FRONT COVER: Part of group sculpture “Advancement” erected on the shore of Lake Samji, a revolutionary battle site.

Photo: Ri Song Il

Pictorial KOREA is published in Korean, English, Chinese, French and Russian.
The Ryongsong Machine Complex is widely known throughout the country as the “mother factory” in the production of machines. Over the past decades the complex has made a great contribution to building a self-reliant national economy, displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude.

It has manufactured many large machines, including an 8-metre turning lathe in the space of five months in the late 1950s, 3,000-ton and 6,000-ton presses in the 1960s, 20-metre lathe and 18-metre turning lathe in the 1970s and a 70-metre gantry planer and 10,000-ton press in the 1980s.

The complex has produced necessary ordered equipment and sent it on schedule to factories and enterprises, including the February 8 Vinalon Complex, in the process of construction.

In recent years, when the country was on the “Arduous March” and forced march as a result of the imperialists’ moves of isolation and suffocation, the complex produced many ordered equipment, including generating equipment.

In April the complex had the great honour of receiving the on-the-spot guidance of leader Kim Jong Il.

Speaking highly of the complex, which has achieved successes at every stage of socialist construction, leader Kim Jong Il set the task of producing the modern equipment needed in building a powerful nation.

The officials and workers at the complex are working to increase production of ordered equipment, regarding the task as evidence of the leader great trust in them.
Workers at machine workshops Nos. 1 and 4 in charge of main processing took an oath of loyalty on the spot, and are making constant innovation in the manufacturing process of the ordered equipment, which includes hydraulic turbines.

New methods are also being introduced at machine workshops Nos. 3 and 6, which are responsible for producing compressors, the workshop for rotary precision machines and the steel-casting workshop.

Technicians at the design office and the technical development department combine their strength and wisdom in the research and planning stages to develop new-type efficient compressors.

Manager Jo Pyong Ju said that his complex would successfully achieve its production target for this year, maintaining the tradition of self-reliance to contribute to building a powerful nation.

This kind of determination can be seen throughout the complex.

Article: Kim That Hyan
Photos: Ri eAt Yap

The complex is expediting the production of ordered equipment.
A gantry planer proving its worth in production.
With the Desire of Reunification

The country’s reunification is the long-cherished desire of the Korean nation.

This desire is represented by the North-South Joint Declaration, which was adopted in the historic meeting in Pyongyang by the heads of the north and the south last year.

The past year since the declaration was published has been a significant one in which the Delegates from the north, south and abroad express their firm will to achieve national reunification at any cost, exchanging the warm feelings of fellow countrymen.
whole nation took a big stride forward in the patriotic effort to achieve national independence and unity, under the guidance of leader Kim Jong Il. Our nation significantly marked June 15, the day of the publication of the North-South Joint Declaration.

A meeting was held in Pyongyang, at which Yang Hyong Sop, vice-president of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People’s Assembly, made a speech. He said that the historic Pyongyang summit and the publication of the North-South Joint Declaration resulted from the lofty ideal of independent national reunification, the generous spirit and love of the country and nation, and the outstanding political ability of leader Kim Jong II. The movement for national unity in the last year is being further intensified, he noted.

Saying that the most urgent task for the Korean nation is to achieve the country’s reunification, he stressed that the whole nation should crush the anti-reunification scheming of the US administration and some right-wing conservatives in south Korea, and carry out more stubbornly and thoroughly the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration.

A grand seminar on national reunification title “June 15 Joint Declaration and Task of the Nation” took place at the foot of Mt. Kumgang, the first of its kind since the division of the country.

Delegates from different political parties and organizations form the north, south and abroad, as well as individuals from a variety of backgrounds, took part. The participants in the seminar spoke on the great significance of the historic Pyongyang meeting and the June 15 Joint Declaration. They unanimously supported the joint declaration and expressed their will to expedite its implementation by the united efforts of the whole nation, in order to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

The seminar adopted a joint communiqué supporting the June 15 Joint Declaration and calling for the whole nation’s backing to hasten its implementation through national unity. The North-South Joint Declaration was one for independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity, and was an action programme and common milestone in the process of reunion, the statement emphasised.

It said that the participants should closely unite, transcending differences in ideology, ideas and system. Organizations from the north, south and abroad, and figures from every walk of life should realize solidarity and coalition, it stated. It also underscored the need to activate multi-faceted cooperation and exchanges and to settle the humanitarian issues between the north and the south, in line with the desire of the nation.

The communiqué called for a positive contribution to glorifying this year as a year of opening the door of reunification by the concerted efforts of the Korean nation.

The seminar also adopted a joint statement denouncing the Japanese authorities’ distortion of their crime-ridden history.

The first anniversary of the June 15 Joint Declaration was also commemorated abroad.

Article & Photos: Kim Chol
With the Desire of Reunification

Delegates seeing the sights of Mt. Kumgang.

Delegates watching a performance given by the Pyongyang Moranbong Circus.

The opening ceremony of the North-South Joint Photo Exhibition “Paektu-Halla”.

It seems as if we see the reunified fatherland in which the morning sun rising over Mt. Paektu shines over the land of three thousand ri.

The sun rising over Mt. Paektu, crystal-clear water of Lake Chon, the Kumgang Mountains with their kaleidoscopic views, Mts. Myohyang, Chilbo, Kuwol, Halla and Solak… Undoubtedly, our fatherland has scenic spots everywhere. These are the unanimous impressions of those who have looked around the North-South Joint Photo Exhibition which was held in Pyongyang in June this year, in commemoration of the first anniversary of the publication of the North-South Joint Declaration.

In exhibition, under the title of “Paektu-Halla”, 100 photos were displayed, including the photo of leader Kim Jong IL shaking hands with President Kim Dae Jung and photos of landscapes, scenic spots and cultural relics on the famous mountains of Korea, from Mt.Paektu to Mt. Halla.

Picturing the day when the whole nation, with the historic joint declaration as a milestone, can enjoy the beauties of the three thousand-ri land to their heart’s content, and will go freely to Mt. Paektu and Mt. Halla, the photographers of the north and the south had set out to take their photos.

The photos displayed included “Mt. Paektu at Sunrise”, “Hyangdo Peak at Sunrise”, photos showing the majestic appearance of Mt. Paektu, the ancestral mountain, and those introducing four-season views of mountains well-known for their scenic beauty since ancient times.

Inner Chilbo of Mt. Chilbo.
**Joint Photo Exhibition**

**“Paecktuo-Halla”**

The exhibits also included photos showing historic spots, cultural remains, islands and islets of exquisite sights and plants of the famous mountains.

Present at the opening ceremony were Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People’s Assembly, officials concerned, journalists, and editors and artistes in Pyongyang.

A delegation from the south led by Hong Hui Phoyo, chairman of the Federation of Historians and Juridical Persons’ Associations, also attended.

Kim Song Guk, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Journalists Union, made the opening speech, followed by Hong Hui Phyo.

They emphasized that the photo exhibition, which was held at a time when the whole country is alive with zest of reunification, would be an important occasion arouse the attention of all our nation to the country’s reunification. The way to being one, though rough and distant, was the way to reunification, and they must follow it together without fail, they said.

Those who saw the exhibition felt keenly that our fatherland, the golden tapestry of three thousand ri, could not be divided into two any longer.

*Article & photos: Kim Jong*

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Photos on display:

- Lake Chon on Mt. Paektu.
- Paekrok Pool on Mt. Halla.
- East Islet and West Islet of Tok Island

President Kim Yong Nam of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People’s Assembly looks round the photo exhibition.
It is the intention of the Workers’ Party of Korea to improve the diet of the population by producing meat out of grass.

In order to carry out the plans made by the Party, the Korean people are building many stock farms, throughout the country.

The newly-built Youth Goat Farm in Hamhung City covers Sangchang-ri in Hamju County, South Hamgyong Province, and the vast forests around it.

It was four years ago that the Hamhung people began construction of the stock farm in the forest. It was so densely covered with shrubs that you could not see a man, even at a distance of ten metres.

They rose as one to build the stock farm, implementing the Party’s policy of breeding goats on a large scale.

At the time, the country was undergoing the “Arduous March” and forced march, so they faced many obstacles. But the roads, goat pens and dwelling-houses were built as the workers displayed the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude.

More than 25,000 rocks of over one ton in weight were removed from the ground. Despite the backbreaking work, the worker’s spirits remained high, singing and dancing even under the difficult conditions.

“Today’s struggle is the happiness of the future” and “A thousand miles of hardship will bring ten thousand miles of happiness”- these were their motivating slogans for overcoming the hardships.

In a little over three years they built more than 60 km of roads, created grasslands around them and built many goat pens, milk-processing facilities, dwelling-houses, dormitories, schools, clinics, shops, cultural amenities and welfare service establishments. Six power stations were also built, thus forming a district of workers specializing in goat-breeding.

Now the farm is hard at work raising goats and producing dairy products.

The farm turns out butter, cheese and other dairy products, and has begun to supply them to the Hamhung population.

The number of goats will increase dramatically in the coming few years, and a lot of milk and meat will eventually be produced every day.

Article: Jo Kyong Chol
Photos: Ri Jin Myong
Various dairy products are turned out.

Feed-processing buildings are in harmony with the surrounding natural environment.

A small power station built by the farm’s own efforts.
“Let us become youth heroes in the advance of the socialist red flag in Kim Jong Il’s century”, “Let the young people march forward to the bright future of Kim Jong Il’s powerful nation!” and other slogans are seen everywhere on the construction site.

A high crane lifts and pours the concrete mixture into forms and concrete placers quickly throw them. Others are assembling iron bars, while some produce concrete floor elements. They are working like a machine.

These are the young builders of Bridge No. 10 of the Speed-campaign Youth Shock Bridge.

The shock bridge is the construction unit that formed 26 years ago with young people ready to dedicate their wisdom and vigour in the effort to realize the plan of socialist construction of the Workers’ Party of Korea.

They are also young people in their twenties from various parts of the country, who have volunteered, in response to the Party’s call.

They have pride and honour in the fact that they spend their youthful days building grand character and previous careers differ.

They contributed to the building of the International Friendship Exhibition, the Grand People’s Study House, the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren’s Palace, the second stage of Changgwang Complex and many other grand edifices.

They, in the period of the “Arduous March” and forced march, too, made great innovations under the banner of the Speed-campaign Youth Shock Bridge on major projects such as the Youth Hero Motorway.

They are now constructing three projects, including an apartment building.

During the 20 days since they started the construction of 20-storeyed apartment building in early April, they have finished foundation excavation and base concreting, and completed assembly of the frame of jack.

They have also completed the project of frame assembly, giving a fine example of the speed campaign.

Kim Chol Gun, bridge commander, said: “We keep in our minds as our sole conviction the slogan’ As the Party decides, so we do!” This constitutes the source of the strength of our youth.”

Article: Kang Chol
Photos: Choe Won Chol

Members of the Speed-campaign Youth Shock Brigade accomplishing great achievements in constructing an apartment building and a chicken farm to further improve the living standards of Pyongyang citizens.

Always living optimistically.
Koryo medicine has a long history of contributing to the improvement in the health of the Korean people and the treatment of diseases. Its main means of treatment are varied Koryo medicines, acupuncture, moxibustion, cupping and massage.

The General Hospital of Koryo Medicine, on the central part of Munsu Street, Pyongyang, performs the role of comprehensive base for the development of indigenous medicine. Medical treatment is carried out using Koryo medicine methods after diseases are scientifically diagnosed on the basis of medical check-up and experimental check-up data using modern technical means.
The hospital is a center not only for Koryo medical services but also for medical research.

The hospital plays the role of a research center of traditional medicine under the World Health Organization. It publishes thousands of copies of the journals Science Information and Science Bulletin of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Traditional Medicine, as well as special books on acupuncture in foreign languages, distributing them to more than 180 in over 80 countries.

*Article: Hwang Kum Chol*
*Photos: Choe Song Uk*

The hospital produces highly effective Koryo medicines and makes wide use of them in the treatment of patients.

General Hospital of Koryo Medicine.

Scientific accuracy of diagnosis is maintained by the use of modern check-up equipment.

2. Acupuncture.
4. Electric acupuncture.
Mt. Myohyang is one of the five celebrated mountains in Korea. With unrivalled scenery featuring many peaks and valleys, high cliffs, crystal-clear waters and falls, forests, refreshing tints of red and gold in autumn and snow-covered landscapes in winter, the mountain fully lives up to its reputation.

The word Myohyang means curiously-shaped mountains and fragrance, and not surprisingly mountain-climbing is a popular activity on Mt. Myohyang.

Paths run up Sangwon Valley and Manphok Valley to Piro Peak.

The mountain and water scenery of Sangwon Valley is the finest on Mt. Myohyang.

Inho Rock commands an excellent view of three falls. On the right are the Sanju Falls which seem to scatter pearls into the stream below. On the left underfoot the Ryongyon Falls and above it the Chonsin Falls, which look like a roll of silk hung in the sky.

Only on Inho Rock can all three waterfalls be viewed from the same vantage point, and it is no surprise that the Inho Rock area has been called one of the eight famous spots in Mt. Myohyang.

Manphok Valley also features many magnificent falls.

The Sogok Falls and the pool under it, the Murung Falls, the Unson Falls, the Phal Pools and the Yuson Falls are all wonderful places to experience the clear water of the mountain.

The paths up Manphok and Sangwon Valleys lead to Piro Peak, the highest on Mt. Myohyang, where you can enjoy more magnificent views.

Sabina sargentii Nakai, Thuja and Pinus pumila, known for the legend that the trees had lain for long years in fear of tearing the capes of fairies, snow-covered rhododendron, thyme and other plants let climbers experience fully the highland environment.

Those climbing the mountain usually stop for a while in scenic spots with many legends.

Paths along cliffs and across suspension bridges are also seen.

Also on Mt. Myohyang is the International Friendship Exhibition, which preserves gifts sent to President Kim Il Sung and leader Kim Jong Il by heads of state and party and many other prominent figures in different countries.

Paths Up Mt. Myohyang

Sangwon Valley in summer.
The mountain is home to many precious cultural relics and remains which show the creative skills and resourcefulness of the Korean people.

The paths up Mt. Myohyang rarely fail to delight those who walk them rejuvenating their spirit as they pass through some of the best scenery Korea has to offer.

*Article: Kim Jong Sam
Photos: Ra Phyong Ryol*

Along the path to Sangwon Valley

Visiting the Myohyangsan History Museum and a famous spa.

Commanding a fine view of Manphok Valley
The Samjiyon area is associated with the immortal revolutionary achievements of President Kim Il Sung, who organized and led to the victory the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle to Liberate the country.

In May Juche 28 (1939), President Kim Il Sung led a unit of the Korean People’s Revolutionary Army here to take a short rest on the
shores of Lake Samji on their advance to the Musan area. He wanted the soldiers to have ardent love of their fatherland and the firm conviction and will for liberation of the country. They advanced on the Musan area and administered a heavy blow to the enemy.

Leader Kim Jong Il took the initiative to build the grand monument in order to commemorate the revolutionary exploits of President Kim Il Sung, who devoted his life to the liberation of the country, and led its completion wisely. In May Juche 68 (1979), the 40th anniversary of the victory of battle in the Musan area, the Samjiyon Grand Monument was built.

Photo: Ryang Pyong Jon
From old times people have said that birds flocked to scenic places, singing merrily.

In Korea, where there are thickly-wooded hills and mountains, and lakes and rivers full of clear water, we can hear bird song everywhere.

In line with the policy of national land and environmental protection, the DPRK is conducting work to protect and expand forests and to improve rivers through a popular campaign. Mountains and rivers are changing in appearance and many migratory birds are now coming to the country.

Egrets and herons flock to a back mountain of Ryongun-ri, Kaechon City, South Phyongan Province. The green pine grove and wide plain are covered with egrets and herons from early March to early October. It reminds one of a garden, with the birds taking to the green woods and clear water.
It is because of this ideal environment that this is a breeding ground.

The birds come here in early spring and repair the nests used the previous year, delivering 3-6 eggs in May.

They sit on the eggs and breed their chicks in groups.

When the young birds are grown enough to fly, the breeding ground presents a spectacular sight. In October they fly towards a hot region, and in spring return to Korea.

The place is publicly designated as a national natural reserve.

*Article & Photos: Ri Myong Guk*
Salt Production on the East Coast of Korea

Ho Son Hui’s family in Juichon City, Jagang Province, has built a stamp collection containing over 3,000 kinds over the past 40 years. Her album gives a glimpse of the country’s development since its liberation.

A portrait stamp “General Kim Il Sung” sits well on the first page of the album. Varieties of stamps are chronologically ordered, showing the successes of the Korean people in building a new, democratic Korea after liberation, the Korean people and heroic People’s Army soldiers who defended their country at the cost of blood, and their proud achievements in the struggle to build a new society.

There is a story behind Ho’s collection of stamps spanning the development of the DPRK.
The Kwangmyongsong Salt Works, covering an area of several hundred hectares, produces salt in abundance. The works were built two years ago as the first of its kind on the east coast of Korea. The people of South Hamgyong Province rose as one to build the works during the period of the “Arduous March” and forced march when the country was experiencing great hardship owing to the imperialists’ moves of isolation and suffocation and consecutive natural disasters over several years, but the people of the province rallied under the slogan, “Our only way out lies in self-reliance!”

Now the salters are increasing output, taking responsibility for the production of salt which is of great impotence in developing the economy of the province and improving the people’s living standards. They have devised various kinds of highly productive equipment, pooling their strength and knowledge. They manage salt pans and regulate water according to strict scientific and technical standards, increasing production per hectare.

In May and June the amount of salt production was 1.5 times as compared with the same periods of the previous year. The salt has been sent to many units in the province, allowing the people of South Hamgyong Province to enjoy the benefits of the Kwangmyongsong Salt Works.

Article & Photos: Kim Kum Jin

One day more than 40 years ago she received a letter with a portrait stamp of President Kim Il Sung from people in her hometown. The stamp was issued 55 years ago, on the occasion of the first anniversary of liberation. Seeing the historic stamp, she felt grateful to her villagers, who extended heartfelt congratulations on her admittance into university, but more so to President Kim Il Sung, who had given her, the daughter of an ordinary worker, the opportunity to enter the hall of science.

The stamp was posted on the first page of the album. Later, while she engaged in teaching, she received letters from her pupils and inserted the stamps in the album page by page. The album reflects the trace of a devoted teacher’s life for the rising generation.

Article & Photos: Hong Chol
The dam of the Taegak Power Station is currently under construction. Its construction is a vital part of the Kaechon-Lake Thaesong waterway project.

When the project is completed, the water of the River Taedong will naturally flow into reservoirs, including Lake Thaesong, via a 160-km waterway stretching to the western breadbasket region of Korea. This will dispense with the need for a lot of equipment, such as electromotors and pumping stations, and bring immense benefits to the nation.

From the start of the project the builders have devoted all their strength and skills to it.

The extra-large slogans, “As the Party decides, so we do!” and “Push ahead through the thorny path in high spirit!” are displayed at the construction site, reflecting the unanimous determination of the construction workers to complete the project ahead of schedule.

Builders from South Phyongan Province are carrying out the main part of the project. Though they differ by occupation, they work with one mind to expedite the construction.

Calling themselves shock brigade members, they work and live in a militant style.

When they are short of mechanical means they carry cement, gravel or sand on their backs, and dig the earth with spades and picks.

When the first concrete placing of the foundation started, the work of breaking the layers of rock seemed impossible.
If they failed to complete the work until the next morning, the construction site would be inundated by rain, causing great damage to the main work. So a shock brigade was formed in the foundation-excavating site. After 25 hours of backbreaking work, the shock brigade members made a breakthrough and finished the concrete placing on schedule.

That spirit is still pervasive throughout the construction site.

Shock brigade members from Anju City and Yangdok County, who always set an example, never quit the workplace without finishing the daily task to over 150 percent.

Kown Yong Jin, head of the shock brigade, said with selfassurance that they would complete the dam project before next year’s farming, in order to supply water from the River Taedong to about 100,000 hectares of arable land in 15 cities, counties and districts in South Phyongan Province, Nampho and Pyongyang.

Article & Photos: Choe Won Chol
Hong Chang Su, Pride of the Nation

Those who demonstrate the honour of the nation are praised as patriots in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

Among them is WBC superflyweight champion Hong Chang Su (27), a Japan-resident Korean and a DPRK’s People’s Athlete. The DPRK gave its Labour Hero award to him some time ago.

A third-generation overseas Korean, he grew up with a hatred of Japan’s racial discrimination.

“The pro-wrestling giant Kim Sin Rak (Rikidozan) displayed the stamina of Koreans and I’ll do the same with boxing,” he vowed.

The deep love and trust of the socialist homeland nurtured his development as he and other Korean children in Japan were favoured every year with an educational aid fund, school equipment and sporting apparatus.

He learned boxing at Tokyo Korean Middle and High School, and his burgeoning national pride is confirmed by his creed: “Boxing is my love, and the homeland is my life. My fist is Korea’s fist and Korea’s fist is invincible.”

He recorded an unbeaten run in the ring, ultimately winning the WBC superflyweight title last year. In May he successfully defended the belt in Seoul.

He loves the song “Song of Coast Artillerymen”.

He now faces a fight with a Philippine ace in September.
Pyongyang citizens welcome WBC superflyweight champion Hong Chang Su, a Japan-resident Korean, with the warm feeling of fellow countrymen.

The opponent has good records but Hong Chang Su is in high spirits, renewing his commitment to the homeland which has dubbed him People’s Athlete and Labour Hero.

*Article: Kim Tong Sik
Photos: Kim Chol Ok*

Hong Chang Su receives souvenirs from pro boxers in Pyongyang.

Hong Chang Su, the winner in the defence bout of WBC superflyweight title held in Seoul.
First Conference of the IMGC

The first conference of the International Martial Art Games Committee (IMGC) was held in Pyongyang in May this year.

It was attended by Choe Hong Hui, president of the International Taekwon-Do Federation and chairman of the IMGC, Mac Harb, president of the IMGC, and delegations and delegates from Russia, Canada, Australia, Malaysia, the United States, Mongolia, Cambodia, Turkey and the DPRK.

Discussions were held on a series of items, including the examination and decision on IMGC rules and the by-election of some of leadership members.

The conference decided to hold the First International Martial Art Games in Pyongyang in 2003 and to establish the committee headquarters (secretariat), based in the DPRK.

The vice-chairman of the IMGC was elected and its secretary general appointed at the conference.

Saying that the conference accomplished its objectives with the active support and cooperation of all members, Choe Hong Hui noted that nothing is impossible when the join their minds and mutual understanding.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Visits the DPRK

The guests climbed Mansu Hill in Pyongyang to lay bouquets before the statue of President Kim Il Sung and pay homage to him.

The minister gave Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People’s Assembly, a personal letter from Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamed to leader Kim Jong Il.

He also asked Kim Yong Nam to convey greetings to leader Kim Jong Il from the Malaysian king and prime minister.

Talks between DPRK Foreign Minister Paek Nam Sun and his Malaysian counterpart were held at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

At the talks, they informed each other of the situation in their respective countries and exchanged views on further developing bilateral relations and other issues of mutual concern.
Plan of Cultural Exchange Signed


The two governments reached agreement on the plan as part of their ongoing fulfillment of the agreement on cultural cooperation concluded on August 29, 1960.

The plan contains details of the exchange and cooperation in the fields of science, education, culture, art, mass media, public health and sports.

It was signed by Hong Son Ok, vice-chairwoman of the Korean Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, and Esteban Lobaina Romero, Cuban Ambassador to the DPRK.

Talks between the delegations from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK and the Foreign Ministry of the Kingdom of Spain are held in Pyongyang.

FRIENDLY GATHERING

The friendship between the DPRK and Cuba continues to grow stronger.

Friendly gatherings are frequently held between the two countries.

In May this year, such a gathering took place at DPRK-Cuba Friendship Moranbong Senior Middle School No. 1, on the occasion of the 106th anniversary of the death of Jose Marti, national hero of the Cuban people.

Cuban Ambassador to the DPRK Esteban Lobaina Romero and embassy officials were among those invited.

The guests looked round “Jose Marti Class” and the educational facilities of the school before appreciating a performance given by students.

The participants in the gathering talked about Jose Marti’s achievements and the development of relations between the two countries, further deepening the friendship.

Various Party Delegations in the DPRK

The delegation from the Communist Party of the Russian Federation visiting the Monument to Party Founding.

President Kim Yong Nam of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People’s Assembly with the delegation from the Arab Socialist Baath Party of Syria.

The delegation from the People’s Democratic Party of Nigeria on a visit to the Tower of the Juche Idea.

The delegation from the People’s Democratic Party of Nigeria on a visit to the Tower of the Juche Idea.
As the years go by, all things on earth change. However, the feeling of kinsmen does not change, I felt more earnestly in the meeting with my own flesh and blood when I went to Seoul in south Korea in December last year as a member of the visiting group of separated families and relatives from the north.

I parted with my younger sister and elder brother’s wife at the age of 19. Despite 50 years of separation, during which I had become gray-haired, I recognized them instantly, embraced each other.

As I met my nephews for the first time they threw themselves into my arms, crying “Uncle!” and “Elder uncle!” They were of the same blood.

Though half a century had passed, we were in a homelike family atmosphere. We inquired after the health of families and relatives and told each other about the past years.

I had left Seoul, my native place, in the autumn of Juche 39 (1950) after the People’s Republic of Korea during the Korean war ignited by the US imperialists.

The day my parents saw me off is still fresh in my memory.

My younger sister said that y parents had kept my books carefully, often telling her about me.

Ro Yong Gun meets his younger sister and elder brother’s wife after 50 years of separation and also nephews. (From his album).
In the DPRK I had become a manager of a big company and Labour Hero after graduating from university. Hearing me out, my sister shed tears, saying that if my late parents could see me, they would be overjoyed.

Two nights and three days passed in Seoul. Finally the time to part arrived.

My own flesh and blood did not want to let me go indefinitely again, saying “When can we meet you again?”

The sad situation in Korea today is that kinsmen cannot share their feelings for over half a century and children cannot be dutiful to their parents, who die before seeing their grown-up sons and daughters. The tragedy is caused by the division of the territory and nation by foreign forces.

Just as a mighty river cannot be obstructed, so the flow of the same blood cannot be cut.

The Korean nation hopes for the early realization of the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration on achieving the country’s reunification independently, after driving out outside forces from south Korea.

Though old, I will make every possible effort to join the strong current in our country towards reunification.

Ro Yong Gun

Labour Hero Ro Yong Gun, adviser of the April 15 Construction Company under the Capital Construction Combined General Bureau.

All family fail to go to sleep, picturing the day when the separated families and relatives live together.
For the Production of Better Seeds

The Pyongyang Vegetable Research Institute plays an important role in improving the farming of vegetables in Korea.

The institute researches various vegetable seeds and methods of cultivation.

It makes most of the seeds used in vegetable farming in Pyongyang and its neighbouring districts, as well as other regions in the country.

Korean cabbage has a short growth period and high yield. Researchers have made efforts to allow planting of Korean cabbage in spring as well as in autumn.

The vegetable seeds called Namyon Nos. 6 and 61 are now cultivated in many regions of the country.

There are the 150 types of seed the institute has developed.

Its researchers strive to implement the Workers’ Party of Korea’s policy of carrying out seed theory in all areas and achieve breakthroughs in seed production.

“Let’s bring about a change in vegetable farming by developing new choice seeds.”
All the researchers at the institute, from the old to the young, work hard, filled with this burning desire. They have found defects in seed varieties already in use and conducted on-site investigation of the climate and soil throughout the country.

Dr. Ham Gyong Sop, head of the cultivation section, and other researchers produced autumn radish and cabbage seeds which can give high yields using little or no fertilizer. They have also developed vegetable seeds which have short growth periods. These seeds are currently under trial in selected areas of the country.

The success of researcher at the institute is expected to continue.

*Article & photos: Choe Ju Gang*
Pride of School

Every school in Korea is proud of its excellent circle of study, art, sports or some other activity.

The Apkang Senior Middle School in Sinuiju City, North Phyongan Province, takes it as a pride to have a fine Taekwon-Do circle.

Taekwon-Do is good for health and useful in contributing to labour and national defence by building a strong physique. It has been traditionally enjoyed by students and children as well as grown-ups.

The state made sure long ago that schools formed Taekwon-Do circles to teach members Taekwon-Do during afterschool hours.

The Taekwon-Do circle at the Apkang Senior Middle School enrolled all students who were interested in Taekwon-Do.

The circle consists of over 100 students. They train in patterns, sparring, special techniques, power and the art of self-defence in stages at the training hall and open-air training ground.

The members are guided by teacher Pak Yong Sik, a Taekwon-Do instructor.

Over the past 10 years the school has won 170 gold medals at the national juvenile Taekwon-Do championships.

Student Pak Sol, a sixth grade student, has won 31 gold medals at the championships.

Ex-circle members have become fine competitors, demonstrating the honour of the motherland in the world.

*Article & photos: Kong Yu Il*