

# PANORAMA OF KOREA



PYONYANG, KOREA  
JUCHE88(1999)

**PANORAMA  
OF KOREA**



**President Kim Il Sung, the great leader of the Korean people**



**National Emblem and National Flag of the Democratic  
People's Republic of Korea**





**“Location of Korea”**

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# **GEOGRAPHY**

## **Location and Area**

Korea is located in the heart of the east of the continent of Asia.

Its territory consists of the Korean peninsula extending southward and 4,198 islands around it, including Jeju Island, Ullung Island and Tok Island. Korea has an area of over 222,200 square kilometres. It is a homogeneous nation and its population is about 70 million. Its official language is Korean.

The area of northern half of Korea is over 122,760 square kilometres and its population is 22,550,000 as of 1998.

## **Physiography**

The Korean peninsula has diverse topography. It is composed of mountains, plains, valleys, coasts and plateaus formed by earth movements, erosion and sedimentation which occurred during distant geological ages.

The terrain is predominantly mountainous. Mountains account for almost 80 per cent of the whole territo-

ry. Its average elevation is 440 metres above sea level.

High mountains are predominant in the northern and eastern parts of the country. There are several long mountain ranges, including the Paektu Mountain System, which stretches from Mt. Paektu to the South Sea of Korea. There are over 50 mountains more than 2,000 metres high.

The highest is Mt. Paektu (2,750 metres) which stands on the northern border. It was a volcano which erupted about I million years ago and was subsequently crowned with a crater lake called Lake Chon.

Besides Mt. Paektu, Korea has many high picturesque mountains such as Mts. Myohyang, Kumgang, Chilbo, Kuwol, Jiri and Halla. Among them, Mt. Kumgang is world-famous from ancient times for its scenic beauty.

Plains comprise a relatively small proportion of the territory. They are mainly situated in the west and the south; on the east coast narrow plains lie along the lower reaches of rivers.

## Seas

Korea is a maritime country, surrounded by sea on three sides.

It has the East Sea, the West Sea and the South Sea, all of which are linked with the Pacific Ocean.

Continental shelves account for about 50 per cent of the whole area of those seas. The whole of both the West Sea and the South Sea of Korea consists of them.

Korea has many islands of different sizes. The coastline is so indented that numerous peninsulas, capes and bays have been formed. The west and south coasts are

particularly indented. They are world-famous for their indentation and the multiplicity of islands.

In the seas are to be found 800 species of fish and sea urchins.

The West Sea of Korea has a high tidal elevation influenced by the Pacific Ocean; an average tidal elevation is 3-6 metres and at some places as high as 11 metres.

Along the coastline of the West and South Seas stretches a vast tideland of about 720,000 hectares. During the previous 50 years the northern half of Korea has reclaimed vast areas of tideland by linking more than 130 islands in the West Sea.

## **Climate**

Korea has a typical temperate climate with distinct seasonal changes. The average annual temperature is around 8° to 12°C and average annual rainfall is a moderate 1,000-1,200 mm.

Korea's climate is influenced by typical seasonal winds. There are also distinct dry and rainy seasons.

The Korean peninsula is alternately visited by different air currents causing climatic variations according to the season. In the winter cold and clear weather prevails due to the dry and cold north and northwest winds, whereas in the summer damp and warm south and southeast winds, which are formed at the tropical regions of the Pacific, blow in from the sea, bringing heavy rainfall.

In the spring and autumn the influences of the Asian continent and the Pacific Ocean alternately affect Korea

with shifting winds. As a result, relatively warm and clear weather prevails with little rainfall.

Considering the size of its territory, Korea has considerable regional differences in climate. There is a range of different climates from the subtropical on the south coast to the subarctic in the alpine regions of the north, climatic phenomena ranging according to region. This is because Korea lies stretched from the north to the south on the middle latitudes where latitudinal variations in the amount of solar radiation are greatest, and in addition it has a complicated terrain and is surrounded by sea on three sides.

## **Fauna and Flora**

In Korea there is a wide variety of animals and plants. This is due to the diversity of climatic conditions, the large number of mountains and rivers, and the fact that it is surrounded by sea on three sides.

There is a variety of vegetation, ranging from subarctic and alpine plants to subtropical evergreens. There are 9,548 species of plants, including 3,290 species of seed plants.

Kumgang *Pentactina rupicola* and Kumgang bellflower, each known to the world as a unique species of a single family, are found only on Mt. Kumgang. Sambang violets are unique to the Sambang Valley on the east coast of Korea.

As for animals there are 1,434 species of vertebrate and 7,031 species of invertebrate. There are over 20 species indigenous to Korea, including Tristram's woodpecker, the Korean tiger and the Korean water deer.

# HISTORY

## 1) ONE MILLION YEARS AGO

The Komunmoru archaeology in Sangwon County, Pyongyang City, is the oldest remains unearthed in Korea hitherto. Stone instruments used by ancient men, and fossil bones of animals of 29 species including elephants with big tusks, buffalo and monkeys they ate were found in the site of the limestone cave here. These relics belong to the primitive man before the palaeolithic era when man appeared on the earth 1 million years ago. For a more recent example than this, there are remains of a cave at Ryonggok-ri, Sangwon County, Pyongyang City. The fossil bones of ancient men and various animals and stone tools were discovered here.

Palaeolithic relics were also discovered at Kulpho-ri and Pupho-ri, Rajin-Sonbong City, on the northeastern tip of Korea. The relics are traces of people in the middle and latter periods of the palaeolithic era. They learned to make axes and knives with stones. They were also conversant with the use of fire.

Fossilized bones of ancient men in different palaeolithic periods equivalent to the early period of the appearance of human beings and their relics were also unearthed at Taehyon-dong, Ryokpho District, in the

cave of Chongam-dong, Sangwon County, and in Hwachon-dong, Sungho District, all in Pyongyang City and in Mt. Sungri, Tokchon City, South Phyongan Province. The discovery in different areas of remnants from the palaeolithic era shows that the Korean peninsula has every claim to being one of the oldest cradles of human society in the world.

## 2) CRADLE OF KOREANS

Korea is the cradle of Koreans. This means that the process of evolution and the development of Koreans progressed here.

Especially, Pyongyang is one of the towns in which the process of the morphogenesis of the primitive man and palaeolithic man and the process of the appearance and development of the neolithic man in Asia took place.

The morphologic features of man in the primitive and palaeolithic stages are clearly revealed in the fossilized skeleton of the above-mentioned "Ryokpho man" discovered in relics at Taehyon-dong, Ryokpho District, Pyongyang City; those of man in the neolithic stage which went through the process of morphogenesis of man in Asia, in particular in northeast Asia, are well noticed in the fossils of the "Ryonggok man" discovered in the remains at Ryonggok-ri and the "Mandal man" unearthed at Mandal-ri, Sungho District, Pyongyang City. Those fossils are the ones of people in the early and late neolithic era.

The skeleton of the head is comparatively high, but

the length from the front of the skull to its back is short. The skeleton of the face is of medium height and the forehead is upright. Herein lies the morphological basis on which the present-day Koreans were united into one race.

The primitive remains belonging to the period ranging from the early, middle and latter periods of the palaeolithic era to the neolithic era discovered in the Pyongyang area show that the Korean nation originated with Pyongyang as the cradle.

### 3) THE EARLIEST STATE

In the 1990s, on the basis of archaeological and documentary study, Korean scholars defined that Tangun's Korea, the first country in the East, was built in the early 30th century BC.

The founder of Tangun's Korea was King Paktal which was changed into Tangun afterwards. Originally, "Paktal" was the name adopted long before by the tribe to which his father belonged. The forebears of this tribe, who believed the sun to be a mass of burning fire, called themselves the tribe of "pul" (later inflected into "pal" or "pak"). Later they suffixed it with "tal", the ancient Korean noun of the mountain pointing to the place of their domicile; hence, they passed as the "paktal" tribe. The meaning of this tribe name is that our forebear is the sun (fire) and we (our tribe) are the posterity of the sun.

In its early years Tangun's Korea had occupied some areas of northwest Korea centring Pyongyang and in its prosperous period controlled most part of the Korean

peninsula and a vast territory ranging from the lower reaches of the River Liao to the areas north of Songhua River in China. It existed until 108 BC.

In history, the culture of the ancient Koreans which had originated and developed in the basin of the Taedong River centring on Pyongyang is called the "Taedonggang Culture".

#### 4) FROM THE PERIOD OF THE THREE KINGDOMS

Before and after the beginning of the Christian era, many feudal powers emerged in the territory of Tangun's Korea and formed states. Among them the more powerful overcame and assimilated their neighbours. They were kingdoms called Koguryo, Paekje and Silla. The period extending to the 7th century AD when those kingdoms existed is called the period of the Three Kingdoms.

Koguryo was established in 277 BC. The founders of Koguryo, including King Tongmyong, professed themselves to be descendants of Tangun.

Paekje was set up by Onjo, the son of King Tongmyong, who was the founder-king of Koguryo. In the mid-3rd century BC he established a small state in the southwestern region of the Korean peninsula and became its king. Paekje developed into an independent feudal state at about the end of the 1st century BC.

Immigrants of Tangun's Korea established a small feudal state called Saroguk in the southeastern region of the Korean peninsula, which developed into Silla in the mid-1st century.



There existed Later Silla and Palhae in the period from the latter half of the 7th century to the early 10th century.

Palhae which was called "Haedongsongguk" (a sun-rising, prosperous and powerful country in the East—Tr.) was established in the old territory of Koguryo in 698. Its founder-king was Taejoyong. Palhae, the heir to Koguryo, existed for nearly 230 years and prospered. Towards the dawn of the 8th century Palhae extended its territory to all quarters and thus restored the majority of Koguryo territory. In the early 9th century it had an area of 2,000 kilometres across, comprising the northern part of the Korean peninsula in the south, the River Liao west of the Liaodong peninsula in China in the west, the River Heilong in the north and the coast of today's Maritime territory of Russia in the east.

Then followed Koryo, a powerful centralized state and the first unified country, which existed in the Korean peninsula for 500 years. That state became known far and wide to the extent that the country has ever since been known abroad as Korea. Wang Kon, the founder of Koryo, the first unified country, named the country Koryo in the sense that it inherited Koguryo and made today's Kaesong its capital.

At the close of the 14th century, Koryo was superseded by the Ri dynasty. Ri's Korea is named so as to be distinguished from Tangun's Korea in the period of ancient times. As seen in Korea of the Tangun dynasty in ancient times and Korea of the Ri dynasty in the Middle Ages, the name of the country is all Korea.

The Ri dynasty ended its existence in the beginning of the 20th century due to the colonization by the Japanese imperialists.

In 612 the Korean people repelled 3 million soldiers of Sui. In 645 they repelled Tang army numbering hundreds of thousands led by King Taizong himself. They frustrated the Khitan troops who made incursions on three occasions in 993, 1010 and 1018. In the period between 1231 and 1254 they repelled, on six occasions, invasions by the Mongols. Later in the seven-year-long Imjin Patriotic War that started in 1592 they fought the Japanese troops courageously. Indeed the Korean history in the Middle Ages was decorated with shining examples of struggle against invasions. The history was also woven with stories on the distinguished military services rendered by Ulji Mun Dok, Kang Kam Chan, Ri Sun Sin and other illustrious generals and by the patriotic people. The sagacity of the Korean people also revealed itself in the history of their science and culture. In Tan-gun's Korea iron was produced in the 12th century BC, and in the 7th century BC ordinary steel for tools was manufactured by the metallurgical process at a high temperature for the first time in the world.

In addition, in the period of Tangun's Korea, *Sinji* characters, the national alphabet, were introduced.

In Koguryo, from the early 2nd century close observations of planetary motions were made systematically. On this basis, an excellent astronomical chart was constructed in the period of the late 5th century to the early 6th century. In Silla the world-famous astronomical observatory, *Chomsongdae*, was built in the first half of the 7th century. This made a great contribution to the development of meteorology and astronomy.

In the period of the Three Kingdoms very high standards prevailed in architecture and fine art. Fine examples of this include the Koguryo murals in such tombs as the

tombs in Tokhung-ri and three tombs in Kangso, which still retain their colours even after lapse of well over 1,000 years, the nine-storey pagoda of Hwangryong Temple, the Tabo and Sokka Pagodas of the Pulguk Temple.

Koryo people were the first to invent metal type in the first half of the 12th century. They produced celadon which is unique in its colour and decorative patterns and consequently treasured by the people of the world.

Choe Mu Son of Koryo succeeded in producing gunpowder after nearly 20 years of research from about 1350. In 1441 an iron-made rain gauge was invented and introduced for the first time in the world; in 1444 *Hunminjongum*, the present-day national alphabet, was invented, modelled on the ancient *Sinji* characters.

## 5) KOREA IN THE MODERN AGE AND THE KOREAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

The history of Korea in modern times has been a period of suffering inflicted by the colonization of feudal Korea. It has also been the history of a fierce struggle by the Korean people to defend their country's independence and national sovereignty.

The invasion by the US pirate ship *General Sherman* of Korea was an event heralding the beginning of the modern history of Korea. Sailing upstream of the Taedong River in August 1866, the Americans shot people at random. They attacked and looted villages along the riverbanks. They even had the audacity to demand 1,000 *sok* of rice and a large quantity of gold. When this

demand was rejected, they refused to withdraw and detained a Korean government official who had been sent to parley with them. Enraged at this, the soldiers and people of Pyongyang led by Kim Ung U, the great-grandfather of the respected President Kim Il Sung, attacked the ship and set fire to it.

In October that year, the Korean people repelled a French invasion fleet of seven warships off Kanghwa Island of Kyonggi Province. Again in 1868, they drove away the American gangsters who had intruded into Toksan, Chungchong Province. In 1871 a large American force which invaded again was annihilated at Choji-jin and Kwangsongjin fortresses on Kanghwa Island.

In those days as a result of ceaseless peasant uprisings and the emergence of capitalism, the whole structure of feudalism began to crumble.

In the mid-19th century some progressive scholars and officials advocated an enlightened idea that called for reforming the backward feudal system along modern lines and paving the way towards capitalism. In the 1870s an enlightenment group took shape with Kim Ok Kyun as its leader.

When their proposed reforms were resisted by the conservative reactionary officials, they staged a coup d'etat in December 1884. They disposed of the conservative ministers and formed a new government. The coup d'etat failed because of foreign armed intervention. Nevertheless, it was Korea's first bourgeois revolution aimed at modernization.

The rapidly enlarged scale of Japanese militarists' economic exploitation and aggression fanned the flames of the anti-Japanese resistance movement which was waged in all parts of the country. The soldiers rose in

1882. They stormed the royal court and executed malignant officials. The rioters killed Japanese military instructors and chased Japanese aggressors out of the country. Although the mutiny did not in the end succeed, it was significant as the first act of mass struggle which combined the anti-Japanese struggle with the anti-feudal struggle.

The ceaseless struggle of the people against aggression and feudalism developed into a peasant war in 1894. The peasant army commanded by Jon Pong Jun, the leader of the rebels, defeated the government army and occupied vast regions. The reform programme advanced by the peasant army included anti-feudal, anti-aggressive provisions such as the punishment of corrupt officials and pro-Japanese elements, the destruction of serfhood documents and the equal distribution of land.

The Japanese imperialists who had been watching for an opportunity to invade Korea commenced an armed intervention against the peasant army on the pretext of protecting their residents in Korea. The peasant war, though unsuccessful, struck a heavy blow at the aggressive policy of Japanese imperialism and gave a powerful stimulus to the modernization movement in Korea.

The Righteous Volunteers' Army's struggle of the Korean people against Japanese aggressors, who murdered the Queen of Korea in October 1895, and the patriotic cultural enlightenment movement gained momentum both before and after the Japanese occupation of Korea in 1905.

The struggle was waged outside Korea, too.

In March 1908 the young patriots Jon Myong Un, Jang In Hwan, and others killed Stevenson, the US diplomatic advisor to Korea's feudal government and an active collaborator with the Japanese aggressors, after

shadowing him all the way to San Francisco; in October 1909 another patriot An Jung Gun shot and killed Ito Hirobumi, the first Japanese resident-general in Korea, at Harbin Railway Station, China.

Ri Jun, a patriotic official of the Korean government, journeyed to participate in the Second International Peace Conference held at The Hague, the Netherlands in June 1907, with the letter and credentials of the King. His aim was to expose and denounce the occupation policy of Japanese imperialism at the floor of the meeting. As he could not accomplish his purpose owing to the schemes of Japan and its allies, the USA and Great Britain, he expressed his resistance by disemboweling himself at the meeting hall. In history this is known as the "Emissary Incident at The Hague".

After their occupation of Korea, the Japanese imperialists replaced the office of resident-general with that of governor-general and appointed Terauchi, the Japanese minister of the army, to be the first governor-general.

He turned the whole of Korea into a prison camp and imposed military rule bragging that "Koreans must either obey the Japanese laws or die."

The pent-up wrath of the nation and the burning desire for independence erupted into a nationwide uprising on March 1, 1919. The uprising continued till the end of that year. More than 2 million people from all walks of life participated in it. The struggle went on in China, the Maritime territory of Russia, Japan and in Hawaii in the United States—in fact anywhere that Korean people were living.

The nationwide anti-Japanese struggle to save the country was ruthlessly suppressed by the Japanese imperialists. Tens of thousands of people were killed or

wounded in this struggle. The uprising taught a bloody lesson that a struggle cannot be crowned with victory unless it is guided by an outstanding leader.

The anti-Japanese national-liberation movement of the Korean people began to develop along the right lines when it was guided by Kim Hyong Jik, father of the respected President Kim Il Sung and an indomitable revolutionary fighter.

Kim Hyong Jik formed the Korean National Association in Pyongyang on March 23, Juche 6 (1917). The KNA was the first genuine anti-Japanese underground revolutionary organisation, the largest of its kind formed in those days in Korea.

The members of the KNA rallied the proletarian masses under the anti-Japanese banner, stirring them with the idea of "Jiwon" (Aim High) advocated by Kim Hyong Jik and with progressive thoughts.

Frightened at the expansion in size and strength of the KNA and the active anti-Japanese struggle of the people, the Japanese imperialists suppressed the KNA barbarously in the autumn of 1917. At that time Kim Hyong Jik and more than 100 members of the KNA were arrested.

While in prison, he pondered on the lessons that had to be learned from the progress of the anti-Japanese movement in Korea up to that time. Through this process he grew convinced that the proletarian revolution guided by the communist ideals alone was the right path to the independence of the country and the freedom and liberation of the people.

By the time he was released in the autumn of 1918, he had conceived a far-reaching plan for a new battle. He transferred the arena of his activity to the northern border area. At that time he wrote a poem revealing his

indomitable fighting spirit and his firm faith in victory.

Comrade, do you know  
The green pine standing on Nam Hill?  
The rigors of snow and frost  
May strike it,  
But life returns  
When spring comes round  
With warm sunshine.

Later he led the anti-Japanese national-liberation movement in Korea to change its course from the nationalist to the communist one.

Like this the KNA marked a great turning point in bringing the anti-Japanese national-liberation movement of the Korean people to a new higher stage of development.

## 6) ANTI-JAPANESE REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE

The early communist movement in Korea was passing through a very chaotic and difficult phase. It was then that President Kim Il Sung emerged to stand in the forefront of the revolution.

The respected leader of the Korean people President Kim Il Sung was born in a poor peasant family on April 15, Juche 1 (1912) in Mangyongdae, Pyongyang City. His family had been ardent patriots from generation to generation. His parents were indomitable anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters.



He was endowed with exceptional intelligence, strong will, extraordinary talent and generosity. As he grew up he diligently cultivated and developed his innate qualities as an ardent patriot and a revolutionary.

President Kim Il Sung entered Hwasong Uisuk School in June Juche 15 (1926). The school was a two-year-course political and military school founded by the nationalists to train cadres for the Independence Army. Everything was taught on a nationalist line.

Critical from the outset of both nationalism and the early communist movement, he delved independently into the revolutionary theory of Marxism-Leninism and studied the history and current affairs of his own country. He became convinced that he must develop the communist movement on a sound revolutionary basis, rejecting the methodology of the demagogues and functionaries.

On October 17, Juche 15 (1926), President Kim Il Sung formed the Down-with-Imperialism Union (DIU), which was the first genuinely communist revolutionary organization in the history of Korea.

In the autumn of Juche 18 (1929) he was arrested by the reactionary police. While behind bars, he elaborated his great plan for the Korean revolution.

There was then an urgent historical task that required immediate fulfilment for the destiny and development of the Korean revolution. This was the creation of a correct guiding idea. President Kim Il Sung carried out this historical task by creating the great Juche idea.

He elucidated the principle of the Juche idea and explained the Juche-oriented line of the Korean revolution at the meeting of leading personnel of the Young Communist League and the Anti-Imperialist Youth League held in Kalun on June 30, Juche 19 (1930). Since then on the

Korean revolution was able to march vigorously forward along the right road to victory, armed with the most scientific and revolutionary line, strategy and tactics.

Entering the 1930s, the Korean people found themselves at a crossroads. They had to decide whether to rise up in arms or lay down meekly.

At this critical moment President Kim II Sung proposed a policy of conducting anti-Japanese armed struggle in the form of guerrilla warfare and led the struggle to build a fully armed force.

Putting forth a slogan "Oppose armed force with armed force!", he energetically pushed ahead with the preparation to form an armed force. The two pistols his father had bequeathed to him were his only asset.

On April 25, Juche 21 (1932), he proclaimed to the world the founding of the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army (later it was renamed the Korean People's Revolutionary Army). The founding of the KPRA was a historic event which marked a radical turning point in the revolutionary struggle of the Korean people.

The battle at Pochonbo is of historical significance in the course of the 15-year-long anti-Japanese armed struggle. The victory at the Pochonbo battle fought on June 4, Juche 26 (1937), was a declaration that Korea was not dead but alive. To the Korean people the news of this victory was like a beacon suddenly appearing in the darkness. It convinced them that national liberation could really be achieved. This belief was the foundation for the resurrection of the nation.

In 1939 the Second World War broke out. It was at this time that the Japanese wanted to achieve a quick victory in the Sino-Japanese War and extend their imperial ambitions further afield. To further this purpose they

stepped up their fascist tyranny over the Korean people and plundered the nation's resources on an unprecedented scale. They tried hard to erase every trace of distinct Korean culture. It was their intention to keep Korea as its permanent colony.

Their priority was to annihilate the KPRA. They were fully aware that it would be impossible to successfully prosecute their war across the Asian continent while the KPRA were persistently threatening and harassing them from the rear. Therefore they hurled a massive force in a desperate attempt to crush the KPRA once and for all. President Kim II Sung analysed the situation at home and abroad. In August Juche 29 (1940) at a meeting of military and political cadres of the KPRA held at Xiaohaerbaling, he predicted on the basis of a rigorous analysis that the downfall of Japanese imperialism was now inevitable because they had foolishly extended their theatre of war operations on a wider front than their resources could support. At the same time he proposed a new strategic policy in order to effect the great event of national liberation.

The Korean people made a united effort in the struggle against Japanese imperialism, inspired by their boundless loyalty to and respect for Comrade Kim II Sung, the sun of the nation who would save the country and the nation.

On August 9, Juche 34 (1945), he gave the order for the KPRA units to mobilize for national liberation. On receiving the order, the KPRA men broke through the Japanese imperialists' "impregnable defence line", and advanced like a tidal wave.

On August 15, Juche 34 (1945), the Japanese were defeated and Korea was liberated.

## 7) JUCHE KOREA

### **Founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

Korea was seething with the joy of liberation.

President Kim Il Sung returned triumphantly home to an enthusiastic welcome from the people. He advanced three major tasks for the building of a party, state and armed forces in the liberated country and specific ways and means to realize them.

On October 10, Juche 34 (1945), in Pyongyang, the Central Organizing Committee of the Communist Party of North Korea was formed. In August Juche 35 (1946), the Communist Party merged with the New Democratic Party to form the Workers' Party of North Korea and in June Juche 38 (1949), the Workers' Parties of North and South Korea merged to develop into the Workers' Party of Korea. Now that they had the WPK, the entire Korean people came to have a guiding force which would step up considerably the struggle to build a new nation.

After liberation, people's committees were organized all over the country. On this basis, the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea (PPCNK), a new type of government, was established on February 8, Juche 35 (1946). The entire Korean people elected Comrade Kim Il Sung, the peerless patriot and national hero, Chairman of the PPCNK.

On having solved the problem of power, the Korean

people began to carry out democratic reforms. So a number of democratic reforms were enforced. They were the laws on agrarian reform, on nationalization of industries, transport, communications, banks and so on, on labour, and on sex equality. At the same time various steps were taken for the democratization of judicial, educational and cultural affairs.

On February 8, Juche 37 (1948), the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, founded on April 25, Juche 21 (1932) in the flames of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, developed into the Korean People's Army, a regular army.

Within a short space of time after liberation, under the leadership of President Kim II Sung, the tasks of anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution were carried out triumphantly in north Korea.

However, the Korean people's endeavour to build a unified democratic independent country was confronted with a grave difficulty.

The US authorities rejected the Korean people's fair demand for the simultaneous withdrawal of the Soviet and US armed forces from Korea and for the settlement of the Korean issue by the Koreans themselves. Without warrant they brought the Korean issue before the United Nations. They rigged up the "UN Commission on Korea". In May Juche 37 (1948), they held a separate "election" in south Korea under the supervision of the commission to manufacture the puppet government headed by Syngman Rhee. With this, the crisis of national division deepened.

In this grave situation President Kim II Sung called the Joint Conference of Representatives of Political Parties and Public Organizations in North and South Korea in April Juche 37 (1948) and in June that year the Confer-

ence of Leaders of Political Parties and Public Organizations in North and South Korea and advanced the policy of founding a unified country in the Korean peninsula without delay. This was to surmount the danger of national division and achieve the country's independence.

On August 25, Juche 37 (1948), the election of deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly was held in all parts of north and south Korea. The whole nation responded with excitement and enthusiasm. In north Korea 99.97 per cent of voters took part in the election. In south Korea 77.52 per cent of the electorate participated in the teeth of harsh reactionary repression. As a result, 572 candidates from all walks of life from the north and south of Korea were elected. Following the eminent success of the historic north-south general election, the First Session of the Supreme People's Assembly was held in Pyongyang in September Juche 37 (1948) and on September 9, the foundation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which represented the will of the entire Korean people, was declared to the whole world.

Comrade Kim Il Sung, the national hero of the Korean people, was elected Premier of the Cabinet and the Head of State of the DPRK.

#### Fatherland Liberation War

The war which was unleashed by the US imperialists on June 25, Juche 39 (1950), was a severe trial to the Korean people. In those days the DPRK was still in its cradle. It was scarcely two years since the People's Army had developed into regular armed services. The nation's economic capability was still weak. Neverthe-

less, the Korean people were determined not to live again as colonial slaves and were fully confident of victory in the war. The People's Army units went on the counteroffensive along the whole front and liberated Seoul three days after the start of the war.

In panic at the victorious advance of the heroic People's Army, the United States hurled its massive land, naval and air forces equipped with the most up-to-date military technology into the war. It also passed an unwarranted resolution at the UN Security Council (at which delegates from the USSR and China were not present and Korean delegates concerned were not invited) to bring in the "UN Forces" to the Korean war. MacArthur was appointed "Commander of the UN Forces" and the US troops openly participated in the Korean war wearing "UN Forces" helmets.

However, the Korean people displayed unexcelled sacrificing spirit and mass-heroism in the decisive battles with the enemy. Along with the Chinese People's Volunteers' forces they put down the numerical and technological superiority of the US army and achieved a historic victory in the three-year-long war. During the war the "UN Forces" lost over 1,567,100 men, including more than 405,000 American soldiers, and an enormous amount of combat equipment and war supplies including 12,224 aircraft, and 564 warships of different types, 3,255 tanks and armoured vehicles, 7,695 guns of different types and more than 925,100 small arms, and finally had to sign armistice agreement on July 27, Juche 42 (1953).

In his book. *From the Danube to the Yalu*, Clark, the then commander of the "UN Forces", wrote: "In carrying out the instructions of my government, I gained the unenviable distinction of being the first United States army com-

mander in history to sign an armistice without a victory."

## **Rising Up out of Debris**

The US army had dropped an average of 18 bombs on every square kilometre of the northern half of Korea, reducing Pyongyang and other towns and villages to ashes. Indeed, the postwar situation in the country presented what seemed to be insuperable difficulties. It was hard for the people to decide what to do first and how to do it. There was a mountain of work to be done.

President Kim Il Sung was firmly convinced that as long as there were the people, the territory and the Party, a new life could be built. He roused the entire people in the struggle for postwar reconstruction.

The postwar reconstruction was an extremely arduous struggle since it was started when our people could hardly obtain even a brick or a gramme of cement. However, the Korean people, who had been tempered through the war and staunchly united around the leader, waged a heroic and selfless struggle. They displayed the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance to the full. They fought hard, surmounting one difficulty after another. They had to tighten their belts but they built factories, enterprises, towns and rural villages. The Three-Year Plan for the Postwar Rehabilitation and Development of the National Economy, whose basic task was to achieve prewar levels in all spheres of the national economy, was overfulfilled by 22 per cent. As a result, the war wounds were healed and the country switched over from a period of reconstruction to a period of technological modernization.



At the beginning of the Five-Year Plan the reactionaries at home and abroad intensified their offensives against the Republic on an unprecedented scale.

In these grim days, President Kim Il Sung held high the revolutionary banner of the Juche idea and confidently led the Korean people on to greater progress in the building of socialism. At the December Juche 45 (1956) Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea he advanced a militant slogan, "Let us produce more, practise economy, and overfulfil the Five-Year Plan ahead of schedule!" Shortly afterwards he visited the workers at the Kangson Steel Plant (the present Chollima Steel Complex), explained to them the country's situation and encouraged them to advance at the head of a grand march of socialist construction at the speed of Chollima, smashing passivity, conservatism, mysticism about technique.

The working class of Kangson and all other working people across the country responded to the leader's call and bravely overcame trials and difficulties which stood in the way of their advance. They crushed all the old norms and rated capacities and created new norms. They effected achievements which defied imagination, thus bringing about a great upswing in all fronts of socialist construction. Industrial production grew at the extremely high rate of 44 per cent in 1957. In the same year there was a bumper harvest. The Chollima Movement in Korea developed amid this great advance in socialist construction.

Amid the flames of the Chollima Movement the Korean working people manufactured trucks, tractors, excavators, bulldozers, 8-metre turning lathes and other modern machines and equipment. Through the let-each-

machine-tool-make-more movement they produced over 13,000 machine tools over and above the yearly plan in Juche 48 (1959). In only a few months in Juche 47 (1958) they built more than 1,000 local industry factories throughout the country. Industrial production grew at the annual average rate of 36.6 per cent.

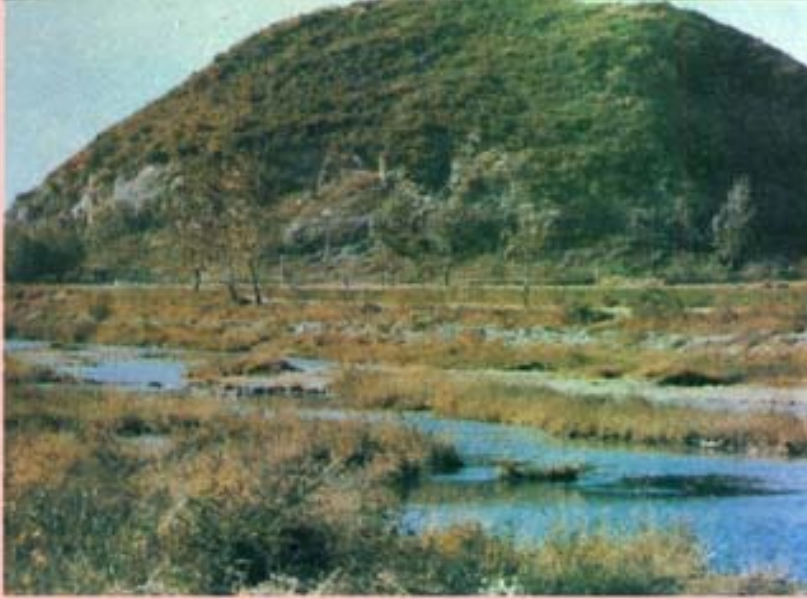
All this fully showed the heroic stamina and creative talents of the Korean people galloping forward in the speed of Chollima.

## **Full-Scale Construction of Socialism**

Having completed the historic task of building the foundation of socialism, Korea progressed to the stage of full-scale construction of socialism. The basic task of this period was to carry out over-all technological reconstruction and the cultural revolution and to radically raise the people's living standards by relying on the triumphant socialist system.

However, the strained internal and external situation urgently required decisive steps be taken to increase the nation's defence capacities. The Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Fourth Central Committee of the WPK in December Juche 51 (1962) set forth a new strategic policy of carrying on economic construction, in parallel with defence building. And the Party Conference held in October Juche 55 (1966) defined this policy as the Party's immutable line.

Amid the new revolutionary upsurge in carrying out the line of building the economy and defences simultaneously, the historic task of socialist industrialization was splendidly accomplished.



**Komunmoru Archaeology in Sangwon County not far from Pyongyang which belongs to the early Palaeolithic era of 1 million years ago. The stone tools used by the primitives 'which were unearthed there and the remains of the Neolithic era discovered in over 30 places in the basin of the Taedong River show that the place was the cradle of the Stone Age culture**

**Crescent-shaped  
stone tool**



**Pointed stone tool**



**Trapezoid stone tool**

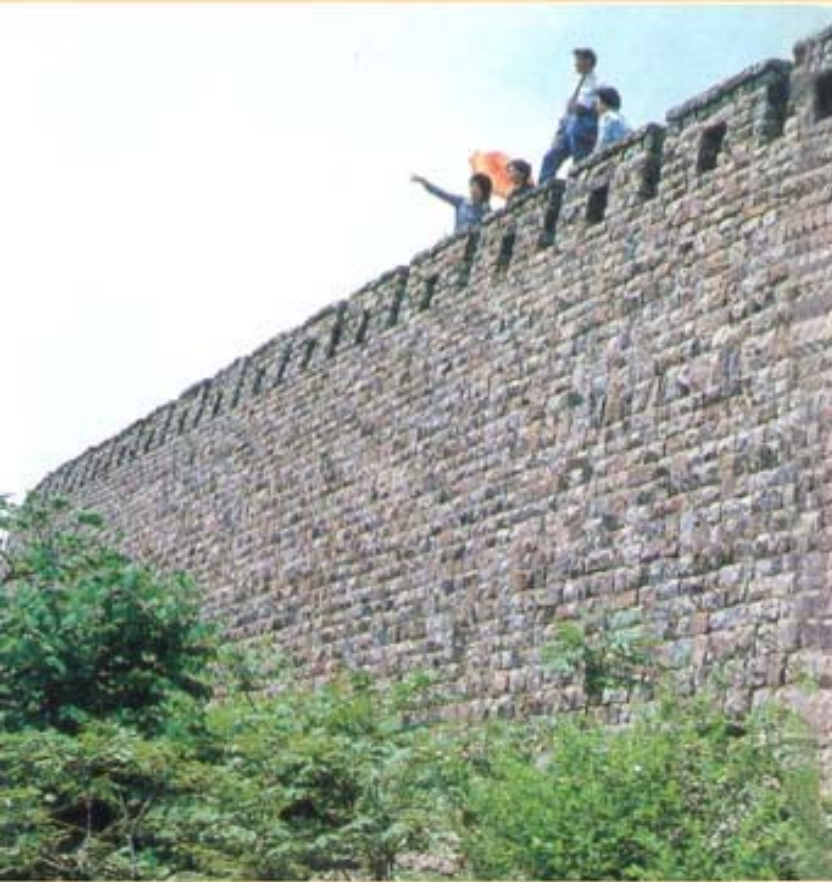


**Dolmen in Kwansan-ri and *pipha*-shaped daggers. 14,000 dolmens along the Taedong River, particularly large ones, and the bronze *piphia*-shaped daggers unearthed in the sites of ancient houses and around dolmens show that this river valley was the cradle of an ancient state**





**King Pakdal, founder of Ancient Korea**



**Fortress on Mt. Taesong. When Koguryo moved its capital to Pyongyang in 427, it made this wall the fortress of the capital**



**King Tongmyong, the founder of Koguryo**



**The Nam Gate of the fortress on Mt, Taesong. The gate was restored in original state in 1978**



**Stela at the Tomb of King Kwanggaetho of Koguryo**





**Memorial gateway to the Tomb of King Wang Kon, the founder-king of Koryo, the first unified state of Korea**



**King Wang Kon**



Gun of the Koryo epoch

The Korean script *Hunminjongum* which means “the righteous voices for teaching people” was invented in 1444 during the reign of King Sejong of the Ri dynasty



**Iron-made rain gauge, the first of its kind In the world (the Ri dynasty)**



**The turtle boat, the first of its kind in the world, built by Admiral Ri Sun Sin who gained fame in the Im-jin Patriotic War against the Japanese invaders (1592-1598)**





The modern history of Korea begins with the struggle against the invasion of the Western powers. The US pirate ship *General Sherman* which intruded into the estuary of the Taedong River in 1866

The original text of the "Ulsa Treaty" fabricated by the Japanese imperialists and the personal message of King Kojong sent to the heads of four countries announcing that he did not put the Royal Seal to the treaty. The message bears the Royal Seal





The first of March in 1919 is the day when the Korean people shed blood in the struggle for their freedom and against the brigandish Japanese imperialists who occupied Korea. The Japanese mounted policemen suppressing the March first revolt



**The Monument to the Victorious Battle of Pochonbo. The Pochonbo Battle marks an important historic milestone in the anti-Japanese armed struggle organized and led by Comrade Kim Il Sung**



**The main force of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army under the command of Comrade Kim Il Sung camped in the forest of Chongbong, on the way to the homeland in the spring of 1939. The site of the headquarters and the site of campfire**





**Comrade Kim II Sung and his comrades-in-arms in the days of the anti-Japanese armed struggle**



The whole country seethes with excitement and joy on the day of liberation





**Comrade Kim Il Sung delivering a speech at the Pyongyang mass rally to welcome his triumphant return home**

### **The Arch of Triumph**



The heavy industry developed into a perfect one with its own solid machine-building industry as its core. The machine-building industry is now capable of making 10,000-ton presses, heavy-duty trucks, heavy tractors, large excavators, large bulldozers, electric and diesel engines, large ships and other large-sized machines as well as precision machines. It is also in a position to produce complete sets of equipment for the outlining of modern plants.

Radical progress was made in the development of light industry as well.

The task of overall technological revolution was successfully accomplished, relying on a powerful heavy-industry base of our own. Consequently all spheres of the national economy were put on a firm foundation of modern technology. The technical reorganisation of agriculture was effected with success and every branch of agricultural production developed rapidly. Main railway lines were switched over to electric traction and railway electrification was completed in the main.

With the fulfilment of the historic task of socialist industrialization, Korea, formerly a colonial agrarian state far removed from modern technological civilization, was transformed into a socialist industrial state with modern industry and advanced agriculture.

## **"Arduous March", Great Challenge to the 21st Century**

In the late 1980s and the early 1990s an event of grave importance occurred; the USSR and other Eastern European socialist countries collapsed nearly simultaneously. With regard to this situation, a US journal "For-

eign Affairs" wrote that in 1989 Bush had a big geopolitical windfall in his external policy, adding that he obtained all this without firing even one shot.

This unexpected "fortune" was realized due to the strategy of "peaceful transition" pursued by the United States and corrupt elements and betrayers who appeared in the upper strata of the communist and labour movements and acted in concert with the strategy. The "new way of thinking" advocated by Gorbachev, a Judas of the 20th century, was a Trojan horse the West penetrated into the socialist camp.

In his speech at a US Congress held in Juche 80 (1991) Bush rambled on that socialism had disappeared completely from the globe and instead a long-desired new world order, a world which is dominated by capitalism alone, has come.

However, Comrade Kim Jong Il pointed out:

"Socialism is a science. Socialism has been frustrated in a number of countries, but scientific socialism is as alive as ever in the minds of the people. ... The crumbling of socialism in various countries does not mean the failure of socialism as science but the bankruptcy of opportunism which has corrupted socialism. Although socialism is temporarily experiencing a heart-rending setback because of opportunism, it will without fail be revived and win ultimate victory for its scientific accuracy and truth."

Washington tried to stamp it out. As a matter of fact, the bankruptcy of the socialist market exerted an extremely bad influence upon the socialist planned economy of Korea. The former socialist countries where the capitalist system was restored annulled their trade contracts with Korea unilaterally. Because of the shortage of raw and other materials its economic growth was checked and there was a shortage of supplies. Severe

natural disasters which continued for some consecutive years drastically decreased agricultural production.

To make matters worse, the death of the great leader of the Korean people. President Kim Il Sung on July 8, Juche 83 (1994), was the greatest loss to socialist Korea which nothing could make up for.

Deeming it as a golden opportunity, the United States and its allies tightened their economic blockade on the country, making an attempt to squeeze it to death using their armed forces on the pretext of "nuclear suspicion". To cope with this, the Republic had to increase its national defence capacities still more. This also badly affected the people's living standard.

In these circumstances the leader Kim Jong Il expressed his iron will as follows: "Since we are defending socialism single-handedly, there are a lot of difficulties and hardships. However, if we struggle with such courage and have confidence that we will adhere to socialism overcoming all sorts of trials and difficulties, though we may die hundreds of billions of times and that he who laughs last laughs loudest, then there would be no one who will be able to match us." He earnestly called for the people to vigorously work with one mind and one purpose as the soldiers and disciples of the great President to make their country, their motherland, more prosperous.

The WPK roused all its members and the people to the "arduous march" and led them in its van.

During the "arduous march" the ideological stronghold of the Republic was consolidated furthermore. In other words, the work of modelling the whole of society after the Juche idea was pushed ahead and was a success. At the same time the blood-sealed ties of the leader, the Party and the masses of the people grew

stronger, revealing itself as a single-hearted unity. The post of the chief executive of the country remained vacant for three years since the death of President Kim Il Sung in July Juche 83 (1994). In October Juche 86 (1997) Comrade Kim Jong Il was elected the General Secretary of the WPK and in September Juche 87 (1998) Chairman of the National Defence Commission, the highest official post in the DPRK.

A research fellow of the Carnegie Foundation in Washington wrote that it is because the leader is leading north Korea today as successfully as ever, and being in good health, that even in these grave circumstances it is keeping its balance, rallying the People's Army around him and employing its style of political philosophy on communism. The Voice of America reported that north Korea absolutizes the succession of its leader's ideology and directs its main efforts to strengthening the Party and uniting the armed forces around it, that the officers and soldiers of north Korea and members of the WPK absolutize him as God, and that Kim Jong Il completely has held the military, the most reliable, invariable political force among the political forces of north Korea, and the military are supporting him absolutely.

From olden times it is said that the unity and solidarity of the masses of the people are the best means and method for the prosperity of a country and nation. Today Korea has realized their single-hearted solidarity, the highest form of unity, and by its strength is stepping up the second grand Chollima march successfully.

The economic stronghold, too, is being solidified substantially. The large-size Anbyon Youth Power Station and many other projects have been newly constructed; factories and enterprises were reconstructed or read-

justed, thereby normalizing their production. Amid this situation the Republic successfully launched an artificial satellite in August Juche 87 (1998). Considering that only a few countries in the world have the technology of manufacturing an artificial satellite, launching technology and launch pads, it is not so difficult for one to guess (the level of development of science and technology and industrial potentiality of Korea, and the world began to understand that the determination of Pyongyang to build up a socialist powerful country is by no means a bluff.

The military stronghold was also further strengthened. According to the Korean Central News Agency dated April 23, Juche 84 (1995), during the past 10 years the number of military provocations unleashed by the US army and south Korea amounts to 435,000, which is equivalent to over 120 cases a day or 5 cases an hour. In addition to that, they staged the "Team Spirit" exercise, a large-scale nuclear war exercise every year, threatening the Republic. It is, therefore, true to say that the state of the ceasefire in Korea which had continued for nearly 50 years was, in fact, the continuance of the state of war. In these circumstances it was an appropriate self-defensive measure that the Republic continuously directed its great energy to increasing its national defence capacities for the safety of the nation.

Under the support of such national power the Republic announced its semi-war state throughout the country on March 8, Juche 82 (1993), when the imperialist allied forces were attempting to launch a military attack against it on the pretext of its "nuclear suspicion" and on March 12 declared its withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. On March 20 Robert Garlucci, the assistant secretary of the US State Department in

charge of political and military affairs, proposed via cable to hold a government-level negotiation with the first vice-minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK. And on June 11 that year the DPRK-US joint statement was signed. At his interview with Carter, the former US President, in June Juche 83 (1994), President Kim Il Sung clarified again his stand that the Republic does not want a war but does not fear it and that it defies resolutely any attempt impairing the dignity of the nation. On October 21, Juche 83 (1994), the Agreed Framework between the DPRK and the United States was adopted in Geneva. On October 20 of the same year US President Bill Clinton sent his letter of guarantee to the leader Kim Jong Il.

In December Juche 87 (1998) the spokesman of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army strongly warned the US hardline conservative forces of the fact that they fabricated a new plot on the "underground nuclear facility" and are now pushing ahead with "Operation 5027 plan," a military option against the Republic, in the practical stage.

The development of this situation afterwards justified the policy of attaching importance to military affairs.

Comrade Kim Jong Il expressed his optimistic idea in this way: "Today we are temporarily suffering difficulties but will be able to build up a powerful socialist country in the not too distant future."

The march the Republic is making towards the 21st century under the banner of building a powerful state is appreciated to be a great challenge to the new millennium to turn unfavourable circumstances into favourable ones and misfortune into blessing and build up a powerful socialist country on the Korean peninsula in keeping with the will of President Kim Il Sung in his lifetime.



# **POLITICS**

## 1) GUIDING IDEOLOGY

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is guided in its activities by the Juche idea authored by President Kim Il Sung.

The Juche idea means, in a nutshell, that the masters of the revolution and construction are the masses of the people and that they are also the motive force of the revolution and construction. The Juche idea is based on the philosophical principle that man is the master of everything and decides everything. It is the man-centred world outlook and also a political philosophy to materialize the independence of the popular masses, namely, a philosophy which elucidates the theoretical basis of politics that leads the development of society along the right path.

The Government of the DPRK steadfastly maintains Juche in all realms of the revolution and construction.

Establishing Juche means adopting the attitude of a master towards the revolution and construction of one's country. It means maintaining an independent and creative standpoint in finding solutions to the problems which arise in the revolution and construction. It implies solving those problems mainly by one's own efforts and in conformity with the actual conditions of one's own

country. The realization of independence in politics, self-sufficiency in the economy and self-reliance in national defence is a principle the Government maintains consistently. The Korean people value the independence of the country and nation and, under the pressure of imperialists and dominationsts, have thoroughly implemented the principle of independence, self-reliance and self-defence, defending the country's sovereignty and dignity firmly.

It is an invariable policy of the Government of the Republic, guided by the Juche idea, to treasure the Juche character and national character and maintain and realize them. The Government of the Republic always adheres to the principle of Juche, the principle of national independence, and thus is carrying out the socialist cause of Juche.

## 2) THE STATE AND POLITICAL SYSTEM

### **Character, Tasks and Ultimate Goal of the State**

The DPRK is an independent socialist state representing the interests of all the Korean people.

The Republic is the Juche-oriented socialist state which embodies the idea and leadership of Comrade Kim Il Sung, the founder of the Republic and the father of socialist Korea.

His idea and the achievements made under his leadership are the basic guarantee for the Republic's prosperity.

The socialist system of the Republic is a people-centred social system in which the masses of the working

people are the masters of everything and everything in society serves them.

In accordance with the nature of its socialist system, the Government of the Republic defends and protects the interests of workers, peasants and intellectuals and all other working people who have become masters of state and society, free from exploitation and oppression.

It is the fundamental revolutionary task for the Government of the Republic to achieve the complete victory of socialism in the northern half of Korea by strengthening the people's power and vigorously performing the three revolutions—the ideological, technological and cultural—and to reunify the country on the principle of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity.

Under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea the Republic and the Korean people uphold the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung as the eternal President of the Republic and are speeding up the historic march to carry the revolutionary cause started by him through to completion by inheriting and carrying forward his ideas and achievements.

## **State Structure**

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea conducts all activities under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The Supreme People's Assembly is the highest organ of power in the Republic. It represents all the people and exercises legislative power.

It is composed of deputies elected on the principle of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot. It is

elected for a term of five years. The Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly is the highest organ of state power when the Supreme People's Assembly is not in session. The President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly represents the state and receives the credentials and letters of recall of diplomatic representatives accredited by foreign states.

The National Defence Commission is the highest military leadership body of state power and the organ of the overall administration of national defence. The chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK commands and directs all the armed forces and guides national defence as a whole. The National Defence Commission proclaims a state of war and issues the mobilization order in the country.

This means that the National Defence Commission is actually the pivotal organ of the political power of the Republic as a permanent supreme power and administrative organ in the fields of national defence. Therefore the state structure of the Republic constitutes a mechanism attaching importance to military power with defence machinery as its pillar. Accordingly the mission of the chairman of the National Defence Commission is the highest official duty of the state with which he organizes and leads the work to increase the national defence power and overall national power by commanding and directing the whole of political, military and economic forces. Therefore, the duty of the chairman of the National Defence Commission constitutes a sacred official duty symbolic and representative of the glory of the motherland and the nation's dignity.

The Cabinet is the administrative and executive body of the highest state power and organ of overall state

administration. The Premier of the Cabinet represents the Government of the DPRK. The Cabinet is accountable for its work to the Supreme People's Assembly and to the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly when the Supreme People's Assembly is not in session.

The local organ of state power is the local people's assembly. The term of office of the people's assembly of the province (or municipality directly under central authority), city (or district) and county is four years.

The local people's committee is the local organ of state power when the people's assembly at the corresponding level is not in session and the administrative and executive organ of state power at the corresponding level. This new machinery performs the functions that the people's committee and the administrative and economic committee carried on in the past. It is accountable to the corresponding people's assembly and is subordinate to the people's committees at higher levels and the Cabinet.

### 3) SOCIO-ECONOMIC SYSTEM

#### **Ownership and Supreme Principle of State Activity**

The state property and property of social and cooperative organizations of the means of production are the economic foundation of the Republic. The state property belongs to the entire people. The state increases the role of the property of the entire people in leading the cooperative property so as to combine the two forms of prop-

erty in an organic way, consolidates and develops the socialist cooperative economic system by improving the guidance and management of the cooperative economy and gradually transforms the property of cooperative organizations into the property of the entire people on the voluntary will of all their members.

Private property is derived from socialist distribution according to work done and from fringe benefits granted by the state and society. The products of individual sideline activities including those from the kitchen gardens, as well as the income from other legal economic activities are also private property. The state protects private property and guarantees the right to inherit it by law.

In Korea where socialist relations of production hold undivided sway, there is no socio-economic source of exploitation. In Korea where taxes have been abolished, the steadily increasing material wealth of society is geared entirely to promoting the well-being of the working people.

Under the socialist system where the people are the masters of power and the means of production, it is the supreme principle of state activities to steadily improve their material and cultural standards. The Republic provides all working people with every opportunity to obtain food, clothing and housing.

## **The Principle and System of Guidance and Management of the Socialist Economy**

The Republic firmly adheres to the principle of properly combining political guidance with economic and technological guidance, the unified guidance of the state with the creativeness of each unit, the unified direction

with democracy, and political and moral incentives with material incentive in the guidance and management of the socialist economy.

The national economy of the DPRK is a planned economy. The state ensures a high rate of growth in production and a balanced development of the national economy by implementing unified and detailed planning.

The Republic directs and manages the economy through the Taean work system, a socialist form of economic management whereby the economy is operated and managed scientifically and rationally on the basis of a collective effort of the producer masses, and through the system of agricultural guidance whereby agricultural management is conducted by industrial methods.

The Republic enforces the self-balancing system in economic management to meet the requirements of the Taean work system and strives to make proper use of economic levers such as cost, price and profit.

## 4) POLITICAL PARTIES AND PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS

### **The Workers' Party of Korea**

The Workers' Party of Korea was founded on October 10, Juche 34(1945).

The WPK is a revolutionary party of a Juche type which was founded by great Comrade Kim Il Sung and is now led by Comrade Kim Jong Il. The Party inherits the revolutionary traditions established in the period of

the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and is guided solely by the Juche idea in its activities.

Its immediate objective is to attain the complete victory of socialism in the northern half of Korea and carry out the tasks of national liberation, people's democratic revolution throughout the country; its ultimate goal is to model the whole society on the Juche idea and build a communist society.

The WPK is the political General Staff which organizes and leads the revolutionary struggle and construction work in Korea in a coordinated way. It assumes full responsibility for the destiny of the entire Korean people.

## **The Korean Social Democratic Party**

The Korean Social Democratic Party was formed on November 3, Juche 34 (1945) by medium and small entrepreneurs, merchants, handicraftsmen, petit-bourgeoisie, some peasants, and Christians, out of the masses' anti-imperialist, anti-feudal aspirations and demands to eliminate the aftermath of Japanese imperialist colonial rule and build a new democratic society.

Its guiding idea is national social democracy befitting Korea's historical conditions and national characteristics and its basic political motto is independence, sovereignty, democracy, peace and the defence of human rights.

## **The Chondoist Chongu Party**

The Chondoist Chongu Party is a democratic party formed on February 8, Juche 35 (1946). Its membership



consists mainly of Chondoist peasants. It was formed with the objectives to oppose imperialist aggression and subjugation, join in the work to secure national independence and build a rich and strong democratic country with the patriotic idea of "defending the country and providing welfare for the people" and the independent spirit of "driving out westerners and the Japanese".

Today this party sets it as its important task to establish harmony among all members of society, strengthen solidarity among them, and build a popular welfare society with a highly-developed independent national economy and Juche-based national culture. This party affirmed that the WPK's line of three revolutions—ideological, technological and cultural—is the common banner of the nation which clearly shows the way to achieve its goal of building a popular welfare society, and is striving to carry out the line.

## **The Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland**

The Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland was formed on July 22, Juche 35 (1946).

It regards it as its main duty to rally, on the basis of worker-peasant alliance, all the patriotic democratic forces desirous of the freedom and independence of the country around the great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il, irrespective of occupation, sex, religion, and party affiliation, actively uphold and give publicity to his revolutionary line as well as his policy for the independent, peaceful reunification of the country, and organize and mobilize the broad sections of the masses for the nationwide struggle to carry them out.

## **The Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League**

The Democratic Youth League of Korea, the predecessor of the Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League, was founded as a mass youth organization on January 17, Juche 35 (1946), after liberation. Later it was strengthened and developed into the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea to meet the requirements of the developing revolution. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its foundation in January Juche 85 (1996), it was renamed the Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League and entered a new phase of its development.

The league is a militant organization of the youths who are to carry forward the Korean revolution. It is the reliable reserve and supporter of the Workers' Party of Korea. It is guided solely by the revolutionary idea of great Comrade Kim Il Sung. Its general objective is to equip the young masses with the Juche idea and train them into the reliable successors to the revolutionary cause of Juche. It has a membership of 5 million.

## **The General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea**

The General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea is a revolutionary political organization of the working masses. It was founded on November 30, Juche 34 (1945).

It conducts ideological education to ensure its members fully understand the Juche idea and gets them to take part in socialist construction and the management of

the socialist economy with the attitude befitting masters.

It has its organizations in different branches of industry.

## **The Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea**

The Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea is a mass political organization of agricultural working people founded on January 31, Juche 35 (1946).

It carries on ideological education to equip the agricultural working people with the Juche idea and gets them to carry out the ideological, technological and cultural revolutions successfully in the countryside along the path indicated by the *Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in Our Country*.

## **The Korean Democratic Women's Union**

The Korean Democratic Women's Union is a mass political organization of working women established on November 18, Juche 34 (1945)

It conducts ideological education to arm women with the Juche idea, transform them into revolutionaries and assimilate them into the working class and thus promote the transformation of the whole society into revolutionary and working-class patterns and enhance their role in revolution and construction.

In addition there are such public organizations as the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, the Korean Journalists Union, the General Federation

of the Unions of Literature and Art of Korea, the Korean National Peace Committee, the Korean Democratic Lawyers Association, the Korean Students Committee, the Korean Committee for Solidarity with the World's People, the Korean Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity, the Korean Buddhists Federation, the Korean Christians Federation, the Korean Chondoist Church Central Guidance Committee and the Korean Catholics Association.

## **5) FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF CITIZENS**

The DPRK practically guarantees the people genuine political freedom and rights according to the fundamental requirement of the Juche idea for enhancing man's independence and creativity in every way.

In the DPRK the rights and duties of citizens are based on the collectivist principle, "One for all and all for one."

The Socialist Constitution of the DPRK specifies that the state effectively guarantees all the conditions for the democratic rights and liberties as well as the material and cultural well-being of the citizens.

All the citizens who have reached 17 years of age have the right to elect and to be elected, irrespective of sex, race, occupation, length of residence, property status, education, party affiliation, political views and religion. They also have freedom of speech, the press, assembly, demonstration and association, freedom of religious beliefs and they are entitled to submit complaints and petitions.

The workers, peasants and other working people, as masters of power, participate in state administration and freely engage in socio-political activities in political parties and public organizations. The working people have the right to work and rest, the right to education and free medical care and freedom of scientific, literary and artistic pursuits.

Women are accorded equal social status and rights with men. The state affords special privilege to mothers and children.

Marriage and the family are protected by the state. The working people are guaranteed inviolability of the person and the home and privacy of correspondence.

The rights and freedom of citizens steadily increase with the consolidation and development of the socialist system.

## **6) OVERSEAS KOREAN NATIONALS**

The Korean nationals in Japan and other countries comprise those Koreans who were forcibly taken to Japan as labour draftees, conscripts, etc. or who drifted abroad in search of livelihood in the years of Japanese imperialist colonial rule and their descendants.

As stateless people, they were long subjected to national discrimination, deprivation of rights and destitution in alien lands.

The Government of the DPRK instituted the law of

nationality to provide all overseas Korean nationals with the legal status of citizens of the Republic and took a number of measures for their protection.

Today all overseas Korean nationals are striving for the reunification and prosperity of the country with a high sense of national pride and self-respect.

## **The General Association of Korean Residents in Japan**

The General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon) was formed on May 25, Juche 44 (1955).

Chongryon, a powerful organization of overseas citizens of the DPRK, has a close-knit system of organization, from the Central Standing Committee down to the local prefectural headquarters, chapters and branches.

It has under its wing many organizations involving all sections of society—youth, women, traders and industrialists, educators, men of culture and religious men. It also has its own mass media, publishing houses, news agency, scientific, art and sports organizations and economic and trade organs.

Chongryon publishes scores of periodicals and also translates the works of President Kim II Sung and Comrade Kim Jong Il and other books, and newspapers into several languages for distribution to different countries and regions throughout the world.

It has set up a well-organized educational system ranging from kindergarten to university to provide a democratic, national education for tens of thousands of sons and daugh-

ters of Koreans in Japan at hundreds of schools at all levels.

## 7) STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL REUNIFICATION

Down through the ages the Korean nation has lived in this land as a homogeneous nation with one culture.

However, now the Korean people are suffering the tragedy of national division due to the schemes of the foreign forces. Half a century has already passed since the nation was divided into the north and the south.

A ferroconcrete wall runs 240 kilometres along the front line south of the Military Demarcation Line as a barrier across the Korean peninsula. The separated families and kinsmen do not hear what has happened to each other, alive or dead, let alone visit each other; meanwhile, the generations are changing. The national division prevents the coordinated use of the country's natural wealth and the inexhaustible strength and talents of the people for the prosperity of the country.

The problem of Korea's reunification presents itself not only as an internal problem of the Korean nation but also as an urgent task of the times for the world peace.

The Government of the DPRK has advanced proposals for the independent, peaceful reunification on more than 200 occasions up to now.

## **Three Principles of National Reunification, July 4 North-South Joint Statement**

In his speech on August 6, Juche 60 (1971), President Kim Il Sung gave an analysis of the domestic and foreign situation which was developing in favour of national reunification and put forward a policy for holding negotiations on a broad scale. He declared that the north was always ready to have contact with the Democratic Republican Party, the then ruling party of south Korea, or individual personages. This proposal marked an historic turn in the struggle to realize the cause of Korea's peaceful reunification.

When the proposal was made public, the voice of the people at home and abroad, demanding that the proposal be met, grew irresistible. The south Korean authorities, which had previously opposed any contacts between the north and the south, had no choice but to agree to the opening of a dialogue, though initially only in the form of Red Cross talks.

In August Juche 60 (1971), the first contact took place between the representatives of the north and south Korean Red Cross organizations. Dialogue was opened at last. A breach was made in the barrier that had stood between the north and the south for a quarter of a century.

Afterwards President Kim Il Sung reiterated his principled stand on national reunification on several occasions and advanced a new proposal for extending the scope of north-south dialogue. As a result, north-south high-level talks were held separately from the Red Cross talks.

In May Juche 61 (1972), President Kim Il Sung



received in Pyongyang the south Korean delegates to the high-level political talks between north and south Korea. In his talks with them, the President explained the principles of national reunification, saying that the north and the south must combine their efforts for national reunification. To this end, there should be some principles which both sides should observe, he said.

He continued: "The three principles of realizing independent reunification without outside interference, achieving great national unity by transcending differences in ideas, ideals and systems, and reunifying the divided land by peaceful means without recourse to armed force, are the starting point of and the basis for the solution of our reunification question."

The North-South Joint Statement was announced on July. 4, Juche 61 (1972). The three principles laid down by President Kim II Sung constitute the keynote of this statement.

The announcement of the joint statement marked a definite milestone in the Korean people's struggle for national reunification. The 28th Session of the UN General Assembly endorsed the principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity as the only correct principles to be observed in negotiating a settlement of the Korean reunification issue.

After the announcement of the joint statement the Government of the Republic took a number of measures to implement the agreed issues.

It put forward the five-point proposal to remove the present military confrontation between the north and the south which is the most pressing and key problem in dispelling disbelief and misunderstanding between the

north and the south, deepening mutual confidence and creating an atmosphere of great national unity.

In addition, the Government of the Republic proposed to hold a political consultative conference to be attended by the representatives of political parties and public organizations and individual personages from all strata in the north and the south.

In his speech *Let Us Prevent a National Division and Reunify the Country*, delivered on June 23, Juche 62 (1973), President Kim Il Sung advanced the five-point policy for national reunification: to remove military confrontation and ease tension between the north and south, bring about multilateral collaboration and interchange between the two parts, convene the Great National Congress composed of representatives of people of all levels and political parties and social organizations in the north and south, institute the north-south confederation under the single name of the Confederal Republic of Koryo, and enter the UN under that name.

The five-point policy for national reunification received the wholehearted support of all the peace-loving countries and people in the world, to say nothing of the entire north and south Korean people. The Fourth Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries acclaimed the five-point policy as being in accord not only with the interests of the Korean people but also with those of world peace. The conference expressed full support for it.

In March Juche 63 (1974), the Third Session of the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK proposed that a peace agreement be concluded between the DPRK and the US with a view to dispelling tension in Korea and promoting the independent, peaceful reunification of Korea in line with the new policy advanced by President

Kim Il Sung. In the then situation which brought Korea to the brink of war, this proposal mirrored the earnest desire of the Korean people for a genuine guarantee of relaxation of the tension prevailing in Korea and acceleration of independent and peaceful reunification on the principle of national self-determination. For this reason, it was welcomed by peace-loving people throughout the world who urged the US to accept it in good faith.

The US made no response to this peace proposal.

In an effort to remove the danger of war and of permanent national division and to accelerate independent, peaceful reunification, the joint conference of representatives of political parties and public organizations of the Republic held in January Juche 66 (1977) produced the four-point proposal for national salvation: to establish unity between the socialist forces in the north and patriotic democratic forces in the south, who aspire after reunification; to ease tension between the north and the south and remove the danger of nuclear war; to eliminate the cause of discord within the nation and create an atmosphere of great national unity; and lastly to convene a north-south political consultative conference of the representatives of political parties, public organizations and people of all strata as a forum for discussion of these issues.

In January Juche 68 (1979), the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland convened the joint meeting of political parties and public organizations in the northern half of Korea at the suggestion of the Workers' Party of Korea and made an important new proposal. The main tenets of this proposal were that spirit and principles of the July 4 North-South Joint Statement should be reaffirmed, mutual slander should cease, all military activities should be uncondi-

tionally discontinued, and a pan-national conference should be held. Then the committee took a series of practical steps to put the proposal into effect.

## **Plan for the Founding of the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo, 10-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation**

President Kim Il Sung advanced a plan for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo at the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea in October Juche 69 (1980).

He stated that the most realistic and reasonable way to reunify the country independently, peacefully and on the principle of great national unity was to draw the north and south together into a confederal state, leaving the ideas and social systems existing in the north and south as they were. He therefore proposed a new plan to reunify the country by founding a confederal republic through the establishment of a unified national government on condition that the north and the south recognize and tolerate each other's ideas and social system, a government in which the two sides are represented on an equal footing and under which they exercise regional autonomy respectively with equal rights and duties.

He recommended that in the unified state of a confederal type a supreme national confederal assembly should be formed with an equal number of representatives from north and south and an appropriate number of representatives of overseas nationals and that this assembly should organize a confederal standing committee to guide the regional governments of the north and south

and to administer all affairs of the confederal state.

He added that it would be a good idea to call the confederal state the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo.

The DCRK should be a neutral country which does not participate in any political, military alliance or bloc. As a unified state, embracing the whole of the territory and people of the country, it should pursue a policy which agrees with the fundamental interests and demands of the entire Korean people.

With its sincere efforts to achieve the peaceful reunification by founding the DCRK, the Government of the Republic put forward several new overtures for peace.

Early in Juche 73 (1984) the Republic proposed holding tripartite talks among the DPRK, the US and south Korea to conclude a peace agreement between the Republic and the United States, in place of the Armistice Agreement, and to adopt a nonaggression declaration between the north and the south, as a fundamental step towards peace on the Korean peninsula. Then in Juche 75 (1986) it took the initiative in suspending military exercises to help ease the tension and offered new proposals for talks between the military authorities and for converting the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free peace zone.

In his policy speech delivered at the First Session of the Eighth Supreme People's Assembly on December 30, Juche 75 (1986), President Kim Il Sung proposed holding high-level political and military talks between the north and the south in order to settle the urgent question of national reunification.

In his policy speech President Kim Il Sung said that if the north-south high-level political and military talks

and dialogues in other spheres succeed, the north-south summit talks might be held to discuss the fundamental questions regarding national reunification.

In its statement dated July 23, Juche 76 (1987) the Government of the DPRK advanced a new proposal on massive phased military reduction. It proposed that the north and south of Korea must reduce their armed forces and each maintain a force of less than 100,000; in parallel with this, the United States should withdraw all its forces including nuclear weapons from south Korea and dismantle its military bases there. In publishing its new overture on arms reduction, the Government of the Republic announced that it would take the unilateral step of demobilizing the Korean People's Army by 100,000 men by the end of Juche 76 (1987).

On April 6, Juche 82 (1993) President Kim II Sung published the *JO~Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country* at the Fifth Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly. It is as follows:

1. A unified state, independent, peaceful and neutral, should be founded through the great unity of the whole nation.

2. Unity should be based on patriotism and the spirit of national independence.

3. Unity should be achieved on the principle of promoting co-existence, co-prosperity and common interests and subordinating everything to the cause of national reunification.

4. All political disputes that foment division and confrontation between fellow countrymen should be ended and unity should be achieved.

5. The fear of invasion from both south and north.

and the ideas of prevailing over communism and comunization should be dispelled, and north and south should believe in each other and unite.

6. The north and south should value democracy and join hands on the road to national reunification, without rejecting each other because of differences in ideals and principles.

7. The north and south should protect the material and spiritual wealth of individuals and organizations and encourage their use for the promotion of great national unity.

8. Understanding, trust and unity should be built up across the nation through contact, exchange visits and dialogue.

9. The whole nation, north, south and overseas. should strengthen its solidarity for the sake of national reunification.

10. Those who have contributed to the great unity of the nation and to the cause of national reunification should be honoured.

Today the people of Korea and the rest of the world earnestly wish that advances be made in the solution of reunification question of Korea. Korea's division is a tragic legacy left by the politics of the world in the 20th century. So, its continuance to the 21st century is quite abnormal.

### **Three Charters for National Reunification**

On August 4, Juche 86 (1997) Comrade Kim Jong Il made public the works *Let Us Carry Out the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung 's Instructions for National Reunification*. This is a new programme which elucidai-

ed a way to accomplish the cause of reunification. It reflects his determination to adhere to and carry out President Kim II Sung's will for reunification to the last.

In this works Comrade Kim Jong II defined the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity, the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation and the plan for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo as the three charters for national reunification. At the same time he clarified his programme and determination to accomplish the cause of national reunification. In addition, he provided a significant guide to the realization of independent, peaceful reunification: He stressed that relations between the north and the south should be converted into a relationship of confidence and reconciliation and that the Government of the Republic would make efforts to normalize the relations with the countries which are responsible for the Korean question.

On April 18, Juche 87 (1998) Comrade Kim Jong II made public his works *Let Us Reunify the Country Independently and Peacefully through the Great Unity of the Entire Nation*. In this works he advanced five principles for great national unity—maintaining the principle of national independence, uniting under the banner of patriotism, the banner of national reunification, improving the relations between the north and south, fighting against the domination and interference of the foreign forces and the anti-reunification forces, and promoting visits, contacts, dialogues and solidarity among our compatriots. This is a great charter for national unity, a development of President Kim II Sung's idea on great national unity as suited to the requirements of the developing situation.



In reflection of the desire of the whole nation in the north, south and abroad, Comrade Kim Jong Il saw to it that a great national conference, a nationwide negotiation for reunification, was held in Juche 84 (1995) to mark the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the country from the Japanese colonial rule. This historic meeting held in Panmunjom confirmed that President Kim Il Sung's proposal for reunifying the country through federation is the nation's common way to reunification. This was a historic event that marked a new milestone in the advance of the reunification movement of Korea.

With a clearer objective, orientation and principles, the Korean people have become able to step up their grand march for national reunification in the next millenium.

## 8) FOREIGN RELATIONS

The ideals underlying the DPRK's foreign relations are independence, peace and friendship.

The Government of the Republic strives to further strengthen friendship and solidarity with the world's people on the basis of the ideas of independence, peace and friendship and to make the international community independent and democratic and thus actively contribute to the common cause of mankind to build a free, peaceful, friendly new world, free from domination and subjugation.

On the principle of independence the Government of the Republic promotes friendship and cooperation with the various countries of the world and makes positive efforts to destroy the old international order of domina-

tion and subjugation, establish a new one, based on equality, justice and fairness and develop the South-South cooperation on the principle of collective self-reliance.

At the same time it makes every effort in unity with all the peace-loving peoples of the world to frustrate the aggression, interference and disturbance of imperialists, reduce armaments, nuclear armaments in particular, thereby meeting the desire of human beings to live in a world, free from nuclear weapons, and to safeguard peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world.

Today the Government of the Republic has established diplomatic relations with more than 140 countries. It is promoting economic and cultural exchange and cooperation with most of the countries of the world. It has up to now joined more than 210 international organizations and plays an active part.

Today the ties of friendship between Korea and many other countries of the world have become closer; the Korean people's cause of national reunification and socialist construction is gaining increasing support and encouragement.

Committees supporting Korea's reunification have been organized in many countries of the world and are active. In addition, the International Institute of the Juche Idea and organizations for the study of the Juche idea including regional institutes established in Latin America, Asia, Europe and Africa are expanding their sphere of activity. The Government of the Republic makes contributions to ensuring the peace and security of the Korean peninsula, Asia and other parts of the world through its invariable independent stand, policies for its peaceful reunification and nuclear development for peaceful purpose.

**PROVINCES AND THE MUNICIPALITIES DIRECTLY UNDER THE CENTRAL AUTHORITY**

**PYONGYANG CITY**

**Mangyongdae**

**The Early 30th Century BC**

**Youth City**

**Unjong, Science and Technology**

**Base**

**The Kumsusan Memorial Palace**



Pyongyang, the capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, is comprised of the alluvial plain piled up by the Taedong River and its tributaries, the

Pyongyang hilly plain and low hills surrounding it.

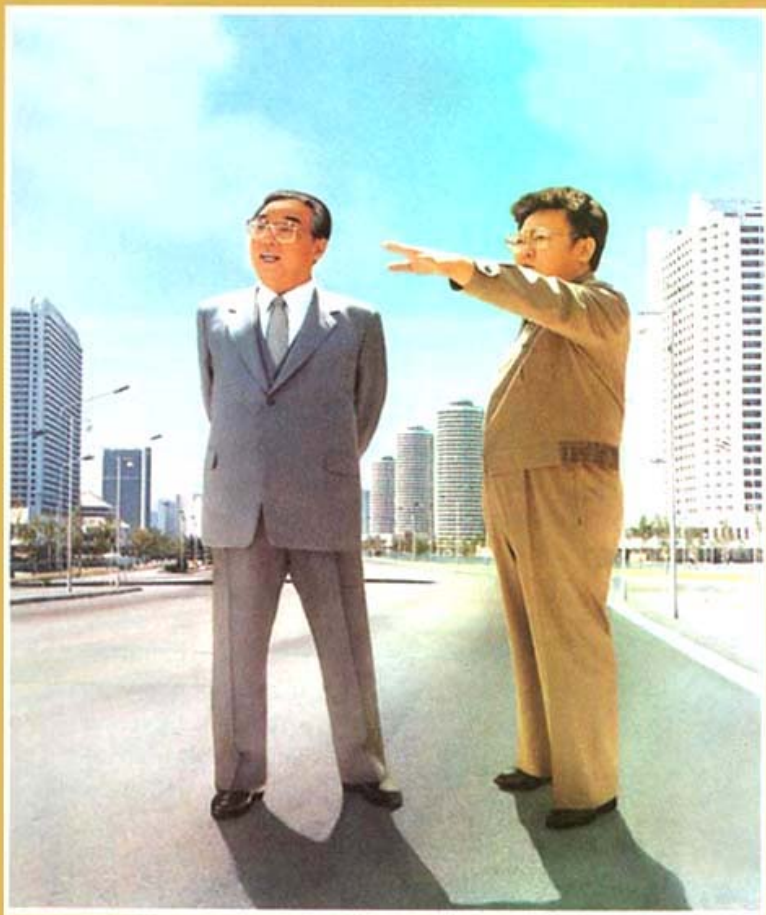
Mt. Juam, Moran Hill, Mansu Hill, Namsan Hill, Mt. Haebang, Mt. Changgwang, Mangyong Hill and other hills lower than 100 metres rise from north to south. Most of these hills rise in the central part of the city and on the riverside, presenting beautiful scenery and adding to the beauty of the city. The Taedong River flows across the city and is joined by the Pothong, Sunhwa and Konyang Rivers and the Mujin Stream. On the Taedong there are several islets including Rungna, Yanggak, Turu and Tudan islets.

The place where hills, rivers and plains are in good harmony is noted for its scenic beauty and known as a good place to live in. It is the place of origin of the Korean nation and the foundation base of the country.

For the ancient Koreans, the word Pyongyang generally meant an area with a big river and a wide plain. The name disappeared in other regions and only Pyongyang retained the name and became known at home and abroad as the capital of Tangun's Korea and Koguryo. Thus the term has become a proper name.

The name of the Taedong River flowing through the central part of Pyongyang was *Handuru* in ancient Korean. *Han* means great and *cluru* is derived from *puru*, the ancient name of Pyongyang. Thus it meant the "river of great Pyongyang".

"Great Pyongyang" meant "capital Pyongyang". It was the capital of Tangun's Korea, the first state in the East established in the early 30th century BC. and later the capital of Koguryo which lasted for nearly 1,000 years till 668 AD. It is a city with a



**President Kim Il Sung and Comrade Kim Jong Il inspecting the newly built Kwangbok Street**



### **Part of Pyongyang viewed from the Moran Hill**

**5,000-year history.**

**Since the Korean war (1950-1953) Pyongyang has been rebuilt as a youth city on ruins in a short space of time. Today Pyongyang is not only the political centre of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

**with a population of 3.020.000 but also the centre of the economy, science, education and culture with machine-building factories and other heavy-industry factories, big light-industry factories and developed agriculture.**



**Mangyong Hill  
in spring**

## **Mangyongdae**

**Mangyongdae has been known for its scenic beauty from olden times along with the eight scenic spots in Pyongyang. The highest of the hills surrounding Mangyongdae is called Mangyong Hill. The Taedong River skirts around the foot of Mangyong Hill. The top of Mangyong Hill commands a picturesque view of the ships sailing to and from the West Sea along the river, the wooded Turu and Kono Islets, the extensive plain in the south, and high and low hills in the north. Hence its name Mangyong Hill (hill commanding 10,000 views). The village at its foot is**

**The house in Mangyongdae where President Kim Il Sung was born**



called Mangyongdae. President Kim Il Sung, the great leader of the Korean people, was born in a thatched house here and spent his childhood. This house is preserved in its original form at the foot of beautiful Mangyong Hill.

Originally, this house was built by a landlord in Pyongyang for the keeper of his hill and his ancestors' graves. The President's great-grandfather was too poor to buy such a thatched house. So promising to take care of the landlord's hill and his ancestors' graves, he moved to the house. In this house, the President's family fought for the independence of the homeland and freedom and liberation of the people against the Japanese imperialists from generation to generation. And in this house the President received patriotic edu-



**Mangyongdae  
Funfair**





### **Pupils of Mangyongdae Revolutionary School**

**education from his parents and cherished a great ambition for revolution. He embarked on the road of revolution when he was 13, firmly determined not to return until the homeland became independent.**

**When he returned home after 20 years, having achieved the historical cause of the national liberation, only his old grandparents met him.**

**His father, mother, brother, uncle and maternal uncle—they who had embarked on the road of national liberation, were killed in action in Manchuria.**

**Today, Korean people regard Mangyongdae as the cradle of revolution and ceaselessly visit this place to learn from the President's life. Foreigners who visit this place say that Mangyongdae is a school that trains people to be true revolutionaries.**

**A modern fun-fair is built near Mangyongdae for the visitors.**

## **The Karly 30th Century HC**

When the history and culture of Pyongyang is mentioned, an account should be given about Taedonggang Culture, one of the live civilizations in the world. The Taedonggang Culture means the ancient culture of Tangun's Korea, which developed in the basin of the Taedong River around Pyongyang in the Korean peninsula.

This culture which was given the scientific name by the Historical Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is represented by the Mausoleum of King Tangun. The dolmens associated with the /j//>/w-shaped dagger and narrow dagger culture, the ancient fortress walls and the sites of ancient villages which prove the character of Tangun's Korea as a slate, and the goldworks, ceramic ware and the remains of ancient astronomical charts which show the development of science and technology of Tangun's Korea.

### **King Tangun's Mausoleum**



The basin of the Taedong River around Pyongyang is a centre of primitive culture and a cradle of ancient civilization.

The Komunmoru archaeology belonging to the pre-palaeolithic era, that is, over 1 million years ago, discovered in Sangwon County, Pyongyang City, and the relics and fossilized remains of human beings belonging to the middle and latter periods of palaeolithic era prove that Pyongyang and its vicinity is a cradle of mankind, the birthplace of Koreans. Discoveries in this region of the materials that show the development of agriculture in the neolithic era and the Bronze Age, ground stone implements and ceramics indicate that this region was the cradle as well as the centre of culture of neolithic era and the Bronze Age of Korea.

In the early 30th century BC Tangun's Korea, an ancient state, was established in the basin of the Taedong River around Pyongyang. The sites of large villages, the ancient castles including the earthen walls in Chongam-dong, Taesong District, Pyongyang City, which were the fort walls of the capital of Tangun's Korea, large dolmens with the lids each weighing 50-70 tons, *w/j/K*-shaped daggers and *ll'/?/ll'*-shaped spearheads were unearthed in the vicinity of Pyongyang. These reflect the character of Tangun's Korea as a state.

The archaeological finds and written data discovered in Pyongyang and around it show that the region was a cradle of ancient culture. Here importance is attached to the *piplui*-shaped dagger culture, which is a developed form of culture of the Bronze Age represented by the sites of ancient houses and the dolmens of different periods. The culture, peculiar to Tangun's Korea, constitutes the core of the culture of the Bronze Age of East Asia; it exerted a great influence on the development of culture in neighbouring regions.

Gold earrings, gold rings and other relics show that bronze ware was made in the latter period of 40th century BC, that gold and silver processing reached a high level in the



### **The Tomb of King Tongmyong**

early period of 30th century BC, that steel of good quality was produced in the 12th century BC, and that ordinary tool steel was made in the 7th century BC. Analyses of the Misongri-style jars and other earthenware discovered in this region prove that the region was a cradle of ceramic culture. The charred grains of rice, soy, bean, millet, foxtail millet and kaoliang, and the remains of a big adjustable-depth plough made of oak show that advanced methods of crop cultivation were employed in those days and agriculture was developed. Over 200 dolmens among 10,000 dolmens discovered in the vicinity of Pyongyang bear the inscriptions of over 40 constellations which were observed in the sky over Pyongyang at



**Sculptures  
around the  
Tomb of King  
Tongmyong**



**The Ulmil Pavilion was the command post in the north of the inner walls of Pyongyang in the Koguryo period in the mid-6th century**

the time of Tangun's Korea. This shows the high level of astronomy of those days and proves that the region was a cradle of the ancient astronomy of mankind. The *Sinji* characters which were the original national alphabet were invented and used from the early period of Tangun's Korea. This marked a milestone in the development of the Taedonggang Culture.

The Taedonggang Culture in the basin of the Taedong River around Pyongyang further flourished and developed by the Koguryo culture in the period before and after the beginning of the Christian era.

Koguryo emerged as a great power in the territory of Tangun's Korea in 277 BC and made Pyongyang its second capital in 247 AD, and capital in 427 AD.

Koguryo built solid fort walls in its capital anew in the middle of the 6th century, which are today's Pyongyang walls.

Koryo (the early 10th century—the end of 14th century), successor to Koguryo and the first unified state on the Korean peninsula, attempted several times to move its capital



**Taedong Gate was the east gate for the inner walls of Pyongyang.**

from Kaegyong (today's Kaesong) to Pyongyang. Koryo cherished an idea of establishing a strong state like Tangun's Korea or Koguryo with Pyongyang as a base.

In the period of the Ri dynasty (the end of 14th century—the early 20th century), Pyongyang always held an important place as a big city in politics, the economy and culture of the country.

Preserved in their original state in Pyongyang are the Mausoleum of Tangun, the founder-king of the Korean nation, the Tomb of King Tongmyong, the first king of Koguryo, the fort on Mt. Taesong, the Pyongyang Walls, the ruins of Anak Palace, the Taedong Gate, the Ryongwang Pavilion, the Ulmil Pavilion, the Pothong Gate and many other relics of the ancient and middle ages.

## Youth City

Pyongyang is an old city, but it has neither narrow streets nor twisting lanes typically found in an ancient city. The city has risen with an entirely new appearance since it was destroyed during the Korean war.

During the three years of war US planes dropped 42S.74X bombs over Pyongyang, making 1,431 sorties. The city was reduced to ruins. The Americans claimed that Korea had returned to the Stone Age and it could not rise again in 100 years. Some people said that it would be preferable to build a new city in another place rather than to reconstruct the destroyed city. However, Pyongyangites built their city in a modern way in a short span. The capital city has boulevards stretching from the town to the suburbs, squares, dwelling houses, public buildings, modern structures in the national style and cultures, fountains and murals arranged in harmony with these structures which together with the dazzling neonsigns in the evening streets afford youthful vitality to the city.

In the central part of the capital city Kim Il Sung Square is located. On Namsun Hill in Iron! of the square there stands the Grand People's Study House, showing off Korean-style architecture. The broad square is flanked by the Korean Central History Museum and the Korean Art Gallery on each side, and across the Taedong River the Tower of the Juche Idea rises. Near the square are the Pyongyang Students and Children's Palace, the Mansudae Art Theatre, a large fountain park and the Pyongyang Department Store No. 1, which are crowded with people at all times. From this square wide streets run in every direction.

The buildings in the capital were built in the national style. The Grand People's Study House, the Pyongyang Grand Theatre, the People's Palace of Culture, the Okryu Restaurant and other Korean-style buildings stand in conspic-

uous places, adding national flavour to the streets in general.

Kwangbok Street, Thongil Street and modern-style buildings erected in different parts of the city preserve the national character. The streets are adorned with sculptures and fountains placed in harmony with buildings. The splendid and vivid murals drawn in the style of Korean painting on the walls of monumental buildings and the walls of underground stations are distinct with national colouring.

Each residential quarter of Pyongyang is laid out as a comprehensive neighbourhood provided with all conveniences necessary for people's daily lives and activities. Schools, kindergartens, nurseries, clinics, shops, laundries, barber's shops, rice cookeries and other public service facilities are evenly located in the neighbourhood, taking the service radius into account.

Adhering to the principle of refraining from building heavy-industry factories in the central part of the city and of building clean and

**The bronze statue of  
President Kim Il Sung  
set up on Mansu Hill→**

**Part of An Sang thaeK  
Street**









**Chollima Statue**

small factories for light industry and foodstuff industry for the convenience of the people, big factories for heavy industry and light industry were built on the outskirts of the city.

Pyongyang has factories that produce machine-tools and electrical, transport, building, coalmining, spinning and weaving, foodstuff-processing and precision machines, vehicle factories that make electric locomotives, Diesel-engine locomotives, passenger coaches, freight cars, trolley buses, tramcars and

various kinds of buses, building-materials factories that manufacture cement, blocks, industrial ceramics and building fixtures, factories that produce textiles, knitwear and clothes, and factories that produce various kinds of foodstuffs, luxury goods and daily necessities. Pyongyang is the industrial centre of Korea.

There are dozens of satellite cities on the outskirts of Pyongyang, such as Sungho. Ryongsong, Sunan. Unjong. Junghwu and Kangnam. These satellite cities were set up to prevent Pyongyang from sprawling over too wide an area and its popu-

lation from growing too big. At the same time, they make valuable contributions to the urban management of the capital and its convenient provision of services. In the countryside surrounding these satellite cities, modern bases for the production of vegetables and the large-scale production of meat, eggs, dairy products and fruit have been set up in a substantial way.

Pyongyang is known as a "garden city", with 58 square metres of green area per head of population, emitting three times as much oxygen as needed per citizen.

The capital is linked by an excellent road network with Kaesong, Wonsan, Nampho and Hyangsan to the south, east and west. Recently many new streets have been constructed. The stations on the underground railway system in Pyongyang, the chief means of transportation in the capital, are built in palatial style. Thermal power stations supply underground radiation central heating to the whole of the capital.

Pyongyang is the scientific, educational and cultural cen-

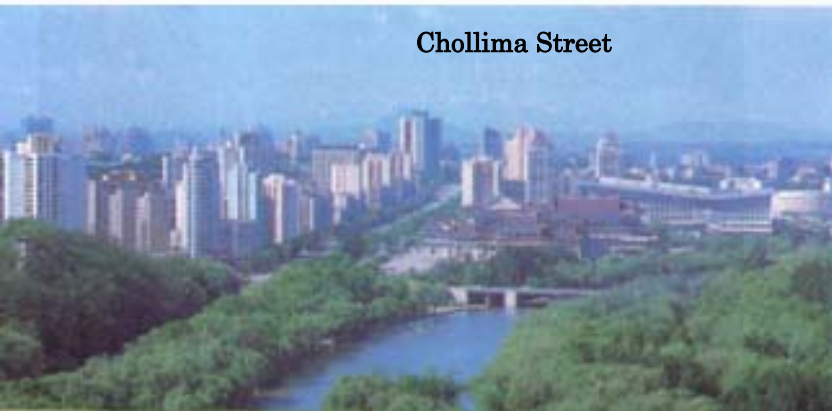
### **The Tower of (he Juche Idea on the shore of the Taedong River**





tre of Korea. Prior to liberation, there were only two colleges, three middle schools and a handful of vocational-training and primary schools in Pyongyang. Now there are several hundred educational institutions, ranging from universities including Kim II Sung University to colleges, senior-middle schools and schools arranged so that people can study while working. As a result, half the population of the capital is engaged in saidies. Film saidios turn out over 2(K) films a year, such as "The Nation and Destiny". There are opera troupes, famous for five masterpieces such as "The Flower Girl", and the city has literary and fine art companies, a large number of cultural institutions such as theatres, cinema houses, public culture halls, museums and exhibition halls,

### **Chollima Street**





### **Musu Street**

attached to which are drama, art and circus troupes.

Pyongyang only had four hospitals and a small number of doctors before liberation. Nowadays there are central and municipal hospitals, and a people's hospital in every district of the city and a comprehensive clinic in every *ilbon tri*. There are hospitals of all kinds grouped under their technical specialities, such as the General Hospital of Koryo Medicine, hygiene and epidemic prevention stations and medical science research institutions. These are all part of a free medicare and section-doctor network and form the bedrock of a system providing material

### **Sculpture “Aspiration for reunification” on Thongil Street**





### **Pyongyang Maternity Hospital**

and technical support, medical services and medical science.

Meanwhile, sports have been made available to all in Pyongyang, which has thousands of athletics groups, dozens of clubs for sports and sports teams, and mass gymnastics production company. There are hundreds of sports grounds, gymnasiums and stadiums, notable among which are the May Day Stadium and the indoor stadiums in Chongchun Street.

As the centre of publishing and information in Korea. Pyongyang is the headquarters of newspapers such as the *Rotlong Siniinm* and the *Pyongyang Sinmun*. It is also home to radio and television stations, news agency, and magazine companies, as well as dozens of book publishing companies.

In connection with the vigorous urban construction of Pyongyang, we must mention the bold, expansive and epoch-making strategy devised since the 1970s by Comrade Kim Jong II with the aim of bringing to fruition the concept for the city of Comrade Kim Il Sung. The construction of all the monumental structures in the capital, without exception, have had the benefit of Comrade Kim Jong II's painstaking

guidance. They include new streets like Ragwon Street, Mi-insu Street, An Sang ThaeK Street. Changgwang Street, Kwangbok Street. Thongil Street and Chongchun Street, as well as the Revolutionary Martyrs' Cemetery, Tower of the Juche Idea, Arch of Triumph, the Korean Revolution Museum, Monument to the Founding of the Party, Kim Il Sung Stadium. May Day Stadium, Pyongyang Maternity Hospital. Grand People's Study House. People's Palace of Culture. Mansudae Art Theatre, Ice Rink, Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace and Chongchun Street Sports Village.

Pyongyang, where the ancestor of the Paedal (a variant of Paktal—Tr.) nation, Tangun, was born, which gave birth

**A scene of the revolutionary opera *The Sea of Flood***



**Mansudae Art Theatre**





### **Sports village on Chongchun Street**



to Ancient Korea 5,000 years ago and where for 1,000 years Koguryo was renowned as a powerful state with a mighty army, is where Comrade Kim Jong 11 is carrying on the generational legacy of the founder of socialist Korea Comrade Kim Il Sung.

Korean national martial art—  
Taekwon-Do





### **May Day Stadium**

Today Pyongyang guards the soul of the Korean people as the eternally healing heart of the nation.

### **Unjong, Science and Technology Base**

Unjong is an administrative district of Pyongyang City, connected by road to the South Phyongan provincial city of Phyongsong. Phyongsong was originally built as a satellite city of Pyongyang and as a science and technology base, and so the whole area was called Phyongsong. but not long ago

### **A scene of mass calisthenics**



## **The Grand People's Study House**



the science and technology base was made a separate administrative district of Pyongyang.

Surrounded by hills covered in pine and larch trees, Unjong is a scenic parkland housing the Academy of Sciences and the many research institutes subordinate to it.

Just after liberation, on October 18 Juche 35 (1946), Comrade Kim Il Sung told the participants at a conference

## **Kim Il Sung University**





### **General view of the Three-Revolution Exhibition**

of scientists and technicians that whether a rich and powerful new Korea would be successfully built or not depended largely on them.

In April Juche 41 (1952), the whole country was turned into a sea of fire, as the war upon which the life or death of the nation hinged raged all around. At this juncture, a congress of scientists was held in the Morunbong Underground Theatre in Pyongyang. On December 1 of the same year the Academy of Sciences was founded. Today, science and technology in Korea has a systematic guidance mechanism and has made progress of which it can be justifiably proud.

Now the Academy of Sciences has eight sections and branches under it, as well as over 80 subordinate research institutes. Of these, 56 are located in Unjong. Compared to when it was founded, the number of the academy's personnel has increased by over 80 times.

Immediately after liberation, there were only 12 professionals in the fields of the natural sciences in Korea. Today the country has a contingent of nearly 2 million—which means one technical specialist for every six members of the work force.

On August 31, Juche 87 (1998), on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Republic and of the First Session of the Tenth Supreme People's Assembly, Korean sci-



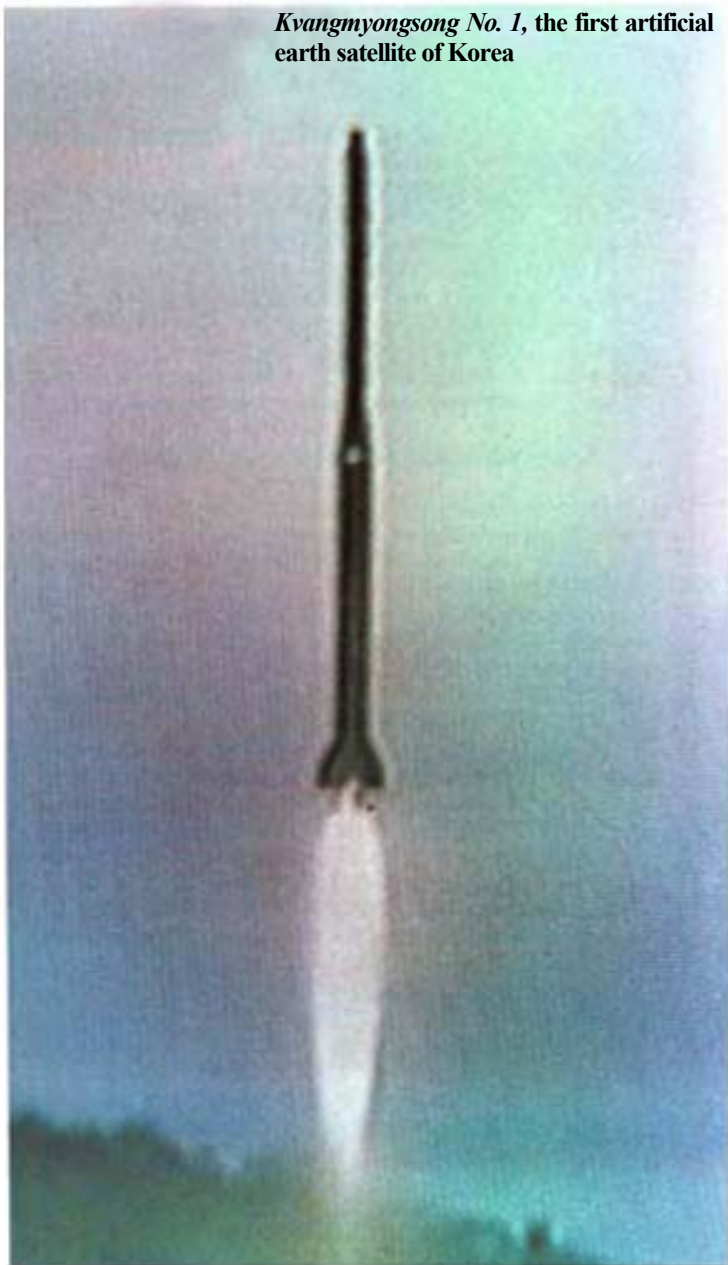
### **Part of the open-air display of the Three- Revolution Exhibition**

enlists and technicians succeeded in launching an earth-orbiting satellite called the Kwangmyongsong No. 1. All the technology and materials of the multiple-stage carrier rocket and the satellite—from the electronic and mechanical equipment to the control mechanism—were up to the standard of the 1980s. Considering that there are very few countries which possess the ability to manufacture and launch satellites, this feat is eloquent testimony to the scientific and technical, and industrial potential that Korea has quietly built up in a short period of time.

At the beginning of Juche 88 (1999), Comrade Kim Jong II put forward the slogan of building a powerful and prosperous country when he started his new year on-the-spot inspections at the Academy of Sciences. At the same time, he named the year Juche 88 "Science Year".

Today in Korea all the advanced fields of science and technology, including the electronics engineering, heat engineering and bio-engineering, are advancing apace. Proofs of the great achievements made in science and technology by Korea are the electron microscope of 300.(XX) magnifications, an oxygen-assisted steel manufacturing technique, the West Sea Barrage and the Anbyon Youth Power Station.

***Kwangmyongsong No. 1*, the first artificial earth satellite of Korea**



## **The Kumsusan Memorial Palace**

Driving into Pyongyang from the airport in Sunan in the capital's suburbs, along the newly-constructed September 9 Street, one soon encounters a line of low hills. This is the Taesong-Ami-Jangja range. An imposing building standing far off in a thick grove of trees comes into view as one emerges from the tunnel under Mt. Ami. This is the Kumsusan Memorial Palace, and it remains exactly the same as it was when President Kim Il Sung, the great leader and father of the Korean people, worked there, and he now lies in state there.

On July 19, Juche 83 (1994), the world watched awestruck as the last rites for the President, who had suddenly passed away on the 8th of the same month, were televised around the globe. It was then that the people of the rest of the world realized how extraordinarily close were the ties between the President and the Korean people. At that very time, it seemed that the deliberately distorted foreign propaganda fostered during the cold war and the long-term biased reporting about Korea reeled from a shattering blow.

The demise of the great leader was a devastating loss to the Korean nation and people, and a matter of indelible grief for them.

The Korean people honoured President Kim Il Sung as their country's President; but they honoured him even more so as the flesh-and-blood father of the one great family of the Korean nation.

During their colonial rule of Korea from 1905 to 1945, the Japanese press-ganged over 6 million able-bodied Korean men into forced labour, and 1 million



## **Kumsusan Memorial Palace**

young Korean men died in battle after they had been conscripted into the Japanese army. In addition, approximately 200,000 young Korean women were cruelly forced to become sex slaves for the Japanese imperialist army. In addition to ruthlessly plundering Korea's human and material resources, the Japanese imperialists tried to obliterate the Korean language and script, even going so far as to attempt to wipe out the Korean people's very names. So it is no wonder that the Korean people, having suffered such a long historical tragedy, praised the man who smashed Japanese rule in a bloody and protracted struggle and liberated them by referring to him as their own father.

President Kim II Sung was not just the liberator of the Korean people; he was also a true parent and teacher who guaranteed in a practical manner all the rights and well-being of his people as an independent nation, and as such he is truly revered.

The Juche idea, a new philosophical ideology which President Kim II Sung initiated, has spread all over the

world. It reflects the historical reality of Korea along with environment of the age and the aspirations of the 20th century, in which the awareness of their own independence of the working masses of all countries was awakened.

The Korean people regard as the epoch-making event of the century their liberation, thanks to President Kim II Sung, from the psychological fetters of worship of great powers inherited from the ruling clique of the Ri dynasty, which had eventually led to the terrible anguish of losing their country.

The President enabled the masses of the working people, after they had become the masters of political power and of the means of production, to enjoy their rights as true masters and play their role in a responsible way. There is hardly a factory, farm, school, hospital or even an ordinary worker's home that the President did not visit. He received the people's wholehearted support and respect because he was a leader who treated workers, farmers and intellectuals, who are the creators of both material and spiritual wealth for society, as the true masters of society and he reflected their demands in Party and governmental policies and lines.

The unique feature of Korea is that President Kim II Sung regarded dedicating everything for the well-being of the working masses, who are the real masters of the country as the true value and happiness of a leader; at the same time, the people eloquently showed that they sought their full happiness and satisfaction, the fulfilment of their desires, in carrying out unconditionally the instructions of the leader. This special relationship between the President and the people as components of the same social organism sharing a common fate has given birth to an unprecedented situation.



In the wake of the demise of President Kim II Sung, heads of state and government and leaders of political parties of 166 countries, together with progressive people the world over, shared the grief of the Korean people.

Now the Korean people, under the slogan, "The Great Leader Comrade Kim II Sung Will Always Be With Us!", regard the loyal embracing of the President's final behest as the most sublime moral obligation.

In accordance with the heartfelt desire of the whole people to honour the great leader for ever, the Kumsusan Memorial Palace, where he worked, has been fitted up so that he can be honoured forever, just as he was in life. In addition, the Juche era has been promulgated, starting in 1912, the year the great leader was born, and his birthday, April 15, has been made an official holiday—the Day of the Sun.

On September 5. Juche 87 (1998). at the First Session of the Tenth Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in a supplementary amendment to the Socialist Constitution, it was decreed

### **Part of the inside of the Palace**



in its preamble, “Under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean people will uphold the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung as the eternal President of the Republic and carry the revolutionary cause of Juche through to completion by defending and carrying forward the idea and achievements of Comrade Kim Il Sung.” This announcement embodied the unwavering determination of the Korean people to cherish the final behest of President Kim Il Sung and build a mighty socialist country on Korean soil.

Pyongyang today is a sacred place for the Korean nation, not only because it is the location of the Mausoleum of Tangun, founder of the Korean race, but even more so because it is the site where President Kim Il Sung worked in his lifetime, the great man who revived Korean nation, which had virtually been deemed nonexistent in the world, and made it an independent nation. In this sense, the Korean nation is called Kim Il Sung's nation and Pyongyang shines as its sacred heart.

## **Kimilsungia**



## RYANGGANG PROVINCE

### **Mt Paektu, Symbol of Korea Paektusamcholli Plain Creation of a New World**



Ryanggang Province is situated in the northernmost inland region of Korea. The province consists mainly of highland plains and plateaus. The mean altitude of the province is 1,300 metres and the regions higher than 1,000 metres account for 80 per cent of the entire area of the province. Therefore, the plains in the province are higher than 1,000 metres on average and mountain ridges around them are higher than 1,500 metres.

Kaema Plateau, the roof of Korea, the famous Paekmu Plateau and Paektu lava region are found there.

Ryanggang Province has characteristic climatic features. The warm air coming from the south and the cold air descending from Mongolia meet there. So, it is always misty and there is very little sunshine. Moreover, in autumn the frost comes early and the severe cold lasts. In winter the temperature falls to 43 degrees below zero and snow lies for over 200 days on average.

The province was newly formed in the area around the upper basins of the Amnok and Tuman Rivers in Juche 43

(1954) with a view to rapidly developing this region politically, economically and culturally, as this region was the most backward historically. Hence the name of the province (Rygang Province—province of two rivers). The seat of the province is the City of Hyesan.

### **Mt. Paektu, Symbol of Korea**

Mt. Paektu is in northwest of Samjiyon County, Ryang-gang Province and is the highest mountain in Korea rising on the Korean-Chinese frontier. The name of Mt. Paektu derives from the legend about Tangun, the first king of the Korean nation. It is a descriptive expression that it is capped with snow all the year round.

The historic Mt. Paektu which overlooks the high and low peaks and mountain ranges of the country, has shared the joy and sorrow of the Korean nation and gone through vicissitudes together with it for long years. So it has become symbol of Korea and the soul of the Korean nation.

Mt. Paektu has been widely known as the ancestral and famous mountain for its beauty and majesty from olden times. It is said that if one is to know Korea one must see Mt. Paektu. Atop Mt. Paektu there is volcanic Lake Chon which was formed when water gathered in the crater. It is surrounded by over ten high peaks including the highest Janggun Peak which is 2,750 metres above sea level. The River Amnok, the longest in Korea, flows from the southwest slope of the mountain and the River Tuman from the southeast slope. The River Songhua in China has its source in the north of Lake Chon.

The perpetual snow, peaks in snowstorm, double rainbow rising after a downpour of rainfall in summer, ever-



Lake Chon on Mt. Paektu

changing scenes of the sea of mist, a bird's-eye view of the sea of forest after the mist clears, singular shapes of Paektu Mountain System, particularly sunrise on Mt. Paektu when the morning mist on the mountain top drifts down toward the foot of the mountain and all the mountains and fields shine brilliantly when the sun rays begin to spread fanwise—these present really majestic sights.

Mt. Paektu is the mountain of revolution which is associated with the feats of struggle of the respected Comrade Kim Il Sung who fought for the restoration of the country and the freedom and liberation of the people for over 15 years. Over 400 historical remains found in the area stretching for over 250 kilometres fanwise from Mt. Paektu present a grand open-air museum. About 16 kilometres south of the top of Mt. Paektu is the Paektu Secret Camp preserved in its original state. In the camp there are the log-cabin of the Headquarters where Comrade Kim Il Sung worked during the anti-Japanese armed struggle, and the native home of Comrade Kim Jong Il, "son of guerrillas".

Mt. Paektu is one of the famous tourist resorts and is visited by many people every year.

Mt. Paektu was registered as the world's natural reserve (international biosphere reserve) in June 78 (1989).



**Sunrise at Mt. Paektu**



17



**The Paektu secret camp, the native home  
of Comrade Kim Jong Il  
Kimjongilia**





## **Paektusamchholli Plain**

Basaltic lava flowed out and covered the basic rock first when a volcanic eruption took place on Mt. Paektu I million years ago and later alkaline trachyte lava burst out and piled, forming a bell-shaped mountain. Later the crater burst again and strong basaltic fluid lava flowed out. The lava flowed fill-

### **Sobaeksu valley near Mt. Paektu**



ing up valleys and formed grand lava areas of a grand scale. Among them an area of 5,350 square kilometres in Korea forms the Paektu lava region, called Paektusam-cholli Plain. Located there are Tae-hongdan County Combined Farm, Phothae and Paegam Combined Farms and other large farms. Comparing the present agriculture of Ryanggang Province with that before liberation is like comparing a big mountain with a fine grain of sand. Such signal change can be seen in Taehongdan County

### **Mt. Paektu viewed from Lake Samji**





### **Wheat harvest in Taehongdan**

Combined Farm, for instance.

The areas, 1,100 metres high above sea level, were not inhabited and they were covered with primeval forest before liberation. There were only a few log-houses for slash-and-burn tillers along the Sohongdan stream. They used hoes as farm implements.

Today total length of over 1,400 kilometres of windbreak was formed around fields and standardized fields of 15 hectares on average stretch as far as the eye can see, which yield bountiful crops of wheat, barley and potato.

Several hundred tractors, lorries, bulldozers, sowing machines, weeding machines, combine harvesters and other big machines are at work there. There are over 1,560 of them. The proportion of mechanized farm operations is 98 per cent on aver-

age. One farm worker tills 30 hectares. Beans come next to wheat and barley in the grain crops of Ryanggang Province. Among them *Viciafaba* which thrives in the cold region and fertilizes the soil is widely cultivated. When mention is made of Ryanggang Province, what first springs to mind are potatoes.

In Ryanggang Province which has suitable natural and geographical features, the potato is the king of dry-field crops as a stable crop.

Taehongdan and Phothae Combined Farms have specialized starch factories and all the counties in the province are furnished with starch processing facilities. So potatoes are processed in a comprehensive manner.

On a visit to Taehongdan County, in Juche 87 (1998), Comrade Kim Jong II, attaching great significance to potato cultivation, encouraged people there to make a new innovation in the research

### **Ryanggang Province is “potato province”. Potato field of the Taehongdan County Combined Farm**



into seeds and cultivation of potatoes. He said that the county must lead the country in potato farming.

Industrial crops hold a large share in the agriculture of the province and are of national significance.

Hop, which is one of the main ingredients of beverage giving pleasure to the tourists visiting the place and available even in the capital city, is a special product of the province. Flax which grows well in this region is of great significance for solving the problems of fibre and industrial oil for the country.

Paektusan blueberry is famous as an industrial crop. The fruit of blueberry measures about one centimetre across. Being watery, it is round or oval. When it ripens in August or September, it becomes dark violet. It is sweet and sour. It is eaten raw or used in making different processed goods such as sweet juice, liquor and jelly. There is a blueberry processing factory in Hyesan, the seat of Ryanggang Province. Equipped with modern machinery in recent years, the factory produces dozens of processed goods including "Paektusan blueberry liquor" and "Paektusan blueberry jelly".

## **Creation of a New World**

The state has done its best for the Ryanggang people who were far removed from the benefits of civilization in the past and for the province which



**Morning in Lake Samji**



was drenched with the sorrow of penal colony.

With the laying of the northern railway linking the northern inland regions of the country, the volume of freight transportation by railway in the province increased several hundred times in comparison with that before liberation. Over 500 kilometres of roads were newly built. Five mines

Part of the primeval forest on Mt. Paektu







**The Paekmu plateau has been converted to a fertile farmland. The Paegam Combined Farm**

including the Hyesan Youth Mine were newly opened up, and produce more than one hundred times as much nonferrous metal ores as in Juche 45 (1956). Large factories and enterprises were set up including the Hyesan Combined Paper Mill, which is capable of meeting the national demand for craft paper.

The gross industrial output increased 194 times compared to that of Juche 35 (1946) immediately after liberation, at the rate of 138 per cent on average per year. As a result of the completion of electrification, in the rural areas electricity is carried to the houses in the remote mountain villages, whereas before liberation most of the inhabitants there did not know what electricity was.

The province has tens of universities and specialized schools, over 500 primary schools and senior

middle schools, giving universal 11-year compulsory and free education, whereas there was not a single middle school there before liberation.

Before liberation the province had almost no doctors, but now over 420 medical and prophylactic institutions are evenly distributed up to the remote mountain villages and all the working people enjoy the benefits of universal free medical care.

In Samjiyon at the foot of Mt. Paektu there is a famous ski-run, where a national skiing contest is held every year.

With the ceaseless help of the state, the people, mountains and rivers have changed beyond recognition.

### **Dense forest in Mt. Sobaek**



## SOUTH PHYONGAN PROVINCE

Korea in Miniature



South Phyongan Province is situated in the middle region of the northwestern part of the Korean peninsula, surrounding the capital city of Pyongyang. As the general characteristic features of the terrain of the Korean peninsula show, the eastern slope of the high mountain ridges in the east is steep, while the western slope is gentle. The eastern region including the basin of the Taedong River, flowing through the middle of the province, constitutes the low and mid—high mountainous area, while in the west the plains and hills stretch. In the lower basins of the Taedong and Chongchon and in the coastal areas are the extensive Yoltusamcholli Plain, Onchon Plain and Phyongwon Plain and tideland of 100,000 hectares. As the east constitutes a mountainous area and the west is plain, the difference in climate between west and east is more noticeable than that between the north and south. Underground resources are bountiful due to the peculiar development of the earth's crust.

The province is situated in the geographically important place of the country and contributes greatly to the



### **The Anju Area Coal Mining Complex**

general economic development. The seat of the province is Phyongsong.

### **Korea in Miniature**

Agriculture, mining and handicraft were practised from olden times because the province has favourable natural and geographical features for economic development and rich natural resources. However, till the late

### **The Pukchang Thermal Power Complex**





### **The assembly shop of the Sungri General Motor Works**

19th century, the last days of the Ri dynasty, backward agriculture was predominant and there was virtually no industry. After the Japanese occupation of Korea in the early 20th century the province was reduced to a base for Japan's exploitation and domination of Korea and for its invasion of the Asian continent. The basis of the regional economy was backward, agriculture was almost obsolete and there was a small-scale primitive mining industry to plunder rich coal and minerals. The machine-building industry barely accounted for 0.3 per cent in the industrial structure of South Phyongan Province in Juche 33 (1944), the year before liberation.

The gross industrial output in Juche 84 (1995) increased almost 700 times compared to the pre-liberation figure, and coal production grew by 20.8 times. Power production by thermal power stations increased 642 times compared with that in Juche 51 (1962) and that by hydroelectric power stations, 239.4 times. The province accounts for one-fourth of the output of the machine-building industry of the country.

Figures are said to show correctly the history of the



### **The Sunchon Cement Complex**

past and the present. But these data are too insufficient to show a true picture of the province today.

South Phyongan Province is the No. 1 base in the country for coal production. Most of the coal output is anthracite. The northern coal field in South Phyongan Province alone accounts for 70 per cent of anthracite deposits in the country. The coal, mined by several hundred big, small and medium-scale mines, is not only for domestic use but is also exported.

Thermal power generation forms a large proportion of the power industry in the province. Pukchang, Chongchongang, Sunchon and other large-scale thermal power stations which have an adequate supply of coal satisfy greatly the country's demand for electric power. Generation of hydroelectric power is developed. Many large, medium-scale and small power stations including the United Taedonggang Hydroelectric Power Station com-

prising Sunchon, Songchon, Ponghwa and Mirim barrage power stations built along the Taedong River not only produce electricity but also supply sufficient industrial water to over 1,000 factories, control water in the river to prevent flood damages and facilitate river transport.

A notable industry in South Phyongan Province is the building-materials industry devoted mainly to the production of cement. The cement produced by the Sunchon Cement Complex, with a production capacity of 3 million tons, and by other factories is popular among both domestic and foreign consumers for its high quality together with granite from Onchon, slates from Songchon and asbestos from Sunchon.

Production of automobiles is the primary machine-building industry of the province. The Sungri General Motor Works which produced the first lorry in Juche 47 (1958) produces various types of lorries ranging from middle- and small-type lorries to big lorries and supplies the whole country. In addition, a powerful base for the machine-building industry producing farm machines, min-

### **The production of urea fertilizer in the Numhung Youth Chemical Complex**





### **Bumper rice crop on the tideland field**

ing machines, communication equipment, construction machinery and precision machines has been laid.

Developed is in the province the chemical industry based on electric power, limestone, coal, salt, apatite. industrial water, by-products of the ferrous- and nonferrous-metal industry and other abundant raw materials. Large chemical factories including the Sunchon Vinylon Complex and the Numhung Youth Chemical Complex produce vinylon, synthetic fibres, urea fertilizer, carbide, nitrogen fertilizer and medicines, which greatly contribute

### **Farmer harvesting rice by machine**







### **Tobacco grown in Songchon in South Phyongan Province is famous from olden times**

to the economic development and health of the people.

South Phyongan Province, which is an important grain-producing base of the country, has modern and diversified agriculture. As a "province of irrigation", it is provided with a loop irrigation system linking the Phy-ongnam irrigation system with the Kiyang irrigation system. There are over 100 small and big reservoirs including Lake Yonphung, over 5,500 kilometres of waterways, and tens of thousands of irrigation facilities. In Juche 84 (1995) agricultural output of the province was 3.7 times greater than that of the pre-liberation days.

Small and medium-scale fisheries in the shallow sea and the tideland along the coast and fish farms in rivers, reservoirs and waterways have been comprehensively developed.

Hard clam and flower crab, specialities of the West Sea of Korea, are caught mainly in the sea off Onchon and Phyongwon.

South Phyongan Province borders on the capital city of Pyongyang and many railways and roads pass through the province. The total length of the railway in



### **A scene in a mountainous region**

the province accounts for one-t'it'lh of that in the country. The province is networked" with several thousand kilometres of motorway.

In the province there are now over 80 universities and colleges and over 540 senior middle schools, whereas before liberation there were only a small number of primary schools and 12 middle schools. All children there receive universal free compulsory education as elsewhere in the country. In many cooperative farms agricultural technicians and specialists account for nearly half the number of cooperative farmers.

Before liberation in the province there were no qualified doctors. There were only two hospitals with 116 beds, but now the province has several hundred hospitals. The number of doctors per 10,000 people is 30.

This comprehensively developed province is a typical example of the rest of the country.

## NAMPHO CITY

**Creation of the Idea and Method of Guidance and Management of the Socialist State**

**Home of ChoUima**

**West Sea Barrage**

**Tombs with Mural Paintings of 1,500 Years Ago**



Nampho City, situated on the coast of the West Sea in the lower reach of the Taedong River, is the marine gate to the capital city of Pyongyang, an international port city and a modern industrial city.

The whole area consists of the hilly plain weathered and washed for ages and the alluvial layer in the estuary of the Taedong River. The mean height above sea level of the city is five metres and that of the central part of the city is only three to four metres. There are over ten islands including Wau Island and Kadok Island off the coast. So the sea is calm. The deep trough of the Taedong River presents favourable natural and geographical conditions for the construction of a port.

## **Creation of the Idea and Method of Guidance and Management of the Socialist State**

**There are cozy modern rural houses surrounded by small hills opposite the seat of Kangso District, Nampho City. This is the Chongsanri Cooperative Farm village.**

**President Kim Il Sung guided the farm for 15 days in February Juche 49 (1960) when he studied the ways to improve the work of the state and economic organs to conform with the developing socialist reality and the new circumstances. As a result the idea and method of guidance and management of the socialist state, which is called "Chongsanri spirit and Chongsanri method", was created in Korea. This is the idea and method of guiding the masses which embodies the mass line based on the Juche idea to suit the new circumstances of socialist construction. Its basic requirement is to make the masses concern themselves with all the tasks arising in socialist construction and carry them out by displaying their voluntary enthusiasm and creativity.**

**Article 13 of the Socialist Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea stipulates, "The State shall implement the mass line and apply the Chongsanri spirit and Chongsanri method to all its activities, the spirit and method by which superiors assist their subordinates, mix with the masses to find solutions to problems and rouse them to conscious enthusiasm preferentially through political work.**



**The "democratic propaganda room" where a meeting was held when President Kim Il Sung guided Chongsan-ri**

**work with people." This legalized the idea and method as the principle of guidance and management of the socialist state.**

**President Kim Il Sung put forward in November Juche 50 (1961) the line of decisively improving socialist economic guidance and enterprise management by implementing the Chongsanri spirit and Chongsanri method more thoroughly.**

**While guiding the Taean Electric Machinery Plant (now the Taean Heavy Machine Complex) in Taean District, Nampho City, for over ten days in December that year, he established a new socialist economic guidance system. There he gave extensive elucidation of the basic principles that should be maintained in solving the problems of economic management suited to the nature of the socialist system. The constitution**

of the DPRK legally consolidated the socialist form of economic management in the country by stating, "The State shall direct and manage the national economy through the Taean work system, a socialist form of economic management whereby the economy is operated and managed scientifically and rationally on the basis of collective effort of the producer masses ...." (Article 33, Chapter II The Economy). The Taean work system is an economic management system which places the producer masses at the centre of economic management and a system whereby the economy is operated and managed basically through work with people.

It was a small plant which produced 5-hp motors and 10-kw transformers in those days, but the Taean Heavy Machine Complex has developed into a leading base for the production of custom-built equipment, and produces not only 50,000-kw thermal power turbines and 125,000-kw hydroelectric generators, 200,000-kw transformers, 210-ton-class boilers and other big generating equipment but also sets of equipment for metallurgical works, building-materials factories, chemical works and the mining industry.

### Home of Chollima

Chollima is the steed which covers one thousand *ri* (400 kilometres) day. This is a term symbolic of rapid advance which has been used from olden days. The mass movement for expediting socialist construction at the speed of Chollima is called Chollima Movement to

**suit the national sentiment.**

**In December Juche 45 (1956) President Kim II Sung called upon people to bring about an upsurge in socialist construction giving full play to the spirit of self-reliance. Visiting the then Kangson Steel Plant in Nampho City, factories and rural villages in different parts of the country for that purpose, he explained to workers and farmers the difficult situation the country was facing and the intention of the Party to rouse the entire working people to the heroic struggle, using the slogan, "Let us advance at the speed of Chollima!"**

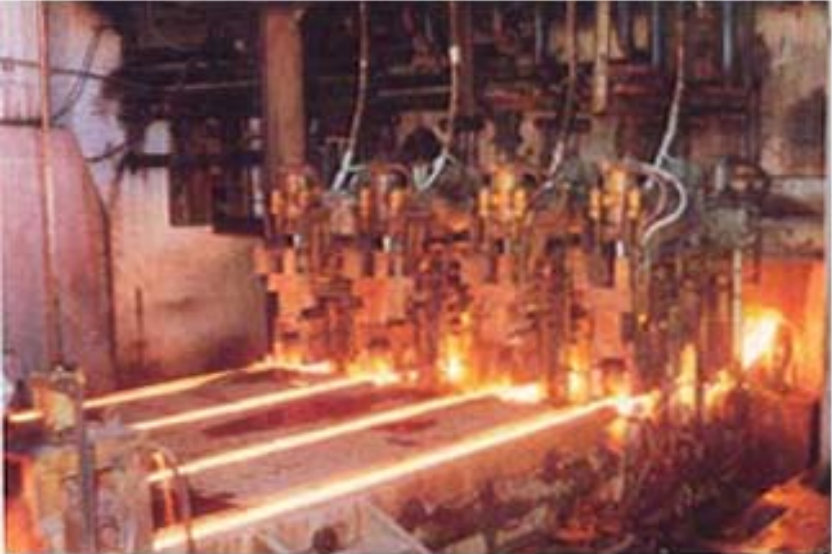
**The Chollima Movement which later became a powerful motive for the acceleration of socialist construction has become the general line for socialist construction in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In the course of the movement, conservatism, passivism and mysticism about technique were smashed and the Party's slogan calling for bold thinking and bold practice was implemented.**

**The Kangson Steel Plant has its name prefixed with the term Chollima to suit the home of Chollima and is now known as the Chollima Steel Complex with a yearly production capacity of 1 million tons of steel. The complex now produces different standards of steel products, drawn pipes and wire rope.**

**In the 1970s the Chollima Movement developed to ideological, technological and cultural revolutions.**

**Since then the Kum Song General Tractor Works has been expanded in a year and is a large automated enterprise with a production capacity ten times greater than before.**

**In addition, the Nampho General Smelting Enter-**



### **Conveyer system of roughing at the Chollima Steel Complex**

prise, the Nampho Shipbuilding Complex, the Nampho Glass Corporation and other big factories achieved shining success.

The Chollima Movement later became the symbol of Korea. In the history of Korea this era was named the

### **The May 18 Large Forge Shop of the Taean Heavy Machine Complex**





10,000-ton press





**The processing shop of the Kum Song General Tractor Works**  
**The assembly shop of the Kum Song General Tractor Works**



**"Chollima era" and Korea came to be called "Chollima Korea" by the rest of the world. The Chollima Statue, the symbol of the Chollima Movement, was unveiled on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang on April 15, Juche 50 (1961). The statue rises high, showing the firm will of the Korean people to make a new grand march at the speed of Chollima.**

## **West Sea Barrage**

**Mention of the port city of Nampho first of all reminds one of the West Sea Barrage. They are inseparably linked to each other as such.**

**The West Sea of Korea is widely open toward the ocean and gets narrower as it proceeds inward. So tidal water freely flows into it from the Pacific Ocean. The West Sea of Korea is one of the seas with the biggest difference between ebb and flow. The mean height of tide on the sea off Nampho is about six metres. The depth of water in Nampho Port at a low ebb was so low that big ships could not call there.**

**The Korean People's Army undertook the gigantic project of building a barrage on the estuary of the Tae-dong River on the West Sea and completed it in five years by Juche 75 (1986). The total length of the barrage with three lockgates is 8 kilometres. Four billion dollars were invested in the project.**

**Nampho Port situated inside the barrage can accommodate 50,000-ton-class ships and has developed into an international trade port with a yearly cargo traffic capacity of 27-29 million tons. Running on the barrage are a railway and motorway linking both shores**



### **Nampho Port**

**of the Taedong River forming a loop-line on the coast area of the West Sea and contributing to the economic and cultural development of the region. With the construction of the barrage, the industrial area and the agricultural area in the basins of the Taedong River and the Jaeryong River are linked by a canal; the Taedong River is converted into a man-made lake, supplying life-giving water to 340,000 hectares of paddy and nonpaddy fields and reclaimed tidelands in the west coast area through several thousand kilometres of waterways.**

**The West Sea Barrage, together with Mirim, Pongh-wa, Sunchon and Songchon barrages built upstream, forms a system for controlling the Taedong River; they prevent flooding and make it possible for ships, big and small, to sail deep into the inland area. If one sails on a boat to Nampho along the Taedong River converted**

into an artificial lake with the building of barrages, one cannot take one's eyes off the beautiful scenery of the shores.

In April Juche 41 (1952), at the height of the Korean war. President Kim Il Sung visited Kim Il Sung University evacuated to a mountainous area and suggested linking the West Sea of Korea with the East Sea of Korea by digging a canal from the upper reaches of the Taedong River in the west to the upper reaches of the Ryonghung River in the east and saw to it that research into it was conducted. In the process of implementing his great idea of nature-remaking, barrages, power stations and reservoirs were built along the Taedong River, eliminating the danger of flooding and creating favourable conditions for irrigation, river transport, fish farming, rafting, the supply of water to city and

### West Sea Barrage





A ship passing through a lock of the West Sea Barrage

**industry, landscaping and construction of recreation grounds..**

### **Tombs with Mural Paintings of 1,500 Years Ago**

**Kangso, Ryonggang and Taean areas in Nampho City belong to the realm of the ancient Taedonggang Culture and abound in the remains of the Bronze Age including the dolmens on Sokchon Hill in Ryonggang County.**

**The mural paintings in the Three Tombs of Kangso. in the tombs at Tokhung-ri, Susan-ri and Yaksu-ri which did not fade even after more than 1,000 years show the high level of development of fine art in the ^oguryo period and hold a deserving place in the his-**



The house allotted to the quadruplets born in the Hanggu District, Nampho City. The slate provided them with a 200-square-metre house and sent a doctor and a nurse to take good care of them

**Dwelling houses in the Waudo District, Nampho City**





Girls inspecting glassware in the Nampho Glass Corporation

tory of the world's fine art. These mural tombs, which are famous for the paintings of four guardian-gods, and figure and genre paintings, show the distinguished talents of the ancestors, as they preserve the strokes peculiar to the Korean paintings and their complicated structure and exact design are underlaid with a high level of mathematical and mechanical knowledge. They present valuable materials for the study of ancient history.

The advanced culture and technology in the epoch of Koguryo exerted a great influence on Japan. The Korean culture strongly influenced Japan's ancient tomb culture which succeeded the Yayoi culture and its influence became almost prevalent in the Asuka





### **The Three Tombs of Kangso (the 7th century)**

culture in the last period of ancient tomb culture. The activities in Japan of technician Anjak Jiri, painter Tamjing and monk Hyeja from Koguryo and scholars Wang-in and Ajikki from Paekje are well known. The plane structure of Asuka, the earliest temple of Japan, is similar to that of the temple situated in front of the Tomb of King Tongmyong, the founder-king of Koguryo, in Pyongyang. The structure of and mural paintings in Takamatsu ancient tombs in the Asuka village were made after the pattern of the Koguryo tombs. The mural painting in the main hall of the Horyu Temple in Japan which is famous as a masterpiece was drawn by Tamjing, a painter from Koguryo.

Almost all the best works of architecture, fine art and handicraft of ancient Japan were made by Korean tech-



**White tiger (above) and Tortoise-Serpent (below), murals in the Three Tombs of Kangso**

nicians and artists of that period. Achievements in the different spheres of science, technology and culture including advanced metallurgy, textile dyeing technique, ceramic workmanship and medicine were introduced into ancient Japan. The introduction of the Korean culture into Japan and activity of the Koreans in Japan in that period played a very important part in the cultural and social development of ancient Japan.



## **NORTH HAMGYONG PROVINCE**

**Grand Ferrous Metallurgical  
Base Hoeryong City Known for  
White Apricot Blossoms  
Mt. Chilbo, "Hambuk Kumgang  
Mountain"**



North Hamgyong Province is situated in the north-eastern part of Korea and borders to the west on Ryanggang Province and South Hamgyong Province with the Paektu Mountain System as the boundary. It borders on Northeast China to the north with the Tuman River in between and the Maritime territory of Russia to the east. It faces the East Sea of Korea in the southeast.

The Hamgyong Mountain Range which stretches across the province is the highest and steepest in Korea. Among it rise Kwanmo Peak (2,540 metres), the second highest mountain in Korea and any other mountains higher than 2,000 metres. The northwest slope of the mountain range forms a plateau with a rather gentle slant and its east slope with a mean slant of about 30 degrees descends in terraces toward the coast. The province is greatly influenced by the continental climate. The cold air coming from the inland area of the north and the mild steam and air from the sea meet each other over there and often form mist in spring and summer.



**Comrade Kim Jong Il inspecting the steel shop of the Songjin Steel Complex**



**The hours of sunshine are short. It belongs to the severest seasonal wind area in east Asia and strong winds often blow. Owing to its peculiar geological structure the province has deposits of over 100 useful minerals including iron, nickel, copper, gold, silver, lead and coal.**

**The place which had been forsaken as a penal colony in olden times has been converted into a main base for the key industries of Korea. The seat of the province is Chongjin City.**

## **Grand Ferrous Metallurgical Base**

**In Chongjin, which is the seat of the province and a port city, there are the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex, the Chongjin Steel Plant, the Puryong Alloy Steel Complex and other big ferrous metallurgical works. It is known as a city of iron.**

**The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex is furnished with a 1,500-cubic-metre blast furnace, small and medium blast furnaces, electric furnaces, big continuous sintering furnaces, coke ovens, and hot and cold rolling equipment. It is the biggest comprehensive ferrous metallurgical base in Korea whose internal structure and equipment are perfect and modern. It produces several million tons of pig iron and steel products a year with concentrates fed through a 98-kilometre-long pipeline from the Musan Mining Complex, a big iron ore producer with a yearly production capacity of 10 million tons of iron ore and the deposit of several billion tons. In addition to it, the Chongjin Steel Plant and other large and small metallurgical works produce**

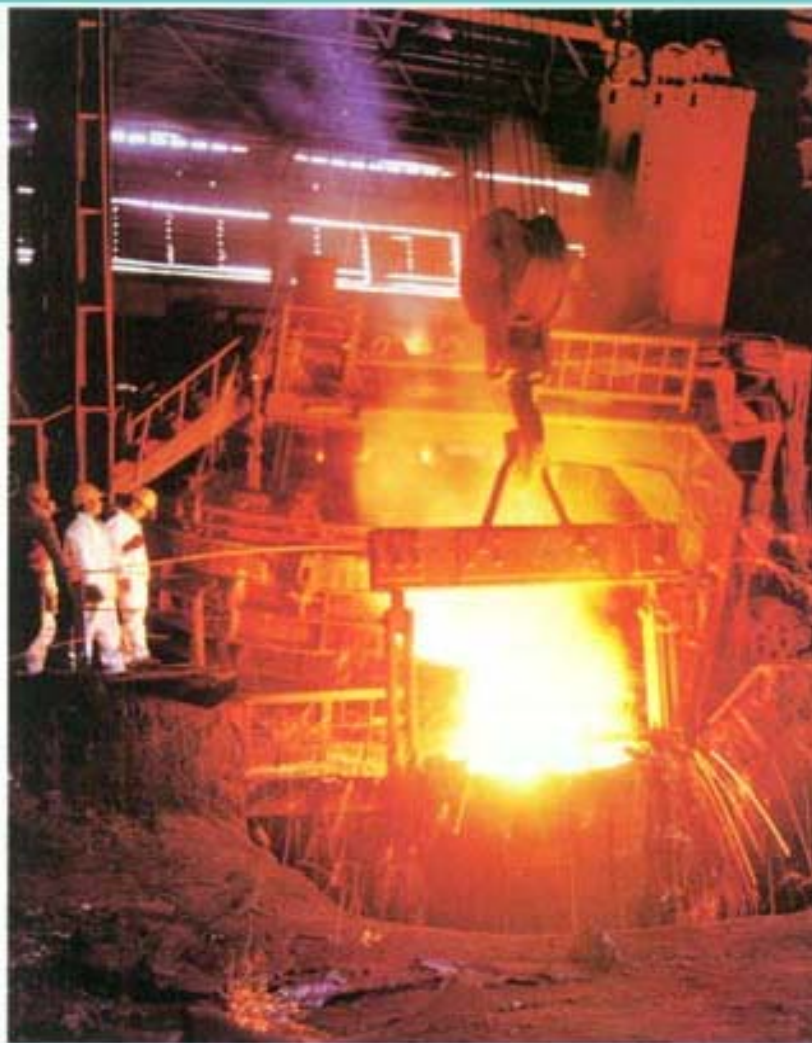


**The hot rolling shop of the Kim Chuck Iron and Steel Complex**

**granulated iron and sponge iron, the raw materials for the production of steel, and different kinds of cast steel and alloy steel, using the raw materials and fuel of the country.**

**In Kimchaek City in the province the Songjin Steel Complex is located. It produces different kinds of steel like round steel, steel plate, special steel and different kinds of wire rope like piano wire and spring wire. Taking the lead in a new Chollima upsurge, it put all its production processes—from the production of steel and rolled steel to the second-stage metal processing—on a modern footing.**

**North Hamgyong Province is not only the ferrous metallurgical base but also a main base for the basic industries of the country, because it has the deposits of lignite accounting for more than 90 per cent of its**



**Steel-makers of the Songjin Steel Complex in the van of the second Chollima upsurge**



### **Open-cut mining in the Musan Mining Complex**

deposits in the country, has enterprises that produce general machines, mining machines, 14,000-ton-class cargo ships. 3,750-ton-class trawlers and other ships and different kinds of tools in Chongjin, Kimchaek, Hoeryong and Kilju; in addition it has the Chongjin Chemical Fibre Complex and other big chemical factories, wood-processing factories, fireproof-materials and cement factories and hydropower stations.

Scores of fishery stations in Chongjin, Kimchaek and other places actively conduct pelagic fishery with a fleet of big fishing boats, factory ships and cold-storage ships, while developing small and medium-scale fisheries in shore.

A large proportion of the workforce in the province is engaged in industry.



## **Hoeryong City Known for White Apricot Blossoms**

If one is to reach Hoeryong situated north of Chongjin City and on the shore of the Tuman River, one needs to cross the Musan Pass in the Hamgyong Mountain Range, which has been a place of transportation importance from olden times linking different parts in the northeast of Korea. If one ascends the steep mountain, passing several loops of tunnels and crossing a railway bridge over a dizzily deep valley, one enters a small rural railway station of Musan at the entrance of Hoeryongchon Valley which gradually widens toward the Tuman River. The travellers who visit this place in May or June receive the impression that they are entering a flower garden told in a fairy tale. White apricot trees covered in blossoms stand for

**Lauching of a ship**



**West port of Chongjin**





**The statue of anti-Japanese heroine Kim Jong Suk**



**Teaching staff and students of Kim Ki Song Senior Middle School in Hoeryong City laying wreathes at the bronze statue of Kim Ki Song, a young anti-Japanese martyr, set up at their school**



**Picking of white apricots**



**The Wangjaesan Cooperative Farm in Onsong County, North Hamgyong Province, is called the second Chongsan-ri in Korea**

several kilometres along the valley which is studded with light pink azalea blossoms to the central street of Hoeryong City. This presents a sea of beautiful flowers. Hoeryong with a white apricot field of 1,000 hectares is famous for the production of high-quality, cold resistant apricots. White apricots are round and big and weigh 50-60 grams each. It is watery, sweet, aromatic and a little acerbic. So it is popular among the Korean people. The speciality of the district is not confined to white apricot. Wicker baskets of Hoeryong, good-quality Hoeryong ceramics with a long tradition, and Hoeryong tobacco of delicate color and good resilience are specialities of the region.

Before liberation the Japanese built a military air-field there along with a shooting range and a training ground for war horses for the invasion of the conti-



### **In the Kyongsong Ceramic Ware Association**

ment. At that time it had fields cleared for slash-and-burn farming and had only several primitive coal mines. It now has been converted into a base for the engineering industry producing mainly mining equipment, paper-making industry producing vellum paper, drafting paper and other high-quality paper and craft paper, coal industry, and a base for the production of wooden ware and textiles. It produces sweets and cakes from maize and other foodstuffs, tobacco and other luxury goods. Recently the city has changed its appearance and acquired a cozy and modern look.

Kim Jong Suk Teacher Training College in Hoeryong is famous in the country. It has big main buildings, a library, a gymnasium and hostels and excellent teaching staff. Particularly young girls apply for admission to the college, not only for this reason. Anti-Japanese heroine Kim Jong Suk's name enjoys popularity with them. She lost her parents, brothers

and sister at the hands of the Japanese imperialists and embarked on the path of national liberation and became renowned as a bodyguard of Comrade Kim Il Sung, commander of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army. Her old home at the foot of Osan Hill in Hoeryong is preserved in its original state. Her bronze statue, in the uniform of the then Anti-Japanese Revolutionary Army, and with a charming smile, azalea blossoms in her hand, attracts many people.

### **Morning at a hot spring in Kyongsong County**





**Kangson Gate on Mt. Chilbo**

**Mt. Chilbo,  
“Hambuk  
Kumgang  
Mountain”**

Mt. Chilbo located in North Hamgyong Province is called “Hambuk (North Hamgyong) Kumgang Mountain” because it is a scenic spot on a par with the world-famous Mt. Kumgang on the coast in Kangwon Province in the central part of the Korean peninsula. The

**Torch Rock on Mt. Chilbo**





Chilbo Mountain area around Mt. Chilbo is a part of the Paektu volcanic chain linking Mt. Paektu and Ullung Island on the East Sea of Korea. The mountain area borders on the East Sea of Korea to the east and covers a wide area of 250 square kilometres extending between the Orang Stream to the north and the Hwadae Stream to the west. In the process of weathering of long years basalt, trachyte and other volcanic rocks were wrought into fantastic forms and sheer cliffs, which present beautiful and original natural scenery in good harmony with the East Sea of Korea. In accordance with the distinguishing features of peaks, valleys and seascape, the mountain area is divided into three parts: Inner Chilbo, Outer Chilbo and Sea Chilbo. On Mt. Chilbo there is

***Pulgungi* electric locomotive running along the east coast—Switchover to electric traction is on the stage of completion and a unified system of haulage by electric locomotives has been established**



a hot spring. The mountain area is laid out as a recreation ground and a tourist resort and is visited by many people.

The seaside in North Hamgyong Province, as everywhere on the east coast of Korea, commands good scenery and is favourable for sea bathing and every place there is noted for its beautiful scenery. Tens of thousands of square metres of beach suitable for swimming in Yombunjin in Kyongsong County near Chongjin is impressive because of the peculiar scene of gravel and pebbles ceaselessly rattling to and from the shore by the waves. Kyongsong noted as a hot spring area is visited by many people for various hot springs with specific ingredients and ample gush, mineral waters, medicinal mud. good scenery and clean air. From olden times Kyongsong has been famous for the production of ceramic ware. Celadon, ceramic handicraft and ceramic-utensils produced in the Kyongsong Ceramic Ware Association are popular throughout the world.

### **Moon Gate on Sea Chilbo**



## **SOUTH HAMGYONG PROVINCE**

**Hamhung, Industrial City**  
**The Tanchon Area, “White Gold Mountain”**  
**Sinpho, Base for Pelagic Fishery**



It is situated on the East Korean Bay in the northeast of Korea. It is surrounded by high mountain ranges like a folding screen on three sides except the seaside. So there lies a narrow and long stretch of lowland along the coast in the southeast and the rest of the terrain forms a mountainous area. Forests cover more than 80 per cent of the whole area of the province.

The province abounds in underground resources including magnesite whose quality and deposits are amongst the best and biggest in the world and has many industries which play an important role in the economic development of the country. Many scenic spots are found along the east coast, which is studded with pleasure grounds and rest homes.

The seat of the province is Hamhung City.



**Part of Hamhung City**

## **Hamhung, Industrial City**

Hamhung City is situated on the middle part of the coast. It is an industrial city with light industry, chemical industry and powerful heavy indus-



### **The spinning shop of the February 8 Vinalon Complex**

try such as engineering industry. It has large-scale chemical factories including the February 8 Vinalon Complex and the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex which hold a leading place in the country's chemical industry.

Every year the February 8 Vinalon Complex produces tens of thousands of tons of vinalon and hundreds of kinds of chemical goods with limestone, anthracite and other materials abundant in Korea.

The Hungnam Fertilizer Complex is the biggest fertilizer-producing enterprise in Korea. It has a workshop producing ammonium by anthracite gasification and other various fertilizer workshops. It produced only ammonium sulphate fertil-



### **The Ryongsong Associated Machinery Bureau producing ordered equipment**

izer before liberation, but now mass-produces various kinds of chemical goods and chemical fertilizers such as urea fertilizer, superphosphate of lime and microelement fertilizer, thus serving the rural economy reliably.

In addition, in Hamhung City there is the Hamhung Branch of the Academy of Sciences, a general research institute for solving the scientific and technological problems arising in the development of the country's chemical industry.

Founded in Juche 49 (1960), the branch of the academy has made a great contribution to the

development of the Juche-oriented vinalon industry and successfully conducted research into the production of synthetic fibres, plastics and rubber and fertilizers. It has many research institutes and laboratories, pilot plants, and factories producing experimental appliances.

In the city there is the Ryongsong Associated Machinery Bureau that plays a major role in the development of the machine industry of Korea. Before liberation it was a small factory which produced merely wheelbarrows, bolts and nuts, but it now has been converted into a big enterprise producing large machines. It successfully produced an 8-metre turning lathe, 3,000-ton, 6,000-ton and 10,000-ton presses and other large machines and ordered equipment needed for large-scale construction projects. In this course, it became widely

### **The weaving shop of the Hamhung Woolen Textile Mill**



known as a “hero factory”

In addition Hamhung City has many other factories and enterprises which play a large part in the country’s economic development.

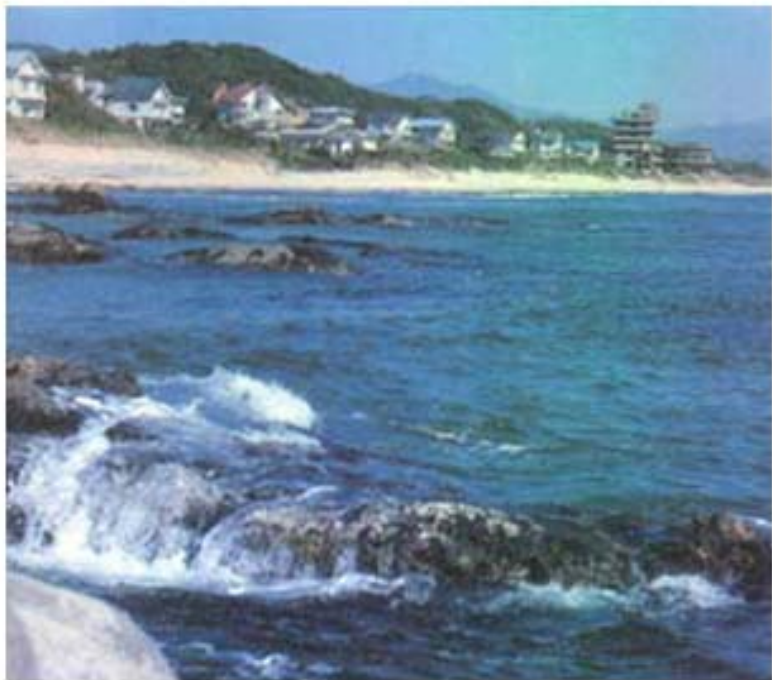
### **The Tanchon Area, “White Gold Mountain”**

The Tanchon area in the northeast part of

**The shipping area for the zinc blocks at the Tanchon Smeltery Complex**







**Part of the Majon Pleasure Ground in the suburbs of Hamhung City**

**In the dental hospital in Hamhung City**





**The kilns in the Tanchon Magnesia Works**

South Hamgyong Province has large deposits of lead, zinc and magnesite of high quality.

President Kim Il Sung who visited the Ryongyang Mine in this area in April Juche 50 (1961) said that magnesite ore in that place is as valuable as gold and named the mine Paekgunisan



**Open-cut stope of the Taehung Youth General Mining Enterprise**

(white gold mountain). "The rocky mountain here is a 'gold mountain' and a 'money mountain'," he added.

Magnesite ore in Ryongyang and Taehung is famous in the world for its quality and the amount of its deposits. The Taehung Youth General Mining Enterprise, Ryongyang Mine and other large mines have introduced modern, large and high-speed equipment and diversified transport, thus increasing the output of ore from one year to another.

In Tanchon City there is the Tanchon Magnesia Works which produces magnesia clinker of good quality and tens of other kinds of products. Magnesia clinker is exported in large quantities.

In the Timchon area, there is also the Komdok Mining Complex, the large-scale nonferrous mineral-producing centre in Korea. It produces headings that contain rare metals as well as lead and zinc. There are the No. 3 ore-dressing plant capable of dressing 10 million tons of nonferrous metal ores a year and a large-size long-distance conveyor belt which carries ores to the ore-dressing plants. This complex now produces in only two days what before liberation it turned out in a year. Most of the lead and zinc headings produced are sent to the Tanchon Smelting Complex. The Tanchon Smelting Complex was built to process comprehensively the nonferrous metal ores abun-

dant in Komdok and other places in the Tanchon area. The complex is developing into a bigger non-ferrous metallurgical base, continuously reinforcing production systems and processes.

### **Sinpho, Base for Pelagic Fishery**

South Hamgyong Province has favourable conditions for developing fishery as cold and warm currents alternately flow in the sea off the province. Particularly the sea off Sinpho is known as one of the famous fishing grounds in Korea. In Sinpho City, there is the Sinpho Fishery Station equipped

#### **Morning at the Sinpho port**





**Fishing operations on the fleet of pelagic fishery**





### **The Kyongpho shallow-sea farm in Hongwon County**

with modern fishing boats, equipment and processing facilities. Sinpho is a base for pelagic fishery in Korea.

Now the fishery station has a pelagic fishery fleet which consists of big fishing boats, transport ships and 10,000-ton factory ships, which are equipped with the latest technology, and a fleet of medium-sized inshore fishing boats. In addition it has good wharves, modern processing facilities and a conveyor- and pipe-transport system.

South Hamgyong Province accounts for more than 60 per cent of fishery in Korea.



**Terraced orchard in Ryongjon-ri in Pukchong County**

**South Hamgyong Province takes the lead in raising goats**



## **NORTH PHYONGAN PROVINCE**

**The Ragwon Machine  
Complex Pidan (Silk) Is-  
land Mt Myohyang**



It is located in the northwestern part of Korea and borders on China along the Amnok River which rises in Lake Chon on Mt. Paektu and flows meandering.

The province abounds in low mountainous area and plains and has a long coast line. Along the coast stretches tideland of about 120,000 hectares. The province has reclaimed a wide area of tideland including the tideland around Taegye Island. The province is one of the machine industry centres of Korea. Its seat is Sinuiju City.

### **The Ragwon Machine Complex**

The Ragwon Machine Complex produces mainly excavators needed for the mining industry and grand nature-remaking projects and other large-sized, cus-



tom-built machines needed for different branches of the national economy.

The history of change in Ragwon can be said to be the epitome of history of the development of the machine industry in the province.

Immediately after liberation, the Ragwon Machine Factory produced small farm implements such as ploughs with the help of outdated lathes with belt transmission. After the war it developed into a powerful enterprise producing large-sized water pumps, excavators and tower cranes. Now the complex produces hydraulic excavators and extra-large oxygen plants, which are called the essence of modern science and technology.

The province has also the April 3 General Factory which produces the latest-type special machine tools including the digitally-controlled lathe *Kusong No. 104*.



The Ragwon Machine Complex producing large excavators



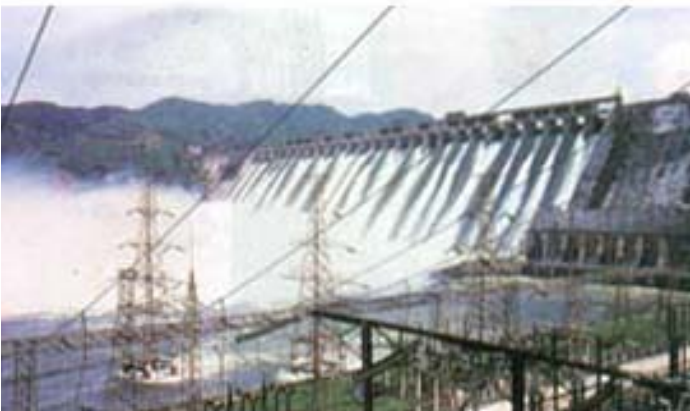
**Large oxygen plant produced by the Ragwon Machine Complex**

The Ragwon Machine Complex, the April 3 General Factory and other machine factories in the province contribute a large share to the country's economic development.

### **Pidan (Silk) Island**

It is a big island made artificially by linking big and small islets around Sin Island with a dam. It has

### **Suphung Power Station**





### **Harvest of reeds in Pidán Island**

an area of 64.5 square kilometres and is 49 kilometres around.

Originally islets in this area Conned a chain of islets. Tideland around them extended fast from year to year due to the action of the Amnok River and the tide, thus forming the Sindo tideland. The islets and tideland in this region had long been forsaken as a wasteland.

In June Juche 47 (1958) President Kim Il Sung came to the sea off Sin Island by boat and unfolded a plan to create a reed field of thousands of hectares by forming a big island. True to his plan, reclamation workers built a 25-kilometre-long embankment, overcoming caprices of nature—waves, mud, wind and downpours. Thus Pidán Island, a base of raw material for the chemical fibre industry, came into being in the Sin Island area in the northwestern part of Korea.

Reed grown there is sent to the Sinuiju Chemical Fibre Complex, which produces staple fibre with it



**The textile mill in Sakju County in North Phyongan Province is a nationwide model for local-industry factories**



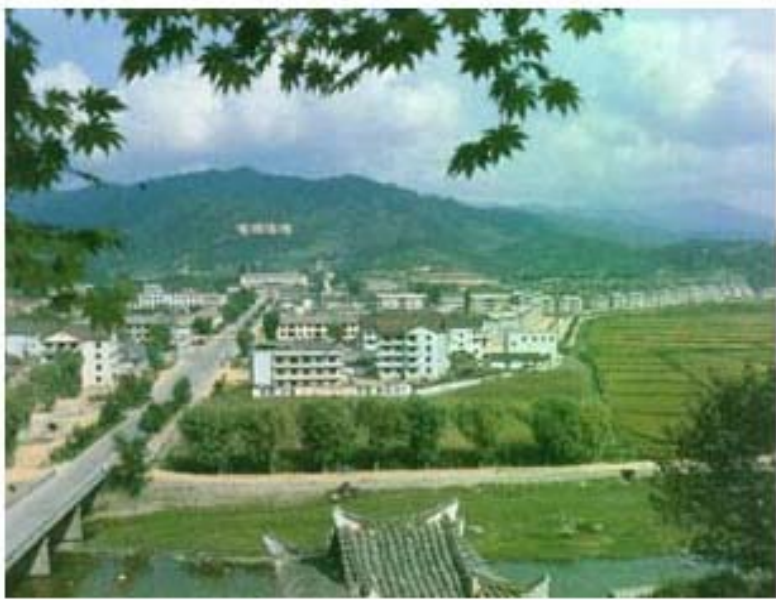
**Spinners of the Nyong-byon Silk Mill, a leading silk producing centre**

and supplies it to the textile mills across the country.

When speaking of the light industry of North Phyongan Province, pride is specially taken in silk production along with the Sinuiju cosmetics. The Nyongbyon and Pakchon Silk Mills are the leading silk cloth producing centres in Korea. They produce high-quality silk fabrics of various colours and patterns such as velvet, polychromatic silk, *yaksandan* and *kuryongdan*, the silk cloth named by President Kim Il Sung.

Particularly Nyongbyon County has been renowned as a silk-producing centre for a long time. The famous *yaksandan* and *kuryongdan* were named after famous Yaksandongdae and the Kuryong River skirting it in Nyongbyon.

**Changsong County in North Phyongan Province is a model for the whole country in improving the living standard of the people in mountainous areas**





**Part of gifts on display in the International Friendship Exhibition**







## **Mt. Myohyang**

Scenic spots are found everywhere in Korea which is famous throughout the world for her good mountains and clear water as a land as beautiful as a golden tapestry. Among them Mt. Myohyang is a leading scenic spot for its beautiful and wonderful appearance and fragrance floating in the

### **Hyangsan Hotel**

valleys. Hence its name, Mt. Myohyang (wonderful and fragrant mountain). There are cliffs of fantastic formation wrought through many years of weathering and many high precipices over which water falls sending up sprays of mist, all of which form a good harmo-



**Sangwon Hermitage  
in Mt. Myohyang  
built in 1580**



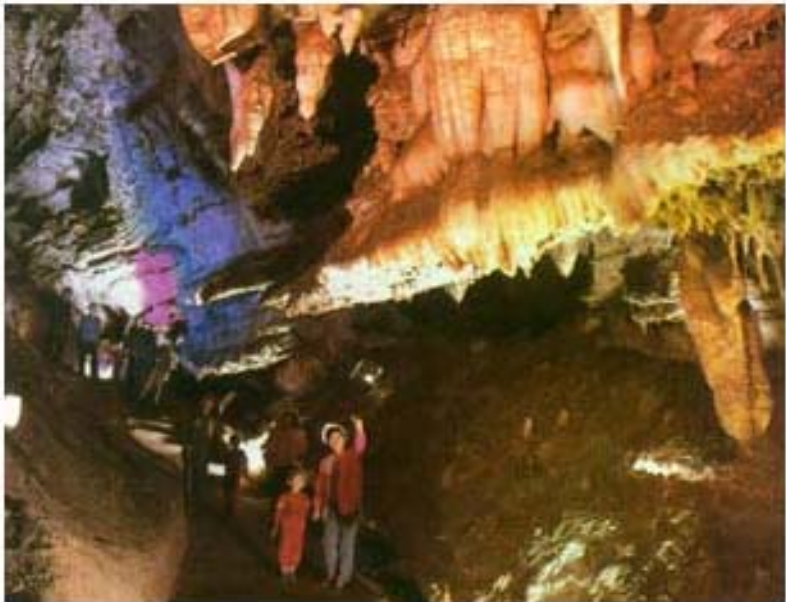
ny with each other.

Mt. Myohyang has many relics showing the long history and time-honoured culture of the Korean nation and is associated with the stories about the brave struggles of the Korean people who fought against foreign invaders.

There is the International Friendship Exhibition in which the gifts sent to President Kim Il Sung and Comrade Kim Jong Il by the heads of state and government of many countries and prominent figures from the international community are displayed.

The exhibition is a Korean-style building set up in good harmony with the scenery of Mt. Myohyang. Displayed there are about 55.000 articles from among the gifts sent by the leaders of parties and states and political and social figures of some 170 countries in

### **Ryongmun Cavern**



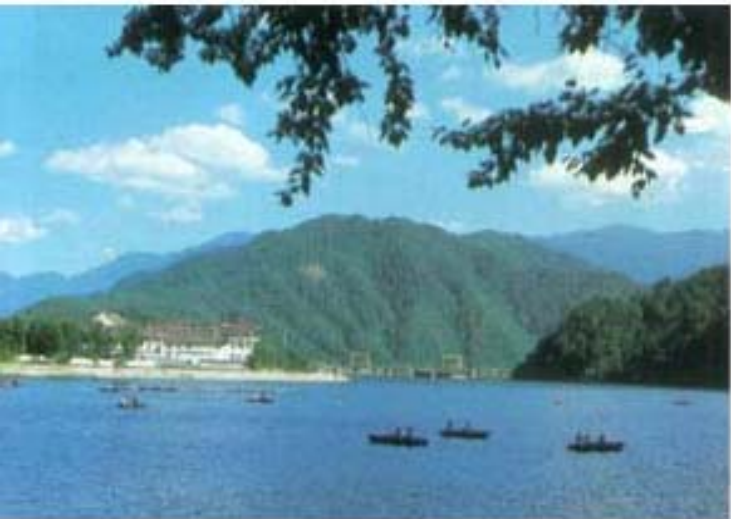
five continents. These gifts are historic treasures to be handed over to posterity as a symbol of international friendship.

North Phyongan Province has an underground scenic spot. On Mt. Ryongmun about 12 kilometres away from Kujang county town, there is the Ryongmun Cavern, an underground scenic spot the like of which is rarely to be found in the world.

It is a natural cavern in which the stalactites formed through dissolution and erosion of limestone from tens of thousands of years ago present thousands of fantastic formations. It contains over 20 spots of fascinating and mysterious scenery evocative of an underground palace.

The Ryongmun Cavern in which innumerable formations presenting the epitome of majesty, splendour, grace and beauty are displayed in a not so extensive space is much admired for its rare scenery.

### **Hyangsan Barrage**



## **NORTH HWANGHAE PROVINCE**

**The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex**

**The Kindung Plain in Hwangju and the Mini Plain in Singye**



It is located in the middle of the western part of Korea and borders Pyongyang City to the north. In the northeast and eastern part of it lies a fairly high mountainous area, but, in general, it is covered by low hilly terrain with a gentle slope.

In the province the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex is located, which contributes greatly to the ferrous metal industry of Korea. It has developed agriculture. Its main agricultural products are cereals. In addition it grows vegetables, industrial crops and fruits. The yellow tobacco of Sohung, apples of Hwangju and grapes of Sariwon are famous.

Sariwon is the seat of the province.

## **The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex**

It is located in Songrim City and is one of the ferrous metal-producing centres of Korea.

It is a comprehensive ferrous metal-producing enterprise equipped with all processes of producing iron and steel ranging from pig iron to rolled steel and other steel products.

The iron works was built by the Japanese imperialists during their colonial rule of Korea to treat iron ore deposited in the western part of Korea and began to produce mainly pig iron from



**The plate shop  
of the Hwang-  
hae Iron and  
Steel Complex**



### **The rail shop of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex**

1918. On the eve of their defeat, the Japanese destroyed blast furnaces, open-hearth furnaces, coke ovens and all other facilities. Following national liberation a blast furnace was reconstructed and molten iron was produced for the first time in December Juche 36 (1947).

During the Korean war the works underwent another trial. The US forces dropped tens of thousands of bombs over the works and reduced it to ruins, destroying all the facilities. On July 29, Juche 42 (1953), two days after the armistice. President Kim Il Sung visited the works and said that instead of restoring the works to its original state, larger open-hearth furnaces should be built on the places where small ones destroyed by the US forces had been standing and brick houses



### **Part of Sariwon City**

should be built on the sites where the thatch-roofed houses of the workers had been standing, thus showing the US imperialists the mettle of the Korean people in reconstruction, too. Following his instruction, the workers restored the open-hearth furnace No. 1 in less than one year and tapped molten iron for the first time in June Juche 43 (1954).

In December Juche 62 (1973) the Hwanghae Iron Works developed into a complex. Today the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex is increasing output by widely introducing the iron production by oxygen-blowing method and other latest achievements of science and technology as well as

automation, closed circuit TV and remote control in all processes of producing steel and rolled steel.

## **The Kindung Plain in Hwangju and the Miru Plain in Singye**

Before liberation the Kindung Plain, also known as the Hwangju Plain, suffered from severe droughts because of the lack of an irrigation network although there were the ever-flowing Hwangju, Maesang and other streams. It is said that people in the Kindung Plain treated passers-by to a bowl of boiled rice, but failed to give them a cup of water. A large-scale irrigation system has

**Water from Lake Sohung irrigates the extensive field of North Hwanghae Province**





### **Maize field in the Miru Plain**

now been installed in the plain.

In July Juche 50 (1961) the Ojidon irrigation project was completed to water the Kindung Plain and other plains in North Hwanghae Province. This met the centuries-long desire of the farmers there to be able to farm without worrying about the supply of water. The 1.400-kilometre-long waterways run throughout the Kindung Plain.

With the supply of various kinds of farming machines and trucks, solid material and technical foundations have been laid to farm on an industrial and modern footing. Thus the Kindung Plain has become one of the main granaries in Korea.

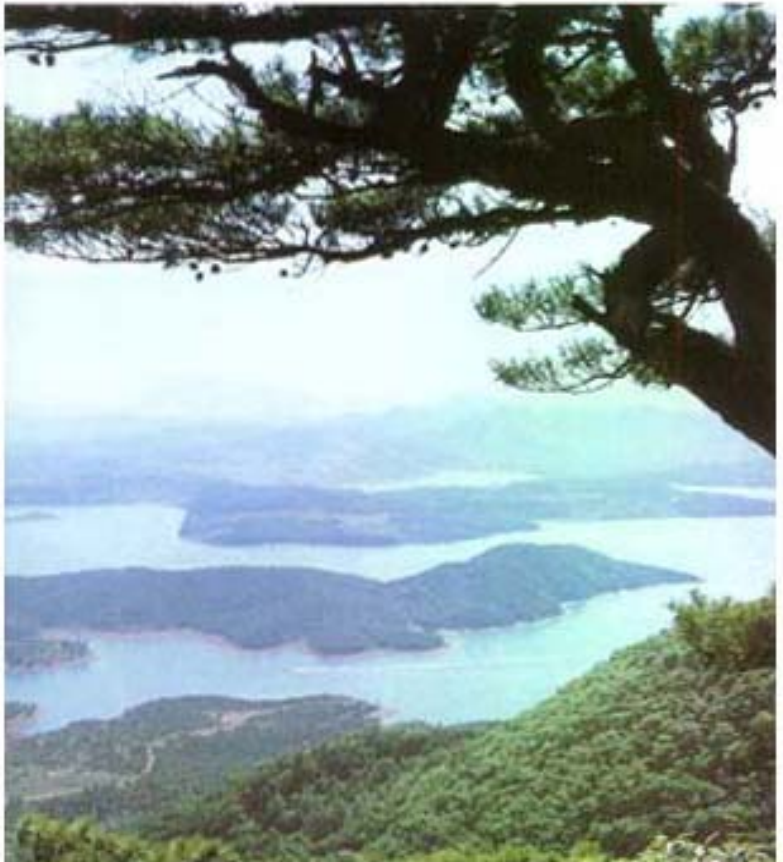
The Miru Plain in Singye is a large plain covering about 20 ri in Singye, Koksan and Suan



Counties of North Hwanghae Province. The plain was formed by the flow of basaltic lava erupted by a volcano.

Originally the Miru Plain was a virgin land for thousands of years. The plain was wide, but the local people could not find enough water even to quench their thirst. So from olden times, the people who farmed there for one year as a trial deserted the place, leaving the parched plots behind them, saying that it was a place not

### **A scene of Lake Sohung**



suitable for human habitation. Hence its name (*Miruda* which means in Korean to put off though one wants to do it—Tr.). Now it has changed beyond recognition.

People there brought the plain under cultivation by clearing away bushes and trees and creating a windbreak in an orderly fashion. Following President Kim Il Sung's call to irrigate the Miru Plain as soon as possible with the water of the Ryesong River even if it meant building an embankment with gold, local people built a reservoir to water the Singye area and formed an irrigation loop linking 250-kilometre-long waterways with each other. The Miru Plain which was regarded as uninhabitable is now a good place to live in.

**Sinphyong Restaurant, a resting place on the road between Pyongyang and Wonsan**



## **SOUTH HWANGHAE PROVINCE**

**A Granary of Korea Ex-  
tensive Youth Orchard  
Mt. Kuwol, a Scenic Spot  
on the West Coast**



It has few mountains and abounds in wide and flat plains and hills. The feature of the terrain is fairly simple.

It has a long coastline, wide plains like the Jaeryong and Yonbaek Plains and a warm climate. So it is favourable for agriculture. Its agriculture holds a big share in the grain production of Korea. Its seat is Haeju City.

### **A Granary of Korea**

From olden times South Hwanghae Province has been called a granary.

Every farm in the province is provided with tractors, rice-seedling transplanters, combine harvesters and other farming machines and its fields are networked with irrigation canals. Sad stories associated with the lack of water are still told in the Yonbaek and Jaeryong Plains. In the past the cherished desire of the farmers there was to farm without having to worry about water.



### **60-kilometre-long waterway in the Yonbaek Plain**

During the past years the province has readjusted and expanded incomplete irrigation facilities and carried out new irrigation projects. After the West Sea Barrage was built, big waterways drawing water from the Taedong River were constructed in the rural districts of the province. The waterways run from the barrage to Sinchon, Kangryong and Ongjin, to Thaethan

and Ongjin, and to Unryul and Kwail, forming a gigantic irrigation loop. The total length of waterways, old and new, in the province amounts to 8,000 kilometres.

The province has brought a large area under cultivation by building dams in the sea and reclaiming tidelands. A large and long-distance conveyor belt plays a major role in it. This conveyor transport line greatly contributes to increasing the production of iron ore by solving the problem of removal of overburden in the Unryul Mine and to reclaiming tideland by filling up the sea with the overburden.

During the past 20 years a wide embankment was built linking islets in the sea off Kwail County. As a result three islets disappeared and thousands of hectares of land appeared. Rice fields and salterns came into being there.

In addition, the tidelands in Kangryong, Chongdan and Yonan Counties were reclaimed and big farms were set up. As a result, the coastline was shortened and a new

map of the region had to be drawn. The people who had considered handling a plough to be a great skill, the people who are said to have put a bundle of fodder before a tractor they saw for the first time and their descendents have now become fully-Hedged agricultural technicians.

Per-hectare grain output in South Hwanghae Province has increased to more than four times the pre-liberation figure.

Three counties in the Jaeryong Plain alone produce the amount of grain that South Hwanghae Province produced before liberation.

Free from backwardness and ignorance, the rural communities in the province are entering a new era of industrialization and modernization of agriculture.

## **Extensive Youth Orchard**

Korea, in which mountains account for almost 80 per

**Long-distance conveyor belt for the Unryul Mine. Over 3,000 hectares of tideland was reclaimed by Filling up . shallow sea along the west coast with the overburden from the mine**





**Rice transplanting  
by machine**

cent of the territory, puts great efforts into developing fruit-growing by making good use of the mountains.

A large area of orchards have been planted through a mass movement in Korea since an enlarged meeting of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was held in Pukchong in April Juche 50 (1961). As a result, a large number of hills have been covered with fruit trees in a brief space of



### **Golden ears of rice sway in the Yonbaek Plain**

time and the area of orchards now amounts to 300,000 hectares.

The Kwail County Combined Fruit Farm in South Hwanghae Province holds the biggest share in fruit growing of Korea. As its name shows, Kwail (fruit) County itself is covered with orchards whose areas amount to about 8,000 hectares. The farm grows fruit and, at the same time, turns out over 30 kinds of products made with fruit including canned fruit, sweet jelly and liquor.

### **Mt. Kuwol, a Scenic Spot on the West Coast**

Mt. Kuwol rises high in the extensive fertile plain in the northwestern part of South Hwanghae Province, near the Taedong River and the West Sea of Korea. It occupies an area of over 110 square kilometres covering four counties of the province.



### **Orchard in Kwail County**

Mt. Kuwol is known as one of the five noted mountains of Korea. It was named after September (Kuwol in Korean) for its wonderful scenery in autumnal tint in September. Mt. Kuwol, commanding ten thousand kinds of landscape, attracts people for its spectacular scenery.

Mt. Kuwol rich with fauna and flora has been defined as a nature reserve of Korea. Magnificent and queer peaks, waterfalls and pools add to its beauty. On Mt. Kuwol there are ancient buildings such as the Woljong Temple built in 846 and the Tangun Temple and there is the site of a kiln where celadons were baked in the period of Koryo. In addition, there are the remains of the Kuwol mountain fortress which is known as one of three mountain fortresses in Hwanghae Province. It was built with stones in the period of Koguryo.

Visiting the mountain on May 1, Juche 86 (1997), the





l e a d e r  
Kim Jong Il suggested laying out Mt. Kuwol as a good recreation ground for the people so that it would be by no means inferior even in the future. Following his suggestion, the Korean People's Army built the mountain as a tourist attraction.

Mt. Kuwol is visited by many tourists from home and abroad every year.

Along the coast in the northwestern part of Ryongyon County, South Hwanghae Province, there stretches a beach of white sands, the result of quartz rocks being reduced through weathering over many years. The white sandy beach

**Sohyon lecture-hall, an ancient building in the Soktamgu Valley, a scenic spot (1578)**





## **Mt. Kuwol**



is in good harmony with green pines and red flowers of sweet brier, which is evocative of an embroidered silk. Hence its name Monggumpho (Meaning a sea scenery which is seen in dream.)

Monggumpho is one of the best sea bathing resorts on the west coast.

Monggumpho is one of the best sea bathing resorts on the west coast.

## **Elephant Rock in Monggumpho**

## JAGANG PROVINCE

**Network of Small and Medium-size Power Stations**

**Mother Machine Factory**



It is located in the northwestern part of Korea. It is the most mountainous province; the mountainous area amounts to 98 per cent of the whole area of the province. The mean height above sea level is 750 metres and the slope of most regions is 15 to 40 degrees.

The province has a distinct continental climate under a very great influence of the Asian continent. It is very cold in winter and the cold lasts for a long time. The climate is characterized by the great difference of daily and yearly temperature. Temperature rapidly rises in spring and rapidly falls in autumn. So spring and autumn pass quickly. In summer, downpours of rain and hail are frequent. Thus thunder and lightning occur frequently.

The province has not only many mountains but also many rivers and abounds in so many useful minerals as to be called the treasure-house of the underground resources of the country. It abounds in lead, Zinc, gold, copper, molybdenum, tungsten, antimony, graphite, apatite, alunite, limestone, calcium carbonate, anthracite and iron ores. There are also crystals and valuable gems there.

Jagang Province was newly established in January Juche 38 (1949) after the founding of the Republic.

Although the province abounds in underground, forest and water resources, before liberation it was a land of ignorance where slash-and-burn farmers tilled mountain plots to eke out their living. In those days the province had only two primitive mines, one timber mill and a distillery.

Today it has modern power, machine, chemical, light, mining and timber industries. Its total industrial output is 1,000 times as much as just before liberation.

The seat of the province is Kanggye City.

### **Network of Small and Medium-size Power Stations**

The province has been converted into a power base with the construction of the Jangjagang Power Station, Kanggye Youth Power Station, Unbong Power Station and other large hydroelectric power stations. Now the province has become renowned, for it has set an example of electrification by building many small and medium-sized power stations.

In the past visitors to the province clicked their tongue, saying "mountains alone", "stones alone" or "water alone" because what came into their view were only mountains, stones and water. So the province was called a "province of stones".

Realizing keenly that a sufficient supply of electricity was essential for them to prosper, local people set about producing electricity with a firm resolve that "Water immediately means electricity," "Water shall not flow



**Comrade Kim Jong Il inspecting a factory in Huichon City**



**Jagang Province is famous not only for the construction of small and medium-sized power stations but also as a "province of sericulture"**



idly," "We must not complain about the shortage of electricity sitting on water," and "If water is to be set to work, we must work, exerting ourselves." And they worked hard in a forced-march manner. They built different small and medium-sized power stations using log-dam, water-course, raft, and sluice which were cost-effective and were highly efficient. In addition, they built water-mill power stations run by the water of small brooks or creeks, irrigation-canal power stations and power stations run by



### **The Huichon Spinning Mill producing silk yarn**

the water in mine pits, by the cooling water flowing through pipes, by the waste water from fishing farms, by the water from the sluices of rafting weirs and even by the stream of springs. According to circumstances, they generated electricity using methane gas, charcoal, sawdust, treetops, bush, waste heat from factories and other substitute fuels, and wind. Technicians and specialists in the province invented a technology of converting low-head and low-density hydraulic energy into electric energy and made efficient hydraulic turbines with a capacity of 2 kw to 70 kw, which are capable of dramatically increasing the generating capacity.

The province is now amply rewarded for its strenuous efforts. The province produces enough electric power with more to spare. The former unified power supply network was readjusted to cater for various uses. The "province of stones" whose mention sounded disagreeable has now become known as a "province of pride."

The whole country is following the example of Jagang Province. Over 5,000 small and medium-sized power stations have been built across the country as of



### **Small power station at the foot of Mt. Jangja**

the end of Juche 87 (1998), and the electric power they produce is used effectively.

### **Mother Machine Factory**

In March Juche 40 (1951) when the Korean war was at its height a meeting of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was held. At the meeting the great Comrade Kim Il Sung said, "In the course of the war, I have learned a bloody lesson that we should produce our own munitions and weapons. I keenly feel that we must have a solid machine-building industry of our own. Let us build a reliable machine-building industry in a far-sighted way." He added that on the way back from the temporary retreat, he found that Huichon and Tokchon were suitable for the purpose because they had a power base nearby and were easily accessible.

One day when the construction of the factory was in full swing during the war he visited the construction site and indi-



cated the ways and means for its construction, saying, "This factory must become the model for the future machine-building industry of the country. So it should be built and developed in accordance with its mission." This was how the Huichon General Machine-Tool Factory, mother factory of the Korean machine-building industry, was born.

Huichon, which was merely a dirty town in the mountainous area before liberation, has been converted into a large machine and electronic industry base. The clear stream of the Chongchon River skirting the city and the neighbourhoods of the city built in a basin surrounded by hills covered with a thick forest present a beautiful scene.

Visiting Huichon in June Juche 87 (1998). General Secretary Comrade Kim Jong Il expressed his belief that workers there would continue to preserve the tradition of the "mother factory". Visiting the city again in autumn that year he congratulated them on their successful work. The Huichon General Machine-Tool Factory and other factories contribute to the automation and the introduction of computers and robots in the national economy by producing a large number of modern machine tools

### **The Huichon General Machine Tool Factory**



including computer-controlled lathes, centre lathes, flexible production systems and various kinds of robots.

Machine factories have been built in Taean, Ragwon, Tokchon, Ryongsong, Kusong and other parts of the country with the factory in Huichon as a parent body. The output of the machine-building industry in Korea increased long ago to 1,690 times compared with the pre-liberation figure and the proportion of self-sufficiency in machinery and equipment is 98 per cent.

### **Bee-keeping (Jinsong-ri, Hwaphyong County, Jagang Province)**



## KANGWON PROVINCE

**Kumgang Mountains**  
**The Anbyon Youth Power Station**



It is located in the east of the central part of the Korean peninsula and is a maritime province bordering on the East Sea of Korea.

The fishing ground is 120 kilometres from the shore and abounds in fish, seaweed and shellfish and other marine resources. In the province many plant species indigenous to Korea including *Pentactina rupicola*, the sole species in the world, Kumgang bellflowers, *Echinosophora koreensis* and Sambang violet are found.

Its major industries are metal, machine, building-materials and light industries. The Munphyong Smeltery produces nonferrous and rare metals, the June 4 Rolling Stock Complex, 60- and 100-ton heavy-duty wagons, refrigerated vans and petrol tankers and the Wonsan Shipyard, 3,750-



**Part of Wonsan City viewed from the sea**

ton trawlers and 10,000-ton ships.

Mention of Kangwon Province reminds one of its beautiful scenery. The province is noted for many scenic spots including the world-famous Kumgang Mountains, Lagoon Samil, Songdown Beach, Myong-sasimni Beach, Chongsokjong and Lake Sijung.

### **Kumgang Mountains**

Kumgang Mountains cover a wide area of 530 square kilometres in the central part of the Paek-

tu Mountain System stretching along the east of the Korean peninsula. They have been known at home and abroad for their scenic beauty since the end of the 7th century. The magnificent and graceful scenes of Kumgang Mountains were formed through tectonic movement, weathering, corrosion and erosion by sea water over many years. The beautiful mountains, valleys, plateaus, lakes, coast and sea and the panoramic view— these constitute not only a single scenic spot but a complex of scenic spots representing all beauties of nature.

According to the season, they were known as Kumgang Mountains in spring, Pongnae Mountains in summer, Phungak Mountains in autumn

### **Songdown Part**





**Kangwon Province has been converted to a granary on the east coast through land rezoning**

**Bountiful crop of walnuts (Chilbong-ri, Wonsan City)**





**Bamboo field in Kosong County**

and Kaegol Mountains in winter. The widely known name is Kungang Mountains.

Kungang Mountains consist of over 100 famous

**Bumper crop of persimmons**





### **Mt. Kungang**

high peaks including Piro Peak, Kwanumnyon Peak and Jipson Peak, and many other high and low peaks. So Kungang Mountains are called "12,000 peaks". On these peaks there are Samson Rocks, Kwimyon Rocks and many other queer rocks and

**The Myogil Buddhist Statue in Inner Kungang, a sculpture of the Koryo epoch, is 15 metres high**





valleys. On Chonson, Manggun and Paegun Rocks one can enjoy the magnificent view of the East Sea. There are also Kumgang Gate, Sujong Gate and other natural stone gates, Kumgang Cavern, Podok Cavern and other rock caverns. There are Kuryong Falls and many other falls, lakes like Lagoon Samil, many pools including Kumgang Pool and the Upper Phal (eight) Pools where fairies are said to have come down and taken a bath, hot springs, and mineral waters.

Kumgang Mountains present peculiar scenes according to the regions. They are divided into Outer Kumgang, Inner Kumgang and Sea Kumgang.

Outer Kumgang is said to be of masculine character because of Manmulsang (the peak of

### **Chonson Rocks in Kumgang Mountains**



10,000 forms) showing the beauty of mountains, Jipson Peak and other peaks and waterfalls. Sujong Peak that presents spectacular scenery on account of its natural crystals, Manmulsang that shows 10,000 forms, the magnificent and powerful Kuryong Falls where crystal clear water drops from 74 metres and the Sibi Falls where water falls 12 times successively—they all represent the beautiful scenery of Outer Kumgang.

Inner Kumgang comprises scenic regions in the western part of Kumgang Mountains. It is said to be characterized by female beauty because of the soft and graceful beauty of valleys including Man-



**Kuryong  
Falls on  
Kumgang  
Mountains**



### **Kungangsan Hotel**

phok Valley which represents the beauty of valleys in Kungang Mountains.

Sea Kungang is characterized by superb seascape and the scenery of beautiful lakes. Chongsokjong, a coastal cliff consisting of rock pillars of various forms which appear to have been carved by a proficient stone cutter. Lagoon Samil where a

### **The Phyohun Temple in Inner Kungang built in 670**



king, a legend says, once came on a one-day excursion, but was so charmed by the scenery that he stayed for three days, and other lakes on the coast present superb views of Sea Kumgang.

Kumgang Mountains which are well equipped with recreation facilities are visited by many people for recreation and sightseeing.

Songdowon Beach in Wonsan City, the seat of Kangwon Province, is another pride of the province together with Kumgang Mountains. The sea off the Songdowon Beach is always calm because it forms a bay, and is surrounded by the Kalma and Hodo peninsulas and the islets dotted between them like Ung, Ryo and Sin Islets which check the rough waves rushing from the outer sea. The sea is shallow and the temperature of the seawater is moderate. White sandy beaches stretch from 4 to



100 metres wide along the coast. The beach is surrounded by a stretch of pine groves, which provide welcome shade on scorching hot summer days, and a cool breeze blows from the sea. So it is free from the sweltering heat.

The International Children's Camp located in the scenic Songdowon is visited by a large number of Korean children and children from foreign countries every year, who enjoy camping there.

## **The Anbyon Youth Power Station**

The construction of the Anbyon Youth Power Station was a grand and difficult nature-remaking

### **Lake Sijung, a scenic spot on the east coast and Kuk Islet**





**Morning at the Sujong Peak of Kungang Mountains**



### **Summer in Lagoon Samil**

project for the production of electric power. The project involved tunneling a 40-kilometre waterway across rough mountains and diverting the westward stream of different rivers in Kangwon Province to the direction of the East Sea. This difficult task was carried out by the Korean People's Army.

While defending the country impregably, they have erected many monumental structures including the West

### **A scene of Sea Kumgang**



Sea Barrage and built modern roads, standing in the van of socialist economic construction. The soldier builders who came to the construction site of the power station worked hard with the determination to undertake socialist construction as well as national defence and carried out the unprecedentedly difficult project heroically. They built a dam and dug a 40-kilometre tunnel for the waterway, overcoming all difficulties with a self-sacrificing spirit. They were prepared to lay down their lives without hesitation in order to carry out the orders and instructions of the Party.

### **Rock pillars of Chongsokjong**





As a result of this example the revolutionary spirit of soldiers is now being followed by all Koreans. The spirit is a spirit of accepting the militant tasks assigned by the Party without any conditions and fulfilling them unflinchingly under any circumstances, the spirit of self-reliance and fortitude of performing whatever difficult tasks on one's own, and the spirit of self-sacrifice and heroism of laying down one's life without hesitation for the Party and the revolution, for the country and fellow people.

In no more than 100 days the local people and the soldiers of the Korean People's Army in Kangwon Province joined their efforts to perform a gigantic land rezoning project; they converted the small patches of land in the province into the large fields of standard size for the mechanization of farm work. The transformation of fields in the province demonstrated the unshakable

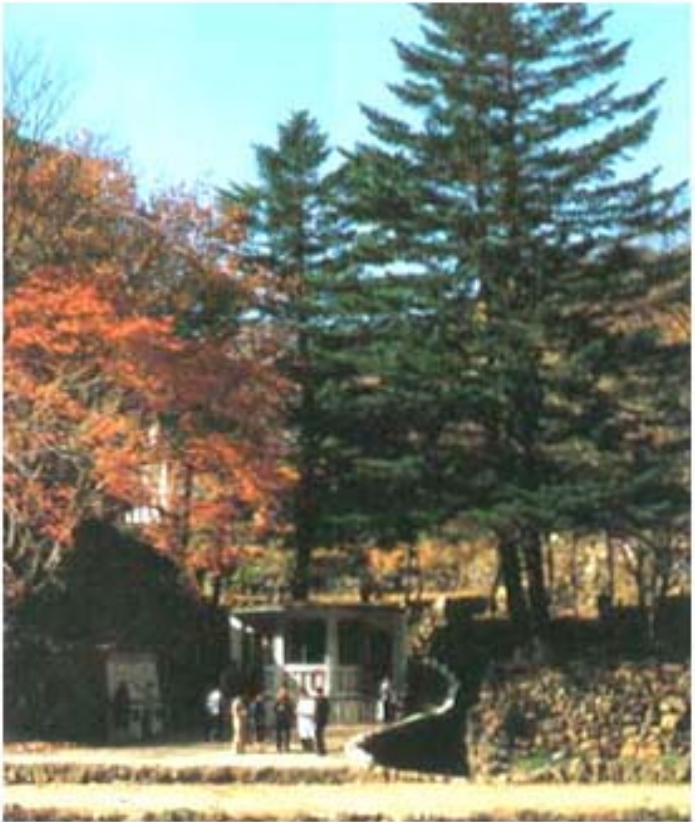


**The Podok Hermitage on Kungang Mountains. It was built in the Knguryo epoch**

will and spirit of the local people and the soldiers to move the mountains and fill up the sea if it is the wish of the Party and the leader. It greatly encouraged the entire Korean people in the effort to build a powerful and prosperous country on their land.

The province will become a granary in the east coast area.

### **Sambang Medicinal waters in Sepho County in Kangwon Province**



## **RAJIN-SONBONG CITY**

**"Golden Triangle"  
Present and Future**



### **"Golden Triangle"**

As the 21st century approaches the world economy is looking toward northeast Asia which has tremendous human and material potential.

The Tuman Delta comprising Rajin-Sonbong City in the northern part of Korea, bordering China and Russia, is located in the central part of northeast Asia. It has developed marine, railway and motorway transport. It has favourable conditions for becoming a key point of the joint land-sea transport for the northeast regions of China, Siberia and the Far East regions of Russia. Mongolia and Japan, and, further, a transit point linking the Asian-Pacific regions with Europe and North America.

In the early 1990s the Government of the Republic established Rajin-Sonbong City by reorganizing some of

the administrative regions of North Hamgyong Province and proclaimed the wide area of the Tuman Delta as the Rajin-Sonbong economic and trade zone and the Rajin and Sonbong Ports in the delta and the nearby Chongjin Port as ports of special mission, which evoked great interests of the international organizations and the countries bordering the Tuman River. The zone and its vicinity abound in iron, copper, coal, magnesite, kaoline and other underground resources and forest and marine resources. In addition, oil, gas and timber can be easily obtained from China and Russia. The total cargo carriage capacity of the Rajin, Sonbong and Chongjin is 11 million tons. The project for extension of their capacity is now under way. Their capacity will reach 30 million tons by Juche 89 (2000) and 130 million tons by Juche 99 (2010). Goods are carried between Korea and Russia and between Korea and China through the northern rail-

### **A scene of the seaside**





### **Sonbong Port**

way loop which is completely electrified and has an increased capacity for the transportation of goods. With the completion of the northern road loop, international goods transport and passenger traffic by car are ensured.

A heliport was built in the zone and an airport in Orang near the zone serves passenger planes for the convenience of visitors to the zone.

A communication base was built and projects for the Rajin International Telecommunication Centre and satellite communication service are under way.

In the zone there are the Sungni Chemical Complex with the capacity of processing 2 million tons of oil, a thermal power station, a dockyard, a ship repair



### **The Sungri Chemical Complex**

shop, an electric equipment factory, a construction complex, coal mines, Tonghae Frogmen's Enterprise and many other factories and enterprises. The zone has developed agriculture and fishery.

Children and young people are given free compulsory secondary education at tens of schools at all levels in the zone and about 60 medical institutions provide the necessary therapeutic and prophylactic services to all inhabitants free of charge. All of these guarantee a labour force of high quality in the zone.

The Tuman Delta not only has these favourable natural and geographical conditions and human and material potential, a great prospect as a key point for the economic cooperation and development of northeast Asia; it also abounds in resources for tourism.

The 120-kilometre-long seashore with white

sands and islets in the zone presents a beautiful seascape. Lake Tongbon and Lake Sobon and other big and small lakes afford a charming view. There are Mt. Chilbo, one of the noted mountains of Korea, in the Myongchon region adjacent to the zone, the Yombunjin Bathing Resort and a spa in Kyongsong, the Alsom bird breeding reserve for migratory birds in Sonbong and other natural monuments and the remains of the Stone Age in Kulpho.

The zone has a favourable environment for diverse tourism. By ship, rail or car, one can make a tour to the seaside and scenic spots for recreation, academic research and sports, and international tourism routes through China and Russia are easily accessible.

Thus, the Tuman Delta is called a "golden triangle" and attracts considerable public attention.

### **Lighthouse on Al Islet**





## **Sonbong Dairy Farm**

### **Present and Future**

Under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme, Korea, China and Russia concluded an "Agreement on the Establishment of the Tuman River Area Development Coordination Committee" and Korea, China, Russia and Mongolia, an "Agreement on the Establishment of the Consultative Commission for the Development of the Tuman River Economic Development Area and Northeast Asia" and "Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Principles Governing the Tuman River Economic Development Area and Northeast Asia"; they agreed to operate Tuman Secretariat for their implementation. This created a condition for promot-



ing economic exchange and cooperation in the development of the Tuman River area between neighbouring and northeast Asian countries for holding regular discussions on matters of common interests regarding the development of this zone between these countries.

These days different countries expressed a desire to invest in the zone. and the number of people who invest for collaboration, joint venture and private enterprise is rapidly increasing. More and more investors visit the Rajin-Sonbong economic and trade zone, which is favourable for business activity because of its excellent opportunities for investment, abundant raw materials and fuel, as well as highly qualified labour force, low rate of land rent, small number of tax items and their low rates, close distance between the areas of production and consumption, and the favourable conditions for joint sea-land transport.

### **Paekhak branch farm village of the Sonbong County Combined Farm**



Many investors have been there from the United States, Great Britain, Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and other countries in America and Europe, to say nothing of China, Japan and other northeast Asian countries.

Several infrastructures have been built, most of them being operational. Public service establishments including the Rajin Hotel and the Pipha Tourist Hotel are fully operational or will be in the near future. Projects for expanding or modernizing railways, roads, bridges and ports are under way everywhere. Premises for companies and branch companies, offices and houses are being built.

According to the development plan, in the first stage the minor delta zone (the Tuman River Economic Area) covering Rajin of Korea, Hunchun of China and Posyet of Russia is to be developed, and in the second stage the major delta zone (the Tuman River Economic Development Area) covering Yanji of China and Vladivostok of Russia is to be developed. In the future the northeast Asian development zone covering the Korean peninsula, the Far East of Russia, Northeast China and the eastern region of Mongolia will also be developed.

Now an ever-increasing number of foreigners visit the zone not wanting to miss investment opportunities and the number of established enterprises is greatly increasing. The Rajin-Sonbong economic and trade zone, a "golden triangle", will take its first step in the 21st century.

## **Kaesong**

**Kaesong Koryo Insam**

**1,000-Year-Old University,  
Koryo Songgyun Institute**

**Panmunjom**



Kaesong is a city under central authority, located in the central part of the Kaesong basin on the west coast, in the middle part of the Korean peninsula. From olden times it has been covered with pines, so it was also called Songdo (city of pines).

It was the capital city of Koryo, which was the first unified state on the Korean peninsula, for about 500 years beginning from 918, where the Koryo culture nourished. Since early times Kaesong enjoyed a certain level of development of the handicraft industry that produced Koryo ceramics, brassware, paper, Indian ink and other stationery and bamboo goods that were in great demand in the Song dynasty of China as valuable goods. From the latter half of the 15th century it became a major commercial centre of the country together with Pyongyang.

After it was incorporated into the northern half of Korea in 1950 during the Korean war, it developed industry based on up-to-date light industry and developed agriculture. Now Kaesong, the city near the mili-



**Part of Kaesong City around the Nam Gate**

**Kaesong Koryo insam  
and insam medicines**



tary demarcation line, has been built up as a modern city and as a tourist resort.

## **Kaesong Koryo Insam**

From olden times, Kaesong has been widely known as the home of insam (ginseng). Its name which means the "root of life" (ginseng is the Latin transcription of Russian pronunciation of the Korean word "insam"— Tr.), derives from its root resembling the human figure. *Panax schinseng* which grows in the mountains is called *sansam*, while that which is cultivated is called insam. It is also called *sincho* (mysterious herb) for its exceptional medicinal properties. *Panax*, the scientific name of insam genus, means cure-all (In Greek pan means all, akos, cure—Tr.). It is otherwise called *thojong* (soil essence) in the belief that it carries the vitality of fertile soil, or *hyolsam* (blood root), meaning that it gives blood to people.

*Panax schinseng*, the pure stock of insam, now grows only on the Korean peninsula and in some areas to the north of it. The method of cultivation and processing of Korean insam have spread from Kaesong. So Korean insam is the speciality known as Kaesong Koryo Insam (*Panax ginseng* C. A. Meyer—Tr.). It has far better medicinal effects in comparison with American ginseng, Japanese ginseng and other kinds of ginseng owing to the climatic and soil conditions and the unique method of cultivation and processing. It protects the five vital organs, has a beneficial effect on the brain, heart and blood vessels, promotes vitality and is specially efficacious in promoting health and longevity. Recently it has been revealed that it has an anti-radiation and anti-

cancer effect. Therefore it is very popular.

The city has many insam fields. The product is used to make efficacious tonics and medicines like insam decoction, insam essence, insam nutritious tablet, insam extract, insam injection, insam tonic for woman and insam pill, health foods like insam cake, insam jelly, insam syrup, insam tea and insam-stuffed chicken broth, and cosmetics and luxuries like insam cream, insam perfume, insam lotion, insam soap, insam toothpaste, insam cigarette and insam wine. Among insam wine widely known from olden times are Kaesong Samno wine and Suinsam wine which are savory and of high medicinal value.

The Kaesong insam-processing factory, insam wine distillery, Koryo medicines factory play an important

### **Insam tonic is presented to the grandfather**





**The Kaesong Textile Mill**

part in the insam-processing industry.

## **1,000-Year-Old University, Koryo Songgyun Institute**

There were many valuable historical relics in the central part and suburbs of Kaesong which was the capital city of Koryo from 918 to 1392. The Japanese invaders who occupied Korea in the past dug up the Tomb of King Kongmin, and other tombs of kings and the royal family of Koryo at random damaging their architectural beauty and took away valuable historical remains. During the Korean war, the Americans indiscriminately bombed the Namdae Gate, Songgyun Institute. Kyongdok Palace and many other historical remains and ancient buildings in Kaesong in violation of



**Koryo Museum**

**The Tomb of King Wang Kon, the founder-king of Koryo**







**Koryo  
celadon**

the established norms of international law. Now over 100 cultural relics remain in the city.

There are many tombs of the successive kings, queens and royal family of Koryo including the tomb of Wang Kon, the founder-king of Koryo, within a radius of 6 to 8 kilometres from the centre of the city. Many valuable historical relics unearthed in this area are on display in the Kuesong Koryo Museum.

In Kuesong there are fort walls which were built in different periods. The oldest are the Palocham Fort walls built in the period of Thaebong. After the establishment of the Koryo dynasty in 918, they became the walls of the capital of Koryo. They were earthen walls surrounding the central part of the royal palace of Koryo, which is now called Manwoltae.



Korean-Folk hotel in Kaesong





### **The seven-storey pagoda in the Hyonhwa Temple (1020)**

There were tens of palaces, pavilions and ponds within the earthen walls. The royal palace, which was grandiose and splendid, was burnt down by foreign invaders several times and has not been restored. Only the elevated platform and foundation stones for the buildings remain in the central part of the palace.

The inner fort built in 1392 had seven gates, of which the Tongdae Gate and the Soso Gate were destroyed by the Japanese and the upper storey and bell of the Namdae Gate were destroyed during the US bombing campaign.

In Kaesong there is the Koryo Songgyun Institute, a university founded in 992. The university succeeded the "Songgyun Institute" which was the highest educational establishment of the state in the Koryo period. It is one of the oldest universities in the world. The Koryo Songgyun Institute has developed as a university of light industry. It has a Koryo insam department, a Koryo ceramics department, a Koryo embroidery department

**Payon Falls near Kaesong**



**Marks of national split of  
half a century**





**The building where the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed on July 27,1953**

and many other departments and trains in a comprehensive way technical personnel needed for light industry.

**Panmunjom**

Everybody who gets off a train at Kaesong station is overwhelmed by the sight of the inscription "Kaesong-" on the station sign on the platform. The place where the name of the station next to Kaesong ought to be written is left blank. Kaesong makes one feel keenly the pain of territorial division and national split of Korea.

The mention of Kaesong reminds people of Panmunjom, the symbol of the division of Korea and confrontation, together with the capital of Koryo of 500 years' duration and Kaesong Koryo insam.

The place which was not marked on the map has

become a spot of historic interest known throughout the world. Panmunjom, which was a small town with pubs 8 kilometres south of Kaesong, began to be known to the public when the suspended Korean armistice talks were resumed there from October 1951. Since then Panmunjom has become a place of confrontation between the desire for reunification of the Korean people and the machinations of divisionists at home and abroad.

On July 27, 1953, the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed there. The signature hall of that time is preserved in its original state. After signing the agreement Clark, the then commander of the UN forces, expressed his feelings in these words, "War without victory, this is a term not found in the history of the United States. However, the United States signed for the miscarried war for the first time in its history. How will history record this? As for me, I am sorry and lament." Clark's mother who greeted him on his return home said, "There was no trace of his usual pride, dignity and prestige."

### **The meeting hall of the Military Armistice Commission**





**224 roads and bridges, four railways, 35 counties and sub-counties and 636 villages were divided into north and south due to the military demarcation line**

Only two strings of tears trickled down his face."

However, this did not mean the completion of the mission of Panmunjom. The Americans ceaselessly committed provocations against socialist Korea in fla-

**The concrete walls built south of the military demarcation line**







### **Reunification rally held at Panmunjom**

grant violation of the armistice agreement. The incident of the patrol boat *PCE-56*, the *Pueblo* incident, the *EC-121* plane incident, the Panmunjom incident and other provocations incurred the denunciation on the part of the Korean people at Panmunjom. Each time Americans had to hand over a shameful note of apology.

Many foreigners on a visit to Korea make a tour of Panmunjom and realize the ulterior motive of the United States, which asserts that this place, 5,000 miles away from its territory, presents its "defence line".

Today one can see the names associated with reunification everywhere in Kaesong City like Thongil (reunification) Street, Thongil Bridge and Thongil House. The desire for reunification is very strong among the Korean people.

Rim Su Gyong, representative of "Jondaehyop" (the National Council of Student Representatives) in south Korea, who had participated in the 13th World Festival



**Mrs. Pak Yong Gil, reunification champion and patriot, returning via Panmunjom after visiting Pyongyang**

of Youth and Students in Juche 78 (1989), returned home through Panmunjom for the first time after 44 years of national division. Following her, many south Korean patriotic youth, reunification champions and businessmen have crossed Panmunjom in succession, thus making a breach in the wall of division.

## FOLK CUSTOMS

### 1) DIET

The usual diet of the Koreans consists of boiled cereals, soup, *kimchi* (pickled vegetables—Tr.) and stew made of vegetables and meat.

The custom of using boiled cereals as the staple food was established long ago because rice, foxtail millet and barley suitable for cooking have been grown in large amounts all over the country from early times. Wheat was raised in the southern part of the Korean peninsula in ancient times, but before the 15th century its consumption was limited. The side dishes in the usual diet of the Koreans are mainly soup, *kimchi* and stew made of vegetables and meat.

Boiled cereals are traditionally taken together with soup at every meal all the year round. As a Korean saying goes, "Cooked cereals may be taken without side dishes but not without soup." This is because bean paste and soy sauce, indispensable in making soup, were used as the main seasonings from early times.

As compared to soup prepared using Western cuisine techniques, Korean soup uses a wider range of cooking methods, ingredients and seasonings. The real taste of soup depends on the taste of the liquid part. So attention is paid to making the liquid part nutritious and tasty, rather than to the solid ingredients.

The Koreans consider that the real taste of a meal cannot

be appreciated without *kimchi*. It is a dietary custom peculiar to the Koreans that *kimchi* is always served in all seasons, although other dishes may not be always served. *Kimchi* is a nutritious foodstuff which is fermented by lactic acid bacilli and abounds in various kinds of vitamins and microelements. It plays an important role in neutralizing the acid humours with alkali ones for the Koreans who eat boiled cereals as their staple food. The taste of *kimchi* represents a culinary art peculiar to each family, which is handed down from mother to daughter to such an extent that it can be said to show the level of cooking skill of the housewife. *Kimchi*, called the "masterpiece of Korea", is characteristic of Korean cuisine.

Stew is a side dish containing vegetables and meat boiled in a thicker soup, and seasoned and salted appropriately.

In the diet of the Koreans bean paste and soy sauce are indispensable basic seasonings and, at the same time, important subsidiary foodstuffs. As a Korean saying goes, "The taste of food means the taste of bean paste and soy sauce." Bean paste and soy sauce determine the taste of almost all the dishes. Particularly, bean paste is a nutritious subsidiary food. Foodstuffs basically made of Korean soya beans called "meat growing in the field" and their processing techniques are called "soy food culture". Paste made of soya beans holds an important place in it. Korean bean paste was introduced to Japan in the 5th century. The Japanese bean paste, called *miso*, derives its name from *miljo*, a dialect word of the Koryo period.

Specialists in cookery worldwide appreciate the tonic nature of Korean dishes. This can be traced back to the old days, when the Koreans constructed their diet on the principle that "medicine and food have the same origin." Hence, the names of many Korean dishes are prefixed with the term "medicinal". To mention a few, among the varieties of cooked rice, there is boiled medicinal rice prepared with glutinous rice mixed with honey, jujubes, dried persimmons, pine

nuts, chestnuts and sesame oil; among the varieties of rice cake there is medicinal rice cake, prepared with white-rice and glutinous-rice powders steamed with chestnuts, jujubes, dried persimmons, pine nuts and honey, and dyed light pink, green and yellow with the juice of *Schizandra chinensis*, *Angelica gigas* powder and pine pollen; among cakes, there is medicinal cake made of flour kneaded together with oil, honey and wine, and fried; among drinks, there is medicinal wine for the promotion of health; and among seasonings, there is a condiment which not only harmonizes the taste of food but also is taken in small doses for curative purposes.

Korea has four clearly distinct seasons—spring, summer, autumn and winter—and diverse seasonal foods. These originated in the seasonal festivals associated with firming.

A typical Korean table is set with one spoon and a pair of chopsticks for each diner. It is a traditional custom of the Koreans that all members of the family sit around a table laid with various kinds of dishes and seasonings on a heated floor and eat warm food, using spoons and chopsticks. Children, juniors or hosts do not begin to eat before parents, elders or guests take up their spoons and chopsticks, and the former do not put down their spoons and chopsticks on the table or rise from their seats before the latter do so. Instead, they wait, placing their spoons and chopsticks on their soup bowls till the latter finish their meals and put down their spoons and chopsticks. They observe this protocol out of respect for elders and guests.

## 2) COSTUME

Among Korean garments, the women's costume, which consists of *chima* (skirt) and *jogori* (blouse) and

has a long history, is particularly graceful and beautiful. It is a costume with a typical Korean flavour. The appearance of women wearing *chima* and *jogori* of a graceful and soft same colour agreeable to the modern aesthetic sense, or in long *chima* and *jogori* with pleasing fringes of the same colour as that of the *chima* is in fine harmony with the natural environment. They are evocative of the fairies in the heavens.

Korean women's costume is characterized by harmony between white and black colours. Korean women enjoy wearing white *jogori* and black *chima*, which harmonize and give the impression of vividness, neatness and gracefulness. The Korean national costume is generally of jade-green, light pink, cream, light green or other light and bright colours. Particularly, white costumes are prevalent. The white clothing is associated with the founder-king of the nation, Tangun (his original name Paktal symbolizes the sun, namely, brightness) and with the national sentiment of being fond of cleanness and purity. In the past, ethics strictly ordained that white clothes should be worn during periods of mourning and at memorial services. Thus white costume became to symbolize the Korean nation. Hence the Korean nation came to be called the "white-clad folk" or "white-clad nation".

The collar and strings of the Korean women's *jogori* are important parts symbolic of the Korean costume. The collar attached to the band surrounding the neck is made of white cloth. It is the first thing to attract the eye and stresses the impression of neatness and vividness of *jogori*. The collars of *jogori* of any colour are always made with white cloth. The two long cloth strings are designed for adjusting *jogori*. They bring the peculiar form of the Korean costume into relief. They rustle rhythmically at any slight movement or in a breeze. When Korean women feel shy, worried or distressed,

they often fiddle with the strings, which cover up their awkward movements unaffectedly. The strings not only serve the purpose of fastening *jogori* and as ornaments but also help women behave and maintain their posture in a natural manner in their daily lives.

Notable among ornaments is the ornamental dagger worn by men. The beautifully ornamented dagger was used for protection as well as for ordinary, practical purposes. In olden times the ornamental dagger was given as a wedding gift or on the attainment of adulthood, out of wishes for happiness of the man concerned or for his protection from all kinds of misfortune.

Comrade Kim Jong Il said that the many triplets being born these days are a good omen for the prosperity of the country and made it a rule that when multiple births occur ornamental daggers are presented to boy babies and gold rings to girl babies in the name of the country. All parents of triplets and quadruplets are provided with new houses and all the expenses for the upbringing and education of their children are borne by the state.

### **3) DWELLINGS**

The architectural form of graceful, sloping roofs whose edges are slightly raised like the wings of a crane presents an original beauty that can be seen only in Korean-style houses. The hip-saddle roof, which forms a beautiful contour in line with the geographical and natural features of the country, its environment and the national emotion and taste of the Korean people, is a basic form of tiled roof and gives an impression of majesty and lightness. It is symbolic of Korean architecture. Typical examples of Korean architec-

ture are the Grand People's Study House in the central part of Pyongyang, which has big granite pillars and 25 blue-tiled hip-saddled roofs overlapping in the shape of a flight of cranes in the blue sky, the People's Palace of Culture, the Pyongyang Grand Theatre and the Okryu Restaurant.

The *ondol* heating system is integral to traditional Korean dwellings. Similar to the Roman hypocaust system in the ancient West, the heat from the fireplace in the kitchen is led through flues under the floor to heat the living quarters. The traditional way of relaxing at home for the Koreans is to relax on a matted- or papered-floor room, and not lounge on beds, couches or chairs. In an *ondol*-heated room, the place nearest to the fireplace is the warmest part of the room and the place furthest away is the coldest. Old people like to sit on the warmest part of the floor. It is a revered custom among the Koreans for guests to be given the seat of honour (the warm place nearest to the fireplace in winter and the cool part of the room in summer). It is considered good manners for younger guests to decline the seat of honour.

As the Koreans live in *ondol*-heated and papered-floor rooms, people take off their shoes outside before entering the room.

The *ondol*-heating system typical of the Korean nation and having a long history, is now widely used in the high-rise buildings in cities.

In olden times people chose as sites for their houses places surrounded by hills in the east, west, south and north, which were supposed to be guarded by the Blue Dragon, White Tiger, Red Bird and Turtle-Serpent, respectively. In addition, a stream or river should complete the auspicious site by flowing in front—on the south side—of the house. This aspiration, enshrined in the ancient superstitious practice of geomancy, reflects the modest desire of the Korean people to lead happy lives in houses built on



fertile places which command pleasant views and are inhabited by good-hearted people. The thatched huts, in which the common people of Korea had lived for thousands of years have been pulled down in the rural villages of Korea. Nowadays, people live in neat and charming modern villages. However, care is still taken to build multi-storeyed apartment houses on the south-facing—or sunny—sides of slopes, in deference to ancestral tradition.

#### 4) FAMILY LIFE

In accordance with the ethical teaching handed down from our ancestors, in Korea special emphasis is placed on filial piety. This includes supporting one's parents with devotion, nursing one's sick parents with care, and holding sacrificial rituals in memory of deceased parents. These wholesome manners and customs are epitomized in the self-sacrificing behaviour of the heroine of the Korean classical novel *The Tale of Simchong* and in the tradition of women severing one of their fingers to transfuse their blood to their ailing husbands or parents.

Great care is shown when choosing a wife for one's son, as a dutiful daughter-in-law is supposed to pay great attention to the well-being of her parents-in-law, thus ensuring harmony within the family.

The custom of the son, particularly the eldest son, supporting his parents is still prevalent in Korea.

In olden times if one had no son, one adopted a child with the purpose of ensuring that memorial services for one's ancestors were held without interruption and the family line was carried on, as well as of having someone to whom to hand over one's property and by whom to be

supported in one's old age.

The custom of adopting a son or daughter in Korea has undergone a radical change.

It has become a social trend that young people of the rising generation bring up orphans as their own children and support childless old folks as their parents. It is now no rare occurrence that girls voluntarily marry disabled soldiers and take care of them, dedicating the springtime of their lives to them. These new relations of upbringing and support are attributable to Comrade Kim Jong Il, who has established new human relations of single-hearted unity by taking good care of the old generation of revolutionaries and by doing his best to bring up the bereaved children of fallen comrades as successors to the revolution.

When a baby is born, a name is given to it. It is the custom with the Koreans that the surname, which is placed first, follows the bloodline of the father. So daughters, to say nothing of sons, always keep the surnames of their fathers even after marriage. The surname is usually of one syllable while the given name usually consists of two syllables. The syllables of the name have definite meanings. One of the two syllables of the given name is common to, and indicates, the same generation of close relatives to which the owner of the name belongs. The common syllable of the name is applied up to first cousins, making it possible to tell quickly which generation kinfolk belong to.

The most important birthday celebration is the one that children arrange for the 60th birthdays of their parents. In the past, a man, who lived to be 60, was considered to have lived long. Therefore his children would hold a big banquet on his 60th birthday, wishing him an even longer life in good health. On that day they would present newly made garments to him and set a ceremonial feast table for him.

The table was also called a table for feasting the eyes on, so it was set with a greater variety of dishes and was

more spectacular than a wedding table. The intensity of filial piety of the children was said to have been estimated by the number of dishes and the height of the food piled up on the table. After setting the table, the children, relatives and friends would each present a cup of wine to the guest of honour and make a deep bow to him or her.

The celebration of one's 60th birthday is one of the good manners and customs of the Korean people, who respect their parents and take good care of them.

Comrade Kim Jong Il sees to it that 60th birthday spreads are arranged in the name of the country for the people who have devotedly worked for the country and the people, as a reward for their meritorious service. He also ensures that 70th and 80th birthday spreads are sent to people who have worked until they reached 70 or 80 years of age.

It is a duty based on the Korean sense of obligation and ethics to hold memorial services for the dead and pray for their souls.

The memorial service held on the first anniversary of a person's death is called *sosang*. The memorial service held on the second anniversary of a person's death is called *tae-sang* or *samnyonje* (memorial service in the third year, because it is held in the third year after the death). Besides *sosang* and *taesang*, the memorial service which is held on the day of the ancestor's death every year is called *kije*. *Kije* is held at the dawn of that day.

On folk festival days, people hold memorial services to pray for the repose of the souls of their ancestors. Memorial services on folk festival days are distinct from other memorial services in that sacrificial altars are laden with special food eaten only on that day. To cite a few examples, people offer rice-cake soup on New Year's Day and rice cakes steamed on a layer of pine needles on the Harvest Moon Day. The memorial service is usually held in the house of the eldest son or the

eldest grandson in charge of the memorial service. So on New Year's Day and on the Harvest Moon Day all the relatives gather in the house of the eldest son.

Nowadays in Korea, people hold funeral and memorial services in a simple and modest manner, remembering the deceased with reverence.

People see on their TV screens Comrade Kim Jong Il bowing respectfully to Comrade Kim Il Sung, the eternal President of the Republic, lying in state in the Kumsusan Memorial Palace at dawn on the Day of the Sun (President Kim Il Sung's birthday, April 15—Tr.), July 8 (the day of the President's death—Tr.), and on New Year's Day, Republic Founding Day, Harvest Moon Day and other national holidays every year. They also watch the endless waves of people paying homage at the President's bronze statue on Mansu Hill, the Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery, the Patriotic Martyrs Cemetery in Pyongyang and the patriotic martyrs' tombs in the provinces. This is the modern form of the good manners and customs inherited from our ancestors, which have been carried over and developed to a higher level of significance in our era.

The etiquette of salutation differs from country to country. In Korea it is a long-established custom for people to bow to each other, instead of shaking hands, when they meet.

Juniors make a deep bow to their parents and other elders among the members of the family and relatives. When one makes a deep bow, one falls on one's knees, and the hands touch the ground. So deep bows are usually made indoors.

Outdoors, people usually bow in a standing position. The extent of the bending of the upper part of the body shows the relation of the junior to the senior. The deeper the bow, the more respectful it is. When Korean people meet others who are their equals in age, they only make slight bows to each other and exchange words of greeting.

It is regarded as good manners and an age-old custom in Korea to offer hospitality to guests. From olden times Korea has been known as an “eastern country of great courtesy”. Everyone visiting Korea will feel kindness and warm hospitality.

## 5) FOLK GAMES

### ***Subak, Taekwon-Do***

Taekwon-Do is a national art of attack and defence using nimble movements of the legs and hands. There are over 3,200 kinds of major movements in Taekwon-Do.

Judging by vivid portrayals of this art in murals in Koguryo-period tombs, Taekwon-Do has a long history and tradition. At that time it was called *subak* (hand-striking art). It was an art of hitting or striking an opponent and checking his attacks with the bare hands. In the latter period of the Ri dynasty (18th-19th centuries) the use of the legs developed, which was called *taekkyon*. In the Pyongyang region it was noted as *nal-pharam* (agile action), mainly depending on the use of the fists, kicking and head-butting.

Today Taekwon-Do has spread all over the world. Taekwon-Do contests are divided into demonstrations of patterns, contests, and displays of power and special skills. During displays of power the performer chops pine-wood boards in two with the edges of his hands, feet or heels. The special skill of Kim Sin Rak (Rikidozan), a professional wrestling champion in the 1950s and 1960s, was his so-called “right hand of justice”, which corresponds to the “hand-knife”.

## **Wrestling**

Korean wrestling, or *ssirum*, has a long history. Two contestants strive to throw each other to the ground, using various grips and holding a strip of cloth bound round the other's left thigh.

It is an official event of the annual people's sports meeting.

Murals in a tomb in Jian County, Jilin Province, in China (dating from the late 4th century) and Changchuan tomb No. 1 (mid-5th century) in the same region, both of which belong to the Koguryo period, give a vivid portrayal of wrestling in those days. This shows that wrestling has a long history.

A good wrestler was called *yongsa* (brave man) in the Koryo period. Wrestling became a staple contest at the *Tano* Festival and Harvest Moon Day, held in May and August, respectively.

At wrestling contests an ox is traditionally presented as the top prize. The wrestler who wins the contest leisurely returns home, riding the ox which is garlanded with flowers, and followed by the fellow-villagers who have cheered him on. Nowadays, national TV wrestling contests are popular with TV viewers.

## **Tug of War**

The tug of war was traditionally held on the day of the first full moon of the year by the lunar calendar and in some provinces at the *Tano* Festival or Harvest Moon Day. Now it is held in any place and at any time without special preparation. Formally, the tug of war was held by teams repre-

senting rival villages. It used to involve many contestants and several thousand supporters. The tug of war between villages began with the "minor tug of war" by boys 12 or 13 years old, at the beginning of the year. It was the prelude to the main contest, a preliminary contest between villages. As it exerted a psychological influence on the outcome of the major tug of war, all the villages showed a great interest in it. After the preliminary contest, the young winners made a round of the village singing the song of victory and carrying their rope and that of the losers on their shoulders. The contest was continuously performed every evening till the night of the 12th-13th of January, and the villagers cheered their young contestants, by beating gongs and playing on a kind of trumpet called *saenap*.

The main tug of war between older people was held on the 14th of January by the lunar calendar. The rope prepared for the purpose was some 50-60 mm thick, and 30-40 metres long. The contest was held on a meadow on the boundary between two villages. The main tug of war was participated in by several hundred contestants from both villages and watched by all the members of the two villages.

On the day of the contest, people start gathering in the morning, led by people holding banners and a peasant band in colourful clothes and boys and girls dancing to the music. The sound of the peasant band, the excited cheers of innumerable spectators and contestants putting forth their strength seem to shake Heaven and Earth. At the heads of both teams, the team leaders command their teams and supporters, with a flag in his hand. The winning team takes its rope and the losers' and make a round of their village with the band playing in the van.

This contest, which the Korean people have enjoyed from olden times, is now widespread as a cheerful folk contest, as it displays the united might of the collective and helps build up physical strength and endurance. It is

now held in any place and at any time. On public holidays high-ranking cadres of the Party and the State take part in this contest together with the working people.

### **Jumping Seesaw**

Jumping seesaw is a contest in which two women, standing at opposite ends of a long board, balanced in the middle, compete to jump higher, coming down heavily on the board. Tradition says that in the olden days women, who were kept indoors almost all day long, practised jumping seesaw in order to get a glimpse of the world outside the wall. At any rate, it has long been a custom for women to dress in colourful clothes and get together on the lunar New Year's Day and on the 15th of January by the lunar calendar every year and enjoy seesawing till late in the evening.

This sport helps build up leg strength and increase lung capacity, and trains the body through balancing and the practice of accurate rhythmic movements. As an exercise involving the whole body, it helps to improve one's figure. Various jumping seesaw stunts performed by the national circus are popular among spectators both at home and abroad. Jumping seesaw is peculiar to Korea and has a long history. As for neighbouring countries, it was practised only in Ryukyu (Okinawa), Japan, having been introduced there from Korea.

### **Swinging**

Swinging is a contest in which a person standing on a board held by two ropes hanging from a certain height tries to swing as high as possible, by swinging forward



and backward. Swinging contests are so much part of the *Tano* Festival as to be almost synonymous with it. With the approach of the festival, everywhere in cities and rural villages people swing on swings suspended from willow or pine trees or from crossbars placed between pairs of tall poles in places with a good view. Single swinging and double swinging are practised. The swinger whose foot touches a bell hung high in the air wins the contest.

Unlike jumping seesaw, swinging was practised in other countries, too, but was not so widespread as in Korea, where from olden times swinging contests were held across the country, and especially in the northwestern region. The swinging contest at the *Tano* festival in Pyongyang was particularly famous. Now it is an event in national contests.

### ***Janggi, Korean Chess***

Chess is a fascinating game with countless varieties of moves which sharpens one's thinking faculty. It is played in every country but differs from country to country in the form of the chessmen, the number of chequered squares on the board and the method of play.

It is the custom with the Koreans that the poorer player moves first. Also the older player always uses the red pieces, while the younger player uses the blue pieces. This is out of respect for elders.

The skill of Korean chess is diverse and complicated. It is said that a whole lifetime is needed to master the skill.

### ***Yut***

*Yut* is a game in which the players compete with each other by moving markers on a board according to

the patterns in which four sticks thrown in the air fall. In the old days, *yut* was played at the end of the year and the beginning of the next year. Now it has developed into a mass game which is played by all, young and old, men and women, in any place and at any time, to say nothing of during public holidays.

The four *yut* sticks thrown in the air fall on their obverse or reverse sides, so they give rise to five patterns. When three sticks fall on the obverse sides and one on the reverse side, this is called *do*, and is given one mark. When two sticks fall on the obverse sides and the other two on the reverse sides, it is called *kae*, and given two marks. When one stick falls on the obverse side and the other three on the reverse sides, it is called *kol*, and given three marks. When all the sticks fall on the reverse sides, it is called *yut* or *sshung*, and is given four marks. When all the sticks fall on the obverse sides, it is called *mo*, and given five marks. The board has 29 positions. The positions are said to have been marked in imitation of constellations.

The winner is the first to complete the required rounds of the board by moving his or her markers on the board, according to the patterns in which the sticks fall. Here the skill of throwing sticks in the air is important; what is more important is to use one's brain and watch the board attentively in order to make good moves. It is a widespread pastime, because it is a game many people can play with interest.

**Horn  
bugles**



**Peasant  
dance**



**Making of Noodles**

**Pounding of rice cake**



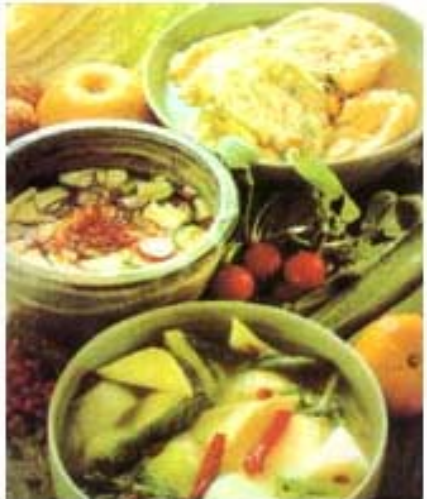


Varieties of  
rice cakes



Medicinal  
rice (sweet  
rice dish)

Varieties of *kimchi*





**Korean dresses  
for women**





**Wedding dresses. Traditionally at the wedding a bride-groom wears silk hat and waist band and a bride dresses herself up with seven treasures**



**Part of a village in Hyangsan County**

**Nam-ri village in Mangyongdae**







**The front yard of a Korean-style house**



**Kitchen of  
a modern house**



**Pyongyang Grand Theatre**



**The eaves of the Taedong Gate and their ornamentation**



**The New Year's greeting**



**Folk dance and masque dance of girls**





**A scene of peasant dance in the dance suite *Song of the Seasons***

**Display of power of Taekwon-Do**





**Wrestling and tug of war**





*YUT game*

**Swinging**





Jumping seesaw



## NATIONAL EMBLEM AND NATIONAL FLAG

The national emblem of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea bears the design of a grand hydro-electric power station, symbolizing an independent modern industry and the working class, the leading class, under Mt. Paektu, the sacred mountain of the revolution, and the beaming light of a five-pointed red star, with ears of rice forming an oval frame, bound with a red ribbon bearing the inscription "The Democratic People's Republic of Korea".

The national flag of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea consists of a central red panel, bordered both above and below by a narrow white stripe and a broad blue stripe. The central red panel bears a five-pointed red star within a white circle near the flagpole. The red star symbolizes the glorious revolutionary traditions inherited by the Republic. The red panel symbolizes the noble patriotic spirit of the revolutionary forerunners and the fighting spirit of the Korean people. The narrow white stripes represent the homogeneous Korean nation with a long history and resplendent culture. The broad blue stripes symbolize the desire to fight for the victory of the ideals of independence, peace and friendship in unity with the progressive peoples of the world.

The ratio of the flag's width to its length is 1:2.

