

Arrival of era of our-state-first principle

By Pang Un Ju PT

The Korean people are now in the era of our-state-first principle, the most dignified and pride-filled time in their development course.

The era of our-state-first principle is a new era of self-respect and prosperity which was brought about as the Workers' Party of Korea made every possible effort for the good of the people and persistently built up its own strength while dauntlessly braving all challenges of history and as a result of the do-or-die struggle of the Korean people to enhance the dignity and status of the state.

The birth of the era was possible as the faith and will of the Korean people, who are eager to demonstrate socialist Korea to the world under the leadership of the WPK, were remarkably sublimated and the overall

national strength and prestige were increased radically.

After Chairman Kim Jong Il passed away unexpectedly, the WPK launched an unyielding offensive to notch up victories against all obstacles by rousing all the people to action in the face of worst trials.

In particular, it put forward the politics of the people-first principle as a fundamental issue decisive of the existence of the Party and the victory or defeat of the state and as the major mode of politics in the period of taking over and carrying forward the Juche revolution and has administered it consistently.

It put forth the revolutionary slogan "Everything for the people and everything by relying on them!", made sure that selfless, devoted service for the people ran through all

Party and state activities and carried on production and construction by prioritizing the promotion of the people's welfare, with the result that the people-first principle has been established as the durable political climate and traits of the Party and state.

It boosted its strength as much as possible to usher in an era of tremendous change when rapid advance of socialist construction is promoted.

In the course of the all-people struggle for stepping up socialist construction by giving the fullest play to the self-development capacity, self-reliance became a national trait of Juche Korea, the one and only fighting spirit of the Korean people, and the lifeline of the independent national economy, the socialist economy, was firmly safeguarded.

The WPK built a powerful national defence capability no one dares to make light

of.

Though the moves of hostile forces to strip the DPRK of its rights to sovereignty, existence and development were unimaginably aggressive, the WPK accomplished the great historic cause of the nation for building up the country's self-reliant defence capability, which could not be achieved even in 20 or 30 years by conventional way of thinking, in a few years.

It also remarkably boosted the strategic position and prestige of the country by organizing and leading offensive and adroit external activities.

Thanks to the do-or-die struggle of the Korean people who are boundlessly faithful to the leadership and cause of the WPK, the DPRK could daringly break through manifold difficulties and usher in the era of our-state-first principle.

Domestic production, recycling proceed in high gear

Provincial sci-tech committees notch up remarkable successes in research into recycling

By Ri Sang Il PT

The Third Enlarged Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea in September underscored the need to conduct recycling in a more positive way by relying on science and technology in the light industry sector.

According to an official of the State Commission of Science and Technology, the provincial committees of science and technology in all parts of the country have put primary efforts into ensuring the domestic production and recycling of raw and other materials after setting it as an important goal to produce a variety of products needed for meeting the people's material demand with their own efforts, technologies and raw materials in relevant areas.

The Pyongyang Municipal Committee of Science and Technology set up processes for producing corn syrup from maize in various districts and counties and solved technological problems arising in normalizing production. The city made sure that local industrial factories set up new processes for producing different kinds of sanitary ware, bricks from low-grade coal and paper from fallen

leaves.

The South Hwanghae Provincial Committee of Science and Technology researched and introduced a technology for producing charcoal from sawdust or life sewage and introduced power generators based on anthracite gasification at dozens of local industrial factories in the province to contribute to producing consumer goods without letup.

In the course of conducting research into using waste plastic as a raw material, the North Phyongan Provincial Committee of Science and Technology established a plastic sack production process and solved technological problems arising in making different types of bowls and plastic pipes and belts. It carries on the work of establishing caustic soda production processes in cities and counties.

The Jagang Provincial Committee of Science and Technology made it possible to produce various kinds of school things for students in the province and made progress in research into the production of surface active agent which is used to produce liquid soap with local materials.

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Industrial establishments hit production targets for October

KCNA

The Musan Mining Complex carried out its iron ore production plan by ensuring normal operation of large-capacity excavators and rotary drills and introducing rational blasting methods.

The Chongjin Steel Works operated furnaces scientifically and fully supplied steel castings and fireproof materials to overfulfil daily production plans.

After introducing the slag level measuring technology into the oxygen blast furnace, the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex works to complete the existing production processes by applying advanced sci-tech hits. And the Chollima Steel Complex introduced an oxygen-pulverized coal blowing technology into the UHP electric arc furnace, thus opening up a prospect for reducing the time and electricity used in

the steel making process and lowering the amount of raw materials consumed per unit of product.

The Suphung and Pujongang power stations upgraded and realized high-efficiency operation of equipment and protective devices to raise their productivity. The Kanggye Youth Power Station and Sodusu Power Station made new generating equipment to increase power output.

The Pukchang Thermal Power Complex introduced an automatic digital excitation control device to ensure the safety of power generation and completed an automatic combustion control system based on an analysis of oxygen concentration to increase the combustion efficiency while reducing coal consumption.

The Pyongyang Thermal Power Station established a heavy oil-free plasma ignition and combustion stabilization technology, introduced the sealed boiler

construction technology based on hollow insulating slag bricks and a new dust collection technology into boilers and installed turbine blades to ensure the stable increase of power generation.

The Tokchon and Kaechon area coal-mining complexes increased the proportion of work done by machines in pits to boost production per shift. And the Anju and Onsong area coal-mining complexes and others hit their monthly production targets by employing effective working methods for accelerating progress per driving cycle.

The Taean Heavy Machine Complex made notable achievements in the processing of equipment parts everyday by improving the performance of processing facilities including turning and large lathes and the Pyongyang Electric Cable Factory 326 completed the covering material production process

based on recycled raw materials. The Kyongsong Insulator Factory carried out the production plan on all indices including insulators of all kinds and disconnectors and the Songchongang Electrical Appliances Factory solved technical problems arising in effectively recycling parts of motors. The Anju Insulator Factory, the Kusong Machine Tool Factory, the Taean Electrical Appliances Factory and others are also working hard to expand production.

The Sangwon Cement Complex pushes ahead with the capacity-expansion project according to schedule while making innovations in the production of cement to be supplied to major construction projects. The Sunchon Cement Complex and the Chonnaeri and Sunghori cement factories also boosted production by giving precedence to the supply of raw and other materials.

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Premier inspects 10 000-flat building project in Pyongyang



Premier Kim Tok Hun (second from left) acquaints himself with the progress of 10 000-flat building project in Pyongyang.

KCNA

Premier Kim Tok Hun, 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 the construction sites for building 10 000 flats in

Pyongyang.

Looking round the construction sites presenting majestic appearance of a modern street with multistoried and skyscraping apartment houses in peculiar styles that fill Songsin and Songhwa areas, he stressed the need to thoroughly ensure the quality of final project and landscaping by carrying

out operation schedules for units and objects without fail now that the construction is in the final stage and strictly observing the demand of design and construction.

The Premier also inspected the agricultural sector in Sunchon City.

As he made the rounds of the Phungthan Cooperative Farm, the Phyontri

Cooperative Farm and a grain store in the city, he called on officials to take full measures to successfully conclude this year's farming including the effective use of combined rice threshers, meticulously conduct the operation of grain stores and make substantial preparations for next year's farming.

Autumn land management campaign gains momentum

With the general mobilization movement for land management gathering momentum, Pyongyang finished the dredging of over 90 000 cubic metres and road paving and repair in many sections in a short period.

Mangyongdae and Ryongsong districts carried out the dredging of Pothong and Hapjang rivers, while Central and other districts pushed ahead with the repair of dwelling houses and sprucing up of parks and pleasure grounds.

Nampho City concentrated its manpower on the improvement of rivers to finish over 100 000 cubic metres of riverdredging and more than 6 000 square metres of stone covering, while carrying on the construction of sewage treatment and waste disposal plants. And it steps up the paving of promenade and the construction and repair of dwelling houses as planned. Kangso and Taean districts launched into the dredging of rivers with risks of flood damage and waterway straightening work, as well as a dam project, making it possible to protect a large area of farmland.

Songchon County of South Phyongan Province mobilizes its manpower and means for clearing all rivers to meet regional characteristics with many mountains and the Piryu River.

It conducted some 40 000 square metres of embankment building and stone covering over embankments to protect the town area from flood, and dredged dozens of kilometres of medium and small rivers and covered stones on the banks, thereby retrieving a great deal of farmland and improving the places affected by moisture. It built or rebuilt over 20 bridges, replaced underdrainage and water pipes in a dozen kilometres of road sections and built a retaining wall.

North Hamgyong Province produced over 61 million saplings in 40-odd kinds, carried out 250 000 cubic metres of dredging of rivers and covered stones in areas of over 100 000 square metres.

In particular, Chongjin piled up earth on an area of thousands of cubic metres of the Rabuk River before carrying out masonry and is now concentrating

efforts and means on arranging over 600 metre-section of the Susong River. It also carries on the planting and management of bank-protecting forests of medium and small rivers in a responsible way.

Hoeryong City dredged over 35 000 cubic metres of mud in a river section of over 80 metres in 10-odd days and carried out over 3 000 square metres of masonry.

Innovations take place in the production of saplings needed for the autumn tree planting.

The Central Tree Nursery under the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection raised tens of millions of saplings including black chokeberry.

The Central Tree Nursery of the Ministry of Urban Management established a production system for the species of great economic and ornamental value before producing over two million trees in more than 90 species including northern pitch pine, Korean spruce and whiteleaf magnolia.

The Kangwon provincial tree nursery, the Riwon County parent nursery in South Hamgyong Province and North Hamgyong provincial tree nursery put the cultivation of saplings on a scientific, industrial and intensive basis, while Ryanggang Province turned out millions of wild fruit tree saplings including seabuckthorn trees.

Fishing units in the area of the East Sea of Korea press on with the construction, repair and improvement of sea dikes and other protection installations.

The Kim Chaek Fishery Station manufactured a new-type formwork for building parts and elements whose assembly and dismantlement are easy but economic effectiveness is high and launched into the production and installation of building parts and elements in a three-dimensional way, while the Tupho fishery station for the supply of dolphin's feed wound up bank revetment by prioritizing the production of box-shape prefab part and increasing the operational rate of vehicles. The Sinpho cultivation and fishery station and Riwon, Ryonjin and Songnam fishery stations push ahead with the reinforcement work of coastal structures.

Sideline animal husbandry brings benefits

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

University runs livestock farming base with rewards

Pyongyang University of Architecture enjoys great benefits from its comprehensive livestock farming base with a total floor space of over 10 000 square metres.

A few years ago, it had a small animal husbandry base covering an area of 400 square metres and it only raised 40-odd domestic animals including pig and chicken.

The university built a three-storey combined animal barn where there are several domestic animal sheds, feed store and sci-tech learning space, as well as a fish pond covering an area of more than 800 square metres. It established a real-time monitoring and control system at domestic

animal cages and installed solar panels and batteries to supply power for lighting. It also constructed greenhouses next to the combined animal barn that can ensure livestock farming and produce vegetables at the same time.

"Our animal husbandry base, which was built as required by the new century, is fine in appearance. And it fully ensures scientific accuracy and utility in all processes related to animal husbandry, ranging from seed selection, feed supply and veterinary vaccination," said Kim Kwang Ryong, manager of the sideline stock-farm under Pyongyang University of Architecture.

The farm established a well-knit breeding stock system by securing domestic

animal strains that grow fast and breed quickly. In particular, it solved the feed problem by introducing a fermented treatment method based on indigenous microorganisms, thereby making it possible to reduce the consumption of grain feed while increasing meat output.

The feed made by combining hen and duck droppings with indigenous microorganisms and a small amount of rice bran or seedcake is in the ratio 1:4 in light of grain to non-cereal feed. It is effective in preventing domestic animal diseases. Organic materials made by properly mixing indigenous microorganisms with sawdust, rice chaff, rice bran, humus, calcium

hydroxide and clay are used as a litter for animals. As they have ability to decompose faeces, they are used to remove stench and as supplementary feed.

Not only the management of temperature and humidity in all domestic animal sheds but also that of water quality in fish ponds such as pH, dissolved oxygen and temperature are controlled by a computer at the general control room. The farm also takes strict anti-epizootic measures to remarkably reduce death rate.

According to the manager, it now raises thousands of domestic animals including pigs, ducks, chickens, geese and turkeys and the fish farm keeps tens of thousands of fishes.

By making effective use of mountains

The Sopho gas filling station is located in dense forests of Hyongjesan District, Pyongyang.

The station is well-known not just because it is playing a big part in supplying fuel for citizens in the capital city, but because it makes a good living by making good use of the mountainous area.

"Trees of worth were hardly seen around here until some years ago when our station was just set up. I thought about its future over again as its area is limited in

an out-of-the-way place for its special characteristic," recalled Kim Nam Yong, head of the station.

The station decided to create forests and breed domestic animals by exploiting the nearby mountains.

A map showing the master plan for afforestation appeared in its compound and every employee turned out in tree-planting.

They raised saplings of good tree species including pine, oak and acacia at sapling fields between forests before transplanting them in

mountains.

They also planted black chokeberry, Korean pepper bush, broad bellflower and other medicinal herbs in open spaces in forests.

Mountains became greener and greener year after year to attract lots of various animals and birds.

What is noticeable is that they planted acacia trees in large numbers.

"Acacias serve as a good source of nectar. We planted lots of them in the mountains and get 150 to 200 kilograms of honey per hectare," said

employee Jon Ung Ryong.

Their leaves are used as feed for sheep, goats and rabbits to produce a large quantity of meats.

It has some fish ponds for farming carp, grass fish and catfish by exploiting a mountain stream.

"Our station is successful in every work thanks to the strong attachment of its employees to their workplace which can be felt from every part of the station covered with different fruit trees and chives," said Kim Nam Yong.



KIM YONG CHAN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Livestock farming is promoted at different units to increase meat production and cash income.

Following the road of patriotism

WOMAN RANGER FOLLOWS IN HER LATE HUSBAND'S FOOTSTEPS



Choe Nam Ok, forest ranger in Taechon-ri, Rinsan County, North Hwanghae Province.

If you visit Taechon-ri in Rinsan County, North Hwanghae Province, you can see mountains covered with pine-nut, chestnut, Changsong larch and other trees.

The dense forests produce large quantities of wild fruits and timber every year to greatly contribute to the economic life of the county as well as the ri. Such a success is unthinkable apart from the efforts of the late Merited Forest Ranger Kim Tok Bae.

There is a reason why he became a forest ranger after decades-long military service.

When he returned home after his demob, he saw mountains denuded of trees. Grieving over that, he thought that he could never look away from the mountains of his native village.

He made up his mind to devote his whole life to greening those mountains.

After being appointed as a forest ranger, he did everything vigorously and on a large scale as he had done during his military service.

He walked a dozen kilometres a day in the daytime to learn about forests and topography in his charge and acquired the knowledge of forestry, ranging from the production of tree saplings to afforestation and prevention of blights at night.

After building a several-hectare tree nursery, he pushed ahead with afforestation with the saplings produced there.

In those days, the mountains that had once been naked grew greener and became habitats of different species of birds and a large amount of wild fruits could be collected every year.

But he never rested on his laurels. His cherished desire was to make all the mountains "gold mountains". He even travelled a long distance to get a sapling of high economic value.

He was awarded the title of Merited Forest Ranger in 2018.

"It is impossible to grow forests without patriotic mind. Afforestation does not produce good results in an instant, but requires a long period of time to bring benefits. As he had a deep affection for the forests and felt pride in his job, he could achieve such a good success," said Han Hong Chol, manager of the Rinsan County Forestry Management Station.

Regrettably, however, he passed away all of a sudden. "Thick forests are like his own flesh. I should succeed to his work which is associated with his sweats, I thought," said his wife Choe Nam Ok.

Choe became a forest ranger in place of her husband though she was a lecturer.

It was not an easy job for a woman to travel a dozen kilometres through steep mountains every day.

Although she has a family to support, she spends most of her life in out-of-the-way mountains. She makes the rounds of thick forests in the morning and tends saplings in the tree nursery in the afternoon.

"Nothing is difficult to a willing heart," she said. "You cannot keep planting forests in lonely mountains only with the sense of duty. The awareness that every tree is a precious asset to be handed down through generations and that I am responsible for them make me continue this way."

Platform for exchanging information about recycling

Homepage serves as an important platform for economic growth

By **Jong Hwa Sun** PT

The Manmulsang e-commerce homepage is one of the most popular homepages in the DPRK.

It is constantly updated by sensitively reflecting the global trend of development of e-commerce and customers' need.

It contains a platform for exchanging information about recycling which was opened last year.

Through this platform, users can find information about the products, equipment and raw materials that are lying idle and the data about the factories, enterprises, commercial service units and even individuals that hope to realize exchange or sale of those available materials by rational methods.

According to Jon Chun Hyok, department chief of the Yonphung Commercial IT Company, the number

of visitors to the platform are on the steady increase and they access information more than 150 000 times on a daily average and contribute over 1 700 articles a week.

"The significance of recycling lies not only in preventing environmental pollution and lowering the costs of products, but in guaranteeing sustainable economic development.

Through the platform, users can acquire recycling techniques of different

fields and conduct exchange easily and quickly," said the department chief.

A user posted on the platform an article about a knotty problem arising in producing a finishing material with a recycling technique and he could read an article containing a solution a few hours later and make big progress in work, Jon added.

The matter of recycling plastic waste takes the largest share in the platform at present.

"I contributed to the platform several articles containing helpful information including the data about the recycling of plastic waste into goods and that about the plastic waste processing equipment our research group made. Each of the articles was perused over 5 000 times and we have received large orders for the equipment," said Ri Mun Hyok, researcher at the University of Sciences.

Now that it is crucially important to effectively exploit material and technical potentials for economic development, the platform for exchanging information about recycling serves as a useful lever for economic growth.



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Designers and programmers at the Yonphung Commercial IT Company discuss how to provide more commercial information.

Factory promotes domestic production, recycling

By **Jong Chol** PT

The Pyongyang Dental Hygiene Supplies Factory positively steps up the domestic production of toothpaste and recycling.

It recently set up a toothpaste tube production process based on recycling technology.

"We set a goal of producing the tube of toothpaste by using leftovers from production and worked hard to attain it," said Jon Chol Jin, director of the dental hygiene supplies research institute under the factory.

The technical personnel grasped the production processes in detail and, on the basis of it, completed the designs of equipment for the production of toothpaste tube to suit the specific conditions

of the factory.

And they invented and made various jigs in succession to establish a toothpaste tube production process in a short time.

The production process consists of sorting, pulverization, washing, drying, extruding, ball moulding and others.

In the course of pushing the domestic production of raw materials, the factory also established a peppermint oil refining process based on the vacuum distillation method.

According to its technicians, mint oil is the most important one of the several perfumes the factory uses for production.

The establishment of this process enabled the factory to sharply reduce the consumption of electricity for

the production of perfumes, make the colour of mint oil pure and transparent to look fine and ensure the durability of perfume peculiar to mint

oil.

The factory now concentrates on developing new toothpastes with locally available raw materials.



REUSE OF PLASTIC WASTE IMPROVED



A partial view of the vinyl sheet production line of the Kangson Vinyl Sheet Factory.

By **Kim Il Jin** PT

The Kangson Vinyl Sheet Factory is widely known as a unit which makes profits by positively employing recycling technology.

It has produced vinyl sheets for agriculture, vinyl raincoats, sheets for package and different sizes of plastic pipes over the past ten years by recycling plastic waste.

"We researched production process and methods to introduce recycling technology by focusing on maintaining the quality of products," said U Jae Myong, manager of the factory.

In the course of this, it came to pay special attention to mixing all the plastic waste without considering the difference in quality of polyethylene plastic waste.

The factory produced vinyl sheets by selecting plastic waste with less ageing which had been used once or have short spreadable life among polyethylene plastic waste and sorted out the rest for production according to the use of product.

Consisting of a conveyor, filter for removing dust and mixed washing tank, the comprehensive washing process helps prevent the mixing of dust or foam.

The diameter of the raw materials outlet was designed to be small to draw out air so that the air could come out in the course of discharging raw materials with high pressure.

The factory also found out optimum injection temperature to ensure the quality of vinyl sheet.

Meanwhile, it uses plastic waste that is serious in ageing for the production of sewer and other pipes whose qualitative requirements are not so demanding.

It is now producing sticks used for making rolls of vinyl sheet with waste from vinyl recycling by establishing a production process of plastic pipe based on vacuum cooling method.

"There is nothing to discard. Now we are able to effectively recycle all waste vinyl that was thrown here and there and polluted environment," said the manager.



Dockyard flexes its muscle as shipbuilding, repair and disassembling hub

By **Chae Hyang Ok** PT

Established in 1984 in a huge area in Waudu District, Nampho City, on the lower Taedong River, the Ryongnam Dockyard serves as a leading shipbuilding, repair and ship-breaking hub in the DPRK.

It built Tanphung series of modern multi-purpose vessels, round plastic boats and the 5 000-ton trade cargo ship *Jaryok* and dismantled dozens of bulk carriers, oil tankers and technical ships every year.

It specialized in the repair of ships, the only type of business at that time, but has now turned into a shipping base where shipbuilding and dismantlement can be done at the same time.

Establishment of database

The sci-tech learning space of the dockyard has a database containing over 400 000 pieces of information on the shipbuilding industry.

The database has e-documents and multimedia presentations made with data

about different sectors like ship repair and shipbuilding by technicians and sci-tech diffusers of the dockyard.

According to Kim Myong Song, head of the sci-tech learning space, multimedia presentations including "Some scientific and technological problems arising in the development trend of modern vessels" are favourite data of ordinary workers, to say nothing of technicians.

This is a source of encouragement to the technical development of the dockyard.

Talent management

The dockyard is working in an innovative way to manage and train talents.

It is noticeable that it constantly finds out talents and appoints them to the right places so that they can play their part in technical development.

It steadily reevaluates the abilities of technicians and treats able technicians preferentially. In the course of this, they developed new designing programs in

succession and built modern ships including a solar panel excursion boat.

It boldly pushed ahead with work to increase new types of businesses and ensure a steady extended reproduction as required by the socialist system of responsible business operation by properly carrying on the management of talents.

Thanks to the positive role of talents, it has developed into a leading shipbuilding base that can build as it wishes any large ships even special shipbuilding bases dare not think of by getting rid of the old production structure which was engaged in ship repair as its main business.

In addition, it acquired the certificate of ship-breaking facilities to safely dismantle old ships in a short span of time without environmental pollution.

Contribution to developing marine transport

Dozens of valuable technical innovation plans

developed by technicians in recent years prove effective in practical production, bringing great profits to the state.

Among them is a mobile punching machine whose effectiveness has been confirmed in shipbuilding as it consumes less energy and is convenient to use.

Such modern facilities as CNC plasma cutting machine and multi-seat welding machine have been applied and the carbonic acid gas welding technology introduced into shipbuilding to improve qualitative indexes of shipbuilding.

"Today, the carbonic acid gas welding technology is one of the advanced welding methods in the world and it takes the most important part in the arc welding methods. The technology can semi-automate or automate welding work at any places including the floor and ceiling," said chief engineer Kim Ho Chol.

The dockyard also developed various kinds of environment-friendly inorganic salt paintings with high anticorrosive and antifouling performances, thus making it possible to paint ships in all seasons.



PHOTOS BY AN YONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Clockwise from the top: A cargo ship built by the Ryongnam Dockyard. Engineers work on a project. Some of the newly built pleasure boats. Employees train hard to build their capacity. Part of the facilities for producing paints. A panoramic view of the yard.



Pyonggyang Golf Course



Golf course goes well with forests and lakeside

By Ri Sung Ik PT

The Pyonggyang Golf Course sprawls at the place where Lake Thaeson, a man-made lake, and the foot of Mt Sokchon in Nampho adjoin each other.

Service facilities on the golf course—golf holes located over a green carpet to suit the

geographical features of the mountain, cosy lodgings by the lake, a wading pool, billiard and table-tennis halls and exercise and dining rooms—remind viewers of fairy-tale buildings.

Spectacular is the morning on the golf course where the dew on the turf leaves glistens as the sun rises over the surface of the lake shrouded in a thin mist.

The evening when the water surface of the lake is bathed in the light of the setting sun also gives visitors an unusual feeling peculiar to the place.

The golf course offered service to many foreign and local visitors after opening in September 1987. It also hosted the golf tournament in celebration of the fifth

anniversary of its inauguration, the Pyonggyang golf games, the international golf tournament, the fifth ASEAN friendship golf tournament, the amateur Pyonggyang golf contest and other games.

It underwent extensive reconstruction in October 2019.

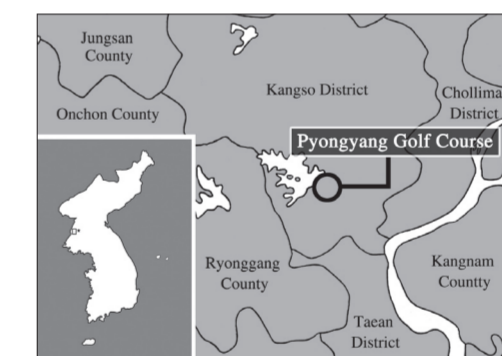
“Covering an area of nearly

200 hectares, the Pyonggyang Golf Course can accommodate over 200 people at a time and the total length of 18 holes, the first nine plus last nine, is 6 777 yards,” said manager Ri Ki Son.

Every hole has been built in a distinctive style by preserving natural undulations, with bunkers, forests and other

obstacles adding to the charm of golf.

“I feel relieved and can play golf well whenever I come here,” said Jong Yong Min, an amateur who frequents the course. “I was really excited when I approached 60 centimetres in front of the hole with a single stroke on the 120-metre course.”



Golfers have a good time at the Pyonggyang Golf Course.

PHOTOS BY PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

What they say

Choe Kyu, aged 75



Although the golf ball goes so fast when you hit, it is a sport very beneficial to the aged. I feel pleasant and refreshing as if I have become young once again whenever I play at this Pyonggyang Golf Course. A man is really old when he thinks he is so, I think. The number of aged visitors to the course has now increased remarkably. I hope a larger number of old people would visit the course in the future.

Pang Mi Hyang, aged 27



At present, I make it at 120 strokes. Attendants here and other golfers say I have made remarkable progress in just two months. I felt hopeless two months before, but now I am confident of success. I will train harder to prove that everyone can play golf and that very well.

Song Un Chol, aged 56



My number of strokes is just 84 at present. I set a goal of reaching par within ten years. I don't think it is too high an aim to achieve. No matter how high a mountain is, it is under the sky and you will be unable to climb even an inch of it by just seeing it. Constant efforts will give us fresh hope, I am sure.

Quick Fact

Location: Thaeson-ri of Kangso District, Nampho City
Inauguration: September 1987
Renovated: October 2019
Plottage: 196 hectares
Accommodation: over 200 people
Total length of holes (18): 6 777yd
Major service buildings: comprehensive service centre “Thaeson Restaurant”, ten blocks of lodging quarters (five blocks for family lodgings and five others for ordinary lodgings), golf club

School explores new teaching methods

Secret of success in boosting pupils' performance at Ryonghung Primary School in Taesong District

By Ri Myong Jun PT

Not long ago, TV and newspapers introduced educational successes gained by Ryonghung Primary School in Taesong District, Pyongyang.

"Until a few years ago, the school failed to achieve fame. But the performance of pupils as a whole has now increased and the number of those who enrol at schools of higher grade is also on the sharp rise. The secret of

its success owes much to the steady pushing of the work to improve the abilities of teachers," said Pak Chun Ok, headmistress of the school.

The school channels big efforts into originally embodying a variety of teaching methods to suit the specific features of schoolchildren.

"It was effective to make visual aids, multimedia presentations and others so that they could see things with their own eyes and

touch them and, especially, to explain them in relationship with their bodies", "It is very important for teachers at primary schools aimed at consolidating the foundation of knowledge not to neglect even a trifling thing but to exactly teach everything in detail" and "It is required to make pupils wait for lessons like a game. It is important to help them learn a new thing with pleasure and develop confidence in them."

Such views are invaluable experiences gained by the



Teachers discuss a new teaching method based on visual aids at Ryonghung Primary School, Taesong District, Pyongyang.

teachers of the school in the course of inquiring into new teaching methods.

The school now uses teaching aids and multimedia presentations at almost all lessons, irrespective of school years, and teachers make their teaching plans as they prepare for three or four examples including cartoon and picture story in order to give an explanation of a piece of knowledge.

Cooperation between veterans with rich teaching qualities and young teachers with short careers, who bring out novel ideas, proves effective.

According to An Ok

Gyong, a section chief of the school, the effect was great when they formed groups of pupils to suit the psychological features of children with a competitive spirit and encouraged them to present the results of study and solve problems in the way of competition.

"For all pupils without omission!"—this is another requirement teachers strive to fulfil.

Teacher Kim Un Song said that those who were behindhand in study for being slow in understanding make fast progress in their scholarly performance when the teachers work harder

to find efficient teaching methods for them and steadily guide them in their review and preparations of lessons.

Teachers of the school share experiences and lessons through the running of the day of section every Thursday and the district-wide teaching judgment of teachers and strive to achieve greater successes.

"We are neither discouraged for lagging behind nor conceited for leading others. An important thing is to find out a way of development and steadily advance," said Pak Chun Ok.

Teachers promote competence to nurture children's talents



Kye Yon A, Im Hyon Ryong



Kim Ryo Un



Pak Ryo Un



Om Kil Bok

By Kim Rye Yong PT

Chukjon Kindergarten No. 1 in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, is widely known for bringing up many talents.

Children at the kindergarten have been successful in different national festivals and competitions and many of those who finished the kindergarten enrolled at renowned art education institutions.

"Success in education hinges on the qualification of teachers. Our kindergarten focuses on strengthening the teaching staff and raising their qualifications," said headmistress Kim Song Hui.

The kindergarten runs several hobby groups to nurture the gleams of children's talents and appoints teachers in their charge according to a strict standard. In other words, it has chosen as such teachers

those with profound special knowledge about relevant fields and practical skills.

The teacher in charge of the music group majored in piano at Pyongyang Kim Won Gyun University of Music, the one in charge of the paduk (go) group is a top-grader in the game and the one in charge of the Korean dance group was active as a dancer at an art troupe for many years.

According to the headmistress, those in charge of other groups including abacus and drawing groups are also prominent persons of ability.

Teachers make constant efforts to improve their teaching methods to suit the kids' individual characters and psychology.

Thanks to their devotion, children's talents come into play as seen on the notice-boards at the kindergarten showing their

Success in education hinges on the qualification of teachers. Our kindergarten focuses on strengthening the teaching staff and raising their qualifications."

Kim Song Hui, headmistress of Chukjon Kindergarten No. 1 in Mangyongdae District

good performances. The kindergarten has many talents. Kim Ryo Un, aged

six, superbly plays the piano etudes for primary schoolers and world-famous music pieces. Om Kil Bok, also six, easily multiplies three-digit numbers through abacus imaging while playing the piano. Five-year-old Pak Ryo Un draws the admiration of amateur paduk players for the original tactics and fierce attack and six-year-old Ri Yo Jin is very good at folk dance "Bamboo hat" to win high accolade from teachers and parents.

"It is not easy to teach children. It is imperative to understand their mentality and teach them many things through practice and practical training. Sometimes, teaching work does not go well, but we explore new methods as we pool our wisdom. In the course of increasing our competence step by step, we make greater achievements in education," said teacher Kim Phyoong Hwa.

University works to train competent dramatic, cinematic artists



Students are engrossed in practical film production at Pyongyang University of Dramatic and Cinematic Arts in 2019.

By Pang Un Ju PT

The predecessor of Pyongyang University of Dramatic and Cinematic Arts is the arts school attached to the national theatre, which was established on November 1 1953. Over the past decades since then, the university has made a tangible contribution to the development of dramatic and cinematic arts

of the country.

"The university which has developed into a hub of arts education has trained lots of artistic talents including creators and artists in the field of drama and cinema and experts in TV broadcasting," said Kim Ung Jin, president of the university.

As it made constant efforts to bring education closer to practical creative work and intensify practical training

in specialities, the university produced a large number of works reflecting the spirit of the times and optimistic life of the Korean people.

The students of the university produced feature film "Ogi" on the theme of the role of youth in socialist construction for the first time in the course of practical training and drama "The Large River Flows" in the 1960s and many-act poetic

drama "Epic about the Pothong River" in the 1970s. All of them were highly appreciated.

"President Kim Il Sung watched the poetic drama in April 1971 and praised it as a new form of masterpiece, highly appreciating the students of the university for good acting. The work won the People's Prize with a gold medal. In the following whole year the performers

His work, an encapsulation of the principles of cinematic art education encompassing life and literature, film and direction, character and actor, scene and music, and creation and guidance, served as the key text and it enabled us to make a new leap in education."

Kim Thae Song, vice-president of Pyongyang University of Dramatic and Cinematic Arts

of the university staged the drama on a total of 130 occasions, creating a great sensation among Pyongyang citizens," said Han Song Nam, department chief.

In the 1970s, when a dramatic turn was being made in film production under the leadership of Chairman Kim Jong Il, the faculty and students of the university received his work *On the Art of the Cinema* before anyone else.

"His work, an encapsulation of the principles of cinematic art education encompassing life and literature, film and direction, character and

actor, scene and music, and creation and guidance, served as the key text and it enabled us to make a new leap in education," said Kim Thae Song, vice-president of the university.

In the course of closely combining theoretical and practical education and practical creative activities, the university has so far produced over 80 feature films, documentaries and teaching films since the 1980s, including feature "The Bride from the City", medium-length feature "Our Grandpa" and TV feature "Girl Judo Ace".

In those days lots of talented film and drama stars, announcers and journalists loved by the people were produced, including Om Kil Son, winner of Order of Kim Il Sung and Kim Il Sung Prize, Labour Hero and People's Artist, Choe Song Won, winner of Order of Kim Il Sung and Kim Il Sung Prize, Labour Hero and People's Announcer, Kim Yong Ho, winner of Kim Il Sung Prize, Labour Hero and People's Artist, and Hong Yong Hui, winner of Kim Jong Il Prize and People's Artist.

Today, the university is doing its best to train young and promising creators and actors as it focuses on education in practical creative activities and radically improves educational conditions and environment.

"It is my dream to be a film star like Choe Chang Su, Labour Hero and People's Artist, who added lustre to the Korean moviedom," said Pak Jong Myong, fourth-year student of the movie actor department of the university, who played the lead in a film.

Children cultivate their artistic talents at good facilities

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

The Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace and its attached school, Kumsong Middle School No. 1, are situated in Kumsong-dong No. 1 in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang.

Standing in an area of over 150 000 square metres with a total floor space of some 48 000 square metres, Kumsong Middle School No. 1 educates promising singers, dancers and instrumentalists who will shoulder the development of the arts in the country.

Built in a stylish design as if welcoming students with open arms, the school is equipped with multifunctional classrooms and rooms for experiments and practical training for students in primary, junior and senior courses and 15 departments for literature, mathematics, foreign

languages, sports and arts and others.

Children with a good brain and instinct for art are selected from across the country to be educated at the school which is provided with excellent conditions and environment.

According to deputy principal Ra Il Guk, the

school picks out students with artistic aptitude and nurture their talents to be reserve artists.

Students receive general education at the school in the morning and conduct hobby group activities at the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace in the afternoon.

Their general education is given by competent teachers like People's Teachers, professors and PhDs of the school and art education is provided by People's and Merited Artists and other veteran instructors.

"We study and cultivate our talents to our heart's content. My father is an

ordinary worker. I want to continue my study at a university after graduation," said Jong Yong Bong, a first-year student in senior course.

Former big-name pop stars including Jon Hye Yong and Ri Pun Hui of the then Pochonbo Electronic Ensemble and Ryom Chong

of the then Wangjaesang Light Music Band are graduates of this school.

There were only 14 teachers and some 150 students when it was established on November 1 1966.

Now it has some 170-strong faculty and over 1 700 students study here.



Students attend after-school programmes at Kumsong Middle School No. 1 in 2019.



East Sea of Korea everlasting name of our sea (1)

By Kim Sol Hwa

It has recently been reported that Japan posted a video programme claiming that the East Sea of Korea is “Japanese sea” on its foreign ministry’s homepage in Korean and eight other foreign languages.

Japan has doggedly been attempting to distort history through centuries, and these attempts are an intolerable insult and a serious provocation to the Korean nation, a direct victim of Japan.

It is the Korean nation that had explored the east sea of the Korean peninsula, having started a life on this area and its vicinity since the beginning of human civilization, and they named the sea of this area “East Sea.”

I hereby provide insights once again into the historical legitimacy of the name of the East Sea of Korea as well as the unfairness of calling it “Japanese sea”, a criminal product of the policy on the occupation of Korea pursued by the Japanese imperialists and their colonial rule and also a product of adamant insistence by the Japanese authorities.

Longest-standing name based on historical legitimacy

The East Sea of Korea is, by its origin, the longest-standing sacred name of the sea of our country.

The Koreans began to explore the east sea of Korea from ancient times, the initial period of human civilization. They had set up a dolmen on Ullung Island, and established a country called Usanguk ruling over the island and Tok Islets before the early sixth century. Furthermore, they crossed over the sea, lying between Korea and Japan, to go to the archipelagos of Japan and spread culture. In the course of this, they became the first to name this sea “East Sea”.

National classics of our country such as *The Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms*, *The History of the Three Kingdoms*, *The History of the Koryo Dynasty* and *The Chronicles of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty* contain hundreds of legends, myths, songs, folktales and accounts which show that the east sea of our country has been called “East Sea” since before the founding of Koguryo (277 BC), and the old maps of Korea also marked

the sea as “East Sea.”

The fact that the name of “East Sea” was originally given by the Korean nation was substantiated by the old documents of China as well. The first-ever Chinese book on geography and literature entitled “Origins of Mountains and Rivers” writes that the “name of the East Sea of Korea was given 2 200 years ago”. And the papers written by Chinese scholars indicate that the name of the East Sea had been used from the periods of Chunqiu (Spring and Autumn) and Warring States all along through the Qing Dynasty.

The sea lying between the Korean peninsula and the archipelagos of Japan was long called the “East Sea of Korea” or “East Sea” by the neighbouring countries. And Europe initially called the sea the “East Sea” or sometimes “Oriental Sea” in the meaning that it is the sea located in the East, and thereafter called it “Corea Sea”, meaning “Korea Sea” because our country was called Koryo (Korea).

“Atlas of Asia” published in Portugal in 1615 and other maps published before the 20th century in Italy, Britain, France, the Netherlands, Russia, the US and other countries marked the sea as

“Korea Sea” or “Oriental Sea”. A world map which had been published in Britain in the 18th century and made public in 2020 marked the East Sea of Korea as “Korea Sea”.

Japan came to have its state name of “Japan” as late as in AD 670 and it called the sea “Korea Sea” until the early 20th century, as has been illustrated in the relevant maps and historical documents published in Japan.

“Map of Whole Asia” (1794), “Outline Map of Outlying Areas of Japan” (1809), “Whole Map of Four Guardians of Japan” (1870) and others published in Japan marked the East Sea of Korea as “Korea Sea”. Japan merely called its adjoining waters a Japanese west sea and never called the East Sea of Korea a “Japanese sea” until the end of the 19th century.

Given the plentiful historical evidence and the facts admitted by everyone, it is indisputably apparent that the name of the East Sea of Korea carries a long-standing historical legitimacy.

(To be continued)

The author is researcher at the Institute for Studies of Japan, the DPRK Ministry of Foreign Affairs

EDITORIAL

DPRK-Cuba ties carried on through generations

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers’ Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, met with Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Republic of Cuba, in Pyongyang between November 4 and 6 in 2018 when the latter was president of the Council of State and president of the Council of Ministers of Cuba.

At the talks Kim Jong Un and Miguel Diaz-Canel highly appreciated that the preceding leaders of the two countries provided and developed the framework of the special friendship based on revolutionary principles, comradely obligation and socialist principles and that the history and tradition of bilateral ties have invariably been carried forward and further developed by the joint efforts of both sides under the new situation and environment. They expressed the firm stand and will of the Parties and governments of the two countries to further expand and strengthen the strategic and comradely friendship and relations of cooperation between the two Parties and countries in the future, too.

Although the two countries are geographically far apart from each other, the peoples of both countries have maintained fraternal ties based on the socialist ideology and ideal.

The Korean people provided active material assistance and mental support to the Cuban counterpart in their staunch fight against imperialism in the Western Hemisphere under the slogan “Socialism or death, we will win”. And despite unexpected complicated events in the international arena, the two Parties and peoples of the two countries have remained faithful to the noble spirit of internationalism and revolutionary duty.

The DPRK-Cuba friendship, which was forged by President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il together with Fidel and Raul Castro Ruz, made a great contribution to realizing cooperation between the two Parties and countries in all fields of politics, the economy and culture and taking concerted action in the international arena. As a result, both countries maintained many-sided contact and exchanges and promoted economic and technological cooperation and cultural exchanges day after day.

The fraternal friendship has greatly contributed to the cause of global independence and peace of humankind. In the field of external relations both countries maintain the staunch anti-imperialist stand and the principle of non-alignment and exercise complete equality.

Today, Cuba advances undauntedly, holding aloft the banner of independence against imperialism and the socialist banner in the face of the harsh sanctions and pressure by the imperialists.

In the course of the struggle for strengthening the leadership role of the Party and building socialism that suits its specific situation, Cuba has made progress in all domains of the economy, culture, education, sports and art and literature, developed relations with many countries in the world and extended its influence in the international political arena.

We will continue to extend firm solidarity with the just cause of the Cuban people in their efforts to smash the vicious anti-Cuban manoeuvres of hostile forces, safeguard the gains of the revolution and successfully build socialism.

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IS THE US CHAMPION OF NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION REGIME?

PROVIDED TO THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The US often presents itself as the “champion” of the international order, talking about rules-based international order.

The same goes to the nuclear non-proliferation issue. There is no country in the world which poses as the champion as much as the US.

Yet, the reality proves that the US is rather the gross violator of the non-proliferation mechanism, given that it, according to its strategy for world supremacy, has openly aided and abetted the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction while ignoring the non-proliferation principle and allowing double standards.

The US illicitly invaded Iraq in broad daylight allegedly to prevent the proliferation of WMDs after it cooked up all sorts of ploys. This is factual evidence demonstrating that the “maintenance of the non-proliferation regime” claimed by US politicians is nothing but a tool for them to implement their strategy for world supremacy and to justify their invasion of other sovereign states.

Being the first to manufacture and use nuclear weapons in the world, the US got its start in nuclear proliferation in the 1950s as it transferred to the UK nuclear technologies necessary for building a nuclear-powered submarine in a bid to “cope with the threat from the former Soviet Union”.

In the early 1960s, the US concluded the Nuclear Sharing Arrangement with the member

nations of NATO. In 1966, it formed the Nuclear Planning Group to deal with decision making on the use of nuclear weapons, information sharing, consultation and coordination of the nuclear strategy, and discuss and decide on the targets and order of nuclear strikes against hostile countries in contingency. This made the NATO nations de facto “nuclear states”.

In mid-October this year alone, NATO staged a military drill in secret to practise the use of nuclear weapons in accordance with the Nuclear Sharing Arrangement. This fact serves as living proof that the clock is ceaselessly ticking away the time to war due to the US moves of proliferation.

Even after the conclusion of the NPT, the US deliberately reneged on its obligations under the treaty to seek its own interests.

Not long after the adoption of the NPT in the late 1960s, the US struck a secret deal with Israel to tacitly allow it to develop nuclear weapons, devoid of a sense of decency as a depository state of the NPT. The US also concluded the atomic energy agreement with Japan and empowered the latter to reprocess US nuclear waste.

As a result, Japan has stockpiled more than 40 tons of plutonium and it is now capable of producing many nuclear weapons in a short time when it decides to do so.

Japan’s ongoing bid to discharge the radioactive waste water from the Fukushima Daiichi atomic plant into the sea, which is under a barrage of criticism from the international community, is also an outcome of the US’ double standards.

The US has escalated its nuclear blackmail against the DPRK since it threatened the use of atomic bombs against the latter during the Korean war. This substantiates the fact that the US undermines the stability of the Korean peninsula.

The US undermining of the non-proliferation mechanism has got more pronounced with its recent moves of transferring nuclear technologies to Australia.

On September 15, the US, together with the UK and Australia, established AUKUS as a trilateral security partnership to ensure a legal transfer of highly sensitive nuclear material and technologies to Australia, an event which is causing great concern and drawing rebukes

from the international community.

The spokespersons for the Chinese foreign and defence ministries sharply criticized the US, saying that it sent a shockwave to the non-proliferation mechanism in wanton violation of the NPT and that the export of highly enriched uranium is a blatant act of nuclear proliferation. Even the International Atomic Energy Agency expressed its deep concern about the risk of the breakdown of the non-proliferation mechanism by the emergence of the AUKUS.

The world community censures the US for its impudence, hypocrisy and extreme practices of double standards with which it has little scruples about ditching rules and obligations for non-proliferation, saying that the US, the UK and Australia are overtly conducting “nuclear trade” in violation of the NPT and that the US is playing up its “leadership” in non-proliferation but the truth is the other way round.

This notwithstanding, US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi claimed that “they (north Korea) are not to be trusted in terms of transfer of technology and they are still playing that role” in her recent rhetoric that described the DPRK as a “proliferator of WMDs” and “rogue”.

This can’t be construed otherwise than a gaffe of turning black into white and an act of dotage in which she is unable to discriminate between the right and the wrong.

The international community is now closely watching the US’ systematic violations of non-proliferation.

that hit Baluchistan, Pakistan, in early October.

A volcanic eruption has persisted for more than a month on Palma Island, Spain, to devastate the whole island.

Lava flowed out in several streams to cover over 800 hectares of land and destroy hundreds of hectares of cropland and thousands of blocks of buildings.

More than 35 000 rounds of earthquakes have reportedly been observed there since September 19 when the volcano started to erupt.



A flood in Greece.

Briefly

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

China
Defence ministry warns against Japan’s military moves

A spokesman for the Chinese Ministry of National Defence warned about the dangerous military moves of Japan in a regular news conference on October 28.

China strongly demands it solemnly reflect on its history of aggression, honestly draw lessons from history and do not disturb peace and hamper development in the region, he stressed.

Russia
FM warns against NATO’s military base expansion

The spokeswoman for the Russian Foreign Ministry expressed concern over the expansion of NATO’s military base near its border area.

NATO’s military moves in the Baltic region will make the military and political situation of the region unstable, she asserted.

WMO
CO₂ level sees a record high last year

The World Meteorological Organization announced on October 25 that the global average concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere which precipitates global warming was a record high of 413.2ppm last year.

Meanwhile, the average concentration of methane and nitrogen monoxide, major greenhouse gases, renewed the top record in the history of observation.

Israel
Missile attack on Syria continues

Israel mounted a missile attack on a military target in Syria’s Damascus on October 30.

Saying that such attacks of Israel which would be made at night time are now being carried out even in the daytime, the Syrian Arab News Agency, or SANA, reported that the Syrian anti-aircraft force intercepted most of the missiles.

Military installations in Damascus and Homs and Qunaytarah provinces were reportedly subjected to missile attacks from Israel on several occasions in August.

Turkey
Fake alcohol sales rife in the country

According to the state-run news service of Turkey on October 30, a den of criminals who had been distilling and selling fake alcohol was exposed in Istanbul. Two persons were arrested and 12 000 litres of fake alcohol were confiscated.

Also confiscated were 3 000 litres of methyl alcohol, 10 000 plastic bottles and facilities used to make frauds.

National classic

Illustrated book chronicles Korean martial arts



Pages of Muyedobothongji.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Muyedobothongji or Illustrated Book of Martial Arts is one of the precious cultural legacies of Korea. The old book comprehensively synthesizes and systematizes the martial arts of the Korean nation, which constitute the historical roots of Taekwon-Do that has now been popularized in over 120 countries of the world.

Printed in woodblock and published in April 1790, it mainly deals with the movements of Korea's traditional martial arts including the art of fist fight, swordsmanship,

spearsmanship, cudgeling and horse riding, along with the martial arts of neighbouring countries, with texts accompanied by illustrations.

According to historical data, *Muyedobothongji* was compiled under the instruction of King Jongjo, the 22nd king of the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392-1910) and he personally wrote its preface. Each individual action of each movement is accompanied by a picture and the book was compiled as collections of serial pictures with the names of movements. The pictures delicately depicting various movements of martial arts were painted by Kim Hong

Do, a famous artist in the period of the feudal Joseon dynasty.

The book explains the martial arts dating back to ancient times plus those introduced after the Imjin Patriotic War (1592-1598), thus delineating the process of development and advantages of Korea's traditional martial arts.

It was in obscurity about seven decades ago.

At the Congress of Scientists held in April 1952 during the Fatherland Liberation War (1950-1953), President Kim Il Sung pointed to the need to collect and categorize well the elements of national cultural heritage

on a nationwide scale in order to inherit them. Later, he dispatched relevant officials to different parts of the country to collect national classics.

As a result, *Muyedobothongji* was discovered in the Phyongan provincial region and donated to the then national central library on October 30 1952.

It was listed as MOWCAP's Memory of the World in May 2016 and then inscribed in the list of the Memory of the World Register of UNESCO in October 2017.

It is now preserved in the Grand People's Study House.



Pyongyang soju, national liquor of Korea

By Han Kwi Hun PT

The Korean liquor that had emerged as a drink of the Korean nation in ancient times developed, centring on Pyongyang.

This is evidenced by the origin of the names of different places in Pyongyang related to liquor, including a legend of Mt Juam from the period of Koguryo (277 BC-AD 668), Hungbu-dong and Uiam.

Such renowned liquors as Kamhongno, one of the three choicest liquors in ancient Korea, were mainly distilled in Pyongyang.

Pyongyang soju, today's national liquor, has come into being by carrying forward such historical tradition.

It is made from maize and polished rice as principal raw materials, and it is featured by gentle and sapid flavour as well as refreshing taste.

It is clean and gentle since refined water made by a cutting-edge technology is used along with ethyl

alcohol of the highest grade produced by raising the quality of alcohol, the basic raw material of liquor, to the highest level.

Its suave and refreshing tastes are attributed to the use of polished rice hard liquor made by reduced pressure distillation with the help of fragrant yeast and invert sugar made with organic acid as additives.

It has become national liquor not only because of its excellent flavour and quality.

It is the most popular alcoholic drink in the DPRK whose alcoholic content is 25 percent.

Its trademark depicts a picture of Korean ancestors distilling liquor in the old times against the backdrop of the Taedong Gate, a symbol of old Pyongyang, on a white and grey ground that goes well with the clear bottle.

Pyongyang soju with the Taedong River as the source of water supply was designated as the national liquor of the DPRK on June 24 2015.

Mask dance part of precious national heritage

By Jong Chol PT

Mask dance is a kind of dance favoured by the Koreans since ancient times.

The Korean mask dance evolved from the primitive hunting dance and the martial dance reflecting the joy of victory in wars and took on certain artistic features in the period of the Three Kingdoms (Koguryo, Paekje and Silla) which existed

between the 3rd century BC and AD mid-7th century.

In Koguryo, in particular, the dance became an independent form of suite, known as *kiangmu*.

Afterwards, it developed into a variety of plays as it was combined with regular annual events and folk games of local areas.

To name a few there are *sandaejapguk* dating back to the period of Koryo and such derivatives of it as mask play

of the Hwanghae provincial region and *ogwangdae* play of south coastal areas.

Especially, the mask dances of Pongsan and Kangnyong in the Hwanghae provincial region have been handed down to modern times and are now recognized as typical ones of the Korean nation.

There are different kinds of mask dances according to regions. Most of them are associated with people's

agricultural life or reflect their hatred and contempt for feudal exploiter classes.

"The dance art sector works to find out mask dance heritage, particularly popular and characteristic dance movements so as to widely use it for the creation of dance pieces and dance education as well," said Kim Chung Song, lecturer of Pyongyang University of Dramatic and Cinematic Arts.



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A scene from Pongsan mask dance.

