



LEADER AND EDUCATION

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CONTENTS

PREFACE.....	1
IN CHARGE OF EDUCATIONAL WORK.....	2
Enforcement of Universal 12-Year Compulsory Education	2
First Visit in the New Year.....	7
In the Baby Home	7
In the Orphanage.....	10
Books for Intelligent Education Asked.....	14
The Bosom Which the Orphans Can Trust and Rely On.....	16
Perfect Educational Equipment	20
Benches with Coat Hooks.....	22
Saying Another One of His Wishes Has Been Realized.....	24
Mangyongdae Revolutionary School Tells.....	30
As the Father of the Students.....	30
Self-Shouldered “Burden of Debt”	33

Looking Round Lecture Rooms.....	35
Visiting the School Again.....	38
As a Teacher.....	40
Being Honorary President of the University	40
Twenty-minute “Special Lecture”	42
At the Renovated Pyongyang University of Education.....	44
METICULOUS PARENT OF STUDENTS.....	52
New School Uniforms	52
For the Production of Bag Cloth.....	54
Mindulle Notebook Factory.....	55
At a Bag Factory	59
Hotel for Children.....	62
In Line with the Demands of the New Century	62
Fancy Architectural Structure	65
A Whole Day Spent with the Children.....	69
For the Endless Laughter of the Children.....	71
Without Prior Notice.....	73
Visiting the Mangyongdae Children’s Camp.....	77
More Splendidly	79

PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO TEACHERS.....	86
Soaring Apartment Houses	86
Teachers Are Patriots.....	86
Meticulous Concern	90
Attending the Inauguration Ceremony	98
“Yachts” on the Taedong.....	103
We Should Spare Nothing	103
Symbol of the Policy of Giving Priority to Science and Talents	107
To Build People’s Paradise by Dint of Science	109
CONCLUSION	115

PREFACE

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea regards education of the younger generations as the most important of all state affairs. The country is making efforts to constantly improve conditions, environment, contents and methods of education in order to train them into comprehensively developed talents.

It established by law a universal 12-year compulsory education system which provides the whole course of pre-school and primary school education and general secondary education that consists of junior and senior middle school education, and the standard of university education is being raised day by day.

With the state investment in education increasing and public interest in it growing, all educational institutions including baby homes, orphanages, primary and middle schools for orphans and children's palaces have been renovated and teachers are given preferential treatment. This is attracting the world's attention.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un set forth the slogan "Let us make a leap forward by dint of science and guarantee the future by dint of education!" and always pays close attention to the development of education. This book contains some of the anecdotes of Kim Jong Un's leadership for making greater progress in developing the economy and improving the people's living standards in the near future.

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IN CHARGE OF EDUCATIONAL WORK

Enforcement of Universal 12-Year Compulsory Education

The Sixth Session of the Twelfth Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, held in September 25, 2012 with the attendance of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, discussed an agenda item on enforcing universal 12-year compulsory education, and adopted the following ordinance:

1. The universal 12-year compulsory education shall be enforced in all parts of the country.

2. In connection with enforcement of the universal 12-year compulsory education, state measures shall be taken to fill up the shortage of teachers, improve their qualifications and develop educational methods.

3. State investment in education shall be increased, and conditions and environment necessary for enforcing the universal 12-year compulsory education be created.

4. Administrative guidance and legal controls shall be

intensified for the successful enforcement of the universal 12-year compulsory education.

5. The Cabinet and relevant organs of the DPRK shall take practical measures for implementing this ordinance.

The universal 12-year compulsory education system is the development of the universal 11-year compulsory education system that was enforced by the government of the DPRK and a new, higher stage of general secondary education system.

It consists of one-year pre-school course, five-year primary school course, three-year junior middle school course and three-year senior middle school course, and during this systematic 12-year period the state gives general and modern basic knowledge to the students so that all of them can receive general secondary education.

The one-year pre-school course gives basic knowledge to the children in preparation for their schooling, and the five-year primary school course, while fully ensuring the physical growth of the students, gives them basic knowledge of nature and society in order to make them well-prepared for secondary education.

The three-year junior middle school course teaches all the students basic general secondary knowledge, and the three-year senior middle school course, while imparting

full general secondary knowledge to the students, teaches them practical basic technical knowledge which meets the requirements of the era of the knowledge-based economy.

The universal 12-year compulsory education system helps the students finish general secondary education course as demanded by the IT era, the era of the knowledge-based economy. This system provides education and edification to the students as suited to their physical growth, psychological characteristics by age, personality formation and features of their life.

Thanks to this system, students have become able to acquire an extensive knowledge that expands day by day with the rapid development of science and technology and the qualifications with which to act independently in society after graduation; it also has brought about radical turn in the educational work both in contents and quality.

It is compulsory for all the rising generation, from pre-school age to working age to receive education, and it is a system of education whereby the state bears all the expenses for educating them.

As an important measure taken by the Workers' Party of Korea, it demonstrates Kim Jong Un's unshakable will to further develop the educational work of the country.



Kim Jong Un visiting the Pyongyang Baby Home
(January 1, 2015)

First Visit in the New Year

In the Baby Home

Kim Jong Un started his activities of 2015 with a visit to the Pyongyang Baby Home and Orphanage.

Looking at the buildings, he said: The more I see the buildings of Pyongyang Baby Home and Orphanage, the more wonderful they look; they are marvelous, in deed; there would be no children's palace and cradle of happiness as wonderful as these in the world; I feel happy and worthwhile to greet the New Year after creating good living environment and educational conditions for the children; I have come here straight after delivering the New Year's Address to enjoy the New Year's Day with the children who long for parental affection; as I wished our lovely children a bright future in the New Year's Address, I wanted to see the children of the Pyongyang Baby Home and Orphanage more than ever.

On hearing that it was just lunchtime, he said he came there at the right time, and went into the dining hall of the Baby Home to see the babies eating lunch. Sitting among them, he saw the roe deer soup on the table, and said with

satisfaction that the Baby Home prepared good dishes for the New Year's Day. He then learned about how the kitchen utensils were disinfected and how fishes were supplied.

After hearing the babies and nurses singing songs in the playing area, he patted a child, who was in the bosom of a nurse, asking her whether he was a triplet.

The nurse said, "Dear Marshal, these triplets will soon go back to their home. Could you kindly pose for a souvenir photo with them?"

Kim Jong Un said: She says that there are triplets who will soon finish their course at the Baby Home among these children playing here in the room of intelligent games; let us all have a souvenir photo taken.

The principal of the Orphanage told the children, who



were in a hurry to pose: You, babies, please look at me, the principal of the Orphanage; the Marshal is going to have a photo taken with you; say cheese.

Kim Jong Un said, smiling, that the babies would follow the words of the principal of their Baby Home, not the words of the principal of the Orphanage.

After having a photo taken with him, the nurses and babies wished him good health.

Kim Jong Un told the nurses to bring up the babies well, and let them go on playing.

In the corridor after looking round the bathroom and sleeping room of a class, he said that maybe the staff of the Baby Home and those of the Orphanage would compete



with each other as their buildings are linked to each other. Hearing that they were waging a competition unnoticed, he said: The Pyongyang Baby Home and Orphanage should continuously improve management and operation by competing with each other as their buildings are linked to each other.

In the wading pool, he put his hand into the water to feel how warm the water was. He said that 34-35°C was appropriate for the children's wading pool.

In the corridor he saw a small door at the entrance to the changing room, and said that there had not been a door when he visited the Baby Home the previous time, and praised that now there was a door, adding: Though the orphans are young, we should install the door so that when they are changing their clothes, they will not be seen from outside; from an early age, they need to be taught a decent manner.

In the Orphanage

When Kim Jong Un stepped on the second floor of the Orphanage, two children bowed to him, each with a bunch of flowers, saying, “Respected Father Marshal Kim Jong Un, we are so grateful to you for the excellent

Orphanage,” and “Father Marshal, we extend New Year greetings to you in reflection of gratitude of all the pupils for this excellent Orphanage.”

An official of the Orphanage told Kim Jong Un that one of them was the one he kissed twice when he had been in the Orphanage during his previous visit.

Kim Jong Un said that he had recognized him and embraced him, saying “Oh, it’s you! Are you well?”

He told the officials that the children should be made eat well, exercise much and sleep long so that they could be healthy and become excellent persons when they grew up.

In a classroom of the low grade, he saw the children singing *Forward, Young Soldiers* to the accompaniment of the organ. He said it was time for a nap, and the children should sleep. The children wanted to continue to sing in front of him, but he told them to go to sleep. Saying that he wanted to see them sleeping in their cribs, he went into their sleeping room and asked an official whether they all knew their own cribs and told the children, entering the room, to take their places. He went out of the room only after the children went into their cribs.

He emphasized that the Pyongyang Baby Home and Orphanage should continue to improve the conditions and environment for nursing and upbringing of the children.



Praising that the Orphanage was splendidly built, he said: The nurses and teachers should bring up the orphans with affection; what they miss most is affection; nurses and teachers should take care of them with maternal affection so that they will not feel an iota of gloom; I feel very happy today; I feel so pleased to see the orphans, never looking gloomy, spend the New Year's Day singing and dancing to their heart's content in this excellent building; as I see the cute image of the children playing with bright smile on their faces, I feel pride and self-respect in having worked hard to have these buildings built, as well as passion and ambition to work harder in the future.

In the playing area on the first floor, he saw the artistic



performance staged by the children in celebration of the New Year's Day. The children sang the song *We Are the Happiest in the World*. After singing the second stanza, they spoke loudly that the Marshal had come to see them not only on holidays but also on cold winter days, saying the orphans were longing for affection, had the palace-like Orphanage built for them, and ensured that they were brought up to envy nothing in the world. And they shouted that the dear Marshal was their father. The nurses joined the children in singing the third stanza, all shedding tears. Tears gathered also in the eyes of Kim Jong Un.

After the performance was over, the children ran into his bosom and asked him to have a photo taken with them. When the nurses were making haste for the photo session, he persuaded them not to hurry.

He embraced the boy, who ran to him ahead of others, and kissed him, saying that was the third kiss as he had already kissed him during his previous visit and wishing him good health. And then he had a photo taken with the children and nurses.

Books for Intelligent Education Asked

This happened when Kim Jong Un visited the Pyongyang Baby Home on January 1, 2015. It was just lunchtime, so he went first to the dining hall to see the children having lunch and then to the childcare room, sleeping room and wading pool.

When he went into the room for intelligent games, the children were engrossed in solving jigsaw puzzles of numbers and pictures.

He praised them, saying they were all clever, and went towards the bookshelf, from where he took out the book *We Learn Our Mother Tongue*.

Saying that there he could see books that could develop children's intellectual faculties, he asked an official of the Baby Home at what age children learn to read the letters. After hearing the answer, he told an official accompanying him that not only the Pyongyang Baby Home and

Orphanage but also the baby homes and orphanages across the country should be provided with such books. He continued that not only such books compiled in the country but also those compiled in other countries should be published, naming some world-famous books published in other countries.

When he was visiting the Orphanage, he also called at the room of intelligent games, and asked if there were such books there.

An official of the Orphanage answered that there were many of them, and took out one and gave it to him. Kim Jong Un looked carefully at the book, and then took a book out of another bookshelf and turned the pages one by



one, saying: The books *We Learn Our Mother Tongue* and *Give It a Think* in the room of intelligent games are good for developing children's intellectual faculties.

With an illustrated book in his hand, he said with a broad smile on his face that more books of that kind should be published and sent to all the baby homes and orphanages in the country.

The Bosom Which the Orphans Can Trust and Rely On

On February 1, 2017, Kim Jong Un visited Pyongyang Primary School for Orphans. Covering a total floor space of 7 870m², it has a campus building, dormitory and outdoor sports arena.

Looking around several classrooms, he said that as the personality of the children begin to be shaped in their primary and middle school days they had to be trained well to acquire good habits.

The children are prepared for university education while they were studying in primary and middle schools, he noted, and said that this was why he gave top priority to primary and middle school education, adding: Our Party's is the only bosom which the orphans can trust and rely on;



what I would like to ask you, officials and other teaching staff of the Pyongyang Primary School for Orphans, is to take good care of them on my behalf and on behalf of their parents so that they grow up stoutly and lively, brightly and cheerfully, without knowing sadness and without any shadow on their faces; now I leave them under your care.

In a classroom of the second grade, he saw the students answering the teacher's questions. He said they were very clever, and turning the pages of a student's notebook, asked the officials about the paper quality. On hearing that the quality was excellent, he said that our students were now using *Mindulle*-brand notebooks of



Kim Jong Un among the pupils of Pyongyang Primary School for Orphans (February 1, 2017)

our own making, and that even mark pen did not blot on the paper of the notebooks.

On hearing that in the class there were the students whom he had met at Pyongyang Orphanage last time, he praised Ryu Song, stroking her hair, for her beautiful handwriting. He then asked Kim Jin Song how old he was. Hearing that he was eight years old, he said the boy had grown tall, recalling that when he had met the girl and boy, they had been six years old.

He picked up a pink-colored schoolbag placed on a stand at the backside of the classroom, and tried and hung it on the back of the chair, saying that it was a common practice to hang the bags there, and that then students would find it convenient to put their textbooks and notebooks in the bags after school.

When he came out to pose for a photo with the students, Kim Jin Song wished him good health. He wished the boy and the girl, Ryu Song, overjoyed at posing just next to him, good health and success in studying.

Leaving the school, he said that he believed the officials and other teaching staff of the Pyongyang Primary School for Orphans would bring up the students cheerfully with parental affection so as to make the school always resound with the song *We Are the Happiest in the World*, sung by the students.

Perfect Educational Equipment

On an October day in 2014, after looking round the apartment blocks and various public facilities in the Wisong Scientists Dwelling District, Kim Jong Un visited Wisong Primary School and Wisong Junior Middle School.

When visiting the primary school, he said this was the school where reserve scientists were to be trained as the sons and daughters of the scientists of the State Academy of Sciences would study there.

On hearing the fact that the academy had established a system for making education IT-based and modern in the school's classrooms, he praised it.

He then looked round the swimming gym, and said: There would not be many schools that have a big swimming gym like this one; but the windows of the gym are too large. If the windows are large, it would be difficult to ensure warm temperature in winter; it would be advisable to remove the windows; judging from the fact that water heaters are not installed in the gym, you seem to have thought of closing this swimming gym not only in winter but also in early spring and late autumn; if this gym was planned to be used only in summer, it would have been

better to build a swimming pool outside; as this indoor swimming gym was built, it should be built to be used all the year round.

Looking at the playground, he said: A new strain of grass that was planted on the playground have withered here and there; it looks like a man who caught favus on his face; for a primary school, it would be difficult to manage such a large lawn; if pupils are to play on the playground to their heart's content, it should be covered with artificial turf rather than natural turf; if we are to furnish educational institutes with necessary facilities, we should provide perfect ones; the playgrounds of Wisong Primary School and Wisong Junior Middle School should be covered with artificial turf.

After visiting the scientists' apartment blocks and a sports park, he learned that the outdoor swimming pool near the sports park was for Wisong Junior Middle School. He instructed that the pool should be laid out so that students could swim in summer and skate in winter.

Looking round a classroom in Wisong Junior Middle School, he said: The classroom is clean and tidy; as the floor is finished with terrazzo, it is horizontal so it would be a good idea to cover the floor with parquet-patterned vinyl covering; the desks look quite useful as their tops are

adjustable so that textbooks, notebooks and pencil cases can be put in the desks; there should be grooves or wood strips on the desk tops nearest the seaters; if not, pencils or ballpoint pens on the desks may fall down easily.

Benches with Coat Hooks

Situated in Central District in Pyongyang, Changjon Primary School is associated with the leadership exploits of the leaders of the DPRK.

In September 1954, President Kim Il Sung inspected a class at work in mother tongue and clarified the ways and means for improving the contents and methods of education and running the school.

Chairman Kim Jong Il visited the school several times, and gave detailed instructions on many problems, ranging from training students to be talents who are knowledgeable, morally sound and physically strong to making use of teaching aids and experimental apparatuses during the lesson.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited the renovated school on May 30, 2012, ahead of its inauguration ceremony.

In the room dedicated to the history of the school he

heard that the school was the first to win the Order of Kim Il Sung, the top order of honour of the DPRK, among the primary schools in the country and won various other medals, and had produced many heroes.

Seeing a photograph the school's headmaster had taken with President Kim Il Sung, he said to her: The President saw you at class and posed for a photograph with you; this means you have received all the honours a teacher can achieve; you have worked as a teacher and then as a headmaster for 58 years; it is highly praiseworthy that you have educated the rising generation with devotion from your youthful days.

He then looked round a classroom, foreign language study room and computer learning space, saying the furniture like desks and chairs had been made to be useful.

He visited the auditorium on the fourth floor and said that teachers and students would be very pleased as it was very large and the chairs in it were good.

In a classroom, he saw radiators installed on the wall, and felt the temperature of the floor with his hand, saying that heating facilities had not been installed under the floor.

An official told him that there was no knowing whether the existing heating facilities were enough or not because they had yet to be operated.

Kim Jong Un said that it can be known after a winter passed through, and that classrooms should be warm enough in winter.

In the corridor, he said that it would be a good idea to place benches with coat hooks on one side of the corridor, so that students could hang their wet raincoats and padded coats there when it was raining or snowing.

He continued: It is now a practice that wet raincoats and padded coats are not taken into classrooms; if such benches are installed in the corridor, students can also have a rest on them.

Walking through the corridor, he said: **“I’ll have such benches sent to the school. To this end, I have to know the distances between the doors of classrooms and the number of benches required. I’ll send relevant officials to the school to get acquainted with necessary information.”**

Saying Another One of His Wishes Has Been Realized

On July 2, 2016, Kim Jong Un visited the newly-built Pyongyang Middle School for Orphans.

Covering a total floor space of over 24 050m², it consists of a campus building with dozens of classrooms, practice

rooms and laboratories, a gym, dormitory, administration building and auxiliary building.

Enjoying a panoramic view of the school with a bright smile, Kim Jong Un spoke highly of the fact that the school was built wonderfully, adding that officials and teachers of the school should educate the students in a responsible manner in place of their parents. Noting that a Korean saying has it that a habit acquired at the age of three lasts till the age of eighty, he stressed that this meant that a habit acquired in childhood is extremely difficult to get rid of, and that as school education and family education were important, officials and teachers of the school should enhance their sense of responsibility and role.

In the music and dance room, he said that it looked



like a palace and that officials and teachers of the school should direct efforts to giving the students various kinds of education needed for human character formation and for human life with the feeling of parents who are always concerned about and pay attention to their children, so as to ensure that they could grow up as successors to the revolution and dependable pillars of the country who would shoulder the future of the country, and continued: As a fancy school has been built for the orphans, I feel very pleased as if I had picked a star in the sky; another one of my wishes to bring them up so that they would envy nothing in the world has been realized.

After looking round the administration building, he went out to the football pitch, and looking at the floor of the pitch, asked if rubber grains were placed under the artificial turf.

On hearing that it was done so, he felt the artificial turf with his hand, speaking highly of it. He said with satisfaction that the students could play to their heart's content on the playground.

Then he entered the gym. An official told him that coloured lines were going to be drawn on the floor for various sports events. Kim Jong Un dissuaded them, saying that white tapes could be stuck on the floor when



Kim Jong Un visiting Pyongyang Secondary School for Orphans (July 2, 2016)

playing a game or training and removed when a meeting and other events were to be held, adding: Various kinds of sports games including volleyball, table tennis as well as basketball should be played in the gym; the school should work out a weekly plan for its operation, for instance, one week for playing basketball, another week for playing volleyball and still another week for playing table tennis.

In the dormitory he looked with satisfaction at the daily routine of the students, which included the time for eating milk and bread. Seeing the hall on the second floor equipped with a TV set and recreation facilities, he said since each floor had such a hall, the dormitory looked like a hotel, adding that if the students lived in such a place, they would acquire high standard of cultural attainment.

In a bedroom on the second floor, he carefully





acquainted himself with the thickness of the double-decker beds, length of the blankets and stability of the racks that support the upper-decker beds, and said that when the new students would be moving into the building, new bedding should be prepared.

Stressing that the students should be encouraged to write a diary as well as to study, he said: The school should ensure that its students regard writing a diary as part and parcel of their daily routine; the teachers should make an exacting demand on them so that they write what they have felt in their daily studies and life, and give them proper guidance; in particular, the school should see to it that the students arrange their bedding and clean washroom and

toilet by themselves in the dormitory; this dormitory should be furnished with tools for this purpose; the dormitory looks perfect; the ceilings and floors have been well executed; the visual aids on the walls are meaningful for education; the dining hall looks like a banquet hall; there would be no dining hall as perfect as this one elsewhere.

Mangyongdae Revolutionary School Tells

As the Father of the Students

Mangyongdae Revolutionary School is an educational organ built for the bereaved children of those who sacrificed themselves for the freedom, independence and prosperity of their country.

Though he had many things to do in building a new country on the liberated land, Kim Il Sung had a revolutionary school built in historic Mangyongdae on October 12, 1947 for the sons and daughters of his comrades-in-arms who had fallen on the road of the revolution.

President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il gave detailed guidance over the work of the school like the

system and contents of education and living conditions of its students and paid close attention to them in every period of the developing revolution so that they could grow up as stout pillars and backbone of the Korean revolution by following the footsteps of their parents.

On January 24, 2012, the lunar New Year's Day, Kim Jong Un visited the school.

When he arrived at the school, all the teaching staff and students rushed to the playground.

After receiving a salute from the officials of the school, Kim Jong Un said: Congratulations on the lunar New Year's Day; I've come here to see the students of the school; I have many units to visit on this day, but I've come to this school, thinking that its students would be eagerly longing for General Kim Jong Il; as this is the first lunar New Year's Day after his death, I must celebrate the holiday with them as their parents would do.

After acknowledging the cheering by the students, he proposed posing for a photograph with them first.

Wiping away the tears rolling down the face of a student standing on the first row, he asked if he did not feel cold.

He replied no.

Taking the boy's hands in his own, Kim Jong Un



Kim Jong Un visiting Mangyongdae Revolutionary School
(January 24, 2012)

told the officials that his hands felt cold and asked them why the students were not wearing gloves; he said they must wear gloves.

Grasping the hands of another student, he cajoled him to stop weeping as a weeping face does not look good in a photograph, wiping away the tears and stroking his cheeks.

After posing for a photograph, Kim Jong Un asked the officials if the students who had been at drill for a military parade were at the photo session.

An official replied yes. Smiling brightly, he said that he felt pleased as they all had a photo taken with him, and that he had planned to go to their drilling place the following day to pose for a photograph with them.

Kim Jong Un's image reminded the students of the very image of General Kim Jong Il who had visited the school on the snowing New Year's Day 10 years ago, and held them in his warm bosom.

Self-Shouldered “Burden of Debt”

Kim Jong Un looked at the assembly hall and e-library before casting his eyes on the playground where he was standing.

Pointing out that the turf was uneven, he said: Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Suk had the playground laid out widely so that the students could play to their heart's content; I will see to it that this playground is turned into the most wonderful one in our country; I will have good turf species planted on the football pitch and the basketball court laid with rubber mats which are the same as those covered on the tracks of stadiums.

When he came out after looking round lecture rooms, it started to snow. He said with emotion that General Kim Jong Il had visited the school on a snowy day and today it was snowing, and that he felt as if he were visiting his own native home.

He then looked round the gym. Feeling the backboard support of basketball with his hand, he said: The backboard support should be covered with sponge; if not, the students may get injured while playing basketball; this backboard had been manufactured by a factory as a gift to the General, and he sent it to this school.

Feeling the cold floor of the gym with his hand, he went on: The parquet flooring is not good; it feels rough; if personal contact becomes violent, basketball players are prone to falling down; if they play on this court they may have their knees injured.

Seeing the table tennis tables leaning against the walls, he said it seemed the gym did not have a storehouse for sports facilities, before stressing that a gym needed such a storehouse.

When he learned that such welfare facilities as bathrooms, saunas and toilets took nearly all the space under the spectators' seats, leaving no area for a storehouse, he said that in order to make a storehouse, the gym needed an expansion of its space.

But the gym was surrounded by a hill so it was difficult to expand it.

Kim Jong Un said with a bright smile on his face: We need to take a measure, for example, of building a new gym or something like that; today I have shouldered the burden of debt to build a new gym for the school.

Looking Round Lecture Rooms

On the day Kim Jong Un looked round the classrooms.

In one classroom, he felt the surfaces of a desk and chair, and said that the shape of school desks should be transformed.

In the geography lecture room he asked why reefs were not included in the relief map, and said that as the

West Sea is shallower in depth and has more developed reefs than the East Sea, the reefs should be marked on the map; and that the relief map should be made at the highest level possible.

Then he entered the teaching method studying room, and asked the state of putting education on an IT footing, the sources from which the school received data and the capacity of the server. When he received the answer, he said with satisfaction: Only a talented person can produce another talented person; the teachers should not be low in their qualifications; they should decisively enhance the level of teaching, and the ranks of teachers should be built up.



What he looked round next was the biological specimens room where more than 1 500 specimens sent by Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il were on display. Among them were such rare ones like an extra-large squid, leatherback turtle weighing 550kg, large flatfish, Korean tiger, brown bear and Korean deer as big as a donkey.

Seeing the squid, Kim Jong Un said: Not many people will know that there is a squid as large as this one; the leatherback turtle is big.

Seeing a swellfish weighing 180kg, and without tail, he said, laughing, that its tail must have been eaten by another fish.

Found in warm and temperate zones, swellfish is



usually 1-2m long and 200-300kg heavy. The tail fin was degenerated into bones covered with a transparent membrane, inside of which is soft flesh, and this fin is linked to the end of the dorsal fin so the fish does not have a distinctive tail.

As he explained this, officials beside him burst into laughter.

Seeing a tree portraying a map of Korea and the bird specimens distributed on the tree according to their habitats, he said: It seems all the bird species in our country are on the tree; though small, the room looks like a natural history museum.

Visiting the School Again

Kim Jong Un visited the school again on June 6, 2014, the 68th founding anniversary of the Korean Children's Union.

On his arrival, he laid a flower bouquet in front of the statues of President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il standing in front of the school building and made a bow to them.

Looking at the statues portraying the great leaders surrounded by the students of the school, he recalled with

deep emotion their leadership exploits etched in every chapter of the long history of the school.

He then posed for a photograph with the teaching staff and students in celebration of the holiday.

He proceeded to the newly-built gym. The multi-functional sports facility has an arena for playing volleyball, handball, basketball and five-a-side, rooms for giving training in boxing, table tennis, artistic gymnastics and shooting.

After looking round various parts of the gym and familiarizing himself with its construction, he said: In harmony with the surrounding environment the gym does not look big from outside, but its inside is great as it was built by a new method which is different from the conventional one; this gym is an indoor stadium that can serve as a standard in our country and we can boast about it in the eyes of the world.

Expressing his great satisfaction over its construction on a high level, he spoke highly of the exploits performed by the builders.

Only revolutionaries can feel proud of creating and increasing the eternal wealth of their country, he said, adding that such a world-class structure as the gym at Mangyongdae Revolutionary School could be built only

under the guidance of the WPK which, cherishing the moral obligation to its revolutionary comrades, takes full care of their children.

Saying that the students of the revolutionary school are treasures of the Korean revolution, he asked senior officials of the school to take good care of them.

As a Teacher

Being Honorary President of the University

The Pyongyang University of Construction and Building Materials has followed a proud road of its development.

Proceeding from the demands of the country's realities in which postwar reconstruction was in full swing, the construction engineering faculty was separated from the then Kim Chaek College of Technology to be founded as the College of Construction in early October 1953. This was a measure taken to bring about a new turn in construction and to train talented construction technicians in large numbers.

In November 2010, to perform an important mission and role as a comprehensive base for training people

talented in construction, city management, land administration and environmental protection, the college was enlarged into Pyongyang University of Construction and Building Materials.

On November 26, 2013, Kim Jong Un visited the university.

He said that General Kim Jong Il raised the status of the college founded by President Kim Il Sung to that of a university, and that he had the university renamed Pyongyang University of Architecture. He continued: From today I will be the honorary president of the university to actively support the work of the university, true to the lofty intentions of the leaders who paid close attention to the work of the university in every period of the revolution and construction; I have given much thought to which educational institute I should visit this time and decided to look round Pyongyang University of Architecture; so I am here now.

Looking round at the senior officials of the university, he said:

“Pyongyang University of Architecture is a ‘pedigree farm’ for training personnel talented in Juche-oriented architecture and an outpost in building a civilized socialist country.”

Twenty-minute “Special Lecture”

Kim Jong Un looked round various parts of the university.

When he went into the fine art practice room, the students were drawing pictures.

Kim Jong Un asked the students how long it would take them to sketch a figure.

One student answered confidently that it would take about five minutes.

Upon hearing this, he chose an official accompanying him and asked the students to sketch him in ten minutes.

Drawing the attention of those in the room, three students started their drawing.

For the Supreme Leader who was waiting for the students to finish drawing, an official of the university showed him *A Collection of Architectural Designs* drawn by the students.

Turning one page after another, Kim Jong Un spoke highly of the designs, and said that an architectural designer should have an ability to imagine space and sense of formation, proportion and colour. He explained with one construction project as an example that architectural



Kim Jong Un visiting Pyongyang University of Architecture
(November 26, 2013)

structure may look different by its finishing colour.

Ten minutes passed, and Kim Jong Un approached the students.

Looking carefully at uncompleted sketches, he pointed out that all the three students had different ways of drawing, saying: One of them started with drawing the head and another with drawing the body; of the two sketches drawn by the students sitting in front, one is good in proportion, and the other is good in posture; the one at the back represented the characteristics of the model nearly the same; he drew best in a fixed time; figure sketching should be done to sustain the intrinsic characteristic of the model; if you identify even one characteristic of a man and portray it, then the shape of the model is already finished.

This “twenty-minute lecture” without a plan aroused fascination of the students and admiration of the teachers.

At the Renovated Pyongyang University of Education

Pyongyang University of Education, with a total floor space of about 24 100m², was renovated in a short period by the officials and working people of Pyongyang who

made strenuous efforts day and night from the very first day of its construction.

On January 16, 2018, Kim Jong Un visited the university.

Stressing the importance of the quality of university education, he praised the officials of the university for creating new teaching methods and propagating them across the country, adding: **“Preparing students into teachers capable of giving one grade higher education—this is the goal for the university of education to put forward and achieve. The teacher training sector should regard this as an important policy-oriented task and put primary efforts into it.”**

The applicants for the university of education should be selected from among those who can be qualified as teachers, he noted, and continued: Teachers are different from other intellectuals who make contributions to the building of a powerful socialist country by utilizing the knowledge they learned during university days; they should not only acquire a broad knowledge but also acquire the skills with which to impart their knowledge to other people; people vary in their abilities; to take sportspeople as an example, some were good during their days as professional players but not in their role as a coach, while



Kim Jong Un coming to pose for a photograph with the students and teachers of Pyongyang University of Education (January 16, 2018)

some others are well versed in theory but not in practice.

In the education control room, an official told him that in that room the teachers' teaching process was reviewed and consultative meetings were held in attendance with faculty deans and officials concerned. On hearing this, he said: Teachers cannot tell a lie; the controlling method is good; more satisfying is the fact that all the educational and administrative work of the university is oriented to enhancing the student's enthusiasm for studying and improving their academic performance.

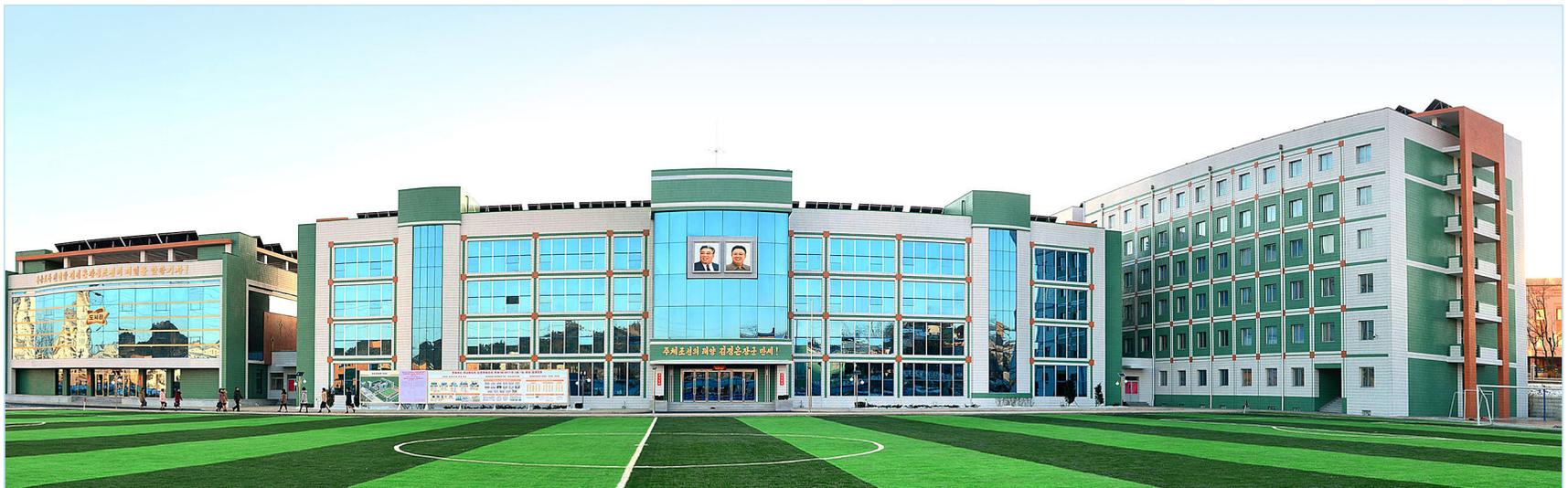
When looking round the rooms for practising teaching primary school students and for practising teaching methods for experiment in natural science, he said that the university should develop the virtual teaching system, praising the university for allotting 60% of its lectures to teaching skills training.

When he saw the students working out teaching plans on the computer, displaying their plans on an electronic board and holding a debate, he said that this method was a good one, and spoke highly of the university for conducting debates and other forms of education in its efforts to cultivate the spirit of independence and inquiry among students. Then he said: The students are giving a simulated lesson in both virtual and reinforced realities and they



are very skilful; if they use such modern facilities as electronic board and spherical display while teaching, the students will easily understand the explanation of their teachers; it is important for teachers to skilfully handle modern teaching materials and follow the teaching plans, but what is more important for them is to introduce teaching methods that conform to the characteristics of the ages and psychology of their students.

Then he entered the room for practising fine art and singing, and saw several students playing the piano, drawing pictures or writing with a brush. Speaking highly of the peculiar teaching method, he said that if primary



school students were taught like that—listening to music, drawing pictures and writing with a brush—it would be good for them to develop their intelligence comprehensively.

Coming out to the corridor outside the university building, he said: This university is high in the IT and scientific standards; all the lecture rooms have been turned into multifunctional ones, and I can see that modern educational techniques including teaching methods have been developed and introduced.

In the gym he spoke highly of it for having been built into a multifunctional one that could host political and cultural events as well as basketball, volleyball, table tennis and other sports games and of the temperature inside the gym. Last, he saw with a smile on his face students swimming in the indoor swimming pool.

METICULOUS PARENT OF STUDENTS

New School Uniforms

For the Production of Bag Cloth

Mindulle Notebook Factory

At a Bag Factory

Hotel for Children

In Line with the Demands of the New Century

Fancy Architectural Structure

A Whole Day Spent with the Children

For the Endless Laughter of the Children

Without Prior Notice

Visiting the Mangyongdae Children's Camp

More Splendidly

METICULOUS PARENT OF STUDENTS

New School Uniforms

The uniforms worn by the first-grade students across the country who entered the primary schools on April 1, 2015 drew people's attention.

Different from the former ones, the girls' uniform consisted of a jacket of deep red colour and a skirt of charcoal gray colour; the colours were distinctive. Boys' uniform was of bright blue colour. These colours added liveliness to the appearance of the cute children. Students of junior and senior middle schools entered their schools, wearing new uniforms; the same was the case with university students in grey uniform. Looking at the students who were going to their schools in new uniforms, people lavished praise on them, but few of them knew that the school uniforms had been designed some years ago.

On October 12, 2013, Kim Jong Un visited the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill.

He looked round the exhibition room of sample products.

Pointing at the sample products, an official of the mill said that General Kim Jong Il had seen them.

Kim Jong Un saw the samples with keen interest, and then stopped walking in front of the stand where pieces of cloth for school uniforms were displayed.

He had already worked out a plan for providing students across the country with new uniforms and assigned the task to officials concerned. Afterwards he saw the samples on several occasions, giving detailed instructions on their styles, colours and forms.

Feeling the cloth, he spoke highly of their quality, and said, **“I am going to have the students across the country provided with good uniforms. To do so, this mill should ensure efficient production of uniform cloth. ...**



In future when all the students of the country are clad in uniforms made according to the samples I saw, the appearance of society will be radically changed.”

When officials suggested that it would be better to install new facilities for producing new school uniforms, he took relevant measures on the spot, saying that in order to ensure that all the students wear new uniforms, it was important to provide the facilities necessary for producing cloth and uniforms.

For the Production of Bag Cloth

In December 2014, on his visit to the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill Kim Jong Un assigned the mill the task of installing a modern production line of school bag cloth, saying that the Party would take full charge of producing uniforms, shoes, stationery and bags for students.

On January 27, 2016, he paid another visit to the mill. After exchanging greetings with the officials, he said, **“This is my fourth visit to the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill. Today I am going to look round the production line of bag cloth installed in this mill and see the school bags made by our own efforts**

and of the cloth produced at this mill.”

In the exhibition room of sample products, he held up a rucksack for primary schoolboys, and asked whether all those rucksacks had been made of indigenous cloth. He expressed great satisfaction, saying that although he was not a textile expert, the cloth was quite the same as that of sample bags from a foreign country.

Then he continued: Bag designs should be renovated continuously to meet the demands of the developing reality and people’s aptitudes and likings; bags should be varied in form, colour and decoration in conformity with their preferences, tastes, aesthetic feelings, ages and psychology; it is important to make students’ rucksacks in various colours and shapes and set decorative drawings that are agreeable to their mentality; in our country a firm foundation has now been laid for producing bag cloth in large quantities; I feel greatly encouraged; there would be no problem in producing bag cloth.

Mindulle Notebook Factory

Named by Kim Jong Un, the Mindulle Notebook Factory has an annual production capacity of 50 000 000 notebooks.



Kim Jong Un visiting the Mindulle Notebook Factory
(April 18, 2016)

On April 18, 2016, he visited the factory.

After exchanging greetings with the officials, he said: The Mindulle Notebook Factory is our Party's treasured factory specializing in producing notebooks to be supplied to our children and students; if this factory normalizes production, notebooks can be supplied to the children and students across the country; now we have become able to supply them with home-made notebooks.

He then went to the exhibition room of sample products.

Picking up a math notebook from a showcase, he said that whenever he read the great leaders' instructions related with the issue of notebook, he felt sorry for failing to provide students with sufficient amounts of notebooks, but now a big problem was solved.

Looking at the cover of the notebook he was holding, he continued: This notebook is designed well enough to satisfy our children's mentality and its quality is good; now we can produce quality notebooks for each subject; this is a great achievement.

In the room dedicated to the history of the factory, he saw sample notebooks which the factory had produced in January that year and presented to him. Looking

at the letters written on a page of a notebook such as “Knowledge, morality and physique,” “Let us learn for Korea” and “We are the happiest in the world,” he said that he had written them.

Then he continued: I was so pleased to see the notebooks made by our own efforts that I wrote the letters down on one of them; I wrote them with a marker pen, but the paper did not blot; the notebooks were good in quality; so were the quality of paper and bookbinding.

Then he went to the bookbinding workshop.

Looking at various kinds of notebooks and paper piled up here and there in the spacious production site, Kim Jong Un said: It is great that the factory can produce 50 000 000 notebooks annually by the standard that a book consists of a certain number of sheets; in future the factory should expand its production capacity to make 150 000 000 notebooks a year.

He instructed that the prices of the notebooks made by the factory should be set low, that the products should be transported by train to areas far away from Pyongyang and by truck to areas near the city like Nampho, and that the trains and trucks should bear the insignia depicting dandelion (*mindulle* in Korean–Tr).

Leaving the factory, he held the hands of the factory officials in his and said: I stress once again; you should produce larger amounts of quality notebooks for our children with the feeling of mothers who make notebooks for their children and with the pride and dignity that you are working at a factory which plays a leading role in carrying out the Party's policies, a factory which demonstrates the vitality of its policy on education and a factory to which the Party attaches importance; by doing so, we can ensure that the children and students across the country are provided with sufficient amounts of notebooks of our own making.

At a Bag Factory

Covering a total floor space of 10 590m², the Pyongyang Bag Factory has a annual production capacity of 242 000 schoolbags and 60 000 bags of different types.

On January 4, 2017, Kim Jong Un visited the factory.

Greeting the factory's officials, he said, **“Today I have come here picturing in my mind the children who would laugh on their way to school with smart**



Kim Jong Un seeing the bags produced
by the Pyongyang Bag Factory (January 4, 2017)

rucksacks on their shoulders.”

He added: I feel the strength welling up as I picture in my mind the children who would grow up healthily and cheerfully with the pride and confidence in our own things; although schoolbags and other school things are not big, they have an important influence on the education of children; we should see that our children wear school uniforms and use schoolbags and other school things of our own making; only then can the feeling of holding dear and valuing our own things be cultivated in their minds; from olden times it is said that parents take all pains to bring up a child; however, we have millions of children; our Party can be said to have been



blessed with children; even though bringing them up requires all manner of pains, I regard it as happiness, not a pain.

Looking into the exhibition room of products, he said that the room was laid out well, and that he was quite pleased with the sample bags of 217 kinds on display.

Then he went into the room. He looked round the sample rucksacks for kindergarteners, for girls of junior middle schools and for boys of primary schools. Then he said: You have reaped a rich harvest of bags; you have greeted a cascade of bags; our children must be very pleased with those rucksacks; I don't feel like leaving this factory; you have said that everyone is anxious to have these bags and it's quite natural; I also feel like buying one.

Hotel for Children

In Line with the Demands of the New Century

The Songdowon International Children's Camp sits in a pine forest on the shore of the East Sea of Korea. This biggest children's camp in the country can

accommodate over 1 250 campers, and looks like a sailing boat. The camping season is from April to October. Children from foreign countries come here and enjoy themselves for 20-25 days mainly in July and August every year, strengthening friendship with members of the Korean Children's Union. President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il paid several visits to this camp

In May 2013 Kim Jong Un visited the children's camp.

He said that this children's camp is associated with the leadership exploits of President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il and he came here to inquire into the state of its management before taking measures for renovating it in line with the demands of the new century.

Looking at the bronze statue of Kim Il Sung in the compound, he said that bronze statues of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il should be set up in its place.

Looking round a room which Kim Jong Il had visited, he inquired in detail how many rooms the accommodation block had, how many campers a room could accommodate and how many TV sets and refrigerators there were in the rooms. He instructed that

all the rooms of the camp should be equipped with quality TV sets and refrigerators. On learning about the state of camping preparations for that year, he stressed: You should make the preparations well from now on; this year's camping should not be interrupted but continue as planned; the renovation project should be launched after the end of the camping period and finished before April 15 next year; 20 years have passed since the camp was built but it is flawless in its structure; it should be renovated in a way of coating the interior and exterior with new "clothes;" General Kim Jong Il had this children's camp reconstructed 20 years ago; you should have kept the buildings in a good state of maintenance but you have failed to do so; I have planned to have the camp renovated well before, but delayed as an opinion of moving it to the Chonapho area was raised; it would be better to leave it in world-renowned Songdowon rather than moving it to the Chonapho area; if it is renovated and laid out well, it will enjoy great popularity; camping should be organized in winter as well so that exemplary Children's Union members across the country can enjoy themselves in the Masikryong Ski Resort; this will mean the start of a new kind of

camping system in our country.

Fancy Architectural Structure

In February 2014 Kim Jong Un visited the Songdowon International Children's Camp under renovation.

He spoke highly of the fact that the accommodation block and dining hall were being renovated as demanded by their designs, stressing that they should be renovated on the highest level so as to make the children enjoy their camping feeling no inconvenience.

He said that it was necessary to provide conditions for the children to cook dishes on their own during their camping. He spoke highly of the design of the International Friendship Hall for Children, adding that he would send state-of-the-art cinematic and acoustic equipment so that campers could see movies and a variety of videos.

Looking at the wide playground, he continued: Children would be pleased if running track is laid out and the pitch is covered with artificial turf; the renovation project plans building a gym and indoor swimming pool; they would help improve the physical



fitness of the children; an aquarium and aviary are being newly built; there would be no camp like this one in the world; I will send various kinds of electronic recreational facilities and apparatuses for leisure activities so that the children who are precious treasures of the country can spend pleasant and interesting days; renovation of this camp is one of the major projects planned this year; as I have always emphasized, we should build all the architectural structures with an eye to 100 or 1 000 years ahead; however difficult it may be, only when they are built on a perfect level of quality, can we proudly hand them down to the coming generations; the renovation project is an important undertaking for translating into reality the wishes of the great leaders who treasured them in their lifetime;



it should be finished within the set date.

In April 2014, some days before its inauguration, he paid another visit to the camp.

After seeing the newly-erected bronze statues of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il among children, he proceeded to the International Friendship Hall for Children. Looking round the auditorium, mountain hiking knowledge learning area, video games room, library, international friendship room, Children's Union room, fine art room, skills demonstration room and 4D simulation cinema, he said that he was satisfied with everything and our architectural skills caught up with the global standards.

And looking round the outdoor playground, indoor

stadium, outdoor wading pool and outdoor archery ground, he said that they were built well, that the artificial turf on the playground, spectators' seats and wave-shaped, blue shades were all in good harmony, and that all the architectural structures looked like a beautiful picture scroll, a fine art work. The aquarium, aviary and stuffed animals hall are built in such a characteristic way that children can acquire the knowledge of animals and plants, and they will like them, he added.

Then he continued: Bedrooms, dining rooms and kitchens of the first and second blocks as well as its welfare service facilities will satisfy the mentality of the children; in the cooking practice room the children can cook various dishes on their own; all the buildings and facilities of the camp befit those of a civilized nation in scale, style and content; every element retains our characteristics and embodies the principle of prioritizing comfort and aesthetic beauty as demanded by the Juche-oriented idea of architectural aesthetics; it is a fancy architectural structure which reflects the Party's view on the younger generation, a children's palace and hotel with no parallel in the world.

A Whole Day Spent with the Children

On May 2, 2014, Kim Jong Un attended the unveiling ceremony of the bronze statues of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il set up at the Songdowon International Children's Camp and the camp's inauguration ceremony.

The ceremonies were followed by sporting and cultural activities in celebration of the inauguration.

Kim Jong Un saw the final match of the national children's football competition held on the outdoor playground which was built in harmony with the natural scenery of Songdowon, a scenic spot on the east coast of Korea.

After the match was over, he waved back at the cheering players and spectators. Then he shook hands with the players and coaches of both teams and referees, encouraging them, and posed for a photograph with them.

At the moment, all of a sudden, a ball boy rushed towards him and asked him to pose for a photograph with him, too.

Kim Jong Un summoned the other auxiliary staff



Kim Jong Un visiting the Songdowon International Children's Camp (May 2, 2014)

to his side, and posed for a photograph with them together with the boy.

That day a congratulatory performance by the Moranbong Band *We Are the Happiest in the World* took place at the International Friendship Hall for Children of the camp.

It was followed by a fireworks display, marking the climax of the sporting and cultural ceremony.

When Kim Jong Un came outside with the audience of the performance, the fireworks display lit up the sky over the camp amid the thunderous sound.

He was among the children the whole day.

For the Endless Laughter of the Children

Kim Jong Un visited again the Songdowon International Children's Camp in July 2014.

He first looked round the steep water slide which was newly installed at the outdoor wading pool.

One month ago he had seen a steep slide made by the People's Army. He had said that it should be installed first at the Songdowon International Children's Camp by late June as the bathing season was at hand. True to his intention, the soldier builders had finished installing the

slide in a short span of time.

Looking at the slide, Kim Jong Un said: The slide looks really wonderful; children would like it; I feel more attached to it as it was made by our own strength and technology; the trademark *Taedonggang* on it brings the slide into bold relief; the slide has been installed perfectly; children can use it to their heart's content from the next camping term.

Seeing the newly-built diving tower and water tank, he said that they had been built well and water should be filtered on a regular basis so as to ensure that the outdoor wading pool is always full of clean water.

At the newly-built mirror cage, he said that the camp



was getting more and more playing spaces for the children as the days went by; the camp would overflow with children's laughter all the time; children's laughter inspires optimism about and confidence in victory in our people.

Looking round the aquarium, he expressed his satisfaction at the fact that rare fishes including shark increased in species and number. At the bathing beach, he said that sailing boats should be supplied so as to ensure that children can play maritime physical culture.

At the Songdowon Railway Station under construction exclusively for the camp, he said that a direct-service train for campers had been assigned and preparations finished for its running, stressing that the station should be built to suit the campers' convenience and retain its characteristics.

Without Prior Notice

Myohyang, a celebrated mountain in Korea, is widely known for the many scenic spots and legendary tales related with them.

Located in this mountain is the Pyongyang Municipal Myohyangsan Children's Mountaineering Camp. The well-equipped camp was built scores of years ago thanks to the

noble intention of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il who regarded children as kings of the country and spared nothing for them. It is capable of accommodating hundreds of schoolchildren at a time, and many children come to this place every year for camping.

On a May day in 2013 when the campers were outside enjoying mountain hiking, Kim Jong Un visited the camp without prior notice.

He said that he came there with an intention to have all the children's camps in the country renovated after inquiring into the reality of this camp.

Looking round various places including bedrooms, room for diffusing mountain-hiking knowledge, Children's Union room, hall of culture and information, music room, dining hall and assembly hall, he grasped the details of the camp's situation and the life of the children camping there.

Stressing the need to arrange well mountain hiking and daily life of the campers, Kim Jong Un said that the ranks of instructors at the camp should be built up to this end.

He inquired about bedding supply, laundering and room temperature. On hearing that the heating of bedrooms was not good enough after the electric boilers

were dismantled due to the shortage of electricity, he said: You should not let the children stay in cold rooms; you have said that heating of bedrooms has not been raised as a big problem as the camping season lasts between April 14 and late October; however, you must pay close attention lest the campers sleep in cold rooms.

In the washroom, he pointed out that the door into the room was a bit short. Tall students may knock their heads against the door, he said, adding that the door should be made higher to suit the height of the students who got taller now than before.

In the room for diffusing mountain-hiking knowledge, he said the room should be well-furnished so that the children could get wide yet practical knowledge while collecting zoological and botanical specimens.

Looking round the music room, he said that the piano was too old, adding he would have a new one sent to the camp.

On his way to the dining hall, he said: You should plant many trees and pave the footpath with blue stones so as to sustain the character of the camp situated in a valley.

In the dining hall he saw the meat, eggs and side dishes prepared for the children's meal. He said that the campers should be provided with meat, eggs and

condiments according to the prescribed standards, and continued: A well-organized system of supplying food grain and side dishes to the camp should be established so that the children are well-fed, and the kitchen utensils should be changed with modern ones; you should not try to repair or rebuild the camp, but build a new one after demolishing the existing structures; we should build the camp to be perfect not only in the 21st century but also in the 22nd and 23rd centuries; in order to build a fancy camp, it should be designed well; I will send a designers' team; the camp should be built after I have gone over its design and approved it; the existing buildings were built under the care of President Kim Il Sung, so before demolishing



them, you should take photos of all the structures.

While giving instructions on building a new camp, he noticed that not even a child could be seen. He asked where they had gone. An official told him that they all went for mountain hiking and were scheduled to come down at about 5 p.m. He urged him to bring the children as quickly as possible so that he could pose for a photo with them lest they feel regrettable, stressing that though he was busy, he must see them.

While waiting for the children, Kim Jong Un looked round the assembly hall and told the officials that the furnishings and equipment of the hall should be replaced with new ones.

Some time later when the children arrived in haste, jumping up and down with tears in their eyes, he embraced them, telling them not to cry, and posed for a photograph with them.

Visiting the Mangyongdae Children's Camp

In Pyongyang there is a beautiful mountain called Ryongak.

It was named so because it looks like a dragon (*ryong* in

Korean) trying to fly up to the sky.

For its beautiful scenery, it was also called Mt Kumgang in Pyongyang.

Located at the foot of this mountain is a camp which serves as a comprehensive extracurricular educational base for the children.

On June 3, 2016, Kim Jong Un visited the Mangyongdae Children's Camp.

He went over the panoramic drawing of the camp. Pointing at the outdoor swimming pool, he said that it needed something more, adding that a steep water slide could be installed. He stressed that it should be designed well as it would be the first time in the country to install a water slide by making use of the natural terrain.

Then pointing at the basketball court, he said: As there is no large gym in this camp, you should install roof trusses to cover the outdoor court; then, the campers can play sports games in disregard of the weather conditions, rainy season in particular.

He continued: We should renovate all the schoolchildren's camps, halls and palaces in line with the requirements of the new century so as to bring into reality the noble intentions of President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il, who cared for the children in their

lifetime; we regard renovating these extracurricular educational bases including the schoolchildren's camps as the most important of all Party and state affairs, and conduct relevant projects just to add lustre to the noble intentions of the great leaders.

The children's camps should organize the life of campers with the main stress put on cultivating their sense of independence, discipline and collectivism; they should arrange the campers' schedule in a various and colourful way so that they can learn a wide-ranging knowledge and get rich experience; this will leave them a lasting impression; now the number of extracurricular educational bases for children is increasing under the care of the Party, state and society, and their parents will feel happy to see these wonderful structures appearing one after another; we should find our pleasure in hearing the happy laughter of the people including children; revolutionaries should find the worth of their life in this.

More Splendidly

In May 2014 Kim Jong Un visited the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace.

The palace was inaugurated in May 1989 as an

extracurricular educational base for children with many rooms and halls for sci-tech and artistic circles, a gym, swimming pool and theatre. It can accommodate over 5 000 schoolchildren a day for their extracurricular activities.

At the entrance hall, he saw the front wall bearing the autographical words of President Kim Il Sung that the children are treasures of the country and the future Korea is theirs, and said: These words reflect the noble love for future generations of President Kim Il Sung who spared nothing for the children.

Then he looked round the halls and rooms of the palace, where the students were dancing, playing musical instruments including the *kayagum* and accordion, singing, practising calligraphy, learning the computer, swimming and playing basketball. After seeing them, he said that the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace associated with the loving care of the great leaders should train many reserve scientists, sportspeople and artistes who would shoulder the future of the country.

Teachers of the palace should, he said, be highly qualified and have high sense of responsibility so as to identify and bring into full bloom the talents of the children, adding that the ranks of the teachers should

be built up and the contents and methods of education improved steadily to meet the demands of the developing reality.

That day he presented the task of renovating the palace to meet the requirements of the new century, saying: The exterior of the palace depicting the embrace of our Party should be executed with granite and other quality building materials, and all the structures in the palace should be renovated on the highest level possible.

Stressing that the Party's intention was to allow the sons and daughters of the working people to bring their talents into full play, he proposed installing such catch phrases as *We Are the Happiest in the World!* and *Let's Rush to the Future!* on the roofs of two buildings.

In late November 2015 Kim Jong Un visited the renovated Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace.





Having a panoramic view of the palace, he expressed his satisfaction to see its exterior, which depicted the embrace of the Party and was renovated with granite and quality building materials, saying it looked weighty and graceful and the palace was an architectural structure which other

countries could neither have nor imitate, a monumental edifice demonstrating the superiority of the socialist system of the country.

Then he looked round various places of the palace to acquaint himself with the conditions of the palace after renovation and preparations for its operation, and said: The large relief map of Korea and the science hall are characteristic; the interior is decorated in such a way that the children could have a clear knowledge of nature and geography of Korea and an ambitious dream and ideal to beat the world; the arts hall is laid out to suit the psychology of the children and to let the children have rest and present their skills; the science block with rooms for computer,



physics and other science and technology circles has been renovated well; all these rooms are equipped with modern facilities so that the children can learn science to their heart's content; the arts block with rooms for circles of embroidery, calligraphy, the traditional musical instrument *kayagum*, the accordion, female chorus and singing and halls for practising traditional and electronic musical instruments are flawless; children will train their artistic skills according to their aptitudes and talents in these rooms and halls; the 2 000-seat theatre will satisfy the mentality of the children and any kind of artistic performance can be held here; the sports facilities like swimming gym and indoor stadium have changed their appearances completely so that even international games can be held here, and the rooms for sports groups are laid out so that the talented children can train themselves to be ace sportspeople; the sports park and the area for practising vehicle driving outside the palace are in harmony with the surrounding environment; in the dormitory the children from provinces will live without feeling any inconvenience; the palace has undergone a sea change; I feel as if I have come here for the first time and I had just been to a wonderland; as I think that the children would be very delighted to see their palace turned into a wonderful base for comprehensive extracurricular education, I feel quite pleased.

PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO TEACHERS

Soaring Apartment Houses

Teachers Are Patriots

Meticulous Concern

Attending the Inauguration Ceremony

“Yachts” on the Taedong

We Should Spare Nothing

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PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO TEACHERS

Soaring Apartment Houses

Teachers Are Patriots

There are apartment houses for teachers of Kim Il Sung University at the Ryonghung Crossroads in Pyongyang. In his lifetime, General Kim Jong Il was concerned greatly with the housing problem of the teachers of Kim Il Sung University. He wrote apartment houses for teachers of the university on his handbook and made a circle around the words several times on his inspection trips to the front line in the last days of his life.

Kim Jong Un, who regards implementing the General's instructions as the first and foremost undertaking, told the officials on November 20, 2012, in January the following year and on several other occasions that the apartment houses for the teachers of

Kim Il Sung University should be built at the highest level possible. He personally selected the area for construction near Ryonghung Bridge, and ordered a Guard unit of the Korean People's Army to conduct the project.

In order to acquaint himself with the progress of the project, he visited the construction site on August 13, 2013.

He asked an official the number of flats in the two blocks, and expressed his satisfaction with the wonderful skyscrapers.

Then, pointing at the ground floor, he said: The skyscrapers may look good and stable if welfare service facilities are located at their lower parts after taking into consideration the height of these parts; the welfare service facilities should be laid out well so that the scientists would not find the slightest inconvenience in their life.

He moved to the second block, the interior of which was very humid as plastering was in full swing. However, he did not hesitate, but climbed to the third floor. He went into one of the flats and asked about the position where shoe chest and display cabinet would be placed. One

official pointed the places, and he nodded his head. When he saw the arch-type entrance to the drawing room, he praised them for decorating the entrance well. He added: I said before that the



entrance to the drawing rooms of houses should be of arch type; this arch type and the columns on both sides look good; the drawing room looks good.

Standing in the middle of the wide drawing room, he pointed at the walls of the room, saying that a TV set, tea table and sofa should be installed by the walls. Then he looked up to the ceiling and asked the floor height. One of the officials answered that it was 2.4m.

The floor heights of the recently-built apartment houses are high, Kim Jong Un said, adding that this flat looked cozy as it was not so high. He moved to another room, and saw how skilfully the verandah had been plastered. At the verandah he looked down and told an official in the designing sector that it would be a good idea to lay out a park around the apartment houses.

In another room, he asked an official how the floor was planned to be finished. The designing official answered that the room would be covered with linoleum. An officer of the military unit conducting the construction project said: The parents' bedroom and the children's bedroom will be covered with oiled floor paper, the study, bedroom for the host and hostess with linoleum, and the

drawing room and hallway with parquets.

Wearing a broad smile, Kim Jong Un said that the apartment houses would be unique in the country, and continued: I am going to give precedence to scientists; teachers are patriots who devote their whole life to educating younger generations and training talents of the country; nothing should be spared for them; it is the Party's intention to build many apartment houses like these to give them to teachers and researchers; looking after the life of teachers and researchers is an important undertaking that has a bearing on the future of the country; we should provide good living conditions to them so that they can concentrate on education of younger generations and scientific research without feeling any inconvenience; then they can achieve greater successes in their work.

Meticulous Concern

On September 28, 2013, Kim Jong Un visited again the apartment buildings for teachers of Kim Il Sung University which were near to completion.

As he came without prior notice, senior officials of the university were absent from the construction site.

He said he wanted to see the flats with the future hosts, and told an official to call them.

Then he said with a broad smile on his face that they were wonderful and looked really tall as he saw them on the ground, asking how tall the apartment houses were.

When he heard that the first block was 105m high and the second one, 125m high, he said: The exterior of the houses looks good as it has been finished with tiles of various colours; construction of an apartment building needs good designing as well as skilful execution; designing is easy but it is difficult to build according to the design; the soldier-builders must have had hard time to construct such complicatedly-designed apartment houses.

When the senior officials of the university arrived, he said: I have come here to look round the apartments houses with the hosts; today I will see the flats for teachers of Kim Il Sung University with the president of the university and chief secretary of its Party committee.

After a moment's thought, he told them that the

distributing of the flats should be done properly as teachers and researchers would all want to move to these flats. He stressed that the plan for distribution should be drafted well to avoid even the slightest deviation, adding that those who were not given these flats may feel sorry, but we can build such apartment houses for them later.

Though he had already been to the construction site and given detailed instructions, that day he carefully looked round the flats.

He entered the first flat on the third floor of the second block and, pointing at the right wall of the hallway, told the officials that it would be a good idea to hang a mirror, an oval one at that, on the wall so that those going out would look at the mirror to see their appearances, and that a ledge should be attached to the bottom of the mirror on which to put a comb or something like that.

When he saw a shoe chest by the side of the wall, he said that it seemed a bit far away from the door. He looked round the drawing room, and found a gap between the display cabinet and the wall. He asked an official how they were going to fill the gap. The official answered

that an ornamental band would be plastered there. Kim Jong Un told him to do it skilfully so that the gap could not be seen.

In the dining room, he told the officials that the chairs of light colour made the dining room harmonize with the kitchen, stressing once again that all the necessary things should be provided so that the families living here would find nothing to envy.

He then looked round the toilets and praised the officials for building a toilet for the other members of the family well and forming another toilet attached to the



bedroom for the host and hostess.

He opened the wardrobe in the room for the host and hostess, and looking inside, said: The shelf in the wardrobe should be made to adjust the height; some clothes are long while others are short, so the shelf should not be fixed but adjustable so that it could be moved up and down according to the length of the clothes.

In the study, he sat on the chair in front of the table and, pointing at the wall in front of him, told the officials to install a bookshelf on the wall so that the teachers and researchers could study and prepare lessons. He instructed that bookshelves should be installed within that day and the result reported to him, adding that if the bookshelves on the walls of the studies looked advantageous, houses to be built in the future should be designed to have such fixture.

Inside the children's bedroom, he asked the senior official of the university whether it would be a good idea to cover the oil paper-covered floor with vinyl flooring.

“The floor-heated room would be warmer,” answered the official.

Kim Jong Un said: The host will first cover the floor



with vinyl flooring when he moves in, so the family will feel happy if we do it beforehand; we should install beds in bedrooms; there are 300 flats altogether in these apartment houses and 600 beds will be needed for the bedrooms of hosts and hostesses and children's bedrooms.

And as he saw the store covered with vinyl flooring, he praised the builders for doing so.

He then said: As you see, even the store is covered with vinyl flooring; it will not do if we don't cover the floor of the bedroom of the host and hostess with vinyl flooring; we should not let the 20th century coexist with the 21st century.

Officials around him all burst into laughter at his humorous remarks.

He stressed once again that all the rooms should be covered with vinyl flooring.

At the corridor he asked whether the elevator worked. When he heard that it was on a trial run, he asked on which floor an indoor resting hall was.

An official answered it was on the 17th floor; Kim Jong Un said he would go up there.

The officials dissuaded him because he had to walk upstairs all the way.

Kim Jong Un said he would do so with the feeling of doing exercise. Taking the lead in climbing, he told an elderly official to stay downstairs as he would soon come down.

It was a hot day and the corridor was humid due to the finishing work. As he climbed up over 200 steps to the 17th floor, his clothes became wet with sweat.

On arriving at the resting hall, he spoke highly of it, and then asked what the small area with playing facilities was for.

When an official answered that it was a children's playing area, he expressed his satisfaction, saying that the children of the teachers and researchers would feel pleased.

There is no such a resting hall in the high-rise apartment house built for artistes, he said after looking round again the place, and continued: Since the present is the era of the knowledge-driven economy, an era of a war of brains, we should give precedence to the scientists.

He then went downstairs to the first floor without

resting even for a moment.

Saying that the apartment houses for the teachers of Kim Il Sung University were the best among the recently-built ones, he added: The apartment houses for the teachers of Kim Il Sung University were designed to be the standard for apartment houses; they are flawless; I am pleased with everything.

Attending the Inauguration Ceremony

On October 9, 2013, one day before the anniversary of the founding of the Party, Kim Jong Un came to the apartment houses for the teachers of Kim Il Sung University to attend the inauguration ceremony.

He asked the officials of the university whether the teachers liked their new flats.

The teachers and researchers all feel very pleased and grateful for receiving new flats, an official answered.

After the inauguration ceremony, he looked round the flats again.

Before taking his steps he said: An inauguration ceremony like today's has never been held in other



Kim Jong Un attending the inauguration ceremony
of the apartment houses for the teachers
of Kim Il Sung University (October 9, 2013)

countries; this means that all the teachers and researchers of Kim Il Sung University are on the peak of happiness, to the envy of all the people at home and abroad.

Then he asked the officials from where he should begin to look round.

An officer of the construction unit of the Korean People's Army proposed looking round only the 44th floor.

Kim Jong Un agreed with the officer, saying: Today I will go up to the 44th floor of the second block as I failed to do so when I visited here last time.

When they arrived on the 44th floor, Kim Jong Un entered one of the flats. Inside the flat he saw a mirror on the right wall and said: Last time when I visited the uncompleted flats I proposed hanging a mirror on the wall of the hallway so that the family members could see their dressing when going outside; now the mirror is here; the mirror needs a ledge for a comb; in future, when constructing apartment houses, you should not forget to install a ledge at the bottom of the mirror.

He then went to the verandah of the drawing room through the hallway, looked round the scenery of the surrounding area and said that the teachers and

researchers who were out of the distribution list would feel sorry for it. They should not feel sorry, he continued, as another construction project for them was planned after the building of apartment houses for the teachers of Kim Chaek University of Technology is finished.

Deeply moved by his meticulous concern for the teachers and researchers who failed to receive new flats, a senior official of the university expressed his sincere thanks to him.

Kim Jong Un came into the drawing room and asked about the positions for the TV set and a dish set for six persons. After a while, he said: Today the inauguration ceremony for the apartment houses for the teachers of Kim Il Sung University was held splendidly; the Party had modern apartment houses built for the teachers of Kim Il Sung University and their inauguration ceremony was held as a national-level celebration; this again demonstrated to the world our Party's idea of giving importance to science, education and talents; we should give precedence to the scientists; only then can we develop the science and technology of our country.

Now he entered the kitchen. While opening the wall

cabinet to see the dishes and other kitchen utensils, he found that the handle of the cabinet felt rough. Pointing out about this, he said it should be made neatly, but as a whole the kitchen was good.

He then asked whether the bedrooms were covered with vinyl flooring as he had instructed.

An officer answered they did.

Then seeing the parquet floor of the hallway, he asked whether it was true the parquets were made of oak.

The officer said yes.

He then looked into the toilet and said: It is good that one flat has two toilets; if there is only one, a large family may find inconvenience in using it as they have to wait in the morning; next year the construction of the apartment houses for the teachers of Kim Chaek University of Technology will be finished; when they are completed, other units will also ask us to build theirs; I am sure the situation of the country will get better gradually.

Looking round the resting hall on the 30th floor, he said other countries would not have resting halls in high-rise apartment houses, and continued: The elderly people can have rest here without going outside; children will be more

pleased; it will not matter whether it rains or snows; it will be good for teachers and researchers to have a rest here after working in their studies; what is needed is only a garbage can.

After looking round the flats, he posed for a photograph with the teachers and researchers of Kim Il Sung University, who were to move to new flats, with the skyscrapers as a background.

“Yachts” on the Taedong

We Should Spare Nothing

With the apartment houses for the teachers of Kim Il Sung University built at the Ryonghung Crossroads to be the envy of all the people, apartment houses for the teachers of Kim Chaek University of Technology were soaring to the sky day after day, boasting their peculiarity on the bank of the Taedong in the Phyongchon area.

On May 20, 2014, Kim Jong Un visited the construction site and said that he came to see the apartment houses now under construction by soldier-builders.

Seeing the frameworks of the high-rise structures with satisfaction, he said: The atmosphere of the construction site for the apartment houses for the teachers of Kim Chaek University of Technology is good; now with the framework construction in the final stage, they look really wonderful; for their curved surfaces, they look like yachts on the Taedong; this is the first time in our country to build high-rise apartment houses with curved surfaces; I can see our designers and builders have raised their level higher; these buildings are fancy, standard structures reflecting the Party's intention to constantly update the formative and artistic beauty of architecture.

To think that such apartment houses embodying the formative and artistic beauty of architecture are to be provided to teachers and researchers of Kim Chaek University of Technology, I feel really pleased, he said before moving towards the first block.

Before entering the building, he stressed to the officials that expecting successful results from teachers and researchers without providing necessary conditions for their living meant just like expecting a chick from a boiled egg.

Studying carefully the construction work, he proposed finishing the walls of staircases with an ornamental covering material rather than with casein, and seeing the plastered walls of the living rooms, he said that he could picture in his mind the completed buildings.

He climbed to the fifth floor and had a bird's eye view of the outside, before telling that the scenery was wonderful.

That day he said: More apartment houses for the teachers and researchers of Kim Chaek University of Technology should be built in this area; if apartment houses for educationalists are built along the bank of the Taedong with these apartment houses as the starting point, this area will be changed completely; it will be good looking if buildings are built with different heights as those in Changjon Street.

As he heard that it would take 15-20 minutes from the apartment houses to the university, he felt pleased, saying that it would be good for the teachers to walk for 15-20 minutes. He then named the street to be built in the area Mirae Scientists Street, and tasked an official in the designing sector to draw a draft formation plan of the

street as quickly as possible and report to him.

He walked out of the building and said: It is good that there is an entresol in each apartment house; there is not such a structure at the apartment houses for the teachers of Kim Il Sung University; shops and other welfare service facilities can be laid out in the entresol for the residents' convenience and the appearance of the buildings; a sci-tech exhibition hall was planned to be laid out here, but I did not permit it; a sci-tech exhibition hall does not fit a residential area.

He then praised the apartment houses as wonderful masterpieces demonstrating the country's rapidly-developing architecture after the grand short course of officials in the construction sector, saying that the two apartment houses formed a wonderful harmony.

Expressing his will to provide the funds, though large, for the construction project, he said: We are now conducting major construction projects in several places, and they require large funds; however, we should spare nothing for the teachers and researchers who devote their whole life for the prosperity of the country and to training talented personnel; though we have not enough funds, we must

build the apartment houses for the teachers of Kim Chaek University of Technology at the highest level possible; when the framework construction is finished, work for the interior would follow soon, so finishing materials should be sufficiently provided to complete the project until October 10.

Stressing that the furniture to be installed in the flats should be made as soon as possible, he appointed a unit for this job.

Thinking that the teachers and researchers who were not to be provided with new flats would feel sorry for it, he said that they should be informed that the two apartment houses to be completed until October 10 would be provided to merited teachers and researchers, and that 500 flats would be built until April 15 next year, so that they could concentrate on their educational and research work without worrying about their housing problem.

Symbol of the Policy of Giving Priority to Science and Talents

On August 12, 2014, when the midsummer sultry

weather was coming to a close, Kim Jong Un visited the construction site again.

On arriving, he looked round the second block, and then looked at the sky-soaring apartment houses after coming out of the building. He said: The apartment houses for the teachers of Kim Chaek University of Technology look wonderful; in the past the Yanggakdo International Hotel was the highest and most attractive of all the buildings in this area, but at present these apartment houses cut a conspicuous figure; they would look more wonderful if seen from the opposite bank of the Taedong.

Stressing that the furniture to be installed in the flats should not be of one type but of various types, he said that in order to do so, furniture designers should study in great depth.

Then he said: Preserving the Juche character and national identity and embodying formative and artistic beauty first in the designing stage is the main thing in architecture; the apartment houses for the teachers of Kim Chaek University of Technology are architectural structures which we can boast about as the Juche character and convenience for the people have been ensured both

in designing and building work; I am very pleased to think that such wonderful flats will soon be provided to the teachers and researchers of Kim Chaek University of Technology; I feel relieved of all fatigue as I picture in my mind the teachers and researchers of the university who will move to the new flats in happiness.

Then he firmly declared that the apartment houses embodied intensively our Party's idea of giving priority to science and talents, and that this idea should be implemented unshakably.

To Build People's Paradise by Dint of Science

On October 16, 2014, Kim Jong Un visited the completed apartment houses for the teachers of Kim Chaek University of Technology. It was his third visit to these houses.

On arriving, he praised the houses for their attractiveness, saying they looked like yachts on the Taedong.

He expressed his satisfaction with the white stripes of tiles that made a clear distinction between floors and added attractiveness to the apartment houses, adding



that when the exterior of apartment houses was to be covered with tiles in the future, the floors should be made distinctive with tiles of a different colour.

He then took the lift of the first block to check its safety;

when he found that the lift was a little lower than the floor space, he told the officials to have it fixed well.

Entering a flat he acquainted himself with the heating system and said: The flats are to be cooled and heated by using geothermal energy; you have said the system works well, and I feel pleased with it; you should supply enough spare parts for the regular operation of the facilities.

He climbed to the highest floor to see a flat there. This flat may suit to a young teacher or lecturer with a small number of family members, he said and continued: I have heard young people are provided with flats on high floors; they would like to live in those flats.

Then he opened and closed the window of the drawing room and praised the soldier-builders for their good work as no sound of the wind could be heard between the window slides.

In the toilet beside the bedroom of the host and hostess, he turned on the water tap, and saying that the water pressure was low apparently because the flat was on the highest floor, he stressed that steps should be taken for the teachers not to feel any inconvenience in their living.

On learning that the shop on the entresol was to sell

electronic products and school things, he said that the shop should be named Arirang and *Arirang*-brand smart phones, TV sets and computers should be sold there, stressing that everything on the street should be subordinated to sustaining the character and role of the street for scientists and teachers.

In the concrete-covered yard in front of the apartment houses, he noted that the yards around apartment houses should be covered with pitch. He said that the whole of Mirae Scientists Street planned to be built should be also paved with pitch, adding that then the yards of apartment houses, roads and promenade would form good harmony.

Then he said: The apartment houses for the teachers of Kim Chaek University of Technology are unique architectural structures with perfect harmony of the Juche character, national identity, originality, convenience and formative and artistic beauty.

It is said that such a flat costs millions of dollars in other countries, he said, adding that these apartment houses looked like a hotel, and that he felt very pleased to think that such wonderful flats would be provided to the teachers of Kim Chaek University of Technology.



CONCLUSION

A large amount of fund the state invests in the improvement of conditions and environment of education, development of its contents and methods, state investment in students and the benefits the state bestows on educationalists—these constitute the propellant to the development of education and to the training of a large contingent of talents in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea,.

To cite an example, the students of Kim Il Sung University drew special attention from the world’s programming circles in the online programming competition hosted by India. Attending this competition, one of the three first-class competitions of its kind, from 2013, they fully displayed high abilities.

An authoritative programmer of a country, who had seen them competing on the Internet, sent an e-mail to the university. It reads as follows:

I tried hard to defend my position as the champion in

the competition from thousands of programmers throughout the world. ... I graduated from two universities and have rich experience.

You are, however, not skilled experts, but only university students. ... But you demonstrated your outstanding abilities, unbelievable for me and other programmers who attended the competition.

Your university is really one of the most prestigious universities in the world.

I wish you and your university a greater success.

The organizing committee of the competition also sent an e-mail to the university, which reads:

Congratulations on your victory. Our association and all the competitors want to know about your way of thinking towards the competition problems.

If you share your experience on solving the problems, we will release it on our homepage and grant you the right to amend the explanations of the problems presented so far.

Next we ask you to participate in presenting problems for the competition. We will deem it a great pleasure if you present problems, and the whole of the association will benefit from it. ... We hope you will continue to love

and attend our competition.

Yours sincerely.

At the Gradus International Piano Festival held in Denmark from June 17 to 22, 2014, Yu Pyol Mi, a 13-year-old Korean musical prodigy, received a standing ovation for her high artistic skills.

Between April 22 and 30, 2015, the 20th Tolyatsi international juvenile pianists contest was held in Samara, Russia. At this contest Pak Kon Ui from the DPRK received the first prize, drawing the admiration of the jury for his sophisticated, dexterous and energetic rendition of world famous songs.

There are over 1 800 branch schools in the DPRK. Though small with three or four students, a branch school is also on the level of the school: They need teachers, classrooms, laboratories and furniture.

Once a foreigner visited a branch school in a lighthouse island in the West Sea of Korea, and said: The DPRK is the only country in the world, where schools can be found wherever there are students; valuing the coming generations and sparing nothing for their education—herein lies the promising future of socialist Korea.

LEADER AND EDUCATION

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