Great Leadership, Immortal Achievements

Brilliant Achievement of the Cause of the Leader’s Eternity

Although the years go by, the Korean people still hold President Kim IL Sung in esteem as their benevolent father and the eternal leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. President Kim IL Sung was the invincible and iron willed commander who liberated Korea, accomplished the cause of building the party, armed forces and state in the liberated country, and defended the motherland and nation from the aggression by the US-led imperialist allied forces. He was also a genius of creation and construction, the man who built a socialist Korea. The President devoted himself entirely to the cause of his country and people. His immortal achievements are kept deep in the hearts of Koreans. Their emotions have not changed since his unexpected death in July seven years ago. The Korean people’s earnest desire to forever remember President Kim IL Sung, the first great leader they had acclaimed in their 5,000-year history, has been successfully accomplished by leader Kim Jong IL's lofty morality and sense of obligation.
The President lived for many years at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall until the last moment of his life, leading the Korean revolution. Leader Kim Jong IL ensured that the assembly hall was remodelled as the sacred temple of Juche and the President rested there as in his lifetime forever. Leader Kim Jong IL renamed the assembly hall as the Kumsusan Memorial Palace. He saw to it that it was rebuilt in a reverential style to allow our people to visit it at all times to meet the President and recall his immortal leadership achievements. Thanks to his wise guidance, the interior and exterior of the building were beautifully rebuilt. They include the hall where the marble statue depicting the President’s sacred and solemn image stands, the room which displays orders conferred on the President by various countries, rooms for preserving a train carriage and a car used by the President, a plaza and an arboretum.

Working people pay homage to President Kim IL Sung in the hall where his Statue stands.

Part of the room which displays orders, medals and certificates of honorary Titles conferred on President Kim IL Sung by various countries.
Thanks to the sense of obligation of leader Kim Jong IL to revere the President from generation to generation, the President will always be with our people at the Kumsusan Memorial Palace, the sacred temple of Juche.

Leader Kim Jong IL put forward the slogan "The great leader Comrade Kim IL Sung will always be with us." He decreed that the Juche era be instituted, with 1912 as its first year, the year the President was born. April 15, his birthday, was designated as the Day of the Sun.

At the First Session of the 10th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, held in September Juche 87 (1998), he saw to it that the Kim I1 Sung Constitution, which legally established Kim IL Sung as the eternal President of the DPRK, was adopted.

Leader Kim Jong IL ensured that the President's immortal achievements, made for the country and people, were glorified. He presented the slogan "Let us arm ourselves more firmly with the revolutionary ideas of the great leader Comrade Kim II Sung!" and made the whole Party, the entire army and all people hold aloft the banner of the Juche idea.

The work of editing the President's classic works has been further advanced, and books explaining the President's revolutionary exploits scientifically and theoretically, as well as related literature and art works, have been published in large numbers.

Statues of the President have been newly built across the country. Monuments inscribed with the President's signature and his on-the-spot instructions have been also erected.

Leader Kim Jong IL has continued to give guidance during inspections of Korean People's Army units, factories, enterprises and cooperative farms, maintaining the President's style of leadership. He has inspired the whole Party, the entire army and all people to implement the President's instructions faithfully.

When the D.P.R.K faced tremendous difficulties, a period known as the "Arduous March" and forced march, due to the imperialists' attempts to isolate and stifle it, combined with consecutive natural disasters, leader Kim Jong IL wisely led the people, with the firm faith and will to overcome all problems on our own, in accordance with the President's teachings.

Now the beacon fire of another grand march is burnt up to fulfill the President's desire and miracles and innovations are brought about throughout the country.

By the noble fidelity of leader Kim Jong IL, the supreme incarnation of morality and obligation, President Kim I1 Sung will always be with our people and the President's history lives on in this land.

Article- & photos: Kim Thae Hyon
Monuments and natural rocks engraved with the slogan “The great leader Comrades Kim Il Sung will always be with us” can be seen in different places, as well as artworks depicting President Kim Il Sung.
Many people visit President Kim IL Sung’s statue on Mansu Hill, with strong yearning profound feelings of reverence him.
Modern poultry farms have been built throughout the country. Among them is the recently completed September 27 Chicken Farm. Its collection of buildings covers an area of dozens of hectares. They include facilities for breeding, hatching, fattening, egg-laying, feed processing and meat processing. The buildings blend well with the surrounding fruit trees and flowers, giving the chicken farm the appearance of a rest home.

Nests are laid layer upon layer in the breeding, fattening and egg-laying buildings. Feeding, water supply, lighting, temperature, humidity and ventilation are controlled by computers.

One employee raises 25,000 chickens in 1,260 nests in each fattening building. The annual output of meat amounts to several thousand tons. Chickens reach a weight of more than 2 kg in around 40 days during the fattening process. Once they have reached this weight, the processed chickens are conveyed to a cold storage area via an automated line or are taken directly to shops or distribution centers by trucks.

Daily egg production amounts to tens of thousands. The eggs are carried by a conveyer belt before being packed.

Manager Cha Jin Sun said that despite only recently beginning operation the farm has put production onto a high level. It aims to increase the output of meat and eggs by breeding chickens in a systematic way that employs the most advanced techniques, the manager added.

Article & photos: Ra Phyong Ryol
Part of the egg-laying building

Assorted feed is processed.

Chickens are conveyed to the meat-processing unit.
Researchers at the propagation laboratory
Examine ecology of crucian carp.

Our country is increasing the fish catch through the development of fish farms. In recent years many spawning ponds and fish farms have been built in Samchon, Unchon, Songchon, Songhwa and Pukchang counties and other areas. Using scientific methods, production has been developed on a large scale. The Fish Farming Research Institute in Sungho District, Pyongyang, is busy with its vital role in this process.

Master Ri Hwan Song, chief of the breeding laboratory.

Analyzing the quality of water of fish ponds.
It carries out studies of mainly freshwater fish, including catfish, carp, crucian carp, variegated carp and Kinyomo (memorial fish), and fish to be raised in semi-salty waters. The institute has dozens of authoritative, culture and other laboratories, and more than 100 experimental ponds. It has conducted studies of artificial spawning, breeding and feeding of freshwater fish and solved scientific and technological questions arising in fish farming. In particular, it achieved good results in its research into methods for the rapid breeding of catfish and production of instant feed, in support of the Workers’ Party of Korea’s policy of raising more catfish and other productive fish. Researcher Ri Hwan Song studied the hatching and breeding of catfish, raising the hatching rate from 75% to 95% and the survival rate of newly hatched and young fish from 55% to over 75%. Researcher Choe Kwang Ho studied the collection of fish eggs and breeding of fry, succeeding in raising the growth rate from 85% to over 90% and the spawning rate from 85% to 95%. The researchers devote all their wisdom and energy to introducing scientific methods into fish production, overcoming many difficulties. Kim In Su, vice-head of the institute, said that its main task is to make detailed studies of productive fish and step up their production.

Article: Jo Kyong Chol
Photos: Ra Jong Hyok
The Three Tombs of Kangso are J. stone-chambered earth tombs from the final period of Koguryo situated in Sammyo-ri, Kangso District, Nampho City. The three tombs are of different sizes; large, medium-sized and small. They are one-chamber tombs, consisting of an inner chamber and corridor. Murals of four guardian-gods are painted in the large and medium-sized tombs. These two tombs are believed to be the tombs of kings who reigned during the final period of Koguryo. The Three Tombs of Kangso are the finest examples among Koguryo mural tombs and precious relics showing the development of Koguryo culture. They are simpler than previously discovered ones in their structure, well framed and carefully designed using Koguryo measurement tools. The three tombs have some differences in size and ceiling structure. The ceiling of the medium-sized tomb is a parallel bracket, while the large one features a triangular bracket. The murals are painted on well-cut granite without plastering. The murals of the two tombs have the same themes and similar depictions. Mineral colours were used to paint the murals, including green and blue, ultramarine blue, vermilion, yellow soil and black, and these colours are still vivid though over 1,300 years have passed. The four guardian-gods, which were painted on all four walls, are imaginary animals-blue dragon, white tiger, tortoise-serpent and red phoenix. The paintings are well composed, powerful and beautiful. Though the number of paintings is high, the quality is excellent. The blue dragon and tortoise-serpent murals in the large tomb and the white tiger and red phoenix murals in the medium-sized tomb are the finest paintings of the gods. The blue dragon in the large tomb and the white tiger in the medium-sized tomb, which depict running imaginary animals, give a vivid impression of the ferocity of animals’ nature, with well-balanced structure, powerful forefeet, sharp claws and tortuous tails. The tortoise-serpent mural in the large tomb depicts the scene of a tortoise and serpent entangled. Well framed structure, powerful lines and vivid colours are organically combined. The mural of the red phoenix spreading its wings in the medium-sized tomb depicts a beautiful and clever bird, a creation of the Koguryo people’s imagination. The ceilings of the two tombs show patterns of honeysuckle painted powerfully. Lotus flowers painted on a parallel bracket in the medium-sized tomb are particularly wonderful.
Mural in the central part of the ceiling of the large tomb. The mural of fairies flying in the clouds, painted on a ceiling bracket of the large tomb, gives a rhythmic current of the fluttering trains of dresses. It evokes a beautiful and romantic sentiment, showing the high level of development of art in those days, as do the other murals. The murals of the Three Tombs of Kangso are of the highest artistic standards among Koguryo murals.

As valuable architectural and art heritage of Korea, the three tombs hold an important place in world art history. They were greatly damaged by Japanese imperialist aggressors. Many remains and relics were plundered by them. Now the Three Tombs of Kangso are preserved as a national treasure.

Father and Three Sons in the Land Realignment Project

While giving on-the-spot guidance in July to cooperative farms in South Hwanghae Province, where farmland has been realigned, leader Kim Jong Il met Kim Pom Ryong and his sons Kim Yong Su, Kim Chol Su and Kim In Su, all bulldozer drivers from the Jangphung County Land Development Centre. He praised their patriotism, appreciating their contribution to realigning a vast area of land in support of the far-reaching nature-harnessing plan of the Workers’ Party of Korea.

After discharge from military service 35 years ago, Kim Pom Ryong returned to native village and, two years later, became a bulldozer driver. Some people were worried about him, for he was small in build. He was quick in developing his skills, however. Kim Pom Ryong was inseparable from a bulldozer. Full of ideas and energy, he gave his all for the motherland. He wanted his sons to follow in his footsteps.
As his third son Kim In Su’s graduation from senior middle school approached, some people advised Kim Pom Ryong to find him an easy job, not that of bulldozer driver.
He told them: "Who will drive the bulldozers if everybody seeks an easy job?"
The three sons duly followed their father, working with him at the same centre.
They are the pride of the centre as a result of their strong sense of responsibility towards their work.
When the centre undertook the project of realizing leader Kim Jong Il’s massive land realignment plan, the four were the first to volunteer for it. They have carried out a remarkable amount of work for four years with two bulldozers since the land realignment project began in Kangwon Province.
They have always carried out their assignments conscientiously.
One day during the rice-planting season in May, Kim Chol Su (the second son) found a pile of earth on a ridge between rice-fields while working on one of the paddy fields without water. He quickly turned around his bulldozer. But there was no way to cross the field, now planted with rice-seedlings.
Fanners told him they intended to remove the pile, but he couldn't leave the work for others to do.
He deeply regretted the fact that he hadn't completed the job, so he took the wheel again. He put the caterpillars of the bulldozer on both dikes of an irrigation channel and successfully drove his bulldozer 300 metres, finally levelling the ridge.
When land realignment was completed in Kangwon Province, officials at the centre intended to send one of the four home, worrying about the families the men had left behind. But all four went to the site of the land realignment project in North Phyongan Province, declaring that they should take no break while realizing leader Kim Jong Il’s ambitious land realignment plan.
The father and his sons celebrated their birthdays and holidays at the sites of the land realignment projects.
True to form, they finished their tasks ahead of schedule in the project in South Hwanghae Province, as they had in Kangwon and North Phyongan Provinces.
Their devotion has made them well known throughout the country, as they take the lead in building a powerful nation.

Article: Jo Chol Song
Photo: Choe Song UK

A site of the land realignment project in the evening.
Taekwon-Do is gaining the attention of more and more people. The number of people participating in the sport is increasing. International and regional tournaments take place under the auspices of the International Taekwon-Do Federation. The tournaments help to develop Taekwon-Do techniques and broaden the popularity of the sport. In the DPRK, Taekwon-Do is particularly popular among working people. The country has produced many excellent competitors. The numerous medals and cups won by members of the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee team in international tournaments are the pride of the Korean people.

Kim Yong Sun (27) is a three-time world Taekwon-Do champion and a coach of the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee team. She joined the team in Juche 78 (1989).

Becoming a sportswoman had been a childhood dream of hers. In her schooldays she was a fine volleyball player. When Taekwon-Do became popular and clubs began to be run, she resolved to become a fighter of Taekwon-Do, permeated with the wisdom and soul of the Korean nation. She overcame the heavy burden of training with her strong perseverance and will. Sometimes she collapsed from fatigue during training. However, she strove to increase the intensity of her training in all aspects of Taekwon-Do, including pattern, sparring and power, and mastered one by one her special techniques such as the downward kick and 360° turning kick.

It was those special techniques that enabled her to defeat her opponents in several international tournaments, ultimately bringing her the honour of being a three-time Taekwon-Do champion. Kim Yong Sun has won two cups and 18 medals in total, a reflection of her proud career spanning 10 years devoted to the motherland and people. She is possessed not only of good techniques but also of strong will.

At the 10th World Taekwon-Do Championships, held in Russia in Juche 86 (1997), she hurt her right arm in the first match, but she fought her way to the finals thanks to that strong will, winning the 63 kg category event.

A People's Athlete, Kim Yong Sun remains as determined as ever to repay the motherland and people by producing good results in competition.

*Article & photos: Kim Jong Sam*
Labour Hero and Dr. Pak Tong Su, manager of a department at the Tobacco Corporation.

In March, a man was awarded the degree of Doctor of Engineering at a ceremony to confer state degrees and academic titles. His eyes were full of passion, but his lips were firmly closed. He walked with long strides. He gave the impression of a taciturn but enterprising man. His name was Pak Tong Su, a worker at the Tobacco Corporation.

Pak Tong Su has worked at a paper mill of the corporation for nearly 40 years. He graduated from university thanks to the study-while-working educational system. He combines a great deal of experience with scientific and technological knowledge. He now works as the manager of the repair and maintenance department at the corporation.

He is a doer, not a talker. He regards leader Kim Jong Il’s aphorism "He who says something is impossible is not speaking Korean" as his trusty sword and the maxim for his life. The aphorism is displayed in large red characters on the wall of his workshop. Bearing the leader’s words in mind, he came up with an original solution to the problem of achieving whiteness in cigarette paper, and was also successful in making new equipment for producing such paper.

When the country was on the "Arduous March", cigarette paper had to be manufactured independently. Pak Tong Su took charge of making the equipment, vital to the future of the country’s tobacco industry.

"At first I felt a great burden on my shoulders. I was fright-ened and afraid. Our people are able to create something from nothing. Thinking of the day when my small success would please leader Kim Jong IL, I buckled down to the work with a firm resolve," said Pak Tong Su, recalling the difficult period. It was not easy for him to make the equipment consisting of 20,000 parts in 3,600 different kinds by his own efforts, without a blueprint.

Pak Tong Su could not ask for help under the difficult conditions. Sometimes he had to go hungry. He worked hard, day and night, deeply conscious of his duty to the country. A man of zeal, enterprise and undauntedness, he succeeded in making the new equipment, named "Self-reliance" or "Forced March".

Pak Tong Su devoted all his energy to solving scientific and technical issues arising in the manufacture of cigarette paper. His many inventions and devices have proved hugely ben-efticial to the country.

In recognition of his work, he was awarded the title of Labour Hero. In July, leader Kim Jong IL gave on-the-spot guidance to the Tobacco Corporation. Seeing the modern production equipment, the product of Pak Tong Su's effort and knowledge, the leader acclaimed him as a fine worker, saying the equipment was excellent and the whiteness of paper was good.

Moved by this great honour, Pak Tong Su said: "The supreme leader of the Party and the state praised me highly and takes care of me. Now I feel like I can pluck a star out of the heavens."

Pak Tong Su continues with his work at the corporation, achieving further success for the benefit of the nation.

Article & photos: Kim Hye Hui
The bell rings out to begin lesson at a school on Mt. Kuwol, a celebrated mountain in Korea. It is the Fort on Mt. Kuwol branch school of Wonphyong Senior Middle School in Unryul County, South Hwanghae Province. Three children of caretakers of the revolutionary site on the mountain study at the school. It was built in April this year, providing a bright classroom where the pupils can study happily.

Previously the children had studied at a school many miles away from their homes, forcing them to live apart from their parents. The state ensured that a branch school was built for them and assigned a teacher to work there. Everything needed for the education of the children, including textbooks and other equipment, are provided by the state.
Ri Kwang Song in the third grade likes to draw pictures. After school he is absorbed in painting the picturesque mountain. He is called a "landscape painter" by the elders of the community.

Fourth grader Ri Un Gyong is a good accordionist. The villagers enjoy listening to her play in the evening.

Ri Kwang Ho, a first grade pupil, likes to kick a ball, dreaming of becoming a footballer.

Ri Un Gyong's father said: "Our children, despite living on a remote mountain, can study just like other children thanks to the munificent country, where the children are its 'kings'."

The pupils at the branch school are working hard to become pillars of future society, loudly singing a song of happiness.

Article & photos: Choe Ju Gang
The Central Zoo is situated at the foot of picturesque Mt. Taesong in Pyongyang, covering an area of over 100 hectares. The zoo opened in April in Juche 48 (1959). It has many animals indigenous to Korea and from various other countries. An aquarium stands just behind the entrance to the zoo. It has a total floor area of 600 square metres. Freshwater and saltwater fish live in water tanks that are designed to replicate their natural environment. More than 2,000 fish of nearly 100 different species are kept at the aquarium.
Tropical and subtropical fish of various sizes and colours and a 300-kg turtle draw the attention of visitors. The aquarium in the gift animal house displays rare fish presented to leader Kim Jong II by Jonas Wahlstrom, director of the Skansen Aquarium in Sweden, in February Juche 73 (1984) and on subsequent occasions. They include mouth brooders, archer-fish and upside-down catfish. The gift animal house exhibits more than 1,000 fish from over 70 species.  

O Man Gun, vice-director of technology at the Central Zoo, said that the number of tropical fish, difficult to raise and breed, including oscars and Pterophyl-lum eimekei, is on the increase.

Article & photos: Jin Yong Ho

Heniochus acuminatus

Pangasius sutohi.

Testudo denticulato.
Prof. And Dr. Kim Sang Ryong vice-director
In charge of surgical technology.

Dr. O Yong Chol, a doctor at the recovery treatment department.

Medical workers of the abdominal surgery department at the South Hamgyong Provincial People’s Hospital perform another successful operation. They are loved and respected by the people.
Merited Doctor and Master Jo Yong In, Master Kim Pyong Thae, head of head of the chest surgery department. The urinary surgery department. Master Han Song, a doctor at the Resuscitation department.

The surgery department at the South Hamgyong Provincial People’s Hospital has 17 special sections organized according to systems, internal organs and diseases. In recent years, the sections have carried out an average of over 1,700 operations every year and saved 450 critical cases from the verge of death. In the days of the "Arduous March" the people in the province suffered difficult living conditions and their health worsened. Medical conditions were also poor. The situation required the medical team to work with great devotion and care.

Surgeon Kim Jong Chol and nurse Ri Yun Hul gave grafts of their own skin to a man who had suffered 80-percent third degree burns and shared a room with him.

Medical workers devote themselves to treating a patient. After five months of intensive treatment, the patient had made a miraculous recovery.

The surgery department has able medical workers, including dozens of professors, associate professors, and doctorate and master's degree holders. They dedicate their energies and wisdom to implementing the Workers’ Party of Korea's public health policy. They have studied and introduced several new remedies and medicines, making a great contribution to the development of the country's medical science.

During the last two years, the state has awarded the medical team seven patents, 32 certificates of introduction of new technology and 55 certificates of new invention.

The urinary surgery department developed a method of breaking down calculus in the kidneys by using shock waves, while the coronary artery surgery department has applied a new absorption method for purifying blood. Both of these techniques have proved greatly effective in treatment.

In total the team have successfully introduced 72 medical treatments, including a number of traditional Koryo remedies. The medical workers value human life above all. They regard the patients' pain as their own and dedicate their own blood or skin to them without hesitation. They display the reality of Korean-style socialism.

Article & photos: Ra Jin Hyok
Han Kwang Su (61) is called a hard-working hero workshop manager at Pyongyang Pottery Factory, where he has worked as a workshop manager since 1976. After finishing special school, he began his career as a kiln worker. With the determination to devote his life to pottery production, he strove to study the technology of the industry. His technical skills continually improved as the days went by. In the end, no one was a match for him. He implemented improvements to the production process, streamlining the equipment at his workshop and elevating his workers' skill level. He works energetically to preserve the excellent traditions of the nation. All decorations, such as cranes, various flowers, fresh grape vines, and patterns are drawn in keeping with the tastes of the Korean people, adding much to the quality of the products.

But Han Kwang Su does not rest content with his success. Recently, he has succeeded in making a special pottery. His workshop has exceeded targets set in the national economic plan every year, a tribute to the dedication of its manager.

Han Kwang Su, a workshop manager at Pyongyang Pottery Factory, preserves the national traditions well in pottery production.
An unusual Pyongyang couple has engaged in scientific research for about 40 years. Many years ago, Ri Sok Hui, a mathematician, gained a doctorate and the title of professor, and his wife Kim Se Hyon, a chemist, the same degree and position of associate professor, for their meritorious service in scientific research, education and training.

In their Kim Il Sung University days they were full of the spirit of inquiry. After graduation Ri Sok Hui became a teacher at the university and Kim Se Hyon a researcher at the Academy of Sciences.

There is no end to the road of scientific research, exploring an unknown world. Ri Sok Hui and Kim Se Hyon married, with the joint resolve to devote their lives to research. Ri Sok Hui presented papers conducive to developing the country's science and technology. "Topological calculation on electronic circuit networks", presented by him 20 years ago, drew attention in the mathematical world for its great availability.

He has compiled dozens of textbooks and reference books, including books on vague mathematics, making a great contribution to developing mathematical education in Korea.

Seventeen Masters or doctorate degree holders who were his students now work in the field of mathematics.

Kim Se Hyon has made valuable discoveries which have contributed to the development of the chemical industry, and has also trained several Masters and doctorate degree holders.

The couple continue to conduct research which can be applied to the building of a powerful nation.

*Article & photo: Kim Jong Ung*
Flower Show

Kimllsungia and Kimjongilia.

Stuffed doves

Miniature landscape of Sea Chilbo’s Sabina sargentii Nakai and Mujigae Rock.

Miniature landscape of cactus.
The Second Pyongyang Flower Show was held in September to mark the 53rd anniversary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The show exhibited Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia, immortal flowers, in beautiful bloom, supported by the burning hearts of the entire Korean nation. More than 4,900 exhibits of 710 species were displayed. Including flowers raised by officials of people's committees, institutions and enterprises, working people and flower lovers in Pyongyang and every province. Wild flowers from different parts of the country, potted plants and miniature landscapes were also put on show. The variety of beautiful flowers attracted great interest and admiration from visitors. The show gave people the opportunity to take an interest in various kinds of flowers and the beautification of the city. It was of particular significance because it marked the anniversary of the DPRK in the first year of the new century.

Article & photos: Kang Chol

Stuffed oriole.

Stone depicting goldish

Gladiolus

Physostegia virginiana Benth.
President Kim Yong Nam of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly with director General of the United Nations Food And Agricultural Organization and His Party.

A government delegation from the Democratic Republic of the Congo visits the Three-Revolution Exhibition.

A delegation from the Socialist Labour Party of Britain visits the Monument to Party Founding.

Shashank, secretary for economic relations of the Indian Foreign Ministry, recently expressed high praise for President Kim Il Sung. During his visit to the DPRK in September, he visited the Kumsusan Memorial Palace to pay homage to President Kim Il Sung. He looked round various areas of the palace that are associated with the President's immortal revolutionary achievements.

The secretary also visited Mangyongdae, where President Kim Il Sung was born. Explaining his joy at visiting Mangyongdae, he said that the Indian people deeply revere President Kim Il Sung. He added that he hoped the Korean people would accomplish the President's lifetime wish, Korea's reunification, at the earliest possible date.

Of President Kim IL Sung’s native Home at Mangyongdae.

A delegation from the Indian Foreign Ministry poses for a photograph in front.

The DPRK and Libya are geographically distant, but the peoples of the two countries continue to strengthen their friendly relations.

A friendly gathering was held at the DPRK-Libya Friendship Aeguk Moran Garment Factory to mark the 32nd anniversary of the Great September First Revolution of Libya.

Members of the People's Bureau of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in the DPRK were among those invited to the gathering. The guests looked round the factory and enjoyed a performance. They also had familiar talks with the factory's officials.

A friendly gathering with members of the Members of People's Bureau of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in the DPRK is held at the Aeguk Moran Garment Factory.
In August, Korean stamps were well received at the Japan World Stamp Exhibition 2001, held in Tokyo. Philately enthusiasts from 58 countries and regions exhibited stamps from their collections. The display and sale of stamps from various countries and regions also took place. The DPRK has issued more than 4,000 different stamps over the past 55 years. Over 2,000 of them were put on show at the exhibition. A variety of maxicards, stamped cards and envelopes were also displayed and sold. Stamps depicting President Kim IL Sung and leader Kim Jong IL drew particular attention from visitors to the exhibition. Stamps based upon the theme of building a powerful nation, including one showing the launching of the artificial earth satellite Kwangmyongsong 1 and a stamp commemorating the historic Pyongyang meeting between leader Kim Jong IL and Kim Dae Jung, president of the Republic of Korea, in June last year, also proved popular. 

Article: Jo Un Song  
Photos: Mun Kwang Son

The friendly relations between the DPRK and Germany grow deeper day by day. In September the Orchestra of Bonn University visited the DPRK for the first time. It consisted of 49 members. Organized in 1953, the orchestra has given 196 performances in 25 countries. It is now a world-renowned orchestra. Recently, the performances in the DPRK were conducted by Walter Ludwig Mik. The performers played the overture to “Leonare No. 3” composed by Beethoven, concerto for two violins and string orchestra “D Minor” composed by Johann Sebastian Bach, as well as a number of other pieces, winning great admiration from the audience. The performances were given at the Yun I Sang Concert Hall and the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace. 

Article & photo: Hwang Kwn Chol

A scene from a performance given by the Orchestra of Bonn University Germany.
In July this year, a party was held to celebrate the 70th birthday of Japanese woman Ra Ok Hui at her house in Ryusong-dong on the banks of the River Taedong. Her children, relatives and friends warmly congratulated her, and a birthday table was provided by leader Kim Jong IL.

Ra Ok Hui’s original name was Ren Kiriko. Amid the flashing of cameras and the focus of a television camera, she faced the table and said emotionally "Thank you!", shedding tears of gratitude.

The past 40 years of her life in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea flashed through her mind. When her husband returned to his socialist homeland, the DPRK, in December Juche 50 (1961), she followed him.
The day she entered a new Hat on the main street of Pyongyang, she could hardly repress her emotions. The kitchen was full of utensils, rice and side dishes. The rooms were full of furniture, and all of the rooms were warm. Ra Ok Hui was grateful to the DPRK government.

The first Korean words she learned were “Thank you!”, taught by her husband.

Many years have passed since then.

The state appointed her as a teacher at Pyongyang University of Foreign Studies.

Her children grew up happily. Whenever she gave birth to other children she felt keenly aware of the benefits of free medical care and free education in the country with no taxes.

All of her seven children studied at universities, receiving scholarships from the state.

No one was happier than her, she thought.

"I was always sorry. I did not do much for the country, but it continued to confer its benefit upon me," said Ra Ok Hui.

Her desire to repay the country led her to the decision to do good work for society and the collective.

She came to realise that genuine happiness could be found in the effort to create social wealth and through devotion to the country.

Revelling in the vibrant times, she has visited builders at socialist construction sites and soldiers to encourage them on over 40 occasions during the past 10 years, bringing material support with her.

Her ardent wish was to please leader Kim Jong IL, but she never dreamed of enjoying such happiness and glory.

She attended several national meetings, including the National Meeting of Vanguards for Communist Virtue, as a delegate. She also had the honour of posing for a photograph with President Kim IL Sung and leader Kim Jong IL.

Leader Kim Jong IL extended thanks to her many times in praise of her deeds and saw her letter.

Ra Ok Hui is now well known throughout the country.

She said: "I live in a society whose benefits to me have been endless. I therefore feel I owe a great debt to this country."

Her former Japanese schoolmates and friends told her, out of envy: "Among us, you are the happiest."

When she went to Japan as a member of the second group of Japanese-Korean women to visit their home country, she had a moving meeting with her brothers and sisters. Touched by her obvious happiness they sent a letter of thanks to leader Kim Jong IL.

"In the DPRK, all of Ra Ok Hui's seven children graduated from universities. They work hard for the country in various fields, according to their aptitude and hopes. She now leads a life that is emotionally and materially stable, together with her 12 grandchildren. Hearing her story in person, we feel at ease.

"All this is thanks to you, leader Kim Jong IL. We thank you again from the bottom of our hearts."

*Article & photos: Jin Ju Song*
Kim Jun Ok (left), producer at the Korean April 26 Children’s Film Studio, is a winner of the Kim IL Sung Prize and People’s Artist.

Kim Jun Ok has worked as a producer of children's films for 40 years. He is widely praised as a producer living in the world of children. Kim Jun Ok developed a fondness for drawing pictures during his childhood in a village of Pyoksong County, South Hwanghae Province. His humorous pictures would move his fellow villagers to laughter.

When the Koreans were in colonial slavery due to the Japanese imperialists’ military occupation, the boy was denied the opportunity to let his talent bloom. It was only after liberation that his dream was fulfilled.

After graduating from Pyongyang University of Fine Arts he later became a painter at the Korean April 26 Children’s Film Studio (the then cartoon creation group of the Korean Film Studio). In those days he was determined to let the children born in the socialist motherland grow laughing to their hearts' content. His motivation came from his optimism for the future and a sense of gratitude to his dear motherland.

His career has seen him promoted to the position of chief painter, then producer, spending 40 years in the world of children. Kim Jun Ok has produced 400 children’s films in this long career. Among them are parts of the multi-part cartoons A Squirrel and a Hedgehog and The Clever Racoon Dog. All are popular with children and grown-ups alike.

Several of his works were commended at international film festivals for their deep insight into the mind of the child, their suitability to the reality of life and unique style.

Kim Jun Ok is now a People’s Artist and winner of the Kim II Sung Prize, the highest prize in the DPRK. Though he grows older, he works as hard as ever, with the same determination he displayed 40 years ago.

Article: Kim Hyon Thae Photos: Choe Ung Gang

A scene from the cartoon A Hedgehog Defeats a Tiger.

Scenes from the multi-part cartoon The Clever Racoon Dog.
Kim Jun Ok demands that the work reflects children’s feelings.

Kim Jun Ok spends a great deal of time with children.

A scene from the multi-part cartoon The Boy General
The River Taedong-crossing event, involving a race across the 500m wide river, was held in August in Pyongyang. The contest provided an opportunity for pupils to show their strong collective strength and will, as they develop into healthy young people of a maritime country. July and August are noted in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as the time for water-based sports. The period is the best season for such sports in Korea, a country sea-bound on three sides and with many rivers and streams. Water-based sports are popular during these months every year, and ample facilities can be found all over the country. Swimming pools, bathing resorts and wading pools can be seen in many places. Every school has a swimming pool in fact. Swimming contests are frequently held and various events take place in the sea and rivers. Particularly common are swimming competitions for school pupils and students. On the occasion they prepare themselves for labour and national defence.

Article & photos: Kong Yu II

At the Panwoldo swimming pool.
The River Taedong-crossing event.
At the Munsu Pool.