



ESTABLISHED 1965

## Ground-breaking ceremony for building 10 000 flats at third stage in Hwasong area held Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un attends ground-breaking ceremony

KCNA

A grandiose construction project has been launched once again, demonstrating the correct implementation of construction of 50 000 flats in Pyongyang Municipality, which is being powerfully accelerated by the Workers' Party of Korea as the most important task to turn Pyongyang, the capital city of the great Democratic People's Republic of Korea, into an ideal city where the people's well-being and civilization of socialism are in full bloom and into the most beautiful city in the world where the might of a powerful country and its signal development are reflected.

A ground-breaking ceremony for the 2024 project to build 10 000 flats in Pyongyang, the third-stage project, took place on February 23 in the Hwasong area, where new streets successfully applied with the Juche-oriented and people-oriented character peculiar to our Party and state, the unique charms and features of the Korean style and the development-oriented trend of modern architecture are built every year and a sea change brought about.

The venue of the ground-breaking



ceremony, in which a grand construction project for determining the victory in carrying out the five-year plan for the capital city construction set forth at the Eighth Congress of the WPK will be declared, was filled with the soaring spirit of the military and civilian builders to more splendidly build monumental streets representing the era of Kim Jong Un in which changes are made through a dynamic and continuous struggle.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic

People's Republic of Korea, attended the ground-breaking ceremony.

When the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un arrived at the venue of the ceremony, all the participants broke into cheers of "Hurrah!", looking up to him, the great artist of creation and benevolent father of the people who is ushering in a new era of stirring change and prosperity of the whole country with his rare wisdom and outstanding leadership.

Present there were Kim Tok Hun and Jo Yong Won, members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central

Committee, secretaries of the WPK Central Committee, officials of the Cabinet, armed forces organs, ministries and national agencies, officials of Pyongyang Municipality and military and civilian builders.

The national anthem of the DPRK was solemnly played.

Kim Tok Hun, who is also vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and premier of the Cabinet, made a speech at the ceremony.

He extended warm and militant greetings to the service personnel of the People's Army and civilian builders of the capital city who would start the third-stage project for providing

a decisive guarantee for the completion of 50 000 flats in the spirit of attaining the huge construction goals every year, holding aloft the torch of the construction revolution kindled by the great Party Central Committee.

Noting that every February witnesses the ceremony for the start of grand construction in the year and that the whole country is busy moving into new houses in every April, he added that it has become the life and emotion peculiar to our state. Our

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# Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un receives gift from Russian president

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, was presented with a car made in Russia for his personal

use by Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, president of the Russian Federation.

The gift to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un from the Russian president was conveyed to Pak Jong Chon, secretary of the Central

Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and Kim Yo Jong, deputy department director of the WPK Central Committee, by the Russian side on February 18.

Kim Yo Jong courteously conveyed

Kim Jong Un's thanks to Putin to the Russian side, saying that the gift serves as a clear demonstration of the special relations of friendship between the top leaders of the DPRK and Russia and as the best present.

## Premier Kim inspects South Phyongan Province, Nampho City

KCNA

Premier Kim Tok Hun, who is also member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, inspected various sectors of South Phyongan Province and Nampho City.

At farms and food administration stations in Sukchon, Mundok and Ryonggang counties, he encouraged officials and working people in their dynamic efforts to implement the decisions of the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee.

He stressed the need to manure and cultivate wheat and barley in a

sci-tech way and make preparations for coping with the disastrous abnormal weather in a far-sighted way to bring about a good harvest in earlier crop farming. And he urged the agricultural guidance organs and relevant units to prioritize the production and supply of farm machine parts and farming materials.

He said that the food administration stations should steadily intensify the research into updating the grain processing process to ensure economic effectiveness and provide a scientific and technological guarantee in reality, true to the Party's policy on processing grain well and supplying them to the people.

At the construction site of a regional industry

factory in Sukchon County to be built under the Party's Regional Development 20x10 Policy, he learned about its site, scale and rationality of production capacity and discussed the issues related to the creation of its raw material base.

Meanwhile, at the designing panel of the non-permanent central committee for promoting the Regional Development 20x10 Policy, the premier discussed the ways for completing the designs of regional industry factories in a short span of time as planned and intended by the Party Central Committee and took measures to finish the production of school uniforms in a qualitative way at the Aeguk Knitwear Factory before the new school year.

## Paternal love shown for young builders

KCNA

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sent a lot of pheasants and roe deer to the builders of Jonwi Street who

are fully demonstrating the indomitable spirit peculiar to the brave Korean youth in the grand construction project in Pyongyang, the capital of the DPRK.

The pheasants and roe

deer associated with the deep affection of the benevolent father were conveyed to the members of the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade and soldier-builders on February 20.

## Head of WPK delegation meets leader of United Russia Party

KCNA

Kim Su Gil, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chief secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the WPK who headed the WPK delegation on a visit to Russia, met with Dmitri Anatoliyevich Medvedev, president of the United Russia Party, on February 16.

He courteously conveyed the warm greetings of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un to Dmitri Anatoliyevich Medvedev.

The president of the United

Russia Party expressed deep thanks to Kim Jong Un for sending a WPK delegation to the international meeting hosted by the United Russia Party and asked Kim Su Gil to convey the sincerest greetings of Russian President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and himself to Kim Jong Un.

Present there were members of the WPK delegation, the DPRK ambassador to Russia, the secretary of the General Council of the United Russia Party, the vice-chairperson of the International Affairs Committee of the Federation

Council of Russia and a vice-minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia.

Meanwhile, during the meeting, the WPK delegation met with the head of the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and delegations of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, the Party of Socialists in the Republic of Moldova, the Party of Belaya Rusi and the Union Solidarity and Development Party of Myanmar and others respectively.

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capital city has been modernized on the proud road of creation as befits the might of a powerful country and the people's happiness is growing, he said, adding that this is a clear proof of the advance spirit of socialist Korea which is bringing earlier the highly civilized and prosperous future with confidence in the face of all difficulties.

The dynamic promotion of the epochal causes unprecedented in the history of the DPRK and the nonstop large-scale housing construction are the manifestation of the steadfast will of the WPK and the government of the DPRK to orient and subordinate everything to realizing the people's requirement and desire and a great demonstration of the tremendous national power of Juche Korea which is developing through self-respect and self-sustenance, he noted.

He referred to the fact that preparations for the grand construction of a new stage have been dynamically made thanks to the earnest instructions and meticulous guidance of Kim Jong Un who said that the true nature and duty of our Party and government is to unconditionally keep a promise made to the people, despite stern trials, and that it is essential to live up to

the expectations of the people without fail through uninterrupted vigorous offensive.

A group of unique dwelling houses and public establishments including educational, public health, commercial and neighbourhood-serving amenities, which will be built at the third stage after the successful construction of the new streets at the first and second stages in the Hwasong area, will make the capital city of Pyongyang more beautiful along with the area which will be a modern administrative district, he said.

Today when the gigantic projects for the comprehensive rejuvenation of our state are being dynamically conducted in different parts of the country, the construction of 50 000 flats in the capital city is being highlighted as a victorious signpost vigorously leading all the revolutionary projects and as an important political struggle to defend the prestige of the Party Central Committee and further deepen the people's trust in the state policy, he said, adding that the scale of the third-stage construction in the Hwasong area is gigantic but the overall construction projects this year will be pushed ahead vigorously as there are the well-organized work system established under the Party's leadership and the great

zeal of the builders who have gained great building capacity and much experience during the capital city construction.

He called upon all the builders to successfully build all the structures as symbols of our times in which the people-first idea is thoroughly embodied by making successive offensive in the same fighting spirit as they steadily worked new miracles and created new legendary tales, regarding the trust of the Party Central Committee that made them become the vanguard of the construction of the capital city as the first honour and greatest pride.

Saying that the stirring era when the capital city, provinces and other parts of the country are vibrant with extraordinary determination, patriotic enthusiasm, new spirit of development and prosperity is inspiring the builders of the capital city with greater courage and strenuous efforts, he ardently called upon them to struggle more dynamically for the happy laughter and bright future of their beloved parents, siblings and children, for the defence of the decisions of the Eighth Congress of our Party and for the comprehensive rejuvenation and development of our state.

All the military and civilian builders have raised stormy cheers with the iron will to carry out the noble plan of the Party Central

Committee with perfect practice by giving fuller play to the offensive spirit of the whole capital city construction area, a banner to be held aloft in the grand construction front covering the whole country.

Kim Jong Un pressed the detonator to declare the start of construction of 10 000 flats at the third stage in the Hwasong area.

Fireworks were set off to celebrate the start of the project, together with great explosion and cheers of excitement.

Kim Jong Un warmly encouraged the builders who were full of enthusiasm to firmly guarantee with signal revolutionary fruition the construction struggle being steadily and dynamically carried out by our Party as a far-sighted patriotic undertaking for bringing earlier the prosperous and bright future of the DPRK.

All the military and civilian builders vowed to successfully build a flourishing socialist living space, symbolic of the comprehensive development era of a thriving nation with practice while more dynamically flying the flag of the construction headquarters of 50 000 flats in Pyongyang Municipality given by the great Party Central Committee as the banner of successive offensive and uninterrupted innovation.



# Creators of *Chollima spirit* of new era

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

The Chollima spirit of the new era created at the Ryongsong Machine Complex is now stirring in the whole of the DPRK.

The fierce flames of the new spirit of the times are encouraging the people across the country to make greater innovations in implementing the decisions of the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

## Trust

It is necessary to look back on how this ideological and spiritual wealth that promotes the present period of overall development of socialism has come into being.

Two years ago, the country was faced with a task of supplying its large fertilizer producers with modern machinery and equipment needed for their readjustment and reinforcement.

It was an urgent and pressing task to be tackled in order to achieve a growth in agricultural production and to develop the national economy.

It had to choose between two options, whether to import them even at a huge cost or to produce it at home.

Some officials opted for import as they were not confident about their own strength but were obsessed with defeatism and mysticism about technology.

But the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un decided to build them by dint of the country's own technology at any cost.

At that time, his thoughts turned first to the workers of Ryongsong.

He decided to entrust the important task to them who had demonstrated the heroic spirit and mettle of the Korean working class by making an eight-metre turning lathe from scratch even in the difficult post-war period and had startled the world by making a 10 000-ton press in the 1980s.

At the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK held in December 2022, he assigned the task of producing large compressors to the Ryongsong Machine Complex.

He dispatched a powerful Party guidance team and scientific and technological forces to the complex and took measures to assist the project by concentrating Party and state efforts. He also ensured that the necessary conditions for the research were provided and the living conditions of the workers were taken good care of.

In February last year when the Ryongsong workers were working hard to perform a new miracle, he sent gifts to all employees of the complex.

## One in mind and body

The whole complex braced themselves up to live up to the Party's expectation that Ryongsong would carry out the task without fail.

Not only the officials, technicians and workers but also former employees who had retired from the complex long ago and family members of the employees joined in the effort.

All of them became one in mind and body for the sole purpose of implementing the Party decision.

"We set up a large bulletin board under the heading 'Proud feats of the Ryongsong workers of the preceding generation recorded in the annals of the revolution' in the compound as we buckled down to the production of large compressors. It helped raise the spirit of the workers," said manager Ri Kyong Il.

The bulletin board intuitively introduced the machines produced by the complex since the 1950s, including a 6 000-ton press, 20-metre lathe and 70-metre gantry planer, along with the photographs of workers in those days.

Whenever they passed by the board, the workers looked through every product created by the workers

of Ryongsong of the preceding generations and asked themselves if they were working as the preceding generations had done and devoting their all to fulfilling the tasks given by the Party like them.

Reflecting themselves on that question, they demonstrated the might of self-reliance, a proud tradition of the DPRK, overcoming all difficulties.

## By dint of science and technology

The flames of the mass technical innovation movement spread throughout the complex, smashing mysticism about technology.

Scientists and technicians took the lead in breaking new ground and played a pivotal role in devising machines and the whole complex from leading officials to ordinary workers pooled their wisdom and enthusiasm to implement optimized technical innovation plans one by one.

In the course of this, original ideas were suggested in succession, with the result that new standards and records were created and breakthroughs were made. This brought about good results in the production and processing of heavy materials for custom-built equipment day after day.

Lathe operators of machine workshop No. 1 put forward a series of inventions to speed up the processing of parts, while the workers of the Songun foundry boldly cast 20-odd-ton materials of a machine body by the combustion-model moulding method.

The members of the February 17 Shock Brigade of Scientists and Technicians, comprising such prestigious institutions as Kim Il Sung University, Kim Chaek University of Technology and the State Academy of Sciences, also joined efforts with the workers of Ryongsong.

"In March last year, a meeting was held at the complex to declare

the formation of the February 17 Shock Brigade of Scientists and Technicians," recalled Pyon Kwang Hyok, a staffer of the State Commission of Science and Technology. "We solemnly signed our names on the list of the shock brigade members. It was not just a signature but a manifestation of our death-defying will and pledge to win a sure victory in the battle decisive of self-reliance or dependence."

They waged a campaign to increase the rate of the custom-built equipment production, ensure its quality and remodel major processing facilities.

They finished a huge amount of computation work ahead of schedule in the computer simulation analysis, a preceding process for manufacturing compressors, thus opening a breakthrough. And they established a rational casting process and contributed to completing the production of all large castings in only three months and developed a tool that raised the processing speed by more than three times.

Therefore, they carried out more than 10 national priority projects for the development of science and technology and dozens of core research projects in some 280 days.

As a result, the complex produced several types of large compressors made up of tens of thousands of parts in thousands of kinds in less than one year while manufacturing many pieces of custom-built equipment, breaking the old practice of building one large compressor in a whole year.

"We performed a miracle by carrying out the task that seemed impossible with the existing equipment and capacity," said chief engineer Kim Yong Jin. "If we had chosen the simple path of importing foreign things just because they were new to us, there would not have been the large compressors of Ryongsong."

Flunkism, defeatism and mysticism about technology were all shattered by the courage and practice of the Ryongsong workers.

## Chollima spirit of new era

On November 26 last year, Kim Jong Un visited the complex where the production of large compressors was progressing at the final stage.

Looking at several large compressors born of self-reliance, he said that what pleased him the most was that the workers, scientists and technicians of Ryongsong redoubled their confidence in their own strength and scientific and technological abilities and dealt a heavy blow to defeatism and mysticism about technology. Saying that the heroic tradition of devotedly implementing the Party's policies was steadily carried on, he named the fighting spirit displayed by the workers of the complex the Chollima spirit of the new era, a new spirit of the times.

At the December 2023 Plenary Meeting of the WPK Central Committee, he highly appreciated the heroic feats of the workers of Ryongsong who made unprecedented innovations by turning the production of machines assigned by the Party Central Committee into the process of creating the second Chollima spirit and the process of mass technical innovation, and put forward the fighting spirit displayed by them to be emulated by the whole country.

It is the intention of the WPK to accomplish the five-year plan set forth by the Eighth Congress of the Party and make a dynamic leap forward in the overall development of the state in the Chollima spirit of the new era created in Ryongsong as in the era of miracles in the 1950s when the torch of great upsurge that flared up in Kangson turned into the flames of the Chollima movement and established socialism on the debris after the war.

When the Chollima spirit of the new era created in Ryongsong spreads like wildfire across the country, it will produce valuable assets of self-reliance in succession in all sectors of the self-supporting economy.



Workers pledge to implement the decisions of the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea at the Ryongsong Machine Complex.

RODONG SINMUN



# Nature and duty of Workers' Party of Korea

By Yun Kyong Il PT

In his important policy speech at the 10th Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un said that housing construction is an important affair directly related to the authority of the Workers' Party of Korea and the people-oriented character of the government of the DPRK and that it is the nature and duty of the Party and the government to unconditionally keep the promise made to the people, however serious the situation may be.

As stipulated in the Party Rules, the WPK set it as the ultimate goal to build a communist society in which the people's ideals have fully been realized and as the supreme principle of its activities to steadily improve the material and cultural

life of the people.

That is why the WPK set it forth as the core of its construction policy to make the DPRK a country which solved the housing problem before all others at the historic Eighth Party Congress in reflection of the people's desire to live in a cultured way in excellent houses and is conducting a series of gigantic operations to that end. It is a fairly bold decision to build houses simultaneously on a nationwide scale, not in any one or two regions, while promoting the great cause of increasing national power and innovative changes in various fields in the face of the greatest ever difficulties.

In particular, dwelling houses are constructed at state expense and provided to working people free of charge in the DPRK, which implies enormous economic losses. But as

the WPK regards it as its mode of existence to make selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people, it has built ideal streets and villages in the capital and provinces and provided the people with cradles of happy life by unsparingly putting in huge sums of money and is pressing on with the construction of modern houses in a bigger way as the days go by.

The designing and building work for dwelling houses are being carried out as required by the people under the leadership of the WPK. In Taechong-ri of Unpha County in North Hwanghae Province alone, neat dwelling houses stand in rows after being built in line with the demand of farmers who would live there, rather than in consideration of the amount of necessary building materials and the aspect of site

saving. In fact, it was a stiff task for the state to build houses at the same time for the farmers who were left homeless due to flood damage. However, the Party did not confine itself to that, but put great efforts into the designing and building work for their houses by considering every wish of the owners of the new houses.

Today, the WPK is pushing ahead with rural construction.

It has become a policy and law to provide every city and county with cement for rural house construction on a regular basis every year, and the implementation of them has fully been guaranteed. Powerful construction forces have already been formed in every region. Last year, in accordance with the intention of the Party Central Committee, construction battalions were formed with Party members

of the capital and local areas and dispatched to Ryanggang Province and the whole country is rendering active assistance to the building of rural civilization in the area of Mt Paektu. There may be distant or close places geographically, but there are no distant or close people to the WPK.

Witnessing modern houses now mushrooming all across the country, all the Koreans keenly feel the people-oriented character of the policies of the Workers' Party of Korea which they call the "motherly Party".

It is the steadfast will of the WPK to radically change the living environment of the people across the country in 20-30 years' time and thus turn the DPRK into a socialist paradise where they live in comfort and harmony while enjoying the most advanced civilization.

## Pyongyang Municipal Tree Nursery newly built

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

In the Ha-ri area of Kangdong County, Pyongyang, the modern Pyongyang Municipal Tree Nursery capable of producing tens of millions of saplings on a scientific, industrial and intensive basis has been built.

### Modern sapling production base

The nursery is situated in a place with a terrain favourable for the growth of coniferous trees and is dozens of hectares in area.

The nursery consists of several modern plastic panel greenhouses, outdoor cultivation grounds, an outdoor sapling exhibition ground, a round cutting bed and an introduction test area for acclimatization of saplings, and is based on an integrated production system, a plastic panel greenhouse control system, an outdoor cultivation ground control system, a power measurement system, a field monitoring system and a water control system. It also has a light substrate production ground, a seed selection and sowing ground and sapling storehouses.

The nursery produces a large number of saplings for landscaping in an industrial way every year, unaffected by seasonal influence.

An eye-catcher in the nursery is a sapling exhibition house which consists of round halls which are hundreds of square metres in area, including a central circular exhibition hall, left and right exhibition halls and an aerial exhibition hall. On display there are more than 250 saplings of 70-odd species.

The exhibition house also has rooms for sci-tech

exchange related to nursing young trees and landscaping.

The plastic panel greenhouses are equipped with fine-grained irrigation facilities, and all processes there are automatically controlled, including those for ensuring ideal conditions and environment for sapling cultivation such as temperature, humidity, percentage of sunshine, content of carbon dioxide, ventilating quantity and irrigation water amount.

According to its employees, it is possible in the greenhouses to reduce the sapling production cycle, increase productivity per unit area, normalize sapling production, irrespective of meteorological and climatic conditions, in particular and prevent damage by harmful insects.

A new process for seed treatment in operation at the seed selection and sowing ground has made it possible to save much electricity and increase the germination rate of sapling seeds much more than other units.

The cultivation ground for adapting saplings from the round cutting bed and the greenhouses to outdoor environment and districts for cultivation of saplings in containers are equipped with modern irrigation facilities and sunshade devices and all production processes ranging from seed selection to sowing and packing of saplings are automated and streamlined.

The green management building has a system for measuring the temperature and humidity of all the greenhouses in real time and adjusting the water supply and temperature to suit the growth of saplings, an integrated control room for monitoring and controlling the whole of the nursery by



computer and laboratories fully equipped with modern experimental and analysis facilities.

### Proportion of machinery and equipment made by their own efforts rises, new species increase

The employees of the modern tree nursery have great technical abilities.

Its technical group has proposed and introduced in succession various technical innovation plans to increase production on the basis of the experience other units gained in sapling production in the past.

It made and installed a gas generator needed for the double-fed power system of a solar-heated greenhouse, providing a condition for normalizing production even without electricity and invented and made carts for carrying sapling containers, making it possible to save

### Employees discuss how to grow healthy saplings on the field and acquire technical knowledge at the sci-tech learning space.

WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES



labour by 40 percent in workplaces.

All mist spray nozzles used at the outdoor cultivation grounds, round cutting bed and outdoor adaptation area are those made by the technical group itself and it introduced into production many inventions of its own, including a more profitable method of exterminating harmful insects.

Many machines used at the nursery at present were domestically made and it saves agrochemicals by 60 percent over other units.

The nursery directs efforts to research for acclimatizing new varieties while producing saplings of trees which grow fast and are of economic value, including pine-nut tree, Changsong larch, Kumya black pine and

black chokeberry tree which are effective for afforestation in Pyongyang, and many saplings like those of red maple, purple plum, Chinese guttapercha and spruce which are good for landscaping.

According to a researcher of the nursery, the work for acclimatizing the saplings of new varieties of trees in 20-odd kinds is being stepped up at the final stage.



# To prevent diseases comprehensively and scientifically

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

Last year, the National Centre for Disease Control and Prevention was built in the DPRK as part of the uninterrupted efforts to fully ensure the country's anti-epidemic safety.

According to Kim Chol Su, director of the centre, its predecessor was the Central Hygienic and Anti-epidemic Centre, but it was renamed thus two years ago.

With a total floor space of thousands of square metres, the centre has different rooms equipped with modern facilities.

The centre works to put

the test for different kinds of pathogenic microorganisms on a standardized and scientific basis and regularly observes, controls, manages and takes measures against inroads, occurrence and spread of diseases.

In particular, it conducts epidemiological surveys and takes relevant measures through the disease observation system established on a nationwide scale.

While putting in effort to keep residents informed of infectious diseases, it gives them vaccination.

The centre also concentrates on improving environmental protection.

It has made success in thoroughly ensuring the scientific accuracy and promptness of the examination of water quality. It has put the examination on a higher scientific level by introducing advanced test methods to suit the actual conditions of the country and completing and employing advanced technical means for the examination.

This year, the centre has plans for many practical undertakings to prevent the outbreak and spread of different kinds of infectious diseases and ensure clean environment and hygienic safety.



Medical workers are engaged in nucleic acid test at the National Centre for Disease Control and Prevention.

PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

# Highly efficacious Koryo medicines turned out

By Kim Hye Jong PT

Koryo medicines not only suit the way of life of the Korean people and their constitutional features but also have higher medicinal effects and greater vitality in clinical practice, said Jang Son Hwa, manageress of the Junggu Koryo Medicine Pharmaceutical Factory. "As the traditional medicines contain various components, they can cure ill organisms in an all-round way and comprehensively, have good treatment effects, cure incurable diseases which Western medicines are hard to

treat, have less toxic and side effects and thus give no harm to the body."

The factory pays primary attention to ensuring quality. While touring from Pyongyang to the rest of the country including Ryanggang Province, it collects medicinal herbs needed for the production of Koryo medicines to ensure a constant supply of them. It classifies the medicinal herbs secured thus according to varieties and kinds to prevent them from degenerating or being wasted, before keeping them in storehouses in which ventilation, temperature and humidity are well ensured.

It channels big efforts into the management of equipment and technical transformation.

Shortly ago, it refashioned a pressure vacuum concentrator in order to prevent the medicinal ingredients from being destroyed by temperature rise entailed by pressure rise at the time of concentration of medicinal herb extract liquor and to automatically regulate temperature to suit the extracting temperatures of medicinal herbs, thereby ensuring the quality of products.

Among 50-odd health foods and Koryo medicines the factory produces are patented nano silver *Eucommia ulmoides* oliv recruitment solution and apricot stone cough pill.

The former is a mixture of tasty and soft nano silver liquor and health-promoting materials. It protects the liver and kidneys, makes tendons and bones healthy and has special efficacy for curing neuralgia.

The latter is used to relieve cough caused by bronchial asthma and bronchitis.

The factory is now making redoubled efforts to produce a larger quantity of Koryo medicines with higher efficacy.



The Junggu Koryo Medicine Pharmaceutical Factory turns out highly-efficacious traditional medicines. PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

# Officinal medicine producer undergoes facelift



An employee watches the medicine packing process of the refurbished Pyongyang Pharmaceutical Factory. WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Kim Il Jin PT

The Pyongyang Pharmaceutical Factory was renovated last year.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un inspected the factory in January 2018 and set forth the task of turning it into a centre and model of the country's pharmaceutical industry, and gave detailed guidance on its renovation project.

"A total of more than 20 units were renovated, including the main production units, the construction of the packing material workshop and infusion workteam, and hundreds of pieces of equipment were newly

installed at the factory," said Jang Jong Son, deputy manager of the factory.

All production processes and environment were built to conform to the standards of GMP.

The factory now turns out highly efficient medicines in all the production lines whose production capacities were expanded by several times.

Its major production indexes are essential and officinal medicines.

The modern medicine workshop produces a variety of pills and capsules.

The Koryo medicine workshop produces soft capsules as well as various globules, liquid medicines

and pills.

A new capsule production line was installed to the workshop.

According to workshop manageress Wi Sung Ok, they supply capsules to many pharmaceutical factories across the country.

The packaging material workshop turns out plastic bottles, lamination sheets and evaporation products and also prints the trademarks of medicines.

The liquor workteam makes insam liquor, mannitol and different other infusions.

All the production processes are directed by the comprehensive integrated production system.

# Factory puts in efforts to improve quality of cosmetics and develop new products

By Yun Kyong Il PT

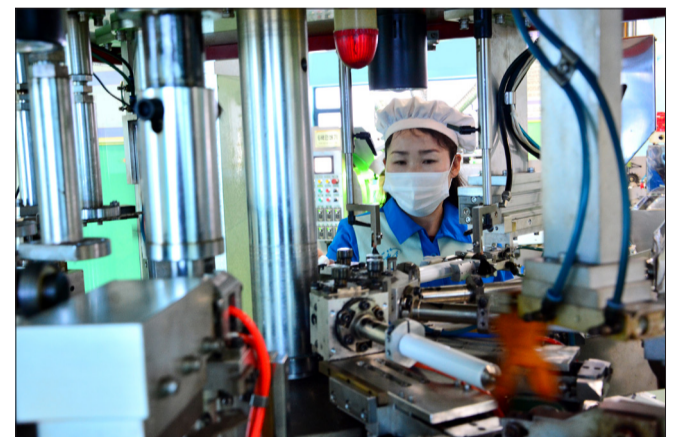
True to the decisions of the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea which called on the light industry sector to set the improvement of the quality of consumer goods and basic foodstuffs as the primary task for this year and work hard to implement it, the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory puts efforts into further improving the quality of cosmetics and developing new products.

The factory enhances the role of researchers at the cosmetics research and analysis institutes.

They ensured skin penetrability and safety in storage of anti-aging cosmetics and helped improve the quality of 20 kinds of products.

The development of new products is also actively pushed forward.

According to Kim Pok



An employee operates a machine to produce containers at the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory. RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Sil, director of the cosmetics research institute, the newly-developed multifunctional facial gel and cream produce such effects as anti-aging, whitening and moisturizing that they can proudly match the world famous cosmetics.

The factory developed a variety of new products including functional toilet soap with whitening effect, stick-type eye shadow of different colours and

hairdyeing agents for people with side effects and made of natural pigments.

Now the factory turns out some 530 articles in more than 160 kinds.

Thanks to the untiring efforts of researchers and producers at the factory, its "Unhasu"-brand cosmetics are counted as one of the most popular and widely used cosmetics in the country.



# Taekwon-Do and Pyongyang



By Kim Hak Chol PT

**T**aekwon-Do is a national martial art associated with the spirit and soul of the Korean nation.

The Korean ancestors trained their physical strength for national defence while leading a diligent working life throughout their long national history, and in the course of that left behind such sports and cultural legacies as Taekwon-Do.

## Historical root of national martial arts

The Koreans developed the primitive martial arts originating in primitive society into national martial arts as they formed a nation.

As he built Ancient Joseon (early 30th century BC-108 BC) as the first state in the history of Korea centring on Pyongyang and established a military organization within the state machinery, Tangun, founding father of the Korean nation, ensured that martial arts were created and disseminated as a combat method to arm its troops.

In the period of Koguryo (277 BC-AD 668), the martial art style of hitting and beating the opponent with bare hands and preventing the opponent's attack was called *subak* and widely encouraged.

Later, with the passage

of time *subak* was renamed *thaekkyon* and also encouraged in the period of the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392-1910).

A martial art of attacking oneself by using all parts of the body including hands and feet, *thaekkyon* has powerful techniques that suit the constitutional characters of the Koreans with strong back and legs.

The power of *thaekkyon* is evidenced by an old record of Korea, which says that a warrior killed a tiger by kicking it with his foot.

The content and methods of *thaekkyon* are detailed in "Muyedobothongji" (Illustrated Book of Martial Arts), a book published at the end of the 18th century.

Pyongyang *thaekkyon* was the cream of *thaekkyon* and the mainstream of the development of the martial art.

At that time Pyongyang *thaekkyon* practitioners were called Pyongyang nalpharam (nimble persons).

They played an important role in defending the country, always demonstrating valour in the battles against foreign aggressors.

## Orthodox martial arts which once faded away into history

The Korean orthodox martial arts were trampled



Left: *Subak* painted on the stone wall of the Mausoleum of King Ko Kuk Won.

Right: "Muyedobothongji", Illustrated Book of Martial Arts, in which traditional martial art movements are systematized in a comprehensive way.



down by the vicious moves of the Japanese imperialists to obliterate the martial arts of the Korean nation during the period of their military occupation of Korea between 1905 and 1945.

The Japanese imperialists destroyed and plundered many national classics related to Korean martial arts including "Muyedobothongji" and tried to break the continuity of the national martial arts of Korea by enacting all sorts of fascist laws and arresting and killing a large number of patriotic martial artists. Korean feature film "Pyongyang Nalpharam" is based on historical fact about it.

Once, a Russian news agency said that "Muyedobothongji" is a precious Korean national heritage element, reporting on the publication, dissemination and storage of the book and the fact that one of its several

looted copies is now kept as a national treasure at the Grand People's Study House.

Now, visitors to the Grand People's Study House in Central District, Pyongyang, can see the date of its donation, October 30 1952, on a page of "Muyedobothongji".

President Kim Il Sung convened a conference of scientists in April 1952 when the life of the nation was at stake in the flames of the war between June 25 1950 and July 27 1953. At the meeting he instructed that national classics should be collected and arranged on a nationwide scale in order to inherit the national cultural heritage and took a revolutionary measure to this end.

In 1952 when the war was going on, a copy of "Muyedobothongji" was unearthed in the Phyongan Provincial area and donated

to the then National Central Library, with the result that historical facts related to the orthodox martial art of the resourceful and intrepid Korean nation were handed down to posterity.

## Taekwon-Do, national martial art

The techniques and methods of the national martial arts created and developed by the Koreans generation after generation have been further developed and enriched.

Choe Hong Hui named the national martial art he had studied and developed with all his heart "Taekwon-Do" in April 1955 and worked hard to disseminate it to many countries of the world. After founding the International Taekwon-Do Federation (ITF) on March 22 1966, he served as its president till the end of his life.

While living in exile abroad, he visited Pyongyang several times, met President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il and fulfilled his heart's desire for the development of the national martial art.

Now, Taekwon-Do has widely been spread across the world as a martial art contributing to the development of human qualities and charm.

It is a martial art for attack and defence using the hands, feet and all other parts of the body strengthened through intense physical training and mental cultivation without weapons.

Taekwon-Do's "tae" means the heel, "kwon" means fist and

"do" means mental training, with the name meaning high physical ability using foot and hand techniques and great mental strength.

The DPRK has laid a solid foundation for promoting and widely encouraging the national martial art. Research and educational institutions and bases for disseminating Taekwon-Do techniques have been built across the country to develop it and provide everyone with better opportunities to learn it.

The Taekwon-Do Hall and the Taekwon-Do Holy House symbolizing the dignity and pride of the mother country of Taekwon-Do have been built in Pyongyang, attracting many Taekwon-Do experts and fans at home and abroad.

According to the unified system of the state for training reserves and disseminating to the masses, Taekwon-Do is taught to students at universities and schools across the country. And Taekwon-Do techniques are widely spread at factories, enterprises and farms to popularize the national martial art.

Taekwon-Do is also widely disseminated across the world.

There are national Taekwon-Do associations diffusing the Korean martial art and countless numbers of Taekwon-Doists in many countries and Taekwon-Do championships are held on a worldwide scale.

Today nationwide programmes are undertaken in the DPRK to develop the Korean martial art.



Taekwon-Do is popularized as its techniques are diffused widely.



# On a visit to old people's health complex on new street

By Pang Un Ju PT

There are public service amenities exclusively for old people on Hwasong Street, which was completed in a modern style in April last year.

I recently visited Hwasong Health Complex for the Elderly No. 2 of the Hwasong District Public Welfare Service Station.

The interior of the health complex, which offers a fascinating glimpse of the Korean-style architectural beauty, was neat and tidy and had modern aesthetic flavour.

"After consulting doctors about their health, old people will be provided with diverse services such as remedial bath, massage and remedial exercises at the health complex," manageress Pak Kyong Sil told me at the entrance hall.

Guided by the manageress, I first dropped in at the remedial bathroom on the ground floor.

It was so designed for the visitors to have a bath with a decoction of various medicinal herbs and a sauna with far-infrared radiator for local irradiation.

Pak Yong Hui, an attendant of the complex, said that

visitors should not have a bath for over 15 minutes in the water tank mixed with the decoction in a temperature of 45 degrees Celsius and that it would have a really mysterious therapeutic effect after they drink a herb tea and have a sauna with the help of far-infrared radiator.

"Recently, several old people came to the complex, complaining of neuralgia, cervical spondylosis and severe indigestion. They all have remedial baths here only once and were very pleased with the amazing therapeutic effect it produced on them," she added.

Then, I looked round the beauty parlour and massage room equipped with full service facilities.

Skilful masseuse Kim In Ok said that she feels proud of her job whenever she sees the elderly look very satisfied saying they feel 10 years younger after receiving therapeutic massage at the complex.

I was also guided by manageress Pak Kyong Sil to the therapeutic exercise room on the first floor.

In the room equipped with a variety of sporting apparatuses, some old people were doing exercises with the help of its attendants after

selecting apparatuses they wanted according to their health conditions and likings.

Jon Yong Chol, an old man living in Chonghwa-dong No. 1, said that he felt relieved of lumbar pain and regained his appetite after using the systemic vibration machine and waist massager.

In the clinic specializing in physiotherapy including mud and paraffin therapies, old people told me such interesting stories that they have received thermotherapy by using mud from Lake Sijung well-known as a good peloid and paraffin and that they have a remarkable effect on chronic gastritis, neuritis and women's diseases.

Manageress Pak said all employees are eager to improve the service for the elderly, referring to the preparations the complex has made for providing treatment diet and nutritious meals good for the treatment of obesity and hypertension and the recovery of liver functions.

An old man, called Kim Yun Sop, told me that he played chess with his peers at the amusement room after receiving service at the remedial bath room. He said with joy that he felt younger physically and mentally



Senior citizens have a good time of rest at Hwasong Health Complex for the Elderly No. 2 of the Hwasong District Public Welfare Service Station. RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

when he received kind service at the health complex built in the new street under the public respect and preferential treatment for the

old people.

The old people were full of vigour and energy even in the twilight of their life, a testimony to the vitality of the

policy of the country which puts the old people forward as revolutionary forerunners and carefully looks after them.

## Along road of patriotism

By Ko Kwang Yon PT

In the DPRK there are many people who exert themselves out of a sense of patriotism. Among them is Sin Kyong Ok, a 69-year-old woman living in Rangnang District, Pyongyang.

She has done lots of good things for society and the collective over the past 20-odd years.

Her father, a war veteran who had served the army to defend the country all his life, was wont to say to his children as follows:

"Man should live a fulfilling life."

Bearing in mind his words, she was faithful to her duty at the educational sector from her girlhood and did good things even after getting married.

Whenever there were under way the construction projects of great significance in the development of the country, she visited the construction sites with aid materials her family had prepared with sincerity.

Among the projects were those for the construction of a power station, the modernization of a factory, the development of a coal

mine and the construction of the Youth Hero Motorway.

She did so without expecting any honour or commendation.

The state, however, valued her patriotism and invited her as a delegate to the National Conference of Active Women's Union Officials and the Third National Conference of Mothers.

Her patriotism never faded.

Even after retirement, there was no change in her mind to care for others and dedicate herself to society and collective.

When her family moved into the present neighbourhood unit 12 years ago, she came to know that an 80-year-old war veteran lived in the neighbourhood unit.

"At that time, she said the woman war veteran reminded her of her father. She has since taken warm care of her like her own daughter should do over

the past 10-odd years. Now, her granddaughter by her daughter joins her in looking after the war veteran," said Ri Ok Chun, one of her neighbours.

In May last year, when the quarantine measure was taken due to the inroads of COVID-19 into the capital city, Kyong Ok helped neighbours by sharing with them medicines and foodstuffs her family had secured and always took the lead in refurbishing the neighbourhood unit.

In addition, she planted and tended many fruit trees around the apartment house for several years. Last year, too, she picked a large quantity of fruits and shared them with other families of the neighbourhood unit.

"She always does good things devotedly, saying that everything important or unimportant is valued by patriotism. Therefore, residents of our neighbourhood unit respect and follow her, calling her 'patriotic grandmother,'" said Ri Sun Ok, head of the neighbourhood unit.

Shortly ago, Sin celebrated her birthday amid the warm blessings of the neighbourhood unit members.

## Centenarians on the increase

By Han Jong Ho PT

On January 5, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sent a birthday spread to Jong Kum Sun, a centenarian living in neighbourhood unit No. 15, Yangchon-ri in Myonggan County, on her 100th birthday.

Last year more than 30 persons were registered as centenarians to receive the birthday spreads sent by Kim Jong Un, which shows that the number of centenarians doubled as compared to 2022.

Among last year's macrobians are Ko Po Ok at the Ryanggang provincial old people's home and Ri On Nyon living in Chogu-ri of Unpha County in North Hwanghae Province, who was given a birthday spread in a finely-built rural house she received free of charge.

Ri's son excitedly said that his mother could become a centenarian thanks to the medical workers who have frequently visited his home to examine her health and provide her with tonics, the officials of the Unpha County Committee of the Workers' Party of

Korea who have taken measures while frequently acquainting themselves with any inconvenience and trouble in her life, the friendly neighbours and the benevolent socialist system.

According to foreign media reports, the number of cases of old people being maltreated by their family members and relatives in Japan reached 17 281, or a 2.1 percent increase in 2020 as compared to the year before, a record high since 2007 when the survey related to ill-treatment of the aged began.

However, the reality of the DPRK is in sharp contrast to that of Japan.

"As persons of virtue and traits adopting parentless children and supporting childless old people are growing in number with the passage of time and the country offers all kinds of social benefits to them while respecting them as revolutionary seniors and precious beings, the number of centenarians continues to increase," said Hwang Chol Ho, a staffer of the Central Committee of the Korea Federation for the Care of the Aged.



Sin Kyong Ok living in Rangnang District, Pyongyang, is heartily congratulated by her neighbours on her birthday. WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES





# Joyful camping

By Ri Sung Ik PT

Winter camping is now in full swing at the Songdowon International Children's Camp.

During the camping, schoolchildren spend pleasant days as they conduct various activities including skiing helpful to cultivating bravery, cooking practice, sports and amusement games and artistic activities. The ten days of camping are a period they will never forget in their whole life.

## Unforgettable days

Every member of the Korean Children's Union wants to go camping.

As they leave their homes for the first time and climb mountains and cook meals with their classmates during camping, they never forget those joyful camping days even after they become adults.

The winter camping at the Songdowon International Children's Camp is what every KCU member wants to go.

The camp is located in Songdowon which is famous as a scenic spot in the port city of Wonsan by the East Sea of Korea and equipped with all necessary conditions for camping at the best possible level.

According to the daily schedule, the campers sing and dance together, learn swimming and do rock climbing. Video games are interesting, but a visit to the aquarium which reminds them of the world of the sea and the tasting of foods they cook in the cooking practice room are so delightful that

they cannot but write such experience in their diary.

However, every camper says that skiing is the most impressive in winter camping.

Since the camp was inaugurated in 1960, people have associated it with the clean blue sea, sand beaches warmed by the sun and mountaineering in thickly-wooded forests. But winter camping and skiing in the Masikryong Ski Resort came into being after the ski resort was built and the camp renovated once more under the loving care of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

## Skiing helps develop courage

Skiing at the Masikryong Ski Resort is the most popular in winter camping at the Songdowon International Children's Camp.

On the day of going to the ski resort, every camper wears a ski suit before departure in a flurry of excitement.

They get noisy and boisterous at the mere sight of the snow-covered mountains seen through the bus windows, but they become tongue-tied once they stand on the ski run.

They gaze with admiration at those skiing down the slope from the dizzyly high peak, but they can hardly move on skis. However, the campers become able to ski to some extent after a few hours despite some differences among them.

It is attributed to instructors of the camp.

They teach the schoolchildren such basics as how to put on skis, walk,

stop, slide and change direction and various skiing skills.

Schoolboys with a remarkably good kinaesthetic sense learn skiing easily and slide down the beginner's slope.

It takes some more time for schoolgirls to ski and they are so happy as they glide down the gentle slope that photographers do not miss the chance to snap them. At the bottom of the slope the girls shout for joy, but boys rush to the ski lift for more tries.

Such joy is not confined to the ski run.

In the skating area the campers have a skating match or spin tops.

According to instructor Choe Yong Rim, the children are exhausted when returning to the camp after such activities, but they are eager to ski after a night's sleep.

After a day's fun full of laughter, they write in diary the day's pleasant experience, their gratitude to fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un who provided them with every good facility and their resolution to become excellent pillars of the country, he added.

## Meeting to boast of matters for pride

In the ten days of camping, the children give various forms of artistic performances and hold a meeting to boast of the matters for pride they have in the course of preparing themselves as young revolutionaries who are knowledgeable, morally impeccable and physically strong at the international

friendship children's hall. The shows make the audience both laugh and cry.

According to an instructor, schoolchildren from a northern area in North Hamgyong Province, who had lost their homes, parents, classmates and schools in an unexpected natural disaster in 2016, sang of their happiness on the stage.

The state took a step to bring those children to the camp for camping when the whole country turned out in the reconstruction campaign in the disaster-stricken area. The campers who took the stage spoke with deep emotion of the love they were given and the gratitude they felt, moving the audience to tears.

Schoolchildren come to the camp from all across the country, including army posts on remote islands and mountain villages far away from the capital city of Pyongyang. They are sons and daughters of service personnel, workers and farmers.

All of them have their sources of pride and sing of them.

In particular, they sing songs reflecting their yearning for the fatherly Marshal who loves children the most and speak of their pride in having received new uniforms and other school things and the love the Marshal showed to their native places and schools.

Their stories and songs are so artless and impressive that they give the audience the feeling that they have become adults suddenly and everyone watches and hears them with admiration.

Young campers conduct a variety of activities, especially skiing, cooking practice and sports and amusement games, at the Songdowon International Children's Camp. WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES



# At forefront of educational revolution in new century

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Pyongyang Teachers Training College, which underwent a radical change as befits the “pedigree farm” for educators, is known to the whole country as the frontrunner in the educational revolution in the new century. “After the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un visited our college in January six years ago, its lecturers and researchers created many profitable and superior educational methods for putting the education of pre-school and primary school children on a scientific basis, made hundreds of pieces of educational science achievements and disseminated and generalized them to over 1 800 units,” said Pak Kum Hui, rector of the college.

True to the instruction of Kim Jong Un, who clarified the way ahead of the college, they oriented all the work toward creating new teaching methods that suit the modern trend of educational development and

pedagogical requirements.

More than 300 new textbooks and reference books have been written according to the programme of the universal 12-year compulsory education and various education support programs, superior teaching methods and educational forecasting techniques applied to give impetus to the development of education.

In order to constantly develop the VR teaching experience system, the lecturers and researchers added over 100 teaching situations that may occur in the course of primary school lessons and an audio recognition technology to the teaching experience system and made 70-odd visual aids incorporating both artificial intelligence and AR technologies.

“These successes have positively been introduced into teaching practice, thus making it possible to remarkably reduce the gap between mock and real lessons and further improve practical teaching

abilities,” said Jo Sun Ok, chief of the classroom instruction department.

Thanks to their painstaking efforts to create teaching methods that suit the features of children, a robot education method conducive to generally improving the intelligence of primary school children has been created, while a play guidance method using the virtual play apparatuses and a system for evaluating the applicability of intelligence development methods conceived by students have been applied to teaching.

A children’s intelligence development method based on abacus play, a foreign language study method based on image memory and a method of operating extracurricular groups that can give full play to students’ nature and aptitude and other new testing methods capable of generally analysing their intellectual faculties have been researched, and educational robots have been developed in the Korean way to conduct different forms of

extracurricular group activities in cooperation with lecturers.

A powerful drive for creating new teaching methods fired students with enthusiasm for competitively improving their scholarly performance, and thus over 8 500 superior methods of developing the children’s intelligence were invented and well over a thousand 3D teaching aids incorporating VR technology made and applied to teaching activities.

The college has successfully played the role of academic research centre and dissemination centre by diffusing and generalizing educational science achievements including new teaching methods.

It has contributed to the development of educational science and technology by conducting national short courses, academic discussion and re-education effectively in keeping with the actual requirements and writing dozens of reference books and books for developing children’s intelligence.

Last year alone, it made over a hundred kinds of robots for children’s education and sent them to Mangyongdae and Kang Pan Sok revolutionary schools, Pyongyang Primary School for Orphans, teachers training colleges and other schools across the country, and distributed hundreds of study support books and educational programs.

Well over a hundred lecturers have won the title of October 8 model lecturer, got the certificate of registration of new teaching methods and earned lots of certificates at national presentations and exhibitions and the college became one of the top 10 informatization model units in 2022 after 2018.



Lecturers have a group discussion to perfect the educational control system based on robot at Pyongyang Teachers Training College. RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

# Boy creates sci-fi model with novel idea

By Pang Un Ju PT

On his visit to the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren’s Palace on the occasion of the New Year, the respected fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un saw science fiction models invented by eight students.

Among them was the sci-fi model “Socialist rural village in future” made by Kim Kwan Rok (pictured), a third-year student of the junior middle course at Changdok School.

“When the fatherly Marshal came and asked me to explain about the model, I felt like I was dreaming,” said Kwan Rok.

The main part of his sci-fi model was a socialist rural dwelling block with lovely houses, a kindergarten, school and general hospital, sci-tech learning space, vertical fish farm and granaries with the main emphasis on the socialist fields where it is possible to raise seven crops of rice and four crops of wheat a year, unaffected by seasonal influence, in large vertical hydroponic greenhouses.

After being briefed about his model comprising a Children’s Union forest section with luxuriant pine and pine-nut trees and even a fire lookout post, Kim Jong Un tenderly patted him on the cheeks saying it was admirable.

It was in May last year that Kwan Rok decided to build a sci-fi model on the theme of “Socialist rural village in future” as he heard the news that a national exhibition of children’s science fiction literary works and models was to be held on the occasion of the anniversary of the founding of the Korean Children’s Union (June 6).

One day while he was pondering on what to make, he saw a new report on TV about farmers moving into new modern houses in a rural village.

As he watched the agricultural workers dancing with the pleasure of receiving gratis the large houses built in different styles and colours and in a splendid way, a fresh vision crossed his mind.

He decided to create a model of a beautiful ideal socialist village where the work and life are as good and delightful as those in cities now that the new history of rural development is being made.

With such a fantastic idea, he delineated the features of a “futuristic socialist village” he had imaged on the model board.

Thus, he created the sci-fi model reflecting his resolve to contribute to solving the food problem over which the fatherly Marshal is much concerned by building large greenhouses capable of raising rice and wheat free from seasonal effects. His model won the first prize at the national exhibition of children’s science fiction literary works and models-2023 as it was novel in idea and perfectly practicable.

“I never dreamed that Kwan Rok would show the model to the fatherly Marshal on the occasion of the significant New Year,” said his mother Hong Ryon Hui.

He also has a great aptitude for literature. He presented his collections of writings to Kim Jong Un in February 2018 and April 2022, and was awarded several prizes including the “Our Classroom” literature prize.

# Little artist

By Ko Kwang Yon PT

The respected fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un visited the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren’s Palace on the occasion of the New Year 2024 and met 17 talented children before seeing the schoolchildren’s New Year performance.

Kim Jin Ri (pictured), a first-year student of Mangyongdae Primary School in Mangyongdae District, the youngest among them, painted a bamboo with the single stroke technique of Korean painting in front of the fatherly Marshal.

After depicting the bamboo with the single stroke method in a minute, he asked the fatherly Marshal if he could present the painting to him.

Kim Jong Un patted his cheeks with a warm sense of paternal affection, making much of the young artist’s request.

Jin Ri said he felt like he was dreaming to see the fatherly Marshal, so the little boy pinched his leg several times to check if he was really awake.

“The honour Jin Ri had on New Year’s Day was the happiest event and greatest pleasure of our family,” said his mother Pak Kum Byol. “After meeting the respected Marshal, our Jin Ri became a student known to the whole country and envied by all.

Then she told a story about the kind teachers who valued and cultivated his talent.

When Jin Ri was four years old, his mother had him learn to play the piano to help develop his intelligence.

But he would often draw pictures on papers when he was not having piano lessons, and they were rather fine.

When Jin Ri was attending kindergarten, his grandmother showed his drawings to a teacher as she thought they

were good enough.

Kang Hye Yong, the teacher, recalled that he had a natural talent for drawing pictures, adding she really enjoyed teaching him as he was such a fast learner.

Not long after he started drawing pictures, Jin Ri presented his coloured pencil drawing “Flower-bedecked wagon of happiness” to the Eighth Asian Children’s Art Exhibition held in Dalian, Liaoning province, China, in July 2022 on the theme of “Meeting, dream in winter, future” and won a prize.

The drawing depicted a flower-bedecked wagon driven by happy children who are growing up without envy under the care of the state which puts them forward as the king of the country and gives all kinds of loving care and benefits to them. It



was highly appreciated by the jury for its true-to-life representation of children’s happiness.

Jin Ri entered the primary school in April last year and further improved his skills under the guidance of Ri Tong Hun, a fine art instructor of the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren’s Palace, who trained many excellent fine arts prodigies.

It is his dream to become an excellent artist and give greater pleasure to the fatherly Marshal.



# Int'l forum 'For Freedom of Nations' held in Russia

KCNA

The first meeting of "For Freedom of Nations", a forum of supporters of the struggle against modern neocolonialism, was held in Russia from February 15 to 17.

Present there were the delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea and other 60-odd party delegations from 47 countries and foreign diplomatic envoys in Moscow.

A congratulatory message from President Vladimir Putin was read out and speeches were made by heads of party delegations from different countries.

Kim Su Gil, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK and chief secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Party Committee, who headed the WPK delegation, said in

his speech that the desire of the peoples of all the countries to build up their own strength and develop in their own way is getting stronger day by day and, accordingly, the world's multipolarization has become an irresistible trend of the times. He went on:

The US and the West, very fearful of their waning dominant position, are clinging to the modern-day neocolonialist policy to maintain political and military subjugation and economic infiltration by inciting confrontation and distrust between states, nations and religions and causing bloodshed in different parts of the world. As a result, the structure of a "new Cold War" has been fixed on the global scale and proxy wars broke out in Ukraine and the Middle East, more badly plaguing the international security environment.

The US and its vassal forces' confrontation hysteria and military provocations have reached the extremes on the Korean peninsula.

Under the outstanding leadership of Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, the Workers' Party of Korea and the Korean people are now achieving fresh victory in their efforts to make the overall development and prosperity of the country, resolutely smashing the anti-DPRK moves of the US and its followers.

We will never tolerate the US arrogant infringement upon sovereignty, consistently holding fast to independence against imperialism as the first state policy in the future, too, and will strive to defend justice and peace and establish a new international order while strengthening unity and

solidarity with all the countries and political parties aspiring after independence.

He extended the warmest militant respect and full support to the fraternal Russian people and service members who turned out in the heroic struggle to firmly defend the sovereign rights, development and interests of the country against the hegemonic policy of the US and Western group.

He firmly reaffirmed that the WPK would always fight shoulder to shoulder with all the progressive political parties of the world in the struggle for opposing the tyranny and arbitrary practices of the imperialists and building an independent new world.

The meeting adopted a final statement calling for dynamically waging a joint action and struggle against the modern neocolonialist moves of the dominationist forces.

## Killers cling to annihilation of a nation

KCNA

Despite the denunciation and criticism from the international community, Israel is orchestrating another genocide as it is engaged in a bloody war of destruction in the Gaza Strip of Palestine.

As is known, at the outset of their invasion of the Gaza Strip, the Israeli authorities demanded Palestinians living in the northern and middle areas move to the south on the pretext of the "safety" of civilians, posing as a benefactor as if they would provide them with a means of living.

As a result, people continued to throng to the small city of Rafah. At present, 1.4 million Palestinian evacuees are inhabiting there.

With great numbers of people thronging to the narrow area, the Israeli Prime Minister ordered military authorities to draw up a ground operation plan in the city. The Israeli aggression forces have committed acts of attack every day including indiscriminate bombing and shelling on the city under the signboard of "attack on terrorist objects".

They killed dozens of peaceful residents by dropping a bomb on a house inhabited by evacuees on February 11 and mobilized warplanes, tanks and warships on the following day to run amok for man-killing.

Due to the reckless acts of Israel, over a hundred people lost their lives and hundreds of others including women and children were wounded in and around the city on February 12 alone.

A spokesman for the Israeli forces said without hesitation that it is very effective to slay two residents for killing one Hamas combatant. When recollecting the remarks, the present situation clearly shows that the ongoing atrocities are deliberate and conscious actions geared to annihilating the Palestinian nation.

The mayor of Rafah said that Israel intensified bombing for the past few hours and this constitutes the preparation for conducting a military operation in the city.

It is as clear as day that when the large-scale ground operation is launched, the whole city will be reduced to a mass grave of Palestinians.

The international community now stubbornly demands that Israel stop manslaughter immediately, unable to suppress their towering anger at its reckless military action.

The Middle East countries said all at once that a humanitarian disaster will strike Rafah, the last refuge for lots of people and that Israel's wild ambition poses a serious threat to the regional stability.

Saying that the innocent residents in the Gaza Strip should not be left going to ruin, different European countries strongly assert that the noncommittal attitude should no longer be taken in connection with the crisis in the area.

One nation has entered a dangerous phase of complete annihilation due to Israel's manslaughter, which is unthinkable apart from the US' sinister intention to keep the Mideast region under its thumb by using Israel as a pawn.

As regards the fact that Algeria submitted a resolution to the UN Security Council in demand of immediate humanitarian ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, the US ambassador to the UN said on February 17 that the US does not support the resolution and that even if it is put to a vote, it will fail to be adopted.

The murderers will be given a stern punishment by mankind as they do not hesitate to commit massacre to realize their wild ambition for territorial expansion under the active patronage and protection of the US, an empire of evil, which came into being on the heaps of corpses of Native Americans.

## 'We will make 2024 another year of happiness for the people'



**Kim Won Ho**

Department director of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee

The Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Worker's Party of Korea defined 2024 as a decisive year of confirming the victory in attaining the fighting goal set by the Eighth Party Congress by heightening the offensive spirit on all fronts of socialist construction.

By the end of 2024, all sectors and units should secure an obvious practical guarantee for the fulfillment of the five-year plan.

After making an analysis of last year's work from the viewpoint of drawing a lesson even from successes, we will plan the work for this year and stoutly push ahead with its fulfillment.

This year, we are faced with the task of strengthening the national administrative and economic work system and order, lead purposeful economic development and carry out the plan for capital city construction, rural housing construction, an important task that was started according to the historic decision of the Eighth Party Central Committee, and grand long-term construction projects designed by the Party Central Committee.

And the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee has a very important role to play in protecting land and environment, building and managing Pyongyang, the capital of the revolution,

in line with the developing reality and national prestige and taking measures to cope with disasters and crises.

Agriculture is the great foundation of the country.

Our committee will discharge our duty in fostering social atmosphere and climate of giving positive assistance to the countryside and in settling the food problem of the people by establishing strict food administrative discipline.

Since the light industrial sector has set it as the primary task to improve the quality of consumer goods and condiments and will wage the struggle to this end, while stepping up the modernization of light industrial and locally run

factories, and the sericultural sector will be developed in 2024, we will improve commercial, public catering and welfare service work in such a way that the original features of socialism are preserved perfectly.

We will discharge our obligation in consolidating and developing our socialist system, precious gains of the revolution and strong political weapon, by enhancing the role of the people's power organ.

We will channel major efforts into solving the problems that remain unsettled or as obstacles in implementing the decisions of the Party Congress from this year, so as to expand the successes we have achieved so far and make them prove effective, and carry out all plans, and thereby ensure that the capital city takes the lead in the struggle for improving the people's living standards.

### BYWORD

## Top and absolute priority to people's interests and demands

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un said in his speech delivered in the Ninth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK in September 2023 that the government, which regards it as the supreme principle of its activities to prioritize the interests and demands of the people and hold them absolute, should

continue to direct primary efforts to promoting the people's well-being.

Realizing the interests and demands of the people is in actuality the most important and preferential work and nothing is spared to that end in the DPRK, where all

policies and activities of the Workers' Party of Korea and the state are people-oriented.

In recent years alone, modern dwelling houses have mushroomed in the capital city of Pyongyang and farm villages across the country to be given to the people. And

such units for the cultural life of the people and for the improvement of their living standards as the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort and the Ryonpho and Jungphyong greenhouse farms were splendidly built, contributing to the welfare of the people.

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# US Indo-Pacific strategy is geopolitical confrontation scenario disturbing regional peace and stability

Ri Ji Won, a fellow of the Institute for American Studies of the DPRK Foreign Ministry, on February 17 released the following article, titled "Washington's Indo-Pacific strategy is a geopolitical confrontation scenario that disturbs regional peace and stability":

On the lapse of two years since the release of the report on the "Indo-Pacific strategy of the US", the US administration recently claimed that a "historic advance" was made in implementing the Indo-Pacific strategy, praising the intensified attempt to rig up and expand regional blocs as a major "achievement".

It also praised itself that the project for building a free and open Indo-Pacific has been accelerated, the ties with states inside and outside the region strengthened, the regional prosperity promoted, the regional security reinforced and the ability to cope with threats in the 21st century beyond the border provided.

What does the Biden administration's overheated celebration show?

It is not so hard for anyone to see that the US, driven into a tight corner in Ukraine, the Middle East and other parts of the world, is trying hard to advertise as if it is achieving "success" only in the Asia-Pacific region.

However, the present situation, two years after the publication of the report on the "Indo-Pacific strategy of the US", clearly shows the absurdity of the "construction of a free, open, prosperous and stable region" advocated by the present US administration.

First, the US Indo-Pacific strategy has brought about "closure and confrontation between camps" in the region, instead of "freedom and opening".

As is known, the US Indo-Pacific strategy's basic mission is to contain anti-US independent countries in the region and gain unchallenged position.

The Indo-Pacific strategy, which originated from the Asia-Pacific rebalancing strategy proposed by the Obama administration in 2012, was conceptualized and evolved into a more comprehensive strategy during the period of the Trump administration.

In the period of the Trump administration, the US expanded the scope of its strategy, which had been limited to the Asia-Pacific region, to the Indian Ocean, advocating the "building of a free and open Indo-Pacific region", and in 2019 the US State and Defense departments released reports on the "Indo-Pacific strategy" codifying this strategy.

The hegemony-oriented and aggressive nature of the Indo-Pacific strategy was more clearly revealed in the period of the Biden administration.

The Biden administration has made clearer the confrontational

nature of QUAD since the beginning of its tenure of office. In September 2021 it invented AUKUS, sparking off concern about nuclear proliferation and tension in the region.

Meanwhile, it has become more undisguised in the maneuvers to enroll the vassal forces in bellicose and irreversible blocs, including the move to institutionalize the US-Japan-puppet ROK and US-Japan-the Philippines tripartite cooperation.

The US also forced the member states of ASEAN and other regional countries, including the Pacific

island nations, to select one alternative between the two ideological stands, pro-US or independence.

This made the countries which chose the pro-US move at the US' beck and call, shackled by the US regional strategy, and the countries which chose independence undoubtedly become the target of the US.

Second, the US Indo-Pacific strategy has caused "instability of situation and war crisis" in the region, not "stability".

The US directed primary efforts to pressurizing regional countries through tightened military collusion with its followers in order to carry out the Indo-Pacific strategy.

In particular, it has intensified the triangular military cooperation with Japan and the ROK puppets and frequently sent strategic assets to the Korean peninsula and its vicinity, talking about the "offer of extended deterrent".

Last year alone, a US nuclear submarine called at the puppet ROK region in 40-odd years and a US nuclear strategic bomber landed on the region for the first time in 30-odd years. The two rounds of meetings of the "Nuclear Consultative Group" discussed the plan for using nuclear weapons against the DPRK in a practical way.

The US also deliberately strained the situation and sparked disputes among regional countries by sending warships and fighters one after another into the hot spots, including the South China Sea, the East China Sea and the Taiwan Strait, under the pretext of "freedom of navigation".

In addition, it has staged joint military drills under various codenames such as Ulji Freedom Guardian, Pacific Dragon, Resilient Shield, Noble Fusion and

Cope North in the Asia-Pacific region every day to escalate the danger of military conflict as never before.

Moreover, the dark clouds of war hanging over Europe are coming over to Asia as the US is instigating NATO to advance into the Asia-Pacific region.

It is a prelude to NATO's aggression on the Asia-Pacific looming ahead that NATO mentioned "threats" by the Asia-Pacific countries in its new strategic concept in June 2022 and is recently inveigling regional countries into the ranks of its strategic partners.

Owing to the reckless military confrontation hysteria of the US and its followers, the outbreak of a nuclear war in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly, the Korean peninsula—the world's biggest nuclear arsenal—has already become a matter of point of time beyond possibility and regional countries had to make an inevitable option of bolstering up the military capabilities for self-defence to deal with the current security situation.

The era of a new Cold War looms large in the region due to the attempt of the US, Japan and puppet ROK to establish an Asian version of NATO and the black tentacles of NATO stretching to the Asia-Pacific region.

Third, the US Indo-Pacific strategy has fed "confusion", not "prosperity" of the region.

The US has got undisguised in its sinister intention to exclude and isolate a certain state from the regional economic system and expanded the security concept into the economic field. As a result, the economic development and growth in the Asia-Pacific region are seriously hampered and hindered.

The Biden administration adopted the "CHIPS and Science Act" and put forward the plan for establishing the "Chip Four Alliance", thus declaring an illegal economic war aimed at inhibiting the sci-tech development of regional countries by making vicious use of semiconductor.

In addition, it puts the brakes on its domestic companies and Western countries' cooperation with the US rival countries in the field of cutting-edge technology, touting "separation of relations and risk reduction".

Notably, the US is attempting to build an exclusive supply chain that excludes regional countries by means of the India-Pacific Economic Framework.

Much upset by its waning economic influence in the Asia-Pacific region, the present US chief executive officially initiated the India-Pacific Economic Framework by rallying its 13 vassal countries during his trip to Japan in May 2022.

During the APEC summit held in San Francisco last November, he organized a summit of the India-Pacific Economic Framework, at which the US revealed its attempt to put collective economic pressure on some countries in the region.

The US arranged a "small-group meeting" against the backdrop of the meeting for seeking regional economic cooperation and development to enter into the "core mineral dialogue". This fact clearly showed what object the US is seeking through the India-Pacific Economic Framework.

The US is also resorting to rampant interference in the internal affairs of developing countries while attaching all sorts of political strings to the unctuous signboard of "financial aid". As a result, the economic damage to the region is growing and some countries fail to find a way for independent development, driven into constant chaos.

In the long run, the economic war being waged by the US against independent sovereign states has made the regional economy a political scapegoat, with the result that a stable supply network has not yet been built and the process of integration of the Asia-Pacific economic and trade cooperation seriously damaged.

It is the "biggest gift" the US Indo-Pacific strategy brought to the region that the US bound regional countries to the structure of inter-camp confrontation and caused security uneasiness and economic confusion.

It is by no means fortuitous that international media and experts assert that no matter how ostentatiously the US wraps the strategy, it is to serve the interests of the US from A to Z and it brought unprecedented confusion and instability to the Asia-Pacific region.

The US is talking about its "devoted efforts" and "threats" from the anti-US and independent states in the region to sustain its declining hegemonic position and the old international order. However, it can never cover up the aggressive nature pervading the Indo-Pacific strategy.

The countries in the Asia-Pacific region should keep strict vigilance against the US moves to turn the region into a checkerboard for geopolitical gambling for the sake of the establishment of unipolar hegemony and its own interests and should categorically reject them.

## Briefly

### Russia

#### President censures West's neocolonial policy

Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the colonial policy should have remained as a shameful page in the past, but the West is now trying to cling to such a policy in a congratulatory message sent to the first meeting of "For freedom of nations", a forum of supporters of the struggle against modern neocolonial acts on February 16.

He stressed that Russia has done a great job to remove the foundation of neocolonial system and assist the national liberation movement and it will strive with all its strength for the progress of all countries and peoples and the formation of a democratic multipolar world.

### China

#### FM spokesman refutes US groundless accusation

A spokesman for the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a press conference on February 19 refuted the US' accusation as to the network security issue.

The director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on February 18 asserted that China has implanted aggressive malware in the networks of the US' major infrastructures.

Answering a question raised in this regard, the spokesman disclosed that it is none other than the US cyber command that openly regards major infrastructures of other countries as legitimate targets of network attack.

He noted that the US should give up the attempt to tarnish the image of another country using the network security issue.

### Iran

#### FM spokesman criticizes US for supporting Israel

A spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry criticized the US' moves to render support on an SNS on February 18.

Denouncing the US Senate for having recently approved a huge military aid plan for Israel, he said that it shows the US has egged Israel on to slaughter innocent Palestinians.

The US' moves to render military support will further incite Israel to man-killing in the Gaza Strip, he added.

### Venezuela

#### FM blames Canada for interference

The Venezuelan Foreign Minister recently decried through an SNS Canada's act of interfering in the internal affairs of his country.

In connection with the fact that Canada expressed concern over the arrest of a criminal made in Venezuela for hatching a traitorous and terrorist plot, he demanded that Canada discontinue meddling.

Asserting that Canada posing as an "empire" is prying into Venezuela's internal affairs as it is morally base, he said that it is dancing to the tune of the terrorists and subversive elements and saboteurs who are opposed to the Venezuelan government.

**What the US Indo-Pacific strategy has brought to the region:**

**Firstly, "closure and confrontation between camps", not "freedom and opening",**

**Secondly, "instability of situation and war crisis", not "stability",**

**Thirdly, "confusion", not "prosperity" of the region.**



# Jongwoldaeborum and national customs

By Ryom Un Gyong PT

**Jongwoldaeborum** (the fifteenth day of the first month by the lunar calendar) is one of the traditional holidays of the Korean people.

It was usually celebrated from January 14 by the lunar calendar which was called small full-moon day and the following day was called big full-moon day.

From time immemorial, the Korean people held various events on the holiday, reflecting their simple desire for good luck and good harvest in the new year.

According to Jo Myong Chol, researcher at the Folklore Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences, such events included *hwajoknori* on small full-moon day and welcoming the first full moon on big full-moon day.

On small full-moon day, people stood a long pole and hung different kinds of grains on it, and the pole was called *hwajok* or pole of cereal stack.

They hung on the pole ears of rice, millet, foxtail millet and so on and an opened cotton fruit on the top of them in cotton growing areas.

The pole was put up in the garden or behind the cattle shed and children sang dancing around it.

That day, there took place a major event signalling the start of farming and there was also a custom of spreading paddy and dry fields with manure early on the morning.

The custom reflecting a desire of the Koreans to gather a good harvest by working hard in the new year shows their assiduity.

On the evening of big full-moon day, people went up a high mountain or hill around their villages to view the full moon, which was called

welcoming the first full moon.

People believed that many good things would happen in the year to the one who saw the rising full moon before others and talked about happiness of families while seeing the moon.

They used to say that a young man would get married to a beautiful and good-natured young woman and a newly-married woman would give birth to a healthy son if they saw the full moon before others.

That is why they would give the road to such a man or woman in welcoming the first full moon so that they could see it before others.

During the holiday, people played various folk games like kite-flying, pinwheel turning and tug of war.

Also, they enjoyed themselves cooking and sharing traditional foods.

The representative foods for the day were *ogokpap* (boiled rice mixed with four other grains), *pokssam* and dishes made with nine dried

herbs.

The Korean people boiled and ate rice mixed with four other grains on the holiday because it is good for health and they had a simple desire for good harvests of all cereals.

*Pokssam* is boiled rice wrapped with leaves of salted perilla, dried aster and bok choy kimchi.

On the holiday the Korean people ate *ssam* (boiled rice wrapped with leaves of vegetables) as they believed they would have good luck if they ate the food that day, so they called it *pokssam* (pok means good luck).

Nine dried herbs meant no certain herbs but different kinds or lots of herbs in relation to the number *nine*.

The kinds of the herbs varied by regions but the people generally panbroiled or seasoned mushrooms, bracken, broad bellflower roots, flowering fern and aralia shoots.

People said that only when they eat dishes made with nine dried herbs on the holiday,

can they be unaffected by summer heat and be in good health throughout the year.

In addition, they made and ate noodles for lunch on January 14 by the lunar calendar.

And they believed that if they crunched raw chestnut, walnut, ginkgo nut or pine nut, their teeth would become strong.

The Koreans impressively spent Jongwoldaeborum conducting a variety of merry and interesting folk games and ceremonies, with the desire and hope for good luck, good harvest and good haul of fish in the new year.

The impressions of the holiday remained in the memory of people as pleasant subjects of conversation, encouraging them in the laborious farming season.

Today, the Korean people still celebrate Jongwoldaeborum as a traditional holiday every year and the holiday and the custom of welcoming the first full moon were registered as national ICH elements.



A dish made with all five grains.



Nine dishes of dried herbs.

## Top ten players and coaches of 2023

# Ability possessed through sincere efforts

By Ri Sung Ik PT

**Kim Yu Sim** at the Ryongaksan Taekwon-Do Team was chosen as one of the DPRK's top ten players of 2021.

Later, too, she showed her ability as an ace in different games and competitions at home.

The DPRK Taekwon-Do players fully demonstrated the might of the orthodox martial art of the Korean nation at the 22nd Taekwon-Do World Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan, in August 2023, by winning 64 gold medals and 31 trophies, including the winning trophy and five individual technical prizes, to top the total country rankings.

At the championships, Kim won five gold medals and the senior female individual technical prize and made a big contribution to the country's topping the total country rankings.

She was perfect in pattern, demonstration and special technique events and, in particular, she displayed her unusual ability well at the sparring event.

Kim is mild and calm in normal times but she would wonderfully put her tactical intention into practice, throwing her opponent on the defensive by dint of attacks and counterattacks based on quick movements.

Not only players and coaches but spectators expressed their surprise at her ability.

Her fellows and coaches said that it was the fruit of the sincere and strenuous efforts of her who never deceives herself.

Kim Yu Sim, who demonstrated the spirit of the Korean nation with its orthodox martial art and added lustre to the honour of the country with gold medals, was chosen as one of the DPRK's top ten players of 2023.

### Able coach

**Ri Chol Rim**, coach of the Ryongaksan Taekwon-Do Team, worked as coach of the National Taekwon-Do Training Centre of the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee during the 22nd Taekwon-Do World Championships.

Many people say it is unthinkable from his efforts that the DPRK players got 64 gold medals, the winning trophy and five individual technical prizes, thus winning the championships.

Because he trained many players as excellent ones with special techniques in a short period. Among them was Kim Wi Ryong.

He was perfect in physical and technical preparedness and sense during training but he failed to distinguish himself in games.

Generally, Taekwon-Do players tend to attach importance to kicks rather than punches. So, he did not give full play to his

natural merit – powerful and fast punch.

Thinking over and over again, Ri guided him in training in such a way as to enable him to overcome his defects and retain his strong point.

As a result, Kim began to display his special technique.

In particular, the quickness and might of his punches were demonstrated in close fight with spectacular scenes of his punching and kicking unfolding.

Thanks to Ri's efforts, Kim Wi Ryong and many other players won the first place at the sparring event by fully displaying their strong points.

Ri Chol Rim, who is recognized as a "coach who knows how to make players overcome their weak points by dint of their strong points to achieve success", was chosen as one of the DPRK's top ten coaches of 2023.

## DPRK successful in int'l competitions

KCNA

**D**PRK players bagged three gold medals at the 1st Judo Beton Hungarian Cup.

The tournament brought together more than 100 judoists from different countries.

DPRK judoists Kim Chol Gwang, Jon Su Song and Mun Song Hui defeated all their opponents in the men's 73kg and women's 52kg and 70kg categories respectively to take the first place.

Meanwhile, Chae Kwang Jin

came third in the men's 66kg category.

The FIG Artistic Gymnastics Apparatus World Cup 2024 held in Cairo of Egypt brought together more than 280 ace men and women gymnasts from 70 countries and regions including the DPRK, China, Italy and France.

Jong Ryong Il and An Chang Ok correctly performed movements of high degrees of difficulty in the men's rings event and the women's vaulting horse in the apparatus finals and took the first place respectively.

## Stone lantern in Kaeguk Temple

By Choe Yong Nam PT

**T**his stone lantern was originally located in the Kaeguk Temple in Kaesong City.

Built in 935, the Kaeguk Temple had been renowned as one of the ten celebrated temples in the period of the Koryo dynasty (918-1392), but perished in the period of the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392-1910).

The square plane lantern is 3.72 metres high and is regarded as one of relatively big lanterns remaining in

the DPRK. It consists of the pedestal, pillar, lamp frame and top. It was made by trimming granite.

Each side of the square plane pedestal is 1.92m wide, and its upper surface is engraved with upside-down lotus patterns.

The lantern, which looks simple yet majestic, is part of the Korean nation's important cultural heritage showing the stone architecture in the early days of the Koryo dynasty.

It is now preserved in the compound of the Koryo Museum in Kaesong.

