

## **National Symbols of the DPRK**

Introduced here are some of the national symbols of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, marking the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding on September 9, 1948.

### **National Emblem**

The DPRK's national emblem bears the design of a grand hydroelectric power station under Mt Paektu, the sacred mountain of the revolution, and the beaming light of a five-pointed red star, with ears of rice forming an oval frame, bound with a red ribbon bearing the inscription "The Democratic People's Republic of Korea."

Mt Paektu and the five-pointed red star reflect the unshakable faith and will of the Korean people to hold President Kim Il Sung (1912-1994) and Chairman Kim Jong Il (1942-2011), their eternal leaders, in high esteem for all eternity and accomplish the cause of building a powerful socialist country.

The inscription "The Democratic People's Republic of Korea," the name of the country, indicates that the Republic is a people-oriented state that has inherited the brilliant traditions of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle President Kim Il Sung waged in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, is guided by the immortal Juche idea and provides the broad sections of the masses with genuine democracy.

The hydroelectric power station portrays the independent and modern industry based on powerful heavy industry, and the ears of rice symbolize the rural economy that is developing along the modern line thanks to the rural theses.

### **National Flag**

The national flag of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea consists of a central, broad red panel, bordered both above and below by a narrow white stripe and a broad blue stripe. The central red panel bears a five-pointed red star within a white circle near the flag pole.

The flag is permeated with the blood of the patriotic fighters and heroic soldiers who sacrificed themselves for the liberation of their country and the freedom and happiness of their fellow people, and reflects the revolutionary spirit of the Korean people who are struggling for the prosperity and development of their country.

The five-pointed red star represents the anti-Japanese revolutionary traditions and the prospects of the Republic, and the red colour of the flag symbolizes the

loyalty of the Korean people to the Workers' Party and the leader, their socialist patriotism, indefatigable fighting spirit and invincible single-hearted unity.

The white circle and the white stripes imply that the Koreans are a homogeneous nation with a 5 000-year-long history and brilliant culture, that they are a resourceful, diligent and courageous people, and that they are a heroic people possessed of patriotism, uprightness and indomitable fighting spirit.

The blue stripes stand for the ardent desire of the Korean people, who are resolutely fighting for peace, democracy, national independence and victory of the socialist cause, united firmly with the world's revolutionary people under the banner of anti-imperialist independence.

### **National Flower**

The national flower of the DPRK is the blossom of magnolia.

Magnolia is a shrub growing on wet soils including valleys and hillsides in different parts of Korea except some northern areas. It grows 4-10 metres tall. The leathery alternate leaves are of reversed egg shape and shiny and deep green in color. In late May and mid-June, a white flower, usually fragrant, is located at the tip of a shoot sideways or downward. It is 7-10cm across (15cm at maximum), and six blossoms, nine in some cases, occur in three rows. The three sepals are light red. The red purple stamens are around the yellowish pistils. The blossom looks more beautiful as the colours of petals, pistils and stamens are in good harmony. A flower is in full bloom for about one week, and one can see flowers on a tree for 50-60 days. The fruit is a follicle, which forms a long oval shape with several seeds. The fruit ripens in September.

The blossom symbolizes the stamina of the Korean people as not only it is beautiful and smells fragrant but also it looks stout, simple and noble.

### **National Tree**

The national tree of the DPRK is pine.

Pine originated in Korea, and takes the biggest share in the population of the forest tree species in the country and the area of their distribution.

The evergreen needle-leaved tree that belongs to the phylum of gymnosperm is distributed over broad areas of the country with an altitude of under 800 metres except the highlands in northern Korea. It is 20 to 40 metres tall and about 60 centimetres in diameter. Its trunk is mostly crooked, but those in mountains are relatively straight. It takes about ten years to bear flowers and cones.

Koreans have long attributed to the evergreen and viable pine such qualities as solemnity, courage, loftiness, constancy, determination and enthusiasm.

A pine tree may be buried in snow, but it still does not lose its verdure. As an icon of fidelity and obligation, it reflects the spirit of energetic, strong and courageous Korean nation.

### **National Dog**

The national dog of the DPRK is Phungsan.

It is a native dog of Korea, which has long been familiar with Koreans. It was named so as it originated in the area of Kim Hyong Gwon County (the then Phungsan County) in northern Korea.

With light-looking body and thick and stout hind legs, it runs fast even in mountains. Holding the head lightly, it always looks watchful and vigilant. The eyes are reddish and relatively small and the pupils are black or grey. Relatively small upright ears are directed towards the front or the sides. The neck is thick and short and well-built and the hair is mostly white. It is highly resistant to cold and diseases and has a good appetite.

It is very brave, clever and swift, and has tenacity to fight its foe to the end.

Registered as a national living monument, the dog is protected and propagated under the state care.

### **National Bird**

The national bird of the DPRK is magpie.

It is a beneficial bird that lives on harmful insects and can be seen in the country all the year round.

The black and white bird is usually 45 centimetres long and makes light and clear sounds. Its pretty shape and figure, flying posture and various sounds add much to the natural beauty of streets and villages, parks and pleasure grounds.

Koreans love it as a bird of good omen as they think that its morning chirp heralds a visit by a welcome guest or good news.

Magpies that are so familiar with Koreans are a symbol of the DPRK's peace-loving stand.



National emblem of the DPRK



National flag of the DPRK



National flower of the DPRK



National tree of the DPRK



National dog of the DPRK



National bird of the DPRK