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FRONT COVER: Sunchon Phosphate Fertilizer Factory, a creation of achieving prosperity by dint of self-reliance

Photo: By courtesy of the KCNA

The Fourth Enlarged Meeting of the Seventh WPK Central Military Commission took place under the guidance of Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The meeting studied and discussed important military and organizational and political measures for further bolstering up the overall armed forces of the DPRK politically, ideologically and in military technique, so as to firmly defend the political stability and sovereignty of the country and reliably contain the persistent military threats, big or small, of the hostile forces, in view of the essential requirements to bring further progress in developing the national defence capabilities and war deterrent under the internal and external situation created in the vital period for the development of the Korean revolution, and dealt with an organizational matter.

It reviewed and analysed a series of defects observed in the military and political activities of the overall armed forces of the DPRK including the Korean People's Army, and discussed the methodological issues for overcoming them and bringing about drastic improvement, the issue of examining and setting right the unreasonable machinery and organizational defects in the formation of the armed forces and the core issues for further increasing the capabilities of militarily deterring the threatening foreign forces by rapidly increasing the self-reliant defence capabilities and organizing new units.

It stressed once again the sectoral tasks for thoroughly carrying out the revolutionary military line and policies of the Party.

New policies were put forth at the meeting to further increase the nuclear war deterrent of the country and put the strategic armed forces on a high alert in line with the general requirements of the building and development of the armed forces of the country.

Crucial measures were also taken to decisively improve the firepower strike ability of the KPA artillery.

The meeting elected a vice-chairman of the WPK Central Military Commission and recalled or by-elected some of its members.

Also tabled at the meeting was the organizational matter of dismissing or transferring or newly



Fourth Enlarged Meeting of the Seventh WPK Central Military Commission Held Under the Guidance of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un





appointing commanding officers in major posts of military institutions.

The WPK Central Military Commission decided to promote the military ranks of major commanding officers of the KPA in high recognition of their devotion and efforts for glorifying this significant year that marks the 75th anniversary of the glorious WPK as the first year of great victory in the frontal offensive to achieve a breakthrough.

Chairman Kim Jong Un put main emphasis on thoroughly ensuring the Party's unified leadership over the KPA by consolidating Party organizations and political institutions at all levels within the KPA and enhancing their functions and roles, and on improving Party guidance to conduct military, political, logistic, security and all other affairs in line with the ideology and intention of the Party in every way. He specified key issues to be constantly maintained in the military and political activities of the armed forces of the DPRK, and tasks and ways to this end as well.

He signed seven orders including the orders on new military measures discussed and decided

by the Party Central Military Commission, the order on draft reorganization of structure for improving the responsibility and roles of a major military educational institution, the order on

reorganizing the military commanding system to meet the mission and duty of security institutions, and the order on promoting the military ranks of commanding officers.



Supreme Leader Cuts Ribbon to Inaugurate Sunchon Phosphate Fertilizer Factory



The inaugural ceremony of the Sunchon Phosphate Fertilizer Factory was held in grand style on May Day, international holiday of the working people the world over.

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

Divided into production, education and office sections, the factory is a model and standard establishment in the sector of the chemical industry which has fully automated and flowlined all production processes, ranging from raw materials feeding to packing, as well as put them on energy- and labour-saving and environmental protective basis.

The establishment of the Juche-based phosphate fertilizer industry under the wise leadership of Kim Jong Un constitutes a breakthrough in adding eternal brilliance to the immortal exploits performed by President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il and in drastically increasing grain production.

As the Supreme Leader appeared at the venue of the ceremony, all the participants in the event, including officials of the Party and government as well as the army and civilian officials and builders who took part in the construction

and working people of South Phyongan Province, burst into cheers.

Pak Pong Ju, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice-chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and vice-chairman of the WPK Central Committee, delivered the inaugural speech.

Kim Jong Un cut the ribbon to inaugurate the factory and warmly waved back to the cheering crowds.

As he was briefed about the production processes of the factory, he looked round several places including the raw material processing process, yellow phosphorus production process, ammonium phosphate fertilizer production process and packaging process.

He highly appreciated the feats performed by all the builders, scientists and technicians, saying that now our agricultural workers have become able to concentrate on achieving the grain production target set by the Party without worry and describing the factory as the proud fruition that those who absolutely follow Party policies brought about on the strength of army-people unity.

The completion of the Sunchon Phosphate Fertilizer Factory is the first success made after the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee



of the WPK and an important occasion for making the chemical industry of the country leap a stage further, he said, stressing the need to more fiercely raise the flame of achieving prosperity by dint of self-reliance in all fields of building a powerful country with the valuable success as a spark.

He specified tasks to be tackled in the management and operation of the factory including the matter of taking thoroughgoing measures for the provision of raw materials for putting phosphate fertilizer production on

a normal footing, that of further rounding off the integrated manufacturing system and ensuring the stable operation of production processes and that of paying special attention to environmental protection.

He set forth the tasks and ways for developing the country's chemical industry as required by the new century including the rebuilding and updating of fertilizer factories as a whole and the building of more chemical industry bases.



Russian President Awarded Korean Supreme Leader the 75th Anniversary of the Victorious Great Patriotic War Commemorative Medal



PYONGYANG STREETS BEDECKED WITH FLOWERS

Photo: Son Hui Yon





Solid Foundation Laid for Agricultural Development of the Country

- Large Irrigation System Established in South Hwanghae Province -



Construction of a large irrigation system has successfully been completed in South Hwanghae Province.

The waterway construction, which began in January 2012, was a project for building the largest gravity-fed irrigation network in the DPRK, during which over 11 800 000 cubic metres of bedrock and earth should be excavated, dozens of waterway tunnels drilled and over 190 km-long waterway with at least 770 structures of all kinds built.

The builders fully displayed the spirit of self-development to make a leap forward to finish the first-stage project in 2016, and started the second-stage project in January 2017.

The second-stage project was also a huge and difficult task to remove earth, excavate bedrock and place concrete in an enormous amount for the foundations and to build a reservoir dam, over 80 km-long waterway, tunnels and hundreds of structures like inverted siphons and culverts.

Amid a strong wind of collective competition sweeping the whole construction site the builders widely introduced hundreds of rational building methods and new technical designs, rendering a great contribution to accomplishing the waterway construction by the set date and in a qualitative way.

At the same time they planted good species of trees and flowering shrubs in the areas around the construction site and erected villages for the people evacuated from submerged areas.

The successful completion of waterway project in South Hwanghae Province laid a firm foundation for increasing the grain production by fully irrigating the farmland in the vast western granary, such as Pyoksong, Kangnyong, Ongjin, Pongchon and Chongdan counties and Ryongmaedo tidal flat under reclamation.

The establishment of a distinctive gravity-fed irrigation network in South

Hwanghae Province makes it possible to save tens of million kWh of electric power for water pumping every year and many pumping facilities, protect land by preventing flood damage in the lower reaches of the Jaeryong and Ryesong rivers and spruce up the appearance of the socialist country.

Article: Choe Kwang Ho



Sea of Apple Blossoms in Wonhung



With the advent of spring the Taedonggang Combined Fruit Farm has turned into a sea of snow-white blossoms of apple trees on several thousand hectares of orchards along the bank of the Taedong River.

Workplaces and villages are full to the brim with sweet fragrance of apple flowers, and people with delight.

This spectacular sight is not merely the benefits of nature.

Officials and agricultural workers of the farm spared no efforts to cultivate and manure the fruit trees on a scientific basis and tended them with utmost care even in abnormal climate conditions last winter, thus unfolding the present scenery.

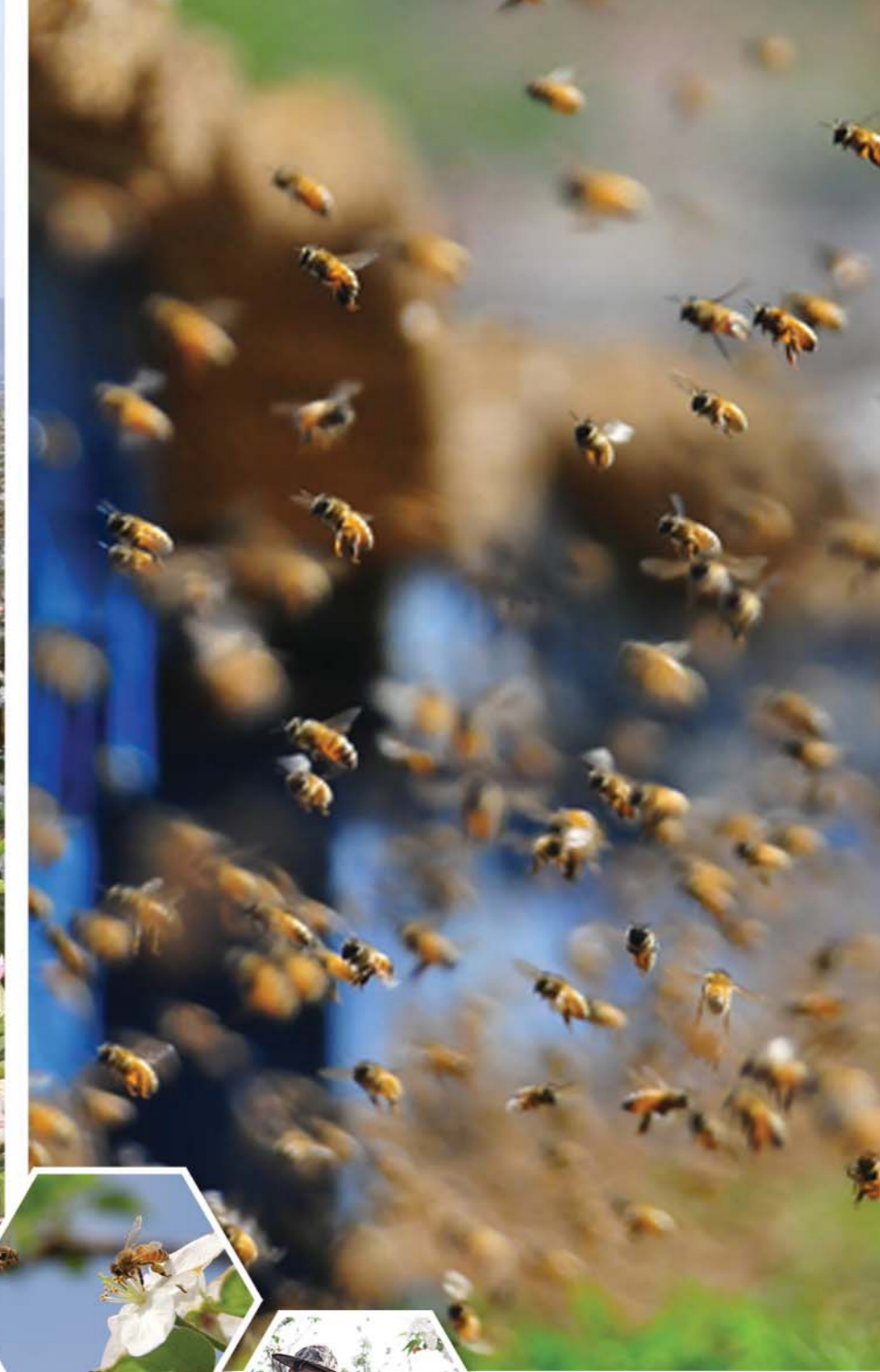
Now is the busiest season for the apiary workteam members.

They are increasing the number of beehives and rearing bees with care,

so as to improve their pollinating functions.

Assiduous work style of the farm workers will certainly bring about a bumper apple harvest.

*Photo: Hong Kwang Nam
Article: Pak Yong Jo*





Promising Mine of Korea



The March 5 Youth Mine was developed 40 years ago in the northern part of Korea, which has a rich deposit of minerals with useful metallic properties and favourable mining conditions.

The mine has now grown into a mining giant with numerous layers of open pits, large-scale crushing plants, two dressing plants with a total floor space of scores of thousand square metres and the like, giving a glimpse into its proud development history and bright prospect.

What constitutes the best guarantee for the mine's development is the firm faith of all its officials and workers in self-development and self-prosperity, which has been imprinted on their mind in the course of braving untold difficulties and hardship and achieving continuous progress.

Grasping it as key to production growth to build up its own scientific and technological forces and introduce advanced sci-tech achievements in a proactive way, the mine pushes ahead with the work to make all its employees well versed in science and technology while collaborating with scientific research units on modernizing the existing production lines and setting up new ones.

Several years ago it set a goal of establishing its own refinery, instead of transporting mineral ores to the region a hundred and scores of kilometres away from the mine for nonferrous metal production. If so, it would make its business management cost-effective and render a tangible contribution to the economic development of the country.

Officials, technical and working personnel pushed forward the construction of a refinery by introducing new construction methods, thus propelling the



Sulfuric acid production



Electrolytic copper production



Molybdenum production

project without letup even in unfavourable weather conditions of the northern area and erecting a modern one in a short span of one year.

The new refinery is amply furnished with processes for collecting from mineral ores all the precious and rare metals as well as nonmetals, such as copper and molybdenum.

The brisk mine-wide technical innovation campaign enlists the creative

initiative of the masses in putting the production on a normal basis.

Today the mine has assumed a flawless appearance as befits the comprehensive production base of nonferrous metals.

The mine channels big efforts into building dwelling houses every year for the increasing number of employees and their families.

One of its major efforts is to improve conditions and environment of

education in primary, junior and senior middle schools and to spruce up the nursery and kindergarten.

The hospital equipped with up-to-date medical facilities and the Hoha Health Complex furnished with sports and welfare service facilities are no less excellent than those in cities.

Amid a vigorous drive to transform nature, nonpaddy fields around the

mine have been turned into paddy fields with high yields, and the surrounding mountains into “gold” and “treasure” mountains.

Thanks to these endeavours, the mine is getting younger and more prosperous.

Photo: Ri Myong Guk

Article: Pak Pyong Hun



Samchon Catfish Farm



Samchon County, whose name is originated in the fact that it has three hot springs, has a catfish farm in its county town where a hot spring gushes out.

The hot spring has a temperature between 48°C and 50°C, and its daily discharge amounts to several thousand cubic metres.

Since it was established over 20 years ago, the farm has grown in scale beyond recognition. Three years ago it reconstructed its production lines to put them on a scientific, intensive and industrial basis. As a result, its annual output leapt tenfold from 300 tons.

It has an indoor production ground comprising breeding, hatching and fattening blocks, over

90 outdoor ponds, cold storage chamber, and workshops for processed catfish goods, feed and their additives production.

The integrated manufacturing system is so introduced as to measure and control in real time the water temperature, pH and the quantity of oxygen in indoor and outdoor ponds, automatically monitor the supply of water and feed as suited to the growth of fish, and produce floating feed and feed additives.

The hatching workshop produces more than 800 000 fry every month, and the fattening workshop turns out 270 kilogrammes of fish per one cubic metre of water.

Last year the officials and employees of the

farm built by their own efforts 70 outdoor ponds, thus laying material foundations for producing over 1 800 tons of fish additionally.

They worked strenuously in close collaboration with the experts to shorten the cycle of fish farming and develop additives for every growing period of catfish. As a result, per-head level of feed consumption was markedly lowered and fattening rate increased by 20 percent.

Now the Samchon Catfish Farm plays the role of a “pedigree farm” for disseminating cutting-edge technology in fish culture across the country.

*Photo: Hong Thae Ung
Article: Choe Song Sun*





Fry workshop



Fattening workshop



Hatching workshop



Water-recycling workshop





New Tideland Reclaimed

Ansok tideland reclamation project is nearing its completion.

The project requires the building of 10 km-long embankment stretching from Ansok-ri to Sokchi-ri in Onchon County of South Phyongan Province, whose completion will reclaim a thousand and several hundred hectares of land.

Cherishing the pride in expanding the land, an eternal asset of the country, builders of the General Tideland Reclamation Enterprise of South Phyongan Province pushed ahead with

the construction, rain or shine, even under the unfavourable weather conditions.

Holding science and technology as the key to making a leap forward, officials of the enterprise set the section of final damming on a rational basis and applied advanced methods to building embankments as suited to the regional features.

By introducing a new blasting method and ensuring full operation of rolling stocks and other facilities, the builders of the quarry supplied sufficient amounts of stones and earth for

speeding up the construction.

After having finished the first-phase damming project last year, officials and workers of the enterprise are making tireless efforts to step up the tideland reclamation project, thus distancing the sea farther from the land and changing the seascape of the northwestern part of Onchon County.

*Photo: An Chol Won
Article: Jong Ki Sang*





I Regained My Step after Twenty Years



Hwang Su Gyong,
Neighbourhood Unit No. 76, Sungho County
Town, North Hwanghae Province

At the first sight, people are completely unaware that I was disabled for 20 years.

When I was two years old, I had difficulty in moving my right leg. It got so twisted and deformed that I could not place my sole flat on the ground and even put on my shoe, and the right leg became longer than the left one.

Though it was only 15 minutes' walk to school, it took me over an hour. I was afraid of going out and received school education at home since 12.

At the age of 16, I was admitted to the Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences Hospital.

My doctor in charge was Jang Myong Guk, the then chief of the microsurgery research department, who succeeded in the operation of many cases in his scores-of-year career. But mine was the first-ever

case for him, I was told later.

Even now I am not aware of how much effort the doctors have made for my recovery, how many times I have had medical checkups and laboratory tests, and how many new treatment methods are introduced. On top of that, I hardly know how much my medical treatment and medicines cost.

But I am well aware of the sincerity and devotion shown by the doctors and nurses just the same as my mother does for me.

For such a long period of five years until I got completely recovered, they took care of me as their own flesh and blood. They read me books when I was in pain, prepared delicious dishes to improve my appetite, and inspired me with hope.

At last, after 20 years of my disability, I stood on my own. The day when I walked out of the hospital in high-heeled shoes,

all the doctors and nurses were most pleased and gave hearty congratulations. Their looks were engraved in my mind as those of my grandfather, uncles, aunts and sisters, and they get more lifelike even after six years.

I feel keenly that the society where I live now and my children will live is a great harmonious family.

Photo: Hong Kwang Nam





Hong Jong Guk

Master of *Sangmo* Dance

Hong Jong Guk, 44, is a Merited Artiste and an expert at turning round the pigtail ribbons, symbolic movements in the Korean folk dance, *Sangmo* (long pigtail ribbon) Dance.

He performed in the grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance *The Glorious Country* held in Pyongyang in 2018, turning round his 60-*pal*-long ribbon.

A *pal*, Korean measuring unit, is about 80 centimetres.

Hong played the *Sangmo* Dance since he was 16.

He was assiduous in learning techniques unique to the dance from his seniors and practicing them. While doing so, he had an intention of lengthening the pigtail ribbon of the helmet in order to enhance the portrayal qualities of the dance pieces and made energetic and persevering efforts. A conventional ribbon was 12 *pals* at the longest until the 1990s.

He succeeded in turning round 24-*pal* ribbon in

2009 and 30-*pal* ribbon two years later. He renewed the record three years later by turning round the ribbon 40 *pals* long, and then again in 2018 with his 60-*pal* ribbon.

When he whirls his 60-*pal* ribbon around, forming several large circles, the crowd roars with admiration and wonder.

Photo: Ri Myong Guk
Article: Choe Ui Rim



Teaching the knack of whirling long pigtail ribbons to little dancers



At a foreign tour performance



Hong turning round his long ribbon in the grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance *The Glorious Country*



Best Goalkeeper Prize Winner

Ri Myong Guk is a goalkeeper well-known to football players and fans.

Ri was born in Phyongchon District, Pyongyang.

He has a family background closely related with football. His father played as a goalkeeper for a football club in the country since the early 1980s, and his uncle, elder brother and sister and their children have careers as football players.

So it was a common occurrence that whenever they got together they talked about football.

It was 28 years ago that he began playing football as a nine-year-old, and he played for the Pyongyang Municipal Sports Club as a midfielder player.

One day he happened to stand in front of the goal, instead of a keeper.

Tall height, precise judgement and

quick positioning, excellent reflexes in handling balls and other “in-born” talents displayed by Ri captured the attention of the coach, who recommended he should change over to a goalkeeper. It marked a new turn in Ri’s career.

Victory or defeat in a football match depends on all eleven players on the pitch, and yet, for the majority of 70 percent, on the role of a goalkeeper.

Ri set it as his own standard to block the attempts at goal without falling down in any position, and trained hard to improve his reflex actions and acquire prompt and accurate decision-making ability based on prediction of ball tracks. He also made persevering efforts to get full understanding of individuality and forte of his colleagues as well as technical features of foreign football stars in order to perfect

his qualifications as a goalkeeper.

Thanks to his efforts, Ri proved himself to be a fine goalkeeper, always taking favourable positions in the seesaw conditions of the matches and recording timely saves.

He began to earn his international fame since he played for the national team. In the Asian qualifying preliminaries for the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa he did not concede even one goal to opponents for 625 minutes, thus breaking the record of an Italian goalkeeper who had not allowed a goal for 518 minutes.

He continued his career until he was well over thirty.

His coach said: Wholeheartedness and enthusiasm are Ri’s good qualities. He never refused to play a match, even though he suffered injuries or was in poor



Best Goalkeeper prize of 2008 EAFF East Asian Football Championship



health condition.

Ri won best goalkeeper prizes on two occasions in international football tournaments.

After 16 years of playing as a goalkeeper with the national football team, he retired last year and became a coach of the Pyongyang Sports Club.

He is dedicating himself to training excellent goalkeepers, so that he will live up to expectations of professionals and fans that they would see another Ri Myong Guk on the pitch.



Photo: Choe Won Chol
Article: Pak Pyong Hun



To Win More Gold Medals

The South Phyongan Provincial Taekwon-Do Club which was established in May 2000 ranks high among similar clubs formed in each province.

Based in Yangji-dong, Phyongsong, the club is provided satisfactorily with physical training grounds, gym, sci-tech learning space and others. It also has an affiliated juvenile Taekwon-Do school.

The club boasts that it is mostly staffed by instructors who accumulated experience in international games.

The instructors select on a yearly basis promising reserves among members of Taekwon-Do groups formed in the provincial schoolchildren's palace and halls and at senior middle schools as well as graduates from the juvenile Taekwon-Do school.

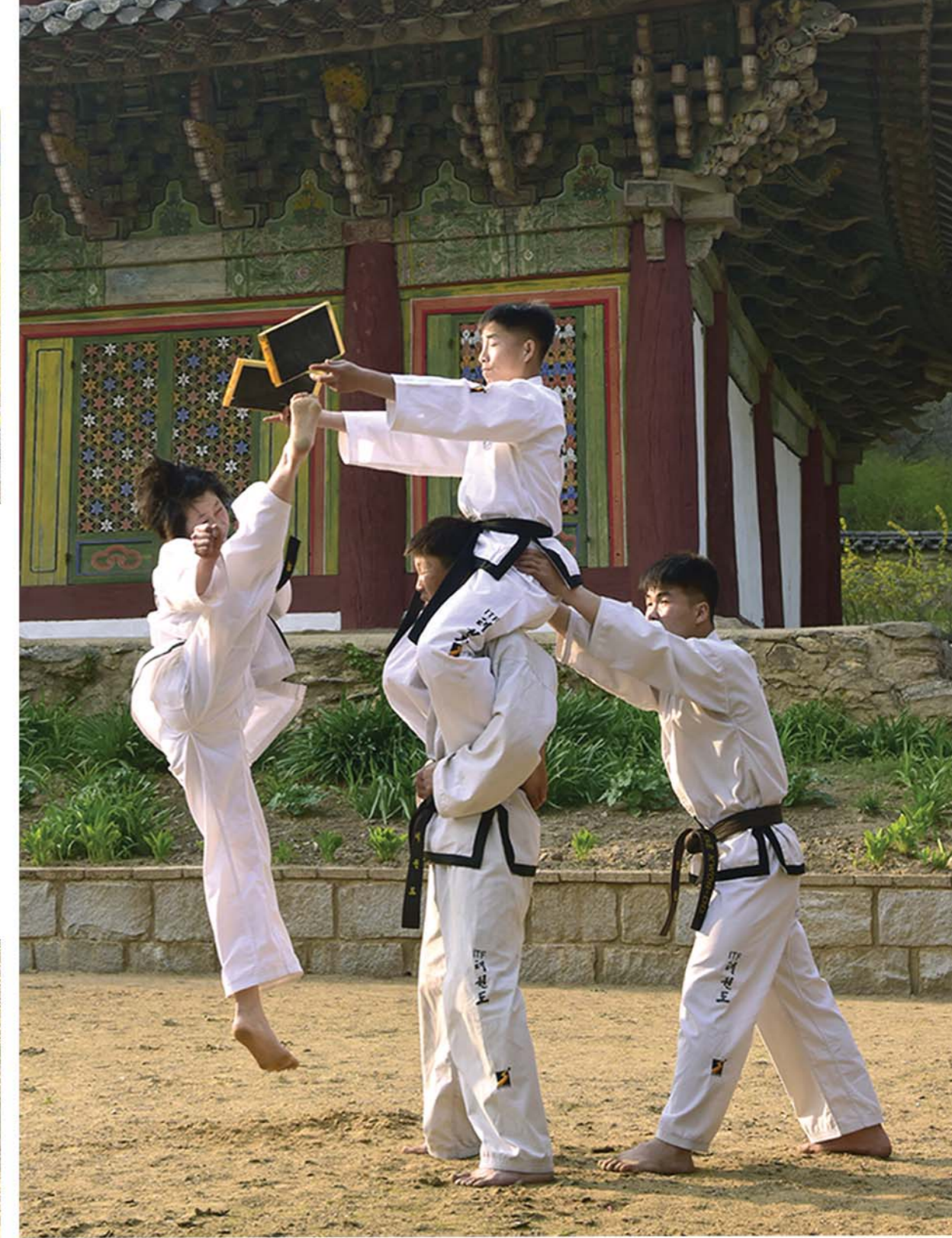
They direct great efforts to instructing the players to have a correct understanding of the fundamentals of Taekwon-Do and practise every movement accurately while working out scrupulous methods of training as suited to ages and characters of individual players.

Along with this, players are intensifying their training with an enthusiasm to demonstrate the

prestige of the birthplace of Taekwon-Do.

The club has so far produced many excellent players, including Jo Kuk Hyon who won gold medal in the individual sparring of 92kg category in the 9th Asian Taekwon-Do Championships and Kim Kwang Son, Pak Nyom Won and Ri Song Hui who took the first place in the 21st Taekwon-Do World Championships.

*Photo: An Chol Ryong
Article: Kim Son Gyong*



At a break



A wide variety of birds inhabit not only the vast expanse of the Tuman River estuary but also the coastal areas of Rason and islands off the sea.

The areas of large and small bays of the East Sea of Korea, including Rajin and Josan bays, abound with fish, shellfish, shrimp, sea urchin and other aquatic resources, making islands in this region an ideal place for sea birds to live and breed.

Al Islet off Uam-ri in the Sonbong area in particular is so populated by tens of thousands of sea birds, including black-tailed gull, Temminck's Cormorant and guillemot, that its rocks and cliffs are covered with their nests.

Over 290 Temminck's Cormorant with mother birds and juveniles were observed in July 2016.

In May and June, a breeding season of the sea birds, the islet is shrouded by scores of kinds of them which build their nests to lay eggs and sit on them. Al (egg in English), the name of the islet, was derived from this fact.

It has been widely known as an islet for birds and thus designated as a sea bird reserve.

Sea in the waters off Uam is a famous habitat of spotted and

Visit to Wetland in Rason (2)



northern fur seals.

Northern fur seals are seen in large flocks in the sea off the Uam area and on islets in the East Sea of Korea as they move to their breeding places in the North Pacific Ocean in spring.

There are also a lot of spotted seals in this area.

Seals spending leisure time in the sea and on islets constitute one of conspicuous features in the scenery of the area. The sea off Uam is a seal reserve.

The ecosystem in the Rason area is getting more diversified and abundant thanks to the consistent policy of the state on protecting the ecological environment.

Article: Pak Yong Jo





Kosong Bamboos

Dense canebrakes are found everywhere in Kosong County of Kangwon Province, which has Mt Kumgang, a celebrated mountain in Korea.

The county's mild climate and high rainfall offer adequate environment for bamboo growth. Its annual average temperature is 11°C, the monthly average temperature being 2.1°C below zero in January and 23.6°C in August, and the annual average precipitation is 1 580.8mm.

Nine species of bamboos grow in over 300 hectares of canebrakes, and those growing in Samilpho-ri and Sunhak-ri are widely known.

Called Kosong bamboos, they grow to 16 metres in height, and measure 58 and 55 centimetres round at the root neck and the chest respectively, and 1.8 metres across at the crown.

Every year more than 1 600 bamboos sprout up in the canebrake.

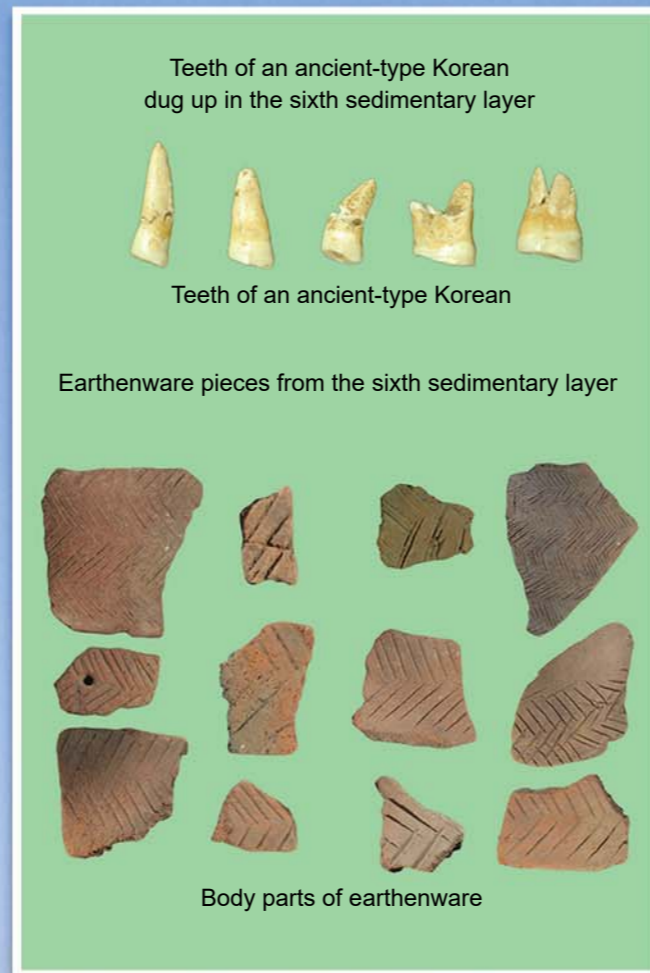
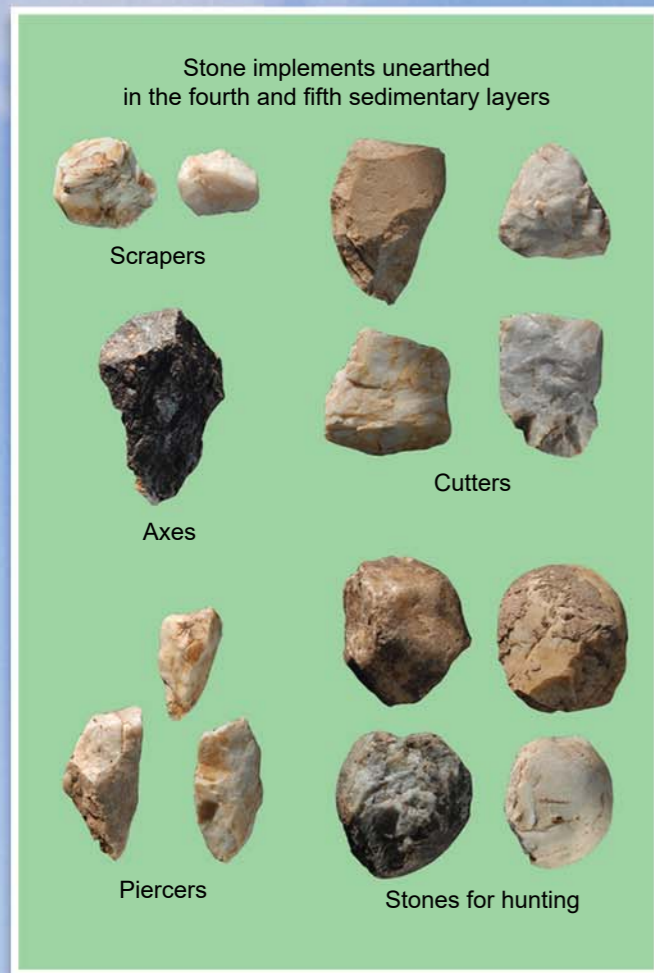
The canebrake of Kosong bamboos was designated as a natural monument in December 1982 for the academic significance in the study of ecology and cultivation of bamboos.

The Kosong bamboos are used for making a variety of goods, which are enjoying great popularity at home.

*Photo: An Chol Ryong
Article: Kim Mi Ye*



Primitive Cave Relics Unearthed in the Kangdong Area



Entrance to the cave



Sectional view of sedimentary layers



A primitive cave site showing the cultural layers in the Palaeolithic, Neolithic and Bronze ages has recently been discovered in Hyangmok-ri, Kangdong County, Pyongyang. Researchers of the History Faculty at Kim Il Sung University unearthed some 1 650 mammal fossils (animal bone fossils) in nine kinds, 16 stone tools in eight sorts and over 280 spore and pollen fossils in the cultural layer (fourth and fifth layers) of the Palaeolithic age, five teeth of ancient-type Korean and 40 pieces of earthenware in the cultural layer (sixth layer) of the Neolithic era, and more than ten earthenware pieces in the cultural layer (seventh layer) of the Bronze Age.

They have confirmed through ESR and TL date measurements that the formation of the relics dates back to 36 000-34 000 years in the later period of the Palaeolithic era.

They also clarified through research into the kind, material and making style of the stone tools that they had widely been used in the later period of the Palaeolithic era.

In addition, they explained that the teeth of an ancient Korean dug up in the layer of the Neolithic era were those of a woman in her 50s in the Neolithic era. The earthenware pieces from the cultural layers of the Neolithic and Bronze ages were also verified to be the relics in periods of abovementioned ages through research and analysis of their types, colours and patterns.

The Archaeology Society of the DPRK and the nonpermanent material heritage deliberation and assessment committee deliberated on the discovery of and research into the relics before registering the cave site as one of national treasure.

In the past many relics in the Neolithic era confirming that socio-historical premises were fully created for state formation were discovered in the Kangdong area, but it is the first time to find out such relics and remains of the Paleolithic era corresponding to the dawn of human history.

The new discovery of the cave site scientifically proves that the area of Kangdong County in which Tangun, the founding father of the Korean nation, is buried is a place where the Koreans had lived since the Palaeolithic era and one of the places where the historical roots of modern Koreans had taken.

Experts say that the discovery is of significance in scientifically explaining the social relations and productive activities of those days and time-honoured history of the Korean nation with a great deal of materials and elucidating the law-governed process of human evolution and development.

Photo: By courtesy of the KCNA
Article: Kim Phil

