

## Promising Country

The future of a nation and society depends largely on how children are raised.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, regarding children as kings of the country, has long brought them up at state and social expense.

Under the care of the universal 12-year compulsory education system the children grow up without envying anything. Many bases for their extracurricular activities have been set up in various parts of the country, including the Pyongyang Students and Children's Palace on Jangdae Hill at the centre of the capital city, Mangyongdae School children's Palace, Samjiyon School children's Palace and Kanggye School children's Palace.

These palaces give free education to school children in performing art, fine art, literature, embroidery, basketball, Taekwon-Do and others, training them to be competent personnel knowledgeable, morally sound and physically strong.

Many musical and mathematical prodigies are being produced in these extracurricular education bases.

Children's camps are also bases for their extracurricular education.

Among them is the Songdowon International Children's Camp, called one of the best children's camps in the world.

In capitalist countries receiving medical treatment free of charge is beyond human imagination, but this is a reality in the DPRK, and in this country young patients learn during their inpatient days.

In the Okryu Children's Hospital, there are studying rooms and teachers are available for the young patients.

One day a student who had to sit for the entrance examination of Pyongyang University of Fine Arts was admitted to this hospital with acute appendicitis. His parents as well as the student grew impatient as he might miss the examination. At this moment the examiners from the university came to the hospital and tested the student's rough drawing on the spot.

The student is now studying at the middle school attached to the university.

After witnessing these realities in the DPRK, a senior fellow of education of the national committee of Canada said: From olden times those who love children have been good-natured and righteous and a country that loves children has been beautiful; Korea is more beautiful than we know it to be, and it is a heavenly country shining at the apex of mysteriousness.