“For his leadership ability and character and for his loyalty, devotion and achievements, Comrade Kim Jong Il has earned the people’s respect and love as well as high prestige as their leader.”

Kim Il Sung
Mt. Paektu (2,750 m) is the highest and most majestic mountain in Korea. From ancient times, it has been known as the ancestral and celebrated mountain of Korea.

A log cabin lies close to Jong Il Peak, a wonderful outcrop of cliffs amidst the thick forest. Leader Kim Jong Il was born in the log cabin, and spent the early part of his childhood there.

In the latter half of the 1930s and the first half of the 1940s several secret camps stood around the secret camp on Mt. Paektu, where the headquarters of the Korean revolution was situated. Located in the forest of the mountain, the headquarters was the nerve centre of the Korean revolution as a whole.

In those days, Kim Jong Suk, an anti-Japanese heroine, came to the secret camp. Commander Kim Il Sung of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army and carried out energetic military and political activities from it.

The log cabin was built near the headquarters by the small unit members. Staying in the log cabin for a long time, Kim Jong Suk familiarized herself with the state of the revolutionary organizations and went to those in the northern part of Korea, and in the northeastern and southwestern areas of Mt. Paektu, giving guidance to the work of expanding and strengthening the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland, the work of founding the party and the work of all-people struggle for the country's liberation.

In those historic days, the secret camp greeted an event bringing unprecedented happiness to the nation. On February 16, Juche 31 (1942), Kim Jong Il was born in the log cabin under the blessing of the whole nation. His birth was a bright sunrise promising the completion of the revolutionary cause of Juche started by President Kim Il Sung. It was the glory of Korea and a source of greatest joy to the Korean people.

Inheriting the blood of a patriotic and revolutionary family and receiving the soul of Mt. Paektu, Kim Jong Il grew up to the sound of gunfire in the flames of the anti-Japanese war and the blizzards of Mt. Paektu as his lullabies.

At his birthplace in the secret camp, relics from that period are preserved, including a desk, binoculars, a wooden pistol, a lamp and a wellspring providing crystal-clear water in all four seasons.

A lot of people from both Korea and abroad visit the log cabin at the home of the revolution and the Korean people, the place from which Korea of today grew.

Article: Jo Kyong Chol

A dazzling display of fireworks spreads in the sky over Jong Il Peak in celebration of the leader’s birthday in February.
The Korean people have travelled the road toward the completion of the revolutionary cause of Juche. The road, full of victory and glory despite the unprecedentedly arduous Korean revolution, is marked by the immortal achievements of leader Kim Jong Il, who defends firmly the revolutionary cause of Juche and carries it forward brilliantly.

The revolutionary cause of Juche is the cause of national independence, the cause of Korean socialism, started and led by President Kim Il Sung.

Kim Jong Il, together with the President, has led the Korean revolution with a far-reaching will to carry forward and complete the cause through the generations. Following the President, who continuously made on-site guidance tours throughout the country from his youth, Kim Jong Il has energetically advanced the work of the Party, military affairs and socialist construction.

The leader and the President were always together over dozens of years of thinking, planning, creation and building, travelling the harsh road of the revolution hand in hand.

In the course of this journey, Kim Jong Il set as the most important task the adherence to and development of the previous leader’s ideas in carrying forward the revolutionary cause of Juche. He conducted his ideological and theoretical activities with unusual research and vigour, and ensured that the President’s revolutionary idea, the Juche idea, was firmly defended as the guiding idea of the Korean revolution.

Kim Jong Il published On the Juche Idea and many other works to enrich the Juche idea with new principles and content, in keeping with the demands of the times and the development of the revolution, deepening it in an all-round way. The leader ensured that the President’s policies were thoroughly embodied in all aspects of the revolution and construction.

He exalted Korean-style socialism, centred on the popular masses, wisely leading all fields of socialist construction, such as politics, the economy, culture and military affairs.

Kim Jong Il advanced the revolutionary slogans that inspired the nation, including “Meet the requirements of Juche in ideology, technology and culture!” and “Let us live our own way!”, and established mass movements such as the Three-Revolution Red Flag Movement, thus defending and developing the socialist cause of Juche.

In the 1990s, President Kim Il Sung passed away unexpectedly and the imperialists viciously attempted to stifle the DPRK. In the grim days when the Korean people had to carry out the “Arduous March” and forced march, Kim Jong Il led the whole Party, the entire army and all the people towards the completion of the revolutionary cause of Juche.

He put forward the slogans “The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung will always be with us” and “Arm ourselves more firmly with the revolutionary ideas of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung!”, and ensured that Kim Il Sung was revered as the eternal leader of our Party and people, inspiring the masses to implement the President’s instructions.

He put forward the army-centred revolutionary line and travelled the road of army leadership to bring the Korean People’s Army into an invincible army, thus firmly safeguarding the socialist country, an estate left by the President.

He also opened the way of becoming a powerful nation, breaking the deadlock in socialist economic construction, and made socialism the eternal life and soul of the Korean people.

As they have Kim Jong Il as the head of the revolution, the Korean people are filled with the confidence that the revolutionary cause of Juche will be surely achieved.

Article: Kim Hyon Thae

Great Leadership, Immortal Achievements
Brilliant Inheritance
Spring in the hometown evokes deep emotion and memories in everybody. Many people recite their favourite poems about spring in their hometown, full of unforgettable memories. Now the Korean people regard the birthplace of leader Kim Jong Il at the secret camp on Mt. Paektu as their dear home, the place where the spring of Korea began and a bright future opened. They sing a song telling that February, when Kim Jong Il was born, is spring time.

The frost glitters in the forest of larch trees. But warm spring sunrays streak through the window. We greet spring in the garden of the native home. At the secret camp on Mt. Paektu in February.

The above is part of the song February Is Spring (written by Cha Myong Suk and composed by Jon Kwon). Every paragraph of the song refers to the historic February day on which Kim Jong Il was born, filling listeners with deep emotion.

The Korean people had wept shedding tears of sorrow over the loss of their country to the Japanese imperialists. Though spring came every year, the ice remained in their hearts.

The birth of President Kim Il Sung, the sun of Korea, at Mangyongdae, Pyongyang, and the birth of Kim Jong Il in Mt. Paektu, the ancestral mountain, ushered in the spring of Korea, melting the frozen hearts with warm sunlight.

That spring is forever part of their history as the spring of Korea and the spring of people.

Kim Jong Il is the spring sun shining over all the people, a source of affection and happiness for them. Therefore, the Korean people regard Kim Jong Il’s love as spring sunlight, and themselves as flowers under it. And so they sing that February is spring.

*Article & photos: Jo Un Song*
Leader Kim Jong Il is warmly welcomed by the people.

A baby is born in discharged soldiers’ village in Taehongdan County.

Houses for workers and farmers have been built across the country.

The Korean people unanimously call leader Kim Jong Il their father, such is their respect for him.

It is a manifestation of their ardent reverence for Kim Jong Il, who has devoted all his efforts to the Korean revolution for nearly 40 years, a period characterised by the great love and trust he has for the people.

Kim Jong Il regards “The people are my God” as his maxim. Whenever he puts forward a new
He even granted a discharged soldier's wife's request to name her future baby.

On his on-the-spot guidance tours to rough mountain passes in Jagang Province, Kim Jong Il made his car stop and spent many hours on the road with a road maintenance worker, posing for a photograph with her family.

He visited newly-built houses in Poman-ri, Sohung County, and asked masters to write a letter to him when rice was boiled by electricity, saying that it was excellent to be able to cook and heat the home using electricity.

When a rural woman in Kangwon Province delivered triplets, Kim Jong Il took a measure to send a helicopter in order to allow the babies and their mother to be cared for at the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital.

Kim Jong Il's paternal love for the People's Army soldiers who defend the motherland is limitless. Saying that he should go anywhere the soldiers are stationed, he visited the hills at the front, crossing dangerous passes and sailed across raging seas to give his warm love to them.

However difficult the country's circumstances might have been, he made sure that the Party and the state paid close attention to the people's lives and insisted that popular policies such as free medical care and free education were constantly maintained.

It was Kim Jong Il who proposed the grand plan for land realignment and the building of basic foodstuff factories in every province.

The measures taken to build new chicken farms and catfish and other fish farms were the result of his instructions. No one was more delighted than the leader to hear that their products were being provided to the people.

Kim Jong Il is truly a benevolent father who takes the greatest pride from devoting all his efforts to the people and finds his greatest pleasure in their well-being.

**Article: Kim Thae Hyon**

- Modern chicken farm and instant noodle factory maintain high levels of production.
- Large quantities of basic foodstuffs are turned out for the population.
- A fish farm in Poman-ri, Sohung County.
- Modern chicken farm and instant noodle factory maintain high levels of production.
Precious Treasures

The International Friendship Exhibition on Mt. Myohyang, a celebrated mountain of Korea, preserves gifts presented to President Kim Il Sung and leader Kim Jong Il by the heads of state, party leaders, renowned figures of political and public circles of various countries, fellow countrymen in South Korea and abroad.

On display at the exhibition are tens of thousands of gifts presented to leader Kim Jong Il.

The gifts also illustrate the tremendous admiration that exists for the leader's distinguished ideas, leadership skills and virtue.

A prominent Italian presented the golden portrait “The Dear Leader Comrade Kim Jong Il”, depicting the great man who defined the Juche idea as the guiding idea of the times. It was given in praise of his exploits as a prominent thinker and theoretician.

The adherents of the Juche idea in Nicaragua presented a marble sculpture inscribed with a quotation from the second part of Kim Jong Il’s work.

The ivory sculpture “The Sunshine of the Guide” was presented by an African president. He ensured that the best ivory in his country was chosen to make the work, which represents the desire of the people to follow the leader.

The work “Mt. Paektu at Sunrise”, made of shells of various colours collected from 16 countries over one year period, the stone sculpture “Five Horses”, symbolizing the five continents, elaborately-made portraits, congratulatory banners, wall hangings reflect the feeling of respect for Kim Jong Il.

The gifts reflect the great reverence for the leader as the sun of the nation and the lodestar in the era of independence.

The gifts also reflect the great reverence for the leader as the sun of the nation and the lodestar in the era of independence.

The large double-faced piece of embroidery presented by Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and president of the People’s Republic of China.


A silver container presented by King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia.

Silver kettle, cups and tray presented by President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation.
On the Juche Idea, saying that his achievements in synthesizing and systematizing the principles of the Juche idea will shine forever in the history of humankind. A carving from an indigenous color persimmon tree called "The Sun of Juche Shines All over the World" was presented by the head of the Central African Republic. The sun symbolizes the leader who develops and enriches the Juche idea and its rays symbolize his leadership of the era of independence.

Many gifts, including "Saddle" from the head of state of Libya, "Spear" from the former head of state of Rwanda, the large-sized wall hanging "Steed on Mt. Paektu", the wooden engraving "A Lion Tamer", the book "On Sun Zi's Art of War", long swords, guns and other gifts have been offered in recognition of Kim Jong Il as the illustrious commander.

The copper handwork "Three-horse Sledge" sent by a delegation from the former Soviet Union in admiration of the achievements of Kim Jong Il who leads the Korean revolution to victory, upholding the banner of the three revolutions-ideological, technological and cultural, the sculpture "A Man Weathering through a Storm" and the stonework "Eight Spirits" reflect the feelings of admiration for Kim Jong Il, a great master in the art of leadership.

A pair of shoes made of horseshoe, presented by the Cambodian King to Kim Jong Il, who makes continuous on-the-spot guidance trips for the people; the double-faced piece of embroidery and the book "The People's Son" from a former senior official of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China to Kim Jong Il on his first visit to China; the craftwork "Pine Tree" from the former head of state of Mozambique; the high-quality massage chair and an automatic control bed from a Japanese corporation; and other gifts reflect the presenters’ wish for Kim Jong Il’s good health in praise of his personality as a great man.

The display of these rare and valuable gifts increases the feeling of reverence for Kim Jong Il of Korean and foreign visitors to the exhibition. 

*Article: Kim Jong Sam*
Kimjongilia is a flower of rare beauty. It belongs to the begonia family, producing a glossy and crimson flower. It made its first appearance in February Juche 77 (1988) on the occasion of leader Kim Jong Il’s birthday. Kimjongilia was a new variety of flower raised by Kamo Mototeru, master of the Kamo Nursery in Kakegawa City, Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan. Kamo devoted heart and soul to the creation of the flower for over 20 years, with the desire to hand down to posterity the name of a great man revered by people of the world.

He studied the biographies of the great men of the world in search of a name for the flower that had taken over 20 years to create. In the course of his research, he read the immortal classic works of Kim Jong Il and books commenting on his greatness, and he came to have a respect and reverence for him. This is how the flower came to be named Kimjongilia.

More than ten years have passed since then, and Kimjongilia has spread throughout the world. Kimjongilia hothouses have been opened in China, Mongolia and Madagascar, and the Japan Kimjongilia Appreciation Society, the Mongolian Kimjongilia Association and the North European Kimjongilia Association formed. Kimjongilia gained further fame at the 1999 Kunming International Floricultural Exposition in China. The exhibition was participated in by 69 countries and 26 international organizations, and Kimjongilia was awarded the Grand Prize, the highest award possible and a diploma.

Visitors to the exhibition were quoted as saying, “It is the first time for us to see such a beautiful and large flower. It can be said that it represents a revolution in the area of flowering plants being introduced in the world.” They did not leave the place by taking photographs and videocamping.

At the 12th International Flower Show held in the then Czechoslovakia, Kimjongilia received high praise from visitors, who said it was “the most beautiful flower in the world” and “a symbol of loyalty and ardour”. It won the gold medal and special prize.

The flower was also commended at the North European Flower Show held in Sweden in March Juche 84 (1995). Saying that Kimjongilia could not be compared with other flowers, the vice-president of the Mongolian University of Oriental Philosophy declared that it is the flower of great man, only named after His Excellency Kim Jong Il.

The general secretary of the World Federation of Democratic Youth said that though many countries and nations exist in the world, only the Korean people have such a precious flower bearing the name of a great man.

The magnificent Kimjongilia Show is held in Pyongyang every year on the occasion of Kim Jong Il’s birthday. The show is visited by many foreigners and overseas Koreans, and they pay unstinting praise, as well as showing ardent reverence, for Kim Jong Il. Kimjongilias are now raised with great care by many people, both in Korea and abroad.

Several thousand Kimjongilias have been taken home by people of all walks of life from more than 100 countries during the last ten odd years. Kimjongilias are now in full bloom, sending forth their fragrance around the world.

Article: Kim Jong Ho

Kimjongilia blooming in the compound of the Kirov Plant in St. Petersburg, Russia, raised by its employees with great care.

Foreigners look round the Kimjongilia Show.

The DPRK exhibition hall at the 1999 Kunming International Floricultural Exposition in China.

The prize for excellence awarded to Kimjongilia at the Jilin Provincial Flower Exposition in China.

The prize, gold medal and certificate awarded to Kimjongilia at the 12th International Flower Show.

The Grand Prize and a diploma awarded to Kimjongilia at the 1999 Kunming International Floricultural Exposition in China.

The prize, gold medal and certificate awarded to Kimjongilia at the 12th International Flower Show.
A new year performance, "Prides of the Twelve Months", was given at the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace in Pyongyang on January 1, Juche 91 (2002).

Schoolchildren performed colourful art pieces on the stage, full of happiness and joy at learning to their heart's content and growing up stoutly under the care of the Workers' Party of Korea. The performance began with song and dance "Happy new year". In it, the schoolchildren sincerely offered their new year greetings to leader Kim Jong Il who is firmly defending socialist Korea and brilliantly accomplishing the cause of building a powerful nation with his army-centred leadership, the trusty sword ensuring victory, fully reflecting their best wishes.

They warmly congratulated fathers and mothers across the country upon their great success in building a powerful socialist country, firmly rallied behind Kim Jong Il, adding brilliance to the army-centred era. The repertoire included solo accompanied by youngum ensemble "We will add brilliance to Jong Il Peak through ages", national music instrument ensemble and song "April holiday, the Day of the Sun", duet and chorus "Greetings to the General who returned after a long journey", folk solo "Greater happiness awaits", dance tale given by Korean kids in Japan titled "The greatest house in the world", male chorus "The torch of Ranam lights the whole country", and gymnastic dance "Our hearts are with Mt. Paekdu". The performers showed in their beautiful songs and graceful dances the unshakeable belief of the Korean people that this year will be a year full of victory and glory, just as the last year was, thanks to Kim Jong Il's guidance and Korea will become a powerful nation in the new century.

They demonstrated with their optimistic outlook that they are preparing themselves to be able future workers, learning to the full under the care of Kim Jong Il.

A new year performance of workers took place on December 31 last year.
Mt. Paektu's Hyangdo Peak at sunrise.  Photo: Kim Yong Nam
**The Loyal Ranks**

"Let us undertake both the defence of the country and the building of socialism!" This is the unanimous will of the soldiers of the Korean People’s Army who firmly defend the socialist motherland.

The revolutionary spirit, filling the whole army from white-haired generals to young soldiers, reflects their firm determination to take the lead in supporting leader Kim Jong Il’s army-centred leadership.

In recent years the Korean people have undergone trying ordeals due to the imperialists’ moves to isolate and choke their country.

In the days when the very existence of socialism was threatened, Kim Jong Il put forward the unique army-centred revolutionary line, based on the revolutionary philosophy that the army is the Party, state and people. He labelled the KPA the pillar and main force of the revolution.

Thanks to the leader’s great trust, the soldiers of the KPA grew into a match-for-a-hundred combatants and the whole army became full of intense loyalty to him.

With the pledge “Defend the supreme headquarters of the revolution headed by the great Comrade Kim Jong Il at the cost of our lives!” all the soldiers became human bullets and bombs to guard the leader.

They implemented the leader’s orders at any cost and firmly defended the sky, land and seas of the motherland against the manoeuvres of the imperialists without the slightest vacillation.

The KPA soldiers were the first to embark on the task of implementing Kim Jong Il’s plan to build a powerful nation.

Full of the determination to build a strong and prosperous nation at any cost, they built the Anbyon Youth Power Station, Rimjingang Power Station No. 1, the second stage of the Chongryu Bridge, Kumnung Tunnel No. 2 and many other power stations, as well as factories, enterprises, and fish and chicken farms.

As the standard-bearers in supporting Kim Jong Il’s army-centred revolutionary leadership, they continue to undertake both the defence of the country and the building of socialism.

*Article & photos: Kim Hyon Song*
The Mathematics Institute of the Academy of Sciences has long focused on the study of basic theories, mathematical models and calculus, the tasks set for it at the time of its establishment. But it is now broadening its research into areas such as basic mathematics, applied mathematics, dynamics and program technology, in line with the present global developments.

Researchers, including an analytics laboratory, serve as bases for research.

Academicians, professors and doctors make up nearly 50 percent of the research group. The institute has made a great contribution to the solution of scientific and technological problems arising in different fields of the national economy, upholding the Workers' Party of Korea's policy of attaching importance to science for the past 50 years since its foundation.

Despite the severe shortages during the period of the "Arduous March" at the end of last century, the researchers achieved great success in the studies into techniques for examining mechanical vibrations, establishing observation and control systems for computerized production processes, and using the quality and logic of partial differential equations, displaying the spirit of self-reliance and fortitude.

Last year, they developed computer programs for continuous sound-recognition and numerical sound-recognition by applying the technology of sound-recognition program and developed the technique of document information processing to make many programs.

The achievements they have made in this area are being introduced into production processes through trials.

Kim Tae Gon, deputy head of the institute, said that over 40 research discoveries made last year proved beneficial to more than 30 key factories and enterprises.

Academicians, professors and Dr. Ri Jae Gon, the Academician, Professor and Dr. Ri Jae Gon.

He has always been a standard-bearer in the country's key development projects.

During the period of the "Arduous March" and forced march, his brigade made extraordinary achievements in building the Democratic People's Republic of Korea into a powerful nation.

Labour Hero Ri Se Il, head of the Fourth Brigade of the Speed Campaign Youth Shock Brigade of the Kim II Sung Socialist Youth League, burns with youthful ardour.

Ri called upon the young builders to work with the conviction, "As the Party decides, so we do!". His careful organization and practical examples in all jobs inspired the workers to carry out the project ahead of schedule. They carried earth with jute bags, knapsacks and carts to build the roadbed. The most difficult project the brigade faced was the building of a bridge in winter. Ri was the first to throw himself into the icy water, giving great encouragement to the young workers. He also took the lead in gathering sand and gravel.

When the railway project between Wonsan and Mt. Kumgang and major industrial projects in Pyongyang were being pushed forward, Ri ensured that the young people demonstrated the honour of being the vanguard and shock brigade in building a strong and prosperous nation.

Ri has continued to take the lead in a number of recent industrial projects in order to push the country's development, upholding the torch of Ranam lit by leader Kim Jong Il.

Academician, Professor and Dr. Ri Jae Gon.

Academician, Professor and Dr. Ri Jae Gon.

Labour Hero Ri Se Il, head of the Fourth Brigade of the Speed Campaign Youth Shock Brigade, who made great achievements during construction of the Youth Hero Motorway.

The information processing laboratory.

The information processing laboratory.

Ri Se Il maps out a plan of operation and directs the construction effort in a big way.

Ri Se Il maps out a plan of operation and directs the construction effort in a big way.

Researches at the Mathematics Institute of the Academy of Sciences discuss their work.

Researches at the Mathematics Institute of the Academy of Sciences discuss their work.

Higher and Faster

Young people play the role of vanguard and shock brigade in building the Democratic People's Republic of Korea into a powerful nation.

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During the period of the "Arduous March" and forced march, his brigade made extraordinary achievements in building the Democratic People's Republic of Korea into a powerful nation.

Conditions were very difficult, with machinery, equipment and tools in short supply.

Ri called upon the young builders to work with the conviction, "As the Party decides, so we do!". His careful organization and practical examples in all jobs inspired the workers to carry out the project ahead of schedule.

They had to construct three bridges, lay several thousand metres of road and build numerous underground structures.

He also took the lead in gathering sand and gravel.

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The People of Huichon

A city stands at the confluence of the River Changdok and the River Huichon. The place is Huichon City, Jagang Province, surrounded by beautiful mountains. It is a centre of the machine industry and an industrial city. The area was one of the most seriously affected during the period of the "Arduous March".

The imperialists’ moves against the DPRK and consecutive natural disasters brought food shortages and electricity cuts, causing untold trouble to the people of the city. The population were forced to choose between defending the red flag of socialism or surrendering to a life of colonial slavery again. They chose to fight it out at the risk of their lives, and managed the factories, workplaces and villages while surviving on grass and tree roots as substitute food.

Leader Kim Jong Il’s on-the-spot guidance at Huichon City in June and October Juche 87 (1998) provided great strength and encouragement to the people. He praised them highly for having continued production and construction despite the difficult conditions, upholding the slogan “Push ahead through the thorny path in high spirits!”, and illuminating the road ahead for Huichon. Inspired by the leader’s instructions, the whole city came alive.

The Huichon Machine-tool Factory manufactured several hundred machine tools in only two or three months, thus making a great contribution to the development of the machine industry in the DPRK. The Huichon Silk Mill produced dozens of tons of good-quality silk thread every year. Other factories and enterprises raised production standard with the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude.

Public service facilities, including the Huichon Hotel, took responsibility for producing meat and eggs and rendered assistance to the industrial workers and technicians. Under the guidance of the city committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea, the citizens built several hundred houses at locations across the city and expanded enterprises. Thanks to their tireless efforts, power stations, embankments, pens and processing bases at stock-farms, houses and welfare service facilities were built faultlessly.

Despite their success, the people of Huichon are not resting on their laurels. A new upsurge in production is currently taking place. Workplaces are filled with the spirit of guarding the leader with one’s life and the revolutionary spirit of implementing the Party’s policy at any cost, following the example set by the workers of the Ranam Coal-mining Machine Complex.

The Huichon Machine-tool Factory

At the Huichon Machine-tool Factory.

Workers processing rotary equipment.

Staff at the Huichon Hotel serve working people using supplies the themselves produced.

Realizing the Plan for Building a Powerful Nation

Ri Yong Thae is the chief secretary of the Hamhung City Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea.

In the period of the "Arduous March", factories and enterprises in Hamhung, an industrial city, lacked electric power, fuel and materials. The citizens suffered from food shortages.

During that time leader Kim Jong Il was devoting all to defending the sovereignty of the socialist motherland and building a powerful nation, maintaining army-centred leadership. Ri Yong Thae was fully aware that his duty was to inspire the people of the city to overcome the difficulties they faced and contribute to the building of a powerful nation.

A stubborn man of practical ability, Ri Yong Thae is someone who can fully embody the leader’s ideas and intentions. The terraced power stations on the River Songchon, a raw material base and the Youth Goat Farm in Hamhung City, conceived and built in those difficult days, are now proving their worth in the new century.

Ri Yong Thae has always accomplished the leader’s goals, mapping out plans in a big way. While looking over the fac- tories which had been forced to suspend production, he realized that electricity had to be generated before anything else. He immediately proposed to build power stations on the River Songchon.

Ri Yong Thae also advanced plans to reclaim wild land along the seashore for agricultural use, something nobody had dared to do in the past, and suggested turning the deep and rugged uninhabited valley in the Sangchung area into a goat farm. After several consultations he pushed ahead with the projects.

He told the people of the city about the significance, ways and order of priority for construction, instilling in them confidence and courage. Shaping board and lodging with the builders, he took warm care of them. When an embankment collapsed, he was the first to throw himself into the river to block the hole with his chest. He also took the lead in breaking on the mountains and opening a route to the valley, instigating young people to work through the night.

Life not merely for today but for tomorrow! This is Kim Jong Il’s outlook on the future.

Ri Yong Thae supports the leader’s philosophy with an enterprising attitude toward work. He made strong demands upon the builders to ensure the quality of all the structures, and also insisted their worth in the new century. Ri Yong Thae has always accomplished the leader’s goals, mapping out plans in a big way.

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The DPRK won the 13th Asian Women’s Football Championships, held in Chinese Taipei from December 4 to 16 last year. The Korean women notched a string of victories in the championships, which involved 14 countries and regions. Over the course of the competition they scored a total of 53 goals, an all-time high in 24-year history of the Asian Women’s Football Championships.

The DPRK team wins the 13th Asian Women’s Football Championships.

They overpowered opponents from Guam 19-0, Vietnam 4-0 and Singapore 24-0 at the group stage. No team had ever scored 24 goals in a single match in the past championships.

The Korean team then edged Japan 1-0 in their final group match to enter the semifinals as winners of the group. A 3-1 victory over China, which had won the Asian championships many times, took them into the final. There they faced a rematch with Japan.

The Korean women had trained hard, overcoming all sorts of difficulties with revolutionary faith and will in the grim period when the country was on the “Arduous March” and forced march due to the imperialists’ attempts to isolate and suffocate the country. Full of confidence in victory, they took the initiative from the kick-off. The Japanese were desperate to gain revenge for their defeat in the group match between the two, but they were unable to break the Korean women’s strong hold on the game. Two second-half goals were the reward for the DPRK’s determination and skill.

Ri Kum Suk got the first in the 67th minute, with Ri Un Gyong sealing victory with a deflected free-kick from 22 yards. The Japanese were unable to reply, and the 2-0 win gave the trophy to the Koreans.

Jo Song Ok, the Korean captain, was awarded the Asian MVP Prize and Ri Kum Suk, who scored 15 goals, was crowned “scoring queen” of the championships.

The Korean people gave a warm welcome to the champions on their return home after bringing honour to the motherland.

Article & photos: Ra Phyong Ryo
The land realignment project continues to make brisk headway in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

As a gigantic nature-harnessing project to make a countryside befitting socialism, it offers the prospect of an increase in grain output, despite the limited area of arable land in the country.

Small plots of land have already been rearranged into large standardized fields in Kangwon and North Phyongan provinces, changing the face of rural areas. The second stage of the giant project is now underway after the successful completion of the first stage in South Hwanghae Province.

The target of realigning 100,000 hectares of land in South Hwanghae Province has nearly been reached allowing the construction part of the project to commence.

Shock brigade members from national bodies, provinces, cities and counties and People's Army soldiers take part in the project. Among them are Labour Heroes and innovators who performed brilliant feats in the land realignment projects in Kangwon and North Phyongan provinces, gaining great experience in the process.

The builders cherish a deep respect for and loyalty to leader Kim Jong Il, who has inspected the land realignment sites on several occasions to give instructions, showing great concern for the workers and giving them belief.

Recalling the leader's efforts to make South Hwanghae Province a paradise for the people, shock brigade members from Pyongyang and the provinces are hard at work, full of confidence and vigour, upholding the torch of Ranam, a fresh torch of the 21st century.

South Hwanghae Province will take on a new appearance in spring this year.

The work to carry out the tasks set in the joint editorial published by Rodong Sinmun, Josoninmingun and Chongnyonjonwi is pushed forward to achieve constant success in the land realignment project.

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**Article & photos: Jin Yong Ho**
The Rahung Concrete Sleeper Factory, a key factory in the development of the country's railway transportation, is pushing forward with the modernization of equipment in order to increase the production of sleepers. Leading officials are bravely carrying out the upgrading work at the sleeper, repair and maintenance, railway and other workshops. Workers and technicians at the factory built a rolling mill in a short period of time by their own efforts, allowing the production of different materials and round steel of various sizes in great quantity and of high quality. They improved existing equipment to enable the integration of operations at the factory. They increased output by 70 percent through a technical reconstruction program. The sleeper workshop has also achieved great success, and all workshops have made strenuous efforts to modernize equipment according to the factory's long-term plan.

A control machine was installed in the streamlined sleeper production process to enable a major enhancement in quality. The ongoing technical reconstruction continues to bring about a great change in production at the factory.

Workers at the Rahung Concrete Sleeper Factory bring about an innovation in production, emulating the manner of work shown by the workers of the Ranam Coal-mining Machine Complex.

Article & photos: Kim Jong Ung
The Democratic People's Republic of Korea entered the World Health Organization in 1973 and has strengthened cooperation with the organization over the years since.

Maintaining close relations with the DPRK, the WHO has rendered assistance in various fields over recent years. The organization also provides medical instruments and laboratory equipment according to conditions and demand, and supplies the latest medical equipment and technical data in line with developments in modern medicine. Another area of great concern to the WHO has been the development of medical workers' skills by providing training in modern medical practice in particular fields. Short courses are organized for them and training abroad is now being provided for key workers in core medical fields.

The WHO has recently strengthened its assistance to the community medical service, especially the smallest units. Many have been supplied with basic equipment, and techni-
cal short courses have been given to medical workers.

Egil Sorensen, representative of the WHO mission to the DPRK, said: "I'm pleased with the fact that a good public health system has been established in an orderly manner in the DPRK to make the specialists be immersed in their work. Please give my thanks to the Korean people. We will continue to pay the closest attention to the treatment of worldwide diseases and focus everything on that work. We will manage the regional mission well, in close contact with the DPRK government, and through it, will strive to positively carry out all WHO plans effi-
ciently."

Article: Kim Tong Sik
Photos: Kim chol

Cooperation Strengthened

The 300th Set of Triplets

The Pyongyang Maternity Hospital witnessed the birth of its 300th set of triplets on December 10 last year, the first year of the new century.

Making the event all the more pleasing was the fact that the mother, Sin Yong Ok (35), had given birth to another set of triplets just eighteen months previously.

Sin, who lives in Tonghung-ri, Kim Hyong Gwong County, Ryanggang Province, gave birth to two daughters and one son in June Juche 99 (2000). In December last year, she gave birth to two sons and one daughter. The mother's health is very good and the triplets are doing well.

Sin said to the many visitors bearing congratulatory bouquets: "I feel like I am living in a dream right now. When the country was experiencing the hardships of recent years, I could not imagine that I would be able to give birth to triplets."

Sin is a farmer at the Tonghung Cooperative Farm. Her husband, Hwang Chang Un, is a tractor driver at the same farm.

Leader Kim Jong Il was informed of the first birth in a most out-of-the-way village in an alpine region. Despite the tremendous difficulties the country experienced in the period of the "Arduous March" and forced march, the leader took measures to ensure that the babies and their mother were taken to the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital by helicopter and provided with the best possible medical care.

They were provided with all sorts of tonics and nutritious food and all four recovered their health under the care of an able medical team.

The first triplets are now cared for at the provincial nursery school. When Sin gave birth to the second set of triplets, the state again arranged for her to be taken to the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital before four months and then gave special treatment to her and her babies for their health.

Sin now receives support from many people under the socialist system that values people above all else.

By the strenghtening of ties between the People of DPRK and Russia in recent years, a delegation from Moscow headed by Alexander Muzykantski, minister of Information and Social Policy of the City Government, visited the DPRK in November last year.

During its stay in Pyongyang, the delegation visited the Kimjong Memorial Palace to pay homage to President Kim Il Sung, who lies in state at the palace.

The guests also looked round several other places in the capital, including the birthplace of President Kim II Sung at Mangyongdae.

A talk between officials of the Pyongyang City People's Committee and members of a delegation from Moscow was arranged.

The guests later enjoyed a performance given by schoolchildren of Moranbong Senior Middle School No. 1 in Pyongyang. The skillful singing of Korean as well as Russian songs held the audience spellbound.

Sin Yong Ok receives the devoted care of a medical worker at Pyongyang Maternity Hospital

Sin Yong Ok, a farmer at the Tonghung Cooperative Farm in Kim Hyong Gwong County, Ryanggang Province, gave birth to two daughters and one son in June Juche 89 (2000). In December last year, she gave birth to two sons and one daughter. The mother's health is very good and the triplets are doing well.

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Environmental protection is the prime concern of all humankind. A policy of preserving the nation’s rich resources and clean environment is earnestly carried out in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

In the difficult period when the country was on the “Arduous March” and forced march, environmental protection remained a key state policy, and scientific methods and new technology were introduced in the work.

The information service system has been further expanded, with information databases increased at the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection and its affiliated units. The nationwide computer network and local networks in several affiliated units have been linked.

Managers have acquired a high level of skill in information technology. Land management and environmental protection have become further modernized.

The Hydro-Meteorological Service was linked with the computer networks to establish an monitoring system to prevent forest fires and flood damage using satellite photographs. Computers have also been introduced in the survey of land resources.

The forestry information service system has been used in the drawing-up of afforestation plans to push forward the planting of suitable species of trees.

The improvements have opened up bright prospects for the protection and effective use of forest resources. Article & photos: Jin Ju Son

Introduction of Information Technology in Land and Environment Protection

Computers are being actively introduced in the survey of land resources.

Letters frequently come to the orthopedic laboratory of the Kim Man Yu Hospital. A while ago Ri Kwan Mo, a farmer from Sadong District, Pyongyang, and Ri Jae Hyok at Han Tok Su Pyongyang University of Light Industry sent letters of thanks to the laboratory. They had recovered after suffering seriously broken arms without operations.

The laboratory was only recently established, but its staff have already achieved success in their research, always keeping in mind leader Kim Jong Il’s instruction that the work of improving the health of the people is the most important task of medical workers. The introduction of lever-style bone-setting equipment and external bone-setting apparatus has proved very effective in treatment.

The medical workers healed dozens of patients who had missed the period of natural bone-joining by using new, efficient methods of treatment. They laid down a criterion for the indications of operation and found how to readjust a broken bone in different conditions by using modern functional diagnostic equipment. A funnel-style setting technique was introduced to treat previously incurable breakages of cervical vertebra, a development highly appreciated by patients.

Master Ko Jae Ryun, the head of the laboratory, who has been a medical worker for over 20 years, said that devotion to people resulted in such success. Article & photos: Pyon Chan U

Sincere Devotion to Patients

Careful examination is performed.
A girl hurried home holding her guitar to her chest after finishing an after-school lesson at the music circle. Under the guidance of a teacher at the school.

At first glance, she appeared quiet yet energetic. The girl was Song Hye Ryon, a fifth-grade pupil at Pyongyang Taehung Senior Middle School. She is famous for having a distinguished musical talent. Under the guidance of a teacher at the school, Song Hye Ryon receives musical training from ardent teacher Im Hwa Ok and from Song Kuk Hwan, her strict father, at home. Her father is an artist at the Tourist Souvenir Exhibition.

She sometimes did her homework and musical practice under her father’s guidance. Now she is examined by her father in playing a piece of music which she has newly arranged, as required by the creative teaching of Im Hwa Ok.

She has played the guitar since her primary school days when she acted as a sub-branch chairperson of the Children’s Union organization. Her hard work and perseverance proved fruitful. She took part in the annual national schoolchildren’s recital contest in Juche 89 (2000). Appearing on the stage with self-confidence and composure, she immediately attracted the attention of the audience and judges. When she began to play the guitar, you could have heard a pin drop in the theatre. The sound was perfect, with richness, clear tones, and a graceful resonance. The judges ranked her the best performer, declaring that she was equal to a professional guitarist. Despite receiving thunderous applause and congratulatory bouquets, she told herself that she was still far from a level high enough to give pleasure to leader Kim Jong Il.

Hye Ryon is coached by her father at home. Last year, Hye Ryon continues to practice hard to master instrumental and vocal music, while arranging many more guitar solos.

The teacher developed her burning energy and talent to a new stage. She introduced new, creative instruction methods which demanded strenuous effort from Hye Ryon. Hye Ryon always carried music paper with her to note down her inspirations on the street or at meal times. The more her desire to meet the leader grew, the richer her fruits of creation became.

She arranged as many as 50 guitar solos in a year. Selecting five of them, she sent a tape and a letter to Kim Jong Il so that he could relieve his fatigue for a moment during his hard work for the people’s well-being.

The leader greatly appreciated the girl’s gift and made her famous across the country. Cherishing the honour, Hye Ryon took first place once again at the national schoolchildren’s recital contest last year.

Hye Ryon is bent on studying. The teacher developed her burning energy and talent to a new stage. She introduced new, creative instruction methods which demanded strenuous effort from Hye Ryon. Hye Ryon always carried music paper with her to note down her inspirations on the street or at meal times. The more her desire to meet the leader grew, the richer her fruits of creation became.

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The Mundok Migratory Bird Reserve lies on the lower reaches of the River Chongchon (Tongrim-ri and Ryongo-ri in Mundok County), next to the west coast of Korea. The area is one of the major resting points for migratory birds in northeast Asia. It is used by white cranes with red chests, white-naped cranes, bustards, swan geese and other birds. A total of 169 different kinds of bird have been observed in the area. According to a survey conducted from February 20 to April 10, more than 18,000 migratory birds were observed in the period.

The reserve covers an area of 3,000 hectares. The annual average temperature is about 9°C and annual average precipitation is about 1,100 mm. The reserve is noted for the large numbers of swan geese that use it. The birds are similar to geese and are considered a rare species in the world. During one year's movement over 5,000 of the birds were spotted. Their wings are 462 mm wide on average, the tails 150 mm long and the beaks 93 mm.

They reach the reserve in late October and hunt for food in the tideland, lakes and rice-fields. When spring comes they start to move once again.

Thanks to the state's policy on preserving nature, special attention is paid to protecting the swan geese. As part of a far-sighted plan to increase their numbers, the authorities have worked to create an ideal habitat for the birds.

*Article & photos: Kim Jong Chol*