

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF

KOREA

Juche 109
(2020)

5

(No. 773)



Political Bureau of WPK Central Committee Met

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The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea met on April 11 at the headquarters building of the WPK Central Committee.

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, attended the meeting.

Present there were also members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee.

Upon authorization of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee, Chairman Kim Jong Un presided over the meeting.

The meeting decided its agenda items.

Discussing its first agenda item, the meeting emphasized the need to consistently take strict national countermeasures to cope with the steady spread of the pandemic and thoroughly check the inroads of the virus.

It studied and discussed issues of adjusting and changing some policy tasks in the implementation of the decisions made at the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the WPK in view of the prevailing internal and external climates.

A joint resolution of the Central Committee of the WPK, the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and the DPRK Cabinet "On more thoroughly taking state measures to protect our people's lives and safety from the worldwide epidemic" was adopted at the meeting.

The meeting studied and approved the second agenda item "On the execution of the state budget for Juche 108 (2019) and the state budget for Juche 109 (2020)" which would be presented to the Third Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly.

It examined and approved the third agenda item "On personnel affairs to be presented to the Third Session of the 14th SPA".

It discussed the organizational matter, the fourth agenda item.

Chairman Kim Jong Un said that Party organizations at all levels, cadres and Party members should launch a revolutionary campaign to thoroughly carry out the policies of the Party Central Committee with greater consciousness and strenuous efforts as the meeting of the Political Bureau adopted the joint resolution and put forward new and important policies and tasks.



Kim Jong Un attending the meeting in April 2020



Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un Inspects Army Units



Kim Jong Un guiding the firing drill of mortar sub-units of the corps of the Korean People's Army in April 2020



Kim Jong Un inspecting a pursuit assault plane regiment under the Air and Anti-Aircraft Division in the western area in April 2020



Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un guided a firing drill of mortar sub-units of the corps of the Korean People's Army.

The mortarmen gave full play to their firing skills in the drill, which they acquired through steady trainings for firepower combat capabilities set forward by the WPK, thus demonstrating the combat efficiency of a-match-

for-a-hundred artillerymen who are ready to carry out any fire support mission.

The Supreme Leader spoke highly of the amazing marksmanship of the mortar companies of all the army corps who got very high points, including the 2nd and 10th corps which accurately hit the target with all



the 60 shells fired, and extended his thanks to the firepower positions at the observation post.

He inspected a pursuit assault plane regiment under the Air and Anti-Aircraft Division in the western area.

After having learned about the readiness for sortie of the fighter jets of

the regiment and its performance of duties for the defence of airspace in the western area, he met ace pilots of the regiment to have a talk with them.

Then he saw the flight drill of the regiment.

Watching the brave flight and combat actions made by the combat pilots, he expressed his great satisfaction.



Third Session of the 14th SPA of the DPRK Held

The Third Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was held on April 12 at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang.

The session was convened when the entire Party, the

whole country and all the people were vigorously launching an all-out frontal offensive to achieve a breakthrough in staunchly defending the prestige and interests of a powerful independent country and opening up a fresh avenue for the advance of socialist construction, true to the

decision of the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The ordinances of the SPA on adopting the laws on recycling, online education and provision of living conditions for discharged officers were

adopted with unanimous approbation.

The session adopted the SPA decision on approving the report on the work of the Cabinet and the implementation of the state budget for 2019 and the SPA ordinance on state budget for 2020.



Pyongyang, one of the cradles of human civilization, has witnessed the 5 000-year-long history of the Korean nation.

But it was the country's liberation from the Japanese military occupation on August 15, 1945 that the city's development as befitting the genuine one for the people started.

The Pothong River improvement project was carried out in 1946, wiping away all traces of the area having suffered from flood every rainy season and sprucing up the appearance of the city.

When Pyongyang was reduced to ruins during the three-year war against aggressive imperialist forces in the 1950s, the imperialists claimed that

Pyongyang Yesterday and Today

Pyongyang would not be able to rise to its feet again in a hundred years.

But the Korean people turned out in a dynamic struggle for postwar reconstruction, and newly built Sungni Street, the first street in Pyongyang, and then Chongnyon and Chilsongmun streets in succession.

In the 1970s and 1980s in particular Pyongyang witnessed the golden age

in construction which changed its appearance beyond recognition, with the emergence of new streets and monumental structures, including Ragwon, Munsu, Changgwang, Puksae and Kwangbok streets, Tower of the Juche Idea, Grand People's Study House, Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace and May Day Stadium.

In the early 1990s Thongil Street sprang up in the Rangnang area of East Pyongyang.

Pyongyang underwent another facelift in recent ten years. Changjon, Mirae Scientists, Ryomyong and other gorgeous streets mushroomed and modern cultural facilities such as People's Theatre, Rungna People's Recreation Ground, Munsu Water Park and Sci-Tech Complex arose.

Pyongyang known as a city of superb scenic beauty is being continuously spruced up.

Article: Kim Mi Ye

Photo: Hong Kwang Nam, Ri Jin Hyok



Pothongmun area after the war



Pothongmun area at present



Kim Il Sung Square in the mid-1960s



The areas along the Taedong and Pothong rivers in Pyongyang have been facelifted





Somun-dong in the early 1960s



Mansudae Street erected in 2009



Kyongsang-dong in the mid-1960s



Changjon Street built in 2012



Kumsong Street in the early 1970s



Ryomyong Street built in 2017



Some of monumental edifices in Pyongyang



Tower of the Juche Idea



Statue of Chollima



Sci-Tech Complex



Arch of Triumph



Munsu Water Park



Pyongyang Grand Theatre



Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum



May Day Stadium and other sporting and cultural establishments erected on the banks of the Taedong River

Kangwon Province Prospers by Dint of Self-reliance



People of Kangwon Province demonstrating their determination to give full play to the spirit of self-reliance and self-sufficiency and take the lead in making fresh breakthroughs in socialist construction as befits the creators of the spirit of Kangwon Province (April 2018)



Dam of the Wonsan Army-People Power Station built by the own efforts of the provincial people

Kangwon Province in the middle eastern part of Korea consists mostly of mountainous regions and has unfavourable, changeable climatic conditions and fragile industrial foundations.

However, it is now being transformed into a place that is making tremendous development in the fierce flames of creation and construction.

The construction of the Wonsan Army-People Power Station in the region was the first step taken by the province toward its self-reliance.

It was a gigantic project for the province; scores of kilometres of waterway tunnels and nearly two million cubic metres of embankments should be built to divert the course of the river which initially emptied into the West Sea of Korea

to the East Sea of Korea.

However, the province successfully erected the power station, solving all the arising problems by dint of high spirit of the local people and scientific and technological strength.

In this course, all the provincial people were equipped firmly with the spirit that self-reliance is the only way out to make a living and nothing would be impossible if self-reliance and self-development are regarded as the motive force.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited Kangwon Province in December 2016, looked round the December 6 Children's Camp, Wonsan Army-People





Power Station and other units, and highly praised that the officials and people are the creators of the spirit of Kangwon Province.

In 2017 more than 180 factories and enterprises carried out their annual national economic plans before October 10, founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea, surmounting harsh trials and difficulties, and the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory, Kumgang County and the Kangwon Provincial

Commission of Science and Technology were honoured as the model units of the present era.

In 2018 the Kangwon Provincial Tree Nursery with the annual production capacity of over 20 million saplings was built, opening up a broad vista for reforestation campaign. Last year a fishery station, Maebongsan Spring Water Factory and the provincial old people's home were erected, and several power

stations are nearing completion at present.

Kangwon Province is now self-sufficient in steel, cement, finishing materials and others needed in the economic construction and improvement of the people's living standards.

New farming methods are introduced to steadily increase crop yields in low-yielding fields that occupy most of the farmlands in the province.

Many products of the province, including Maebongsan-brand leather shoes, are enjoying great popularity across the country.

Not resting on its laurels, Kangwon Province is now continuing its advance toward higher goals.

Article: Kim Son Gyong
Photo: An Chol Ryong



Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory



Wonsan Disabled Soldiers' Bag Factory



Munchon Steel Plant



Songdown General Foodstuff Factory relies on locally available materials in production



Wonsan City Corn Processing Factory, Wonsan Kimchi Factory and other local industry factories are highly conducive to improving the living standard of the provincial people



Wonsan Salt Works

Spring of Namri Village in Mangyongdae



Every spring the whole country is enveloped in beautiful flower blossoms, presenting a picturesque scenery, and so is Namri Village in Mangyongdae District of Pyongyang.

White apricot blossoms blending so well with a fine array of traditional gabled, tile-roofed houses add charming view to the cozy village.

In the 1960s the country had dwelling houses built for the villagers, and reconstructed them in 1985.

To prove themselves worthy of the affection of the country, all the villagers have turned out to make theirs a better place to live in.

They have planted apricot and other fruit trees around their houses and

raised large numbers of domestic animals.

Solar water heaters are installed for every house, making the life more convenient.

Thanks to the efforts of the villagers, the whole village is dense with fruit trees which burst into full bloom in spring and are heavily laden with fruits in

autumn.

It is the scenery admired by every visitor.

Article: Choe Ui Rim

Photo: An Phyoung Yon, Ri Myong Guk, Sin Chung Il





Training into Masters of Sky

- At the South Hamgyong Provincial Aviation Club -

It was five years ago when there were established aviation clubs in every province of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and so was the South Hamgyong Provincial Aviation Club. However, it has already acquired a reputation in the aviation sporting field in the country.

The aviation club trains athletes for gliding, aeromodelling and parachuting events.

Coaches spare no efforts in selecting among students of junior middle schools appropriate reserves with intelligence, a sturdy physique and a suitable constitution for each sporting event. Then they give detailed and intensive training in basic techniques in consideration of specific features of every trainee.

Generally, it takes several years of training to become professional aviators who are well versed in aeromodelling, a conglomeration of designing, manufacturing and flying techniques, and parachuting. The club's athletes say that they, too, have their bitter memories.

But every athlete is stepping up training with a high ambition of becoming champions and bringing glory to the country.

The South Hamgyong Provincial Aviation Club never yields precedence in the annual sporting events, including the Republic Championships.

Article: Kim Phil

Photo: Hong Kwang Nam





Centenarian Woman

On January 17 an apartment block in Tongsong-dong, Central District, Pyongyang, was unusually thronged with people, who came to congratulate Hyon Pong Hak on her centenarian birthday.

Her family members and relatives, neighbours, and even officials from the administrative bodies gave hearty congratulations to her.

Acknowledging their warm greetings, the granny became absorbed in memory of her past.

Born into a poor peasant's family in Orang County of North Hamgyong Province, she was subjected to maltreatment and contempt as a member of the ruined nation under the colonial rule of Japanese imperialists. Only after Korea was liberated on August 15, 1945, she could enjoy a genuine life worthy of a human being.

Thanks to the state measures, she learned the Korean alphabet for the first time at an adult school, carrying her child on her back, and became the master of land.

Bearing in mind the benevolence of the country, she did farming with great diligence and donated rice to the country out of great patriotism.

Her husband studied medicine at a university and became a doctor.

And her seven children studied to their heart's content, free from worries about school fees, including textbooks and uniforms. All of them graduated from universities and became teachers and doctors, and their sons and daughters are also university graduates.

According to the doctor in charge of her health, Hyon has a mental state as healthy as that of those in their sixties.

She is particularly fond of kimchi, traditional food of Korea, does simple kitchen work, and is still good at sewing and knitting. She also plays traditional folk games with her descendants.

Article: Pak Yong Jo

Photo: Hwang Jong Hyok, Ri Jin Hyok



For the Football Development of the Country

Han Un Gyong, deputy chairwoman of the Football Association of the DPRK and concurrently member of the Executive Committee of the Asian Football Confederation, is the only woman representative from the East Asian region.

Han was born the youngest of the four to a family in Sinpho, South Hamgyong Province along the East Sea of Korea. Her father worked at the Sinpho Fishing Station and mother was a teacher.

A girl of lively character, she enjoyed sporting activities, and football above any other events.

But she was afflicted with a serious illness in her middle school days, which wrecked her dream of becoming a football star.

Never abandoning her attachment to football, Han strove hard during her university days to accumulate knowledge in football.

Thanks to her laborious efforts, she excelled herself in the field of football when she began her social career at the then Korea Olympic Committee.

She then studied at Korea University of Physical Education, and was promoted to executive secretary in charge of international affairs of the DPRK Football Association in 2004. She is acting as its deputy chairwoman since 2013.

In 2011 Han was elected a member of the women's football committee under the Asian Football Confederation.

Two years later she became a member of the AFC Executive Committee, and has been in office as deputy chairwoman of the AFC Associations Committee since 2016.

At present she works at the Member Associations Committee of FIFA.

Though she is not playing football in the ground, she is devoting herself entirely to the football development of the country.

Article: Kang Su Jong

Photo: Ri Jin Hyok



Han Un Gyong



At the Pyongyang International Football School together with the AFC members



At the Executive Committee Meeting of the AFC held in Uzbekistan in September 2018



Blessed Triplets

On April 11 seven years ago, the 432nd triplets were born at the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital.

The mother of the triplets was Hyon Yong Ae, wife of a secondary school teacher, living in Pothonggang District of Pyongyang.

Hyon, who was confirmed to be in multiple pregnancy during a routine medical checkup entitled to all pregnant women, was immediately sent to the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital. At that time her mother-in-law felt uneasy

about Hyon of weak constitution.

Her anxiety, however, was utterly banished after five months, the moment she heard that her daughter-in-law had been safely delivered of the triplets, all boys.

Being transported with delight, the grandmother named the boys Ri Kyong Dok, Ri Kyong Bok and Ri Kyong Hung, wishing that they would be always happy and prosperous, enjoying state benefits.



She already knew that the newly born triplets and their parents were given silver daggers and gold rings by the state, but there were many other things she knew afterwards.

The triplets were allowed to leave the maternity hospital only when they weighed over four kilogrammes. After leaving the hospital, they were brought up at a baby home at state expense and they had their exclusive medical doctor.

It was two years ago the triplets returned home to enter the Kyonghung Kindergarten in their residential district. Even as the parents were not yet acquainted with the hobbies or aptitudes of their sons, kindergarten teachers perceived their talents and made sincere efforts to cultivate them.

Kyong Dok, the eldest of the triplets, who showed a sign of aptitude for fine art, was taught to bring it into bloom and he took the first place in the national competition of kindergarten children with outstanding talents held in July 2019. And all the triplets were trained to play the *janggo*, traditional instrument of Korea.

They will become primary school pupils this year.

Article: Kang Su Jong
Photo: Ri Jin Hyok



Ornamental silver daggers for the triplets (June 2013)



On the first birth anniversary (April 2014)



At the Pyongyang Baby Home (2015)

Chollima General Building-Materials Factory

The Chollima General Building-Materials Factory in the outskirts of Pyongyang is pushing ahead with the

production of building materials and simultaneously building up its scientific and technological strength.



Recent efforts to make the factory's production and management activities modern- and IT-based turned out to be effective in remarkably increasing the productivity and improving the quality of products.

The factory's workshops have set up flow-lined processes for manufacturing a wide range of building materials and other products in various types, sizes and colours, including metal roofing materials, lightweight structural steel, plastic building materials, aluminum-

framed windows, heat-shield composite boards, metal fixtures and light furniture. At the same time, it continues to put great efforts into recycling as demanded by the times.

Building materials of the factory satisfy the technical requirements and are flawless in terms of aesthetic value, so they get favourable comments from the construction sector in ensuring formative and artistic features.

Article: Pak Pyong Hun

Photo: Choe Won Chol, Ri Myong Guk



Developers of Unhasu Cosmetics



Unhasu cosmetics enjoy popularity among people

Unhasu cosmetics of the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory are enjoying popularity among users.

The popularity of the Unhasu cosmetics is earned by devoted efforts of the factory's researchers.

The cosmetics research institute was established in 2017 with the factory's reconstruction, and it is mostly staffed by

competent personnel in their 20s and 30s.

The researchers, with a single mind to provide people with a larger amount of quality products with natural, less irritating and functional features, have waged vigorous competitions of minds and technologies to develop new products.

They pooled their creative efforts to find out natural

ingredients with remarkable skincare functions and confirm their best proportions.

In the course of this they developed cosmetics by using Kaesong Koryo insam, Kumdang flower, mung bean, honey and other natural materials, which prove far more effective in making skin moist and white and removing wrinkles.

Modern technologies including UV blocking one have been introduced to new products.

The research group has so far developed over 470 items of cosmetics and improved the quality of existing ones.

Cosmetics researchers at the factory are continuously striving to develop cosmetics favoured by the people.

Article: Choe Ui Rim
Photo: Son Hui Yon



Popular Dried Flower Products



Recently dried flower products are enjoying a greater demand at florist shops and stalls in department stores in Pyongyang.

They are widely used in floral decoration of houses, offices and other places in variegated styles, irrespective of seasons, and are more economical than fresh flowers.

They are the creation of the researchers and other workers of the dried flower workshop under the Pyongyang Floriculture Institute.

On display at the exhibition hall of the workshop are a myriad of dried flower products, including floral baskets and bouquets and ornamental boxes, which are almost the same with those made of fresh flowers.

Not only flowers such as rose and zinnia but also barley, foxtail millet and other natural plants that are easily found are used as materials.

Researchers of the workshop make strenuous efforts to develop new technologies in order to make the products exquisite while preserving original features of flowers and plants.

They have perfected the manufacturing technique of dried pine tree for decorating offices and other architectural structures and embellishing their environment.

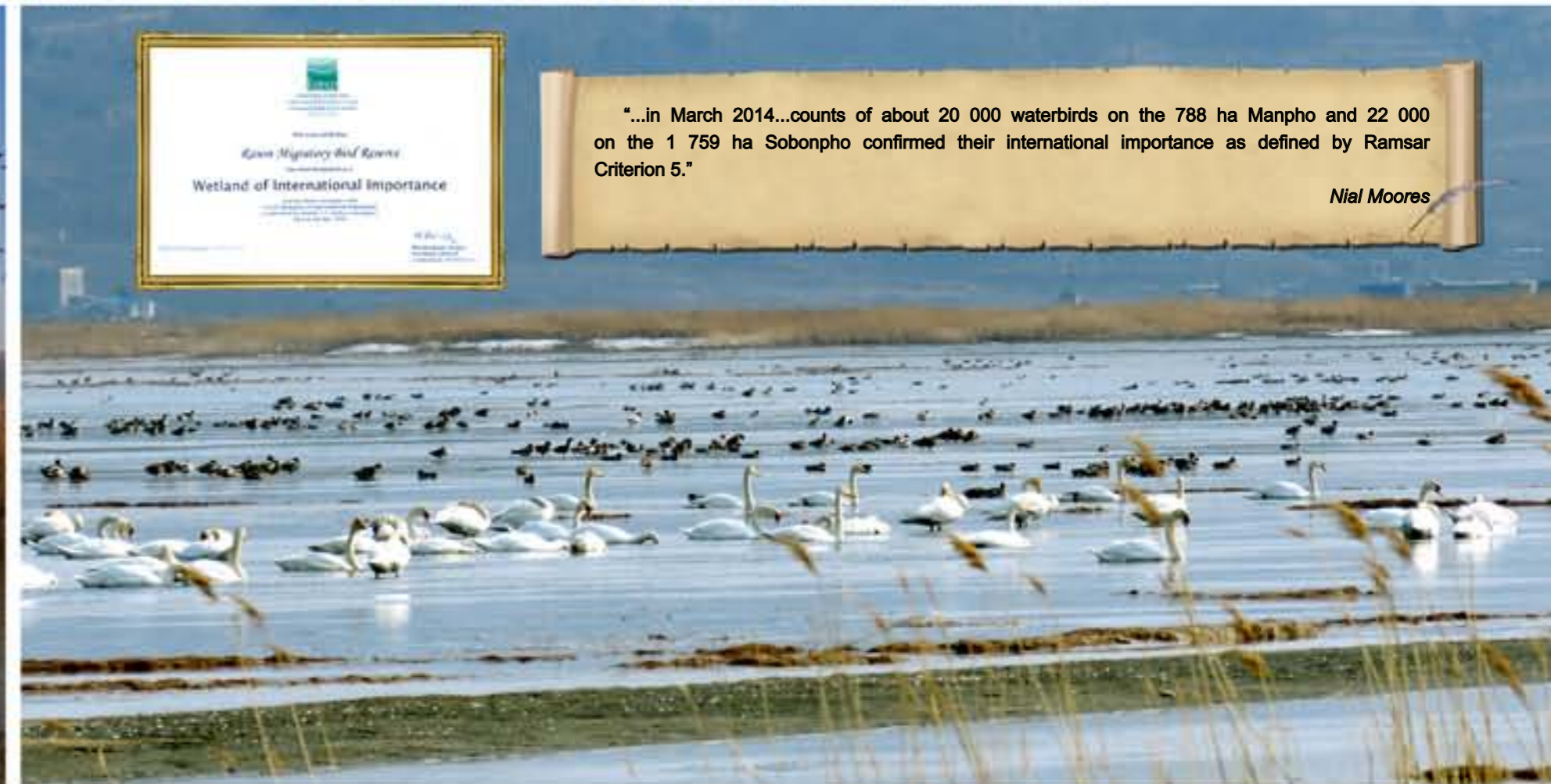
Article: Jong Ki Sang
Photo: An Chol Won

Visit to Wetland in Rason (1)



"...in March 2014...counts of about 20 000 waterbirds on the 788 ha Manpho and 22 000 on the 1 759 ha Sobonpho confirmed their international importance as defined by Ramsar Criterion 5."

Nial Moores



The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which has been called a golden tapestry from ancient times, boasts beautiful scenery and ideal habitats of animals and birds.

Among such habitats of migratory birds is the Rason area in the northern part with lakes of clear water, big and small bays and islets, peaceful woods and dense forest, and abundant biological resources.

Every year more than 50 000 water birds of 250 odd species are observed in this area, including those of over 30 globally threatened species.

The vast area on the lower Tuman River was designated as a migratory bird (wetland) reserve in 1995, and then a Ramsar wetland site in 2018.

Al Islet which was designated as a sanctuary of seabirds in 1959 serves as a breeding place for gulls, Temminck's Cormorants and scores of other seabirds.

The wetland ecosystem in Rason is getting more diversified and plentiful thanks to the protection policy of the state.

Article: Pak Yong Jo



Long-tailed Duck(VU)



Black-necked Grebe



Lesser White-fronted Goose



Saunders's Gull(VU)



Relict Gull(VU)



Temminck's Cormorant



Far Eastern Curlew(EU)



Northern Lapwing(NT)



Black-winged Stilt



Common reed Bunting(NT)



Chinese Grey Shrike



Chestnut-eared Bunting



Short-eared Owl

"Mandarin Duck...at least 135 were counted in late March 2014, about 4% of the Korean population."

Nial Moores



Korean Folk Dance

Janggo Dance



Janggo, an hourglass-shaped drum, is a national percussion instrument of Korea.

Musicians playing the *janggo* are depicted in the tomb mural paintings of Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668).

Janggo dance, a Korean folk dance, was at first played in such folk dance works as a peasant music

dance in which *janggo* beaters produced various rhythmic patterns and movements, enlivening the atmosphere. Afterwards, the *janggo* dance was developed into a solo piece.

At first, *janggo* beaters were mostly men, so the dance was performed by men but later also by women.

Male dancers presented vigorous, liberal and bold movements, while female dancers gentle, elegant and nimble ones.

When the dancer performs various movements, striking at fast beats both soundboards of *janggo* with a stick in one hand, the dance becomes more attractive.

As the *janggo* dance is widely played by not only professionals but also ordinary people at present, its tradition is being carrying forward brilliantly.

*Article: Mun Jin Yu
Photo: Sin Chung Il*





Relics Unearthed on Janggun Peak of Mt Paektu



Stone slab inscribed with "Chonbugyong" and a triangular jade slab symbolic of Tangun in the religion

Recently a slab of marble and a regular triangular slab of gemstone inscribed with letters were unearthed on top of Janggun Peak in Mt Paektu.

The marble slab, 31cm long and 21.5cm wide, was found at a depth of 30cm underground, and the gemstone slab, 17.5cm on each side, two metres away from the marble slab.

They were proved to be related to Taejong faith, a Korean religion.

Inscribed on the upper part of the finely polished marble slab are a title reading "Chonbugyong" in Chinese character and 81 other letters down below, whose strokes are clear as they are painted red.

According to the historical data and an analysis of paint left in letters by the research group, the letters on the marble slab were carved in the 1930s and

most of them are old letters. And it was academically ascertained that the 81 letters are part of "Chonbugyong", one of the scriptures of Taejong faith.

Taejong faith created in 1909 was a national religion that worships Hwanin, Hwanung and Hwangom (Tangun) in the legendary tale of founding Ancient Joseon (early 30th century BC-108 BC).

The blue gemstone slab with smoothly trimmed sides was confirmed to have been made to symbolize Tangun, founding father of Korea.

Researchers affirm that the Taejong faith-related relics are of great importance in tracing the long history of the Korean nation's worshipping of Mt Paektu as its ancestral mountain and a sacred place.

Article: Kim Son Gyong

Photo: By courtesy of the KCNA

Special Dishes of the Hamgyong Provincial Area



Noodles garnished with raw fish slices



Glutinous Indian millet pancake



Frozen potato noodles and yongchae kimchi



Fermented flatfish



Steamed lobster



Frozen potato cake



Spicy Pollack soup

The area of Hamgyong Province in Korea covers the present-day North and South Hamgyong and Ryanggang provinces, and some parts of Kangwon Province.

As it is comprised of vast plains along the east coast, northern mountainous regions and fishing grounds in the East Sea of Korea, it has been well known for a wide variety of local delicacies.

Main materials of local dishes include field crops such as soybean, corn, sorghum, and potato, edible herbs including anise, bracken, osmunda and *Codonopsis lanceolata*, and aquatic products such as Pollack, flatfish, lockington, hairy crab and octopus.

Such dishes are characterized by its spicy and fresh tastes like the lively and open-hearted personalities of the local residents.

Typical dishes are potato starch noodles, pancake made of glutinous Indian millet, tangogi soup, hot Pollack soup, yongchae kimchi and fermented spicy flatfish.



Steamed broiler chicken



Steamed crab

Potato starch noodles have tough and slippery strips and are garnished with slices of boiled meat or seasoned raw fish.

Tangogi soup has its traditional recipe indigenous to the Hamgyong provincial area. The first stock of boiled meat is drained off, and fresh water is added to boil the meat again. The soup is also served with plenty of hot spices.

The local people favour hot Pollack soup made by mixing Pollack cuts with smashed garlic, sliced leek, and peppered bean paste and boiling them in beef broth.

Yongchae kimchi is one of local delicacies served to welcome the guests.

Fermented spicy flatfish is made by putting in a pot salted cuts of flatfish dressed with boiled foxtail millet, garlic, powdered chili and malt and other ingredients, supplementing radish slices after 2-3 days and fermenting them.

Nowadays local dishes of the Hamgyong provincial area are widely known across the country.

Article: Kim Mi Ye

Photo: Ri Kwang Song

