



**Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee
of the WPK held**

Performances highlight holidays

Bird fossil unearthed

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF

KOREA

JUCHE 110
(2021)

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(783)



Gem work

Scudding horses, pine trees and cranes



Gift presented to President Kim Il Sung by Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and Yang Sangkun, president of the People's Republic of China, on October 6, 1991

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Edited by Sin Jae Chol, Kim Kuk Chol, Kim Jong Chol, Kim Kum Song, So Chol Nam, Yu Chung Il, Kim Kyu Song, Sung Ryong

COVER: A picture from the performance to mark the Day of the Shining Star



General Secretary Kim Jong Un Presided Over the Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK

The meeting held from February 8 to 11 set forth a correct and concrete fighting strategy for guaranteeing the implementation of the decisions of the Eighth Party Congress





The Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was held from February 8 to 11, 2021.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, presided over the meeting upon the authorization of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee.

Referring to the main purport of convening the plenary meeting prior to the discussion of the agenda items, the General Secretary said that the Party Central Committee should powerfully lead the masses to the implementation of the decisions made at the Eighth Party Congress by nurturing the heightened enthusiasm of the masses who have sympathized with the idea and spirit of the congress and thus provide Party organizations and members with practical and concrete means of innovation which would help bring about substantial changes and progress from the first year of the five-year plan.

As the decisions made at the Party congress are mid- and long-term tasks to be fulfilled by every sector during the coming five years, he said, it is necessary for the plenary meeting to examine the plans for this year in detail and fix and issue them as the decisions of the Party Central Committee. He expressed the determination and will of the Party Central Committee to take important measures to push ahead with economic construction and provide the people with more stable and improved living conditions despite the continuous emergency infectious disease prevention situation, in particular.

The plenary meeting adopted with unanimous approval the agenda items brought up before it, and discussed the first agenda item.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un delivered the important report on the first agenda item *On Carrying Out the First Year's Tasks of the Five-Year Plan Set Forth at the Eighth Party Congress*.

In his report he first referred to the need to properly organize the economic work of the first year for implementing the new five-year plan for national economic development.

Then he put important emphasis on intensifying the struggle across the whole Party, state and society for putting an end to units' claiming of their special importance and self-centredness when conducting the first year's work for implementing the decisions of the Party congress.

In the report he also pointed to the necessity to organize economic work for this year in the direction of demonstrating the potential of the self-supporting economy and stabilizing the people's living to the maximum while strictly maintaining the state emergency infectious disease prevention discipline.



He then suggested the tasks facing the sectors of the national economy and the field of science and culture for this year.

Making special reference to the tasks for improving economic work in an innovative way by decisively enhancing the functions and role of state economic guidance organs, he repeatedly emphasized the need for officials in the economic field to decisively enhance a sense of responsibility and role and set forth the tasks for guaranteeing the fulfilment of the national economic plan by law.

He also pointed to the necessity to concentrate Party efforts on the fulfilment of the tasks for this year.

Concluding his three-day report, the General Secretary said that the plenary meeting was convened in an appropriate and necessary period in the sense that it helped rectify mistakes from the stage of planning a year's work and newly decided on the great work for the people and that it helped find out and correct

ideological maladies including passivism and self-protectionism latent in officials.

Expressing the expectation that every member of the Party central leadership body would correctly confirm the work plan for this year through consultative meetings of panels, he called for making the plenary meeting a significant occasion of giving greater confidence and courage to all members of the Party and other people who turned out in implementing the decisions made at the Eighth Party Congress.

Speeches on the first agenda item were made at the plenary meeting and consultative meetings of different panels for drafting the resolution for the first agenda item were held.

The plenary meeting adopted the resolution on the first agenda item "On thoroughly implementing the first year's tasks of the five-year plan set forth at

the Eighth Party Congress" with unanimous approval.

The second agenda item "On waging further intensive struggle against anti-socialist and non-socialist practices throughout society" was discussed at the plenary meeting.

The General Secretary made a report on the second agenda item.

Resolution on the second agenda item "On waging further intensive struggle against anti-socialist and non-socialist practices throughout society" was adopted with unanimous approval.

The plenary meeting discussed the third agenda item "On modifying the collection of the slogans of the Party Central Committee" and the fourth agenda item "On the deliberation of 'Explanation of the Rules of the Workers' Party of Korea'", and deliberated on the fifth agenda item "An organizational matter".

The General Secretary concluded the plenary meeting. Saying that the

Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee successfully finished the discussion on all agenda items presented, he expressed thanks to the members of the leadership body for sincerely attending the discussion on Party and state work, always keeping themselves tense and prepared throughout the past four days. He noted that it is a manifestation and expression of their will to perform their heavy duty entrusted by the times and the revolution by solemnly and thoroughly fulfilling their pledge made before the people.

Calling on all the members of the Party central leadership body to value the decisions of the plenary meeting as their life and make every effort for their unconditional and thorough implementation, he said it is time for them to undergo test over their loyalty before their loving people and earnestly asked all the comrades to turn out as one in the revolution for translating into practice the grand fighting programme of the Party by making redoubled efforts.

Homage Paid to Chairman Kim Jong Il

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun on February 16, the Day of the Shining Star (Chairman Kim Jong Il's birth anniversary), the greatest auspicious holiday of the nation.

He was accompanied by members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and members of the Party central leadership body.

The Kumsusan Palace of the Sun was wrapped in the sublime atmosphere amid the ardent yearning for Kim Jong Il who had lived the life of wholehearted dedication to the people unprecedented in history, regarding "The people are God" as his life motto.

Placed at the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il was a flower basket in the name of General Secretary Kim Jong Un.

Also laid at the statues were baskets of flowers in the names of the WPK Central Committee, the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK and the Cabinet of the DPRK.

The General Secretary, together with the visitors, paid high tribute to the statues of the great leaders.

At the hall where Chairman Kim Jong Il is preserved in his lifetime appearance, he made a bow in the humblest reverence to the Chairman who glorified the country as a genuine socialist state centred on the people and provided the firm foundation of prosperity by dint of self-reliance with his outstanding idea and energetic revolutionary leadership.



Artistic Performances Enjoyed



Kim Jong Un posed for a photograph with performers after enjoying the celebration performance for the lunar New Year's Day (February 2021)

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, saw the lunar New Year's Day celebration performance on February 11 together with members of the Party central leadership body.

In the performance given by artistes of the State Merited Chorus and major art troupes famous pieces were staged reflecting deep reverence of the people for the WPK which glorified the annals of the revolution with gigantic transformation and victories.

When the performance was over, the General Secretary mounted the stage and thanked the performers for their excellent performance, and had a photo taken with them.

The General Secretary enjoyed the performance given in celebration of the Day of the Shining Star, the birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il, together with members of Party central leadership body on February 16.

The performance was staged by artistes of the band of the State Affairs Commission, the State Merited Chorus and major art troupes.

It started with the national anthem *Patriotic Song* and comprised two parts.

At the end of the performance, the paean *A Dear Name*, a beloved song of the Korean people singing of their great honour and happiness of upholding Kim Jong Il, was encored by the General Secretary, making the auditorium brim with passion and delight.

The General Secretary expressed great satisfaction over the successful performance.

A floral basket in the name of the Central Committee of the WPK was conveyed to the performers.



Kim Jong Un saw the artistic performance given to mark the Day of the Shining Star (February 2021)





*Unstinted Praise
Female duet and male chorus
“A Dear Name”
A sweeping wave of excitement
in the auditorium*









First Enlarged Meeting of the Eighth Central Military Commission of the WPK Held



The Eighth Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea convened its first enlarged meeting under the guidance of Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the WPK and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, at the office building of the Party Central Committee on February 24.

The meeting referred to a series of shortcomings revealed in the military and political activities and moral life of Korean People's Army commanding officers, and mainly discussed the issue of strictly imposing revolutionary morality and discipline within the army.

The meeting stressed the need for all Party organizations and political

organs of the KPA to carry on the work of establishing revolutionary discipline and moral traits in an intensive way by setting it as a major task at the present time for thoroughly establishing the command system of the Party Central Committee, increasing combat capability and giving full play to the noble spiritual and moral superiority of the revolutionary

army.

Then the meeting discussed an organizational matter of dismissing or appointing major commanding officers of the armed forces organs and adopted a decision on raising the military ranks of leading commanding personnel.



The Workshop for Chief Secretaries of City and County Party Committees





He set forth important tasks and ways for enhancing the role of chief secretaries in intensifying the Party work and developing cities and counties.

He expressed belief that the workshop would be an occasion for the chief secretaries to further develop their discrimination and uplift their political consciousness and revolutionary zeal and thereby, they would take a fresh stride in turning their cities and counties into rich and civilized socialist paradises.

Given at the workshop were lectures to make the chief secretaries understand afresh, comprehensively and systematically the issues arising in consolidating the single-hearted unity of the Party and the revolutionary ranks in every way and providing efficient Party guidance for developing cities and counties in an independent and many-sided way.

Kim Jong Un who gave valuable instructions during the workshop which would serve as guidelines in the work of the chief secretaries, declared the first workshop for chief secretaries of the city and county Party committees closed, enthusiastically appealing to them to become real servants accepted by the people on the road of serving our great people.

On March 6, he had a photo session with chief secretaries of the provincial, city and county Party committees, who participated in the workshop, in front of the office building of the Party Central Committee.

The first workshop for chief secretaries of city and county Party committees was held at the conference hall of the office building of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea from March 3 to 6.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the WPK, guided the workshop.

In the opening address, the General Secretary referred to the importance of the city and county as the lowest-level guidance and executive units for the implementation of Party policies, as the regional bases directing the rural and local economies and as the powerful fortresses supporting the comprehensive development of the country, and to the position of their Party committees.

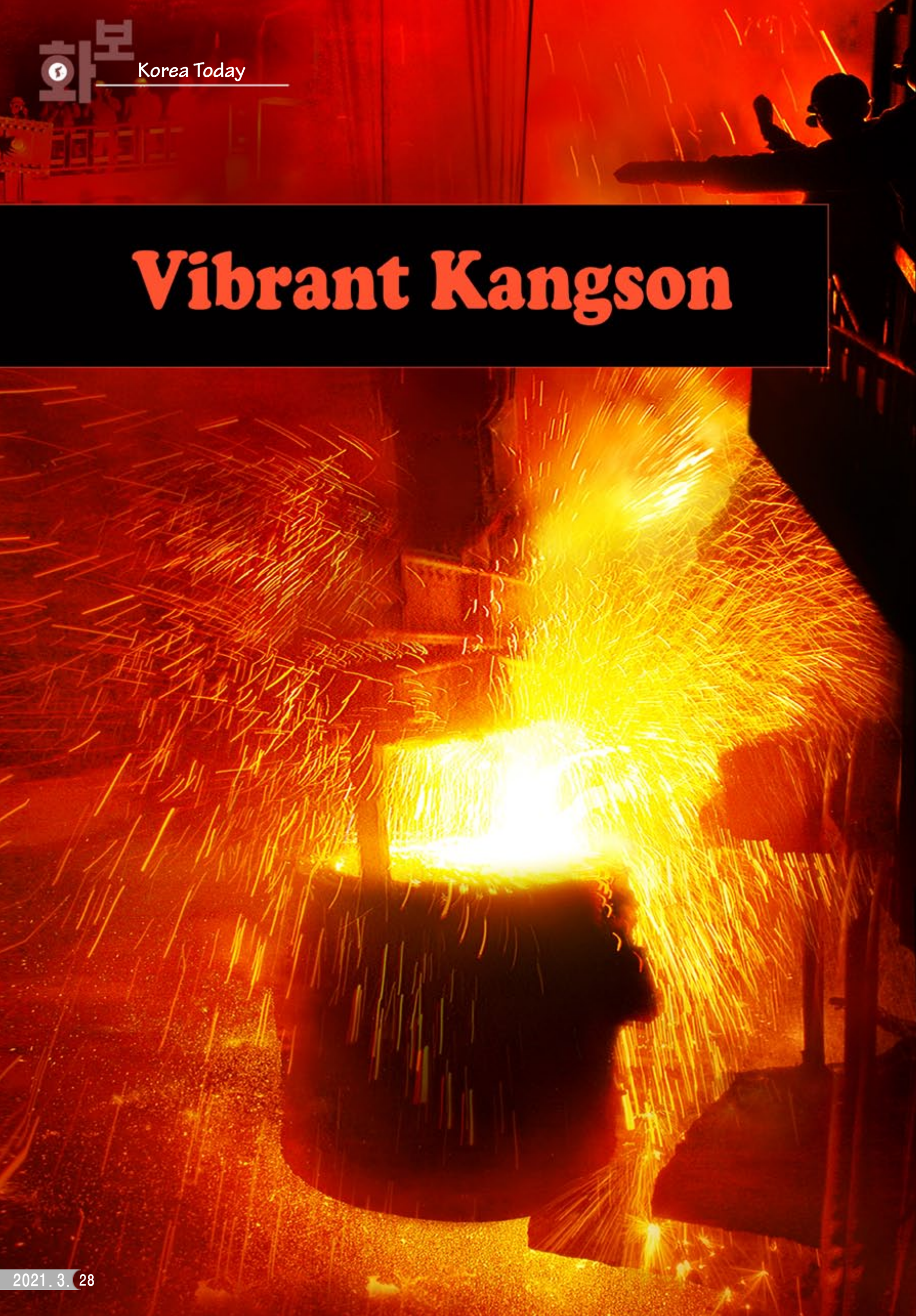
A report was made calling on the chief secretaries of the city and county Party committees to thoroughly implement the Party's line and policy of strengthening cities and counties by concentrating their efforts on Party work. The meeting announced the city and county standings decided by the Party Central Committee on the basis of the appraisal of the result of work done by city and county Party committees to implement Party policies.

In the following speeches, the speakers referred to the successes, experience, shortcomings and mistakes gained and revealed in the Party work, economic work, improvement of the people's standard of living and development of education in their cities and counties.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un made a concluding speech. Saying that improving the work of the city and county Party committees now presents itself as a more important issue in strengthening the entire Party, enhancing its leadership function and role and accelerating the development of cities and counties, he noted that only when the city and county Party committees across the country fulfil their mission and role, can the overall work of the Party and the state go well and the overall development of Korean-style socialism be promoted.



Vibrant Kangson



The Chollima Steel Complex is situated in Nampho, a city southwest of Pyongyang, the capital city of the DPRK.

In the latter half of the 1950s its workers produced 120 000 tons of steel with the blooming mill with the capacity of producing 60 000 tons in the very difficult conditions.

Though over six decades have passed, the spirit and traits that were displayed by the preceding generation who created a miracle out of patriotic devotion and creative labour, are being carried on by the younger generations.

Officials and workers of the complex made consistent efforts for creation and technical innovation and introduced rational methods into business management. They are now striving to turn out the steel of high quality in larger amounts this year, the first year of the new five-year plan.

In the effort to produce steel from locally-available raw materials and fuel, the projects of reconstructing and perfecting all the processes from raw materials feeding and smelting to ingot-moulding based on modern science and technology and expanding the capacities of UHP and other electric furnaces and continuous ingot-moulding machines are in full swing.

The complex which has fulfilled its production plans for for January and February is continuously increasing steel production, in hearty response to the appeal to the working people across the country made by the workers of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex.

Photo: Ri Myong Guk
Article: Choe Kwang Ho

Increase of Production Capacity: Business Strategy

The Taeon Heavy Machine Complex is a producer of generating equipment and other large machinery in the DPRK.

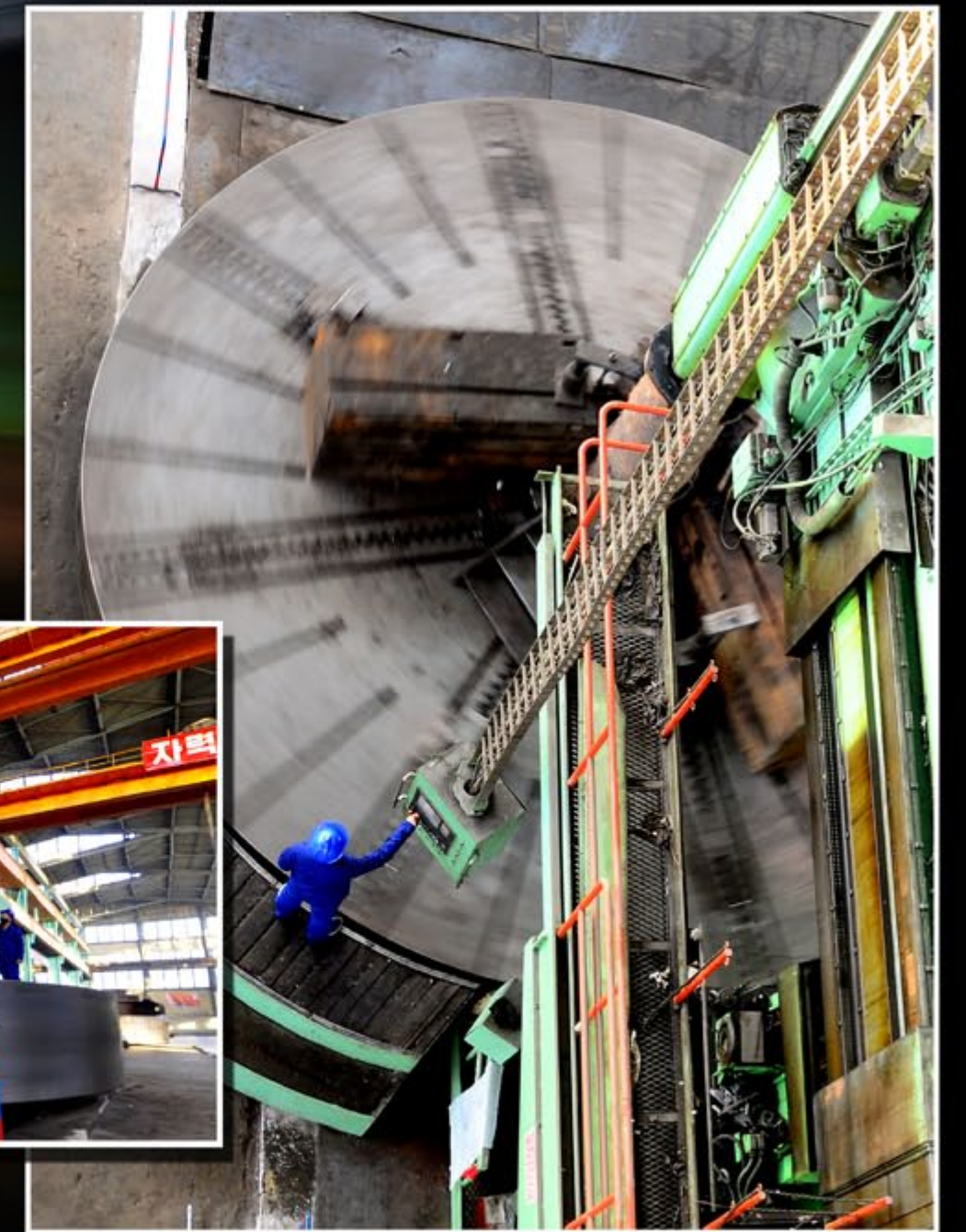
It pushed ahead untiringly with the work to build up its production and technical foundations in keeping with the developing trend of the machine-building industry, and developed into a powerful complex manufacturing a wide variety of power-generating equipment for large-scale hydropower stations and other large custom-built machines for new factories and enterprises.

The complex comprises the team of competent technicians and researchers and various workshops for processing generating equipment and sheet metal, manufacturing heavy machines and so on.

It steps up the modernization of production lines and facilities without slackening production activities and ensures well-balanced development of all production units, with a top priority given to designing and innovation of processing techniques in its technological development.

The processing units ensure high speed and excellent quality in producing custom-built machines by upgrading hardware and software of the CNC machines to improve their performance and making effective use of jigs and tools.

*Photo: Ri Myong Guk, Ri Chol Jin
Article: Pak Pyong Hun*



Tree-planting in Spring

On March 2, the tree planting day, the spring tree-planting campaign was launched across the country.

People in the capital city of Pyongyang, provinces, cities and counties turned out as one to plant the trees of good species and high economic value in their streets, parks and mountains where spring has set in.

According to the Korean Central News Agency, over a million trees were planted throughout the country on this day.

*Photo: Ri Chol Jin, Ri Jin Hyok
Article: Ri Jin Bom*



March 8 International Women's Day





3.8 Congratulations on International Women's Day

Today the international community witnesses an urgent demand to ensure political rights and promote social status of women that account for half the world population.

For the fundamental solution of the women's issue, every country should eliminate social inequality and build a society where women are respected as well as guarantee their political rights and right to existence.

Women in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are enjoying equal rights with men and playing a proactive role in social development,

enjoying respect and affection in society.

Until in the first half of the last century the Korean women were locked up in feudal fetters. During the military occupation of their country by imperialist Japan (1905-1945), they were forced into slave labour, and many of them were drafted as sex slaves for the Japanese soldiers before being killed by them.

President Kim Il Sung, when he was waging the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, raised it as an important task for solving the women's issue to provide them with equal rights with men,

improve social treatment for them and respect their personality. Under his leadership the Korean women, who were not even allowed to go outdoors, took their rightful places and performed outstanding achievements in the sacred anti-Japanese war for national liberation.

After the country's liberation the President had various measures taken, including the publication of the law on sex equality, so as to provide a legal and institutional guarantee for the emancipation of the women.

In the whole course of socialist construction, the

Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the DPRK put forward policies to relieve the working women of the heavy burden of household chores and pushed ahead with their implementation.

Today under the leadership of the WPK the Korean women render active services to the development of society and country, enjoying equal rights with men in the political, economic, cultural and all other fields.

The history of the war against Japan, and founding and development of the country is permeated with the invaluable blood and sweat the

Korean women shed for the freedom and liberation of their country and its development. The women guerrillas during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle who fully displayed their indomitable fighting spirit without abandoning their revolutionary faith, heroic women fighters who dedicated their youth and lives in the Fatherland Liberation War (1950-1953), and many women in the postwar rehabilitation and later periods, still live in the hearts of the Korean people for their brilliant achievements adorning the annals of the grave Korean revolution.

Carrying forward the ennobling spirit and way of fighting, in the days of the Arduous March, when their country was in a worst-ever situation, the Korean women dedicated all their wisdom, passion and efforts at their posts.

At present among those standing on the infectious disease prevention front for the safety of the country and people, making tireless efforts to turn their country into a sci-tech power and talent power, working with devotion at factories and farms and defending their country in the air, on the land and on the sea, there are always women.

With strenuous efforts being made for economic

development of the country, the women's role and social position are being raised.

The lofty humane traits of women are nourishment that brings the harmony and unity of society into full bloom.

It has become a commonplace for the Korean women to become life companions for the disabled former soldiers, take sincere care of the war veterans and persons of labour feats, and look after the disaster victims as they would do their own kith and kin even though they themselves are not so well-off.

As they are cultivating a happy life with ennobling human feeling and moral ethics, socialist Korea, united by the ties of virtue and intimacy, is shining its brilliance as a great harmonious family.

The future of the DPRK, a country united by the ties of virtue and intimacy and full of laughter of happiness, is bright.

On greeting the international holiday, the Korean women render warm encouragement and support to all the women of the world who are struggling for their genuine rights.

Article: Choe Won Chol



Clara Zetkin

An activist of the international women's movement, Clara Zetkin was born in Germany on July 5, 1857.

She was fond of reading, and her favourite books were about French revolution, from her father's bookshelves.

At the age of 15 she was enrolled in a teachers' college, and since then she was interested in feminist and social matters and devoured the works of Marx and Engels.

She joined the Social Democratic Party in 1879 and participated in the revolutionary struggle. She organized and led the struggle of the working people and was held in respect among the working women.

In the founding congress of the Second International in July 1889, she was elected as a secretary and made a speech on the women's emancipation.

In August 1910 she presided over the Second International Socialist Women's Congress in Copenhagen, Denmark, which expressed solidarity with the women weavers in Chicago, US, and their strikes and demonstrations held on March 8, 1909, in demand for feminism. Zetkin proposed that March 8 be celebrated as the international women's day.

Clara Zetkin is called the "mother of the international women's movement" for her lifelong dedication to the cause of women's emancipation.



Kil Kum Sun,
Deputy to the Supreme People's
Assembly of the DPRK, People's Teacher

Kil Kum Sun, head of Pyongyang Primary School No. 4, has a 37-year long career as a teacher.

Beginning from a teacher, she was promoted to a deputy head and now a head of the school. During these years she has dedicated her all to the pupils, like a gardener who tends beautiful flowers.

She has so far invented a lot of new teaching methods and produced more than 20 exemplary teachers as well as many brilliant disciples.

The school is now a model one that produced many winners in the national school contests as well as other literary, sports and art contests.

Ri Myong Sun began to work at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill in September 1994.

At first she took charge of four looms and, as her technique and skill improved, she operated a dozen or more looms.

Fifteen years later, she carried out her production plans for two years within seven months.

She found out a novel idea to double the daily production of cloth per loom by improving her method of going the circuit and repaired her looms by herself.

She has so far woven over two million metres of cloth, which is the longest among the weavers of the mill.



Ri Myong Sun, Merited Weaver



Kye Sun Hui,
Kim Il Sung Prize winner, Labour Hero, People's Athlete

Kye Sun Hui, as a teenage girl, won the gold medal in the 48kg category of women's judo event at the 26th Olympic Games.

She is a four-time world champion by winning her first in the women's 52kg category of the World Judo Championships in 2001 and consecutively in 2003, 2005 and 2007.

She is now a chief coach for the Moranbong Sports Club where she played as a judoist.

Her goal is to produce many world judo champions, and she has coached many players who are distinguishing themselves in national and international competitions.

Yu Son Ok, a department chief of the Botanical Institute under the State Academy of Sciences, is one of the pioneers of biological agrochemicals.

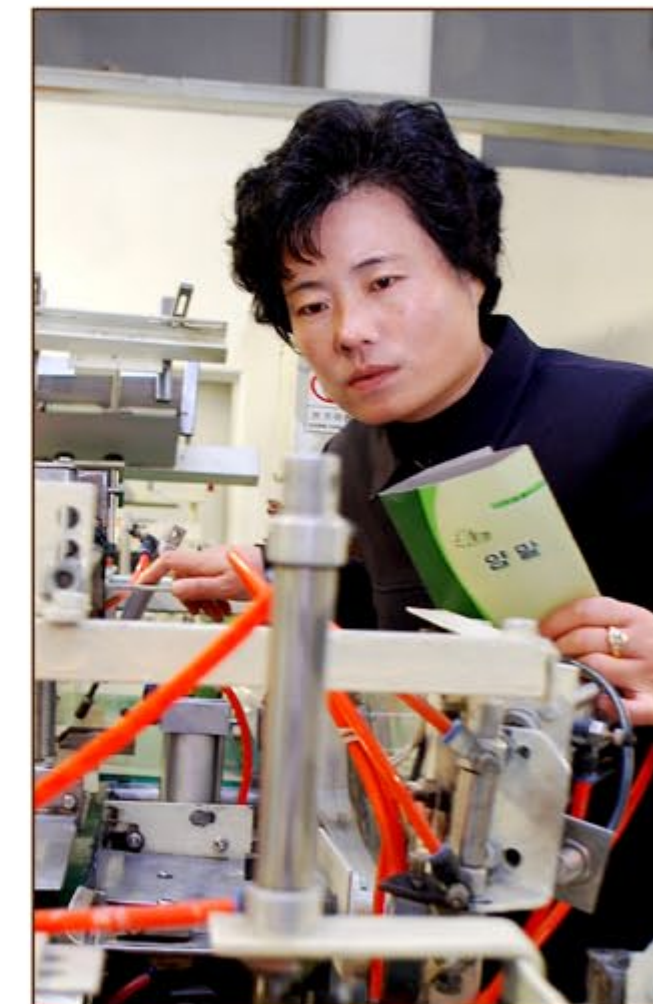
She developed *Myongnok*, the first biological agrochemical.

In 2010 she succeeded in making a natural biological activator with resources available in the country. WIPO officially recognized it as a world's natural green environment-friendly organic compound fertilizer in 2017.

She won the title of Merited Scientist and February 16 Science and Technology Prize, top honour for the scientists, for her contribution to the country's agricultural development.



Yu Son Ok, Merited Scientist



Jo Su Gyong, Merited Scientist,
PhD and associate professor

Jo Su Gyong, a researcher of the Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering, spends most of her time neither in a quiet study nor at a laboratory.

For over two decades since she became a researcher after graduating from the university in 1997, she has hardly left the production sites of several light industry factories, conducting research activities to solve urgent technical problems.

Now she continues her research work with profound knowledge and unabated creative enthusiasm.

Pyongyang Undergoing Transformation

Pyongyang, capital city of the DPRK, underwent a tremendous change in its appearance in the 2010s.

The Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the DPRK, which regard it as the supreme principle of their activities to steadily improve the people's material and cultural life, set forth grand goals to solve the housing problem of the Pyongyang citizens and carried them out in a bold way.

New streets and modern residential districts, including Changjon Street, Mirae Scientists Street and Ryomyong Street, were constructed, and dwelling houses were given free of charge to scientists, lecturers and other people.

The Eighth Congress of the WPK held last January decided to annually build 10 000 flats in Pyongyang from this year, the first year of the new five-year plan for the national economic development.

Photo: By courtesy of the KCNA

Article: O Hae Yon







Department Store Favoured by Everybody

Two years ago, the Daesong Department Store was opened in the Munsu area of East Pyongyang, boasting its magnificent architectural beauty. This comprehensive and multifunctional service complex features commodity departments in various styles, welfare service facilities, dining area and soft drink stands, children's playing area, electronic amusement room, billiard room, open-air exhibition area and the like. As the principle of prioritizing convenience and aesthetic beauty is fully embodied in overall service environment, the department store attracts people.

Photo: Ri Myong Guk

Article: Han Su Yong





Kaesong Koryo Insam Cosmetics

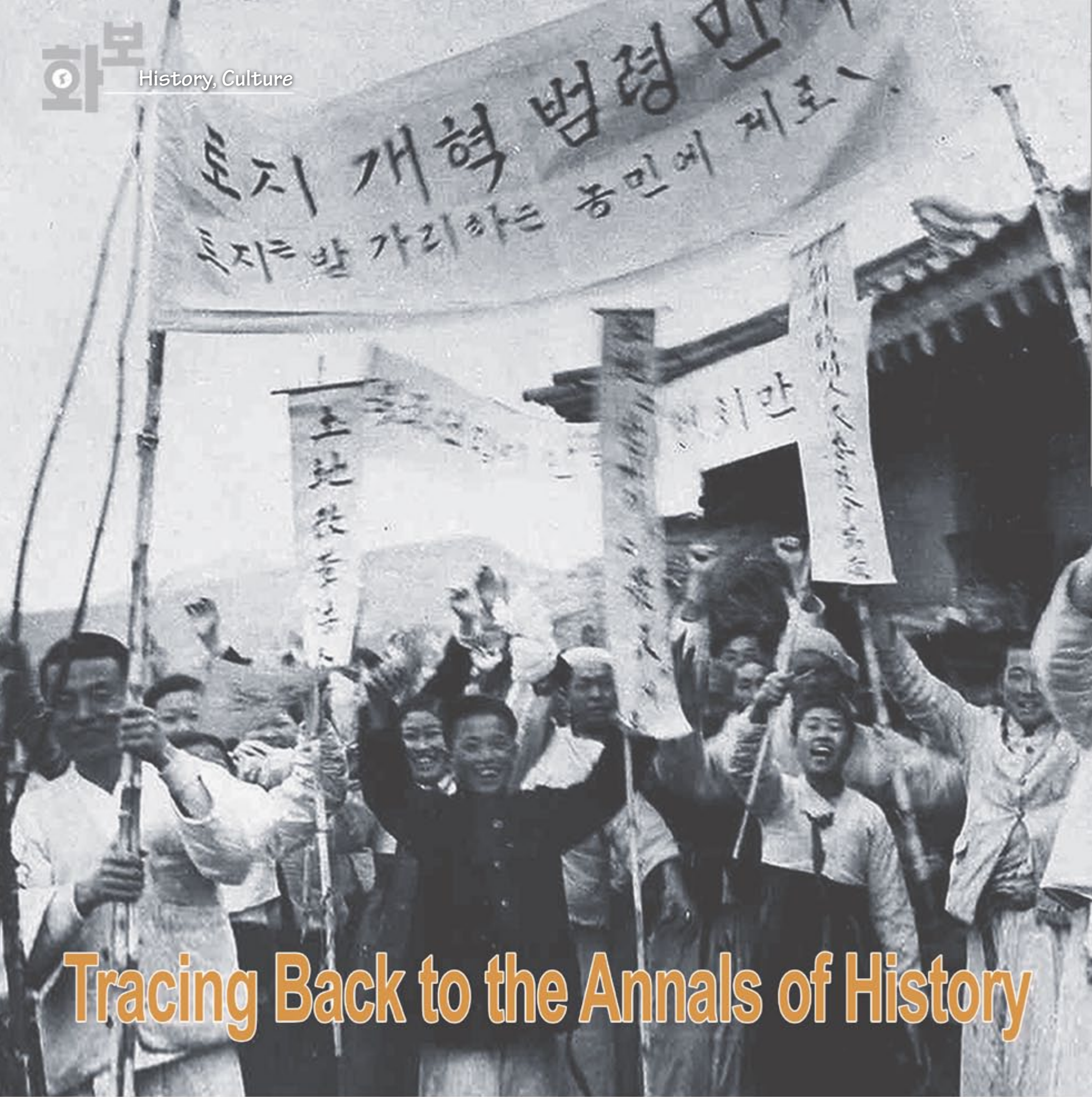
개성고려인삼화장품



Natural
Less-irritating
Functional



Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory
Add: Ansan-dong, Phyongchon District, Pyongyang, DPRK
Tel: 850-2-341-8168
E-mail: mh2015204@star-co.net.kp



Tracing Back to the Annals of History

Peasants welcoming the land reform law in north Korea

Seventy-five years ago, the Law on Agrarian Reform was promulgated in Korea. The promulgation of the law was of great importance in liquidating once and for all the feudal relations of land ownership and exploiting system, under which the Korean peasants were subjected to all sorts of exploitation and oppression, in realizing their centuries-old desire to possess their own land and cultivate it for themselves, in freeing the agricultural productive forces from feudal fetters and rapidly developing them, and in promoting the rehabilitation and development of the overall national economy.



Measuring the land for distribution



Peasants receiving their land

After achieving the liberation of Korea from the Japanese military occupation on August 15, 1945, President Kim Il Sung advanced the agrarian reform as the foremost task in carrying out the democratic reforms.

In order to solve the agrarian question in line with the actual situation in Korea, he visited several rural areas including Taedong County, South Phyongan Province, staying there for more than one month to acquaint himself with the actual situation and the peasants' ardent wish for land and analyzing the complicated feudal land ownership in the rural areas anatomically. In the course of this, he defined the land to be confiscated, methods of confiscation and distribution, and the ways for abolishing the tenant system once and for all.

On this basis, he, burning the midnight oil, worked out every provision of the agrarian reform law which would help solve the peasants' wish.

The Law on Agrarian Reform in North Korea was promulgated as an ordinance of the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea on March 5, 1946.

The law was comprised of 17 articles.

The law clarified the principle of making peasants the owners of land, based on the land ownership in the country's rural areas and balance of power among classes, the centuries-old wish of the peasants for land, land programme in the days of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and rich experience gained in the struggle for its implementation.

The land to be confiscated included all land in the country possessed by Japan, the Japanese and their organizations, and by pro-Japanese elements and traitors to the nation who had taken the lead in the execution of the Japanese military occupation and their predatory policies.

The law stipulated that idlers who had possessed more than five hectares of land per household and rented out all of it, harshly exploiting the peasants, shall be regarded as belonging to landlord class that represented the feudal relations of land ownership and that their land be confiscated without compensation.

Those who had cultivated their fields by themselves and had not exploited others, even though they had five hectares of land, were not defined as landlords and their fields not confiscated. But, in case someone with five hectares of land had cultivated one hectare on his own and rented out four hectares, he was not regarded as a landlord, but still the four hectares of land rented out were confiscated.

The law also stipulated the prohibition of tenant system of all hues, free and equal distribution of land according to the number of work hands, prohibition of the sale and mortgage of the distributed land, and the nationalization of the confiscated forests, irrigation facilities, orchards and some fields unfavourable for peasants to till.

The law was revolutionary and original in that it newly set up the stage of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution and completely solved the questions of agriculture and the peasants in this stage in line with the actual situation of Korea where the peasants accounting for 80 per cent of the population had been forced to lead a miserable life under the harsh exploitation and oppression by the landlords, who accounted for a mere four per cent of the total number of rural households. It was also a people-oriented law aimed at freeing the peasants from the feudal exploitation and poverty.

After the promulgation of the law, the agrarian reform was successfully carried out in a short period of time

across the northern half of the country under the slogan "Land to the tillers!"

During its enforcement, the law fully proved its vitality as it was based on the practical conditions and scientific analysis and guaranteed the agricultural development and the improvement of the living standards of the peasants.

The peasants called the land distributed to them "land given by General Kim Il Sung" out of gratitude to him for having made their centuries-old wish for tilling their own land come true.

Following the enforcement of the agrarian reform, the patriotic enthusiasm of the peasants raised so high



Sowing seeds on their own land



Rice-transplanting

After gathering the first harvest



that the nation-building work in Korea progressed rapidly. The grain output increased radically as compared to pre-liberation years, and peasants across the country donated a large amount of cereals harvested from their own land to the country out of patriotism.

As they valued the land distributed to them so highly that numerous peasants volunteered to join the People's Army to fight for the country when the Fatherland Liberation War (1950-1953) broke out, and the country felt no shortage of grain during the three years of the bitter war.

Thanks to their absolute trust in their leader Kim Il Sung, the Workers' Party of Korea and the

state could successfully implement the people-oriented policy of cooperativizing the rural economy geared to revitalizing the war-devastated rural areas and improving the peasants' living standards.

The promulgation of the agrarian reform law after the liberation was a historic event which opened the way for completely solving the questions of agriculture and the peasants in Korea and laid a firm foundation for developing socialist agriculture.

Article: Choe Won Chol

Bird Fossil Unearthed



The palaeontology research group under the geology faculty of Kim Il Sung University found out a rare fossil of bird in the Mesozoic age in the Paektho-dong area, Sinuiju, North Phyongan Province.

In the course of intensifying investigation and research into newly establishing the position of the Paektho-dong fossil reserve, the researchers

unearthed the bird fossil, vividly preserving its head, toe bones, 11 primary wing feathers and small plumes, at the third layer (about 130 million years ago) of the Sinuiju formation that belongs to the lower part of the Cretaceous period of the Mesozoic age distributed in the Paektho-dong area.

They scientifically ascertained that it was a bird adapted itself to flying in view of its formal and

structural characters of its feathers.

They also conducted research into the fossils of vertebrate and invertebrate animals and plants so far discovered in the area to prove scientifically that it is the place where all vertebrate animals made their appearance in the Mesozoic age in Korea.

And they newly set up the Sinuiju biological group representing the lower part of the Cretaceous period in the Mesozoic age and confirmed newly the Paektho-dong fossil reserve which is of academic significance in the research into the ecological environment of the Mesozoic age.

The national sci-tech deliberation evaluated that the palaeontological research results are of great academic value in deepening the research into the Cretaceous biological group of the Mesozoic age in Korea, and named the fossil "Paektho bird."

The "Paektho bird" is put on display at the Natural History Museum at the foot of Mt Taesong in Pyongyang.

According to the experts, the new bird fossil with well-preserved feathers proves in a more scientific way that Korea is the cradle of not only humankind but birds.

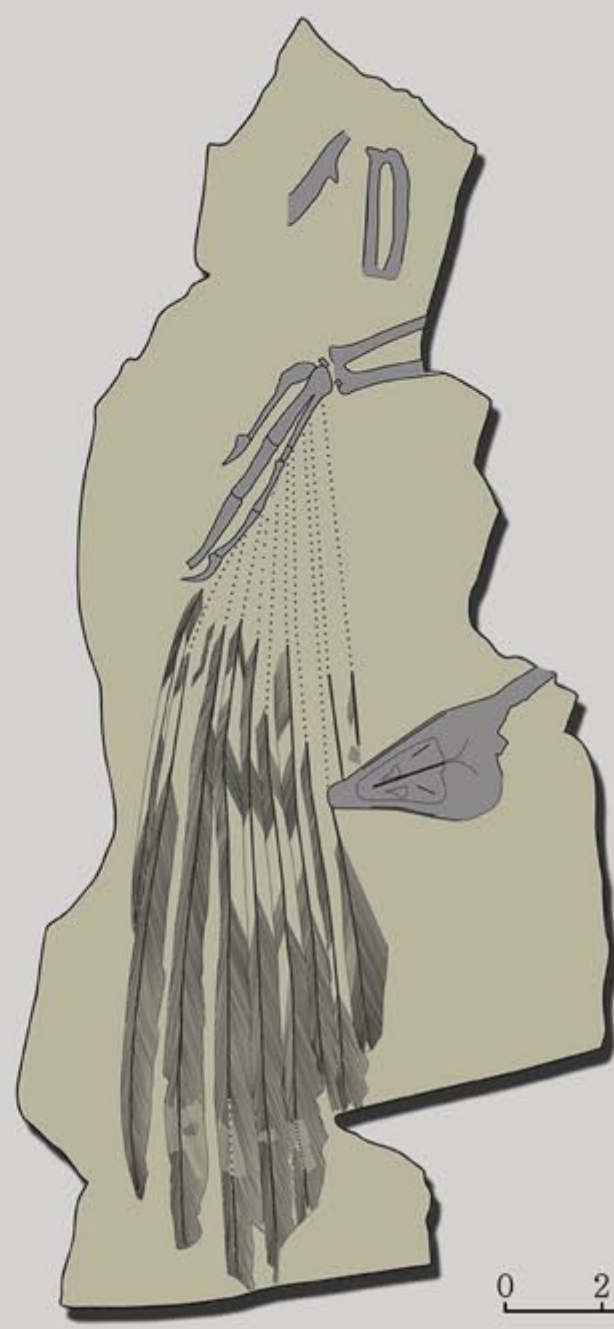
Photo & article: Yun Hyok





Bird fossil preserving feathers

0 2 4cm



Detailed structural map of the bird fossil preserving feathers

0 2 4cm



0 1 2cm

0 2 4mm

Feather branch and small one of the bird fossil preserving feathers



0 5 10mm

Fish fossils



0 5 10mm

Insect fossils (*Cicadidae*)



0 5 10mm

Fossils of dinosaur's tooth and primitive mammal



0 4 8mm

Insect fossils (*Odonata*)



0 1 2cm

Seed bracken species



0 4 8mm

Estheria fossils



0 4 8mm

Mud-snail fossils



Pyongyang Cold Noodles of Okryu Restaurant



Pyongyang cold noodles are one of the traditional dishes of Korea, renowned for the characteristics of their material, stock, seasoning, garnishing, vessels in which they are served and the way they are prepared.

Its main material is buckwheat, which has been called a longevity cereal for its health-friendly nutrients. The strips of noodles made of buckwheat are not too tough but good to eat. The peculiar taste of buckwheat stimulates appetite.

What makes Pyongyang cold noodles stand out from other noodles is the particularly savoury stock.

The noodles are served in a large brass vessel, which looks refreshing and furthers the appetite.

When serving the noodles, a coil of noodle strips is heaped on a vessel with a little stock. It is then garnished with kimchi, meat, egg, pear, cucumber,

sliced leek and chili pepper, and so on, before pouring the stock over them.

The foodstuff is praised as a masterpiece of Korean noodles, as a representative national foodstuff.

Today many restaurants in Pyongyang serve Pyongyang cold noodles, but the best of them is the Okryu Restaurant built in the style of traditional architecture at the foot of the picturesque Moran Hill along the Taedong River.

It is no exaggeration that the Okryu Restaurant and the Pyongyang cold noodles are synonymous, so one cannot say he has been to Pyongyang if he fails to taste the Pyongyang cold noodles at the Okryu Restaurant.

Photo: Pang Un Sim

Article: Om Hyang Sim





Folk Holiday
Jongwoldaeborum





history and excellent customs as well as a hope for a brighter future.

This year's folk holiday fell on February 26.

The Pyongyang citizens enjoyed the large and bright full moon at the historical sites, including the Ryongwang Pavilion along the Taedong River and Ulmil Pavilion on Moran Hill.

Photo: An Chol Ryong, Kim Song Chol

Article: Kang Su Jong



From ancient times the Korean people celebrated *Jongwoldaeborum* (First Full Moon Day) that falls on the 15th day of the first month by the lunar calendar.

Old historical records show that the day was celebrated as a holiday in the period of the Three Kingdoms (mid-3rd century BC-AD mid-7th century).

During the Koryo period (918-1392) it was one of nine folk holidays instituted by the state.

The holiday began on the 14th of the first lunar month, which was called small Full Moon Day compared with the big Full Moon Day, another name of *Jongwoldaeborum*.

The Koreans celebrated the holiday with several ceremonial events wishing a good fortune and bumper harvest in the new year.

Representative holiday events were the standing of grain stack

poles, enjoying of the rising full moon, torchlight play and so on.

The holiday events on the 14th day were mainly intended to signal the start of the year's farming. On this day people set up in the yard or backyard long poles hung with stalks of rice, kaoliang, millet, foxtail millet, barnyard millet and other cereals and banners carrying letters of wishing a bumper harvest. Children circled around the grain stack poles, singing and dancing. And people manured the fields early in the morning.

In the evening of the 15th day, people climbed hills and enjoyed music or dance, waiting to see the rising full moon. The custom of enjoying the full moon is still preserved.

At that time people said that happiness comes to one who is the first to see the full moon that day. Viewing the moon, people wished a bumper crop that year.

Among the traditional events were such folk games as the tug-of-war, kite-flying, pinwheel-rotating, and torchlight playing. At coastal villages people played music and dance, representing their wish for a good haul in the year.

That day people prepared holiday dishes and ate them with their neighbours.

Typical dishes are *ogokpap* (boiled rice mixed with four other cereals), *yakpap* (medicinal rice), *pokssam* (boiled cereals wrapped in laver or aster), and dishes of nine dried greens.

They ate noodles at lunch on the 14th day, hoping they would live as long as the noodle strips, and drank liquor without warming it on the morning of the 15th day.

The folk holiday is still celebrated by the Korean people, instilling in them a high sense of pride in the time-honoured national



Korean paintings with a long history of development represent fully the feelings and sentiments of the Korean nation.

Paintings created by the Korean ancestors not only manifest the distinctive features of the Korean paintings based on a beautiful and graceful form of fine art, but also portray contemporary customs and manners in a vivid way.

Unlike those of other fine art forms, the old Korean paintings employed various techniques, such as emphasis, omission, intensification and condensation.

In particular, the method of representing only the surroundings that are essential for the clarification of the content of the work, and boldly omitting the rest, was applied. Therefore, the Korean paintings give strong emotional feelings and aesthetic impulse so that viewers delve deep into the painting merely by seeing what was represented.

Experts comment that Kim Tu Ryang and other famous painters in the Korean history used in their paintings light, clear and soft colours, the unique ones that are particularly congenial to the aesthetic tastes of the Korean nation.

Article: Ri Jin Bom

FEELINGS CREATED BY OLD KOREAN PAINTINGS



A Sleeping Cowherd by Kim Tu Ryang (1696-1763)



A Nobleman and Peasants by Kim Tuk Sin (1754-1822)



A Ferryman by Ri In Mun (1745-1821)



A Port by Ri In Mun (1745-1821)



A Market Street by Kang Se Hang (1713-1791)



A Man Sitting under a Pine Tree by Ri Jae Gwan (1783-1837)



Handing down the Traditional Dance Movements

Korean Dance Research Institute under the Phibada Opera Troupe was first established in 1946 as the Choe Sung Hui Dance Studio.

It has a long history of studying and developing excellent traditions of the national dance and thus has left an outstanding mark in the development of the Korean national dance by scientifically formulating the theories and practical issues arising in discovering and preserving folk dance movements.

Choe Sung Hui, the first head of the studio, contributed greatly to modernizing the Korean national dance. She selected and defined gracious movements of strong national mood through a close study of the folk dance, and based on it published a book, titled, *Fundamentals of the Traditional Korean Dances*, in 1957.

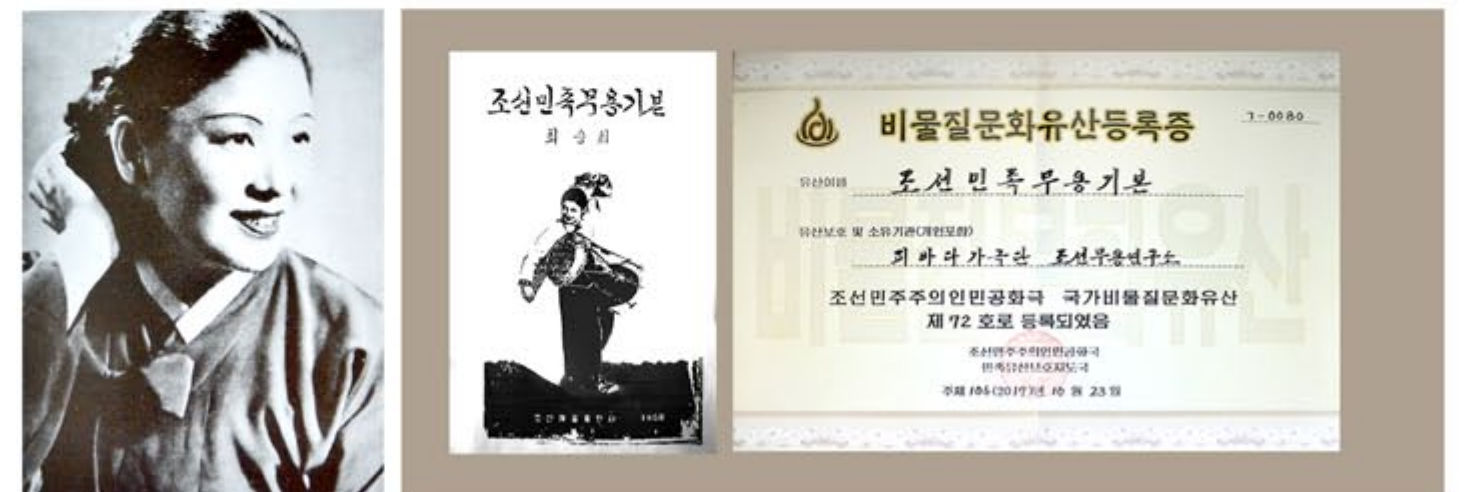
The book which provided the theoretical basis for creating dances by sustaining diverse and rich Korean rhythmic patterns was greatly favoured by dancers.

The institute commenced the research into a new dance notation in 1972.

At that time Labanotation and other dance notations were in vogue worldwide, but as they were not versatile for the movements of all rhythmic patterns, they were not widely applicable to practice.

Researchers of the institute conducted persevering efforts for over a decade to develop a new dance notation for recording all representational elements based on the rhythmic movements of human, and made public the Korean-style alphabetical dance notation in 1987.

Choe Sung Hui, People's Artiste and former chair of the Central Committee of the Dancers Union



Fundamentals of the Traditional Korean Dances registered on the list of national intangible cultural heritage



The new dance notation was highly appreciated for its scientific accuracy and practicability at the tenth session of the international dance council held in Pyongyang in September 1992.

The institute developed *Paekhak*, a dance score editing program, and put the writing and editing of dance scores on an IT footing.

At present it is actively conducting the work to thoroughly discover folk dance patterns with local peculiarities, preserve and develop them as suited to the modern aesthetic sentiments.

A strenuous effort is also given to the development of new branches of cross-disciplinary sciences, combining dance with psychology, aesthetics, pedagogics and other branches.

Nam Su Hyang, a researcher of the institute, says with confidence that the institute will step up its efforts to sustain and develop the tradition of graceful and beautiful Korean dance.

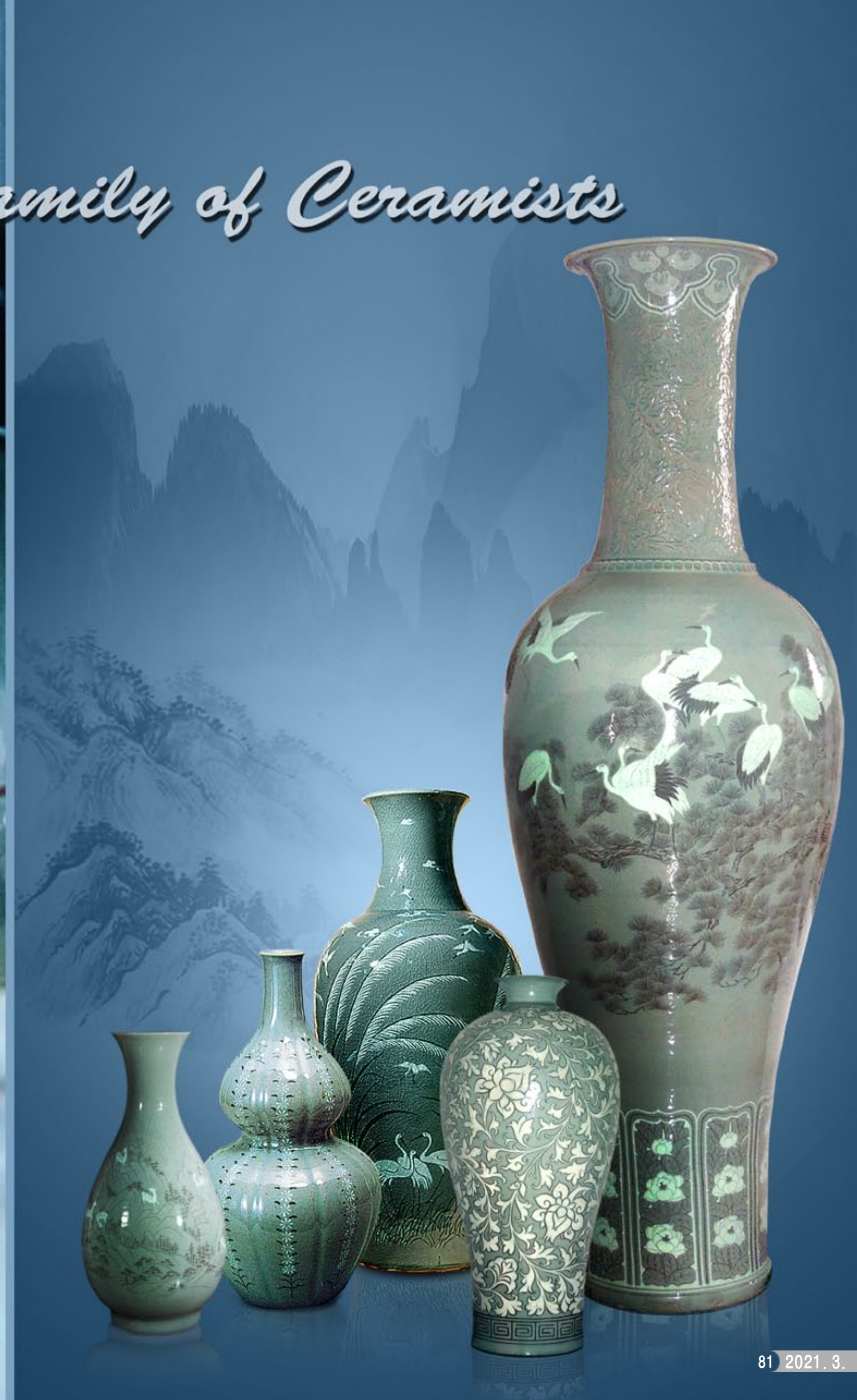
Photo: Pang Un Sim
Article: Om Hyang Sim





Family of Ceramists

Im Sa Jun, Kim Il Sung Prize winner and People's Artist

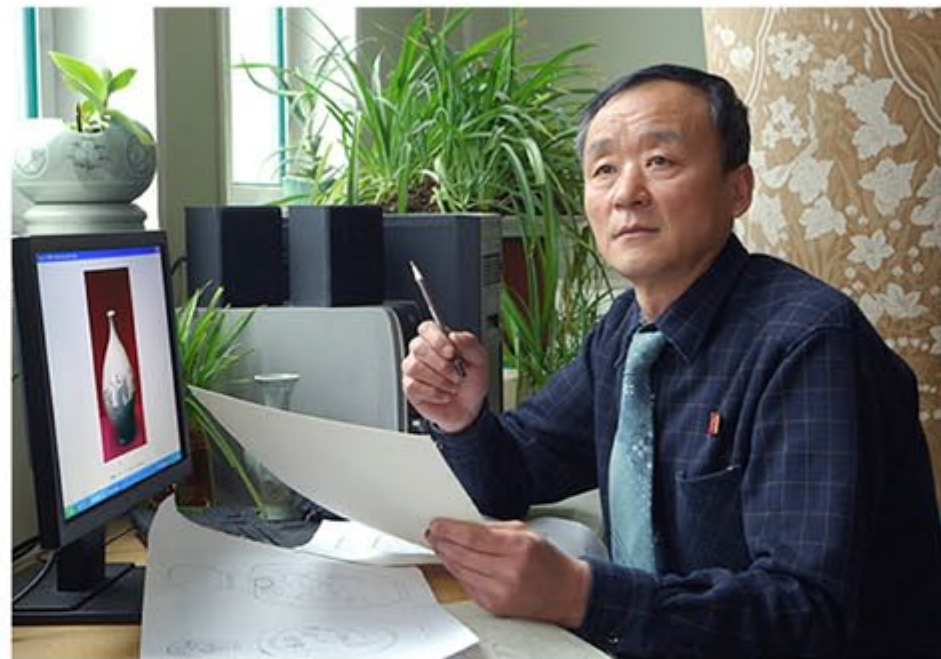




Im Kyong Ik, eldest son and Merited Artist



Im Hye Ok, daughter



Im Kun Ik, second son



Im Kwan Ik, third son



Im Ho Ik, fourth son

The ceramic artists of Koryo, the first unified state of Korea that existed from 918 to 1392, produced the porcelain marked by jade green colour, inlaid decoration and formal beauty, which was named after the country and became famous across the world as the Koryo celadon.

Even after a lapse of over a thousand years, the Koryo celadon still attracts everyone by its aesthetic beauty and charisma.

The credit goes to craftspeople of the DPRK, who have devoted themselves to sustaining and developing the Koryo celadon. Among them is the family of Im Sa Jun (August 1927-April 2007), former ceramic artist of the Mansudae Art Studio.

Im Sa Jun had contributed in the last century to revitalizing the Koryo celadon which had only remained in historical records.

Im newly discovered the materials for the making of the Koryo celadon, settled their mixing proportions and shaping and firing processes, and succeeded in making extra-large celadon.

His first celadon inlaid with peony flower patterns came into being in 1948. Since then he produced numerous celadon pieces.

A 2.16-metre-tall Koryo celadon created in 1998, celadon vases inlaid with patterns of insam flowers and magnolia flowers and many other masterpieces of Im are preserved as national treasures.

His works were presented to the two masters' exhibition of modern Koryo celadon held in Japan in 1983 and other overseas exhibitions, drawing the admiration of the audience.

Im also devoted himself to the education of the reserve artists to carry forward the traditions of celadon making.

He brought five of his six children into ceramic artists. Since they were young, he gave stern lectures on the techniques and knacks of ceramic making.

Kyong Ik, Im's eldest son, excels at shaping technique, Kun Ik, second son, at firing, and Kwan Ik, third son, and Hye Ok, daughter, are good at inlaying decoration.

Working at the ceramics production company under the Mansudae Art Studio they produced a series of celadon pieces, including the celadon vase inlaid with cinnabar patterns of creepers.

Their works demonstrated the excellence of the Koryo celadon at several exhibitions held in China, the UK, Singapore and other countries.

Kyong IK produced a 2.6-metre-tall celadon vase inlaid with pine and crane patterns in 2010.

Celadon vase inlaid with patterns of white herons, celadon vase inlaid with willow and swan patterns and many other pieces were highly appreciated at the national fine art exhibitions and are now preserved as national treasures at the Korean Art Gallery.

Now Im's grandchildren are following suit: Ae Gyong, his granddaughter, is a ceramic artist of the studio, and Chang Song, grandson, is studying at the Pyongyang University of Fine Arts.

Photo: Ri Kwang Song
Article: Kim Son Gyong



Cinnabar celadon vase with inlaid creeper patterns and the diploma it won at the China Jingdezhen International Ceramic Fair in 2007



Celadon vase with openwork and inlaid patterns of reed and geese, and the trophy and diploma awarded to it at the Fourth Taihu Prize Designing Competition



Goshawk
National Bird of the DPRK

Generally, the bird representing a nation is designated from among those which have been very familiar to the people of the relevant country for a long period, or those specific to the country. Therefore, reflected in the bird are the natural features and culture of the country and the customs of its people.

Goshawk, belonging to the genus *Accipiter*, is a typical bird of prey. It is resident in mountainous regions of Korea.

It is not so large but has a balanced figure, penetrating eyes, sharp beak and strong talons. It is very clever and resolute, and flies fast.

Goshawk has been familiar to and beloved by the Korean people from olden times and was tamed to hunt wild animals.

Historical records show that during the period of the Three

Kingdoms (mid-3rd century BC-AD mid-7th century) goshawk was widely bred even at private houses, and there was a government organ in charge of goshawk breeding during the Koryo (918-1392) period.

Goshawk was also called *poramae*, *phurunmae* or *kkwongmae* in the country.

And it was known in China, Japan and other neighbouring countries as *haedongchong*, bluish hawk of Korea, and enjoyed a great demand.

Its body varies in colour. Usually a male goshawk is blackish at the crown and back of the head and brownish black at the nape, and has dark-brown wing feathers. Its chest, belly and thighs are fine dark-brown barred white. The female is larger.

It lives on rats, pheasants, pigeons, and hares in the forests. It habitually hovers, scanning ground for prey, and when it discovers one, it swoops down on it.

It is a solitary bird, and pairs only in breeding seasons.

It reaches maturity at three years of age, and mates between early March and late July.

It builds a dish-shaped nest of twigs on top branches of tall trees and lays in a year 2-4 eggs at a brood.

Goshawk was designated as the national bird of the DPRK in April 2008.

Article: Choe Kwang Ho



Scientists at the Institute of Zoology under the State Academy of Sciences studying the behaviours and ecological features of goshawk to protect and proliferate them



A talisman portraying goshawk



Detailed painting of goshawk



A Korean falconer in the early 20th century



개성고려인삼



Korea that has been noted for its beautiful natural scenery boasts the abundance of precious medicinal herbs with admirable effects for health promotion and longevity of the people as well as a long history of their cultivation, processing and application.

Among those herbs is insam (ginseng) which is called so as its roots resemble a human body. Known as a cure-all, insam had been cultivated in Korea from ancient times, and became widely known throughout the world over 1 000 years previously in the days of Koryo, the first unified state in Korea. Hence its name Koryo insam.

The people of Koryo cultivated insam by inheriting the method of adapting sansam (wild insam) to fields employed in the period of Koguryo (the first feudal state that existed in Korea from 277 BC to 668). They later developed new methods of making hongsam and paeksam from six-year-old insam that was grown from seed. These methods have been made a tradition in insam cultivation and are maintained to this date.

Generally, Koryo insam means the one cultivated in the area of Kaesong where the climate and soil are suitable for its cultivation, and Kaesong Koryo insam achieved worldwide fame for its pharmacological effects.

Kaesong is the home of cultivating and processing insam, and in

the Koryo period the trade value of insam surpassed that of gold and silver.

At present, the insam plots at the foot of Mt Songak in Kaesong are employing the traditional methods of cultivating Kaesong Koryo insam from stock seeds.

Kaesong Koryo insam is composed of 42 types of insam saponins, essential oil, sterols, carbohydrates, free amino acids, enzymes, oils, resin, minerals, vitamins A1, A2, B1 and B2, and other medicinal properties.

It is classified into susam (insam just after being picked out and containing 70-80% of water), paeksam (susam that is washed, peeled off and dried, and contains less than 11% of water), hongsam (steamed and dried susam containing less than 11% of water), tangsam (susam boiled in sweet water), and misam (rootlets of susam).

There are factories of processing insam and producing insam goods in Pyongyang and several areas in the country.

Kaesong Koryo Insam Processing Factory situated in Kaesong, the hub of insam cultivation and processing in the DPRK, mass-produces from the six-year-old Kaesong Koryo insam several hundred varieties of insam products, including scores of tonics and health foods with special efficacy in strengthening the heart and other internal organs, retarding aging, acting against cancer, invigorating the immune system and protecting against radiation.

Kaesong Koryo insam liquor with sweet scent and flavour brings back youth and energy. It won gold medals at several international trade fairs.

Kaesong Koryo insam protects internal organs and promotes metabolism by acting on the brain and the vascular system and is known as a panacea for many diseases. Therefore, health tonics and foods, and cosmetics made from insam are enjoying growing demands.

The Korea insam association is directing great efforts into preserving, inheriting and developing the traditional methods of cultivating and processing Kaesong Koryo insam, which is protected by the law of the DPRK on insam.

It is also conducting activities to promote international cooperation and exchange on the principles of creditworthiness and benefits to satisfy the growing demand for Kaesong Koryo insam at international markets for its special effects on human health and longevity.

Kaesong Koryo insam will retain its fame for its excellent medicinal effects and time-honoured history and make a great contribution to promoting health and developing culture of mankind.

Photo & article: O Hae Yon





PYONGYANG GOLF COURSE



The Pyongyang Golf Course, opened in September 1987, is located by Lake Thaesong and Mt Sokchon with superb natural scenery.

The golf course has an 18-hole course, nine holes each in two parts, with the length of 6 777 yards and the accommodation capacity of 200.

The course is designed to maintain excellent levellings and fully exploit the natural terrain to create a variety of bunkers, making golfers enjoy the game and feel refreshed.

Not only the golf course but the Thaesong House provided with a fitness

room, wading pool, billiard and table tennis rooms, outdoor angling site and boating ground attract people.

Lodging quarters furnished for individuals and families give people such a sense of calmness that they feel at home.

The Pyongyang Golf Course attracts many people for its conspicuous features.

Photo: Hong Kwang Nam, Pyon Chan U

Article: Kim Kuk Chol



For Green Mountains



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