforts to pave the shortcut to revitalizing production. They produced various sizes of vinyl pipes with broken

basins, plastic shutterings with unusable linoleum and buckets and gourds with waste plastic bags.

They also solved relevant sci-tech problems themselves to improve the quality of the goods. As to the shutterings, for example, their tensile strength, compression strength and bending strength are ensured, and they are several times longer in life cycle than the wooden and easy to handle. Thus they are very popular in construction sites.

The other plastic building-materials from the factory, including hot-water pipe for floor heating, ventilating window, vinyl wall covering, and plastic planter, were widely used for the building of such modern streets and structures as Changjon Street, Ryomyong Street, Samjiyon City and Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm.

In particular, the plastic planters for growing grass and plants on rooftops made a great contribution to the building of the Sci-Tech Complex and structures of Ryomyong Street as the green-style.

Recently they have developed checkered ceiling boards

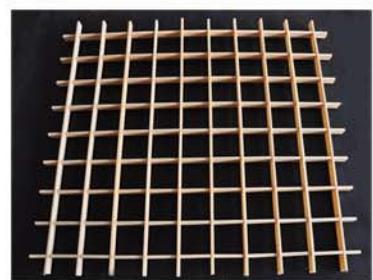
which are now in vogue in the construction of public buildings for they are good for decoration and natural ventilation.

Meanwhile, the factory is making materials for offshore culture with plastic wastes, and a colour plastering material with stone powder waste from a neighbouring building stone factory.

The wealth of the factory is now growing thanks to the creative insight and efforts of its employees who regard waste as something to make treasure. By 2017, its production had increased 89 times as compared to 2012.

Now every unit is showing much enthusiasm for recycling waste, and the factory is regarded as a model unit in the aspect. Lots of people are visiting it to learn from its experience. Kim Hyong Ju, general manager of the factory, says, "Recycling waste is a profitable method of business. We can get as much waste as we wish. In the future, too, we'll keep striving to improve the technique of recycling waste while regarding it as our business strategy."

*Rim Ok*



# Note of Visit to Farm



SOME TIME AGO WE visited the village of Vegetable Workteam No. 2 of the Kochang Vegetable Cooperative Farm in Chollima District, Nampho. Driving some distance along the Youth Hero Road from Pyongyang we could see green fields through the car window—they were just a landscape.

Ri Chang Ha, a senior staff member of the State Commission of Science and Technology who accompanied us, said, "As you would know in Kochang-ri, all the houses in the village are producing methane gas."

On arrival at the farm we met Kim Yong Il, leader of the workteam, who led us to a newly built house.

A nameplate that read Pae Yong Chol was fixed on the gate. Kim said that such newly built houses each had an anteroom, two living rooms, a kitchen, a bathroom, an indoor store and an auxiliary building, and that methane gasification was introduced into all the houses. Pae said, "We have solved the fuel problem with methane gas. This makes it possible to keep the kitchen clean, and women like it most." As if to prove his words

he turned lightly a red gas valve installed at one end of the kitchen's floor, and lit the gas range. A hand span of fire blazed up immediately.

Originally, it is said, the people in the flat area had suffered from the shortage of fuel until they moved into the new houses.

Kim said that when the officials of the district and the farm were determined to build the houses, they regarded it as the most important matter to solve the fuel problem in the locality, that they went to consult the scientists of the State Academy of Sciences, and learned from the experience of other farms where methane gasification had been realized.

According to Pae, putting two buckets of domestic animal excrement into the methane gas tank weekly is enough to produce the gas needed for cooking.

Guided by him we went to the backyard of his house where the tank was installed. What caught our eyes was a large swelling flexible polyvinyl chloride bag. Pae said that he put excrement of domestic animals like pig into the tank in the bag

to produce methane gas, and that the fermented liquid from the production is good for exterminating the insects harmful to crops, and used as quality fertilizer. He added that if the vicinity of the tank was covered with straw matting and the gas bag was covered with a vinyl sheet like a greenhouse, they could daily cook three meals with the gas range even in midwinter.

The workteam leader said, "The quality of the fermented liquid and sediment from gas production is much better than the manure fermented by an ordinary method. The sediment can be used as fodder for domestic animals and fish. The methane gasification helps establish a production cycle of agriculture, animal husbandry and fish farming to increase the production and prevent environmental pollution. This brings us much profit."

Pae was breeding domestic animals such as pigs, chickens and rabbits, and different kinds of fruit trees were growing around his house.

We photographed the happy farm workers.

*Sim Chol Yong*

# Tighter Emergency Anti-epidemic Measures Decided

A MEETING OF THE Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea took place last April. The meeting stressed the need to consistently take strict State measures to thoroughly check the inroads of COVID-19 to cope with the steady spread of the plague in foreign countries.

The DPRK took strict emergency anti-epidemic measures soon after the outbreak of the COVID-19 infection, and has ensured organizational, concerted and mandatory implementation of the nationwide preventive measures.

At the end of last January the country took an urgent step of turning the hygienic and anti-epidemic system into a State emergency anti-epidemic one, and established emergency anti-epidemic headquarters at the central, provincial, city and county levels.

Under the coordinated control of the non-permanent central public health guidance committee, land, sea and air passages on the borders were completely closed, and thorough examinations and checkups were done on border check points, thus checking the inroads of the infectious virus in advance.

People back from abroad were put under medical observation and examined, and suspected cases were kept separate for treatment. And all mass media and loudspeaker posts were mobilized to disseminate the information on COVID-19, and over a hundred thousand officials carried out the relevant publicity every day in various forms and ways. By February 19 the health workers mobilized nationwide for the hygienic information dissemination had numbered more than 690 000, attracting over 73 698 000 people in total.

In the middle of February the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea speedily adopted a resolution on extending the term of isolation in the territory of the DPRK to 30 days in order to cope with the wider spread of the COVID-19 infection in foreign countries. And measures were taken to ensure not only all institutions and sectors but also foreigners resident or staying in the country obey the resolution without condition.

Meanwhile, all nursery children were isolated at home, and the winter vacation of kindergarten children and students was prolonged. Fun fairs, pleasure grounds, swimming pools and the like, where lots of people might gather, were closed temporarily so as to prevent the disease thoroughly.

Late in February the country further raised the intensity of the anti-epidemic work. An enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea stressed that no exception had to be allowed within the State anti-epidemic system, and that a strict discipline had to be observed by which all fields and units unconditionally obey the command and control of the central headquarters for the emergency anti-epidemic work and thoroughly execute instructions from it.

Accordingly, all routes and spaces through which the disease might penetrate were completely blocked, and medical examination and quarantine systems got stricter. Section doctors carefully observed their charges, detected and isolated without exception those who showed abnormal symptoms in close contact with anti-epidemic institutions, and kept them under closer medical observation.

The objects of medical observation such as foreigners, travellers to foreign countries and their contacts, who had been in quarantine, were examined closely, and measures were taken to provide them with supplies. After it was confirmed that they had no sign of infection with COVID-19, they were released from isolation and put under medical observation for another 30 days.

And public places and public transport facilities were more thoroughly disinfected, and anti-epidemic observation was intensified to prevent the disease from spreading by migratory birds.

Thanks to the pre-emptive and thorough anti-epidemic measures taken by the State not a single COVID-19 case has appeared in the country, and it is maintaining very stable anti-epidemic conditions.

The recent meeting of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee reiterated the policy of thoroughly protecting the lives and safety of the people by continuing to intensify the State emergency anti-epidemic work as it has become impossible to remove the danger of the virus infection in a short period of time. It studied and discussed matters of adjusting and changing some policy tasks in the work of implementing the decisions of the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the WPK, in view of the prevailing internal and external circumstances, and adopted a joint resolution of the WPK Central Committee, the DPRK State Affairs Commission and the DPRK Cabinet "On more thoroughly taking State measures for protecting our people's lives and safety from the worldwide epidemic."

Rim Ok

## Memory of Sunday

A FOREIGN POLITICAL activist who once visited Korea said, "An old saying goes that a king rests while his subjects work. But it is just the opposite in Korea. I think they should say in the country that the king works while his subjects rest."

Now the new saying still manifests itself in Korea. Everyone has a right to have a rest on Sunday. The following facts make you reconsider the meaning of the word *rest*.

### Resemblance

It was on the first Sunday in 2012. Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un called information workers of the Workers' Party of Korea to give them some instructions.

That day he said that though Chairman Kim Jong Il passed away (December 17, 2011), he never thought the Chairman had left them but was always alive in his mind. Then he continued, **"It is my greatest pride that I live and carry on the revolution together with lots of comrades-in-arms whom the Chairman brought up for me in this land of single-hearted unity. As I have many comrades-in-arms, my faith is firm and I am confident of the victory of the revolution."**

His words reminded the officials of an autograph letter sent by Chairman Kim Jong Il on the first morning in 1995, the year after President Kim Il Sung's demise (July 8, 1994). In the letter, the Chairman called upon all the people to work energetically and single-mindedly to make their country, their motherland, more prosperous, as befits the great leader's soldiers and disciples. That day he visited the Dwarf

Pine Post as his first field guidance tour in the New Year.

Kim Jong Un also inspected the Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105<sup>th</sup> Tank Division as his first field guidance tour in the New Year of 2012 and was always busy in the first week of the year. That Sunday, too, he was at his desk.

The south Korean newspaper *Tong-A Ilbo* wrote in an article, "Recently the Korean Central TV released a video of Supreme Commander Kim Jong Un's inspection of the tank division, and it showed his conspicuous behaviours reminding us of President Kim Il Sung. The way the Supreme Commander walked with his hands in his coat pockets was very similar to the way the President walked along the street while visiting China in the 1950s. The way he gestured talking with the officers also reminds us of the President."

### Strong Call

On Sunday, April 19, 2015, Kim Jong Un visited the then Paektusan Songun Youth Power Station under construction. It was the most difficult and tremendous project in the history of the country's construction of hydropower stations as they had to construct three power stations by damming the upper course of the Sodu Stream.

Looking at the dam of power station No. 1, he said that he was there to call upon the young builders to complete the Paektusan Songun Youth Power Station, a heritage bequeathed by the Chairman and a precious asset of the country, as soon as possible. Then he said he once again called for building the power station as an edifice of eternal value with a concerted

effort of the army and people.

He added that they should launch a general offensive to complete the construction of power stations Nos. 1 and 2 without fail by the 70<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Encouraged by the strong call the young builders created a legendary tale of heroic youth.

### Blessed People

One Sunday in July 2018, the Supreme Leader visited the Kangwon Provincial Tree Nursery despite the unprecedentedly lasting intense heat. Looking round different places of the nursery, he was very satisfied that another large-scale sapling production base had been built to produce as many as over 20 million saplings a year.

He also dropped in at the house of a couple of ex-soldiers working in the nursery. Sitting with the couple, he asked them if the new house was good to live in, if there was any inconvenience in their life, how many children they had and which school the children attended, if they had found studying difficult at the agricultural university they had attended after being discharged from military service and if they found their jobs difficult.

Looking at their military uniforms hanging on a wall, he wished them a happy future hoping that they would always be exemplary in work and life, always cherishing the memory of their military service and the noble mental and moral traits of the army.

That day he waited for a long time for the ordinary employees of the nursery and their families to have a photo taken with them. □

# Road of Independence and Victory

**D**EPENDENCE OR INDEPENDENCE—this is a critical issue for any state or nation to decide unavoidably while pursuing the cause of their own existence and development.

One day during the armed struggle to liberate Korea from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation (1905–1945) Kim Il Sung, as organizer and leader of the struggle, visited Moscow to participate in a conference on anti-Japanese operations, when liberation of Korea was around the corner.

In the middle of a talk with Kim Il Sung Zhdanov, Member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, suddenly asked the Korean leader how many years it would take for the Korean people to build a sovereign state after the liberation of their country. The Korean leader replied it would take two or three years at most.

Zhdanov was half in doubt, and struck with wonder because he knew that Roosevelt had proposed trusteeship when discussing the question of postwar Korea at the Yalta Conference, and said about 40 years would be needed as a "transitional period" for Koreans to win full independence.

His doubts were cleared up when Kim Il Sung said that in the course of the lengthy anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle they had laid a firm foundation to build a state by their own efforts. Then Zhdanov asked in what form his country could give assistance to the Korean people in their struggle to build their country after liberation. Kim Il Sung replied: Your help will, as a matter of fact, be welcome, but we are going to build

the country by ourselves to the best of our ability. In our country worship of great powers has existed historically as the root cause of national ruin. We are determined to prevent this malady from doing harm to the building of our new country.

As Kim Il Sung had said the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was founded on September 9, 1948 three years after the liberation.

The Korean people carried out the agrarian reform, the nationalization of industries, the agricultural cooperation after the Fatherland Liberation War and the industrialization of the country in their own way.

The DPRK put forward and consistently held fast to the principle of independence in politics, self-sustenance in the economy and self-reliance in national defence. In 1956, when the revisionists tried to force it to join the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, the country strictly adhered to the line of building an independent national economy.

As the Korean people built the independent national economy by themselves, they all have stable occupations, get free medical care and study free of charge though they do not live in luxury. They also live in the houses built by the state, free from worry about food, clothing and housing.

Today they are accelerating the building of a powerful socialist country despite the imperialists' continuous obstructive manoeuvres. They have learned to deal with enemies and difficulties and defend their dignity and rights while braving manifold hardships. To them self-reliance is the most precious spiritual motive force. With the faith that

the only thing they believe in is their own strength and that they will never obsequiously court the others they are breaking through all sorts of trials and difficulties with their own effort.

Modern factories and monumental structures built in recent years are the fruit of their spirit of self-reliance and courage. They are pushing ahead with the work to make the national economy Juche-oriented and modern by themselves, and built monumental edifices such as the Sci-Tech Complex, Ryomyong Street, Mirae Scientists Street and Yangdok Hot Spring Resort and modernized the then seat of Samjiyon County.

The Korean people keep deep in mind that a lump of metal in their house is more valuable than a lump of gold in others'.

Though it is small in territory and population and has limited natural resources the DPRK has squarely exercised sovereignty because it has firmly adhered to the line of independence. Through its self-existence it has strengthened its own force, the internal motive force for its development.

Today forerunners of self-reliance, who make their own way out by relying on their own strength, create innovations and make a leap forward, are appearing here and there across the country.

The Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea called upon the Korean people to turn out in the offensive for a frontal breakthrough to foil the enemies' sanctions and blockade by dint of self-reliance. This is greatly inspiring the Korean people.

*Kim Chang Gun*

# Under Banner of Self-reliance

**N**OW IN THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S Republic of Korea a dynamic campaign is in full swing to smash straight through the grave difficulties and open up a new avenue for building a powerful socialist nation under the unfurled banner of achieving prosperity by dint of self-reliance. And the working class is in the van of the campaign.

Last year the workers of the Sangwon Cement Complex produced and sent a lot of cement to construction sites in various areas, and those of the Ryongsong Machine Complex manufactured the parts and equipment for thermal power stations, the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex, the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex, the Samjiyon Potato Farina Factory and many other units across the country.

Not a few factories and enterprises are bringing about innovations in production by waging a vigorous campaign to improve the quality of goods. Last year over 200 kinds of goods from 40-odd enterprises were put on the list of the February 2 Product, and the lines of production of 190 kinds of goods at over 60 enterprises were given certificates for the quality control system.

Scores of factories including the Pyongyang Electric Cable Factory 326 got certification of the quality control system, while the Pyongyang Condiments Factory, the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory and many others received certification of the environment control system. Products from dozens of units including the Taean Friendship Glass Factory and the Kangso Sprayer Factory were put on the list of the February 2 Product, and the December 15 Medal of Quality was conferred on the goods from the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory, the Ryugyong Kimchi Factory and the Narae Ceramics Factory. Besides, many units in light industry and commercial service sectors received the food safety control system certification, and the Mannyon Pharmaceutical Factory and scores of other units got the GMP certification.

Meanwhile, efforts are made to save labour, energy, cost and land. Officials, technicians and workers of the Wonsan Rolling Stock Complex steadily pushed ahead with the work to establish a burnt plastic model-based cast steel production process from the beginning of this year, making a contribution to enhancing the capacity to produce and repair freight cars. And the workers



At the Sangwon Cement Complex.



At the Samjiyon Potato Farina Factory.

of the Rahung Railway Factory constructed an electricity-saving induction furnace which makes it possible to reduce the power consumption to a half and save alloying elements without using electrodes.

Recently the workers of the Suncheon Chemical Complex developed an agent which can change anthracite to be used in gas generation into soliquoid, one of the major problems in establishing the methanol synthesizing process. Those of the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex and the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex are accelerating the work to build energy-saving oxygen-blast furnaces.

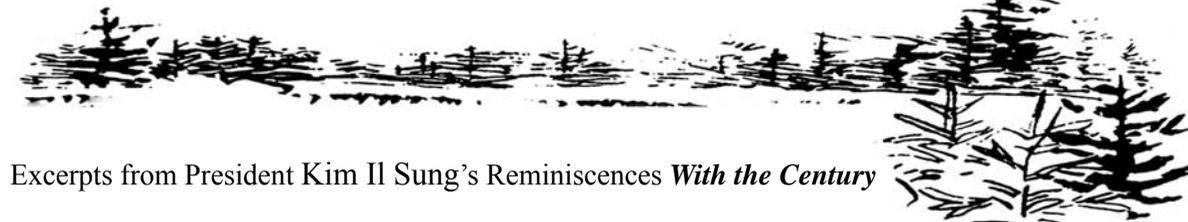
Dynamic progress is being made in socialist economic construction thanks to the high enthusiasm of the workers in different sectors of the national economy who are determined to fulfill their production plans without fail by increasing production and practising economy to the maximum.

*Sim Yong Jin*

# May Day Is Significantly Celebrated Every Year in Korea

Photos taken in 2019





Excerpts from President Kim Il Sung's Reminiscences *With the Century*

## The Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland

...  
**T**HE FOUNDATION WORK of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland as a nationwide united front body began after the Nanhutou meeting. Until then I had on the whole been trying on my own to mature my meditation as regards the foundation of this association. Now and then Kim San Ho, Choe Hyon, Pak Yong Sun and some others provided the necessary advice, but generally they adopted an attitude of "Do as you please, Comrade Commander". I once met an elderly scholar in a mountain village in the neighbourhood of Yushuichuan in the Dunhua area. He became a good adviser and match I could discuss matters with.

...  
This individual was Ri Tong Baek, the old man "tobacco pipe", recorded in the history of our Party as sponsor of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland. "Tobacco pipe" was Ri Tong Baek's nickname.

...  
One day, during a break on the march, "tobacco pipe" and I exchanged our views on the national united front. He expressed his opinion that, although France, Spain and China could form a popular front by merging political parties and organizations thanks to parties like the Communist Party, the Socialist Party and the Nationalist Party as well as labour movement organiza-

tions, our country could not do the same, because we had virtually no political parties or lawful organizations.

I gave him two snowballs and told him to merge them into one; I myself rolled a small snowball on the snow and made it as large as the snowball he had merged.

I said: "Well now, look. You made one ball by merging two political parties; I have made one larger than yours by rolling a small ball. Will you claim even now that the organization of a united front is only possible when there are political parties?"

Gazing fixedly at the snowball in my hand, as if he were looking into a magic glass, Ri Tong Baek muttered to himself:

"Really that is a profound principle. However, a snowball is a snowball and a political party is a political party, isn't it?"

"To our great surprise, however, many natural phenomena we have experienced conform to social phenomena, as far as principles are concerned."

I told him in detail about the united front policy we had consistently adhered to since our days in Jilin and about the experience accumulated by new-generation young communists in rallying anti-Japanese patriotic forces from all areas of society. I said:

"A united front is not only formed by merging political parties and organizations. If the theory of political parties and

organizations becomes absolute, it resembles dogma. We can easily form a united front, if we are backed by the masses and leadership nucleus. I believed in this case that we should rally people, be they ten or a hundred, using the identity of their purposes and aspirations as the criterion. With this aim in mind, we have been promoting the united front movement for a long time now."

Beating his nape, Ri Tong Baek said, "Dogma really is a problem," and laughed loudly.

After explaining why he remained by our side, "tobacco pipe" added:

"By your side, General, I have found a task to dedicate the concluding years of my life to. In the final analysis, I have discovered the worth of my existence. It can be said that one is happy when one feels useful in this world. Now I am such a happy man."

"What kind of task have you found to make you feel happy?"

"My task resembles the one performed by Louis David who followed Napoleon. I am going to transfer to my diary what David transferred to his pictures. Not the historic achievements of Napoleon's army, but rather those of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army."

Ri Tong Baek kept his diary every day as he had planned. There was not a single day when he did not keep his diary, although there were occasions when he skipped his meals once

▶ or twice or sometimes for several days. Until his very last moments, he carried out his mission as narrator of the history of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army. After his enlistment, he worked at the secretariat of the Headquarters and later on as the chief editor of the *Samil Wolgan*, an organ of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland, and was also in charge of the printing of office.

...  
Ri Tong Baek also greatly helped me work out the Programme, Rules and Inaugural Declaration of the ARF. At that time I discussed every item with him and advised him to write the draft. However, he declined my proposal, saying that his literary style was old and that he was not confident of his ability to write down my intentions correctly. Consequently I made the draft and he added something, thereby perfecting the inaugural documents one by one.

Our greatest differences emerged over the first item of the programme. The first item defined, in a few words, the ideal, fighting goal and character of the ARF as a political organization. Consequently the debate was very heated.

When I proposed to put down, in accordance with my meditations, as the content of the first item, the overthrow of the colonial rule of the piratical Japanese imperialists via the general mobilization of the 20 million-strong Korean nation and the establishment of a genuinely popular government, Ri Tong Baek shook his head and became engrossed in thought before saying "No".

He added: "It is a pity that there is not a single phrase about the building of a society for the proletariat. If the first item of the programme does not reflect communism at all, will the numerous proponents of communism like it? The words 'a genuinely popular government' are vague in class character and somehow reek of nationalism."

...  
We agreed on all the other items of the programme.

In the Ten-Point Programme of the ARF we established that a resolution to the power problem constituted the primary task of the Korean nation, and also put forward various political tasks, such as the provision of the people with democratic freedom and rights, the democratic development of society and protection of the national rights of overseas compatriots.

This programme also set the task of building a revolutionary army and elucidated the economic tasks to be solved at the stage of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution, such as unindemnified confiscation of land from the Japanese imperialists and treacherous pro-Japanese landlords, expropriation of all enterprises, railways, banks, vessels, farms, irrigation facilities owned by the Japanese state and Japanese individuals and all the properties of the treacherous pro-Japanese elements, support for the poor, the natural development of national industry, agriculture and commerce and the construction of a national economy.

The natural development of national industry, agriculture and commerce and the construction of a national economy were based on our consistent line and policy to rally national capitalists in the anti-Japanese united front by strictly distinguishing between national capital and comprador capital and encouraging patriotic national capitalists and actively defending and supporting them. This marked the difference between pseudo-communists, who asserted that all capitalists, including even anti-Japanese national capitalists, should be tarred with the same brush, and genuine communists who regarded all national capitalists as the motive force of the revolution. These capitalists, though branded as bourgeoisie, were patriotic in their aspirations and anti-Japanese in practice.

The Ten-Point Programme of the ARF also set social and cultural tasks as well as other ones concerning external activities.

...  
The historic inaugural meeting of the ARF was held on May 1 (in 1936—Ed). Although the flowers were not yet in full bloom, the whole mountain was in the thick of spring.

As the meeting lay ahead, the hearts of all the delegates throbbed with strong emotion and excitement.

The Donggang meeting lasted for 15 days.

First Ri Tong Baek read out messages of congratulations sent to the meeting, and then I delivered the report.

In my report I referred to the need to rally the entire nation as one political force under the banner of national liberation and establish in the border area a new base which the Korean People's Revolutionary Army could rely on, in order to conduct the anti-Japanese national united front movement dynamically and further expand and develop the anti-Japanese armed struggle by advancing into the border area and the homeland. Subsequently this report was published in book form under the title, *Let Us Further Expand and Develop the Anti-Japanese National United Front Movement and Take the Korean Revolution as a Whole to a New Upsurge*.

I also submitted the Ten-Point Programme of the ARF and its Inaugural Declaration to the meeting for consideration.

In the ten-point programme we defined the character and task of the Korean revolution, as well as its strategic and tactical principles, on the basis of a correct analysis of the revolutionary situation in the 1930s, the socio-economic conditions of our country and mutual relations between different classes, and also elucidated the prospects of the Korean revolution, taking into strict consideration the interests of the workers, peasants and other working

► masses, as well as the common interests of the patriotic people of all walks of life.

The participants in the meeting expressed full support and approval for the programme and expressed their joy that they could now advance confidently for the victory of the Korean revolution with a clear fighting goal; they also firmly resolved to work hard to implement the tasks set forth in the programme.

The discussion about the Inaugural Declaration of the ARF also stirred the hearts of the delegates.

The paragraphs of the inaugural declaration gripped their hearts from the start. In particular, the participants in the meeting were greatly taken by the part of the declaration, which expressed confidence that Korea's independence would succeed if the whole nation—20 million people—were rallied into one, each contributing his or her all—money, provisions, skills and wisdoms—and took part in the anti-Japanese national liberation front. They were taken by the earnest appeal to everyone to fight, encompassed in the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland.

After the adoption of the Inaugural Declaration of the ARF, we discussed the name it should be published under.

All the participants in the meeting suggested that it should be published in my name. They said that this problem admitted no room for debate and that, as a matter of course, the declaration should be published in my name, as I had been the first to propose the establishment of the ARF and had been in charge of the work of the preparatory committee for its formation and also as I had worked out its programme and inaugural declaration.

However, I held a different opinion. The ARF had to assume a national form in order to rally all the anti-Japanese forces of the entire Korean people. Consequently I thought it correct to use as sponsor a well-known elderly

patriot, who had taken an active part in the Korean independence movement since the Righteous Volunteers' Army movement and the March First Movement.

...

I said to the delegates at the meeting straightforwardly: All of you insist that the inaugural declaration should be published in the name of a certain man, because he was the first to initiate the inauguration of the association, was in charge of the preparatory committee for its inauguration and also worked out its programme and rules. There is no real point in offering prominence to one man, to me, only taking this fact into consideration. It will be much more effective to appeal to the people to join the ARF, by using the names of people who are known to all our 20 million compatriots. It will be sufficient if you regard me as a son of our people and suppose that I have suffered greatly for the masses. Then I appealed to them to make as co-sponsors of the inaugural declaration elderly and well-reputed patriots, referring to the need to give up small matters in view of the great cause, and proposed the publication of the inaugural declaration with Ri Tong Baek and Ryo Un Hyong as co-sponsors.

...

After heated discussion I agreed to become one of the sponsors on condition that the alias Kim Tong Myong was used. When he obtained my concession, Ri Tong Baek also consented to be sponsor.

Thus, the names of three people—Kim Tong Myong, Ri Tong Baek and Ryo Un Hyong—were put down as co-sponsors in the Inaugural Declaration of the ARF published on May 5.

...

In accordance with the unanimous will of the participants, I took office as president of the ARF at its inaugural meeting.

This is how a standing anti-Japanese national united front body, the first of its kind in the

history of the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle in our country, came to be born.

The founding of the ARF as the first anti-Japanese national united front body in our country constituted a milestone, strengthening the mass foundation of the revolution. Following the founding of the ARF, the anti-Japanese national united front movement developed rapidly in a more organized and systematic way on a nationwide scale, closely combined with the anti-Japanese armed struggle; it was able to dynamically organize and mobilize all the anti-Japanese forces to the struggle for national liberation.

Unification of all the efforts of the nation for the liberation front marked the supreme task we had set ourselves since we started out on our struggle. We had spent many years to ensure that we achieved this aim.

The foundation of the ARF represented the fruit of the active efforts of our young communists, who had tirelessly trained our revolutionary forces. It marked a historic moment, when our people again solemnly declared their will to fight more dauntlessly against the Japanese imperialists with their own efforts; it also marked a turning-point in taking the general Korean revolution, with the anti-Japanese armed struggle as the keystone, to a new upsurge.

...

It will probably be difficult to contain even in several thick volumes the history of the development of the ARF, which expanded, in a short space of time, into a nationwide organization embracing hundreds of thousands of members.

The birth of the ARF at the northern foot of Mt. Paektu in May 1936 constituted a historic event, which ensured a new turning-point in the development of the Korean revolution and heralded the dawn of national liberation. Thus, the new brighter era of the Korean revolution began to dawn at the foot of Mt. Paektu. □

## Seventy-five Years of WPK (5)

# United Party of Working Masses

ON AUGUST 15, 1945 THE Korean people finally accomplished the historic cause of liberating their country from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation which spanned nearly half a century. Now they were faced with the new task of building a sovereign state, rich and independent, with their own efforts. The matter of the greatest urgency in carrying out the task was to found a party capable of leading the Korean revolution to victory. Founding the party, the general staff of the revolution, was the number one priority in order to rally broad sections of democratic forces from all walks of life on the side of the revolution and mobilize the popular masses for the building of a new democratic Korea.

The necessary organizational and ideological basis had already been laid during the anti-Japanese struggle: fresh hard-core communists steeled and tested in practice developed into the organizational backbone of the party to be founded, and its mass foundation was also laid in the course of mobilizing broad masses including workers and peasants in the struggle against the Japanese imperialists.

On October 10, 1945, less than two months after the country's liberation, Kim Il Sung proclaimed the founding of the Communist Party of North Korea (CPNK), and said that the Party should never become an organization of a minority of communists but a mass political party that took deep roots among the broad masses of

working people including workers and peasants.

Accordingly, strenuous efforts were made to expand the Party ranks rapidly with the excellent of workers, peasants and progressive intellectuals who were struggling in the interests of the working masses and took the lead in building a democratic, sovereign and independent state. And provincial, city and county Party committees were organized, and their cells mushroomed. At the same time there were organized mass organizations by occupations and strata, for example, those for workers, peasants, young people and women respectively.

Soon after the country's liberation there was the Young Communist League (YCL) as an organization of young people. It, however, could not embrace lots of young people. What was worse, there were formed other youth organizations of different names, and they were conducting activities separately. So, an effort was launched to rally young people from all walks of life around a single youth organization. Under the slogan of **"Patriotic young people, unite under the banner of democracy!"** the YCL dissolved itself on its own initiative to be followed by the organization of the Democratic Youth League as a mass youth organization. This made it possible to rally all young people into a single league.

Meanwhile, there were organized different social organizations such as the General Federation of Labour Unions of

North Korea, the Federation of Peasants Associations of North Korea, the Democratic Women's Union of North Korea and the Journalists Union of North Korea. Thus broad masses were united organizationally.

At that time the Communist Party and the New Democratic Party were in co-existence in Korea. As the democratic revolution was successfully carried out under the guidance of the former, the leading position of the working class got more secure, and the alliance of the working class, peasants and intellectuals was strengthened. Thus the two parties had the same stake in the building of a new democratic country. Now it was necessary to form a single political party in order to realize the unity of the working masses.

In this situation the inaugural congress of the Workers' Party of North Korea took place late in August 1946 after the full negotiation about the draft declaration on the amalgamation of the two parties and its draft programme and rules. The congress adopted the Party's Programme and Rules, and decided to publish *Rodong Sinmun*, the organ of the Party, and *Kulloja*, the Party's magazine of political theory. The emblem of the Party was also instituted around the time, consisting of the designs of a hammer, a sickle and a writing brush, which clearly symbolizes the revolutionary and mass-based character of the Party with the workers, peasants and intellectuals as its main component members.

*Ri Jong Nam*

# Juche Idea Brings Advent of New Age

**T**HE POWER OF TRUTH is really great. For its indisputable truthness, the Juche idea has struck its root deep in the mind of not only the Koreans but also all the progressive people of the world, and it is now the prevailing thought of our age. It clearly shows the way of carving out the destiny of man and achieving the centuries-old desire of the people for independent and creative life. For this reason, it is finding its way into the hearts of more and more people who are engaged in the struggle for a new, free and prospering society and against exploitation and oppression by capital.

## Demand of the times and people

Ideological consciousness is born of some social practice. There can be no ideology which has nothing to do with the demand of the times, the people and the developing revolution. It is the same with the Juche idea.

At the outset of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Korea was in a fairly complicated political situation. The power of the country declined and flunkeyism to great powers prevailed due to its depraved and incapable feudal rulers who lacked faith in the nation's own strength and only looked to foreign nations for help. Meanwhile, the Japanese imperialists made inroads into Korea en masse on the strength of the monopolistic control over Korea they had snatched through their wars against China (1894–1895) and Russia (1904–1905). Due

to the forced conclusion of the Korea-Japan Annexation Treaty in August 1910 following the Ulsa Five-point Treaty in November 1905 and the Jongmi Seven-point Treaty in July 1907, the Korean nation lost its sovereignty and the people were made modern slaves who were compelled to act under the “Decrees of the Government-General.” The three-thousand-ri land of Korea that had been proud of its 5 000-year-long history and culture found itself trampled underfoot by the Japanese military, its prestige and sovereign power violated ruthlessly. Many loyalists, Confucian scholars and even nameless people from the lowest class, lamenting the tragic fate of the country, reacted to the disgrace by committing suicide, while patriots put up resistance at the cost of their lives in an attempt to achieve freedom and independence.

One of them was An Jung Gun (1879–1910). He was a passionate patriotic-minded young man who tried to restore national sovereignty with the help of powers and then joined the independent movement and the Righteous Volunteers' Army. When everything ended in a failure, he resorted to terrorism and, at last, at Haerbin Station in October 1909 he shot to death the then President of the Privy Council of Japan Ito Hirobumi, the mastermind of Korean aggression. This struggle, however, brought about nothing but a great sacrifice. Before he was brought to the gallows, he cried in prison, “I wish I could meet such a great man who would

lead me, such a hero who would deliver our nation.”

This cry was the one of all Koreans who were longing for the appearance of an outstanding leader and a correct guiding idea, and it reflected the urgent demand of the times and the revolution as well.

The Korean revolution showed the bloody lesson that it could not make even a step forward without a new guiding idea. Whether a correct guiding idea of revolution was provided or not was a serious question deciding the fate of the country and the nation at stake—whether it would be saved or the twenty million Koreans would be reduced to colonial slaves for ever.

## Great discovery: starting points of Juche idea

The historical process in which the Juche idea was created covers the period from the time when President Kim Il Sung embarked on the road of revolution to June Juche 19 (1930).

He started his revolutionary career at the time when a new era of history was dawning, and devoted all his energies to opening up a new road for the people to follow. In the course of this he found out two causes why the Korean revolution had suffered bitter setbacks and gone through turns and twists before: One is that those who were engaged in the national-liberation movement gave no thought to going among the masses to educate, unite and arouse them to the revolutionary struggle, but,

▶ divorced from the masses, were only engrossed in the scramble for hegemony and empty talks, and that they did not unite the masses but divided them by factional strife; the other is that the nationalists and self-styled Marxists who followed the evil practices of flunkeyism and factional strife did not try to carry out the revolution on their own but dreamed of achieving independence by relying on foreign forces, and those who were allegedly engaged in the revolutionary movement formed their own faction each, knocked at the door of the Comintern to secure its recognition and endeavoured to copy from the established theories and experience of others in disregard of the specific realities of Korea. On the basis of this analysis, Kim Il Sung discovered two starting points of the Juche idea. One is that the masters of revolution are the masses of the people and, only when one goes among them and educates and mobilizes them, can he secure victory in the revolution, and the other is that the revolution should be carried out not by anyone else's approval or instructions but by one's own conviction and on one's own responsibility and that all problems arising in the revolution should be settled in an independent and creative way.

These starting points constitute the nucleus of the Juche idea and run through this idea.

History knows numerous valuable discoveries and inventions which contributed to the well-being of mankind. One of them is Columbus' discovery of the New World in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. His exploits were recorded in books and inscribed on monuments to be handed down to posterity and 15 cities of Italy vied with each other to have the honour of being nominated as his birthplace. But there has never been a discovery as valuable as that of the truths

which served as the starting points of the Juche idea.

Addressing an international seminar on the Juche idea in Juche 66 (1977), a delegate of Mauritius said: “I think of the ancient Greek scholar Archimedes, who said that if he found a fulcrum and a lever, he could change the position of the globe in the universe. Finding neither of them, he left our planet at its place.

“However, in the world of thought, Kim Il Sung discovered a fulcrum, namely, the Juche idea, to change the looks of the world, particularly those of the underdeveloped or developing countries.”

## Advent of new age

On the basis of the verified correctness of the said truths discovered by himself through revolutionary practice, Kim Il Sung finally propounded the principle of the Juche idea and put forward the Juche-oriented line of the Korean revolution at the Meeting of Leading Personnel of the Young Communist League and the Anti-Imperialist Youth League held at Kalun in June Juche 19 (1930). This was a great historic event which announced the origination of the Juche idea and the birth of the Juche-oriented revolutionary line.

With the creation of the idea mankind entered a new era of history, the Juche-guided era, when the masses of the people advance the socio-historical progress dynamically with their own efforts.

Needless to say, there had been a number of progressive thoughts which facilitated the historical development and brought about changes and development of times. The ideas of liberty, equality and philanthropy appeared towards the end of the feudal age and

encouraged the people to the struggle against the feudalistic exploitation and oppression. But these ideas did not represent the fundamental interests of the peasantry who occupied the overwhelming majority of the population. Therefore, it was used as an ideological means to cover up the reactionary nature of the capitalist system after the bourgeoisie had taken power in their hands.

In the past the socio-historical movement of the popular masses was greatly stimulated by Marxism and Leninism. Marxism illuminated the historical mission of and the path of liberation for the working class that appeared on the arena of struggle and stimulated their struggle against exploitation and oppression by capital, initiating the international communist movement. Leninism developed Marxism to suit the new historical conditions and inspired the working class and the rest of the people to the struggle for destroying the imperialist strongholds and achieving freedom and liberation. This gave beginning to the transition from capitalism to socialism.

The Juche idea awakened the popular masses for the first time in history to the great truth that they are the masters of their own destiny and they have the power to hew it out and showed them the right way of carving out their destiny independently and creatively, thus arousing them to the all-out struggle for independence. This is how our age of Juche set sail and took the route of independence.

The birth of the Juche age, a new era of history, has been made possible because the people's struggle was linked with the guiding idea, that is, the Juche idea.

A great idea brings about a great era.

*Kim Son Myong*

# Radical Change in Jungphyong

**J**UNGPHYONG-RI IS SITUATED IN Kyongsong County, North Hamgyong Province. The sea wind-swept area has got a new image with the mushrooming of a vegetable greenhouse farm with rows of 320 greenhouse blocks for both hydroponic and soil-based farming, a tree nursery capable of producing tens of millions of saplings a year, and a residential district with 590-odd dwellings—which were all opened in December last year.

## New Vegetable Farm

The Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm was built to suit the nature and terrain of the area which is located on a highland with a low temperature. Three hundred of the greenhouses, 1 000

square metres in area each, are arch-style ones covered with double plastic film. They can produce vegetables even in winter as the temperature is ensured without any consumption of fuel. Inside the greenhouses tubes are neatly arranged to supply nutrient solution to each head of vegetables, and the management of the greenhouses and the cultivation of the plants are automated. Thus they can produce hundreds of tons of vegetables per hectare a year.

The other greenhouses, a hectare in area each, also produce vegetables under an automatic control system.

Only a small number of workers are enough to manage and operate the greenhouses.

An Chol Jin, a technical officer of Workteam No. 3 of the farm, says, “While the greenhouses were

► under construction, we technicians of the farm went up to Pyongyang and attended a scientific research institution there to learn how to manage and operate the farm properly.”

Scientists and technicians of the farm’s vegetable laboratory conduct research projects to raise the productivity of vegetables, while the workers are given regular instruction in their sci-tech learning space about advanced science and technology to increase the production of vegetables.

The farm has an organic fertilizer production base, a seed sowing area, a vegetable packaging and selling station and large vegetable stores. It also runs a pig branch farm, which produces manure for greenhouse farming, and thus there is a full production cycle in operation.

Now the farm helps the provincial people to be self-sufficient in the supply of vegetables they were short of. It is striving to increase the production by raising the yield of vegetables through active introduction of advanced techniques and methods of veg-

etable cultivation, selecting and introducing varieties of highly nutritious and productive species and producing improved seeds.

## “Sapling Factory”

The tree nursery, scores of hectares in area, has several blocks of plastic panel greenhouses, an outdoor cultivation ground, a seed collecting area, a circular cutting bed and an acclimatized plant test area. And it has other facilities such as a light substrate production area, a seed selecting and sowing area and a sapling store, all provided with modern equipment of Korean make.

The nursery, the whole of which is under monitoring control, annually produces 20 million saplings of good species by an industrial method in all seasons.

Beside the unique entrance to the nursery there is a seedling exhibition house enclosed by a glass dome. On display in the building are samples of





► scores of species of plants growing in the province, and it serves as a place for exchange of science and technology related to the nursing of young trees and other forestry technology.

### Picturesque Village

The residential quarters of the farm was built in a distinctive style to suit the characteristics of the locality.

First of all, the buildings are of quite unique, various shapes. Over 50 multi-storey apartment blocks are of four kinds and of more than 20 shapes. Some of them have one porch or two each, and others have protruding verandas or the inverse. And buildings of the same shape stand symmetrically or asymmetrically. Their windows are in various shapes including the round and the square.

The exterior walls of the buildings are decorated with tiles and paints of different colours. This ensures the diversity of the buildings.

And the buildings are arranged in an intensive yet varied way unlike the old practice whereby dwellings of the same shape were arranged in rows in the rural villages. In the residential district of the Jungphyong farm multi-storey apartment blocks are arranged in a diversified way, while ensuring a high density of the buildings. They stand right opposite or against one another, or obliquely stand

side by side. Thus they are situated in not so large an area, but it never impresses you as a condensed place. Meanwhile, a kindergarten and a nursery are situated at the centre of the village for the convenience of the residents.

The village is in a park with a marvellous landscape. Children's playgrounds provided with various sporting equipment and resting places are here and there in the residential district. The dwellings and public establishments are surrounded by green belts where there grow good species of fruit trees and flowering shrubs. Conspicuous are natural rocks covered with moss here and there in the green space.

Jungphyong Senior Middle School has two multi-storey teaching buildings, a playground and a gymnasium, all built to suit the characteristics of the area and the psychology of schoolchildren, and the village's hospital, Undok Health Complex and welfare service centre are provided with enough necessary equipment.

Mun Ryong Guk, a sub-workteam leader of the farm, says, "When I volunteered to work in the farm still under construction after graduating from university, I thought I was doing my duty fully for the country. But after moving into a new house and while working in the modern farm, I realized that I was wrong. I know I have to do a lot of things to repay the socialist system which spares nothing for the people."

*Article by Pak Un Yong  
Photos taken by An Chol Ryong  
in January 2020*



# Lifelong Access to Education Provided

**T**ODAY IN THE DEMOCRATIC People's Republic of Korea online education is under way on a nationwide scale, and public interest in it is growing day after day.

### Ramified Online Education Network

The country's study-while-you-work system with a 70-odd-year-long history has steadily improved continuously in keeping with the developing reality. And online education is a new type of the system suited to the era of the knowledge-based economy.

A decade ago online education in the country was confined within the bounds of a college. It was Kim Chaek University of Technology which gave online education to students through its intranet. Later the university gave access to all the working people across the country for online education. This enabled them to listen to lectures given by the university's competent teachers, regardless of time and place. Soon its experience was generalized in different colleges. These online education systems were established in major educational institutions such as Kim Il Sung University, Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences, Pyongyang University of Architecture, Pyongyang Jang Chol Gu University of Commerce, Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry, and Hamhung University of Chemical Industry.

Sci-tech learning spaces with the function of online education were set up at factories and enterprises all over the country, and online education bases came into existence in provinces, cities, counties (districts). And an educational network to which people can connect smart phones and tablet computers for online education was established.

### All-people Learning System

When online education opened the students getting it numbered only 40. Then not only workers but also technicians and senior officials who had already graduated from colleges realized the necessity of online education. Thus the number of such students increased year after year.

In 2016 the Sci-Tech Complex went up in Ssuk Islet. This served as an opportunity to develop online education of the country onto a higher level. A nationwide sci-tech disseminating network was formed centring on the complex, and the new sci-tech data were disseminated from the central to the lowest-level units. Thus the students were provided with necessary reference books and data, which helped improve their ability as quickly as possible.

The Workers' Party of Korea intends to make all the people well-versed in science and technology in order to prepare them into intellectual working people possessed with modern science and technology so that they can

solve knotty problems by dint of science and technology.

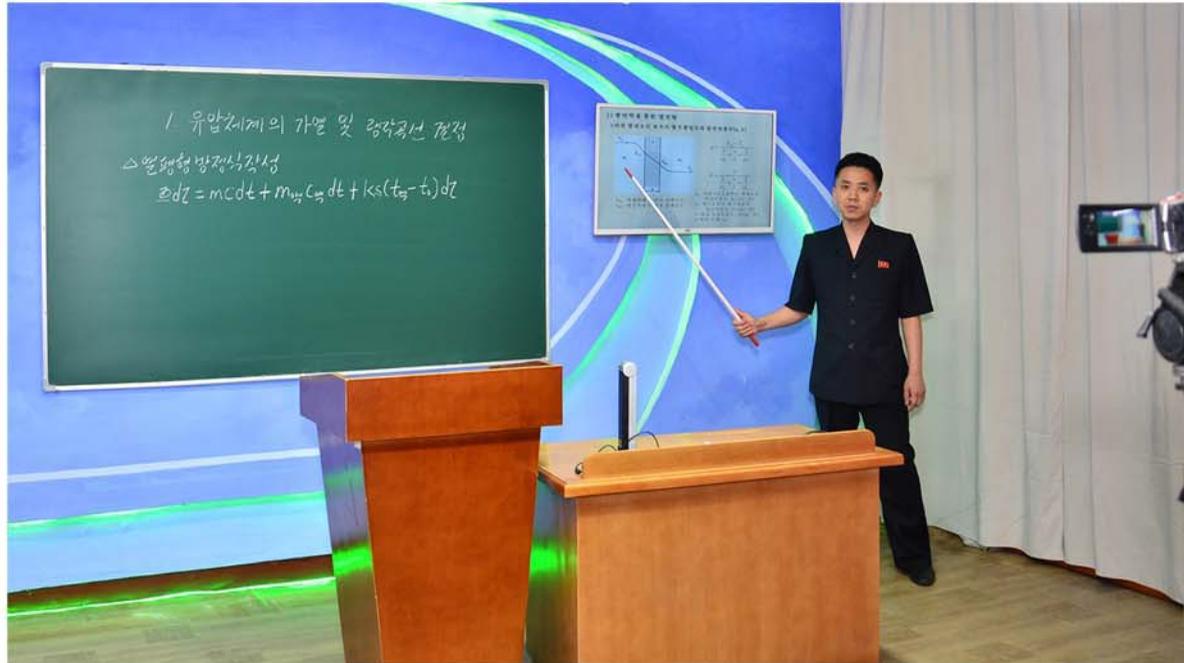
The online education system of the country is an all-people learning system which helps realize the intention. At present over 110 000 people including workers, college graduates, married women and disabled persons are getting the education, and their number is exploding. Those who finished secondary education are all qualified to get online education. Like other kinds of education it is granted free of charge.

### Preparing into Masters of Invention

The year 2015 witnessed the first graduates of the online education course.

As the graduates present papers on the subjects of problems arising in their workplaces, the papers are of great value. Their contents are immediately introduced in the workplaces, rendering a great service to the technical development of the relevant industrial establishments. They are also made public on various occasions such as national sci-tech festivals and sci-tech presentations and exhibitions, being favourably commented upon.

The technicians and skilled workers who finished such an education course played a great role in the modernization of their factories. Those in the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex established a process monitoring and automatic control system for the hot rolling process and introduced CNC technology into the



▶ vertical-style continuous ingot making process, and those in the Kanggye Winery and the Sunchon Chemical Complex made a contribution to the modernization of their factories.

An invention campaign is in full swing among the students who are now getting online education. Such students of the coal

mining industry developed new mining methods, a dust-collecting technique, and an additive to coal combustion. A married woman of the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory invented a solar energy-based packing process while getting online education.

Online education greatly helps factories and enterprises

train in a planned way the personnel capable of managing technology-intensive industry and modern economy, and build up their scientific and technological development forces.

Thanks to the brisk online education all people in the country are developing into inventors.

*Rim Ok*

Workers attend the on-line education system.



## With High Enthusiasm

AT SIX O'CLOCK THE bell rings in the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex to signal the end of the day's work. Then a lot of its workers go to the Hungnam College of Technology affiliated to the complex. Seen there are young men and women having a heated debate about the current trend in fertilizer production and those reading sci-tech magazines in the short distance to the college from their workshops.

Among them are So Jang Chol and his wife Kim Hong Hwa. They are both compressor operators of synthesis workshop No. 1. People call their family *Hungnam Family*. Their grandparents' generation restored the production equipment of the then Hungnam Fertilizer Factory and produced ammonium sulfate for the first time in a few months after Korea's liberation from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation on August 15, 1945. Their fathers So Yong Il and Kim Jong Chol were innovators well known to the complex. Twenty years ago they stood in the van of the struggle to replace facilities of the complex with large and modern ones. Like the grandparents and parents all their de-

scendants have devoted their life to the complex. Jang Chol and Hong Hwa, too, volunteered to work at the complex after graduating from middle school, and married, working at the enterprise. They fell in love out of their unusual affection for their jobs and workplace as well as their mutual trust, and they became innovators and treasures for the complex. They entered the above-mentioned college at the same time, and are now pooling their mind and wisdom to conquer the high peak of modern science.

They drew the attention of people again as they solved varieties of sci-tech problems arising in production—for example, they put the operation of the compressor of the ammonia converter on a scientific basis. They say their ambition is to exalt the honour of their family with science and technology by building the tower of their knowledge high under the study-while-you-work system.

Other workers of the complex including an ex-service man and a 19-year-old girl loved as the youngest by her workteam members are attending the college. What characterizes the complex today is the way its workers are

striving to innovate while learning with the ambition to make rapid progress and overtake others by dint of science and technology.

A lot of them have become inventors. Among the pillars who are responsible for its sci-tech development is Kim Yun Ho who began to work as a researcher of its catalyser institute after graduating from the college. He made a great contribution to fertilizer production by developing and introducing dozens of technical innovations. He succeeded in making a catalyser for ammonia synthesis with magnetic iron available in Korea. Other sci-tech successes such as the establishment of an ammonia synthetic process based on gasification of anthracite and a ferric oxide precision desulfurization catalyser production process are all attributable to the speculation and efforts of graduates from the college.

Now the workers of the complex are preparing to be masters at making production modern and Juche-oriented with high enthusiasm to learn and acquire sci-tech knowledge.

*Kim Son Myong*

### Technology of Producing Textbook Paper with Reed Pulp

RESEARCHERS OF THE Paper Engineering Research Institute developed and introduced a new technology of producing quality paper with reed pulp instead of wood pulp.

In general, textbook paper must conform to such technical conditions as good absorption

of printing ink, opacity and appropriate elasticity. So, it had been produced by making use of wood pulp as the main material or by mixing it with reed pulp.

Based on the analysis of the physicochemical properties of reed with short fibres, the researchers designed a new di-

gestion process for making pulp from reed, with a view to reducing power consumption and boosting the output.

The test printing on the textbook paper made with reed pulp proved that the paper is excellent in terms of quality indices and that the print is of high quality. □



## Developing Section Doctor System

SOME TIME AGO A *Korea Today* reporter had a talk on the section doctor system with Jon Sol Ryong, a senior staff member of the Ministry of Public Health.

**What kind of medical service does the section doctor system provide?**

The system enables the doctors to be each in charge of a certain number of families and production units, examining them and their sanitary conditions on a regular basis and taking relevant measures. Medical workers of the lowest medical institutions such as polyclinics, *ri* people's hospitals and *ri* clinics work in accordance with the system.

Meanwhile, clinics and hospitals are set up for factories, enterprises and mines. And first-aid stations are placed inside pits of the mines. Ocean fishing fleets, too, have clinics. Medical workers of clinics and hospitals take charge of workshops or pits, improving the working conditions, taking prophylactic measures, and looking after the health of the workers.

In this way all people in the country systematically and

continuously have checkups by their doctors both at home and in workplaces.

**The role of section doctors is important in achieving the target set by the public health sector, I think.**

The target is to put on a higher level major public health indices such as the average life expectancy of the population, decreased infant mortality rate, doctors' midwifery rate and infectious disease prevention rate. Preventing diseases is important in this aspect. So section doctors further intensify hygienic information dissemination, vaccination, checkup, registration and care of chronic cases, sick calls and other medical services, thus improving the health care of their charges.

It is very important to decrease the infant mortality rate and the mortality of the elderly and chronic cases in order to increase the average life expectancy of the population.

The health condition of pregnant women exerts a great influence upon childbirth, so the section doctors know all such women among their charges and register them with the obstetrical and gynecological depart-

ment of their clinics. This plays a great role in increasing the rate of midwifery by medical workers.

When a child is born, its section doctor takes medical care of it. Babies of up to 12 months, triplets and macrobian got a regular checkup once a week.

And the section doctors are the first to discover chronic cases among the residents because they regularly examine them in terms of ten diseases of high mortality such as cancer, cardiovascular disease and diabetes. This makes it possible to detect diseases in their early stages among the residents who themselves did not know about them. The doctors cure such cases or send them to higher hospitals in time.

**Late in January this year the country was the first in the world to change the system of sanitary and anti-epidemic measures into the state emergency anti-epidemic system to cope with the rapid spread of COVID-19 infection which occurred in China in December last year. What kinds of work have the section doctors done at that time?**

Until the abolition of the

▶ emergency anti-epidemic system they focus on the prevention of COVID-19 infection. They daily disseminate among their charges the information on the disease, its danger and relevant knowledge to enhance the latter's awareness of crisis and have them take a thorough anti-epidemic measure like sterilization. They also frequently inquire if there are any cases with fever and dyspnea to find out suspected cases, and inform anti-epidemic organs of such cases to quarantine them in time, and keep suspected cases quarantined at home under medical observation.

As the COVID-19 infection-related mortality rate is high among the people with diseases

related to respiratory, urinary and cardiovascular systems, the section doctors pay close attention to those cases, and intensify the medical observation of the elderly, pregnant women, children and chronic cases.

In the past, too, there used to be an outbreak of an infectious disease in the world. Then the doctors conducted the anti-epidemic and preventive work actively, and developed the medicines to prevent the disease.

Jang Mi Ran, a section doctor of Namsin Polyclinic in Songyo District, Pyongyang, developed a great burdock-based antiviral liquid medicine as a Koryo medicine. As it is highly efficacious in the prevention and treatment of viral diseases whose infection

way is the respiratory organ, the PCT recognized it as a medicine to treat infectious diseases.

**What will be done to develop the section doctor system?**

It is to make all clinics IT-based. A telemedicine system has already been established in all city and county people's hospitals in the country. We are going to expand the system to polyclinics, *ri* people's hospitals and *ri* clinics as early as possible. Now it has been introduced into several clinics on a trial basis. When the project is completed, it will improve the ability of the section doctors and the quality of medical care, thus bringing about another turn in the public health sector. □

A regular check-up is done at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill.



## Remembering Mother's Request

THE KOREAN PEOPLE HAVE LONG MADE and used fermented beans for their diet. Fermented beans are not only good to eat and highly digestible but also known as quite effective in raising immunity, containing the multiplication of cancer cells and preventing and treating vascular diseases. It is Jong Yong Sil, an associate professor of the Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry, who turned the manual production of fermented beans into the industrial one.

It was in her university days that Yong Sil thought of the industrial method of producing fermented beans. From her childhood she often had fermented beans made by her mother Kim San Ok. And she often saw the mother, back home from work, boil beans late into the night and put them in a jar together with rice straw so as to cultivate bacteria of fermented beans.

In her university days, too, her mother invariably put on the table fermented beans she had made. Yong Sil made up her mind to invent an industrial method of making fermented beans in order to save the mother the trouble without fail.

So she majored in microbiological engineering at the university. But even scores of experiments could not bring her a success in making fermented beans. She knew it was so difficult to produce fermented beans in an industrial way.

After graduation she was assigned to work at the university. Though busy preparing lectures, she never stopped the research.

One day, when she was back home exhausted, her mother said encouragingly, "I appreciate your care for me. But if you conduct the research for the sake of all mothers across the country as well as me, you will surely succeed."

The next day she began to conduct the research with a new determination. Her sincere efforts bore fruit. She finally obtained *Bacillus subtilis natto* fit for the production of fermented beans through ultraviolet-used transformation, and laid a foundation for the industrial production of such beans.

The fermented beans she produced on trial was analysed in comparison with those from other countries, and the result proved that hers was an ideal product containing plenty of pharmacological elements.

Later the fermented beans began to be mass-

produced becoming popular with the people.

Son Su Wol, 51, a woman resident in Neighbourhood Unit No. 27, Kangan-dong No. 1, Songyo District, Pyongyang, says, "I often took foreign fermented beans for angina pectoris. Only some time ago did I begin to use the Korean fermented beans. Then, wonderfully, the beat of my heart began to become normal, and my breathing has obviously become even."

Kim Chol Su, 53, a resident of Okryu-dong No. 3, Taedonggang District, Pyongyang, says, "I have long worked in an office, and I had troubles with digestion. I often had a false sense of satiety, and always had a heavy stomach. Since I began to have fermented beans I became able to digest well, and this heightened my will to work remarkably."

Yong Sil says, "In fact it can be said that the production of this health food is associated with the request of my mother." Now she is fully displaying her wisdom in the research to make other fermented bean products. And she is actively applying what she confirmed to her education practice.

Sim Hyon Jin

Jong Yong Sil (right).



## Look Back on Koryo Pharmacy

SINCE THE BIRTH OF mankind the Korean nation has used natural medicinal materials for the treatment of diseases and the improvement of health.

The legend about Tangun recorded in *Samgukyusa* (History of the Three Kingdoms), a historical book in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, tells that Hwanung (father of Tangun who founded Ancient Joseon, Korea's first slave state that existed in a vast area of Northeast Asia with Pyongyang as the centre from the early 30<sup>th</sup> century BC to 108 BC), hearing that a bear wished to be a human being, gave it garlic and wormwood to eat, which made the bear become a woman. This shows that the Korean people, from before the formation of the state, had an understanding of garlic and wormwood and other herbs and widely used them.

In the ancient times they gathered herbs growing in natural environments to use them for treatment. As a result, their kinds and yields were very poor.

It was in the period of Koryo (918–1392) that herb cultivation and usage were rapidly developed. At the time the Korean people named herbs and other medicinal materials available in their land *Hyangyak* (Korean traditional medicine) and the traditional pharmacy inherited through centuries *Hyangyakhak*, and made a stride forward in the aspect of medicine.

The content of *Hyangyakhak* is comprehensive and concrete including the gathering and processing of herbs, prescription, preparation of medicine, classification of medicinal resources and indication.

Jang Song Nam, section chief of the Folklore Research

Institute, the Academy of Social Sciences, says, "The emergence of *Hyangyakhak* during the Koryo dynasty, along with the invention of ceramics, metal type (the late 11<sup>th</sup> century–the early 12<sup>th</sup> century) and powder weapon (the 14<sup>th</sup> century), represented the Korean nation's obvious contribution to the development of global culture."

The development of pharmacy in Korea at that time was promoted by the development of the social division of labour, the creative efforts of the working people and the expansion of the areas of medicinal herb fields.

What is notable in the development of pharmacy in those days is that cultivation of the herbs was done by ordinary people as well. This can be proved by a verse of a poem by Kim Ton Jung, a poet of those days, which reads: I was worried that the barley field and herb field might go bad.

The technique of processing medicinal materials also rapidly developed. Koryo red *insam*, too, emerged in those days. The red *insam* contains plenty of melanoid reactive ingredients as antioxidizing active materials that prevent stress and retard aging and cancerocidal active saponin, and its own acid. At that time the red *insam* was in great demand in the neighbouring countries as well because it was convenient for storage and showed good medical efficacy.

Many successes of *Hyangyakhak* achieved in the period of Koryo served as an asset that promoted the development of the Korean traditional pharmacy in the period of the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392–1910).

Dr and Assoc. Prof Kim Kyong Sun of the faculty of history, Kim Il Sung University,

says, "The period of the feudal Joseon dynasty is the one in which the experience and successes of the time-honoured Korean traditional pharmacy were gathered together into a systematic whole."

The Korean traditional pharmacy reached a new stage thanks to the compilation of *Hyangyak-jipsongbang* with 10 700-odd prescriptions in 1433, 365-volume *Uibangryuchwi* in 1445 and *Tonguibogam* (Encyclopaedia of Traditional Medicine of Korea) by Ho Jun in 1610. The medical books are regarded as Korea's three major classics of medicine. There are also over 20 pharmacological books, including *Hyangyakchaechwiwolnyong*, *Uirimchwalyo* and *Onhaegugupbang*, compiled in those days.

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Koryo pharmacy has been carried on and encouraged.

Kim Kwang Il, head of the Koryo pharmacology department, the pharmacological faculty, Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences, says, "In February Juche 74 (1985) there was already proclaimed Order No. 34 of the President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on actively preserving and multiplying medicinal herb resources and purchasing and exporting herbs in a coordinated way. And with the designation of spring months for herb cultivation (April and May) and autumn months for herb cultivation (September and October) an all-people movement is under way to preserve herb resources and cultivate herbs. The Korean traditional pharmacy research is also under way by lots of educational and research institutions across the country."

Kim Son Myong

# I'll Remain a Winner

## (8)

Kang Ho Jin

AFTER LONG AGONY and calm judgment Pak Chol admitted that his ability was not improving as required by the developing reality. So, he decided to give up coaching Sun Hui.

Sun Hui, however, did not know the story. Still, she was quite reluctant to part from the coach, for she had long been attached to him like her own father.

After giving a new glance round different gymnasiums of the sports village in the expansive Chongchun Street, Pak turned his eyes to Sun Hui who was silently sitting at his side, and watched her before asking in a thoughtful voice, "Do you remember the song I taught you before starting training when we met for the first time?"

"Sure, it's 'Patriotic Song,'" replied Sun Hui.

Pak went on to say, "I asked you young members to sing the song before starting training because I wanted you to bear our country in mind all the time. Sun Hui, you should win the world championships without fail. Only then will you be able to say proudly that you've discharged your duty as a member of the Korean nation." Then, in the light of his lesson, he gave her significant advice, saying:

Your greatest merit is the unyielding spirit; you're always unwilling to lose to others but lead them. But the spirit might occasionally turn into vanity and arrogance. As your successes increase you should always make an effort to be modest about them. Bear that in mind in both training and life. Modesty brings no harm, and arrogance brings no benefit.

Sun Hui parted from the coach. At first she quite missed him and was unable to calm herself. She had previously regarded her father and coach as closest to her and as those she could open her heart to. But now both of them had left her. She missed her father more sorely than ever. *If he were alive, she thought, he would come to encourage me.*

One evening several years before she had just come back to her lodgings after the day's training when her father abruptly showed up.

Their mutual affection was unusual. The father was an editor of a publishing house, and he was always busy with his work. So his mother and wife had to take care of his four children, and he could hardly attend meetings of students' parents called by his sons' teachers. He, however, would somehow make time to be present at similar meetings of



Sun Hui's class. His affection for her was special perhaps because she was the only daughter of the family.

Sun Hui was enlisted in the national team when she was 14, so she had few opportunities to come face to face with her parents. So the parents would go to see her in the training ground or her lodgings for a while. But it was seldom that her father visited her in her room in the evening.

Anyway, Sun Hui was glad to see her father. Hugging him with joy, she asked what brought him there. Then he unexpectedly invited her to a restaurant.

Unfortunately, the restaurant did not open that day. And as Sun Hui's team should have training matches with a Chinese one the next day, she had to go back to her lodgings soon. As a result, her father's unusual invitation was postponed to some day later. Sun Hui, however, didn't know it would be her last meeting with her father.

The next day Sun Hui received the sad news of his unexpected death. Unable to believe

▶ it at all, she rushed to her home. She could not repress her tears of sorrow. It seemed that her spiritual mainstay crumbled. She really could not believe he was dead. He had been so kind-hearted and affectionate. He had always been silent support and encouragement for her.

She looked too sorrowful, and her coach and many other people inwardly worried that her sorrow might hinder her training and competition for a good while.

But Sun Hui remembered her father saying that if she wanted to do sports and succeed, she had to devote her all to the effort to win gold medals and that she should become able to control her personal feelings. True to his words she had a match in which she caught and threw her rival to the ground at once. It was a thrilling *ippon*. The match thus ended as soon as it started.

Sun Hui smilingly looked at the coaches and her colleagues who were applauding her success. Her smile was that of a victor who had overcome sorrow and misfortune with determination.

Now, however, Sun Hui could hardly smile after parting from Pak Chol. Her new coach was Ryu Ju Song, a judo coach of the Moranbong Sports Club. He was of big and strong build like Pak. But he was quite different in many aspects.

From the outset Ryu made strict demands on Sun Hui in training. Accustomed to carrying out training tasks beyond her coach's demands, Sun Hui found the new coach's demands

not so difficult.

Having set a goal of having Sun Hui establish a mode of competition with the main stress on techniques instead of power like in the former days, Ryu attached more importance to technical training and further intensified match-style training. The unanimous desire of the coach and relevant sports scientists was to perfect her as a judoist in all aspects by further employing the physical merit of the girl who was naturally strong. As a result, her daily physical exhaustion grew greater than before. After the day's training she would be completely done. Time and again she let herself fall on the bed with her sweat-wet training wear on.

One day a caretaker entered her room and picked up her training wear which was wet with so much sweat that it seemed to stream from the clothes when squeezed.

"Why, this is so heavy, Sun Hui," the caretaker asked showing her great surprise.

Then Sun Hui smiled sweetly.

"You must have trained very hard, for your clothes are wet with this much sweat," the caretaker said tut-tutting.

They were all very impressed with Sun Hui's intense training, but the girl herself could hardly feel content with it. She always had a feeling of impatience, and was only displeased with herself. *How can I quickly develop my techniques comprehensively?* This thought haunted her.

Then, one day, she had a training match changing her ri-

vals. She defeated each of them, sending some sailing over her shoulder and throwing others to the ground.

Ryu only sat outside the mat watching the competition. Sun Hui's former coach Pak Chol had taught her basic techniques well but insisted that she should unconditionally follow his words in competition in terms of mode and tactics. He had not cared for steadily changing conditions of matches.

But Ryu pointed out her faults only in critical stages once in a while, and left anything else to her decision. After the match was over, he let the others have a rest but ordered her to practise buttock, thigh pick-up and back thigh sweep two hundred times respectively. Sun Hui was angry to think her coach unreasonably ordered her to do repeated training without showing no appreciation of the match.

When the coach turned to leave, Sun Hui repulsively asked, "Why should I do this training, Mr Ryu?"

Turning his head, the coach took a close look at the girl. Then, without any anger, he awakened her to her faults, saying, "Your postures were not good in doing the movements in the match. If postures are wrong, it'll result in much consumption of energy, increasing the physical burden and reducing the rate of success." And he stood still for a while as if he were waiting for her to utter any other opinion. Then, he turned back and walked out of the training ground.

(To be continued)



## Master of Studies of National Dog

IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR THE CENTRAL Zoo in Pyongyang hosted the Korean National Dog Phungsan Show 2019, which attracted great public interest. What was conspicuous about the event was a discourse given by a scientist about the history of the dog and the features of its kind. It was Ok Jin Yong, chief of the Institute of Stockbreeding Science of the Academy of Agricultural Science. He was the first to get the doctorate in the study of the national dog of Korea.

### Dictate of Conscience

It was 20 years ago that Ok began to study the Phungsan dog, which was an old favourite of the Korean people. Well-known for its clever, agile and tenacious qualities, it was designated as natural monument of the state in April 1956. There had already been not a few people engaged in the study, but there was little scientific clarification of the origin, evolution and biological qualities of the dog. For this reason no standard description of its specific qualities as a kind was available.

Finding the problem some time after he was assigned to work as an animal researcher following his graduation from Sariwon Kye Ung Sang University of Agriculture, Ok felt quite a pity. Though he was a stranger to the knowledge of the dog, he did not hesitate to take the research project upon himself.

He often travelled Pyongyang to visit the Grand

People's Study House, the Central Zoo and the Korean Central History Museum for data. Now his journey led to Kim Hyong Gwon County which is a long way off, as it was the place of origin of the dog, and Kwangdok-ri in the county, in particular, was one of the communities with a lot of keepers of the Phungsan dogs. Sometimes he talked with elderly people in the locality about the origin, development and physical characteristics of the dog, and sometimes he joined the inhabitants in their hunting which was usually aided by the Phungsan dogs, the object of Ok's observation.

In this way he explored many places in the country, finding out long-time secrets about the dog bit by bit. What has sustained him in his tireless research was in no way the pursuance of honour or reward. It was just his dictate of conscience to help make the soul and spirit of his nation known to the world by disclosing scientifically the specific characteristics of the dog, a pride of his nation. Based on the valuable data he had got through his 12-year-long painstaking efforts he presented a credible theory that the Phungsan was an inherent kind of dog that originated and developed in Korea, exerting a decisive influence on the formation of the Phungsan kind in Korea as a whole and in Japan. Ok also produced scientific data on its physical characteristics and anatomical structure plus its nature in order to establish a standard description of the pure breed of the dog. His 2012 treatise titled *Research*

► on *History of Development of the Phungsan Dog into a Separate Kind and Its Biological Characteristics* was highly evaluated for its theoretical and practical value, and it brought him a doctorate in Biology.

### Enthusiasm for Growing Phungsan Dogs

Sariwon, North Hwanghae Province, has been a venue of regular show of the Phungsan dogs for years. This is thanks to the effort of Ok who is concurrently chairman of the North Hwanghae Provincial Society of Zoology, which is affiliated with the General Federation of Science and Technology of Korea.

Though he had received the doctorate for his explanation of the Phungsan, he never thought he had completed his study of the dog. Now he began to organize a show of the Phungsan dogs to spread the knowledge about the kind and propagate it to wider areas.

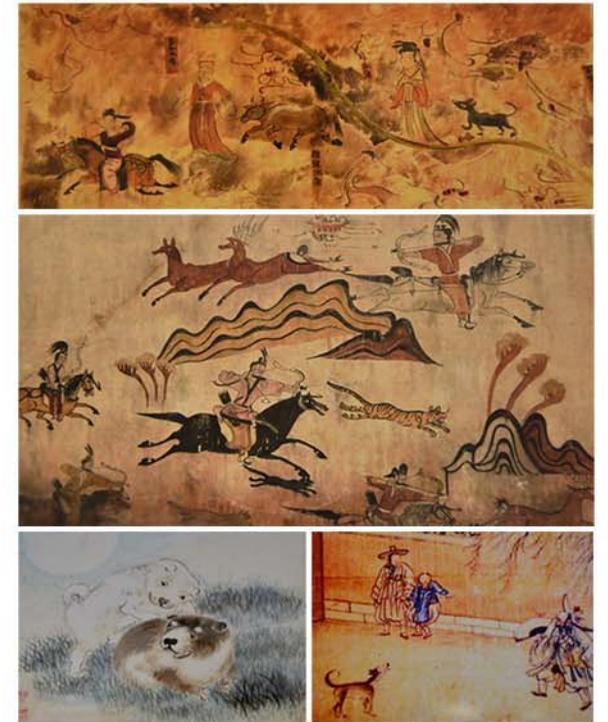
The first round of the show was opened in April 2014, attracting scientists and technicians in the veterinary and animal husbandry field and the zoological field, keepers of the Phungsan dogs, and those who wanted to grow them—all in the local city. After the registration and examination of the dogs, the show ended with a technical course on the dog's standard type, biological characteristics and methods of breeding—leaving a deep impression on the participants.

The people whose dogs were rated as close to the standard type were highly excited, while those who were sorry about their dogs failing to be rated high renewed their determination to grow a dog of the pure breed while attending the technical course.

Gradually, the enthusiasm he fanned for growing the Phungsan dogs spread out of the perimeters of the local city to all other parts of the country, and it has got much more popular since November 2014 when the Phungsan was legally decided as national dog of the country.

This brings a greater burden to Ok to bear, which he regards as his pleasure. Keeping a close contact with keepers of the dogs all the time, he offers meticulous guidance regarding the keeping and veterinary care.

A Sariwon citizen says, "I feel Ok was born to study the Phungsan. Probably he can identify each of hundreds of Phungsan dogs in my city, for he has helped to find the lost dogs and return them to



Some of the historical data on Phungsan dog.

their owners very often."

Meanwhile, Ok read out a Master's treatise titled *Study of Korea's Pet Dog Culture and History of the Korean National Dog Phungsan*.

With a clear conscience he is still engrossed in the effort to propagate the pure breed of the dog.

Article by Pak Yong Il  
Photos by Ra Phyeong Ryol

Ok Jin Yong and his wife.



## Patriot from Hoechang



Kim Yong Mi (second left).

THE MARCH 12, JUCHE 106 (2017) ISSUE of *Rodong Sinmun*, organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, carried an article under the headline of "Where to Find the Worth of Life?" on the fourth page. Here goes an excerpt: "Kim Yong Mi from Hoechang is still continuing with her effort to aid soldiers when she is of advanced years with grandchildren. All she has provided to the soldiers—dozens of thousands of collar strips and handkerchiefs with her own embroidery, thousands of steamed rabbits and the like—are the embodiment of her noble life. She pursues the worth of her life in working for the army and the country."

Kim Yong Mi lives in Sokhwang Workers' District, Hoechang County, South Phyongan Province. Her devotion to the care of the soldiers began when she was a bob-haired innocent girl.

The time as a student is always filled with hopes. It was the same with Yong Mi. She kept varying hopes for her future—scientist, film star, musician, sportswoman, and what else.

Her father, a veteran in the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950–July 1953), used to tell her about how bravely the soldiers of the Korean People's Army had fought in the war. Typical of his stories were the one about Hero Ri Su Bok who blocked the enemy's machine gun muzzle with his breast at the young age of 18, and the one about Hero Han Kye Ryol who, together with his 12 comrades, foiled an enemy battalion's attack seven times regarding the height of his country as his own. Her father's tales usually ended up in his statement, "Those who have shed blood for the sake of their country are eligible to be called lovers of the country. Join-

ing the effort for national defence is the supreme sign of patriotism."

Hearing his words Yong Mi nurtured the desire to live like the martyrs of the People's Army. As a result, when she finished secondary school, she decided to put on the khaki uniform and set herself at a post of national defence. During her worthwhile days as a soldier, she got better aware of the value of her country and the lofty mentality of the soldiers, realizing the significance of her father's words that national defence is the supreme sign of patriotism.

Trained like this, she, after military service, began to do things helpful for improvement of the living condition of soldiers. On holidays and other important days she visited soldiers to supply a lot of aid things, including meat, that she had prepared herself. After the day's work she would prepare aid goods for the soldiers deep into the night. And on Sundays she climbed hills in her locality to collect medicinal herbs, wild vegetables and fruits for the soldiers.

Even after she got married with a military officer and made home in Hoechang, her journey led to military posts and important construction sites in different parts of the country. Though she was busy taking care of her three children, she grew dozens of pigs and hundreds of rabbits and donated them to soldiers year after year. She was ready to go anywhere there were soldiers to help them in their life like their own mothers would do. There are a good deal of episodes about her effort to aid the army. Once, on her way to a military post to offer a pig, she lost control of it and had to rummage a hill throughout the night to find it. One night she sat up all night embroidering handkerchiefs to be offered to the soldiers. In this way she has visited as many as 500 military posts and major construction sites across the country up to now.

She is almost 70, yet there is no dwindling in her effort for the soldiers. To remain Hoechang Mother in the memory of the soldiers is the strongest sustenance of her life. She always tells her children, "I'm going this way neither because our family is rich enough nor because the soldiers are short of anything. And I'm seeking no honour at all, you know. All I want is to give what little help to our country and soldiers. When they call me 'Our Mother' or 'Hoechang Mother,' I feel satisfied."

Accompanying her on the way of aiding the army are all her family members—her sons and daughter, son-in-law, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren.

Kim Son Myong

## Ryonghung Flower Shop

SOME TIME AGO I visited the Ryonghung Flower Shop in the centre of Ryomyong Street. It was a one-storey building, but its inside resembled a flower garden. It had different kinds of fresh flowers such as rose and carnation, ornamental trees such as pine tree and cypress, ornamental grass, flowerpots hanging from the ceiling, and flower decorations such as fabric and dried flowers. I could hardly resist an impulse to buy one of them.

Jong Ui Ok, head of the shop, said, "Many people visit my shop as it is spring. As their taste and liking for flowers vary, we sell 30 kinds of flowers, 10 kinds of cactuses, 20 kinds of ornamental trees and grass, 40 kinds of decorative fabric flowers, different dried flowers and various pots." She also added that they sell flowers and decorative flowers for pots and wall decoration,

and bouquets as required by the customers.

During our talk many people came in to buy flowers—a young couple were choosing the flowers to the liking of their little daughter, and some young women and men were ordering the flowers for decoration of their wedding tables.

Jong Un Hyang, a resident of Ryonghung-dong No. 2, Taesong District, Pyongyang, said, "As every one does I love flowers very much because it was my childhood dream to become a horticulturist. At home I grow different flowers such as shoe-flower, marigold and scarlet Kafir lily. Whenever I want to know something about flower cultivation or buy new species of flowers I come here. Now I've become a regular customer of the shop."

As she said the shop was not only selling flowers but also disseminating the knowledge of

the bloom period and biological characteristics of each flower, and the methods of their cultivation. "In the course of this, the customers have acquired a profound knowledge of horticulture," said saleswoman Kim Yun Mi.

Jong told me that she had a plan to open branch shops in different districts to satisfy people's growing demand for flowers.

When I came out of the shop, flowers in the street caught my eye. Roses and *hyosong* flowers were in bloom along roads, and different kinds of flowers were growing in verandas of high-rises and skyscrapers. And I could see people absorbed in tending the flowers.

I was reluctant to leave the street, intoxicated with the fragrance of the flowers carried by a gentle spring breeze.

Kim Son Myong



# Kaesong Koryo Insam, King of Health Tonics



**A**LONG LIFE IN GOOD health is undoubtedly everyone's desire, and there is a herbal medicine to help realize the desire. It is well-known Kaesong Koryo insam (ginseng) from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

## Land of Insam

From ancient times Korea has been known as a silk-embroidered land of three thousand *ri* (A *ri* equals about 393 metres). The Korean ancestors of 5 000 years ago found wild insam growing in deep mountains. They cultivated this perennial plant belonging to the family Araliaceae, thus creating the progenitor of insam.

Some history books tell that the plant earned its name *insam* from the fact that its root looks like the human figure, that it was cultivated by man, or that you can exert strength equivalent to that of three persons together if you eat it.

The insam cultivation in Korea began before 2864 BC,

that is, the first period of Tangun Korea. At the moment there are three valleys named Sammogwan, Samphogol and Chaesamgol in Sampho-dong, Samgo-ri, Kaesong. On the ridge of Chaesamgol you can see *Haesinjedan*, a mural four metres high and five metres wide, which served as the altar for people of Ancient Joseon who had cultivated insam to hold a service for the sun they worshipped as their God. And on a 30-metre-high cliff in Sammogwan there stands a three-metre-high stone statue shaped like insam. The first residents of Ancient Joseon created the mural in 2864 BC, and erected the stone statue in 2068 BC.

There is an old saying that it is easier to tame a big tiger than to cultivate insam. *Rimwon Simnyukji* (Sixteen Chapters of Forestry and Horticulture) published in the 14<sup>th</sup> century reads in part:

"Insam likes moisture, but not too much. It hates strong sunlight; it is best to let the sunlight filter through the

► branches and leaves of trees. The soil needs to be fertile and moist, and humus from deep mountains is ideal for fertilizing it. Such soil as is used for growing crops should be avoided."

The condition for the growth of insam was so intricate that it took a long time to develop proper methods of its cultivation.

Over 30 kinds of parent rocks are distributed in the Kaesong area, the home of insam, and the soil from those rocks is appropriate for the cultivation of insam. Hence came the name of Kaesong Koryo insam.

Today in Kaesong ingenious techniques of growing, transplanting, manuring and tending insam saplings are employed to develop a kind with a long taproot and appropriate numbers of branch roots and rootlets, and they are gathered and processed in such a way that they may preserve their original ingredients whole.

At present a silver coin called *Ninjin* (insam) *Daiokogin* is preserved in the currency museum of a financial institute of Japan. Put in circulation in 1710, the coin is an oval ten centimetres long and three centimetres wide. In those years the Japanese shogunate minted it at the request of the insam traders of Korea for the exclusive use of paying for the tonic.

Insam began to be exported extensively in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. This is to be proved by *Pibyonsadungnok*, a history book of the feudal Joseon dynasty, which tells that people were struck with wonder at the unusual sight of a caravan of insam-loaded carts moving in a long string along the street in Yanjing (now Beijing of China). As the Kaesong Koryo insam spread out of the confinement of Kaesong to several countries in the world, the interest in it grew higher and higher.

There are over 40 legends of wild insam. Some of them are: Wild insam moves its abode many times a day to dodge out of sight of people; only a kindhearted person can find it; a spirit appears before the children who



are devoted to their parents, and informs them of the place of insam; insam brought an old man back to youth; a man got Herculean strength thanks to insam while another man becomes a spirit with the help of it.

Generally, insam growing naturally in mountains is called wild insam to be distinguished from the cultivated one. And it is classified into susam (insam fresh from the field), paeksam (white insam), hongsam (red insam), tangsam (candied insam) and misam (insam rootlets) according to the methods of processing it.

O Kwang Won, who worked as president of the Korea Jangsu Trading Corporation for a long time, wrote the following lyrics.

*Is it called insam as it resembles a man?*

*The rootlets look like the beard of a warrior in ancient days.  
We're proud of our Koryo insam,  
The speciality of our land of morning calm.*

*It brings us a long life and good health  
And it keeps us from all diseases.*

*We're proud of our Koryo insam,  
The speciality of our nation is everybody's choice.*

## Old Theory of Seven-point Efficacy, and Eleven-point Efficacy

In the early days of its cultivation insam was called *Purusiri* (insam of Ancient Joseon). Later, as its efficacy was known

► to other countries, it earned other titles meaning herb of eternal youth, elixir of life and cure-all.

One of the ingredients contributing to its outstanding medicinal efficacy different from other herbs is saponin glycoside. The analysis of saponin, the bioplasm of insam, shows that the Kaesong Koryo insam contains over 40 kinds of saponin glycoside.

While explaining insam of Korea the old Chinese medical book *Shennongbencaojing* (Original Herbs Scripture of Shennong) tells that “sam means three kinds of material,” and that “it is a medicine possessed of three kinds of material.” The three mean the sky, the earth and man, thus it means that insam is No. 1 medicine with the complex of spirit of the sky, the earth and man.

In the period of the Koryo dynasty the traditional medicine of Korea was put on a more scientific footing, securing the fame as Koryo medicine.

*Uibangryuchwi* (Manual of Traditional Medicine of Korea) compiled in 1445 during the feu-

dal Joseon dynasty, gives 31 445 prescriptions, and 5 147 of them suggest insam. The prescriptions prefixed by insam number 115, including insam decoction, insam pill, insam extract and insam porridge.

In the early 17<sup>th</sup> century *Tonguibogam* (Encyclopaedia of Traditional Medicine of Korea) in 25 volumes was published. It contains 4 479 prescriptions. Among them insam-based prescriptions number 52, and those related to insam 562.

In the course of medical research a theory on seven-point efficacy of insam was established, that is, improving physical strength; promoting hematopoiesis; alleviating various kinds of stresses; treating diabetes; treating respiratory disorders; strengthening the digestive organ; removing toxins from the body; and treating tumours. With its seven-point efficacy turning out true, the Koryo insam got gradually closer to the world people as an elixir of life.

Though insam’s efficacy proved through the long time of its use, it still lacked scientific analysis.

In 1754 Carl Linnaeus, a world famous scholar of phytotaxonomy, gave insam the generic name *Panax* which derived from the same Greek word as does “panacea.”

The research on the Kaesong Koryo insam has been fur-

ther systematized scientifically in modern times. At the 8<sup>th</sup> conference of the Asia-Pacific cancer association held in September 1987 there was presented a treatise on the Kaesong Koryo insam’s effect on the anti-cancer cell activation.

Modern medical science confirmed 11 kinds of efficacy of the Kaesong Koryo insam as follows: strengthening of immunity; treatment of diabetes; improvement of blood circulation; prevention of arteriosclerosis and hypertension; steadying of the central nerve; promotion of sexual function; removal of heavy metal; treatment and prevention of cancer; anti-fatigue and anti-stress effect; retarding of aging; and enhancing of beauty.

The Kaesong Koryo insam has a high content of anti-aging and anti-fatigue elements. And, it is specially and obviously efficacious in checking cancer and radiation, thus drawing the growing attention of the world.

### Opening Gate to Insam Industry

In July 2010 an international food and drug association announced insam as a raw material for food. This showed that the popular demand for the herb was on the increase.

Accordingly, Korea is widening the range of its use as not only medicine but also foodstuff by developing its processing.

The Jangsu Insam Processing Factory is located in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, and Kim Ik Gil has now worked



Kaesong Koryo insam products are known as health foods worldwide.



► as the general manager of the factory for a dozen years since its inauguration. He says he got well versed in the Kaesong Koryo insam in his days at Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences.

With an ambition to put the processing of the Kaesong Koryo insam on a scientific, modern and industrial basis Kim is striving to develop easy-to-use products by means of fermentation. He believes that the efficacy of insam can be raised more than three times if it is fermented to increase the rate of its absorption. Thanks to his effort the factory has developed over 100 products in the past one year.

Some of the products have already won a state patent, including the Kaesong Koryo Hongsam Granules, the Kaesong Koryo Insam Cooking Powder, the Kaesong Koryo Insam Assorted Seasonings, and the Kaesong Koryo Insam & Salt. Especially, the Kaesong Koryo Insam Cooking Powder and the method of its manufacture received the top prize and medal from WIPO.

Insam-based health foods are now on the increase such as the Kaesong Koryo Insam Nourishing Toffee, Kaesong Koryo Insam & Pepper Paste, Kaesong Koryo Insam Jelly, Kaesong Koryo Insam Instant Noodles, Canned Kaesong Koryo Insam &

Cucumber, and Kaesong Koryo Insam & Wheat Noodles.

Meanwhile, daily foods and drinks are also being developed including the Kaesong Koryo Hongsam & Egg and the Kaesong Koryo Insam & Meat Dumpling.

Kim says, “As far as the Kaesong Koryo insam is concerned, a steady diet of it brings you the efficacy. It is our aim to develop more products which can satisfy such a need. We plan to expand the range of development of new products favoured by the people.”

Article by Yom Song Hui  
Photos by Ra Jin Hyok



# Tea Culture of Korean Nation



**T**HE KOREAN NATION HAS long created and enjoyed its own food and drink culture. Tea drinking is part of the culture.

## View of Tea Culture in History

Dr Jo Hui Sung, a candidate academician and professor of the History Institute, the Academy of Social Sciences, says, “Korea encouraged the cultivation of tea plants during the time of the Three Kingdoms (277 BC–AD mid-7<sup>th</sup> century). The classic *Samguksagi* (Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms) has records on the origin of tea in Korea and the Korean custom of tea drinking. And there is a mural in a Koguryo tomb which shows a scene of some people drinking tea.”

According to historical data, the Korean tea culture further developed in the period of Koryo (918–1392). The foot of Mt Jiri was famous as a tea plant growing area, and tea from the place constituted the main kind of tea in Koryo. With the development of tea culture the state established a government office responsible for the production, processing and sale of tea leaves. The office also controlled pharmacies because tea leaves were widely used for medicinal materials as the leaves have such ingredients as stimulant, disinfectant, sedative and so on. In those years there often took place a party called Tarye (tea service) in the royal palace. And tea drinking was an indispensa-

ble part of Koryo people’s food and drink culture.

In Korea tea was regarded as an indispensable drink for a state ceremony, and the neighbouring countries recognized tea as one of Korea’s specialties. The classic *History of Koryo Dynasty* describes varieties of tea including the ones called *Noewoncha* and *Taecha*. The name of *Noewoncha*, a kind of green tea, means that the tea helps refresh the head.

Cups and other utensils for drinking tea also developed in the dynasty. Particularly famous was a jade green ceramic cup characteristic of the Koryo celadon whose colour resembled green reflected on white quartz in clear water. Unrivalled were the unique colour, taste and aroma of tea poured in such a cup.

The tea culture was carried on during the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392–1910) as well. It is recorded in the Chronicles of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty that tea drinking was carried on in the royal palace at the highest rung of the social ladder and among the country people at the

lowest one.

## Unique Tea Culture

Koreans enjoyed drinking tea made with Koryo medicinal materials such as fruit and roots and leaves of relevant trees, which are dried, soaked and boiled. Typical were insam (ginger) tea, *kyolmyongja* (seeds of oriental senna) tea, barley tea, *maehwa* (apricot blossom) tea, grape tea, *saenggang-gyul* (ginger and orange peel) tea, bean tea and jujube tea.

Insam tea, in particular, is made with insam, one of Korea’s specialties, known worldwide as a tonic ensuring a long life in good health. It is used as a heart stimulant and restorative. It is also efficacious for treatment of dyspepsia, anemia and nervous system disorders.

The word *insam* was originated from the meaning that it is shaped like the human figure. The wild plant growing in mountains is called *sansam*, and the cultivated one *insam*. And the cultivated insam earned the name of Koryo insam when it began to be exported by the

▶ Koryo dynasty. It is also called Kaesong Koryo insam or simply Kaesong insam as it was cultivated a lot in the Kaesong area from of old.

Insam was known as an especially efficacious medicinal material from the time of the Three Kingdoms, and used as the best hematonic during the eras of Koryo and feudal Joseon dynasties. As the demand for sansam was on the increase, cultivation of the herb started during the period of Koryo, and later a method was developed for its cultivation. In the late 17<sup>th</sup> century it developed into field cultivation.

The Kaesong area is the centre for insam cultivation and processing because the physiological conditions such as climate and natural features are fit for its cultivation, and commerce is developed there.

The root, leaf, stem, bud and fruit of the plant contain glycoside, sugar, essential oil, amino acid, peptide, organic acid, minerals, microelements, enzymes, various vitamins including B complex, C, PP and H, and flavonoid.

Here is how to make insam tea: Boil the roots of the plant in water, put in ginger and jujube and boil again. When the roots turn red (in this case they are called red insam), take them out, slice them into 0.5cm-thick ones, boil the slices again and take them out. Put an appropriate amount of sugar in 150ml of the water and float a piece of red



insam on it before drinking it.

These kinds of tea were health drinks that Koreans created by relying on the wide and deep knowledge of natural ecology and plants they had acquired through their long working life. They could hardly be seen in other countries. Especially, it is said, *ogwa* (five kinds of fruits) tea and *kyolmyongja* tea were regarded as high-grade ones.

Most of the kinds are still popular as they contain medicinal ingredients that help strengthen the heart and the stomach.

## Lasting Tea Culture

Originally it was considered impossible to grow tea trees in areas north of the 36<sup>th</sup> parallel of the north latitude.

In the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, however, tea tree saplings have been acclimatized, and thus tea leaves are produced in Kangnyong County, South Hwanghae Province and in Kosong County, Kangwon Province.

In Changjon Street, Pyongyang, there is Unjong Teahouse frequented by many people.

Kim Mi Yong, head of the teahouse, says, “We serve green tea, black tea, barley tea and so on which preserve their unique characteristics, tastes and flavours as required by the customers. In particular *unjong* black tea and *unjong* green tea are drawing their attention.”

*Unjong* tea contains plenty of caffeine, tannin and vitamins including vitamin C, so it helps prevent arteriosclerosis, hypertension and cardiomegalia, and make the working of the heart flexible. And it obviously acts as a fatigue reliever, diuretic, antidote and anticancer agent and helps refresh the head, and is effective in retarding aging.

The various kinds of tea, which were called “drink of spirit” and “elixir of life” from olden times, are now invariably promoting the health of people, adding to the emotions and feelings of life.

Article by Pak Yong Il  
Photos by An Yong Chol

Tea leaves are assorted.



# Visit to 100-year-old Woman



SOME TIME AGO WE VISITED THE HOUSE of Hyon Pong Hak, a 100-year-old woman who lives in Tongsong-dong, Central District, Pyongyang. When we arrived at her home, Pak Po Gum, her daughter-in-law, welcomed us. Then she guided us to Hyon's room, where she was with her great-grandchildren who were on vacation. She was bent a little with age, but still looked hale and hearty. To our surprise, she, the daughter-in-law said, is able to thread a needle without wearing glasses and has vivid memories of what happened decades ago.

Then the elderly woman told us the following story.

Originally her family was not long-lived. Before the liberation of Korea from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation on August 15, 1945, her parents cultivated a patch of land in a deserted mountain in Orang County, North Hamgyong Province before passing away in deep grief. Her five younger brothers and sisters also died of starvation before their times. At that time all the other Koreans also suffered the bitter lot of slavery.

Only after national liberation could she have her house and land. She worked hard on the land she received free of charge. She also learned the mother tongue through a campaign against illiteracy.

From then on her life was always full of happi-

ness. After marriage, she worked hard at the then Pyongyang Clothing Factory, thus becoming a model worker to be held in respect and affection.

In particular, she has kept living under the care of medical workers both in her workplace and at home. When she was 69, she lost her consciousness due to the acute cardiac infarction and was rushed to the Central District People's Hospital. She recovered after having three difficult operations.

A woman, who was in the same room, said, "I often go abroad with my husband. Now I'm here to get the treatment for my heart trouble. In the country I've been to the price of medicine and operation charge are too high for ordinary people to afford."

But Hyon was provided with lots of medicines and had such operations free of charge. Now she realized how much she had been benefiting from the free medical care system of the country.

After returning home from the hospital, she began to find and do things in an effort to repay the benevolence of the socialist country. When she was 90, Hyon was registered as a long-lived woman. And her doctor visited her regularly to examine her health and brought her tonics provided by the State. As the grocer's shop and the greengrocery supplied her with nutritious foodstuffs and vegetables, she was very happy, she added with a smile.

She went on to say that when receiving a birthday spread sent by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in January, she said with tears of joy, "Others are honoured for doing great things for the sake of the country, but I've got the birthday spread as a long-lived woman." That day she had a pleasant time together with her large family of over 70 members.

Finishing her story, she said, "I am afraid the young people do not know the value of their happiness. I hope to see my descendants work harder for the sake of the grateful country."

*Kim Il Bong*

# MT KUWOL (4)



## Scenic Spots in Jonggok Recreation Ground

THE JONGGOK RECREATION Ground is one of the scenic districts in Mt Kuwol. It has Ryongyon Falls, Samhyongje (three brothers) Falls, Sasondaewhere it is said four spirits used to come to enjoy themselves, and pools formed by the Jonggok Stream.

The place where a thick forest, rocks and clear water blend well is covered with flowers in spring and scarlet-tinged leaves in autumn along with the scent of wild fruits, evoking a feeling of attachment to the landscape. It also has old architectural relics such as the site of the Jonggok Temple, a Koryo ceramics kiln site, and the site of a blacksmith's shop.

A pine-nut tree forest in the recreation ground was well known from ancient times—it is one of the eight scenic spots in the mountain.

The site of the Jonggok Tem-

ple has the following story.

King Wang Gon, founder of the Koryo dynasty (a feudal state of Korea that existed from 918 to 1392), once went up Mt Kuwol by carriage, when he stopped the carriage on the site as he was struck with wonder at its scenery. Later the temple was built.

The site has a monument to the temple erected in 1710, and a stupa.

A little way up from the site there is Ryongyon Falls. The volume of its water falling down from a height of 15 metres is much enough to produce cool air even in the hottest period of summer. The water made a pitcher-shaped hollow in a huge granite boulder while falling down on it for a long time. The hollow, called Dragon Pool, is exquisite as if an artisan had made it. It is 5.5 metres deep, and 40 metres around. A squirrel-shaped pavilion, an arched bridge and a sightseeing tiered path were built around the falls to go well with the surrounding

scenery.

There is a fortress on Sahwang Peak (954 m), the main peak of the mountain. An old 5 230-metre-long wall still remains intact. It was built by the people of Koguryo (the first feudal state of Korea that existed between 277 BC and AD 668) to repulse foreign invaders. And there is a 30-metre-long waterfall in the fort. The three-tier falls cascade down over the sloping rocks to form three pools, hence its name Samhyongje (three brothers) Falls.

Besides, the Mt Kuwol area has a site of a primitive house, the remains of a dolmen from between the late Bronze Age and the early ancient times, the Mausoleum of King Kogugwon (Anak Tomb No. 3) and Anak Tombs Nos. 1 and 2, tombs dating back to the period of Koguryo, several forts built to repel foreign invaders, old buildings and sites of such buildings.

*Sim Chol Yong*



# For Conservation of Biodiversity



**S**OME TIME AGO A Korea Today reporter had an interview with Ri Song Il, official of the Central Committee of the Nature Conservation Union of Korea.

**Now conservation of biodiversity is an urgent task facing the world, and I would like to know what kinds of state measures have been taken to this end.**

My country chooses the regions of nationwide importance as nature reserves, and intensifies the management of them. It has nearly 200 reserves of hundreds of thousands of hectares, and they are divided into those for natural monuments, biosphere, nature, plants, animals, marine resources and so on. Typical of them are Mt Paektu Biosphere Reserve, Mt Kumgang Nature Park, Mt Myohyang Biosphere Reserve, Mt Chilbo Nature Park, Mt Jangsu Nature Park, Mt Jongbang Nature Park, Monggumpho Nature Park, Songdowon Nature Park and Thongchon Nature Park.

Meanwhile, the administrative and legal frameworks have been established to preserve and manage the reserves, and relevant management plans are now under implementation. In order to manage the reserves scientifically we have implemented the

“Biodiversity Conservation of Mt Myohyang” project as a model.

**What kinds of activities are under way for biodiversity conservation?**

The country puts emphasis on afforestation to rehabilitate the forest ecosystem severely damaged by continuous natural disasters so as to recover the ecosystem of reserves. And efforts are made to enhance the watershed management capacity, cooperate with the local people in that aspect, ensure sustainable development of coastal biodiversity and ecosystem in the Mundok area and increase the watershed management capacity to stabilize its residents’ livelihood.

Especially, migratory birds are objects of conservation across the world. There are several flyways in the world, and my country is situated in the East Asian-Australasian flyway. Tens of millions of water birds of hundreds of kinds fly along this flyway.

Scores of species of birds including endangered species such as blackfaced spoonbill migrate to our country to breed in summer, and the species of those birds which inhabit the country in the changeover period between spring and autumn, or in winter number several hundreds including endangered species like spoon-billed sandpiper, red-crowned Crane and swan goose.

The Mundok Migratory Birds Reserve plays an especially important role as a habitat and a stopover site for globally rare and endangered species of migratory birds. My country has many migratory bird and seabird sanctuaries such as the Mundok Migratory Birds Re-

serve and the Rason Migratory Birds Reserve. We survey and study them on a regular basis to correctly appraise the distribution characteristics of migratory birds by seasons and years. On the basis of this we take a thorough measure to protect migratory birds and their habitats.

In order to lay a mass foundation to guarantee the sustainable management of the Mundok Migratory Birds Reserve we have mapped out a general plan and a specific action plan for awareness raising. The plans deal with the administrative officials, local residents, youth and schoolchildren to examine and evaluate their understanding of biodiversity and migratory birds conservation, means of public information, the media such as publications, the state of awareness and the demand for awareness raising activities.

Topics related to wetlands and migratory birds protection, and the protection and sustainable use and management of biodiversity are referred to by the mass media like the Korea Central TV on such occasions of international and domestic importance as “World Water Day” and “World Wetlands Day,” and at the time when environmental problems arise.

Besides we actively cooperate with the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, the United Nations Development Program, the Global Environment Facility, and the World Wide Fund for Nature, the Wetland International and the Wildlife Conservation Society to increase the common wealth of humankind. □



**A function takes place in the Mundok Migratory Birds Reserve on the occasion of World Migratory Birds Day in October 2019.**



# Haeju Kyoban

**H**AEJU CITY IS SITUATED SOUTH OF South Hwanghae Province, facing Haeju Bay in the West Sea of Korea.

*Haeju Kyoban* is a special food peculiar to the Haeju area. It has also been called *Koltongban*.

The old history book *Haedongjukji* (published in 1925) reads, “The speciality of Haeju is boiled rice with assorted mixtures known to the public as *Koltongban*, and it can be said to be of unusual quality as it tastes excellent.”

The food is so popular that women resident in Haeju who are unable to cook the food are thought ineligible for Haeju citizenship.

## Origin of Haeju Kyoban

The Haeju Restaurant is famous for its cooking of the food. Ryu Kum Hui, head of the restaurant, gave me the following account about the origin of the food.

Over 700 years ago, in the closing years of the Koryo dynasty (918–1392), gangs of Japanese pirates often marauded the west coastal region of Korea.

In their first invasion they launched an attack early in the morning before the local people could have breakfast. So, Pak, an old local government clerk who used to go by Pakchomji (old man Pak—tr.), told his cook to prepare breakfast and bring it to the Suyangsan Fort, one of the three major mountain forts in Hwanghae Province, where he was going to stay.

The cook quickly prepared rice and different kinds of side dishes, put them in a wooden basin, and left for the fort in haste. On the way she often fell because the path was quite rugged. She, however, managed to reach the fort. She put down the wooden basin only to find the mixture of the rice and side dishes. Seeing the mess, Pak scolded her, saying, “Do you think this is something to eat?” Then an old soldier of his, unable to bear hunger, tried and swallowed a spoonful of it, and said it was tasty indeed. Now Pak quietly turned back and sat to try the food. He found it really admirable. So, he called all his soldiers to sit around the wooden basin, who ate up the food in a blink.

From then on women took such a kind of food to the fighting soldiers whenever Japanese pirates



invaded. The food was called *pakchomji bibimbap*—*bibimbap* means boiled rice with assorted mixtures—or *sansongbap* before earning the name of *kyoban*.

Later the cuisine was spread throughout the area of South Hwanghae Province with Haeju as the centre.

The sticky rice with different spiced wild vegetables, meat and marine products on it looks mouth-watering at the first glance for its unique colour.

## Traditional Cuisine Encouraged

Yun Jae Ok, head cook of the restaurant, has been working there for over 20 years, and she has some secret of how to cook *Haeju Kyoban*. She says she learned it from Yun Hye Song, an old native of the locality, who used to make the food in the restaurant until she was past 60. Hye Song still often comes to the restaurant to taste the food.

The specialty consists of 19 kinds of ingredients plus seasonings. The materials include such wild vegetables as bracken, bellflower roots and anise from Mt Suyang, trepang called *haesam* that means sea insam, and roasted pieces of Ongjin laver to be sprinkled in chicken soup. “Not that they mean the secret of the food,” said Yun Jae Ok. Then she offered me a bowl of the food, asking me to try it first and say what was peculiar about the taste.

I found the wild vegetables and the smell of laver in the hot soup quite pleasing. Still, what was particularly appetizing was a spoonful of sesame-

# Magnanimous Writer Rim Je

**R**IM JE (1549–1587) WAS A WRITER IN THE period of the feudal Joseon dynasty.

His family was good at poetry and well-versed in military science through generations. Therefore, Rim Je displayed his outstanding artistic talent from his childhood. And he never put up with injustice.

After passing the state examinations he entered government service. But when he experienced a bitter factional strife within the ruling class, he gave up government service and devoted all his energy to literary creation.

While travelling across the country he saw for himself the beautiful scenery of the land, observed historical relics left by the forefathers and witnessed the miserable life of the poor people. This experience exerted positive influence on his writing activity.

The magnanimous and upright writer was simple and sincere, and his life was humorous. There are a lot of episodes about his life.

One day when he set out for a visit on horseback, his horse driver found him wearing a leather shoe on the left foot and a straw shoe on the right. He said, “You must be drunk as you are wearing unmatched shoes of leather and straw.”

Then Rim replied, “The passersby keeping right will say I wear leather shoes, and those keeping left will say I wear straw shoes. Whoever would then say I wear unmatched shoes?”

His words were aimed at satirizing the rough-and-tumble fight of the feudal rulers who formed different factions and attempted to satisfy their selfish interests and desires with bigoted opinions.

Rim created excellent novels. Four of them,

namely, *Rat on Trial*, *History of Flowers*, *Fort in Anxiety* and *Wonsaengmongyurok*, are still available. Typical of the four novels is *Rat on Trial*. In the novel the writer used a method of personification to scathingly criticize the corrupt bureaucrats and other feudal rulers who squandered the state treasure and satisfied their private desires and interests.

The story begins with a storekeeper’s inquiry against a rat that has been arrested on the charge of stealing into a state grain storehouse with its large family and eating a large amount of grain for a dozen years. As they have squandered such a colossal amount of grain, the storehouse is almost empty.

Nevertheless, the rat, instead of pleading guilty, brings to the storekeeper that acts as judge an accusation against a lot of animals and plants. As a result more than 80 kinds of animals and plants are put into custody for investigation.

The story gives a succession of arguments by different kinds of animals and plants and related things and ensuing cross-examination of them, before ending with a death penalty sentenced to the rat that is found guilty clearly.

He also wrote lots of poems on diversified themes, for example, *People of the Mountain Village* and *Bitter Cold* on the life of mountain people, *Song to Greet Lover* and *Song to See Off Lover* on the unfortunate life of women divers on Jeju Island, natural poetry, travelogues and lyrics.

He died at the age of 39, but his literary works made a great contribution to the development of realistic literature in Korea.

Rim Ok

► and-red-pepper-seasoned bean paste on the rice. When I said the paste was especially tasty, the head cook nodded, saying it was the first secret of the food’s taste. She went on to say that they put lots of efforts into making malt soybeans around the beginning of winter every year. They make sure the boiled soybean lumps are fermented well for several months, and mix them with glutinous rice flour, malt powder and red pepper powder to make a paste. Some cooks attributed the good paste to the head cook’s hands.

The head cook said it was another secret of the food’s taste to fry different kinds of wild vegetables in sesame oil. That process was, they told me, proposed by the head of the restaurant, bringing greater popularity of the food.

Ryu said, “As a national food peculiar to South Hwanghae Province *Haeju Kyoban* helps the local people enjoy diversified foods and develop a feeling of attachment to their native place, while contributing to the diversified menu of the national dishes.”

Pak Un Yong

## National Intangible Cultural Heritage (42)

# Tug-of-war

**A**KOREAN SAYING GOES, “It is easy to break a twig of bush clover but hard to break an armful-thick tree.” The meaning of the saying can be understood through a tug-of-war which has been played from ancient times.

According to the historical record *Rimhaphilgi* (the 19<sup>th</sup> century) it was a traditional sport usually played in the period of the Three Kingdoms (1392–1910) in Korea. The detailed explanations of the sport in the period of the feudal Joseon dynasty can be found in the old books such as *Tongguksesigi* (a book written in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century on the annual ceremonies and folklore of Korea in the feudal age), *Tonggukyojisungnam* (Handbook of

Korean Geography compiled in 1481), and *Thamraji* (a book on the town history of Jeju Island).

At that time the rope was usually made of rice straw. Three three-ply straw ropes were twisted into a thicker rope. This process was repeated several times to make the main rope—it was called *wonjul*—which was 50 to 60 cm in diameter and 300 to 400 m in length. It was so thick that it was impossible to pull it directly. Therefore, strings 9 to 10 cm in diameter and 3 or 4 m in length were tied to the main rope at intervals of about 1 m. The strings were called *tongjul*, and people pulled them.

The contest was held between villages or *ris* (*ri* is a local

administrative district under a county), so the players and the cheerers numbered hundreds or thousands. Both of the teams brought their own ropes to link them into one, and the winner got the rope of the loser. And when the rope of a team broke, it was also declared as the team’s defeat. So both sides put in much effort to make the ropes strong.

The main factor deciding win and defeat in the contest was to unite the strength and mind of the players.

At that time people said that the winner of the contest would have a bumper harvest, and the loser a poor harvest. This was aimed at giving the fullest play to the concerted strength of the



as it consumed a lot of materials and labour, and many people took part in it. And the time of contest was limited and there was no limit to the qualifications of the players. Both teams merely pulled the rope to their own sides or the issue of the contest was decided when the rope of either side broke.

Now, however, the thickness of the rope, which is made of such fabrics as vinalon, is 4 to 5 cm, and its length is 20 to 30 m. And a certain number of players are selected from either sides, and the match is over when one team pulls the rope to their side from the other more than one metre. Thus the match can take place in any place at any time without special preparations.

Tug-of-war is usually held on holidays, and the scene of cheerers shouting together with the players under the control of their leaders is spectacular. When the tense game ends in favour of one team, its members embrace one another for joy, experiencing how great the united strength of the collective is.

The sport was put on the list of the national intangible cultural heritage.

*Rim Ok*

▶ players. As a result, tug-of-war was recognized as an opportunity to demonstrate the might of unity of the collective rather than a simple sport.

Today the preparation and method of the sport have developed in keeping with the requirement of the times. Previously, it took place once or twice a year

## Young Taekwon-Do Practitioners Trained

**S**SOME TIME AGO THE Mirae Kindergarten in Phyongchon District, Pyongyang, produced the first Taekwon-Do level-holders in the sector of kindergartens in the country.

Last year, with the help of a Taekwon-Do instructor from the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee and researchers from the Academy of Educational Science, it

created the reference book for kindergarteners across the country *Grade-holders’ Practising of Taekwon-Do*, the educational multimedia program *Children’s Practising of Taekwon-Do* and *Children’s Taekwon-Do* which help children practise its movements to the tune of music.

The kindergarten’s teachers have mastered techniques of the

third grade and above and the head teacher Kim Hyang Suk and teacher Kim Jin Ok became first-degree holders. And more than forty children of five to six in junior and senior classes held the ninth grade.

The teachers say Taekwon-Do is good for children’s health and growth.

*Pak Yong Il*

# Intolerable Inhuman Crime

EARLY IN THE LAST century Japan occupied Korea militarily and was dead set on liquidating the Korean nation, claiming that “Koreans should either obey the Japanese law or die.” In particular, the Japanese imperialists kidnapped, abducted and took by force as many as 200 000 Korean women and used them as sexual slaves for their troops. Sometimes they raided rural villages at midnight to take women away and sometimes they dumped on the truck women working in the field, passing by or washing clothes at a well during the day.

The women were taken to China, the Philippines and other Asian countries and Pacific islands to be forced into horrible sexual slavery. Confined in “comfort stations,” they were forced into “sexual service” for some 20 to 30 or over 40 “Imperial Japanese Army” soldiers a day.

When the women refused to satisfy their animal desires, the Japanese soldiers brutally kicked and beat them ruthlessly, slashed at and bit them savagely, cut off their limbs, and went so far as to rip the bellies of pregnant women to take out and trample the embryos to death.

Some of the sexual slaves died of sexual toil, malnutrition or diseases; others were murdered in groups or miserably sacrificed as bullet-shields for the Japanese troops while suffering in frontline areas. Some women, unable to stand the sense of shame and humiliation, took their own lives, and others tried to flee only to be captured again and murdered brutally.

With their defeat near at hand the Japanese imperialists cruelly murdered lots of sexual

slaves in groups in order to conceal their crime.

Japan’s past crime of sexual slavery is the capital one that forced innumerable misfortunes and sufferings and death upon the Korean women. With this Japan was exposed to the world as an immoral and barbarian country.

The sexual slavery was an ultra-villainous inhuman crime the Japanese military organized and committed under the active support of the government. Lots of relevant data have been discovered and made public. Among the data are a document which contains the fact that the former commander of the Japanese Navy’s police corps stationed in Indonesia said to an insider of the Japanese Ministry of Justice after the war that he had taken about 200 women to Bali as comfort women under the order of the military, and the one that lots of women underwent intimidation and coercion by rude means; another document that contains a list of names of Korean women in their twenties or thirties who had been taken to Jinhua, Zhejiang, China, as sexual slaves for the Japanese army; and an official document of the Japanese government which proves that the inhuman crime was committed in an organized way by mobilizing state mandate.

The international community is continuously demanding that Japan take full responsibility for the problem of the sexual slaves. The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination published a report on the investigation of the racial discrimination situation in Japan and insisted many times

that the country should atone for its past, for example, admit and compensate for the crime of sexual slavery and put those responsible for the crime on trial.

A brisk movement is under way to denounce Japan’s heinous human rights violations; typically, statues of a young sexual slave girl and memorials are set up in many countries and regions of the world.

Nevertheless, Japan’s act of denying its past crime is turning into total distortion and denial beyond concealment and curtailment. The Japanese are making absurd remarks that the issue of sexual slaves is anything but a problem to be discussed by the international community and that it is something to be dealt with by historians or experts in a quiet place without being regarded as a political or diplomatic issue. This is a revelation of a cunning trick employed to make their predecessors’ extra-villainous anti-ethical crime buried in the dark with the passage of time by reducing it to a simple academic matter and evade their responsibility for reparation.

History does not change even if Japan denies it, and its crime cannot be covered up even if it sticks to its unreasonable insistence. Japan’s past crime belongs to crimes against humanity, to which the statute of limitations does not apply even after the passage of centuries.

Japan is well advised to apologize honestly and make complete reparations for its crimes instead of clumsily denying them or making any excuse. This is the only way for it to join the international community.

Kim Il Bong

# Korean Bow

THE KOREAN NATION has long been known as a courteous nation. This can be proved by the Korean bow as the Koreans’ traditional greeting manner.

From of old the Koreans greeted each other when they met on a road, and made way for one another. This custom has long been carried on as a national tradition.

Present-day Koreans still bow to their elders, teachers and seniors, asking about their health out of respect for them. In case of women, they bend their upper body deeper than men to show their gentle and beautiful manner.

When treating their seniors, the people are always humble to

express their respect for the latter.

The Korean bow also varies according to time, place and object. It is divided into *sonjol* (bowing in standing posture) and *anjunjol* (bowing in sitting posture) according to place. When *sonjol* is usually made outdoors, *anjunjol* is usually made indoors. Both of them are divided into *khunjol* (deep bow), *phyongjol* (half bow) and *panjol* (slight bow) according to object.

To such people as grandparents for whom they have to show the greatest respect or at ceremonies like wedding they make a deep bow placing the palms of their hands on the floor. When they meet their seniors or those of their age they make *phyong-*

*jol*, and they make *panjol* to their juniors.

The Korean bow is different in the morning and evening, and at the time of joy and sorrow. In the morning they bend their upper body saying good morning to one another, and in the evening they say such parting words as “Have a good sleep” or “Be careful in the night walking.” And at the time of happy or sad moments, they express their congratulations or say consoling words, wearing an appropriate look in keeping with the actual environment and condition.

Today the Korean bow is being carried on through generations.

Kim Kyong Sun



