

Inaugural ceremonies of regional-industry factories for Regional Development 20×10 Policy held in different counties

Modern factories rise up in succession to contribute to improving material and cultural life of people in Unpha, Kyongsong, Unchon and Yonthan counties



An inauguration ceremony of regional-industry factories takes place in Unpha County on January 10.

KCNA

As precious entities of the regional industrial revolution rise up across the DPRK simultaneously and in succession, regional-industry factories were inaugurated in Unpha, Kyongsong, Unchon and Yonthan counties.

Regional-industry factories were completed in Unpha County, North Hwanghae Province, an intermediate mountainous area.

Present at the inauguration ceremony of the regional-industry factories in Unpha County for the Regional Development 20×10 Policy held on January 10 were officials and working people

in the province and the county, soldier-builders and employees of the factories.

Pak Chang Ho, chief secretary of the North Hwanghae Provincial Committee of the WPK, said in his address at the ceremony that the Regional Development 20×10 Policy, cherished in the hearts of the people, is an eventful bold decision and gigantic revolution made for the first time since the foundation of the Party and the country, adding that the great change for regional rejuvenation in the county is a fruition brought by the ardent desire and iron will of the respected General Secretary Kim Jong Un

to provide the people and posterity with a better life and a brighter future.

As long as there are the wise leadership of the great Party Central Committee and the single-minded unity, the absolute strength of socialist Korea, we will surely and steadily work fresh miracles and new myths of Korea, the speaker said, calling for fully displaying patriotism and loyalty to bring about a radical development and comprehensive prosperity of regions with great confidence and courage.

Ri Ung Chon, chief secretary of the Unpha County Committee of the WPK, in his speech referred

to the benevolence of the General Secretary who developed Unpha County into a blessed land envied by all the people across the country.

He vowed to carry through the plan of the Party Central Committee for making the regional development represent the advance and development of our state and making the ideal appearance of regions show the true picture of Korean-style socialism by devoting himself to the perfect implementation of the Regional Development 20×10 Policy, always keeping in mind the heavy responsibility for the great revolutionary work for its

implementation.

Then employees of the factories cut an inaugural tape.

The participants looked round the factories after enjoying an art performance.

The new modern factories started their operation.

The people in Kyongsong County, North Hamgyong Province, also greeted an auspicious event.

The county in the northern tip of the DPRK is full of joy of the inhabitants, who will enjoy a new socialist civilization to the full while leading a beautiful life in the new era of rejuvenation when the capital and the provinces develop and change all

together.

An inauguration ceremony of the regional-industry factories in the county took place on January 12.

Present there were officials and working people in North Hamgyong Province and Kyongsong County, soldier-builders and employees of the factories.

Kim Yong Hwan, chief secretary of the North Hamgyong Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, addressed the ceremony.

He stressed that this significant inauguration ceremony showing up the



An inauguration ceremony of the regional-industry factories in Kyongsong County is held on January 12.

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wonderfully changed looks of the county along with the beginning of a hope-filled new year, is strikingly demonstrating the plan of the great WPK Central Committee for making the ideal appearance of regions a true picture of Korean-style socialism and the bright prospects of the new regional development policy.

Thanks to the undying

trace left by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un in the county, the Junphyong Greenhouse Farm, a large-scale vegetable producer, sprang up before anything else, the Yombunjin Coastal Park is being built splendidly on a scenic beach and in pine forests, and modern regional-industry factories have appeared as the first entity of regional rejuvenation to give joy of a fresh life and new civilization to the people, he

said. Pak Kun Sok, chairman of the Kyongsong County People's Committee, made a speech.

Employees of the factories cut off the inauguration tape.

Kyongsong County, which has been famous for ceramics and hot springs from olden times, is changing beyond recognition every year under the loving care of the respected Marshal Kim Jong Un, said Kim

Ki Dok, a worker at the Kyongsong Electrical Appliances Factory, adding that he would devote all his loyalty and patriotic zeal to the benevolent motherly Party translating into reality the long-cherished desire of the regional people.

A colourful performance was given to add to the joy of the people in the county on the inauguration day.

Unchon County of South Hwanghae Province

celebrated the completion of its regional-industry factories as a great auspicious event.

An inauguration ceremony of the factories took place on January 14.

The venue of the ceremony was crowded with officials and working people in South Hwanghae Province and Unchon County, soldier-builders and employees of the factories.

Pak Thae Dok, chief

secretary of the South Hwanghae Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, addressed the ceremony.

Now that the Party provided new fine factories, the residents of Unchon County, too, have come to benefit from the modern light industry, bringing about a better future and opening up a new path for civilization and

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Unchon County of South Hwanghae Province celebrates the completion of its regional-industry factories as a great auspicious event on January 14.



Regional-industry factories are inaugurated with a public event in Unchon County of South Hwanghae Province.

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development in their region by themselves, the speaker said, stressing that the new history of such eye-opening transformation is a precious fruition of the energetic guidance of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, who has made untiring efforts, regarding the long-cherished desire of the regional people as his own.

He called upon the officials

to more deeply grasp the Party's noble view on the people and fulfil their duty as true servants of the people through the struggle to usher in a new era of great changes. And he underlined the need for the factories to direct primary efforts to improving the quality of products and turn out local specialities so as to make the people keenly feel the validity and vitality of the Party's policy.

Choe Yong Hyon, chief

secretary of the Unchon County Committee of the WPK, made a speech.

He called for supplying in a responsible manner raw and other materials to ensure normal production at the factories built under the loving care of the Party, and for making positive efforts to most effectively develop and utilize the locally available economic resources and potentials in order to steadily expand the lever for regional

economic development.

Amid the enthusiastic applause and cheers of excitement, workers, who would lead a worthwhile and civilized working life at the new factories, cut the inauguration tape.

After the ceremony, the participants went round the factories with modern production lines, expressing their deep emotion and admiration.

An art performance and

a cheerful dance party were held to congratulate the people of Unchon County on their happy future, adding to the joy of the great auspicious event.

That evening there was a fireworks display.

An inaugural ceremony of regional-industry factories was also held in Yonthan County on January 16.

It was attended by officials of North Hwanghae Province and Yonthan County, soldier-

builders and employees of the factories.

An inaugural address was delivered by Pak Chang Ho, chief secretary of the North Hwanghae Provincial Committee of the WPK and managers of the factories cut the tape.

After the ceremony the participants looked round the modern factories.

That evening, fireworks were displayed in celebration of their inauguration.



An inauguration ceremony of regional-industry factories is held in Yonthan County on January 16.

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un receives letter from members of art troupe of Korean schoolchildren in Japan

KCNA

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un received a letter from members of the 34th art troupe of Korean schoolchildren in Japan, who had taken part in the New Year performance for 2025, on January 11.

The members of the art troupe said in the letter that they made a deep bow to the respected fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un, who took a measure for them to take part in the New Year performance and bestowed the greatest privilege and glory, with the minds of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan and all Koreans in Japan.

The letter said that during their stay in the homeland,

they keenly cherished the true image of a genuine power holding the greatest man in the world in high esteem, while witnessing the reality of the homeland where hurrah for the Workers' Party and socialism are heard everywhere under the people-first politics pursued by the respected fatherly Marshal.

It went on:

All the members of the art troupe of Korean schoolchildren in Japan are filled with a firm pledge to grow up to be the sunflowers of patriotism and loyalty following the sun only in an alien land to repay the warm love of the fatherly Marshal.

We will regard the song of loyalty and filial devotion that we sang before the fatherly

Marshal as a theme song of our life and firmly prepare ourselves as pillars carrying forward the patriotic cause of Chongryon while flying high the flag of the DPRK at our schools in capitalist Japan.

Bearing in mind that the future of strong Chongryon to be prosperous under the leadership of the respected fatherly Marshal will be represented first on our academic record cards, we will set an example in study and organizational life and always grow up energetically, brightly and honestly as befitting the sons and daughters in an alien land.

The letter wished the respected fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un good health.

Premier Pak inspects different sectors

KCNA

Pak Thae Song, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and premier of the DPRK Cabinet, made a field survey of different sectors.

At the Ragwon General Machine Enterprise, the Premier toured different workshops to give a pep talk to officials, workers and technicians who are out in a campaign for increased production and economy campaign.

He underscored the need for the officials to play the initiative, creative and positive role in implementing the Party's policies and more dynamically organize and direct the work to raise the productivity and quality of machine products.

He also called for steadily strengthening its

own technical forces to improve the performance of equipment and enhance the accuracy in processing and assembling products and for raising the practicality and efficiency of the building of overall production lines and the system of their management and operation.

At the Sinuiju Chemical Fibre Mill, he learned about the installation of new equipment and called for generalizing the successes and experience in the modernization of the mill to complete the construction project at an early date.

He stressed the need to resolve technical problems arising in improving the quality of paper and to improve the management of equipment and technology so as to carry out the paper production plan for this year.

The field consultative meetings discussed the issue for relevant units to

provide materials necessary for increased production in a responsible manner, the issue of lowering production costs by further enhancing the role of the April 15 technical innovation shock brigade and actively introducing advanced science and technology and the issue of directing steady efforts to the improvement of employees' working and living conditions. And the meetings took necessary measures.

The Premier also visited the headquarters of construction project for 50 000 flats in Pyongyang. There he stressed the need to step up in a far-sighted way the preparations for inauguration of 10 000 flats at the third stage in the Hwasong area, which has entered the final stage, while examining whether there is any shortcoming in the project.

To implement decisions of plenary meeting of WPK Central Committee

Enlarged plenary meeting of Cabinet Committee of WPK held



An enlarged plenary meeting of the Cabinet Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea takes place on January 13-14.

KCNA

An enlarged plenary meeting of the Cabinet Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea took place on January 13-14 to implement the decisions of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth WPK Central Committee.

The meeting was guided by Pak Thae Song, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK and premier of the DPRK Cabinet.

Present there were members and alternate members of the Cabinet Committee of the WPK and, as observers, officials concerned.

The meeting reviewed in detail the work of 2024, and discussed and decided on the measures for successfully carrying out the important tasks set forth at the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth WPK Central Committee.

Ri Yong Sik, chief secretary of the Cabinet Committee of the WPK, made a report.

The meeting analyzed and reviewed a series of shortcomings and lessons as well as the successes and experience made and gained in implementing the Party decisions last year, and discussed the issues arising in achieving the sustainable and stable development of the overall economic work.

It referred in detail to the tasks and ways for the Cabinet to successfully fulfil the five-year plan by strengthening its control and leadership over the overall economic work in every way.

The meeting focused on discussing the issue for the key industrial sectors to attain the goals set forth at the Eighth Party Congress and make preparations for entering the next stage of development.

Presented to the meeting were innovative proposals for positively settling the sci-tech problems badly necessary for the country's economic development

and the people's living and decisively improving the administrative work for science and technology.

The meeting also discussed the issues for the cultural field to fulfil its mission and responsibility.

The plenary meeting emphasized the need for the Party organizations at ministries and national agencies to enhance their functions and role as the political staff by redoubling their efforts.

Speeches were made at the meeting.

There were sectional consultative meetings to confirm the guarantee for the implementation of the policy-oriented tasks facing the Cabinet and economic organs and to work out the plans for thoroughly implementing them.

Adopted at the plenary meeting with unanimous approval was a decision drawn up amid the high enthusiasm of all the participants.

Pyongyang municipal and provincial committees of WPK hold enlarged plenary meetings

KCNA

The Pyongyang municipal and provincial committees of the Workers' Party of Korea held enlarged plenary meetings to implement the decisions of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth WPK Central Committee.

The meetings were guided by members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee.

Present there were members and alternate members of the provincial committees of the WPK and, as observers, officials of

Party and power organs and administrative and economic bodies in the relevant regions.

The meetings analysed and reviewed the work of the relevant regions for implementing the important tasks set forth at the plenary meetings of the Party Central Committee last year, and discussed and decided on the measures for carrying out this year's tasks on the basis of the orientation of struggle set forth at the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee.

They also referred to the tasks and ways for the provincial Party committees to successfully attain the

goals for the five-year plan.

There were sectional consultative meetings to confirm the detailed goals for regions and units and work out plans for attaining them, on the basis of the tasks and fighting strategy set forth at the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee.

Adopted at the meetings were decisions drawn up on the premise of the participants' immense enthusiasm to faithfully discharge their responsibility and duty in this year's crucial struggle for the successful fulfilment of the five-year plan and of definite practical guarantee.

Different sectors hold in-depth discussions

KCNA

The metal industrial sector has mapped out scientific plans to dynamically implement them so as to decisively boost iron and steel production.

Officials and workers in the rail transport sector are striving to enhance the transport capacity.

The non-permanent central committee for promoting the Regional Development 20x10 Policy set more advanced goals on the basis of the experience

gained in the course of building the first entities of regional rejuvenation, and is now taking practical measures to build advanced health facilities, facilities for science, education and cultural activities and grain management facilities as well as regional-industry factories at the highest level.

Officials in the fields of light industry, fisheries, commerce, land and environment protection and urban management are working hard to promote the people's well-being

and provide them with more affluent and civilized living conditions and environment.

The field of education is elaborating the plan for making a substantial improvement of education this year.

The public health sector takes innovative measures to improve the quality of medical service and strengthen the material and technical foundations.

The sports sector makes innovative plans to attain higher goals.

Sangwon Cement Complex registers production results of more than 114% every day from the outset of new year

KCNA

The Sangwon Cement Complex has increased its output of clinker and cement by 5 percent and 14 percent respectively every day from the outset of the year up to now as compared with the same period of last year when it surpassed the peak year level.

Upon hearing the news of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held in late December last year, the workers of the complex presented a letter reflecting their determination to take the lead in the drive for increased production to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who firmly believed in them and put them forward on the outpost of the grand socialist construction.

The goal for increased cement production they pledged in the letter amounts to ten times of the quantity of cement increased by them last year. This high goal is a huge one that can never be attained by the existing conception and method even at the complex which has surpassed the peak year level several times since its operation in recent years.

Bearing in mind the requirements of the Party's policy that a way of attaining the huge goal with existing capabilities is to attach importance to science and technology, its officials worked out daily and monthly plans in detail and are making strenuous efforts to carry out the plans by dint of science and technology.

Thanks to ardent loyalty and patriotic enthusiasm of all the employees that they are in charge of cement production before the Party and the state, a large amount of cement has been produced every day, breaking the rated capacity.



The Sangwon Cement Complex increases its output every day from the outset of the year up to now as compared with the same period of last year when it surpassed the peak year level.

Economic sectors, units fulfil their first ten-day plans in new year

KCNA

The first ten-day plans of the new year were carried out by different sectors and units of the national economy.

The workers of the Sangwon Cement Complex are in the vanguard of the all-people general advance of this year for implementing the decisions of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Workers in the field of metallurgical industry carried

out their first ten-day iron and steel production plan for the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry.

The Namhung Youth Chemical Complex and the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex produced over 1 200 tons of more fertilizer in the first three days.

The Pukchang Thermal Power Complex, the Pyongyang Thermal Power Station, the Jangjingang Power Station and the Pujongang Power Station overfulfilled their quotas for the first five

days by 20 percent.

The Pukchang Area Youth Coal-mining Complex produced hundreds of tons of more coal in the first week alone.

The Ryongsong Machine Complex and the Tacan Heavy Machine Complex have introduced effective technical innovation plans and tapped internal reserves to expand success in production from the beginning of the new year.

The Hyesan Youth Mine and the Yongyu Mine more than doubled their production results in the first ten days

as compared with the same period of last year, and the Jungsan and Phungnyon mines increased their production over three times.

Workers of the Kangwon Provincial Forestry Management Bureau carried out their timber production plans for January in ten days.

The rail transport sector carried more goods from the outset of the new year by improving the informatization level of the transport organization and command with an innovative vision.

Fertilizer production on the increase at Hungnam

KCNA

The Hungnam Fertilizer Complex is boosting production in order to supply more fertilizers to the socialist countryside.

Workers of its synthesis workshop have conducted the inspection of the synthetic tower and compressors in an effective way and created machine reserves, thereby making a breakthrough in fertilizer production.

Workers and technicians of the gas-producing workshop

are increasing production by improving the operation of gas generators, and the gas cleaning and other workshops are observing technical rules and standard regulations to contribute to the fulfilment of plans.

The raw material workshop has raised the operation rate of cranes, crushers and conveyors, while the ammonium nitrate and urea workshops have carried out their daily plans through collective innovation.



Wise leadership, brilliant history

By **Pang Un Ju** PT

On January 17, young people of the DPRK significantly celebrated the 79th founding anniversary of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League.

The SPYL is the only and popular youth organization of the young Koreans who carry forward and accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche pioneered and led by President Kim Il Sung.

General Kim Il Sung established the tradition of the Korean youth movement in the flames of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and founded a Juche-oriented youth organization

on January 17 1946 to rally young people of all social strata under the banner of democracy immediately after the liberation of Korea.

The young people, who had realized their inexhaustible strength, firmly rallied around the youth organization under the guidance of the General, unhesitatingly devoted their lives for the country and the people during the fierce Fatherland Liberation War, demonstrated the spirit of youth to the full in the vanguard of the post-war rehabilitation and performed world-startling miracles and feats in socialist construction.

In order to add lustre to

the history of the Korean youth movement initiated by Kim Il Sung, Chairman Kim Jong Il issued immortal works to illuminate the way ahead of the youth movement in every period and at every stage of the revolution and called the youth a reserve fighting force and special detachment of the Supreme Commander.

To return the trust and love of the Chairman, the young people performed heroic feats in all parts of the country with their indomitable will and pluck even in the period of unprecedentedly appalling hardship in the 1990s and fully demonstrated the mettle of the Korean youth in the

struggle to defend socialism and in the confrontation with the US.

The Korean youth movement is in its heyday thanks to the wise leadership of General Secretary Kim Jong Un.

The youth league, which developed into the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League on August 28 2016 along with the new era when the period of a leap forward in carrying out the revolutionary cause of Juche began, was renamed Socialist Patriotic Youth League in conformity with the character and tasks of the current youth movement at the tenth congress of the youth league

held in April 2021.

Encouraged by the great trust of the Party which declared that the prosperous future will be accelerated by the dynamic efforts of young people, they built the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station despite the severe cold of the northern part of the country and a new modern street, a grand monument to the youth, in the Sopho area of the capital city.

It is the reality of the country that the young people who had been lagging behind others made a new start of their lives, many others volunteered to work in the difficult and labour-consuming sectors at the call

of the country and those who do good deeds impressing the people are steadily increasing thanks to the General Secretary's idea of attaching importance to young people.

It is the unanimous desire and will of the young people of the new generation to devote all their youthful wisdom and energy to the cause of building a powerful socialist country under the leadership of the General Secretary by steadily carrying forward the tradition of the preceding generations boundlessly loyal to the revolutionary cause of Juche under the wise leadership of the great leaders.

2024 seethes with volunteering zeal of young people

By **Ryom Un Gyong** PT

Last year, too, young people across the country volunteered to work on the major fronts of socialist construction.

Those in South Hwanghae Province offered to work at the socialist countryside with high enthusiasm for making a breakthrough in the van of the implementation of the rural revolution programme in the new era.

Those in North Hamgyong Province and Taean District of Namp'ho Municipality volunteered to work at metallurgical and machine-building industry factories and enterprises with a determination to play a big role in the struggle to secure a definite practical guarantee for carrying out the five-year plan in the Chollima spirit in the new era.

According to information available, at the beginning of last year alone, many young men and women offered to work in different economic sectors like the construction brigades of cities and counties and ridgeway and road platoons.

Filled with enthusiasm to perform great feats in their youthful days, members of the young vanguard in Kangwon, North Hwanghae and Jagang provinces volunteered to work at the Songnam Youth Mine of the Pukchang Area Youth Coal-mining Complex.

The deeds of young people who set their revolutionary posts in difficult and labour-consuming sectors of their own accord vividly showed the beautiful outlooks on life of new generations who find their worth and pride in the drive for the prosperity of the country.

Last year, more than 200 graduates of universities



Young people volunteer for reconstruction of the flood-hit areas of Sinuiju City and Uiju County in North Phyongan Province.

of education and teachers training colleges volunteered for branch schools on islands and in mountainous areas and rural schools.

Among them were young people who had grown up at "pedigree" farms for the education of the rising generation after finishing primary and secondary schools for orphans under the loving care of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Ex-soldier graduates of Phyongsong University of Education and Phyongsong Teachers Training College who volunteered to work at schools in mountainous

areas in Yangdok County together with their families are creditably defending the outposts of the educational revolution.

They believe that there can be geographically far-off and sequestered places on this land, but there can be no place where the love of the Party fail to reach, and they are determined to devote themselves to upholding the Party's intention.

University graduates, who studied to their heart's content thanks to the benefits of the advantageous socialist education system, are pooling their wisdom and passion

in order to make the clear voices of children reading textbooks and their happy laughter resound more loudly at branch schools on islets and schools in mountain villages and rural areas.

In July last year, a natural disaster hit the DPRK, leaving many people homeless.

In response to the appeal of the Party calling on young people to build houses in the city of Sinuiju and Uiju County, North Phyongan Province, a hot wind of volunteering was raised across the country, thus bringing the number of volunteers to nearly 300 000

Tradition carried forward

By **Kim Hak Chol** PT

There are many monumental structures and industrial establishments whose names include the appellation youth in the DPRK.

It is because the young people have left an indelible imprint on the prosperity and development of the country.

The nearly 80-year history of the DPRK and the history of the Workers' Party of Korea which has consistently maintained the idea of attaching importance to the youth include the proud history of the struggle of young people who dedicated their youth to the country and the people.

Last year young people built Jonwi Street, a grand monument to youth which reflects a future of the prosperous and powerful country, in the northern gateway to the capital city of Pyongyang and volunteered to work in the flood-stricken areas to successfully build strong embankments, modern dwelling houses for thousands of families and public buildings in a little more than four months in response to the call of the Party Central Committee for turning out for the people and the country while overcoming the crisis once again so as to bring about miraculous successes.

in less than a week.

Among them were not only young workers but also special-class honoured disabled soldiers.

The commendable deeds of young patriots, who volunteered to work at the outposts of

It is a precious tradition of all the young people to regard it as their bounden duty and great pride in life to unstintingly dedicate their youth to the country and the people while advancing straight forward following the leadership of the WPK.

In the periods of building a new Korea, the great Fatherland Liberation War and the post-war rehabilitation and the fierce struggle to defend socialism in the 1990s, the young people of the country always stood in the vanguard as desired by the Party.

Today, when the comprehensive development of socialism in the country has entered a new historic stage, its young people are adding lustre to their proud history and tradition, embroidering its history with brilliant miracles and feats.

The young people are full of confidence and vigour as they visualize with boundless joy an era of eye-opening changes to be brought about by the lofty ideal and leadership of the Party and the future of the prosperous country.

This year, which marks the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea, will witness the proud creation of monumental structures associated with young people's feats, their gift of loyalty, on this land.

socialist construction by subordinating their dreams and ideals to the undertakings for the country, though different from each other in native place and hope, epitomized the true image peculiar to the Korean youth in the present era.

'Our country and socialism are the best'

'Tremendous are benefits provided by the country for families with many children'

I have so far enjoyed much more benefits from the country than anyone else, because I have 15 children.

But I felt more deeply how great benefits the country offers to the families with many children when I suffered the unexpected natural disaster.

The country called me and my 15 children all together to the capital city of Pyongyang before anyone else and provided me with much more benefits than others.

Over a dozen children of mine were brought up healthily and strongly at the nursery and kindergarten.

During our stay in Pyongyang the country saw that birthday parties were given for my six children, various kinds of seasonal clothes and goods for children were supplied to us and we had hearty meals every day. Infinite was the love it had shown for me and my children.

Kim Un Hye in *Songgan County of Jagang Province*

'I've also become owner of a new house'

On the day when I received the licence for the use of a new house, I looked at my nameplate on the door again and again with tears in my eyes.

As new fairyland villages took shape and the day of moving into new houses came

nearer, I was unhappy with the thought that such a palatial house would not be allotted to someone like me.

When the ceremony for moving into new houses was held, I stood at the rear with drooping head.

But the country allotted wonderful houses to such people like me without discrimination.

I am determined to repay the dreamlike favour bestowed by the country.

Jang Thae Myong, farmer of workteam No. 7 of *Soho Farm in Uiju County, North Phyongan*

Province

A family receives three houses on the same day

My children and I received three licences for the use of houses at the same time on the same day.

In fact, my wife and I thought that when new houses were built, we would live in the house of one of our children. But our benevolent Workers' Party saw that new houses were allotted to us and our children in full consideration of the number of family members with motherly care.

This time I've realized

once again that as we are led by the Party which puts the people first, there is no one on this land who suffered misfortune, though it was hit by natural disasters.

Ri Yong Chang in *Taeung-ri in Kim Hyong Jik County of Ryanggang Province*



Flood victims move into new houses with joy. KIM YONG CHAN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Dramatic changes

By **Kim Il Jin** PT

Flood victims in North Phyongan, Jagang and Ryanggang provinces, which were hit by natural disasters last year, unanimously say: "We were worried after losing our houses and family property all at once, but we did not cry as we were confident that we had the Workers' Party of Korea. However, when we entered our new houses, we could hardly control tears welling up in our eyes, much grateful to the Party."

Last year, the flood-hit areas that had turned into a sea of water and mud underwent a sea change in a little over four months under the leadership of the WPK. As a result, those who had been left homeless moved into wonderful houses of happiness.

There rose up modern multi- and single-storey houses for over 15 000 families, nurseries, kindergartens, schools, hospitals, clinics and others in those areas, while over 6 000 flats were repaired, embankments were built along the Amnok River, rivers and streams were improved and railways, roads and bridges were restored to make the northwestern part of the DPRK take on new looks.

The residential quarters look like a nice picture. There are graceful apartment houses supported by solid foundations and public buildings boasting of modern civilization. And the new flats have cosy living rooms and kitchens furnished with TV sets, furniture and daily necessities.

Each section is landscaped splendidly with good species of trees, and night is as bright as day for the nicely decorated illuminations, which make people reluctant

to leave the place.

Old natives, who were born and have lived there experiencing all events, wonder at their native places that have undergone a drastic change and say they feel as if they are dreaming.

On the day when flood victims returned home in December last year after spending dreamy days in the capital city of Pyongyang thanks to the benevolence of the WPK, their families and villagers were very surprised to see them.

On an island, those who remained in their villages could not recognize their wives, children and old mothers at once and some of them could have family reunion after searching for their family members for a

long while, though they had been close at hand.

Husbands were surprised to see their wives who looked younger and got more beautiful, parents wondered how their children could grow up so much beyond recognition and children were happy to see their old mothers who got healthier and younger. And the returnees unanimously expressed their admiration for their new houses.

"We were worried as we had so many things to carry to our homes after being treated like guests of honour in the capital. But when we entered our new house I was surprised to see every room filled with all necessary things such as TV, furniture and household goods," said

Jo In Nam, an old man living in neighbourhood unit No. 26 of Soho-ri, Uiju County.

The residents said that the country provided them with everything, ranging from blanket to condiments, spoons and safety shavers, so that the flood victims could live without any worries after returning home.

"When I opened the warehouse, all rice sacks were filled with white rice and even mouth-watering winter kimchi was piled in the jars. I had inwardly felt anxious about the meal for my family in the new house, but the state considered carefully even the trifling anxiety of us housewives," said Choe Son Ok living in the same neighbourhood unit.



Modern houses for the people wonderfully built in the flood-hit areas which were covered with water and mud by flood last year.

RODONG SINMUN



Under the loving care of our respected General Secretary

As the saying goes, something may remain after fire but nothing after flooding.

We were struck by such a natural disaster.

In July last year, the Amnok River flooded our island village all of a sudden due to torrential downpour.

Everything submerged and we could see nothing but water. At dawn we heard helicopters buzzing and I will never forget that moment all my life.

Hearing the sound clearing away all our uneasiness and horror, we all shouted "Long live the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un" at the top of our voice.

Nobody told us, but everyone was sure that they were the helicopters sent by the respected General Secretary Kim Jong Un.

We got on a helicopter to escape danger and arrived at an airfield before heading for a bus.

At that moment we were surprised to see the respected General Secretary standing in the middle of the airfield. He was waving his hand to us in the rainy wind, which moved us to tears.

That day he was out there in the pouring rain to oversee the whole process of the rescue operation for thousands of flood victims which was carried out by helicopters. I also heard he ensured that a scouting flight was made once again at the end of the operation lest they should miss any one of victims.

The villagers in Ojok-ri

who had been isolated on the island were all saved without mishap.

The General Secretary also led the work to repair the flood damage as soon as possible.

He personally confirmed the damage aboard a rubber boat at the dangerous site and convened an emergency enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea on a train on a railway track that had been cut off due to flood. There a decision was adopted to repair flood damage without delay. And he also visited the tented camp where flood victims were temporarily staying to console them.

He also took the measure to bring old persons, mothers of young children, sickly persons, pupils and other children to Pyongyang as special guests of honour so that the state could take warm and responsible care of them until the rehabilitation campaign would be completed. Today our village has turned into a paradise, a modern cultured town, exceeding rehabilitation.

Natural disasters occur all across the earth, but there can be no despair and anguish on this land thanks to the benevolent care of the respected General Secretary, and our people will enjoy eternal happiness.

Ri Yong Nam, head of the *Ojok-ri office in Uiju County, North Phyongan Province*

2024 SHINES AS A YEAR OF NEW CHANGE

Proud creations epitomizing ideal of prosperous nation (1)

A new history of regional development created, notable achievements made in succession to guarantee the fulfilment of five-year plan

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

First creations of Regional Development 20×10 Policy

The year 2024 was a meaningful year in which the validity of the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea, which is aimed at achieving simultaneous, balanced and rapid development of the whole country, was powerfully demonstrated.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the WPK, energetically led the work to implement the policy on regional development in the new era throughout the year with the unshakable determination to rapidly improve the material and cultural living standards of the regional people and further accelerate the overall development of socialism by completely transforming the regional-industry factories across the country on an annual basis for 10 years.

In the 10th Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK held in January last year, Kim Jong Un said that it is the immutable principle of the WPK and the government that there may be differences between regions in geographical setting, resources, economic potentials and living environment, but there should be no backward region in the aspect of the people's living in the DPRK territory. He then set forth a new regional development policy designed for the Party to keep hold on the construction of modern regional-industry factories in 20 counties every year as an unerring policy task, carry it out successfully and thus raise a level higher the basic material and cultural living standards of the people in all cities and counties, in another word, across the country within ten years.

The 19th Enlarged Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK confirmed and clarified an epochal milestone in the development of the regional industry, called the Regional Development 20×10 Policy.

On February 28 last year, Kim Jong Un attended the ground-breaking ceremony of regional-industry factories in Songchon County for Regional Development 20×10 Policy and delivered a meaningful speech to declare the start of a crucial revolutionary undertaking

aimed at promoting the regional people's wellbeing, before pressing the button for blasting to signal the beginning of the construction project.

Afterwards, he continued a tireless revolutionary journey for regional rejuvenation and in the course of his on-site inspections, scientific and revolutionary plans for the transformative development of regions were set forth, proactive measures were taken for implementing them and a new phase of regional development was expanded massively and steadily.

In July last year, he convened a consultative meeting concerning the regional economic development in the city of Sinpho, in which he analysed the economic potentials of the sea and the importance and significance of the effective exploitation and use of resources in the coastal cities and counties and put forward practical tasks and ways to that end.

After the consultative meeting, he went along the sandy beach at the construction site of an offshore farm without a pier even for a small boat in order to go on a dangerous ship journey and look round the offshore farming ground where the propeller of the ship might be caught in the ropes of fixed nets. There he gave detailed instructions on building the Sinpho City Offshore Farm into a new model base for offshore farming.

As he inspected the construction sites of several regional-industry factories in August last year, the General Secretary took new important steps to hasten the radical development and overall rejuvenation of regions.

He indicated a new orientation of stepping up the historic cause of regional rejuvenation by simultaneously promoting the construction of public health facilities, sci-tech diffusion bases and grain management facilities along with the ongoing construction of regional-industry factories, in connection with the dynamic enforcement of the Regional Development 20×10 Policy of the Party for bringing about a remarkable improvement in the regional economy and the people's living standards. He also clarified the stand of the Party Central Committee to take crucial measures to that

end.

A few days later, he convened a consultative meeting for regional development work and stated that the Party's policy on regional development in the new era should not be confined to the construction of light-industry factories but should be a comprehensive policy encompassing public health, science and education. Only then can it make a genuine contribution to the improvement of regional people's material and cultural life and radically boost the efficiency of regional development, he said.

In the important speech, entitled "Let Us Make Redoubled Efforts for the Prosperity of Our Great State", he delivered on the occasion of the 76th founding anniversary of the DPRK, he referred to the importance and significance of the three construction projects added to the Regional Development 20×10 Policy. Saying that sci-tech dissemination centres, which were already envisaged as an additional project, are planned to be built as comprehensive bases for cultural activities, he pointed to the need to build in cities and counties

the multifunctional cultural complexes embracing the commercial network and various other welfare facilities with fine hygienic environment where residents can see films and conduct sports and amusement activities, not confined to sci-tech diffusion bases equipped with modern IT means.

Under his energetic guidance, regional-industry factories were inaugurated in Songchon County on December 20 last year as the first creations of the regional development policy and the Sinpho Offshore Farm on December 28 as a monumental structure representing the future transformed looks of coastal cities and counties.

Thanks to the devoted efforts of the General Secretary, who takes all pains by himself and provides the people and rising generation with only a better life and brighter future, the tasks of regional development, which are difficult to decide on even on ordinary days and in a comfortable environment, were set as the goals of the WPK and the government and are being carried out without fail.

and grey colours, thereby ensuring the dignity and grace of buildings.

Jonwi Street, distinctively built as a symbol of future at the northern gateway to Pyongyang, can be claimed to be a model in the development of Juche-oriented architecture.

Last year, large numbers of modern rural houses epitomizing the ideal of rural development in the new era were built across the country.

At the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK, the General Secretary put forward the gigantic and important task of making all rural villages of the country on a par with those of the city of Samjiyon and well-off and civilized ideal socialist villages. He guided over 2 000 designs for rural houses and, for supplying cities and counties with cement for building rural areas in advance, gave instructions as to the means and ways of transporting it and the storage of it. Witnessing distinctive modern houses built in different parts of the country,

the people were very pleased to say that the countryside was turning into a paradise for the people good to work and live in, thanks to the benevolence of the Workers' Party.

The flood-hit areas in the northern border of the country also underwent a tremendous change.

Beautiful socialist villages mushroomed in a little over four months demonstrating the eye-opening leap forward in the great new era of regional rejuvenation. This stirring reality is the precious fruition of the great love for the people and tireless efforts of Kim Jong Un.

He guided the whole construction process of them, saying that the dwelling houses of the flood victims are the precious assets of the country and people which should be built as everlasting structures like other creations rising up in other parts of the country, attended their inaugural ceremony and ensured that the inhabitants were provided with all kinds of household articles and condiments necessary for their living.

Growing agricultural productivity

Last year the DPRK made remarkable achievements in agricultural production under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea which set it as the main task of the rural development strategy to solve the food problem by increasing agricultural production.

The national grain production plan was overfulfilled by 7 percent and the high-yield farms and workteams increased to over 680 and over 6 300 respectively, six times more than in 2023, and over 20 900 sub-workteams became high-yield ones, 11 times more than in 2023. And the high-yield farmers numbered over 65 100.

In particular, the area for wheat cultivation increased and the per-hectare yield increased rapidly, thus fully demonstrating the validity and vitality of the new agricultural policy of the WPK on changing the structure of grain production and pushing ahead with rice and wheat farming. And precious experience was accumulated for the stable and sustainable development of the country's agricultural production.

This is a precious fruition of the leadership of General Secretary Kim Jong Un,

who worked out a grand plan for putting the country's agriculture on a definite upward stage and ushering in a new era of bringing about rapid development of the socialist countryside and is energetically leading the struggle for its realization.

Looking round the farm machine exhibition on January 2 last year, he made sure that the farm machine exhibition Development of the Farm Machine Industry-2023 served as an important occasion in clearly confirming the direction of the development of the country's farm machine industry. And he energetically led the drive for increased grain production all year round.

He took measures to ensure that fertilizer, plastic sheets, fuel and other farming materials and farm machines were provided on a top-priority basis in the right time, and saw to it that the work to readjust and reinforce the irrigation system was pushed forward as a nationwide undertaking.

At the Seventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK, he set it as a major task to complete the irrigation system, which is the key to

Gigantic construction campaign waged across the country

A dynamic construction campaign for the people was conducted last year, as a great advance was made in the efforts to achieve the great cause for the prosperity of the country and the well-being of all generations to come.

The housing construction for providing the people with a new nice cradle of happiness was carried out in a big way in not only the capital city of Pyongyang, but all other parts of the country despite the difficult situation, with the result that the whole year became the "season of moving into new houses". And the flood-hit areas underwent a sea change with the construction of wonderful modern villages, not mere rehabilitation.

In February last year, the ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of 10 000 flats in the third stage of the Hwasong area took place in Pyongyang.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, pressed the button for blasting to declare

the start of the construction of 10 000 flats. He provided meticulous guidance over every detail of construction projects ranging from design to building and finishing of dwelling houses for the people's convenient living and ensured another magnificent street of the people rose up as a distinct entity.

Under his leadership, Rimhung and Jonwi streets were built as perfect masterpieces of architectural art.

Rimhung Street, a luxury street constituting another leap forward to modern civilization, was built by adopting a site-saving city-forming method. Modern high-rise buildings, skyscrapers and other apartment buildings for 10 000 families are arranged in a compact way in a small area and they are free from repetition and clearly distinct from previous ones in style. And to heighten the contrast in colour for each building, such dark hues of brown colour were combined with such light tints as white

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farming. At the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK he clarified the concrete tasks and ways for improving the irrigation projects for the planned areas, including paddies short of water and paddy and dry fields prone to damage by drought and flooding, by mobilizing all forces and means.

Thus new miracles and feats were performed in the irrigation construction of the country last year in the wake of 2023.

Last year irrigation projects for more than 236 000 hectares of paddy and dry fields were completed, including the construction of more than 4 000 pumping stations, the laying of over 3

500 kilometres of pipes, the building and expansion of groundwater facilities in over 7 500 places and of irrigation facilities in over 2 100 places and the building and repair of over 16 700 kilometres of waterways. This proved effective in farming last year.

In particular, irrigation facilities for tens of thousands of hectares of dry fields were renovated and various irrigation methods were applied mainly in the areas prone to drought to ensure safe yield despite the extreme weather, including drought and high temperature, last year in the wake of the previous year.

The Kangdong Combined Greenhouse Farm was built, which is far greater in size and production capacity than the Ryonpho Greenhouse

Farm built as a large-scale greenhouse farm several years ago and lead the latter by one generation, and the Kwangchon Chicken Farm whose meat and egg production has been put on an intensive and scientific basis was completed to provide citizens of the capital city of Pyongyang with fresh vegetables and tasty and nutritious meat and eggs.

All these successes are associated with the leadership of the General Secretary.

The successes and experience gained last year serve as a great encouragement and stepping-stone to the agricultural workers who have entered the straight course of attaining the goal set by the Eighth Congress of the Party for the agricultural sector.



A ground-breaking ceremony takes place with splendour on February 28 2024 for the construction of regional-industry factories in Songchon County as part of the project to implement the Regional Development 20x10 Policy.



New streets and houses are built in the capital city and regions.



The Kangdong Combined Greenhouse Farm built in March 2024 contributes to improving the people's livelihood.



Rich harvests are gathered from all fields in the socialist countryside last year.

Straight course in carrying out five-year plan

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

The Korean people have entered a straight course in the fulfilment of the five-year plan set forth at the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

This year is the last one in implementing the five-year plan.

Over the past four years since the Eighth Party Congress was convened, the WPK has clarified the correct orientation of the struggle for the overall development of socialist construction and steadily led the work for its implementation, thus achieving lots of successes.

The economic revitalization was stepped up in the metal, chemical and other key industrial sectors, the validity and vitality of the WPK's new agricultural policies on changing the structure of grain production in the agricultural sector and pushing ahead with rice

and wheat farming were fully demonstrated and the proportion of domestic production of raw materials increased in the light industry sector to contribute to the people's livelihood.

Many houses were built in the capital city and rural areas and thereby a new historical term of "season of moving into new houses" was coined.

In particular, the Regional Development 20x10 Policy was adopted to eliminate the centuries-old backwardness of local areas and accomplish the historic cause of regional rejuvenation. Regional-industry factories in Songchon, Jaeryong, Sukchon, Unpha, Kyongsong and other counties and cities and the Sinpho City Offshore Farm sprang up proudly as its first entities.

New phases of change brought about in the political, economic, cultural, defence, diplomatic and all other fields last year served as a clear

manifestation of the validity and scientific accuracy of the orientation of advance indicated by the WPK.

While overcoming innumerable difficulties through the strenuous struggle and efforts under the leadership of the WPK and going through development processes of new innovations, bold creation and steady progress, the Korean people have cherished more deeply the conviction that the Party's lines and policies are science and victory, and realized that today's happiness and rosy future are provided only on the road indicated by the Party.

This year, too, the WPK has drawn up a gigantic blueprint to raise the prestige of the DPRK more highly and provide the people with greater happiness.

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee set it as the general orientation of the

work for 2025 to push forward with the preparations for the next stage of development in a substantial way while successfully completing the five-year plan.

When the fighting goal for this year is attained, the year when the first-stage struggle for pioneering and transformation for the comprehensive development of socialism will be concluded, a solid springboard for the overall rejuvenation of the country will be provided and a new turn will be brought about in the work for the promotion of the people's well-being.

The Korean people are filled with confidence and enthusiasm to attain this year's goal without fail on the basis of the experience and lessons gained and drawn through the struggle for pioneering and leap forward and self-confidence and their own force that have grown a hundredfold.

Standardization leads to quality improvement



Ri Myong Chol, deputy director of the National Standardization Institute

In order to improve the quality of production and construction, it is necessary to improve standardization.

A standard is a legal document which sets a rational criterion for producing the best socioeconomic effect on the basis of the comprehensive successes of scientific, technological and practical experience and is approved by the standardization organization.

The issue of improving the quality of products is directly linked with standardization.

The quality of every product is evaluated by the effectiveness of its use and lifespan and is generally determined by such factors as components, structure, form and physicochemical and mechanical properties.

Standardization promotes the improvement of product quality by encouraging people to define standards by reflecting these characteristics and requirements in detail, thoroughly enforce them and constantly update them.

It also plays an important role in reducing the costs of production and increasing labour productivity.

It is because standardization constitutes the basis for improving the quality control as the whole process of production takes place according to the standards.

And the establishment of standards is oriented to enhancing the product quality on the basis of the comprehensive study and analysis of advanced science and technology, practical experience and consumer demands for quality.

In particular, standardization is an important way to improve the quality of products by introducing specialization of production.

It makes it possible to increase serial production and realize specialization of production by setting a standard, choosing varieties rationally on the basis of it and ensuring the compatibility and integrity of their parts.

The more specialized production gets, the higher the level of modernization of production processes and technical means and the level of technical skills of workers grow, the better the business management and environmental conditions for production get and, accordingly, the higher the quality of products and their productivity go up.

In our country, where the masses of the people are the genuine masters of production and construction and the economy is managed and operated in a planned

way under the unified guidance of the state, all the conditions are provided for improving and intensifying the work of standardization.

Our institute effectively standardizes all objects and elements created in the course of production and construction and works hard to steadily update and unify the standards in conformity with the people's evaluation and the developing reality.

And it confirms the public evaluation and economic effectiveness of newly-defined standards at the production sites and corrects and supplements unreasonable elements.

It also proactively introduces advanced international standards by developing the standard information work while conducting the work to unify the newly updated standards.

As the role of standardization grows in improving the quality of products, we will further intensify our research into it.

Japan's tool for colonial exploitation, ORIENTAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

By Ri Myong Jun PT

The Oriental Development Company of Japan, also known as Tongchok, was a state-controlled monopolistic business created by the Japanese imperialists in a bid to plunder land and natural resources of Korea.

As soon as they stretched out their claws of invasion to Korea, the Japanese aggressors made desperate efforts to plunder its resources. Such moves got even craftier after making Korea their complete colony.

They built the Oriental Development Company in 1908 involving some bigwigs of the military, economic and financial circles so that they could lead and control the predatory activities.

The company ruthlessly seized land which was Korea's main means of production at that time. It took over a large amount of land expropriated by the Japanese imperialists from the Korean feudal government under the pretext of "state land" and cheated Korean peasants out of their land by way of fraud and trickery.

It owned more than 97 000 hectares of land by 1920 and over 123 600 hectares by 1930. The figure reached about 210 000 just before Japan's defeat in the Second World War.

It rented the plundered land to Korean peasants and cruelly exploited them. According to conservative estimates released by the Japanese imperialists, the company collected 493 389 sok of rice (one sok is equivalent to 20 pecks), 70 295 kun of cotton (one kun is equivalent to 0.6 kilogram) and 116 260 won in cash from Korean tenants in 1938 alone. Besides, it accumulated a huge amount of capital by collecting water tax through irrigation associations and through usuries secured on land.

As it got fattened through exploitation of the Korean peasants, it invested funds in the industrial field and owned major factories and mines in Korea, plundering underground resources and exploiting Korean workers.

By the end of 1938, Tongchok took control over more than 50 companies. Especially, it held all or most of the assets of the Puryong hydropower, Kanggye hydropower, Tongchok mining company, Pukson coal mine, Korean zinc mining and Korea Musu Jujong company.

The overwhelming majority of Koreans were in extreme poverty due to the Japanese imperialists' vicious and crafty plunder, and the balance between the industrial production structure and the agricultural production structure in Korea got extremely biased and deformed.

Tongchok was notorious not only in Korea but also in China and Southeast Asia to be cursed as a colonial exploiting organ of the Japanese imperialists.

A long time has passed since then. But Japan is resorting to distortion of history, pretending ignorance of its criminal atrocities, while whetting the sword for reinvasion.

Such behaviour of Japan heaping up crimes is adding fuel to the indignation of the Koreans.

The Korean people will make Japan pay full reparations for its past crimes.

BYWORD

Large socialist family

The Korean people regard it as a fine virtue and national trait to help and lead one another forward at the time of hardships.

News of virtuous deeds

are reported every day, including stories about women adopting orphans and persons getting married to honoured disabled soldiers and supporting old people who have no

one to rely on as their children. More and more people perform admirable deeds finding their pride and joy in devoting themselves to their comrades, society and the

collective.

As everyone lives harmoniously as members of one family like this, the Korean people call their country a large socialist family.

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Press statement of chief of External Policy Office of DPRK Foreign Ministry

KCNA

The chief of the External Policy Office of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on January 17 issued the following press statement "We will contain the planned hostile military provocations and control the unstable regional situation with more thorough exercise of the right to self-defence":

From the outset of the year the US and its satellite states are getting ever more undisguised in their military provocations to pose a grave challenge to the security environment of the DPRK.

On January 6 and 9, the

US Air Force strategic reconnaissance planes flew over the Korean peninsula several times to perpetrate aerial espionage against the DPRK's strategic depth. On January 10, the fourth US-ROK "nuclear consultative group" meeting was held in Washington to plot a nuclear war drill on the Korean peninsula and an increase in the visibility of the deployment of the US strategic assets.

On January 15, B-1B strategic bombers of the US Air Force were deployed in the sky over the open sea near the Korean peninsula to conduct a US-Japan-ROK joint air drill. On the same day, the US and ROK

air forces staged the first air live-shell firing drill for this year.

The US political and military provocations, witnessed day after day on the Korean peninsula where huge armed forces of warring countries are on high alert and the possibility of constant military conflict is hovering, are the direct root cause increasing the danger of armed conflict and disturbing the regional stability.

The US, which spent the end of last year with the largest-ever war drills, entered the new year with military provocations involving its satellite countries. This goes to

prove that it is the US which has brought instability to the region, and foretells the apprehension-arousing direction to be followed by the military and political situation on the Korean peninsula this year.

The DPRK Foreign Ministry expresses serious concern over the provocations by the US and its allies that add another factor of instability to the very serious tension on the Korean peninsula, and clarifies once again that the DPRK's exercise of the right to self-defence to defend the sovereign rights and security interests of the state will be conducted more intensively.

The DPRK's access to a more overwhelming war deterrent aimed at countering the US-led hostile states' military threat is an essential requirement for maintaining the balance of forces on the Korean peninsula and ensuring the security of the regional situation.

As already clarified, the DPRK will strongly deter any military provocation planned by the hostile forces and firmly defend the security interests of the state and the regional peace and stability by exercising more thoroughly and perfectly the right to self-defence, pursuant to its toughest counteraction strategy.

Japan-based US forces the root cause of misfortune and suffering

By Choe Song Jun PT

GIs' crimes are continuously disclosed in Okinawa, Japan.

In December last year, a US marine committed an outrage on a taxi driver near a hotel and fled by the taxi in Naha City.

In 2008, a taxi robbery was committed by two GIs off duty in Okinawa. But the Supreme Court of Japan reportedly rejected the demand of the bereaved families for security payment.

Now crimes and various kinds of accidents keep occurring due to GIs in Okinawa where more than 70 percent of the Japan-based US military facilities are concentrated. According to data available, accidents caused by GIs in Japan numbered more than 201 000 between 1952 and 2004, and the Japanese killed by the accidents about 1 100. But it was reported that only one GI was tried in the period.

The crimes committed by GIs in Japan between 1972 and 2023 numbered more than 6 230.

Sexual assaults and rapes by GIs happen frequently.

Three marines committed sexual assaults on a primary schoolgirl in

September 1995, a marine did an outrage on a middle school girl in February 2008 and a US airman abducted and raped a girl under 16 in December 2023. Like this, GIs in Japan abuse even minors to satisfy their animal lust.

Police reportedly did not make public a sexual assault committed by a GI in November last year under the pretext of investigation into the case before informing the prefectural authorities of it only on January 8 this year.

The US forces are even engrossed in murder, not content with violence against women.

Whenever such an incident occurred, the inhabitants of the prefecture complained of anxiety and suffering, but the Japanese authorities dissuaded residents from seeing the American service personnel as villains, as if they were doing a great job for peace and stability.

Much puffed up over the Japanese authorities' servile behaviour, American servicemen do not admit their crimes.

Unless the Japanese authorities change in their policy subservient to the US, the inhabitants of Okinawa will continue to suffer misfortunes.

Freshwater resources faced with crisis

By Sin Pyol PT

Shortly ago, an international research group released a report that the areas affected by drought have remarkably increased and freshwater resources have decreased in different countries and regions of the world in the past few years.

According to it, continents have entered the stage of drying due to the sustained drought.

Researchers analyzed the freshwater depletion after 2014 on the basis of satellite measurement information. They discovered that the global average fresh water storage decreased by 1 200 km³ in the period between 2015 and 2023 as compared to that between 2002 and 2014.

Noting that the water crisis has become more serious than expected, they stated that natural and artificial factors have acted together.

Citing El Nino that occurred between 2014 and 2016 as a natural factor, the researchers asserted that the El Nino at the time changed the amount of rainfall and snowfall in different regions along with the global atmospheric flow.

They stressed that natural factors have produced certain effect on accelerating the freshwater crisis, but the artificial factor, that is, global warming caused by greenhouse gas emission, constitutes one of the major factors.

A meteorologist said that if temperature rises, more water evaporates from the ground surface

to the atmosphere and the probability and intensity of drought increase.

In actuality, the impact of climate change has significantly increased the incidence of drought worldwide over the past two decades. Since 2000, the frequency and duration of drought have increased by 29% as compared to the previous 20 years.

The decrease of underground water is also accelerated by lingering drought.

According to the analysis of observation of water volume in the global aquifer, the volume has decreased drastically in almost all regions of the world since 1980. The underground water reduction speed has been increased since 2000, and this phenomenon is most pronounced in the aquifer of the drought zone. The researchers said that the reason for the faster underground water depletion in the drought zone lies in the excessive use of underground water in those areas.

Many areas of the world produce food by relying on underground water. If more groundwater is extracted now that water has dwindled in the aquifers in different countries and regions, it will not only deteriorate water resource shortage but also reduce the major crop cultivation area through the desertification of fertile land.

According to a recent report released by an international organization, about 3 billion people and large numbers of

food production areas are suffering from drought and water availability is unstable in the world. Accordingly, more than a half of the world food production sector will be exposed to great threat until 2050.

The shortage of freshwater resources has also a direct impact on hygiene and health.

The lack of clean water increases the risk of outbreak of diseases like cholera.

The shortage of freshwater resources threatens the life and security of mankind, hinders economic development and creates social instability.

There is concern that the scramble for water resources may lead to conflicts between countries beyond the bounds of a country. The third Mideast war in the 1960s was also related with water resources. Rivers flowing through the territories of over two countries amount to 263 in the world.

The World Bank once warned that the 20th century was an era of conflict over oil, while the 21st century would be an era of conflict over water. It is not accidental that the media and experts of different countries of the world are concerned that a third world war may break out due to the water problem.

Researchers said that drought is expected to occur more frequently, be severer and last longer worldwide, adding that good freshwater resource management is one of the most important tasks in the 21st century.

Briefly

Russia

Countermeasures to be taken against US sanctions

The Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on January 11 that it would take countermeasures against the sanctions by the US.

The statement said the decision of the US administration to impose new sanctions on Russian economic sectors as a whole as well as some large-scale companies is none other than an attempt to inflict any loss upon the Russian economy before US President Biden concludes his dishonourable rule even if it might destabilize the world markets.

Iran

US and UK aggression against Yemen decried

A spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry released a statement on January 9 to denounce the US and the UK for repeatedly committing acts of aggression against Yemen.

He referred to the air raids conducted by the US and UK allied forces on different objects in Sanaa and other areas of Yemen that day as acts of aggression in flagrant violation of international law and the principles stipulated in the UN Charter.

Venezuela

FBI agent arrested

An FBI agent who had been involved in a terror conspiracy with a wicked aggressive design was arrested in Venezuela on January 7.

The Venezuelan President Maduro said that seven terrorists were detained in an operation for frustrating the aggression of foreign mercenary soldiers on the day and there was a high-ranking official of the FBI among them.

He stated that over 120 foreign mercenaries have so far been arrested in the course of exposing and frustrating the acts of aggression committed with the financial backing of the present US administration.

WHO

Concern over the spread of monkeypox expressed

The World Health Organization expressed concern over the spread of monkeypox in Africa on January 11. The organization announced that 14 700 confirmed cases were registered in 20 countries on the African continent, and many suspected cases fail to have test due to limited checkup capacity in some countries including the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Accordingly, the spread of monkeypox across the continent is underestimated, he warned, calling on all member states to closely watch the disease.

Civil servants hold group running and Taekwon-Do pattern competition at Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang. RYU KWANG HYOK/THE PYONGYANG TIMES



First sports day of new year observed

By Kim Hak Chol PT

Mass sports activities were conducted actively in different parts of the DPRK on January 12 to mark the first sports day of the new year.

There were group running and Taekwon-Do pattern judgment of officials of commissions, ministries and national agencies at Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang.

Pak In Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, made remarks, before group running of civil servants began.

The civil servants ran along the streets keeping pace with each other with the determination to contribute to the economic development of the country and the promotion of the people's well-being by thoroughly implementing the decisions of the Eleventh

Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Officials of the State Commission of Science and Technology, ministries of education, public health and culture and the Guidance Bureau of Public Catering Service ran vigorously with the strong will to glorify this year with remarkable changes and development and new eye-opening successes.

The participants in the Taekwon-Do pattern judgment held after the group running showed powerful movements of the martial art which they had practised through positive mass sports activities.

A variety of sports games were held in different units in the capital city of Pyongyang.

Officials and employees of the Mansudae Art Studio, Pyongyang Maternity Hospital and others

played such sports events as basketball, volleyball and table tennis and fully displayed the might of unity of the collective and high sports techniques. The original rooting revved up the atmosphere of the first sports day.

Officials and working people of the Pyongyang Thermal Power Station, the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill and the Pothonggang Koryo

Medicine Pharmaceutical Factory, where the struggle for increased production and economy campaign are dynamically waged, conducted diverse sports activities including football, volleyball, table tennis, Taekwon-Do and tug-of-war.

Lecturers and students at Kim Il Sung University, Songyo Senior Middle School in Songyo District affiliated to Kim Hyong Jik University of Education, Janggyong Primary School in Sosong District and other educational institutions played various sports, folk and amusement games.

Working people in other parts of the country conducted mass sports activities on the same day.

The high spirit of working people was fully displayed in sports competitions at the Kim Chack Iron and Steel Complex, Hungnam Fertilizer Complex, Pukchang Thermal Power Complex, Tokchon Area Coal-mining Complex and Taean Heavy Machine Complex.

The mass sports activities conducted elsewhere on the occasion of the first sports day this year added confidence and vitality to the ranks of general onward march for ushering in an era of overall prosperity of the state by dint of united strength of loyalty and patriotism.



Working people in Pyongyang and other parts of the country conduct mass sports activities on the first sports day of the new year.

Kumgang-kuksunamu, *Pentactina rupicola*

By Choe Yong Nam PT

Pentactina rupicola is a small deciduous broadleaf shrub (30-70cm high).

Its stem is thin and weak, and branches shoot out downward in the central part. A fresh branch is reddish brown and hairless.

Leaves are unifoliate, usually zigzagged, and have short stalks.

Bisexual flowers form a racemose inflorescence at the end of the fresh shoots.

One or two seeds are inside each follicle with no hair. With fruits ripening around August, they burst open spontaneously along the

inner seam of the front and back sides.

Seeds (1mm long) are elliptical and have albumen.

The plant is widely distributed around Mt Kumgang in the DPRK, and the range of its vertical distribution is from 400 to 1 500m.

It is Korea's indigenous

one genus and one species plant of academic significance. It has beautiful and pretty flowers. Therefore it adds beauty to scenery when it is planted in parks, pleasure grounds and gardens.

The shrub is under the state protection as a living monument.

