Mt. Paektu at sunrise.

CONTENTS

☆ The Torch of Ranam ........................................1
☆ Great Leadership, Immortal Achievements
  • Building an Independent National Economy ........................................6
  • Opening the Way to Building a Powerful Nation ................................10
☆ A Visit to the Revolutionary Battle Sites .......................................14
☆ Passion and Research ..................................................16
☆ Great Pride ..........................................................18
☆ Upholding the Torch of Ranam ........................................20
☆ The central Zoo
  Birds .................................................................22
☆ Conscientious Young Women ........................................24
☆ Together with Pulgungi No. 1 ............................................26
☆ Welcome to Pyongyang ..............................................28
☆ The Fifth National Immunization Day ................................30
☆ Formal Agreement Is Signed ..........................................30
☆ Friendship Visit .......................................................31
☆ Meeting with Victims ..................................................31
☆ Young People Full of Confidence .......................................31
☆ Landscape Paintings of Mt. Jangsu .....................................32
☆ Yun I Sang Concert .....................................................34
☆ Little Players ..........................................................36
☆ Women of strong Will and Seasoned Skills ..........................38
☆ Supply Service Base at Construction Site ............................40
☆ Family of Cellists ......................................................41

FRONT COVER: Senior officials of the Ranam Coal-mining Machine Complex strive to carry out an economic task at any cost with praiseworthy abilities and stubborn practice. 

Photo: Choe Song Uk
A torch of fresh creation and innovation has been lit in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to inspire another leap forward in the building of a powerful nation in the new century.

The torch was kindled at the Ranam Coal-mining Machine Complex.

The workers at the complex are always full of the spirit of guarding the leader with their lives and the spirit of implementing the Party's policy at any cost.

Despite the extreme difficulties the workers faced in the period of the "Arduous March", they begot two large factories and turned out modern machinery, based on the latest science and technology, while continuing to produce large quantities of mining equipment and important custom-built equipment. They recently carried out a particularly heavy and onerous task using their own strength, skills and wisdom, providing tangible results to demonstrate the revolutionary mettle of workers in the army-centred era.

The torch inspires the whole Party, the entire army and all the people to carry out another general forward march. It is the torch of creation and innovation, kindled by leader Kim Jong Il in the hearts of the workers at Ranam.

Kim Jong Il has always led the workers wisely, ensuring that they were in the vanguard of innovation and economic growth. Over the decades he has given the workers at Ranam great confidence and paid tribute to them.

In the 1960s, he visited the complex to sow the seed of self-reliance in the hearts of its workers. In the 1980s, he saw to it that the complex was turned into a powerful producer of mining equipment and ensured that it took the lead in conducting the machine-tool multiplying move-


**The Torch of Ranam**
Workers at the Ranam Coal-mining Machine Complex, who accomplished feats in implementing leaser Kim Jong Il’s on-the-spot instruction, are full of resolve to make another miracles and leap forward.

ment.

When he assigned a task to the workers at Ranam, he inspired them to possess the revolutionary spirit of bringing about rapid change and radical innovation in production processes instead of simply expecting normal rates of development.

In the recent years when the country was on the "Arduous March" and forced march, he instilled in their hearts the revolutionary spirit of soldiers and the Kanggye spirit of the army-centred era, and made the complex known across the country as an exemplary unit for its self-reliance.

When he returned home after his visit to a foreign country in August last year, the workers at Ranam were the first people he visited. He recently praised their success in implementing the Workers' Party of Korea's policy of building a powerful nation and put great confidence in them, labelling them fighters who perform tasks by all means available.

The leader then ensured that the loyalty to the Party of the workers at Ranam, their spirit of implementing the WPK's policy at any cost, their fighting spirit and revolutionary way of work became a torch to be upheld by workers throughout the country in the new century.

His great trust inspired the workers at Ranam to creation and innovation, resulting in great achievements in production. It also gave them the indomitable courage and spirit required to successfully fulfil any task and overcome any difficulty.

The dauntless spirit and way of work displayed by the workers at Ranam were their way of repaying the leader's great trust in them.

Full of determination to faithfully realize the leader's plan of building a powerful nation, the workers at Ranam called upon the whole country to push ahead with the revolutionary march in the new century. They are now creating an unprecedented upsurge in the production of mining equipment and other ordered machinery.

The flames of creation and innovation are rising across the complex, including the steel casting, forging, winch and coal cutter workshops.

The lighting of the torch of Ranam, the first of its kind in the new century, is a historic event for the Korean people in the cause of building a powerful nation.

Article & photos: Kim Yong Nam
Smelters at the steel casting workshop, full of confidence and optimism, work persistently.
Technicians push forward production.

Workers perform feats in processing and assembling equipment, upholding the torch of Ranam.

Lathe operator Ham Myong Chol.  Lathe operator Ri Pong Ho.  Lathe operator Kwon Yong Sil.
Grinder Choe Kuk Son.

Inspector Jon Hak Nam.

Examiner Nam In Chol.
Great Leadership, Immortal Achievements

Building an Independent National Economy


From a hoe to a satellite! The economic success of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea over the past decades was the fruit of the leadership of President Kim Il Sung, who devoted himself to the building of an independent national economy.

Korea was a backward feudal state which had not undergone the normal stages of capitalist development. Moreover, it became a colony in the first half of the 20th century due to the Japanese imperialists' military occupation for nearly half a century. The country then suffered the ravages of war provoked by the US imperialists. President Kim Il Sung shouldered the heavy burden of rebuilding the economy on the ruins.
He achieved national liberation on August 15, Juche 34 (1945), by leading the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle to victory. He proposed building an independent national economy, saying that there could be no genuine political independence without the guarantee of the country's economic independence. He explained the ways of implementing this plan at each stage of the revolution and construction.

Immediately after liberation, the President ensured that the independent economic foundations were firmly laid by putting an end to the colonial lopsidedness and deformation of the economy.

In the 1950s, when the country's economy was in ruins due to the three-year war ignited by the US imperialists, he put forward the basic line of socialist economic construction, giving priority to the development of heavy industry while simultaneously developing light industry and agriculture.

In the 1960s, he advocated the line of socialist industrialization and the line of simultaneously carrying on the building up of the economy and defences. In the 1970s, the policy of putting the national economy on a Juche-oriented, modern and scientific basis was adopted. The common strand in all of these moves was their contribution to the building of an independent national economy.

The President energetically led the protracted yet great cause of consolidating the foundations of the country's independent econo-
After the war, he visited the ruined coal and ore mines, power stations, iron works, factories and farm villages to discuss with the people how to rehabilitate these facilities. His involvement was such that he even selected the sites for the new buildings. He continued to give on-the-spot guidance for dozens of years after-wards, building a Juche-oriented economy by relying on Korea's own resources, skills and strength.

Everywhere he went, the President stood shoulder to shoulder with the workers and technicians and called upon them to build a powerful, sovereign and independent state at any cost.

He implanted the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance in the hearts of all of them and kindled the torch of the Chollima Movement. His efforts resulted in a great revolutionary upsurge across the country.

Thanks to the President's wise guidance, the DPRK had been transformed into a socialist Industrial state in only 14 years.
In the 1970s and 1980s, the country's economy was further strengthened through the rapid implementation of Juche-orientation, modernization and scientification programmes. A 10,000-ton press and huge oxygen separator were turned out and the 8-km long West Sea Barrage was built.

The independent national economy, built thanks to the leadership of President Kim Il Sung, has been strengthened further by the energetic guidance of leader Kim Jong Il. In the 1990s, the artificial earth satellite Kwangmyongsong I was launched, a miraculous success.

From a hoe to a satellite!

Based on the establishment of a strong independent national economy, which brought about an epoch-making change, the Korean people are now building a powerful nation with unshakeable confidence.

Article: Kim Thae Hyon

Workers at the Huichon Machine-tool Factory are full of the resolve to implement leader Kim Jong Il’s on-the-spot instructions.

People of Jagang Province are overcoming the “Arduous March” with the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude.
The artificial earth satellite Kwangmyongsong 1 is launched.

The Amnokgang Tyre Factory.

The Kaechon-Lake Thaesong waterway project is pushed forward.

The Korean people are pushing ahead with the building of a powerful nation, full of confidence and optimism.

Leader Kim Jong Il has opened the way of grand march for the whole Party, the entire army and all the people.

In recent years the Korean people have faced many difficulties and ordeals.

They unexpectedly lost President Kim Il Sung, whom they regarded as their heaven, in July Juche 83 (1994).

While the whole country was grieved at the President's death, the imperialists viciously attempted to isolate and stifle the DPRK politically, economically and militarily. On top of this, consecutive natural disasters occurred. The people, therefore, had to carry out the "Arduous March" and
forced march.

In this grim period, leader Kim Jong Il took responsibility for the destiny of the motherland and its people.

Despite the deep grief of Koreans, he inspired them to bring about a new era of socialist economic construction.

He ensured that all the people learned from the revolutionary spirit of soldiers.

He led the great revolutionary upsurge that swept across the country, driven by the revolutionary spirit and way of struggle displayed by the people of Jagang Province, including Kanggye City.

Specifying the ways of developing every sector of the economy onto a higher stage, he energetically guided their implementation.

He continued to give on-the-spot guidance at factories, enterprises, power stations and cooperative farms all over the country, from Taehongdan County in the northern area to the Yonbaek Plain on the west coast, in order to build an economically strong nation with Korean characters, based on the existing firm foundations of independent national economy.

Thanks to his energetic guidance, factories and enterprises that had
suspended production were revitalized. New factories, enterprises and power stations employing the latest technology have been built, in accordance with the demands of the information age.

Small plots of land have been realigned into large standardized fields. Chicken farms, goat farms and other stockbreeding bases, as well as catfish and other fish farms, have been built in various places around the country.

Korea's science and technology reached such a high level that the country was able to launch its own satellite. Scientific research has been constantly intensified.

The Korean people look back with pride upon the recent period in which they surmounted all the trials and ordeals they faced, rallied behind leader Kim Jong Il, under the slogans "As the Party decides, so we do!" and "Push ahead through the thorny path in high spirits!" Their belief that they will ultimately emerge victorious as long as they are guided by leader Kim Jong Il has been further strengthened.

*Article: Kim Jong Ung*
Former unconverted long-term prisoners visit the statue of President Kim Il Sung erected at the Pochonbo revolutionary battle site.

On Lake Chon the summit of Mt. Paektu, sacred to the revolution.

A constant stream of people visits Mt. Paektu, the symbol of Korea and the source of its spirit.

Former unconverted long-term prisoners climbed the mountain in September last year.

When they crossed the Military Demarcation Line two years ago, many were disabled. They recovered their health and youth under the care of the DPRK. Now they climbed the mountain, full of emotion and a feeling of jubilation.

Ri Jong (90) said excitedly: "I

A Visit to the Revolutionary Battle Sites

Mt. Paektu is one of the celebrated mountains of Korea. It is the ancestral mountain of the nation and a sacred mountain of the revolution.

The Paektu area is associated with the immortal traces of President Kim Il Sung, who started the revolutionary cause of Juche and led it through many bloody battles. Paektu is also home to the historic birthplace of leader Kim Jong Il, which can be seen at the secret camp on the

On Lake Chon the summit of Mt. Paektu, sacred to the revolution.
always thought about Mt. Paektu during the decades I spent in prison in south Korea. I cherished the dream of climbing the sacred mountain of the revolution in my lifetime. My wish has been fulfilled now I am in the embrace of leader Kim Jong Il. It is unbelievable.

The climbers saw the glorious sunrise. As the dazzling sun rose above the sea of forest, they shouted "Long live the Paektu lodestar!" and "Long live General Kim Jong Il!" The group then went down to Lake Chon to drink its water.

They also visited the birthplace of leader Kim Jong Il at the secret camp on Mt. Paektu. They laid a fragrant flower basket and bouquets before the log cabin where leader Kim Jong Il was born, the place where the Korean revolution took deep and strong root and the bright future of the revolutionary cause of Juche was established. They looked round the relics in the home, recalling memories of the childhood of leader Kim Jong Il, whose courage and spirit were fostered by the snowstorms of Mt. Paektu and the sound of gunfire from the anti-Japanese war, his lullabies.

Leader Kim Jong Il's birth was a great event. Inheriting the spirit of revolution from his great parents and Mt. Paektu, he grew up in the mountain's stormy weather.

Moved with admiration for him, the climbers sang the "Song of General Kim Jong Il".

They resolved to be wholeheartedly loyal to leader Kim Jong Il for the country's reunification and the nation's prosperity.

*Article & photos: Kim Thae Il*
The general lecture hall at Kim Chaek University of Technology.

Sin Son Gun (second from the right), head of the information measuring engineering department.

Lecturer Jong Ki Dong giving a lecture on modern control science.

Passion and Research

Master Rim Sung II (left), head of the automation programme laboratory.
Students study the information materials.

The Automation Engineering Faculty at Kim Chaek University of Technology buzzes with scholarly research. Lights burn till late at night in the classrooms and laboratories. Professor and Dr. Kim Kye Jong, dean of the faculty, said that all the teachers and students were working to implement the instructions of leader Kim Jong Il. When he gave on-the-spot guidance at the university in September last year, the leader said that more qualified technicians equipped with ultra-modern science and technology should be trained, in accordance with the demands of the information age.

The departments of the faculty lay emphasis on providing the students with the intellectual skills required by new technology. Laboratories are being further modernized, and curricula and teaching plans are constantly renewed. Close attention is paid to raising the qualifications of the teaching staff. Holders of academic degrees or titles now make up 91 percent of lecturers at the faculty. The work of improving the students' abilities is also being vigorously advanced. Teachers organize extracurricular guidance and science and technology clubs to improve the students' skills in mathematics, physics and foreign languages. As a result, the students are absorbed in study day and night. The students are full of resolve to become Masters or Drs. in their twenties or thirties and to contribute to the building of a powerful nation by developing high-level skills.

Article &. photos; Ra Phyong Ryol

Students study the information materials.

Practical experience in automation control.
Great Pride

Director Kim Kon Il (center), a deputy to the DPRK Supreme People’s Assembly.

Graduates from Kim Chaek University of Technology working at the Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex.

Tu Myong Ik, deputy secretary of the primary Party committee at the head production workshop.
Many graduates from Kim Chaek University of Technology are making an active contribution to the building of a powerful nation with their scientific and technical skills. Most of the technical personnel at the Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex are graduates of the university.

The director of the complex, technicians at the turbine and heat production workshops and field engineers at every workshop are full of pride at having graduated from the most prestigious science and technology institution in the country.

Director Kim Kon Il, a deputy to the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, is an able official and talented technician who has worked at the complex for over 30 years since his graduation from the university. He was promoted from engineer in charge of the turbine workshop to vice-chief engineer in charge of production, chief engineer and finally director. He is now known as an experienced technician in the field of thermal power generation, having made several inventions, including a method of increasing the capacity of steam turbines, introduced many years ago, bringing great benefit to the state.

Kim Jun Gol, vice-chief engineer in charge of technical development, has made an annual plan for technical development at the complex and carried it out without fail, solving all the problems that have arisen in the process.

Master Kim Ki Won, a talented test engineer at the industrial laboratory, greatly contributed to increasing power production by making nine inventions, including a method for increasing power production at the heat steam turbine in summer. He has also introduced dozens of technical innovations.

Kim Jae Dok, manager of the turbine workshop, also made a great contribution to the complex's development by introducing several technical innovations. Tu Myong Ik, deputy secretary of the primary Party committee at the heat production workshop, always encourages innovation among workers and technicians.

Technicians who graduated from Kim Chaek University of Technology thanks to the study-while-working educational system are also making a great contribution to increasing power production at the complex.

*Article & photos: Jo Kyong Chol*
Workers at the July 6 Railway Factory bring about a revolutionary change in production, adopting the attitude of implementing the Party's policy at any cost shown by the workers at the Ranam Coal-mining Machine Complex.

The July 6 Railway Factory has made a great contribution to the country's railway transportation over the past 40-odd years by producing the wheels for locomotives and passenger and freight wagons.

A 15-ton pneumatic hammer at the outer wheel workshop, awarded the title of DPRK Hero, is testimony to the proud history of the factory. It has been in full operation for over 30 years with no accident, smoothly producing the parts urgently needed for railway transportation and the country's industrialization.

The factory produces various parts required by locomotive, passenger and freight train factories.

Technicians and workers at the outer wheel workshop and the rolled steel wheel branch factory have worked hard to raise the quality of products, including steel ingots for wheels and bearing steel.

The factory has focussed its efforts on upgrading production equipment. The completion of the wheel stamping process and the heat treatment process resulted in an increase in the strength of the wheels.

The factory plays an increasingly important role in developing the country's railway transportation.

*Article & photos: Kim Jong Sam*
A material is heated.

Many steel wheels are turned out.
At the Central Zoo are about 20 aviaries for ostriches, peafowls, eagles, owls and other birds, as well as several ponds.

The zoo has, many birds indigenous to Korea and from various other countries.

The birds, dissimilar in appearance and colour, create an attractive sight, pleasing visitors to the zoo.

Jong Sun Gil, head of the technical section, said more than 1,400 birds of over 200 species are kept at the zoo. They include Golden eagle.

Cockatoos.

White-naped cranes.
black storks, migratory grosbeaks, larks, quails, goldfinches and canaries.

The zoo also displays birds presented to President Kim Il Sung and leader Kim Jong Il by heads of state and people from various circles of many countries. Among them are cockatoos, rare parrots, pink pelicans, Egyptian wild geese and fantails.

Rare birds, including white cranes and white-naped cranes, can be also seen at the zoo.

*Article & photos: Jin Ju Song*
Conscientious Young Women

Songs hold an important place in the lives of the young women.

Young women of about 20 make up the majority of workers at the Pyongyang Changgwang Clothes Factory. They are praised as hard workers and the vanguard in the job of keeping the factory neat and clean. They are also noted for doing good deeds.

Over the past 30-odd years since it began operation, the factory has exceeded its targets in national economic plans every year thanks to the efforts of the young women workers.

Young women, who are sensitive to new things and have a strong enterprising spirit, are full of determination to contribute to the building of a powerful nation.

The women at processing workshop No. 5 take the lead in introducing successful innovations. Kim Jong Nyo, Kim Hye Yong, Kim Jong Gum, Jon Kum Suk and other women routinely exceed their daily targets by over 30 percent.
Jong Kum Son, Pak Yong Mi and Kim Un Jong at processing workshop No. 4 are also well-known innovators.

Thanks to the devoted efforts of its young women workers, the factory had surpassed the target set for it in last year’s national economic plan by 7 percent in terms of total industrial output value by September 8.

The young women are the first to keep the factory clean and tidy and build up the economic life of the factory tenaciously.

They make various styles of clothes with pieces and supply them to construction sites, while working to increase production through technical innovations.

The women often call on disabled soldiers to encourage and support them, looking after them with warm affection to ensure that they feel no inconvenience in their lives.

The primary committee of the Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League at the factory was awarded the Kim Il Sung Youth Honour Prize in August last year, in recognition of their good work.

*Article & photos: Jin Yong Ho*
The electric locomotive Pulgungi (Red Flag) No. 1 was awarded the title of DPRK Labour Hero in September last year. Pulgungi No. 1 was the first electric locomotive in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Workers, technicians and office men at the then West Pyongyang Railway Factory completed the locomotive in August Juche 50 (1961) in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, carrying out the policy of the Work-

Pulgungi No. 1 running along the east coast of the country, and its engineman, Ri Yong Hak.
ers' Party of Korea on railway electrification.

President Kim Il Sung came to see the locomotive and named it *Pulgungi*.

Since then, *Pulgungi* No. 1 has run millions of kilometres without accident, exceeding its transportation targets every year.

Chief engineman Ho Thae Chol and other crewmen are filled with pride at driving an electric locomotive awarded the title of DPRK Labour Hero.

The locomotive runs between Tanchon and Kowon, cutting between or through many hills on its route.

Its crews had met their annual performance target by October 10 last year.

The crews are working harder than ever to carry more goods, upholding the slogan, "Drive for extra-haulage on schedule without accident to implement the decision of the 18th Plenary Meeting of the Fifth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea".

*Article & photos: Choe Song Uk*

The crews of *Pulgungi* No. 1, full of honour and pride, are confident they will bring about a new phase in the development of the country's transportation, upholding the torch Ranam.

Their special affection for *Pulgungi* No. 1 ensures that the engine runs on schedule and without accident.
April in Pyongyang is the best month of the balmy spring season, a time when all sorts of flowers come into full bloom.

In this warm and fine season in 2002, Pyongyang will stage the mass gymnastics and artistic performance "Arirang".

"Arirang" consists of 4 acts, a prelude and a finale. Presenting living and vivid artistic scenes with the legendary song "Arirang", it shows how the Korean people became the masters of their own destinies and emerged as a dignified nation after experiencing many vicissitudes.

It will be a masterpiece unprecedented in its scale, form and content. A comprehensive grand art performance, it will be staged using Korea's famous songs, beautiful and graceful national dances, mass calisthenics, acrobatics, fascinating backdrops and modern equipment and lighting techniques.

The display of wonderful, kaleidoscopic scenes and ever-changing, spectacular, backdrops extra-
large screens and the lights of laser illuminations are combined artistically to create an unforgettable show. Once you see it, you’ll have a strong urge to see it again.

"Arirang" will be performed by some 100,000 people, including famous Korean artistes and prize-winners at international and national contests, as well as students and schoolchildren.

It will be staged from the end of April to the end of June at the famous May Day Stadium on Rungria Islet, which lies in the middle of the River Taedong. The islet ranks among the finest places for picturesque scenery in Pyongyang, the capital city of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

Ticket applications for the performance have been increasing rapidly, with strong interest from foreigners all over the world.

Welcome to Pyongyang, where all sorts of flowers are in full bloom.

Please don’t let this unique opportunity pass you by.
The Fifth National Immunization Day

Protecting children's health and life is an important issue directly related to the future of the country and nation.

The Fifth National Immunization Day was marked in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea last year. In the DPRK, October 20, the anniversary of the publication of President Kim Il Sung's immortal classic *Socialist Medical Science* is designated as the National Immunization Day.

On this day every year since 1997, all children up to the age of five across the country have been vaccinated against polio.

The WHO, UNICEF and other international organizations have rendered sincere support to the DPRK in its efforts to successfully observe the day each year. The DPRK Ministry of Public Health, the WHO, UNICEF, donor organizations and other aid bodies closely cooperate with each other in the efforts to eradicate various diseases from the country.

On the recent National Immunization Day, all children up to the age of five in Pyongyang and the provinces were vaccinated against polio.

*Article & photo: Hwang Kum Chol*

---

Formal Agreement Is Signed

After signing a formal agreement on the 4th meeting of the inter-governmental committee for economic, scientific and technological cooperation between the DPRK and Vietnam, the 4th meeting of the inter-governmental committee for economic, scientific and technological cooperation between the DPRK and Vietnam took place in Pyongyang in October last year.

At the meeting both sides appraised the positive development of cooperation in different sectors, including the economy, culture, science and technology, between the two countries in recent years, on the occasion of the Vietnam visit by President Kim Yong Nam of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly.

They discussed how to strengthen the traditional friendship and cooperation between the two countries for the mutual benefit of their peoples and peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity in the region.

Other issues of mutual concern were also discussed, including trade relations and economic cooperation, and agreement was reached.

A formal agreement on the matters discussed at the meeting was signed.
A delegation from the House of People's Representatives of Indonesia headed by Speaker Akbar Tandjung visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in November last year. Tandjung said that the friendly relations between the two countries are based on the firm foundations built by the former Indonesian President Sukarno, respected President Kim Il Sung and esteemed Marshal Kim Jong Il.

Talks were held between a delegation from the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly and a delegation from the House of People's Representatives of Indonesia.

At the talks, both sides briefed each other of the situation in their respective countries and exchanged views on the development of the friendly and cooperative relations between the two parliaments, as well as a series of other issues of mutual concern.

Tandjung presented Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, with a gift for leader Kim Jong Il.

The guests visited the Kumsusan Memorial Palace to pay their respects to President Kim Il Sung, who lies in state at the palace. They also looked around President Kim Il Sung's birthplace at Mangyongdae, the Tower of the Juche Idea, the Grand People's Study House and other sites of interest.

The Japan Aichi prefectural fact-finding team on the drafting of Koreans, led by Takeuchi Hiroshi, the former mayor of Handa, visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in October last year.

The team was formed in June 1992 with the aim of investigating in detail Japan's drafting and forced labour of Koreans in Aichi Prefecture.

The focus of its activity is an investigation into the forced labour of Koreans at the Nakashima Aircraft Company in Handa.

The Japanese government refused to permit the entrance of a DPRK delegation, which included three victims of the Nakashima Aircraft Company, into Japan in August last year. As a result, interviews planned in order to hear the testimony of the Koreans did not take place. The team therefore decided to visit the DPRK so they could hear from the victims directly.

During its stay in the DPRK, the team met the surviving "comfort women for the Japanese army" and victims of drafting to learn more about their suffering.

Ito Takashi and other members said they had gained the strong impression that the anger of the Korean people toward Japan would not subside until the Japanese government makes a sincere apology for the country's past crimes against Korea.

They expressed their will to make every effort to improve Japan-DPRK relations through their future activity on the basis of settlement of the past.

A delegation from the House of People's Representatives of Indonesia looks round the Tower of the Juche Idea.

The Japan Aichi prefectural fact-finding team on the drafting of Koreans meets the surviving "comfort women for the Japanese army" and victims of drafting to learn more about their suffering.

Meeting with Victims

The Japan Aichi prefectural fact-finding team on the drafting of Koreans, led by Takeuchi Hiroshi, the former mayor of Handa, visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in October last year.

The team was formed in June 1992 with the aim of investigating in detail Japan's drafting and forced labour of Koreans in Aichi Prefecture.

The focus of its activity is an investigation into the forced labour of Koreans at the Nakashima Aircraft Company in Handa.

The Japanese government refused to permit the entrance of a DPRK delegation, which included three victims of the Nakashima Aircraft Company, into Japan in August last year. As a result, interviews planned in order to hear the testimony of the Koreans did not take place. The team therefore decided to visit the DPRK so they could hear from the victims directly.

During its stay in the DPRK, the team met the surviving "comfort women for the Japanese army" and victims of drafting to learn more about their suffering.

Ito Takashi and other members said they had gained the strong impression that the anger of the Korean people toward Japan would not subside until the Japanese government makes a sincere apology for the country's past crimes against Korea.

They expressed their will to make every effort to improve Japan-DPRK relations through their future activity on the basis of settlement of the past.

A delegation from the House of People's Representatives of Indonesia looks round the Tower of the Juche Idea.

A delegation from the House of People's Representatives of Indonesia looks round the Tower of the Juche Idea.
An exhibition of artist Ro Hae Chong's work took place in Pyongyang in April Juche 89 (2000). More than 40 pieces were exhibited, including "Icefall" and "Mt. Jangsu Aflame with Autumnal Tints, Longing for the General".

Visitors to the exhibition were unsparing in their praise, their comments including: "He has moved Mt. Jangsu to Pyongyang" and "The works have a strong Korean colouring and retain the national characteristics."

Ro Hae Chong, a worker at the Undok Health Complex in Haeju City, is 61 years old. In his schooldays he was an art circle member. After completing senior middle school he created more than 300 pieces in a period of intense labour, gradually improving his skill. Many of them featured the scenery of Mt. Jangsu.

He resolved to make the mountain the focus of his work 20 years ago.

When he visited the mountain, he heard about its remarkable history.

(I'll become an artist to accomplish leader Kim Jong Il’s will to make every tree in the country for the people, valuing it.)

Sketching the unique scenery of the mountain's four seasons was not an easy job.

On one occasion he spent over 60
days on the mountain, and another time he scaled dangerous cliffs. He often lost himself in his work on a tree till the evening began. Every tree and patch of grass on the mountain was important to him. In the rainy season he built a retaining wall and filled up a hollow when the root of a pine tree was exposed. Therefore, the locals call him a "forest protector of Mt. Jangsu".

In February several years ago, the mountain was buried deep in the snow, far above usual levels. Seeing her excited husband, Ro Hae Chong's wife was worried about him. He eased her mind, saying: "The mountain is in the midst of unusually picturesque scenery. This only happens once in a thousand times. Mt. Jangsu should not be pictured only on fine days."

Breathing upon a brush to warm it, he drew the picture "Mt. Jangsu in Winter". It was highly praised at the exhibition. The speculative and inquiring artist continues to paint the ever-changing scenes of the mountain.

*Article & photos: Choe Ju Gang*
Yun I Sang (1917-1995), a winner of the National Reunification Prize, was a world-famous composer.

His music, full of the spirit of the nation, developed the mode of modern Oriental music applying unique composition techniques, thus playing a pivotal role in the development of modern music in the latter half of the 20th century. Yun I Sang won fame as a great master of contemporary music and attracted much envy.

He created over 100 cantatas, symphonic poems, orchestral music and chamber music, including the cantata "My Land, My Nation" and the symphonic poem "Kwangju, Forever!"

President Kim Il Sung and leader Kim Jong Il declared Yun I Sang as a talented musician of the nation.

Thanks to their great affection and favour, the Yun I Sang Concert has been played in Pyongyang every year since Juche 71 (1982).

The 20th concert was held in September last year, the first year of the new century.

The programme of the concert included the cantata "My Land, My Nation" representing the desire...
of the Korean people, who have lived on the same territory for 5,000 years, to put an end to the tragedy of Korea's division at the earliest possible date and bring prosperity to a reunified land of three thousand-ri, as well as a music for soprano and chamber ensemble "Night, Be Divided".

The Yun I Sang Orchestra and other performers won great admiration from the audience by their graceful and refined performance of the selected pieces.

Present at the concert were officials, workers and artistes in Pyongyang; Ri Su Ja, the widow of Yun I Sang, and her daughter; overseas Koreans staying in their socialist homeland; and some foreign diplomats in the DPRK.

Article & photos: Kong Yu Il

"Trio Violin, Cello and Piano", composed by Yun I Sang.

"Halo", composed by Yun I Sang, is sung by Ri Hyang Suk, a soprano.
The Pyongyang Othan Kindergarten has a number of talented musicians. They include tanso soloist Kim Kyong Ju and his accompanists, kayagum players Choe Kwang Ok and Song Mi Hyang and janggo player Ju Won Hyok. Audiences are filled with admiration for their playing of traditional Korean musical instruments, calling them "lovely and talented children" and "fine little players".

Thanks to the state's popular education policy and the teachers' devotion to the future generation, the players have developed the skills that now win them high praise. Despite many shortages, the state provides all kinds of facilities and equipment, including musical instruments, to allow children to realise their full potential.

The head of the kindergarten, Thak Myong Dok, and Sok Un Sun and other teachers regard it as their duty and a source of pride to recognise the talent of the children and help to develop them.

The teachers know well how to play a variety of national musical

Performers of the tanso solo “The Native Home on Mt. Paektu”, which took first place at the national kindergarten children's art festival.
Children are trained in the art of listening to music.

Kim Kyong Ju, a well-known tanso soloist.

Instruments, including tanso.
They also work hard to develop children's creativity.
The kindergarten has produced many talented musicians who ranked first at the national kindergarten children's art festival for several years.
Kim Kyong Ju, Choe Kwang Ok, Song Mi Hyang and Ju Won Hyok performed the tanso solo 'The Native Home on Mt. Paektu' at the festival last year, taking first place.
The cute players are the pride of the kindergarten.

Article & photos: Choe Won Chol
Jo Pok Sun, the winner in the 60 kg category.

Pak Kyong Ok, the gold medallist in the 45 kg category.

Hard training.
At the Asian Women Boxing Championships

DPRK women boxers decorated the opening page of Asian women's boxing with gold medals according to boxing experts from different countries who attended the First Asian Women Boxing Championships, held in Bangkok, Thailand, in August last year.

The DPRK team participated in six of the nine categories at the championships, clinching five golds.

The championships drew 85 contestants from ten different countries and regions.

The Korean women demonstrated their excellent technique, tenacity and offensive skills throughout the competition.

Ha Son Bi defeated all her opponents with her straight punching in the first round, snatching gold in the 54 kg category.

Pak Kyong Ok took gold in the 45 kg category, with Ri Jong Hyang taking the 48 kg category, Kim Kum Son the 51 kg category and Jo Pok Sun the 60 kg category. Hyon Un Mi bagged the bronze medal in the 57 kg category.

The DPRK was awarded the team trophy and Ha Son Bi the MVP prize and cup.

It is only a few years since women's boxing made its first appearance in the DPRK.

Though they were new to boxing, the women felt aware that the honour of the motherland rested on their shoulders.

Full of willpower and self-belief, they trained hard to develop their technique. As a result, they caused a sensation at the recent championships,

"This success is only the beginning. Our goal is to demonstrate the honour of the motherland to the world by retaining the world title," said Ha Son Bi, reflecting the opinion of all the women.

*Article & photos: Kim Thae Hyon*
Cosy Korean-style buildings with hip-saddle roofs stand in a thick pine-nut forest. A clear stream flows and mountain birds chirp.

Youth shock brigade members from Jongphyong County, who had come to work at the construction site of the Kumjingang Power Station three years ago, built a stock-breeding base in the area.

Pens in the wide farm yard are full of domestic animals such as pigs, rabbits, ducks and goats. Meat, milk and eggs from the base are supplied to the young builders.

When the young people of Jongphyong County formed a shock brigade to take part in the construction of the Kumjingang Power Station, they were faced with many difficulties. The country had to carry out the "Arduous March" and forced march as a result of the imperialists' moves to isolate and stifle it.

The young workers' diet was terribly poor. They built pens one by one by their own efforts, all the while pushing ahead with the building of the power station. Young domestic animals were obtained and put in the pens.

The workers broke up the soil around the base to allow fodder to be grown and created grasslands on the surrounding hills.

Within two years, their efforts had proved fruitful.

The Kumjingang Power Station is expected to be completed ahead of schedule, thanks to the work of young people such as these who overcome difficulties by independent effort.

Article & photos: Kim Kum Jin
A family of cellists lives in Othan-dong, Central District, on the banks of the River Taedong in Pyongyang. Head of the family is U Jin Yon (65) in the Phibada Opera Troupe. His two sons and a grandson are cellists.

His eldest grandson U Sung Jin (9) is in the second year of primary class at the arts school affiliated to Pyongyang University of Music and Dance. When he was six years old, Sung Jin took first place at the national kindergarten children's individual music contest.

Sung Jin's father, U Chol, and uncle, U Chol Min, are cellists in the State Symphony Orchestra.

The growth of his two sons and grandson into cellists was the fruit of U Jin Yon's strenuous efforts.

He has played the cello in many performances, including the revolutionary operas "Sea of Blood" and "The Flower Girl", over a period of nearly 40 years. He has also performed abroad on several occasions.

He has taken part in performances attended by President Kim Il Sung and leader Kim Jong Il, and he also had the honour of having his photographs taken with them.

Full of pride, he encouraged his sons to follow in his footsteps.

He has contributed a great deal to the improvement of traditional Korean musical instruments. He was awarded the title of Master of Science of Art and given a state invention certificate.

Article & photos: Jo Un Song