UNDERSTANDING KOREA

6

CULTURE

PYONGYANG, KOREA
Juche 106 (2017)

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Foreign Languages Publishing House
Pyongyang, Korea
Juche 106 (2017)

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1. Character of Culture

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea develops socialist culture.

Socialist culture is created and enjoyed by the masses of the people including the working class, and it contributes to carrying out the cause of socialism.

It is also created with a nation-state as a unit, and renders services to advancing human civilization through the promotion of national culture. An important feature of socialist culture of the DPRK is that it has closely combined national form with socialist content.

2. Classification of Culture

The culture of the DPRK comprises such domains of the people's mental activities as education, science, art and literature, public health, sports and mass media. In a broad sense, it also encompasses the material wealth accumulated in the process of building socialism.

3. Essence of Education

The DPRK develops socialist education.

The objective of socialist education is to train the people into fully-developed talents who are prepared politically and ideologically and possessed of a high degree of creative ability, lofty moral traits and sturdy physique.

The major contents of socialist education are political and ideological education, scientific and technological education, and sports education.

What is important in the methods of socialist education is to orientate basic education, specialized education and scientific and technological education to raising the creative ability of students, not to imparting knowledge to them, by thoroughly applying in all stages of education the heuristic teaching method advanced by President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il.

Important methods of socialist education include strengthening organizational life and socio-political activities, combining school education with social education and promoting preschool education, school education and adult education in parallel.

4. Education System

A socialist education system has been established in the DPRK, under which the state is responsible for giving education to all the people.

As it is based on free education for all the members of society, the system substantially guarantees their equal rights and gives ready access to education throughout their life.

The major characteristic of this system is that it is a form of universal free compulsory education.

5. Development of Free Compulsory Education System

The DPRK's free compulsory education system dates back to the days of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

In the early 1930s Kim Il Sung ensured that free compulsory education, the first of its kind in Korea's history, was enforced at the revolutionary schools in the vast expanse of revolutionized rural areas and at schools for the members of the Children's Corps in the guerrilla bases and liberated zones. He thus gained good experience in applying free education system.

Following Korea's liberation, monthly tuition and other school fee systems were abolished. And from September 1, 1947 state scholarship was granted to university and college students.

The government enforced universal compulsory education in close combination with free education.

The universal compulsory primary education, enforced in 1956, and the universal compulsory secondary education in 1958 were completely free.

With the triumph of the socialist revolution and the establishment of the socialist system, the government proclaimed that universal free education would be enforced from April 1, 1959. This meant that the government applied in a comprehensive way the

principle of giving education to all the working people on its own responsibility.

It enforced universal 11-year compulsory education in 1972.

The Sixth Session of the 12th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, held in September 2012, promulgated the law on the enforcement of universal 12-year compulsory education.

6. Universal 12-Year Compulsory Education

The universal 12-year compulsory education system is an in-depth development of the universal 11-year compulsory education system, and it is a new, higher stage of general secondary education.

This system consists of systematic education periods: one-year preschool education, five-year primary school, three-year junior middle school and three-year senior middle school. In these periods children learn general elementary knowledge and the basics of modern technology. This is aimed at ensuring a higher qualitative level of general secondary education.

All children in the age group of 5-17 are eligible for education.

The one-year preschool education is focused on preparing children for school education, and the five-

year primary school gives them the basic knowledge of nature and society while ensuring their physical growth so that they can receive secondary education satisfactorily.

The three-year junior middle school teaches students general basic knowledge, and the three-year senior middle school gives them additional knowledge for secondary education and basic technical knowledge, which can be used in the reality as required by the age of knowledge-based economy.

Thanks to the universal 12-year compulsory education system, Korean students can acquire a broad knowledge to keep in step with the rapid development of science and technology. After graduation they enter society with independent abilities.

7. Education for Gifted Children

The DPRK pays close attention to identifying and training gifted children.

Those with an aptitude for music, art and sports are admitted to such daily or weekly care centres as Kyongsang Kindergarten, Taedongmun Kindergarten and Changgwang Kindergarten and, finally, to Kim Won Gyun University of Music, Pyongyang University of Fine Arts and Korea University of Physical Education.

And the pupils with an aptitude for natural science are enrolled at Pyongyang Middle School No. 1 and other similar schools in provinces.

8. Kyongsang Kindergarten

The Kyongsang Kindergarten is located in Changjon Street in downtown Pyongyang.

The kindergarten is provided with ample conditions and environment necessary for the training of the children of preschool age and the development of their intelligence. The four-storey building with a basement has dozens of classrooms and training rooms for major subjects, general recreation hall, bedrooms and dining room. There is a wading pool in the basement.

This kindergarten has produced many world-famous music prodigies. It admits children with a gift for music and teaches them to play such instruments as violin, cello and piano.

Many of its graduates have won the Individual Contest for the February 16 Art Prize and international competitions. They work for such famous art troupes as the National Symphony Orchestra and Mansudae Art Troupe.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited this kindergarten in May and July 2012.

9. Pyongyang Middle School No. 1

Located in Sinwon-dong, Pothonggang District, Pyongyang, the Pyongyang Middle School No. 1 is an educational institution which admits children with an above-average IQ from across the country and trains them to be the reserve of competent scientists and technicians.

The school occupies an area of over 70 000 m^2 and its total floor space is more than 28 000 m^2. It is fully equipped for the education of brilliant students–physics and chemistry labs, computer rooms, music rooms, gymnastics rooms, swimming pool and library with over 100 000 books.

It has produced a number of talents such as gold medalists at the International Mathematics Olympics.

10. Educational Bases for Extracurricular Activities

In different parts of the country there are schoolchildren's palaces, students' halls, children's camps and students' libraries.

In Pyongyang, for example, there are many educational bases for students' extracurricular activities including the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace, Pyongyang Students and Children's Palace, Central Youth Hall and Mangyongdae Children's Camp. And

there is a students' library in every district.

At these bases children learn knowledge and skills according to their hopes and aptitudes.

11. Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace

Founded in May 1989, the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace is a comprehensive educational base for students' extracurricular activities. It was renovated in 2015 in keeping with the requirements of the new century.

The architectural form of the building represents a mother embracing her children with open arms.

The palace comprises the science hall for computer, physics and sci-tech groups, the art hall for embroidery, calligraphy, *kayagum* (Korean harp), accordion and vocal music groups and the general training ground for traditional instrumental music and electronic ensemble, as well as general artistic training ground and several other halls of a unique design. The rooms and training grounds are furnished with excellent educational equipment. It also has a large theatre, swimming hall and gymnasium for both national and international competitions.

The palace can accommodate over 5 000 students a day. They come here after school to learn skills according to their wishes and consolidate what they are

taught at school through scientific experiment and practical training.

12. Children's Camps

There are dozens of children's camps in the historic and scenic places across the country including Mangyongdae, Mt Jangja, Sogam, Songdowon, Mt Myohyang and Phophyong.

These camps are divided into central children's camps, provincial (or municipal) children's camps and international children's camp.

Central children's camps accept schoolchildren from across the country, provincial (or municipal) children's camps are for the local students and the international children's camp is for foreigners.

The children's camps are provided with all necessary conditions and equipment, and they are staffed by competent instructors.

13. Songdowon International Children's Camp

The Songdowon International Children's Camp is situated in Songdowon, Wonsan, Kangwon Province on the east coast of the country.

President Kim Il Sung fixed the site of the camp in the best part of Songdowon, a beauty spot, and specified

what needed to be done for the construction project.

Later, General Kim Jong Il ensured that the camp was renovated in a splendid fashion and the camp life was organized in a varied way.

In May 2013 Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un proposed revamping the camp. He visited it several times and gave instructions on such problems as arranging a non-stop train service and making good preparations for its operation, and installing the newly-made steep slide in the swimming pool of the camp before elsewhere.

At this camp stand the statues of President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il, depicting the great leaders embracing children warmly.

The modern buildings of the camp blend in with the seascape. They include the International Friendship Children's Hall, playground, gymnasium, indoor swimming pool, outdoor wading pool, outdoor archery field, aquarium, aviary and exhibition hall for stuffed animals.

The camping period is from late July to early August every year.

14. Universities and Colleges

Before Korea's liberation in 1945, there was no university or college in the northern half of the country.

Kim Il Sung University was built the following year.

Later Kim Chaek University of Technology and other institutions for higher education were built one after another.

Pyongyang is now home to many universities and colleges such as Kim Il Sung University, Kim Chaek University of Technology, Kim Hyong Jik University of Education, Pyongyang University of Architecture and University of Sciences.

There are also universities and colleges in all provinces.

15. Kim Il Sung University

Founded on October 1, 1946, the university is a centre for training national cadres of the DPRK.

Located in Taesong District, Pyongyang, it comprises Pyongyang Medical College, Pyongyang Agricultural College, Kye Ung Sang Agricultural College, Law College, Literature College, Computer Science College and Finance College; ten-odd faculties including economics, history, philosophy, foreign languages and literature, mathematics, physics, chemistry, life science and geography; academy of cutting-edge science and its subordinate research institutes of nano technology, IT, electronic materials, bio-industry, analysis and scientific experimental equipment.

It also has modern buildings necessary for the education and welfare of students such as the e-library, gymnasium,

swimming gymnasium, dormitory and hospital.

The university is promoting cooperation and exchanges with other universities around the world. Foreign students, too, can take courses at the university.

16. Educational Network

The DPRK's education system embraces all the people, and any one of them can benefit from distance education via the national computer network.

This education system can be divided into two categories–regular education system and studying-while-working system.

The regular education system consists of one-year preschool education, 11-year general education and higher education at universities and colleges.

The studying-while-working system is composed of factory (or farm) colleges and courses for distance education. People across the country are enrolled in part-time courses at universities and colleges.

There are also public learning centres such as the Grand People's Study House and the Sci-Tech Complex.

17. Distance Education

Kim Chaek University of Technology and other major universities have developed courses for distance education.

This type of education gives people a broad knowledge of many fields–mechanical, metallurgical, materials and electronic engineering, light industry, food and consumer goods industries, enterprise management, IT and foreign languages.

It provides access to guided lectures and relevant information.

The service menu for students contains two types of rooms for questions and answers: The first one is for the points that are difficult to understand during lectures and the second one for the scientific and technological problems raised by field workers.

Working people can gain ready access to online lectures whenever it is convenient for them.

18. Grand People's Study House

Located in downtown Pyongyang, the Grand People's Study House covers a total floor space of 100 000 m^2 and consists of ten buildings with ten storeys.

It can house 30 million books and has over 600 rooms including 23 reading rooms with 6 000 seats in all, 14 lecture rooms, several information rooms and question-and-answer rooms.

Its operation is fully computerized, and the lecture and information rooms are equipped with computer,

video player, film projector and slide projector. The books demanded by readers are automatically conveyed to the book-lending stands.

Visitors are given information, question-and-answer, recorded and video lectures, in addition to general ones. Lectures are arranged on new scientific and technological problems, and lectures on scientific theory, scientific and technological short courses, lectures on request, intensive lectures and foreign language courses are organized on a regular basis.

Also, interactive lectures are given through the real-time exchange of images, sounds, and letters.

10 000 to 12 000 students and working people visit here on a daily average.

19. Giving Priority to Science and Technology

The present is the age of science and technology, and the level of scientific and technological development is a criterion for judging the overall strength and status of a country. Scientific and technological strength is the most important strategic resource of a state and a powerful propellant for its social development.

It is imperative, if the DPRK is to smash the imperialists' economic and technological blockade, radically increase its capacity for self-development and

make rapid progress in all sectors, to make science and technology its lifeblood.

By spurring the building of a sci-tech power, the DPRK plans to achieve a new leap forward in developing its science and technology and usher in an era of prosperity by means of science, thus bringing about a revolutionary turn in socialist construction in a short period.

20. Sci-Tech Power

The sci-tech power that the DPRK is striving to build is a country whose overall science and technology are at the most advanced level in the world, a country where science and technology play the leading role in ensuring the rapid development of all other sectors including the economy, national defence and culture.

The goal of building a sci-tech power is to take an honourable place among the ranks of the most advanced nations in the world in the near future in terms of overall scientific and technological strength.

In developing science and technology, the DPRK is not simply following the road taken by others but advances by leaps and bounds from one decade to the next by giving full play to its scientists' patriotism and loyalty and its people's resourcefulness and national self-respect.

21. Important Tasks in Building a Sci-Tech Power

First, it is to conduct a vigorous campaign to surpass the cutting edge in the sector of science and technology. In other words, it is to conduct a dynamic struggle to develop technologies with a world-class competitive edge in the field of cutting-edge science and technology and direct great efforts to exploring and developing new branches of cross-disciplinary sciences in line with the trend of the comprehensive development of science and technology and the demands of socio-economic development.

Second, it is to make science and technology play the role of the engine in building an economic giant. To this end, the scientific research sector should work out concrete scientific and technological plans for promoting the independence and Juche character of the economy and improving the people's living standards, and adopt and implement specific measures to this end, and the sector of science and technology should play the leading role in speeding up the integration of science and technology with the economy and making the country's economy modern and IT-based.

Third, it is to value talented personnel and ensure that all the people are well-versed in science and technology. It is necessary to build up the ranks of scientific and

technical talents with a view to them shouldering the future of a sci-tech power, raise their research and development capabilities to the world advanced level and make all the people well-versed in science and technology.

22. Measures for Building a Sci-Tech Power

The DPRK is carrying out proper planning, guidance and management for the development of the country's science and technology, establishing a well-knit scientific research and development system and providing in full the conditions needed by this sector. It is maintaining strategic focus in the planning and guidance for the development of science and technology, while ensuring that no scientific research institutes tend to conduct research separately in a dispersed manner.

It is adjusting and consolidating the national system of scientific research and development and scaling up its investment in the sector of science and technology. It is also making a climate of prioritizing science and technology prevail throughout society. Based on the viewpoint and attitude that no success can be achieved in any work without relying on science and technology, all sectors and all units are directing primary efforts to their development and solving all problems on their strength.

It is treasuring scientists and technicians and providing them with good working and living conditions so that they can apply themselves to their scientific research. It is establishing a climate of studying science and technology across society to make all the people masters and developers of science and technology, so that they can devote their knowledge and skills to building a powerful socialist country.

23. Vitality of the Line of Prioritizing Science and Technology

The DPRK has adhered to the line of giving priority to science and technology and its vitality is clearly manifested in the fact that the flames of the industrial revolution in the new century based on the cutting-edge CNC technology have flared up in machine-building industry and the country has taken its place among the ranks of a few nuclear powers of the world and acquired the capability of manufacturing and launching artificial earth satellites.

The country has also established the Juche orientation in producing iron, fertilizer and fibre and in magnesia clinker industry.

The integrated automation system of key factories and enterprises has been set up, and many scientific and technological successes achieved in bolstering up the

vanguard sectors of the national economy, basic industries, and improving the people's living standards.

24. CNC Technology

CNC technology symbolizes the might of the DPRK's Juche-oriented industry.

It is making a great contribution to putting different sectors of the national economy on a modern footing by surpassing the cutting edge.

The country is developing various models of high-performance CNC machine tools which are high-speed, precise and intelligent, while normalizing the production of standard CNC machine tools. CNC machine tools with eight and nine axes as well as four, five and six ones are being produced according to varied demands.

Many foreign companies, interested in the DPRK's CNC technology, are planning to promote economic exchange with their Korean counterparts.

25. Space Technology

The DPRK succeeded in launching its first artificial earth satellite Kwangmyongsong 1 in August 1998 and its second satellite Kwangmyongsong 2 in April 2009.

Then space scientists and technicians buckled down to the development of an application satellite.

In December 2012, despite the severe winter cold, they

succeeded in launching Kwangmyongsong 3-2 by means of the launch vehicle Unha-3. It was a sun-synchronous polar-orbiting satellite, the acme of satellite technology. They had decided to change the ideal trajectory of the satellite, out of respect for the sovereignty of neighbouring countries and international law. The application satellite was entirely domestic in designing, manufacturing, assembling, blasting off and observation after its launch. Thus it demonstrated a high level of the country's space technology.

In February 2016 the earth observation satellite Kwangmyongsong 4 achieved orbit. It was developed according to the plan for 2016 of the five-year national project for space exploration.

With the rapid development of the country's space science and technology, the government set up the National Aerospace Development Administration with a view to exercising unified guidance and control over all its space activities, and promulgated the law on space exploration. Now it is making notable progress in its space exploration project.

26. Nuclear Fusion

Nuclear fusion, otherwise called "artificial sun" technology, is arousing great interest among the academic circles of the world as it will pave the way for

obtaining an ideal energy which is inexhaustible, safe and environment-friendly.

In 2010 Korean scientists succeeded in nuclear fusion test by resolving numerous scientific and technological problems through a concerted effort.

They manufactured a thermonuclear reaction device of a unique design and pressed on with basic research to complete the country's thermonuclear technology by themselves.

Thus they have achieved a breakthrough for developing new energy, opening up a new phase in developing cutting-edge science and technology.

27. Scientific Research Institutes

In the DPRK there are the State Academy of Sciences, the comprehensive guidance unit of scientific research institutes; the Academy of Social Sciences; the State Commission of Science and Technology in charge of relevant administration work and its affiliates across the country.

These scientific research institutes have latest facilities–research rooms, laboratories, analysis rooms, and pilot plants.

28. State Academy of Sciences

The State Academy of Sciences is a national organ

responsible for unified guidance and control over scientific research.

Its basic mission is to ensure coordinated development of all the scientific research institutes and their projects and provide a scientific and technological guarantee for resolving the problems arising in the development of science and the national economy. It was founded on December 1, 1952, during the Fatherland Liberation War, on the initiative of Kim Il Sung.

Its affiliates include Hamhung Branch Academy and Branch Academy of Biotechnology; Research Institute of Physics, Research Institute of Mathematics, Research Institute of Electronics, Institute of Mechanical Engineering, Institute of Thermal Engineering and Research Institute of Microbiology.

29. Preferential Treatment of Scientists and Technicians

The government of the DPRK is responsible for providing scientists and technicians with ample conditions for their research and living.

It built scientists' streets in downtown Pyongyang and other places and took other steps to resolve the housing problem for scientists and technicians.

The Mirae Shop for scientists was built on the bank of the picturesque Pothong River in Pyongyang.

The state confers on outstanding scientists and technicians national orders and medals, February 16 Science and Technology Prize, and honorary titles such as People's Scientist, People's Technician, Merited Scientist and Merited Technician.

30. Sci-Tech Festivals

The National Sci-Tech Festival is held on an annual basis to mark the Day of the Sun, one of the greatest national holidays in the DPRK, and similar festivals for various sectors are organized occasionally.

All applicants including scientists, technicians, factory workers, office employees, farmers and students are allowed to attend the festivals.

In addition, the National Invention and New Technology Exhibition, sponsored by the State Commission of Science and Technology, is held every one or two years.

31. February 16 Science and Technology Prize

This is the top prize in the sector of science and technology.

General Kim Jong Il defined science and technology as one of the three buttresses for building a powerful socialist country. True to his intention the state confers

the February 16 Science and Technology Prize on the scientists, technicians and projects that have rendered distinguished services to the development of science and technology and the economy and the improvement of the people's livelihood.

32. Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp

Situated on the picturesque Lake Yonphung, the resort can accommodate dozens of scientists at a time.

It has nine buildings around the general service building, and pavilions are connected through access corridors for the convenience of scientists.

On the ground floor are a banquet hall, dining room, bathroom, barber's and beauty salon and on the first floor is the billiards hall.

There are also an e-library, consultation room and indoor wading pool.

33. Unha Scientists Street

Unha Scientists Street covers a wide area on the outskirts of Pyongyang. The modern street has 21 blocks of over 1 000 flats; public buildings such as school, hospital, nursery and kindergarten; children's park and small parks laid out in 16 places; and various kinds of public amenities.

Broad roads, good species of trees around the buildings, beautiful flowers and turfs present fine natural scenery.

The flats are provided with all conditions necessary for family life, including high-quality furniture and utensils.

They were allotted gratis to ordinary scientists and technicians.

34. Wisong Scientists Residential District

In January 2014, during his visit to the State Academy of Sciences, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un proposed building a modern scientists street in the Unjong science park which is home to the State Academy of Sciences, as the Unha Scientists Street had been built the previous year, saying that unsparing investment in the sector of science and technology is key to success in scientific research.

Accordingly, dozens of apartment blocks, school, hospital, service facilities and scientific research bases were built in the science park, forming a modern residential area.

35. Mirae Scientists Street

In May 2014 Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited the construction site of apartment blocks for teachers at

Kim Chaek University of Technology. Looking up at the two blocks with 46 storeys each soaring on the bank of the Taedong River, he said that the building of a unique architectural design looked like a boat sailing on the river as their outer walls were curved and that the Workers' Party of Korea was planning to build such apartment blocks for teachers and researchers. Then he proposed naming the new street Mirae Scientists Street.

Under his close concern the street was built in a magnificent fashion.

Such scientists streets, which have been erected one after another in Pyongyang, demonstrate the leader's unshakeable determination to develop the country into a powerful socialist country by prioritizing science and technology.

36. Making All the People Well-Versed in Science and Technology

Ensuring that all the people are well-versed in science and technology is an important undertaking to prepare all the members of society as intelligent workers with the intellectual level of university graduate, and as the developers of science and technology.

It literally means preparing all the people as talents who have a high-level grounding in modern science and technology.

This reflects the demands of the era of knowledge economy.

The present era requires competent talents who can render services to promoting economic growth and the development of science and technology. That's why the state should direct primary attention to training all the people into talents well-versed in modern science and technology, treating this work as one of decisive significance.

It also reflects the situation in the DPRK where all the people have turned out in the efforts to build theirs into a powerful socialist country.

It is impossible to raise the country's overall science and technology to the cutting-edge level in a short period and fully meet the demand for talents needed in the building of a knowledge-based economic giant, if the state focuses only on the education of brilliant students or tries to increase the number of talented personnel by "importing" talents from other countries.

The goal of building a knowledge-based economic giant is to make all industrial sectors fully automated and intelligent in a short span of time by advancing by leaps and bounds.

Needed to attain this goal are competent workers who are able to handle CNC machines and other hi-tech equipment and develop new innovative techniques.

To satisfy the demand for talents in different sectors of the national economy, it is important to encourage all the people to learn modern science and technology.

37. Sci-Tech Complex

It is a great temple of learning for all the people and a hub for the diffusion of latest science and technology.

The complex sits on the Ssuk Island on the Taedong River flowing through the central part of Pyongyang. It consists of four floors above the ground and one floor under the ground, and covers a total floor space of 106 601 m^2.

It is a giant atom-shaped structure of a unique architectural design that is reminiscent of the world of science. A large-scale e-library, it is a multifunctional hub for the dissemination of advanced science and technology, base of social education, equipped with indoor and outdoor sci-tech exhibition halls.

In the lobby of the complex stands the model of a launch vehicle for artificial earth satellite. On each floor formed in a circular shape are indoor sci-tech exhibition halls, which include e-reading areas, hall for children's dream, hall dedicated to the history of sci-tech development, frontier sci-tech hall, basic science hall, applied sci-tech halls and hall for scientific study. These learning spaces are always filled with scientists,

technicians, workers, farmers, officials, students and children, who are eager to learn scientific principles and methods. Looking round the exhibits, visitors can handle, feel or operate them. In the stepped rest halls they can study scientific and technological data watching TV.

The complex is an energy-saving, green building that uses geothermal and solar energy for the cooling and heating system and lighting and indoor illumination. It is also equipped with the latest sewage treatment system.

Outside the building are study sites, fountain park, pen-shaped tower symbolic of science and technology, exhibitions and lecture areas. There is a dormitory with 500 beds, which blends in with the surrounding environment.

38. Sports

In former days sports was considered a diversion for people, the privileged class in particular. In the DPRK, however, this is an important undertaking which is conducive to national prosperity, contributes to building up the country's defence capability, promotes public health and enhances the country's reputation.

Thanks to the deep concern and energetic guidance of President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il sports has become mass-based in the country, rendering a contribution to propelling the revolution and construction.

Sports facilities can be found in all parts of the country–cities, farms and schools–and mass gymnastics and other mass-based sports activities are conducted briskly.

As sports has become part of everyday activity, the people have been fully prepared for labour and national defence, and the country's sporting techniques are developing as the days go by.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un plans to develop the country into a sports power by raising a strong sports wind and developing sporting techniques as soon as possible.

39. Sports Power

A sports power is a country that enhances its reputation, prospers and grows stronger on the basis of sports.

The DPRK is stepping up the building of a sports power to consolidate its national strength, cultivate the resourcefulness and mettle of the nation, and demonstrate the country's dignity and honour to the world.

It strives to raise the specialist sporting techniques to the world level as soon as possible, make sports a mass, everyday activity, and improve the scientific level of sports. It has ensured that the sports sector focuses on intensifying training and perfecting the Korean-style

superior competitive tactics, so as to create successive, fresh amazing sports myths of heroic Korea in international competitions and win Asian and world championships.

It improves physical education at schools and lets institutions, enterprises and corporative farms conduct brisk sporting activities, so that the whole country seethes with enthusiasm for sports.

As putting sports on a scientific basis gives an impetus to building a sports power, it sees that the sports sector conducts training, competition, upbringing of reserves and production of sports equipment and materials on the basis of modern science and technology, and develops sports science to suit the Koreans' physical qualities.

40. Training of Sportspeople

In the DPRK sportspeople are being systematically trained under the concern of the state.

There are extracurricular sports schools in all cities and counties, and each school has teams for different sports events.

After receiving basic education, students are admitted to Korea University of Physical Education or professional sports teams. The university has a course for training pupils, and the sports teams have a special system for training reserves by themselves.

Reserve training is conducted according to a long-term plan under the unified guidance of the National Sports Guidance Committee.

41. Pyongyang International Football School

The Pyongyang International Football School is located on the Rungna Island on the Taedong River, Pyongyang.

The school has buildings, training grounds, dormitory, dining hall, bathroom and other welfare facilities. Covering an area of over 10 000 m^2, it can be called a cradle for future football stars.

Students are selected according to strict criteria from among the boys and girls at juvenile sports schools or football classes of other schools, who have extraordinary basic techniques and physical conditions. Particular attention is paid to the children who have great potential.

These students are trained by the young teachers with an innovative vision, who led their teams to victory several times at the National Competition of Juvenile Sports Schools and who won FIFA recognition as excellent coaches.

42. Korea University of Physical Education

This university is located in Tongdaewon District, Pyongyang.

Covering a total floor space of over 10 000m^2, it has several faculties such as the faculty of basic sciences, about 40 departments, sports science institute, postgraduate course and printing shop. It also has a swimming pool and training grounds for such events as track and field, gymnastics, volleyball, basketball, table tennis, weightlifting, boxing, wrestling and judo.

It is intensifying technical education for such subjects as sports information science and sports physiology in keeping with the trend of development of modern sporting techniques, while raising the qualitative level of theoretical education for the students' majors. It also ensures that theoretical study is closely combined with practical training.

It has published hundreds of textbooks and reference books, thus making a contribution to developing education and sports science of the country.

It has produced a number of sports stars including Pae Kil Su, gold medallist in the pommel horse event at the world gymnastics championships and the Olympic Games.

43. Stadiums and Other Sports Facilities

The Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the DPRK ensured that sports facilities were built across

the country for everyone to conduct physical training to their heart's content.

In Pyongyang alone, there are many sports facilities, including Kim Il Sung Stadium, May Day Stadium, Yanggakdo Football Stadium, Sosan Football Stadium, Pyongyang Indoor Stadium, Pyongyang Gold Lane, golf course and Sports Village on Chongchun Street. Every district of the city has its own gymnasium.

Each provincial seat has a stadium, multi-purpose gymnasium and swimming pools; city and county seats, large factories and enterprises, cooperative farms and schools have sports facilities of their own.

44. Sports Village on Chongchun Street

Situated in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, the Sports Village was inaugurated in September 1988 and renovated in 2014.

Covering an area of over 1 540 000 m^2, it is home to the Sosan Football Stadium and gymnasiums for basketball, table tennis, light sports and swimming, and other facilities, in which more than 40 games of over 20 events can be held at a time. Their illumination equipment are up to international standard and the heating and cooling system is so perfect that sportspeople can conduct training and hold competitions in all seasons.

In the Sosan Football Stadium and some other gymnasiums there are such amenities for both national and international competitions as referees room, press conference hall, dope test room, tactical discussion room, waiting room, video room, physical training hall and massage room.

An advanced refereeing system for different sports events, developed by Korean scientists, has been introduced at the gymnasiums.

Also, the Pyongyang Sports Goods Factory is in the Sports Village.

45. May Day Stadium

The May Day Stadium, built on the picturesque Rungna Island in a splendid and distinctive fashion, was inaugurated in 1989 and renovated in 2014.

The stadium, resembling a magnolia blossom, covers an area of over 400 000 m^2. It has sports and welfare facilities including the 150 000-seat auditorium, soccer pitch, track and field course, warming-up room, bedrooms for players, coaches office, referees office, dope test and registration room, swimming pool, table tennis hall, mini golf course and rehabilitation room.

Around the stadium are more than 20 training grounds including lawn pitches, tennis court, roller

hockey field and roller figure-skating ground.

Held at this stadium were many international and national events such as the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students and the Kim Il Sung Prize-winning grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance *Arirang*.

A large, modern structure of a unique design, it is rendering a great contribution to the development of the country's physical culture and the people's cultural and aesthetic activities.

46. Taekwon-Do Hall

A traditional martial art of the Korean nation, Taekwon-Do has become a mass-based sport in the DPRK.

It is good in building a sturdy physique and cultivating strong will, determination, bravery and sense of organization.

At this hall on Chongchun Street, Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, Taekwon-Do players can conduct training.

The venue for national and international Taekwon-Do competitions, it was inaugurated in September 1992. It is composed of the main building and several auxiliary buildings, covering an area of about 250 000 m^2, a building area of over 7 100 m^2 and a total floor space of 18 000 m^2.

The main building has over 120 rooms including the competition area, auditorium, training ground, meeting room, lounge, public amenities, offices and machine room.

47. Masikryong Ski Resort

The Masikryong Ski Resort is situated in Kangwon Province in the eastern part of the DPRK.

Covering a total area of over 1 400 hectares, the ski resort has ten skiing and sledging slopes for experts and amateurs, two- and four-seat chairlifts, cableways, travelator, children's snow park, open-air skating ground, reservoir for snow cannons, Masikryong Hotel and accommodation facilities.

The skiing slopes stretching from the summit of Taehwa Peak (1 363 m above sea level), have been designed to differ in topography for the convenience of adventurous experts and amateurs.

Midway down the slopes are recreational facilities where they can take a simple meal. The slopes are divided into beginners', intermediate and expert slopes.

There is also a ski school in the resort. Teachers of the school are experts who were champions of national competitions and attended international contests. They teach beginners and amateurs to suit their psychology and demands.

48. Mirim Riding Club

Horse-riding is a traditional sport of the Korean nation. It has grown popular among the people, following the construction of the riding club in the Mirim area in the outskirts of Pyongyang.

The club occupies an area of over 627 000 m^2. It has running tracks and dozens of service buildings. It is fully equipped with all conditions necessary for horse-riding and education, including indoor and outdoor training grounds, hall for dissemination of riding knowledge, rehabilitation house, accommodation facilities, veterinary hospital and stockbreeding institute.

The indoor training ground is 59.4 m long and 28 m wide. Inside, it is warm enough even in winter and has a ball-truss roof for natural lighting. There are a sand-covered course 1 750 m long and a lawn course 1 850 m long in the elliptical outdoor training ground.

There are also training grounds for beginners and steeplechasing.

The hall for dissemination of riding knowledge has several lecture rooms and sci-tech learning spaces.

49. Famous Sportspeople

The DPRK has produced a number of players who won fame at the international competitions such as the Olympics and world championships. They include Sin

Kum Dan, queen of track and field who broke the world records 11 times; Han Phil Hwa, first Asian medallist in the Winter Olympics and hence called Comet on the Ice; Pak Yong Sun, twice champion of the world table-tennis championships and called queen of table tennis; Kye Sun Hui, winner in the 48 kg category of women's judo event at the Olympics in her teens and later four-time consecutive champion in different categories of the world championships; and Om Yun Chol, twice champion of the world weightlifting championships.

There are also Jong Song Ok, world marathon queen who distinguished herself in the track and field event in the 20th century; Pae Kil Su, king of pommel horse who won gold at the Olympics and three-time champion of the world championships; Kim Chol Hwan, twice champion of the world wrestling championships; and Kim Il, twice Olympic gold medallist.

Recent stars include marathon player Kim Kum Ok, table-tennis players Kim Hyok Bong and Kim Jong, footballers Ra Un Sim and Ho Un Byol, and gymnast Hong Un Jong.

50. Preferential Treatment of Famous Sportspeople

Korean players attend international competitions not for any special reward or personal fame but for the

dignity and honour of their country and nation.

The Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the DPRK give them due publicity and treatment in appreciation of their meritorious service.

Those who have won medals at international competitions receive warm welcome from the people on the streets and, sometimes, the government arranges a grand banquet in honour of them.

When Pak Yong Sun returned home after taking the 1st place in the World Table-Tennis Championships, hundreds of thousands of Pyongyang citizens gave her warm welcome on the streets, putting a garland around her neck and waving bouquets.

President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il posed for a photograph with her and gave her precious gifts.

In 2014, when the DPRK players, including women footballers, returned home after achieving a great success in the 17th Asian Games, hundreds of thousands of people gave them enthusiastic welcome on the streets.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un posed for a photograph with them and gave gifts to each of them.

Many of the above players received such honorary titles as People's Athlete and Merited Athlete, as well as material reward.

51. Annual Sports Games

Annual sports games held in the DPRK include Paektusan Prize, Mangyongdae Prize, Pochonbo Torch Prize and Osandok Prize sports competitions, National Championships, and Hwaeppul Cup football matches.

Amateurs' competitions include the Paektusan Prize Sports Contest, Mangyongdae Prize Games for Civil Servants at City and County Level, National Sports Contest of Workers, National Sports Contest of Agricultural Working People, National Inter-Provincial Games, Sports Contest of Artistes, Jongilbong Prize National Contest of Youths and Schoolchildren.

52. Making Sports a Mass, Everyday Activity

Making sports a mass, everyday activity is the consistent policy of the Workers' Party of Korea.

There is a well-regulated mass-based sports system from the capital to provinces, as well as sectional systems at factories, enterprises and schools.

In addition, material foundations have been laid for making sports a mass, everyday activity.

Every year sporting activities, including examination of people's physical strength, sports games and group running, take place and Sports Months are observed. The movements for winning the titles of Model Sports

County (District) and Model Sports School are gaining momentum.

53. Mass Rhythmic Gymnastics

Mass rhythmic gymnastics is popular in the DPRK. It is a rhythmic exercise composed of athletic movements conforming to the principles and methods of rhythm to increase physical strength in a harmonious and balanced way.

The movements are coordinated in direction, scale, speed, duration, contrast and repetition.

As the exercise consists of common body movements, it is interesting and easy to learn. People can do it separately or collectively, at any time and in any place–in office, at home, in parks and pleasure grounds.

The beautiful, light melody and stimulating rhythm increase the frequency of excitement and thus the exercise allows one to move intensively without feeling exhausted.

As all the parts and organs of the body move, a five-minute exercise makes you sweat and feel refreshed. This exercise promotes your health by enhancing the function of the whole body including the cardiovascular and respiratory systems.

The rhythmic gymnastics for children consists of ten movements to be performed in four minutes. It suits the

physical and psychological features of children at kindergarten and primary school. It is effective in developing the mobility, support, balance and aesthesia of the whole body.

The rhythmic gymnastics for the elderly is made up of nine movements to be performed in four minutes. This moderate exercise is good in relieving fatigue and preventing ageing.

54. Mass Gymnastics

In the DPRK mass gymnastics is encouraged as one of mass-based sports.

It is a composite, popular sport which combines athletic finesse with artistic skills and ideological content. It uses diverse means of athletic representation, including free standing, exercises with hand apparatus, formation and modelling, to show seasoned athletic skills. Through the combination of background art, band music, *pangchang* (off-stage chorus), rhythmic dance and other artistic means and language, it ensures a high standard of artistic skills.

As a composite exercise that combines high ideological content, artistic qualities and gymnastic skills, mass gymnastics renders a contribution to the political and ideological education of children and working people and to the promotion of their health and

aesthetic activities.

Mass gymnastics is popular in provinces, cities and counties, as well as at educational institutions. Even overseas compatriots enjoy it.

Korean sportspeople and students resident in Japan created such mass gymnastics performances as *Our Glorious Motherland* and *Song Dedicated to Our Motherland*.

Mass gymnastics has continued to develop in scale, style and content. In particular, the grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance *Ever-Victorious Workers' Party of Korea* was staged in 2000 to mark the 55th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea. It was widely known as the epitome of the 20th century renaissance. At the turn of the century, the Kim Il Sung Prize-winning grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance *Arirang* was created; it won worldwide fame as the performance representing the spirit of the Korean people.

Korean experts travelled around more than 40 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America to help them develop mass gymnastics.

55. Art and Literature

Art and literature in the DPRK assumes a socialist character.

Socialist art and literature is revolutionary in that it is created and built in reflection of the demands and interests of the working class and other working people who strive to build socialism. It plays an important role in encouraging the people to turn out in the revolution and construction with a proper outlook on the revolution and life and with noble and beautiful mental and moral traits, and in developing social civilization.

Its basic mission is to give an impetus to the revolutionary cause of Juche by implanting the ideas and intentions of the Workers' Party of Korea in the entire population and inspiring the masses to further efforts.

Socialist art and literature is characterized by a high level of artistic skill and ideological content that meet the demands of the times and the aspirations of the people. It puts stress on revolutionary, working class-oriented and socialist content and national form that is loved by the people and meets their tastes.

56. Inheritance and Development of the Traditions of Art and Literature

The sector of art and literature carries forward the traditions of revolutionary art and literature Kim Il Sung created during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

In the flames of the anti-Japanese revolutionary

struggle he authored a number of immortal classic works including the revolutionary songs *Song of Korea*, *Song of the Ten-Point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland* and *Song of Anti-Japanese War*; revolutionary dramas *An Jung Gun Shoots Ito Hirobumi*, *Three Pretenders, Blood at an International Conference*, *The Mountain Shrine, The Sea of Blood*, *The Fate of a Self-defence Corps Man* and *Celebrations*; revolutionary opera *The Flower Girl*; and revolutionary song and dance performances *Unity Pole* and *Pride of the Thirteen Provinces*.

After being discovered, such classic works were adapted as different genres of art and literature, as part of the efforts for a revolution in this sector.

57. Revolution in Art and Literature

With keen insight into the demands of the times, the law governing the development of art and literature, and the state of affairs of this sector, General Kim Jong Il put forward original ideas and theories on making a revolution in art and literature and energetically led the efforts to this end. As a result, in the 1970s a radical improvement was brought about in all realms of art and literature.

He set forth establishing the Juche orientation in art and literature, thoroughly embodying the Party spirit,

working-class spirit and the spirit to serve the people, and properly combining the ideological and artistic qualities as the basic principles to be adhered to in making a revolution in art and literature. Then he led writers and artistes to apply these principles to the letter.

He also advanced a policy of bringing about a revolution in art and literature in the course of adapting as different forms of art and literature the immortal classic works created by Kim Il Sung during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. He saw to it that the principle of speed campaign and collectivism was maintained in the creative work and that a breakthrough was achieved in cinematic art and the success generalized in all other realms of art and literature.

Accordingly, the revolution in the cinema and opera was carried out successfully in the course of adapting the classic works *The Sea of Blood, The Fate of a Self-defence Corps Man* and *The Flower Girl* into films and operas. It was followed by the drama revolution through the adaptation and staging of the classic work *The Mountain Shrine*. This led to a revolutionary turn in all other realms of art and literature.

These successes contributed to developing the country's art and literature onto a new, higher stage and thus ushering in a heyday of art and literature.

58. Heyday of Art and Literature

Under the leadership of General Kim Jong Il the DPRK's art and literature greeted a heyday in the 1970s through the embodiment of the Juche-oriented idea and theory of art and literature.

Many immortal classic works created during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle were discovered and they were adapted into revolutionary novels, films, operas and dramas. Thus a heyday of art and literature was ushered in.

The sector of literature created a host of novels and poems of high ideological and artistic value including the cycle of novels "Immortal History." The sector of cinema produced many films including *The Flower Girl, Star of Korea* and *The Untrodden Path*, contributing to the revolutionary education of the people. The opera and drama sectors produced *Sea of Blood*-style operas and *Mountain Shrine*-style dramas.

Excellent music, songs and dances were created, including the music-and-dance epic *The Summer on the Bank of the Tuman River*, and a new turn was effected in the sectors of fine arts and acrobatics.

59. Cinema Revolution

Towards the end of the 1960s, General Kim Jong Il advanced an original theory on the cinema revolution

and led the struggle to apply it in practice. The cinema revolution contributed to developing the DPRK's cinematic art onto a new, higher plane.

The cinema revolution was aimed at building a cinematic art to meet the demands of the new era and aspirations of the masses by bringing about a radical improvement in all realms ranging from script-writing, direction, acting, shooting and fine arts to music.

In the course of carrying out the cinema revolution under the leadership of General Kim Jong Il, the historic cause of adapting to the cinema the immortal classic works created by Kim Il Sung during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle was accomplished with success. As a result, a historic tradition of Korean cinematic art was created and solid foundations for its sustained development laid.

In addition, a number of films were produced, depicting truthfully and profoundly the glorious history of President Kim Il Sung's revolutionary activities and his ennobling traits. In this way, the problem of portraying the leader of the working class was resolved successfully in the cinematic art.

The cinema revolution led to a radical improvement in making films on the theme of the revolutionary struggle and socialist realities; many films on various themes and of high ideological and

artistic value were produced.

Notable progress was made in the production of documentaries, cartoons, and science and education films. Innovations were also made in composition and means of portrayal to suit the features of cinematic art and sentiments of the Korean people.

As a result of the cinema revolution, the country's cinematic art attained a new, higher level in terms of ideological content and artistic representation.

60. Opera Revolution

The opera revolution owes its success to General Kim Jong Il, who put forward the original policy of opera revolution in 1969 and wisely led the struggle to create a new form of revolutionary and popular opera.

In the early 1970s Korean artistes adapted into an opera *The Sea of Blood*, the classic work created by Kim Il Sung during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

With this as a momentum, the flames of the opera revolution flared up, giving birth to *Sea of Blood*-style operas, a new form of revolutionary opera art. The production of *The Sea of Blood* was a historic milestone in doing away with outdated patterns that had remained long in this sector and ushering in a new era of revolutionary opera. Drawing on the experience gained

in producing *The Sea of Blood*, Korean artistes created revolutionary operas *The Flower Girl, Tell O Forest, A True Daughter of the Party* and *Song of Mt Kumgang*.

61. *Sea of Blood*-Style Operas

Sea of Blood-style operas constitute a revolutionary and popular opera form of the present era, which was created on the basis of the original principles and methods set forth by General Kim Jong Il.

The term *Sea of Blood*-style opera originated from the title of the revolutionary opera *The Sea of Blood* that was produced in 1971 under his guidance.

These operas reflect the fundamental requirements of the present era of independence, when the masses of the people have emerged as masters of history, and embody the law-governed requirements for the development of opera art.

They set as the fundamental task of representation resolving socio-political problems arising in adding lustre to the dignity and honour of man, a social being with independence, creativity and consciousness, and find significant and effective solutions to them in order to bring about a radical improvement in the content of operas.

They embody profound and diverse themes at a high artistic standard, on the basis of original principles and

methods of creation and means of portrayal. They regard verse, simple yet refined, as the basis of all musical forms.

The extent of representation has been expanded beyond comparison and the depictive ways of vocal music diversified with the introduction of *pangchang* (off-stage chorus) for the first time in history.

Orchestral music performs an important function and role in these operas. It organically combines all the elements of opera in a musical setting by highlighting songs, acting, speech, behaviour, circumstances and events in an emotional way.

Dance is an indispensable means of portrayal.

Stage art shows reality in a three-dimensional way by means of its profound composition and lifelike formative influence. Achieving a harmonious descriptive unity between music and drama is an important dramaturgical requirement of the operas.

The operas are unique in musical development. Theme songs are selected according to the themes and ideas of the operas and the features of the heroes, and other major songs determine the features of the characters and their behaviour and feelings.

The production of *Sea of Blood*-style operas was a watershed in the history of opera art and thus a new era of revolutionary opera art was ushered in.

62. Five Major Revolutionary Operas

The five major revolutionary operas of the DPRK are *The Sea of Blood*, *The Flower Girl, Tell O Forest*, *A True Daughter of the Party* and *Song of Mt Kumgang*.

The Sea of Blood, produced in 1971 by the Phibada Opera Troupe, is the country's first revolutionary opera of a new form adapted from its namesake drama, which Kim Il Sung created during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

The Flower Girl, produced in 1972 by the Mansudae Art Troupe, was adapted according to the principles and methods of *Sea of Blood*-style operas from its namesake opera, which Kim Il Sung created during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

Tell O Forest, produced and staged in 1972 by the National Folk Art Troupe, portrays a heroic underground worker who fulfils his mission in the days of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. Through the depiction of the main character it shows the boundless loyalty to Commander Kim Il Sung cherished by the soldiers of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, their fervent love for the motherland and people, noble revolutionary personality, indomitable will and revolutionary optimism.

A True Daughter of the Party, produced in 1971 by the Korean People's Army Song and Dance Ensemble,

tells a moving story about a woman soldier who carries out her task against all adds during the Fatherland Liberation War, remaining infinitely faithful to Supreme Commander Kim Il Sung and the Workers' Party of Korea to the last moment of her life.

Song of Mt Kumgang, produced in 1973 by the Pyongyang Art Troupe, deals with a family that has a reunion in the embrace of their socialist motherland after 20-odd years of separation during Japanese colonial rule, demonstrating the advantages of the socialist system established by President Kim Il Sung.

63. Drama Revolution

Following the revolution in the cinema and opera between the late 1960s and the early 1970s, Korean artistes buckled down and carried out the drama revolution.

The drama revolution was aimed at eliminating all manner of outdated patterns and creating a new form of revolutionary drama.

Through the drama revolution the outmoded system and method that had lingered long in all the aspects of drama production, including the play, direction, acting, fine arts and music, gave way to an innovative system and method as required by the times, thereby transforming dramatic art as a whole.

General Kim Jong Il set forth an original theory on the drama revolution and led the efforts to reproduce the immortal classic work *The Mountain Shrine* into a new form of revolutionary drama. The drama revolution resulted in the production of *Mountain Shrine*-style dramas.

64. *Mountain Shrine*-Style Drama

Mountain Shrine-style drama embodies in its content the Juche-oriented humanics that is centred on the masses of the people and serves them as required by the Juche idea. It describes the masses' position as masters and their decisive role in the revolution and construction at a high artistic level in keeping with the requirements of the Juche idea and aspirations of the masses.

It is a people-oriented drama that embodies the requirements of the Juche idea in its form as well. It adopts a new form of multi-scene plot on the principle that scenes should be set according to the content of life, instead of setting the content of life to the stereotyped plot, and that the overall plot should be composed accordingly.

Its characteristics are also evident in stage setting. It uses three-dimensional revolving stage that continually changes furnishings and backgrounds in step with dramatic development, to show life truthfully, vividly and in great depth and breadth.

Introduction of music is another major characteristic of the drama. Music reveals various thoughts and feelings of the characters, promotes dramatic development, helps actors perform their parts in a natural way and effects emotional changes in scenes. With the introduction of music, the drama grows in emotion and influence, acquiring its perfect features as a composite stage art.

65. Five Major Revolutionary Dramas

The five major revolutionary dramas of the DPRK are *Mountain Shrine*-style dramas which were adapted under the guidance of General Kim Jong Il from the immortal classic works created by Kim Il Sung during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. They are *The Mountain Shrine, Blood at an International Conference, A Letter from a Daughter, Three Pretenders* and *Celebrations*.

The Mountain Shrine, produced in 1978 by the National Theatrical Troupe, stresses through the contrasting delineation of an old woman and an intelligent young man that man should believe in his own strength, not in God or any other deity, and shape his destiny by his own efforts. The old woman thinks that people are doomed to misfortunes and sufferings, so they should offer prayer at the mountain shrine to escape

the fate; the young man fights against oppression and exploitation and defends human dignity.

Blood at an International Conference, produced in 1984, gives a clear exposition of the truth that dependence on foreign forces leads to national ruin. On the basis of historical facts and in the context of contemporary life, the drama gives a vivid picture of Ri Jun who struggles to win back national sovereignty, as well as other characters from different strata. It culminates in the Emissary Incident at The Hague.

A Letter from a Daughter, produced in 1987, explains through a satirical delineation the truth of life that knowledge illuminates one's path whereas ignorance dims it.

Three Pretenders, produced in 1987, highlights the consequences of factional strife and division through the satirical depiction of three ministers with different political affiliations in the imaginary state of Songdo, who resort to all sorts of schemes to claim the throne after the demise of the king and, in the end, lead their country to ruin.

Celebrations, produced in 1988, describes the historical fact of the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army and people holding celebrations after spoiling the "celebrations" arranged by the Japanese "punitive" force to mark its fictitious "victory" over the guerrilla army.

66. Four Major Dances

The four major dances of the DPRK, all known worldwide, are *The Snow Is Falling, Azaleas of the Homeland*, *A Rich Apple Harvest* and *Winnowing Dance*.

The group dance *The Snow Is Falling,* produced in 1967 by the National Song and Dance Troupe, depicts the unshakeable conviction in the victory of the revolution and indomitable revolutionary spirit of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army soldiers who are unfailingly loyal to Commander Kim Il Sung, showing that the Korean people owe their well-being to the fighters' bloody struggle.

Azaleas of the Homeland, produced in 1971 by the Mansudae Art Troupe, delineates the patriotism and revolutionary optimism of the KPRA women soldiers who love their motherland and people and are determined to support Commander Kim Il Sung with pure loyalty even after liberating the country.

The group dance *A Rich Apple Harvest*, produced in 1972 by the Moranbong Art Troupe, proves, through an artistic depiction of girl farmers picking apples in an orchard, the validity and vitality of President Kim Il Sung's policy on developing fruit farming.

The group dance *Winnowing Dance*, produced in 1972 by the Phibada Opera Troupe, describes, through the portrayal of girls winnowing milled grain under

moonlight, the sincere devotion of the people who assist the KPRA to hasten the day of national liberation, revering Commander Kim Il Sung as the sun of the nation during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

67. Korean Film Studio

The Korean Film Studio, founded in 1947, is located in Hyongjesan District, Pyongyang.

The studio has, in addition to a group of actors and actresses, sections for direction, photographing, fine arts, recording and others. It also has indoor photographing grounds which are furnished with up-to-date, remote-controlled equipment for illumination, recording, editing and special shooting. Its location street is up to international standard.

The studio has produced many feature films of high ideological and artistic value.

68. Prizewinners at International Film Festivals

The Korean films *The Flower Girl* and *A Broad Bellflower* won prizes at international film festivals.

The Flower Girl was adapted in 1972 from its namesake classic work created by Kim Il Sung during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. Its topic and dramatic form are simple, but it delves deep into the

emotional world of the characters and thus highlights the peculiar features of the original work. It was awarded a special prize and special medal at the 18th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival.

A Broad Bellflower clarifies the profound truth that if one does not love one's native place and motherland and makes no contribution for the sake of them, one cannot claim one's right to speak about the motherland or have the honour of being true sons and daughters of their country. The film delves into the relationship between human life and native place, between the love of youth and love for the motherland, by setting the heroine's humanity and love on the basis of the truth of life. In 1987 the film was awarded the Torch Gold Prize for its high ideological and artistic value at the 1st Pyongyang Film Festival of the Non-aligned and Other Developing Countries (the present-day Pyongyang International Film Festival).

69. Korea April 26 Animation Studio

Founded in 1957, the studio is located in Central District, Pyongyang. It has produced a large number of popular children's films including animation serials *The Boy General*, *The Clever Raccoon Dog* and *A Squirrel and a Hedgehog*.

Provided with latest equipment, it produces animations on order or in collaboration with other countries.

70. Moranbong Band

The Moranbong Band debuted in July 2012, causing a great sensation among the audiences.

Staffed by about ten instrumentalists and several young singers, the band plays solemn, rich and thrilling melodies. Its superb performances are reminiscent of a big orchestra.

It enjoys wide popularity for its innovative, fashionable styles.

71. National Symphony Orchestra

In 1946, one year after Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial rule, the National Symphony Orchestra debuted with the playing of the immortal revolutionary hymn *Song of General Kim Il Sung*. Since then it has played a great number of symphonies created by Korean and foreign composers.

The orchestra has its own gifted composers, who produce excellent symphonies on the basis of traditional music to reflect the lives of the Korean people.

The country's symphony has taken great strides under the guidance of General Kim Jong Il.

The symphony *The Sea of Blood*, orchestral pieces *A Bumper Harvest in the Chongsan Plain* and *Arirang*, piano concertos *Korea Is One* and *To a Decisive Battle,* and violin concerto *Nostalgia* are typical works which

laid a foundation for Korean-style symphony.

The orchestra also plays such modern musical works as those by Yun I Sang and European classical music.

72. National Theatrical Troupe

Founded in 1946, the National Theatrical Troupe has produced and performed hundreds of dramas. Typical of them are *The Mountain Shrine*, *Blood at an International Conference*, *A Letter from a Daughter*, *Three Pretenders* and *Celebrations*.

73. National Acrobatic Troupe

Established in 1952, when the Fatherland Liberation War was at its height, the National Acrobatic Troupe has creditably performed its mission of giving the Korean people ideological, physical and cultural education.

The acrobatic troupe has produced many works based on folk games, including *Dancing on a Tightrope*, *Seesaw Jumping*, *Horse Riding* and *Two Persons on the Swing*. Other works like *Human Crane*, *Scaffold Workers* and *Trapeze* represent the indomitable fighting spirit, optimism and resourcefulness displayed by the Korean people in socialist construction.

The acrobatic troupe also created interludes, magical works and animal acts. Its aerial stunts and magical works won top prizes at international festivals.

74. Mansudae Art Studio

Founded in 1959, the Mansudae Art Studio is a hub for creating works of fine arts.

It has produced fine art works of national value–paintings, sculptures, ceramics, embroideries and jewel paintings. It also has built many grand monuments such as the Grand Monument on Mansu Hill, Tower of the Juche Idea, Arch of Triumph and Monument to the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War.

It has produced large numbers of Labour Heroes, People's Artists and Merited Artists, trained talented people who are prepared ideologically and artistically, and laid solid foundations for reserve training.

It maintains close ties with many countries of the world.

75. Korean Painting

Korean painting is peculiar to the Korean nation.

Known worldwide, it embodies the rich emotion and sentiments of the Korean people and gives a vivid depiction of the reality by various traditional techniques.

It is characterized by neat and delicate execution and vigorous and ennobling styles. Its techniques vary–detailed delineation, single stroke, line drawing, gradation and delicacy.

Typical works include *Bloody War against the*

Japanese Imperialists, *Old Man on the Raktong River*, *Women of a Village on the Bank of the Nam*, *Evening Glow over Kangson*, *Red Glow over Lake Chon on Mt Paektu* and *Sunrise on Mt Paektu*.

76. Korean Jewel Painting

Korean jewel painting is a new type of painting invented in the latter half of the 1980s by the Mansudae Art Studio in the course of developing fine arts on the basis of Korean painting.

Its colour does not change for long years and it can represent all hues, because it is made of natural jewel powder. It assumes a strong national character as it is based on the clear and delicate execution of Korean painting and the exquisite and refined techniques of traditional handicraft. It is widely used in the production of small fine art works and murals of monumental structures for its material properties, varied methods of portrayal and permanency.

Famous works include *Dove Dance*, *The Snow Is Falling*, *Wisteria Flower and Puppies*, *Sobaek Stream in Winter* and *Mangyongdae in Spring*.

77. People's Theatre

The People's Theatre is located at the foot of Mansu Hill in downtown Pyongyang.

True to the intention of General Kim Jong Il, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un took all necessary steps to build the theatre in one year.

Covering a total floor space of over 50 000 m^2, it has a 1 500-seat circular gallery and a 500-seat underground auditorium, both of a peculiar architectural design.

In the round theatre performers do not need to use microphones as the seats are arranged in groups around the stage to allow the audiences to see the performers from different angles. This ensures better emotional interaction between them.

The underground parking lot and other amenities provide every convenience for visitors.

78. Grand Mass Gymnastics and Artistic Performance *Arirang*

The grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance *Arirang* highlights, through the representation of its namesake folk song, the philosophical seed that a fundamental turn has been brought about in shaping the Korean people's destiny and the people, once miserable, are leading a happy life in their prospering country.

The performance was premiered in April 2002 to mark the 90th anniversary of the birth of President

Kim Il Sung and the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Korean People's Army. And it was staged every year from August 2005 to 2013.

The performers including artistes and young workers totalled 100 000.

It was awarded Kim Il Sung Prize, the top prize of the DPRK. It also received the Grand Sun Medal and its certificate in 2006 from the Peruvian National Association of Writers and Artistes, and the Order of Peace in 2007 from the Russian international charity fund Maecenases of the Century. In 2008 it was designated as the best work of art in Asia.

In August 2007 Guinness World Records Ltd conferred on it the certificate of its registration in the Guinness Book of World Records, on which it is written that the record for the largest gymnastic display was achieved by Grand Mass Gymnastics and Artistic Performance "Arirang" State Preparing Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the May Day Stadium, Pyongyang.

79. Alphabetical Dance Notation

The alphabetical dance notation developed by Korean artistes is a set of written symbols that represent the whole course of dance ranging from individual movements, correlations between dancers, the use of instruments and

hand props to the lengths of time for the movements.

This perfect dance notation was created in 1987 under the guidance of General Kim Jong Il for the first time in the 500-odd-year-long history of research into dance notation.

This notation is scientific, simple and easy to understand, as its dance symbols number 34 and the markings are arranged in three lines.

It can represent dance movements with accuracy, however complicated they may be.

80. April Spring Friendship Art Festival

The April Spring Friendship Art Festival is an international event that is held in Pyongyang to mark the Day of the Sun (April 15, the birthday of President Kim Il Sung).

The festival, which began in 1982, aims at promoting joint development of music and art by strengthening friendship, unity and cultural exchange between the artistes from many countries of the world under the ideal of independence, peace and friendship.

It is a large-scale event which involves all realms of stage art such as vocal and instrumental music, dance and acrobatics. It is attended by talented artistes including stars of famous art troupes and prizewinners at international contests. Diplomas, cups, bonuses and souvenirs are

conferred on excellent organizations and artistes.

During the festival colourful functions take place, including the Seminar on National Art Development in the Present Era.

81. Pyongyang International Film Festival

The biennial Pyongyang International Film Festival has taken place since 1987, drawing artistes from many countries of the world.

It is divided into the competition of full-length films, documentaries and short films, special show and information show.

The main prize of the festival is Torch Prize. Other prizes include the best film prize and sectional prizes–the best director, best script, best shooting, and best actor or actress awards, in addition to the prize of special show and special prizes of the organizing committee of the festival and the international jury committee.

82. April Spring People's Art Festival

The April Spring People's Art Festival has been held since April 2008 on the occasion of the anniversary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung.

The festival is divided into four categories–art troupes, artistic information squads, itinerary artistic information teams and art groups.

83. National Singing Contest for Working People

The National Singing Contest for Working People, held amid the great interest of the entire population, epitomizes the mass-based culture and art of the DPRK.

The contest is divided into five categories–factory workers, office employees, farmers, families and students of universities and colleges. The jury is composed of artistes and art officials. The opinions of the audience are reflected in the deliberation.

Seeing the contest, many people including TV viewers enrich their knowledge of art and cultivate their abilities for appreciation and evaluation.

Promising performers are often chosen as reserve artistes.

84. Mass Media Organs

National newspapers include *Rodong Sinmun*, *Minju Joson* and *Chongnyon Jonwi*, and the capital city and provinces have their own newspapers. News and radio services include Korean Central News, Korean Central Radio, Pyongyang Radio, and provincial, city and county broadcasting services, in addition to the Korean Central TV Broadcasting Service.

Among other media organs are the Workers' Party of Korea Publishing House, Kumsong Youth Publishing

House, Foreign Languages Publishing House, Science and Encyclopedia Publishing House, Art and Literature Publishing House, Educational Books Publishing House and other presses under universities and research institutes.

85. *Rodong Sinmun*

Founded in November 1945 in Pyongyang, *Rodong Sinmun* is the organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Its mission is to make a positive contribution to accomplishing the revolutionary cause of Juche down through the generations, guided by the Juche idea and the Juche-oriented theory of the press, and by carrying forward the brilliant traditions of revolutionary publications established by Kim Il Sung in the flames of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

It is circulated in many countries of the world including China and Japan.

86. *Minju Joson*

Minju Joson is the organ of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly and the Cabinet of the DPRK.

It was founded in June 1946 as the organ of the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea.

After the founding of the DPRK in September 1948, it was developed into the joint organ of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly and the Cabinet.

Its mission is to render services to carrying out the cause of modelling the whole society on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism by arming the officials and working people of the state and economic organs with the great Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism to rally them firmly around the Workers' Party of Korea and their leader and inspire them to the implementation of Party policy.

87. *Chongnyon Jonwi*

Chongnyon Jonwi is the organ of the Central Committee of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League.

Its initial issue was published in April 1946 under the title of *Chongnyon*, which means youth.

The newspaper was renamed *Minju Chongnyon* on the occasion of the Second Congress of the Democratic Youth League of North Korea in September 1946, then *Rodong Chongnyon* as the Democratic Youth League of Korea was reorganized into the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea in May 1964, and finally *Chongnyon Jonwi* as the organization was developed into Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League in January 1996.

The newspaper is popular among the millions of young people.

Its mission is to explain the immortal Juche idea to the young readers, train them into dependable successors to the revolutionary cause of Juche who are boundlessly faithful to the Workers' Party of Korea and their leader, and rouse them to the implementation of the WPK's lines and policies.

To sustain its features as the paper for young people, it carries short articles, travelogues, memoirs, essays and articles for education by positive examples, and they are all edited in various styles.

88. Korean Central News

Korean Central News is a national news service that represents the stand of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the DPRK.

It was launched in January 1947 under the title of News of North Korea and was renamed Korean Central News, following the founding of the DPRK in 1948.

Its mission is to render an active contribution to modelling the whole society on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism and building a new independent world.

It voices the stand and viewpoint of the WPK and the government of the DPRK towards national and international events, thereby contributing to implementing

the DPRK's foreign policy of independence.

Its main sources of information are on-site coverage and foreign media coverage, in addition to the documents from foreign affairs organs.

It is conveyed in printed form to local newspaper agencies and broadcasting stations, and transmitted around the world via radio service in Korean, English, Russian, Spanish, Chinese and Japanese. It is also distributed as bulletins in foreign languages.

89. Korean Central Radio

Korean Central Radio is a national radio service run by the Radio-Television Broadcasting Committee of the DPRK.

It was launched on October 14, 1945 with live broadcasting of Kim Il Sung's historic address on his triumphal return after Korea's liberation. At that time it was called Pyongyang Radio Station.

It was renamed the Pyongyang Central Radio Station in May 1946, the Central Radio Station of North Korea in February 1948 and the Korean Central Radio in November 1948.

In its early days it broadcast for only three hours a day through one wavelength, but now it airs its programmes for more than ten hours through several wavelengths. There are two Korean-language channels–

one for the citizens of the country and another for overseas compatriots–and also Chinese, Russian, English, Japanese, French, Spanish, German and Arabic channels for the audiences in other countries.

Its opening music is *Patriotic Song* and the broadcasting begins with the playing of the immortal revolutionary songs, *Song of General Kim Il Sung* and *Song of General Kim Jong Il*.

90. Essence of the Public Health System

During the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle Kim Il Sung established a new type of healthcare system and enforced people-oriented health policies in the guerrilla bases and liberated areas. After the country's liberation, he set up an advanced public health system in the northern half of Korea.

The public health system of the DPRK enables everybody to work in good health and lead a happy life free from worries about medical treatment.

The entire population benefits from the free medical treatment system. The state puts stress on preventing diseases and takes necessary steps to this end.

According to the district doctor system medical workers visit the families and workplaces under their charge to adopt preventive measures against different kinds of diseases by taking into account the people's

ages and physical qualities. Besides, they conduct a regular check-up to detect diseases before it is too late. Their motto is that warm humanity and devotion is the best medicine; this is another important characteristic of the country's healthcare system.

91. Free Medical Care

The DPRK's system of free medical care has a long history.

Back in the days of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle Kim Il Sung ensured that the people in the guerrilla zones were given free access to medical treatment. After Korea's liberation he had the system of free medical care enforced despite the shortage of materials and difficult conditions. In 1947, two years after liberation, the Law on Social Insurance was promulgated to give factory workers, office employees and their family members free medical treatment. In January 1953, when the country was undergoing trials during the Fatherland Liberation War, the government announced the launch of a universal free medical care system for all the people.

Medicine, examination, check-up, surgery and all others for diagnosis and treatment are free of charge, and even the in-patients' boarding, dental prosthesis and the use of corrective apparatuses and travels to

and from sanatoria are provided at the expense of the state.

Hospitals and clinics can be found in all parts of the country including remote mountainous areas and lonely islands. All the people enjoy the benefit of free medical care at any time and in any place, irrespective of sex, age, occupation, property status, and the quantity and quality of work done.

92. Structure of the Public Health System

The DPRK has a nationwide network of medical care centres comprising central and specialized hospitals, and hospitals and clinics in provinces, cities, counties (districts) and ri (dong) as well as in factories and enterprises.

Central and provincial people's hospitals keep a register of the sick people across the country, and conduct research into refractory diseases and offer prophylactic treatment for them.

The specialist departments at the county (district) and city people's hospitals deal with the people with chronic diseases, and the clinics in ri (dong) are major units for the district doctor system, which conduct a regular check-up of the residents.

Also, there are doctors in nurseries, kindergartens and schools.

93. Preventive Medicine

The government of the DPRK directs close concern to implementing the policy of preventive medicine on the principle of prioritizing prevention of diseases over their treatment.

Preventive medicine is a system whereby the working people are protected against all kinds of diseases through vaccination and regular examination.

Great efforts are exerted for the hygienic and anti-epidemic work to create a cultural and healthy environment for living and working. There are hygienic and epidemic control centres in the capital, provinces, cities and counties, and a well-knit work system for them has been established. Hospitals and clinics pay due concern to the prevention of diseases.

The hygienic and epidemic control centres have been modernly equipped and they focus on the prevention of infectious diseases. And all hospitals are encouraged to provide proper preventive care just as they do at specialist centres to reduce morbidity as far as possible. The district doctor system has been boosted to ensure that medical workers take good care of the residents and workers under their charge.

94. District Doctor System

The district doctor system is a system whereby

medical workers take charge of households and workplaces and visit them on a regular basis to take care of the residents and working people and adopt preventive measures against diseases.

According to this system, medical workers visit households and workplaces under their charge to take precautions against diseases in consideration of the ages and constitutional characteristics of the people.

Thanks to this system, all the people live under the constant care of medical workers.

95. Telemedicine

The DPRK boasts a nationwide telemedicine system, which embraces all the medical treatment centres in the capital, provinces, cities and counties.

Proactive efforts are being made to diversify and perfect this system.

The WHO technical council for Southeast Asia pointed to the three features of this system: first, it has been established on a nationwide scale; second, it is not for any special class or stratum and is free for all ordinary working people; third, it has been set up in a short period and at a high standard.

96. Medical Care Centres

In the DPRK there is a nationwide network of medical

care centres–modern central and specialized hospitals, and hospitals and clinics in provinces, cities, counties (districts), ri (dong), as well as in factories and enterprises.

Among them are Korea General Red Cross Hospital, Kim Man Yu Hospital, Academy of Koryo Medicine, Pyongyang Medical College Hospital of Kim Il Sung University, Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, Ryugyong Dental Hospital, Okryu Children's Hospital and Pyongyang Friendship Hospital.

97. Korea General Red Cross Hospital

Korea General Red Cross Hospital is a national hub for treatment, preventive medicine and academic research.

It has cardiac, respiratory, digestive and many other hospitals, as well as about ten specialist departments directly under its control, a postgraduate course and other doctor-training centres.

It has developed into a comprehensive prophylactic treatment centre and medical science research institution, staffed by competent medical workers and equipped with up-to-date facilities. It makes a positive contribution to protecting the people's lives and promoting their health by making medical services specialized according to the kind of diseases and the affected systems and ensuring utmost care for medical treatment.

It has resolved problems arising in different fields of

basic medicine and clinical medicine including immunology and virology; it has made a tangible contribution to developing the country's medical science by achieving a great deal of successes in opening up its new branches.

It promotes exchanges with its foreign counterparts to further develop the country's medical science and technology.

98. Academy of Koryo Medicine

The Academy of Koryo Medicine, located in Taedonggang District, Pyongyang, conducts research into traditional Koryo medicine with a 5 000-year history. Its mission is to promote public health by treating and preventing diseases through a combination of Koryo medicine and Western medicine.

Built in a magnificent style, the academy has hundreds of outstanding experts including the holders of academic degrees and titles.

The academy plays the leading role in the research, treatment and prevention of diseases by Koryo medicine, in the training of Koryo medicine workers and in the joint research on traditional medicine with WHO.

It has cured a large number of patients by using herbal medications, acupuncture, moxibustion, cupping and massage. In particular, it has gained good experience

in the treatment and prevention of adult and geriatric diseases including hypertension, diabetes, arteriosclerosis and hyperlipemia, such diseases with a high morbidity rate as cerebral hemorrhage and cerebral thrombosis, and the refractory diseases including spontaneous gangrene and epilepsy. In the course of this, it has developed very effective treatment methods and medicines.

It promotes exchanges with other countries and issues *Technical Information of the WHO Joint Research Centre for Traditional Medicine* and *Bulletin of the WHO Joint Research Centre for Traditional Medicine*, as well as English pamphlets *Treatment by Clinical Acupuncture and Moxibustion* and *Folk Remedy for Primary Medical Service*.

99. Pyongyang Maternity Hospital

Located in Taedonggang District, Pyongyang, the hospital is a comprehensive medical service centre for Korean women. It is a large, standardized maternity hospital devoted to gynecological treatment and prophylactic work, technical and methodological guidance, scientific research, clinical education and reserve-training.

Inaugurated in July 1980, the hospital covers a building area of over 10 000 m^2 and a total floor space of over 60 000 m^2.

The exterior of the building resembles a mother embracing children with open arms.

In the lobby there is a large chandelier decorated with tens of thousands of gems and its floor is covered with natural jewels.

The hospital is furnished with up-to-date medical equipment and apparatuses to ensure scientific accuracy and promptness of medical treatment.

It has specialist departments for pregnancy and delivery, gynecology, internal medicine, urology, dentistry, first aid, ophthalmology and otolaryngology. It treats hundreds of outpatients a day and gives delivery assistance to 15 000 women a year.

Hundreds of thousands of babies, including hundreds of triplets, were born at the hospital and it has offered high-quality medical service to millions of women, including foreigners.

Most recently, the Breast Tumour Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital was built, which specializes in the research, treatment and prevention of breast diseases.

100. Civilized Socialist Power

The construction of a civilized socialist power is one of the major targets that the DPRK has set in developing itself into a powerful socialist country.

The civilized socialist power that it is building is a country where socialist culture will develop in a comprehensive way and where the people, possessed of a high level of creativity and culture, will create and enjoy the highest quality and standard of civilization.

The country is speeding up the construction of a civilized socialist power with the aim of making all the people powerful builders of socialism who have a wealth of knowledge and high cultural attainments, and providing them with the conditions and environment for leading an affluent, civilized life to their heart's content.

UNDERSTANDING KOREA (6)
(CULTURE)

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Translators: Mun Myong Song and Pak Hyo Song
Layout: Pang Song Hui and Yang Song Im
Cover Design: Kim Un Jong
Copyright: Foreign Languages Publishing House
Issued in April Juche 106 (2017)

№. 7835010

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http://www.naenara.com.kp

ISBN 978-9946-0-1615-3
9 789946 016153 >