

Tenth Congress of the Youth League Held

Glorious History of the Korean Children's Union

Scenery of the Taedong River, Yesterday and Today



DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF

**KOREA**

JUCHE 110  
(2021)

**6**

(786)



Qingtian Stone Sculpture

# Plain Sailing



Gift presented to General Secretary Kim Jong Un by the then State Councillor and Minister of Public Security of the People's Republic of China (February 14, 2011)

## CONTENTS

### Special Report

- 2 || General Secretary Kim Jong Un Saw Performance of Art Groups of KPA Officers' Wives
- 4 || General Secretary Kim Jong Un Had a Photo Session with Participants in the Tenth Congress of the Youth League
- 6 || Tenth Congress of the Youth League Held

### Commemoration

- 12 || Glorious History of the Korean Children's Union
- 22 || Scenes of June Etched in the History of World Diplomacy
  - Promoting the DPRK-China Friendship to a Higher Level
  - DPRK-China Friendship That Will Last Forever on the Road of Socialism
  - Epoch-making Meeting Heralding a New Chapter of DPRK-US Relations

### Korea Today

- 36 || Scenery of the Taedong River, Yesterday and Today
- 42 || June 1 International Children's Day
- 44 || Happy Children
- 52 || Loud Whistles of School Train
- 56 || 13 000 Hectares of Tideland Reclaimed
- 60 || After a Day's Work
- 66 || Acrobatic Performance Full of Laughter and Optimism

### Folklore & Culture

- 72 || People Performing Traditional Mask Dance
- 78 || Sustaining the Tradition of Manufacturing National Musical Instruments

### Sports

- 86 || Pyongyang International Football School

### Nature

- 92 || Mt Myohyang



12



36



44



72

FRONT COVER: On a trip for nature study  
Photo: Pang Un Sim, Hong Kwang Nam

Editors: Sin Jae Chol, Kim Jong Chol, So Chol Nam,  
Kim Kyu Song, Sung Ryong

# General Secretary Kim Jong Un Saw Performance of Art Groups of KPA Officers' Wives



Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, saw a performance given by the art groups of officers' wives from large combined units of the Korean People's Army at the Mansudae Art Theatre in Pyongyang on May 5.

When General Secretary Kim Jong Un and his wife Ri Sol Ju came to the auditorium of the theatre, enthusiastic cheers of "hurrah" resounded the venue.

Officials of the Central Committee of the WPK and commanding officers of the armed forces organs saw the performance.

Put on stage were a variety of numbers, including solo, chorus and instrumental music ensemble.

The performers gave an impressive depiction of the noble ideological and spiritual world of the officers' wives who are glorifying every moment of their lives with ardent patriotism and loyalty, keeping pace with their husbands serving in the army.

Numbers that portrayed the life of the officers' wives who are fulfilling their moral obligation and responsibilities as kindhearted mothers of the soldiers and as dependable householders of servicemen's families touched the heartstrings of the audience.

The General Secretary expressed his thanks to the officers' wives, greatly satisfied with their fresh performance which was clear in ideological and political import and was of great cognitive and educational significance. And he specified important tasks in guiding the work with officers' wives.

On May 6 he met and had a photo session with the performers at the office building of the Party Central Committee.

# General Secretary Kim Jong Un Had a Photo Session with Participants in the Tenth Congress of the Youth League



Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, had a photo session with participants in the Tenth Congress of the

Youth League at the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the supreme temple of Juche, on April 29.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un arrived at the venue of the photo session and

acknowledged enthusiastic cheers of the participants.

He posed for a photo with the participants, expressing belief that they would make tangible contributions to

hastening the bright future of socialism by becoming the first standard-bearers in developing the youth league into the red vanguard ranks and the steel-strong youth organization modelled on the revolutionary

idea of the Party and by becoming shock troopers to take the lead in opening the road of advance for carrying out the five-year plan set forth at the Eighth Congress of the WPK.

# TENTH CONGRESS OF THE YOUTH LEAGUE HELD

General Secretary Kim Jong Un sent a letter, titled, *Demonstrate to the Full the Might of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League on the Historic March Towards a Fresh Victory in the Revolution*





The Tenth Congress of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League was held in Pyongyang, the capital of the DPRK, from April 27 to 29.

The congress was attended by the representatives who were elected at the youth league organizations at all levels.

Present there as observers were officials of the Workers' Party of Korea and armed forces organs and officials in the field of education of the youth and schoolchildren.

The platform was taken by

Secretary Ri Il Hwan and Department Director Kim Jae Ryong of the Central Committee of the WPK, Director Kwon Yong Jin of the General Political Bureau of the Korean People's Army, who are members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK, members of the executive committee of the youth league central committee, chairpersons of the provincial youth league committees, exemplary officials and members of the youth league, officials in charge of youth work in the armed forces

and soldiers.

The congress approved the following agenda items:

1. Review of the work of the Central Committee of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League
2. Review of the work of the Central Auditing Commission of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League
3. On renaming the youth league
4. On revising the rules of the youth league
5. Election of the central leadership body of the youth league

A report was made on the first agenda item.

The reporter said that under the wise guidance and meticulous care of General Secretary Kim Jong Un the Korean youth movement entered a new

phase of development during the period under review.

He emphasized that the youth league was faced with an honourable task to fully demonstrate its militant might as the successor to and reserve of the WPK in an all-out advance for carrying out the great fighting programme set forth at the Eighth Congress of the WPK and the Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK.

Stressing that substantial measures should be taken to overcome mistakes latent in the youth league work in order to creditably fulfil its mission and duty before the times and the revolution, he cited the mistakes of the youth league organizations that failed to push forward the work of increasing the militant capability of the youth organizations in every way to meet their natural duty as the ones for

ideological education in the period under review.

He called on the youth league organizations at all levels to hold fast to the important tasks set forth by General Secretary Kim Jong Un at the Eighth Congress of the WPK as immortal guidelines for effecting a fundamental turn in the youth league work and to turn out in implementing them.

Speeches were made on the first agenda item.

Speakers referred to the achievements and experiences made and obtained by the youth in their endeavours to creditably fulfil the sacred mission and duty of defending the country, people and revolution while opening up the breakthrough for advance in the difficult and labour-consuming fields, true to the appeal made by the Party.

After the report on the second agenda item "Review of the work of the Central Auditing Commission of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League" was delivered, speeches were made and a resolution was adopted with unanimous approval.

The congress discussed the third agenda item "On renaming the youth league" and adopted a resolution on renaming the youth league "Socialist Patriotic Youth League" with the unanimous approval of the delegates.

Then the fourth agenda item "On revising the rules of the youth league" was discussed and a resolution was adopted.

The congress discussed the fifth agenda item "On election of the central leadership body of the youth league".

The congress elected the committee for drafting its resolution with the newly-



elected members of the tenth central leadership body of the youth league and the committee made a comprehensive deliberation of the draft resolution on the first agenda item.

Then the congress adopted with unanimous approval the resolution on the first agenda item "Review on the work of the Central Committee of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League," which was supplemented with creative and constructive opinions of the delegates.

Upon authorization of Kim Jong Un, Ri Il Hwan, member of the Political Bureau and

secretary of the WPK Central Committee, conferred the flag of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League.

The letter sent by Kim Jong Un to the congress, titled, *Demonstrate to the Full the Might of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League on the Historic March Towards a Fresh Victory in the Revolution*, was conveyed.

In the letter the General Secretary noted that the Party Central Committee set a goal of bringing about landmark development in Korean-style socialist construction, counting on the strong

ambition and inexhaustible strength of youths, and put forward the slogans to be held fast to by the Socialist Patriotic Youth League in opening up a great heyday of the Korean youth movement while powerfully demonstrating its militant might in the new historic advance of the revolution, and important tasks facing the youth league.

All the participants raised stormy cheers of "Hurrah!" with ardent respect for and trust in the General Secretary who indicated the eternal great programme for developing the Juche-oriented youth

movement.

The Tenth Congress of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League demonstrated the faith and will of the young people across the country to fully discharge their mission and role, under the leadership of Kim Jong Un, as the advance force, wing and death-defying corps of the WPK in the struggle to implement the decisions set forth at the Eighth Congress of the WPK and the Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK.

Article: Choe Kwang Ho



A meeting of the young vanguard was held at Kim Il Sung Stadium to vow to fully display the might of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League under the leadership of General Secretary Kim Jong Un





# Glorious History of the Korean Children's Union

Korean Children's Union founded on June 6, 1946



The badge and flag of the KCU instituted at the time of its founding



Schoolchildren joining the KCU

June 6, founding anniversary of the Korean Children's Union (KCU), is nationally celebrated in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

This year marks its 75th anniversary, and all the Korean people extend warm congratulations to the KCU members across the country and sincerely bless their bright future, recollecting their exciting KCU days and also the proud course of the KCU development.

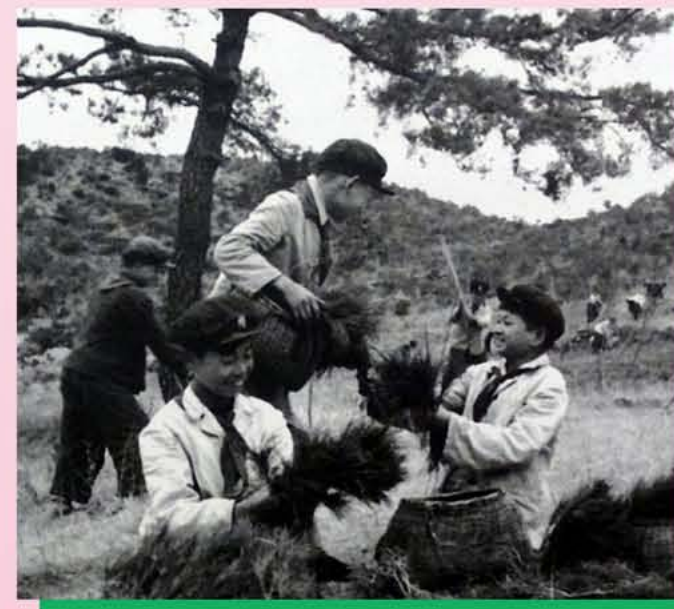
The history of the KCU has started and developed under the great concern and affection of President Kim Il Sung, Chairman Kim Jong Il and Genreal Secretary Kim Jong Un.

President Kim Il Sung, already in the early days of leading the Korean revolution, fully understood the significance of children's movement in shaping the destiny of the nation and created fine experience and tradition. Based on it, he unfolded a plan to rally all the children under the banner of democracy after Korea's liberation from the Japanese military occupation.

The founding of the Korean Children's Union, a unified and mass-based organization of the Korean children, was proclaimed at a joint meeting



President Kim Il Sung receiving a bundle of flowers from a KCU member (May 1947)



Schoolchildren conducting do-good-deeds movements and socio-political activities





President Kim Il Sung attending the joint national meeting of the KCU organizations held in celebration of the 15th anniversary of its founding (June 1961)

of children's organizations in Pyongyang held in the presence of President Kim Il Sung on June 6, 1946.

In his congratulatory speech the President said that children were the flower buds of Korea, a land of morning calm and a hopeful, new country and that they should become dependable pillars for the bright future of the country with new delight of a new Korea.

Calling children kings and queens of the country, he showed meticulous care throughout his life to provide them with best things and found his greatest pleasure in merry laughter and singing of the children ringing louder.

Under his parental affection, it was made an eternal policy of the DPRK to give

free education to the children across the country and supply them with new school uniforms. And the most scenic places in Pyongyang, Mt Myohyang, Songdown and other parts of the country were occupied by magnificent buildings for schoolchildren, such as palaces, halls and camps.

In the last days of his life he sent a congratulatory message to the participants in the Fifth KCU Congress, had a photo taken with them, and earnestly said that they should become dependable pillars of the future.

Carrying forward the President's noble love for the rising generation, the future of the country, Chairman Kim Jong Il devoted his all to defending and glorifying



The badge and flag redesigned in December 1958



The venue of the joint national meeting of the KCU organizations marking the 20th founding anniversary



Korean schoolchildren preparing themselves as competent personnel possessed of ample knowledge, sound morality and strong physique





Chairman Kim Jong Il among KCU members (April 1990)

the future of the children.

He regarded the work for training the successors to the revolution as the most important of all the Party and state affairs and took warm care of the KCU members so that they grew up vigorously.

Thanks to his care, the Korean children continued studying and camping even in the Arduous March in the 1990s.

Entering the new century of the Juche era, the KCU greeted its new heyday of development under the leadership of Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea.

As the President and the Chairman did, the General Secretary attaches top priority to the work for the rising generation over all affairs of the Party and the state and bestows benevolent affection on the KCU members to prepare them as the future pillars of the country.

He made a congratulatory speech at the joint national meeting of the KCU organizations held in celebration of its 66th founding anniversary, and attended the Seventh KCU Congress and had photos taken with its delegates.

At the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace which was turned into a comprehensive base of extracurricular education, he said with a hearty smile that he was very pleased to think children would be happy with the palace.

He always says that to our Party and country, children are treasures more



Chairman Kim Jong Il visiting the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School (January 1997)

valuable than billions of tons of gold and represent our hope and our future, and unsparingly lavishes on children affection incomparably greater than that of all their parents put together.

In such benevolent embrace of Kim Jong Un, the KCU members are

growing up to be reliable masters of the future as their preceding generations did.

*Photo: Ri Kwang Song, An Chol Ryong, Son Hui Yon  
Text: Choe Kwang Ho*





General Secretary Kim Jong Un congratulating the participants in the Seventh Congress of the KCU (June 2013)



General Secretary Kim Jong Un talking to the KCU members (June 2012)



Schoolchildren grow up happily with no one to envy in the world and bring their talents into full bloom



Merry days at the Songdown International Children's Camp



# Scenes of June Etched in the History of World Diplomacy

**W**hen June comes around every year, people look back on epoch-making events which took place in China, Singapore and Korea, attracting universal attention, in 2018 and 2019 consecutively.

Those events clearly demonstrated the solidity of the DPRK-China friendship with a long tradition, dramatic changes in the DPRK-US relations and the dignity and power of the DPRK.



Singapore

Beijing

Pyongyang



# Promoting the DPRK-China Friendship to a Higher Level



Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and his wife Ri Sol Ju posed for a photo with Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and president of the People's Republic of China, and his wife Peng Liyuan (June 2018)

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, paid a visit to the People's Republic of China from June 19 to 20 in 2018, and met with Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and president of the People's Republic of China.

It was the third meeting of the leaders in a matter of three months, following those in March and May.

The Chinese party and government heartily welcomed Kim Jong Un as their state guest and accorded him the most lavish hospitality.

At the talks held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Kim Jong Un said that he was very satisfied with and valued the realities in which strategic cooperation between the two parties were strengthened and mutual trust consolidated, and expressed his determination and will to further promote ties of friendship, unity and cooperation between the parties and peoples of the two countries.

A banquet was arranged in honour of the DPRK leader's visit to China.

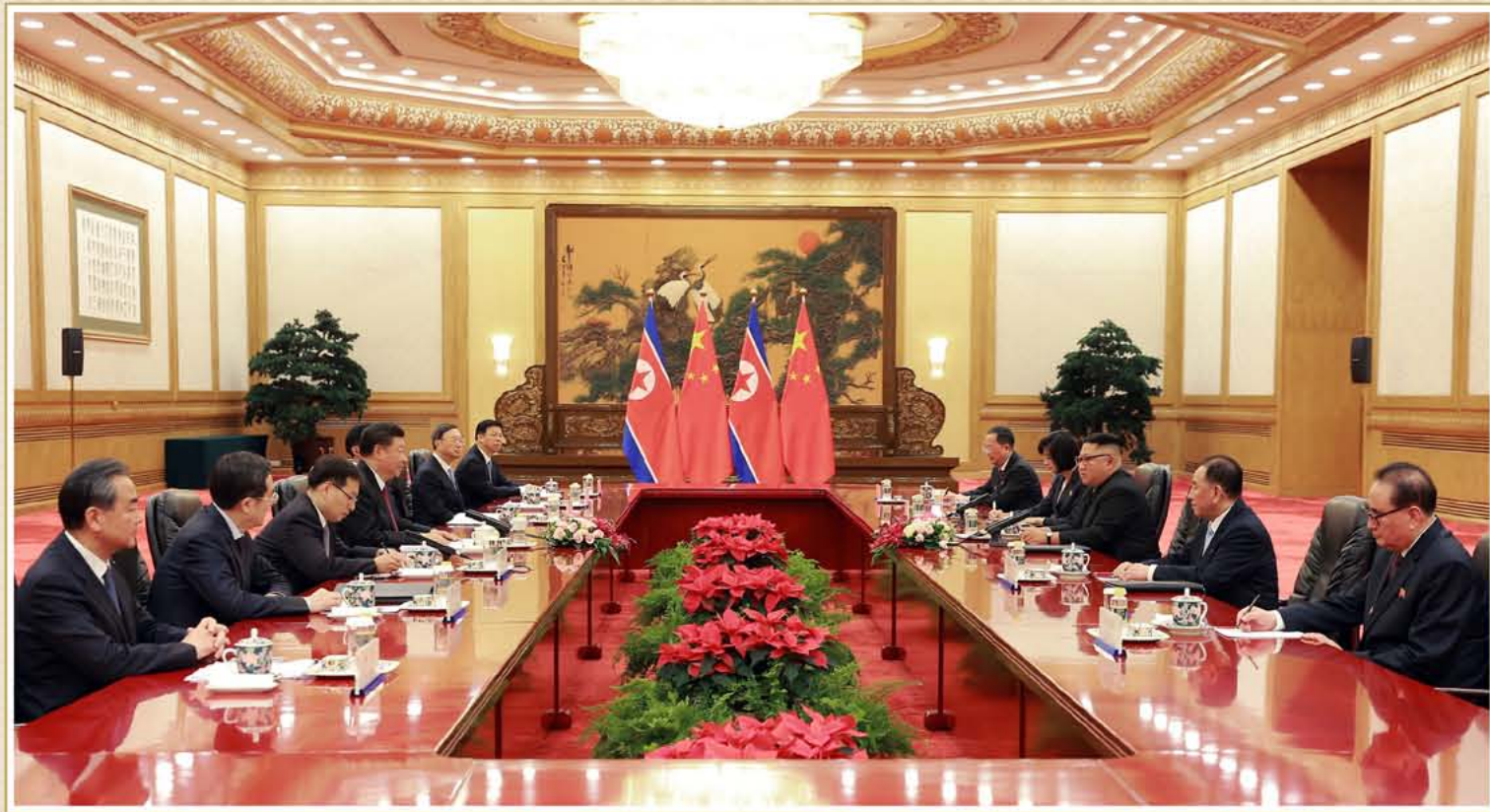
Xi Jinping in his congratulatory speech said that the Sino-DPRK friendship and cooperation are brimming with fresh vitality and animation and confirmed that China and the DPRK as close friends and comrades would learn from each other, consult each other and work together to shape a brighter, rosier future of the two countries' socialist cause.

In his return speech Kim Jong Un said that today the DPRK and China are sincerely helping and cooperating with each other while sharing weal and woe like family members, adding that such an image clearly demonstrates to the people at home and abroad that the traditional relationship between the two parties and countries is developing into an unprecedentedly special one beyond the traditional ties. And he said that he would value rapport with Xi Jinping more than anything else and exert every possible effort to take the bilateral ties to a new level in a steady manner.

The following day Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan met with Kim Jong Un and his wife Ri Sol Ju at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse and accorded exceptional hospitality. In the compound of the guesthouse was the spruce planted by President Kim Il Sung on October 2, 1959. They sat together to have a luncheon in a happy family setting.

Historic visit to China by Kim Jong Un unfolded another new brilliant page of the chronicle of the traditional DPRK-China friendship.

Text: Han Su Yong



Kim Jong Un had talks with Xi Jinping (June 2018)



They had one-on-one talks (June 2018)



Top leaders and their wives had a luncheon in a happy family setting (June 2018)



They had a photo taken in front of the spruce planted by President Kim Il Sung (June 2018)



## DPRK-China Friendship That Will Last Forever on the Road of Socialism



**Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the WPK, and Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the CPC, met in Pyongyang (June 2019)**

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and president of the People's Republic of China, paid a state visit to the DPRK from June 20 to 21 in 2019, at the invitation of Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Kim Jong Un greeted Xi Jinping at the Pyongyang International Airport. He was so pleased to see the Chinese counterpart again in Pyongyang only 160-odd days after the significant meeting at the beginning of the year that he warmly took his hands and exchanged friendly greetings with him.

At the airport and along the streets Pyongyang citizens accorded their hearty welcome to Xi Jinping who brought with him warm fraternal feelings of the Chinese people.

At the talks the two leaders informed each other of the successes their parties and peoples made in their efforts to advance the cause of socialist construction, and expressed their full support and solidarity to them. They emphasized that it is the consistent stand of the parties and governments of their countries to develop the traditional friendship and cooperative relations as required by the times and it fully conforms to the aspirations and fundamental interests of the peoples of the two countries. They proposed good plans for marking the 70th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic relations more

significantly and exchanged views on them.

At the banquet given in honour of Xi Jinping's visit to Pyongyang the two leaders reaffirmed the truth that socialism is the invariable core of bilateral friendship and the distinctive features and invincibility of the bilateral ties lie in defending and glorifying socialism by joining efforts.

Kim Jong Un and Xi Jinping enjoyed the grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance *Invincible Socialism* at May Day Stadium, and had a photo session with members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee against the background of the office building of the Party Central Committee.

Kim Jong Un and his wife Ri Sol Ju visited the lodging place of Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan, escorted them to a specially arranged place at the Kumsusan Guest House and had a luncheon in an amicable atmosphere.

Xi Jinping's visit to Pyongyang in the significant year marking the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and China further consolidated the traditional friendly relations between the two parties and countries that were forged in the joint struggle for anti-imperialism, independence and socialism.

*Text: Han Su Yong*







Talks between Kim Jong Un and Xi Jinping (June 2019)



Luncheon given in honour of the Chinese guests (June 2019)



Top leaders saw the grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance *Invincible Socialism* (June 2019)

## Epoch-making Meeting

### Heralding a New Chapter of DPRK-US Relations

In June three years ago a summit meeting and talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America, the first of its kind in history of both countries, took place in Singapore.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, president of the State Affairs of the DPRK and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, met with Donald J. Trump, president of the United States of America, at 9 am local time on June 12.

In one-on-one talks between the two leaders, they shared candid views on the pending issues of vital significance in ending the decades-long hostile relationship between the DPRK and the US and ensuring peace and stability on the Korean peninsula.

At the following enlarged talks both sides held a comprehensive

and in-depth discussion about the re-establishment of DPRK-US relations and the setup of a permanent and stable peace regime on the Korean peninsula.

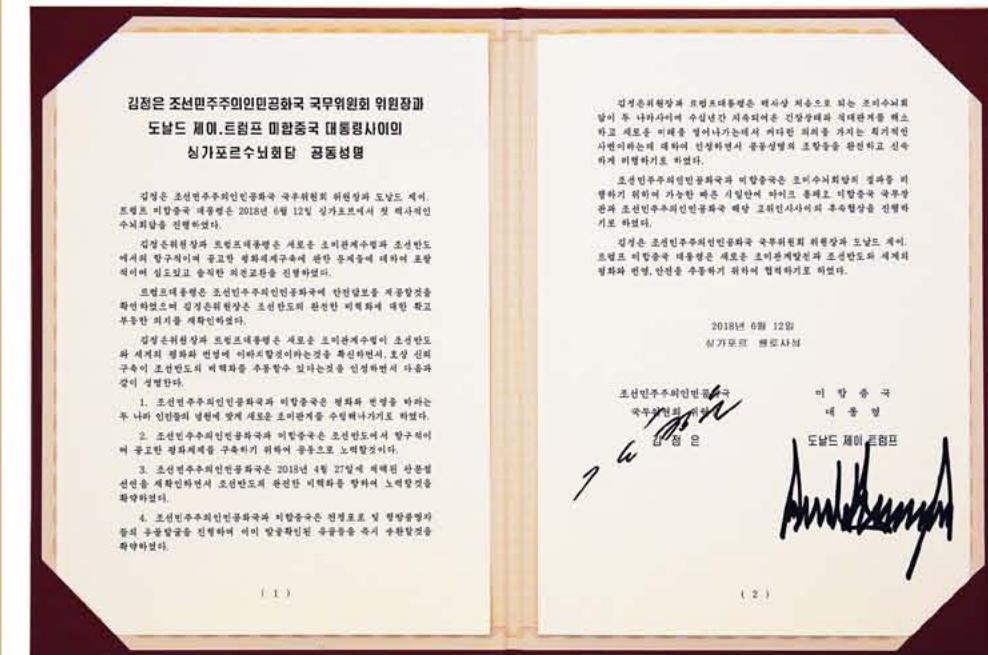
That day both sides got together for a luncheon and exchanged views on further promoting bilateral communication, contact and visit to build on the achievements made at the talks and drastically develop the bilateral ties.

The two leaders signed a joint statement of the Singapore summit.

*Text: Kim Son Gyong*



**Kim Jong Un, president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, met and had the first handshake with Donald J. Trump, president of the USA (June 2018)**



The joint statement of the Singapore summit signed by Kim Jong Un and Donald J. Trump

Commemorative coins issued to mark the DPRK-US summit held in Singapore



Commemorative coin (gold) issued in Singapore to mark the DPRK-US summit

Obverse

Reverse

Commemorative coin (silver) issued in Singapore to mark the DPRK-US summit

Obverse

Reverse

Commemorative coin issued in the USA to mark the DPRK-US summit

Obverse

Reverse



Capella Hotel in Singapore, the venue of the first DPRK-US summit

# Scenery of the Taedong River, YESTERDAY AND TODAY



Pyongyang, the capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, includes 20 districts and counties, twelve of them facing the Taedong River that flows through the city into the West Sea of Korea.

Until the first half of the last century Pyongyang looked shabby, and after the Korean War (June 1950-July 1953) unleashed by the imperialist allied forces it was nothing but ruins and ashes.

Since the mid-1950s embankments and revetments were erected and promenades built along the banks of the river, and Sungni and Chongnyon streets emerged.

In 1960 Pyongyang Grand Theatre, Okryu Restaurant and Okryu Bridge were constructed



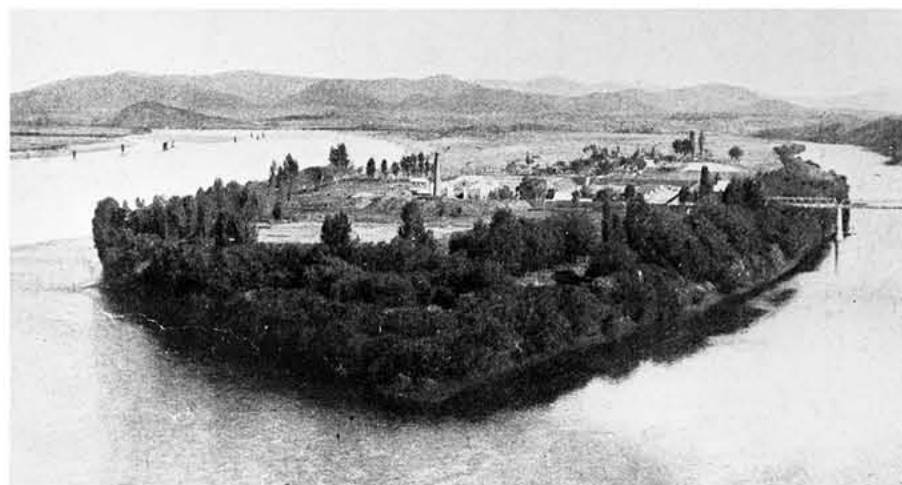
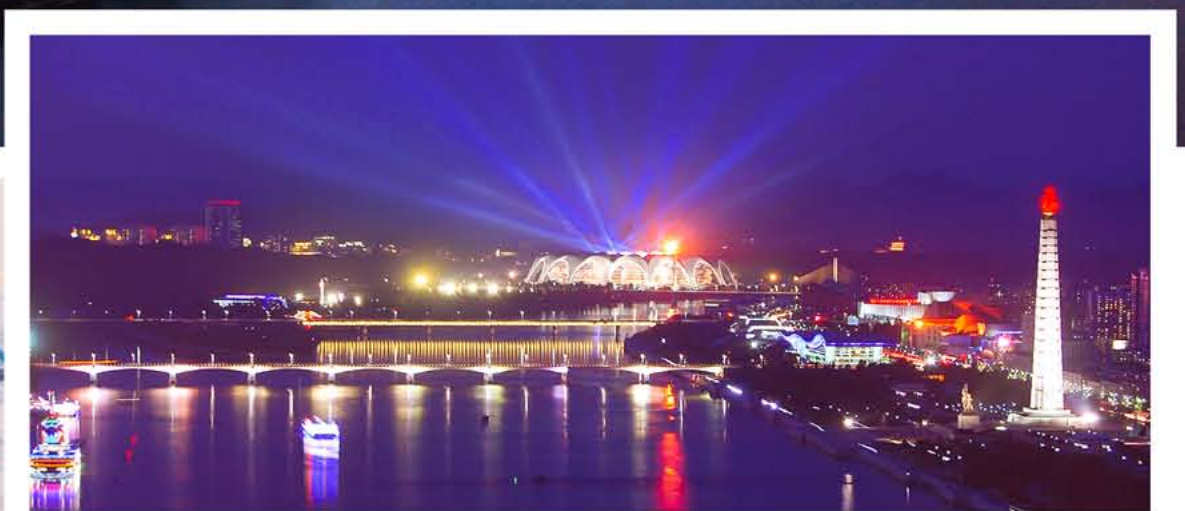
to add more charm to the scenic Taedong River.  
The river witnessed another changes in the 1980s.

The Tower of the Juche Idea and the Grand People's Study House exposed their grandiose appearances in downtown Pyongyang, and Bridge of Loyalty, Rungna and Yanggak bridges were built across the river. The construction of Mirim and Ponghwa barrages in the upper part of the river made it free from floods.

A street with broad avenues and apartment buildings for citizens rose on the Munsu Plain in the east Pyongyang area.

The May Day Stadium with 150 000 seats was built on Rungna Island opposite the Chongnyu Cliff of Moran Hill, and the Pyongyang International Cinema House and Yanggakdo





Football Stadium on Yanggak Island, and a sports village on Chongchun Street in the Sosan area of Mangyongdae District.

In the 1990s Thongil Street was built in the Rangnang area.

The appearance of the Taedong River underwent another transformation in the 2010s.

Changjon and Mirae Scientists streets were newly built, May Day Stadium renovated and Rungna People's Pleasure Ground laid out. Munsu Water Park, Ryugyong Health Complex and People's Open-air Ice Rink newly appeared in the Munsu area, and Sci-Tech Complex was built on Ssuk Island.

Today, Pyongyang, along with the Taedong River, is changing with each passing day.

*Photo: Pyon Chan U, Song Tae Hyok,  
Kong Yu Il*

*Text: Ri Jin Bom*



# June 1 International Children's Day

June 1 is the International Children's Day. The Women's International Democratic Federation proclaimed in its meeting held in November 1949 in Moscow, former Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics, that June 1 was designated as the holiday for children all over the world.

From the following year progressive women and other people of the world celebrated the day as their joint holiday to put an end to wars and disputes that imposed on the children starvation, diseases and poverty and achieve lasting peace and development.

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the International Children's Day serves as an opportunity to promote friendly relations and unity with the world progressive women and bless the bright future of children.

Whenever the day comes round, children and their parents throughout the country hold colourful events, such as children's art performances and amusement games.

*Photo & text: Kim Song Chol*





# Happy Children

-At the Pyongyang Primary School  
for Orphans-





## Studying hard and growing up happily

Pyongyang Primary School for Orphans was first set up in Jesan-ri of Hyongjesan District, Pyongyang, in August 1953, immediately after the Fatherland Liberation War.

It admitted war orphans at the ages from seven to twelve.

Five years later it moved to Jongbaek-dong of Rangnang District, to a new building equipped with better conditions and environment for education and living.

In February 2017 the school moved again to a newly-erected building in Hyuam-dong of Sadong District.

The school with a total building area of 7 870 square metres has a three-storey building and a dormitory, which are furnished for children's education and living very conveniently and as suited to the juvenile mind of children.

The students are studying at the multifunctional and IT-based classrooms, and corridors with visual aids and 15 hobby groups run by the school are also helpful to their learning and intellectual development.

The state supplies students free of charge with school uniforms, seasonal clothes, school things and other daily necessities, and bears even fees for camping and field trips.

Over a hundred employees of the school, including teachers, nurses, cooks, doctors and washerwomen, take warm care of children like their real parents.

At present the school leads other educational institutions across the country in many aspects of academic performance, moral qualities and physical preparedness of the students.

Pyongyang citizens who pass by the school are often attracted by loud reading voices of children and their cheerful appearances.

Photo: Kim Song Chol, Son Hui Yon  
Text: Kim Son Gyong







# Haebaragi School Things, Children's Favourite

A mong various brands of school things, children and students in the DPRK unhesitatingly pick out Haebaragi brand.  
Haebaragi school things are good-looking, convenient to use and diversified in style and kind.  
They are produced at the Ryongbong School Supplies Factory inaugurated in August 2017.



A school train for students at Simnidong-ri, Manpho, Jagang Province, started its operation in 1974



# Loud Whistles of School Train

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, where mountains occupy about 80% of its territory, several commuting facilities are in operation for students in remote regions who have trouble travelling a long distance to and from school.

Among them is a school train running for students in a far-flung mountainous village of Simnidong-ri in Manpho, Jagang Province.

The school train began its operation in September 1974.

Before its operation, 42 children from Rimtho and Changgol situated in deep forests of Simnidong-ri had to cross rugged mountains for an hour and a half.

Such being the case, parents, to say nothing of children themselves, were busy preparing for school at the crack of dawn, and in bad weathers they frequently went to meet their children back from school.

President Kim Il Sung, who was concerned over the trouble suffered by schoolchildren and their parents in mountainous regions of the country, took measures to run commuting facilities for them.



On the very day when the school train started running, everybody in the village shed tears of gratitude.

Since then it took only 15 minutes for schoolchildren to go to school, and they sang merrily and read avidly on board the train.

The whistle of the school train never ceased to blow, even in the difficult days towards the end of the last century when the country had to undergo hardship owing to the extreme anti-DPRK manoeuvres by hostile forces.

For the past 47 years the train travelled a total distance of over 193 000km, carrying more than 1 426 400 students. Those years also witnessed many changes: a diesel locomotive was replaced by an electric one, a small station building was erected for only a few children, more carriages were attached, and waiting rooms laid out in the station buildings for the convenience of the students.

The first commuters of the school train are now grown-ups, and their children and grandchildren are going to school by train.

They unanimously call it the “school train of affection.”

Photo: Ri Song Ik  
Text: Han Su Yong



Jo Thaeck Ju, 92, saw off his children who took the first school train in 1974 and afterwards his grandchildren. Now his great granddaughter is on board the train.



# 13 000 Hectares of Tideland Reclaimed

Tideland builders in North Phyongan and South Hwanghae provinces completed the Honggondo and Ryongmaedo tidelands reclamation projects, which put over 13 000 hectares of new land under cultivation.

The project for reclaiming Honggondo tideland in North Phyongan Province, the largest in its scale in history of tideland reclamation, was carried out in two stages.

The tideland builders finished within four years the second-stage project, thereby breaking the established theory that the project would take eight years.

Those engaged in reclamation project in South Hwanghae Province created a new construction speed by completing the

reclamation of the third and fourth districts of Ryongmaedo tideland in a little over two years and shortened the duration of the project by some five years.

Huge beltways are formed from Ansan-ri in Tongnim County to Sinmi Island in Sonchon County of North Phyongan Province, and from Sinsaeng-ri to Siphung-ri, Chongdan County in South Hwanghae Province.

It is not a distant future to witness a bumper crop harvest from the new arable land.

*Photo: By courtesy of the KCNA  
Text: Choe Kwang Ho*

## Coastlines along the West Sea of Korea are changing

Completion of second-stage project of Honggondo tideland reclamation





Completion of the project for reclaiming third and fourth districts of Ryongmaedo tideland



# AFTER A DAY'S WORK

## Kyonghung Unhasu Restaurant



### It is a **crowd-puller.**

Kyonghung Unhasu Restaurant, located in the plaza park of the Pyongyang Railway Station, is small in scale. However, it has already gained a wide fame in the capital city and even other parts of the country for its extensive menu featuring instant and variegated dishes, excellent cuisine and kind service.

It is open from early in the morning, and, as evening





rush hour approaches, it gets crowded with citizens on their way back home and railway travellers during their stopovers.

Young people in particular are frequent visitors to the restaurant, attracted by pulsating atmosphere of the station.

Also seen among diners are young couples with their children.

Photo: Pang Un Sim, Ri Myong Guk,  
Ri Chol Jin  
Text: Choe Kwang Ho

# Taedonggang Beer

FAMOUS BEVERAGE OF KOREA



Taedonggang Beer made of barley and hop produced in the DPRK and by applying advanced brewing techniques is much favoured for its refreshing taste and flavour.

As it contains vitamins, proteins and minerals, it is helpful to health promotion.



The National Acrobatic Troupe, based in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, was established in June 1952 with over 40 members. Since its premiere the following August, it produced more than 1 000 acrobatic pieces and gave over 26 000 performances.

It participated in international acrobatic festivals with 150 acrobatic pieces on 89 occasions, and won more than 190 prizes and medals, including 72 gold prizes and 60 special prizes.

At present, the troupe has become a prominent art organization staffed by over a thousand members and with its own acrobatic theatre, magic theatre and acrobatics academy.



## Acrobatic Performance Full of Laughter and Optimism





Korean acrobats won top prizes in several international festivals, such as the Monte Carlo International Festival, China Wuqiao International Circus Festival and Rome International Acrobatic Festival

## Entertainers of the National Acrobatic Troupe performing at international festivals

Unremitting creation and innovation is the consistent work style of creators and entertainers in this troupe.

A greater part of the troupe's acrobatic pieces is known widely at home and even abroad for their daring attempts, skilful movements of high degrees of difficulty and excellent artistic quality.

Among them is a physical stunt *Conquerors*, which was produced in 1982 and re-presented several times with additional skills of high-degree difficulty. It was finally re-presented in 2011.

The stunt won four gold prizes in international festivals, including the 13th China Wuqiao International Circus Festival.

Merited Artiste Kim Myong Bong who performed in the stunt was registered in the Guinness Book of Records in 2012 by executing four about-turns in the air. He is still seen playing in the stunt.

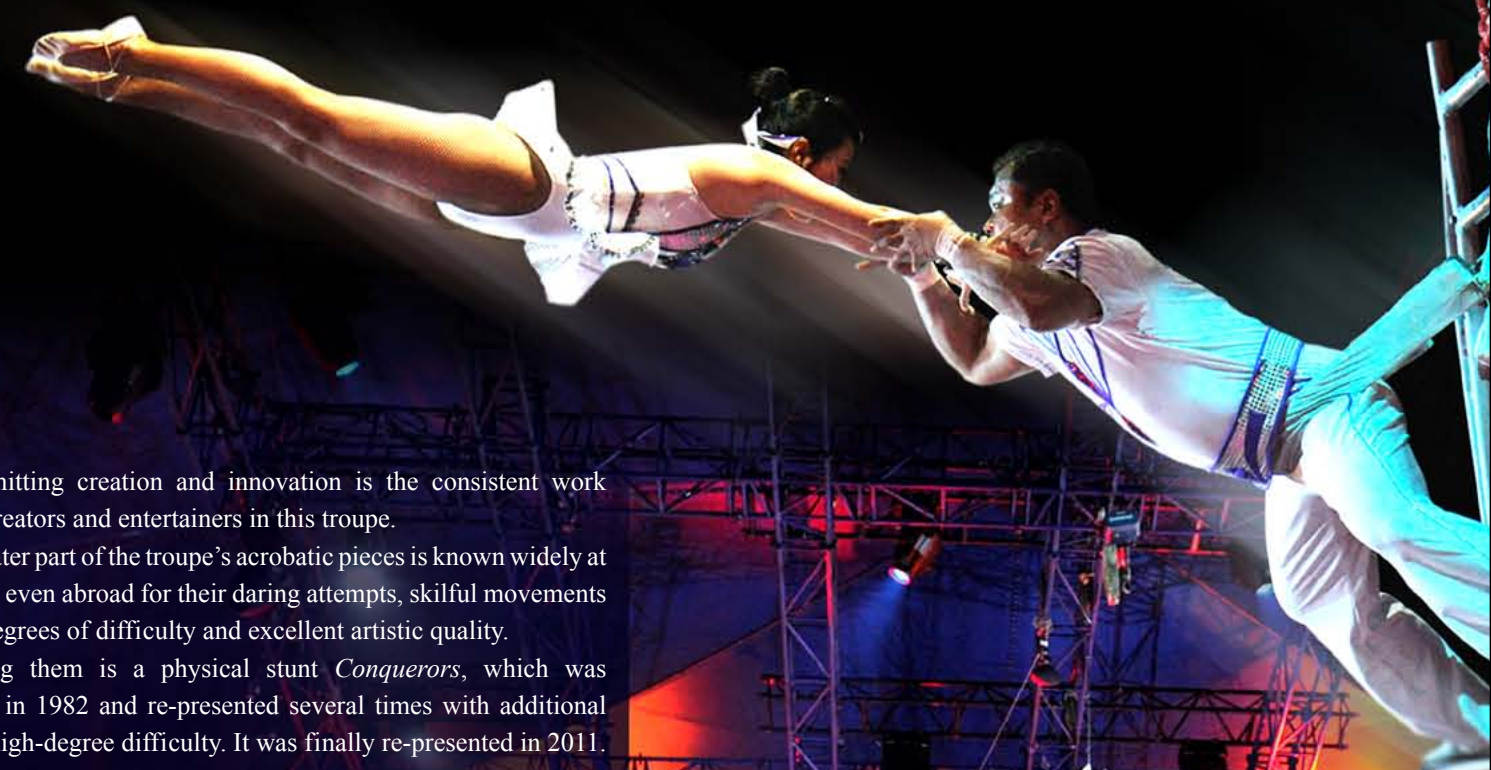
Another physical stunt *Horizontal Bar and Flying on Trapeze*, which records over 1 200 performances since its creation in 2003, won three gold prizes in international acrobatic festivals, including the World Festival of Circus Art "Idol-2015" of Russia.

Developing folk acrobatics and portraying vibrant realities is the creative tradition consistently maintained by the troupe.

It has recently produced such physical stunts as *Seesawing* and *Flames of a Leap Forward*, and they are welcomed by the audience.

The troupe also creates various acrobatic pieces performed on ice and in water, animal stunts, comic performance, magic and so on.

Photo: Hong Kwang Nam, Ri Jin Hyok  
Text: Ri Jin Bom



# People Performing Traditional Mask Dance

-Visit to Pongsan-



Pongsan County of North Hwanghae Province is widely known across the country for the mask dance as well as its local specialties, such as jujube and chestnut.

Pongsan mask dance which is said to

date back to the closing years of Koryo (918-1392) represented the satire and derision on corrupt and incompetent feudal bureaucrats, the spirit of resistance of the people to free themselves from misery and pains and their optimistic sentiments.

The mask dance was performed to various national rhythmic patterns, adding zest to the excitement of the spectators, and its name became linked with that of the place. Hence the Pongsan mask dance.

Today the Pongsan mask dance is

performed in almost all villages in the county on holidays and red-letter days, and dancers from Unjong-ri excel not only the locals but also those from other counties and provinces.

The ri's mask dance team was organized

18 years ago, and at present it is headed by Mun Kum Ok, 43, who was a member of the first team.

As the eldest of the team and a protean dancer, Mun has been playing *jing* and *kkwaenggwari*, national musical

instruments resembling gongs, since five years ago.

She pays close attention, as her seniors did, to training reserve dancers so as to carry forward the tradition of the mask dance. She has so far produced nearly 60 dancers.



## The tradition of the mask dance is being inherited

According to her, the Pongsan mask dance comprises about 40 movements, including the flourishing of *hansam*, a kind of extension of the sleeves that cover up hands, swinging of the arms and jumping.

The team's dancers, who have seen the mask dance since their childhood, are unanimous that their careless attempts to play the dance were apt to meet with failure, adding that there goes a saying, "Seeing is one thing and doing another."

They also say that they could get the fundamentals of the dance after three months' labourious practice.

The mask dance is played by 19 members, male and female dancers being eight respectively.

The most spectacular scene in the dance is when the feudal officials appear.

In particular, the representation of a nobleman and his wife is an important factor in sustaining the characteristics of the Pongsan mask dance.

Kim Ok Gum (female) has been playing the nobleman since her admission to the team in 2013. And Pak Kum Ryong (male) who plays the nobleman's wife began his



performance in the team three years ago by beating the *jing* in the dance.

The masks worn by the dancers are made in a traditional way, by pasting several layers of paper over clay models and painting with colours.

Dancers of Unjong-ri are making steady efforts to preserve and carry forward the tradition of the Pongsan mask dance.

Photo: Hwang Jong Hyok  
Text: Kim Son Gyong



Masks are made at home



## Everybody likes Pongsan mask dance

From olden times mask dancers threw their masks into an open-air fire after the dance, and made new ones for the next performance





## Sustaining the Tradition of Manufacturing **National Musical Instruments**

Korean musical instruments representing the feelings and emotions of the Korean nation that has lived on one territory for generations preserve their unique timbres thanks to the endeavours of the researchers and manufacturers of the National Institute of Musical Instruments



Korean painting *A woman playing the kayagum* by Sin Yun Bok (1758-?)



Korean painting *Dancing* by Kim Hong Do (1745-1816)

The Korean nation began long ago to invent and use various musical instruments that were well representative of their feelings and emotions, and they have improved them continuously.

A number of instruments came into existence thanks to the famous musicians like Wang San Ak and U Ruk, and ordinary people of the Three Kingdoms (Koguryo, Paekje and Silla that existed from the mid-3rd century BC to the mid-7th century). The number of kinds of musical instruments grew from some 50 in the time of the Three Kingdoms to over 60 in the years of Koryo dynasty (918-1392) and nearly 80 in the time of the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392-1910).

The Korean national instruments usually have clear, gentle and sweet—and sometimes plaintive—tones which are distinctively different from those of foreign ones. In the older times, however, they were wanting in both the range and volume of sound, although they retained singular tones



National musical instrument manufacturing studio

and were expressive of delicate sounds.

Those drawbacks disappeared in the era of the Workers' Party of Korea. A campaign got started under the care of the WPK and the DPRK government to carry forward and further develop the good merits of the national instruments. The main role in

this effort has been played by the National Institute of Musical Instruments, which was established in 1968.

The researchers and manufacturers of the institute carried out deep-going projects to get rid of limitations found in the old instruments regarding their forms, shapes

and materials while preserving their inherent tones. Meanwhile, they improved the sound system of the instruments so that they applied modern techniques of performance. Many kinds changed their sound system from the 5-note scale to the 7-note one; kayagum and other stringed instruments got more strings and bigger sound boards, and wind instruments attained more sound holes with the addition of new buttons and connectors. As a result, the original tones—clear, soft and graceful—got richer, while the scale and volume of sound increased considerably.

In collaboration with instrumentalists, the institute steadily pushed forward research and remodeling schemes aimed at removing all defects of the instruments that professional players came across in the practical performance. In the course of this a lot of national instruments have improved admirably, which provides the material foundation for production of mixed orchestral music with Korean national





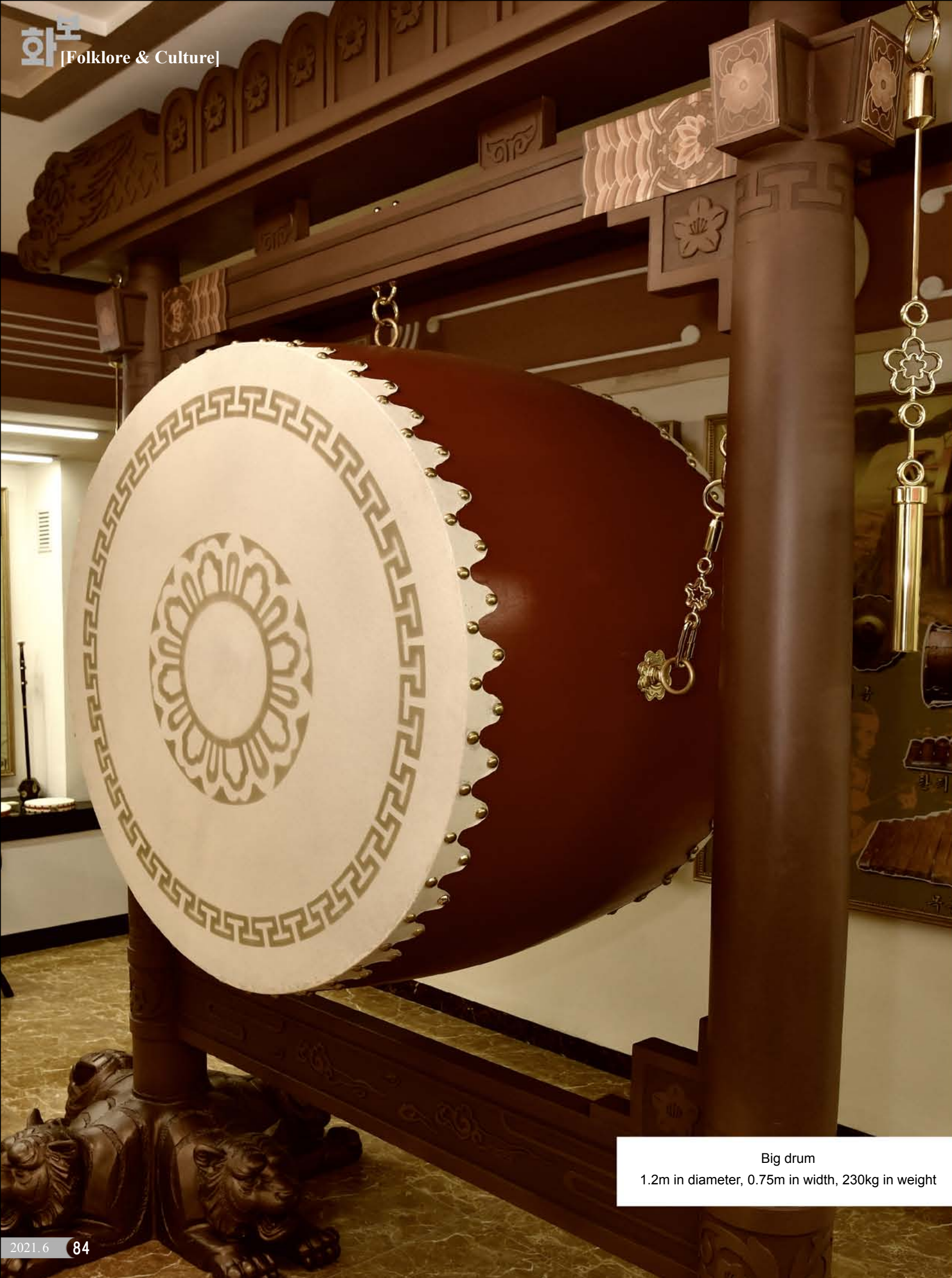
Kayagum and janggo



Taehaegum



Okryugum



Big drum  
1.2m in diameter, 0.75m in width, 230kg in weight



and Western instruments. The improved instruments are useful for combination of any kinds of music, whether it is national or foreign, and any form of performance whether it is a solo or an ensemble.

The researchers have also written a number of books like *Illustrated Book of Korean National Instruments*, *Science of Manufacture of Musical Instruments* and *Acoustics of Musical Instruments*, which give in-depth explanation about basic theories on manufacture of musical instruments. Recently the institute has developed a program which is helpful in making a scientific analysis of acoustic qualities of national instruments. It is part of their sincere effort to introduce advanced science and technology into development of national instruments.

To develop admirable techniques in manufacturing national instruments is the state's steadfast concern. So far, methods of making some national instruments like *kayagum* and *haegum* were put on the list of national intangible cultural heritage.

The Korean national instruments are now in wide use for the people's cultural and recreational enjoyment, contributing to the time-honoured history and culture of the nation.

Photo: Hwang Jong Hyok  
Text: Ri Jin Bom





# Pyongyang International Football School



The Pyongyang International Football School built in an area of 12 000 square metres near the May Day Stadium on Rungna Island has become widely known across the country as an exemplary school in training reserve football players in less than a decade after its inauguration.

Such reputation is attributed to its modern teaching conditions and environment and excellent abilities of the students who are selected from all across

the country, and largely to the educational strategy pursued by the school.

To cultivate intellectual faculties, especially creativity, of the students is of primary importance to the school.

“As it is common with other sports events,” said O Kum Hui, Labour Hero of the DPRK, People’s Athlete and instructor of the school, “football players should be prepared physically and technically. However, they can achieve deserved

The school, instituted in 2013, is making a remarkable progress in training reserve players by focusing on the cultivation of creativity, introduction of advanced sci-tech achievements and improvement of intellectual faculties





results only when they are supported by independent judgment and other creative thoughts. A future football ace is among those who can anticipate two or more through the one taught by teachers and get into action promptly.”

Amid a brisk undertaking to introduce advanced achievements in sports science and technology, teachers and researchers of the school developed an integrated information system of educational management for football schools and won a special prize in the 23rd national sports sci-tech achievements exhibition.

The school pays close attention to making students develop their qualifications by acquiring a wide knowledge and cultivating the spirit of collectivism.

While giving education in basic subjects for students in primary schooling and junior and senior secondary divisions, teachers make detailed observations of the process of every student’s character formation and development. And they conduct lessons and instruct trainings with a stress put on combining the processes of character formation and technical improvement of the students in an effective way.

Thanks to the progressive teaching methods, its students achieved successes in international games.





They took the first place in the U13 event and second place in the U11 event at the 3rd "Lancy&Codion" Cup International Junior Football Invitation Tournament held in Haimen, China, in 2014. The following year they played in the U14 and U12 events of the 4th "Lancy&Codion" Cup International Junior Football Invitation Tournament and won gold medals respectively. They also brought gold medals from the Norwegian Cup U14 women's football tournament in 2017.

Students of the Pyongyang International Football School are intensifying their training to realize their dreams of becoming football stars.

Photo: An Chol Ryong  
Text: Kim Son Myong



The school's students won several international tournaments, including the AFC U14 Girls' Regional Championship in 2016





CELEBRATED  
MOUNTAIN  
OF KOREA

# Mt Myohyang

Altitude: 1 909m

**M**t Myohyang, which has been famous since olden times as one of the eight scenic spots in Korea, encompasses a vast area of Hyangsan and Kujang counties in North Phyongan Province, Nyongwon County in South Phyongan Province and Huichon in Jagang Province.

Its name *Myohyang* came from the fantastic and magnificent appearance and fragrance of the mountain.

The best scenery is found in the New Hyangsan area, where there are chains of peaks and rocks in mysterious shapes

with the Myohyang Stream in between, the beautiful ravines of Sangwondong, Manphokdong, Chonthaedong and Chilsongdong, and numerous waterfalls.

Queer and imposing peaks, enormous rocks, deep valleys, steep cliffs, densely-wooded forests, lovely fragrance of flowers, babbling creeks and chirping birds—all these go well with each other to present a fantastic view.

Many historical remains and relics, such as ancient buildings and printing materials, are preserved in the mountain, showing

the time-honoured history and culture of the Korean nation and their wisdom and creative talents.

What adds more fame to the mountain is the International Friendship Exhibition House that houses gifts presented to President Kim Il Sung, Chairman Kim Jong Il and General Secretary Kim Jong Un by state and party leaders and persons from all walks of life in the world.

*Photo: Kong Yu Il, Song Tae Hyok  
Text: Choe Kwang Ho*





Chilsongdong



Mt Myohyang seen from Hyangbiro Peak



Waterfalls in Sangwondong



Isonnam Falls



Saja Pool



Hyangsan Hotel

# GRASS CRAFTS OF THE DPRK



## Very serviceable

Grasswork is one of excellent cultural heritage created by the Korean nation. At present, grass crafts are more desirable because of their natural and classic beauty. They are also human-friendly as they have no chemical ingredients, thus meeting the desire of mankind to be free from environmental pollution, a critical issue facing the present world.

Great popularity



# June 5

## World Environment Day



Ecosystem restoration

River improvement

**ECOSYSTEM  
RESTORATION**

**Tree planting**

**Exploiting renewable  
energy sources**



© 2021 Pictorial Korea

Add: Sochon-dong, Sosong District, Pyongyang

Pictorial Korea is available in English, Korean, Chinese, Russian and French on [www.korean-books.com.kp](http://www.korean-books.com.kp).

E-mail: [flph@star-co.net.kp](mailto:flph@star-co.net.kp)

