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**COVER PHOTO** : South Korean chief delegate Kim Ki-woong (right) and his North Korean counterpart Pak Chol-su shake hands prior to the fourth round of working-level talks on the normalization of the suspended Kaesong industrial complex in the North Korean border town of Kaesong on July 17. (Yonhap Photo)

# Korean Separated Families' Dream for Reunion



- 1 Employees of the South Korean Red Cross in Seoul work for the reunion of separated families divided by the Korean War.
- 2 Members of S. Korean conservative organizations call on N. Korea to come forward for dialogue on the family reunions.
- 3 Separated family members in S. Korea hold a memorial service for their ancestors in N. Korea at a place near the inter-Korean border.
- 4 In a reunion event held at Mt. Kumgang resort in November 2010, a father and son shed tears when they bid farewell.

## Newly Emerging Power Elites of North Korea



The rising stars have gradually replaced the older generations under the former leader Kim Jong-il. They are (from left on the top) People's Armed Forces Minister Jang Jong-nam, Operation Bureau Director of the KPA's General Staff Ri Yong-kil, Vice Director of the KPA's General Political Bureau Son Chol-ju and Colonel General Pak Jong-chon, and Vice Armed Forces Minister Yun Tong-hyon, First-Vice Director of the WPK Choe Hui, and WPK vice directors Pak Tae-song, Hong Yong-chil and Ma Won-chun.

# PYONGYANG'S GESTURE FOR INTER-KOREAN DIALOGUE

**Experts said the North appeared to be using its typical tactic of seeking direct talks with the United States while sidelining the South.**

■ By Lee Kwang-ho

In what seems to be a turnaround from its bellicose attitude, North Korea is offering conciliatory gestures of dialogue to the outside world, specifically to South Korea and the United States. South Korean and U.S. officials doubt the sincerity of the North's change in attitude, given that the North has repeatedly shown to be two-faced – seeking dialogue after provocative acts.

After months of war-like threats, North Korea is now attending inter-Korean dialogue that had been stopped for almost the past five years under the previous Lee Myung-bak government. The socialist country is also desperately trying to approach its Cold War enemy, the United States, for bilateral talks. Washington has repeatedly stressed that it will not engage in talks with Pyongyang unless it shows clear signals that it is serious about abandoning its nuclear program.

## **Two-faced Attitude in Dialogue**

Pyongyang is also attempting to widen its diplomatic horizons with other neighboring countries including its traditional allies, China and Russia. Pyongyang has even stretched its arms toward Japan, the regime's most hatred state and colonial ruler of the Korean Peninsula from 1910 to 1945. China is a key provider of economic aid and diplomatic protection to North Korea, but bilateral ties appear to have been strained since the North's third nuclear test in February. Russian officials stressed the need to ease tension on the Korean Peninsula and

Kim Ki-woong (left), South Korea's chief delegate to the inter-Korean talks for the resumption of the Kaesong Industrial Complex, shakes hands with his North Korean counterpart Pak Chol-su in North Korea's border town of Kaesong on July 17 after the fourth round of talks. (Yonhap Photo)



asked Pyongyang to return to the six-party talks.

North Korea has recently expressed its willingness to participate in the six-nation forum, established to make a headway toward resolving the North Korean nuclear issue. North Korea's intention to rejoin the multilateral disarmament talks is with the motivation to gain economic benefits as well as diplomatic recognition from the U.S. But neighboring countries demand for South and North Korea to hold dialogue first to create an atmosphere for the resumption of the six-party forum.

Under pressure from the international community, North Korea proposed inter-Korean talks to restart a suspended joint industrial complex in the North Korean border town of Kaesong. As of July, the fourth rounds of talks ended without a breakthrough due to the two sides showing significant discrepancies on how to

reactivate the Kaesong Industrial Complex, which has remained idle for more than three months.

In April, North Korea unilaterally decided to block all entry of South Korean workers and cargo into the complex and pulled its 53,000 workers from the park out of anger over the adoption of new U.N. Security Council sanctions against the regime that Seoul supported to punish it for its February nuclear weapons test. This led to the halting of operations at the eight-year-old joint-venture, the last remaining inter-Korean project and symbol of the "Sunshine Policy" of engagement.

During the inter-Korean talks held in Kaesong, Seoul repeated its demand for a guarantee from Pyongyang against a future suspension. The North called for its reopening without any preconditions. South Korean delegates demanded assurances from Pyongyang that it would not

unilaterally shut down the estate and for legal and institutional measures to safeguard South Koreans' safety, investment and assets to be installed. These conditions are keys to attract investment to turn the industrial park into an international factory zone.

During the first round of talks on July 7, South Korea put a higher priority on averting further suspensions of the park while North Korea focused more on the resumption of the complex, but both sides compromised. The North accepted the South Korean businessmen's desperate pleas to check the conditions of their machines during the rainy season and to ship finished products, machines and other supplies back to the South.

### **Call for Fundamental Measures**

At the second round of talks, held on July 10, South Korea demanded the North to firmly guarantee and implement concrete measures to prevent a recurrence of the shutdown. But Pyongyang shifted the blame onto Seoul and reiterated its demand that the complex should be restarted as soon as possible. The South made clear that its companies would not be allowed to resume operations until after the North gives its assurance against another suspension.

After the third round of talks on July 15, South Korea's chief negotiator Kim Kiwoong said he reiterated calls for the North to guarantee the safety of its businessmen who have to work at the industrial park and pressed the North to transform the complex into an international manufac-

turing zone by adopting global standards of doing business. He added that Pyongyang must provide legal and administrative assurances to protect investments and assets owned by South Korean companies.

On July 17, three-man delegations from each side sat face-to-face for their fourth working-level dialogue. but the latest discussions, however, turned out to be only a repeat of the last two talks, as both sides were unable to reach a compromise and refused to budge on the conditions for resuming the joint factory park. The North, however, has continued to blame the South for the suspension of operations at Kaesong. After the July 17 talks, the North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said the fourth round of talks ended without any progress due to the South's "unreasonable assertions and insincere attitude despite the North side's sincere efforts."

At the talks, the KCNA claims, the North side advanced sincere and practical proposals for normalizing the operation in the zone at an early date. As the inter-Korean working-level dialogue is further prolonged, analysts questioned the future of the joint industrial park, predicting that the on-going talks may not lead to the resumption of the park anytime soon, given the wide differences of opinion between the two sides.

The Park Geun-hye administration is determined to prevent the North from having its way at the expense of the South. Ryoo Kihl-jae, the South Korean unification minister, said, "It's quite regrettable that the recalcitrant regime showed no sincerity

about Seoul's call for fundamental measures to prevent another shutdown. Instead, Pyongyang brazenly urged Seoul to stop all acts that could undermine the normal operation of the complex."

North Korea's chief delegate Pak Chol-su, vice director of the Central Special Zone Development Guidance General Bureau, a North Korean organization in charge of the Kaesong business district, said both sides should desist from taking actions that affect normal operations at the complex and that inspection of facilities needs to be completed so operations can resume as soon as possible.

Beginning July 12, while the dialogue was in progress, South Korean factory managers visited the Kaesong park and brought home finished goods and other production materials, as well as sending technicians to the industrial park to repair facilities.

### **North Korea's Insincere Attitude**

South Korea would also seek a North Korean apology for causing significant financial and other damages by closing the zone. South Korean companies have reported damages topping 1.05 trillion won (US\$918 million). The complex, which started churning out products in late 2004, was created as a result of the 2000 summit meeting between then South Korean President Kim Dae-jung and late North Korean leader Kim Jong-il.

After the second round of talks, North Korea proposed separate talks to discuss the reunions of separated families and the resumption of tour trips to a scenic moun-

tain resort in the North. But Seoul rejected talks for the resumption of South Korean tours to Mount Kumgang, but accepted the family reunion program because of the urgency of the issue.

Soon afterwards, North Korea postponed the proposed negotiations on reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War after the South refused to discuss resuming tours to the North's Mount Kumgang. The reason for the North's postponement, according to the unification ministry, was that the South said it didn't want to discuss Mount Kumgang until negotiations over the resumption of operations at the Kaesong complex concluded.

Millions of Koreans have been separated since the three-year Korean War ended in 1953. A few thousand of them had been temporarily reunited in the past. The last time family reunions took place was in November 2010.

The tours to Mount Kumgang, launched in 1998, have been suspended since 2008 when a South Korean tourist was shot dead. Seoul has since demanded the North provide assurances that no more innocent civilians will be hurt, but the North has maintained that the tourist was killed because she entered a restricted area.

Some analysts take North Korea's offer for a string of talks as aimed at encouraging Seoul to drop sanctions against Pyongyang, including the suspension of inter-Korean trade, imposed after the South Korean warship "Cheonan" was torpedoed by North Korea in May 2010. Given President Park Geun-hye's principled North Korea policy, these North Korean intentions seem highly unlikely.

They said the impoverished North has no reason to reject Seoul's call for "constructive development" with respect to the Kaesong park because its sudden shut-down will also do more harm to Pyongyang than good, given its chronic hunger for hard currency. Inducing foreign companies to the factory park will be good for the two Koreas to adopt in consideration of the need for the complex to be operated under international norms, they pointed out.

But North Korea blamed Seoul for failed talks. *Rodong Sinmun*, the organ of the ruling Workers' Party, said in an article on July 11 that negotiations from the South "adhered to irrational claims blaming the suspension of the complex only on us." Seoul rejected this claim, saying the North had an "insincere attitude."

## Pyongyang's Real Intention

North Korea's aggressive attitude toward inter-Korean dialogue is aimed at holding bilateral dialogue with the United States. The North needs to gain diplomatic recognition from the U.S. as a closed despotic country, it is hard to survive. But the U.S. is suspicious of the North's intention and rather asks North Korea to hold inter-Korean dialogue with Seoul.

North and South Korea had planned to have high-level talks earlier in June, the first of their kind in over six years, to discuss the resumption of joint economic ventures, but the plan fell apart after a disagreement over the rank of chief delegates. Pyongyang criticized South Korea for "intentionally" scrapping the planned inter-

Korean talks.

Days later, North Korea abruptly proposed dialogue to the U.S. through a spokesman statement on June 16 by the National Defense Commission (NDC), the top decision-making body chaired by leader Kim Jong-un. It asked for talks with senior U.S. officials so they could discuss matters from easing military tension and changing the armistice agreement into a peace treaty to building "a world without nuclear arms."

The statement emphasized that the U.S. is culpable for the recently heightened tension around the Korean Peninsula. It also said the U.S. started the Korean War and systematically destroyed the armistice agreement. Observers said it is the North's attempt to avoid taking responsibility for the heightened tension.

Moreover, North Korea seems to have intentions to justify its nuclear arms by arguing such statements. Pyongyang says its nuclear arms are to defend itself against a U.S. nuclear threat, insisting that Washington should stop its nuclear threats first if it wants to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula.

Officials and analysts in Seoul said Pyongyang decided to develop nuclear arms because it knew that as a closed despotic country it is hard to survive. To be true, it is impossible to keep its regime without serious violations of human rights. They say the North chose to develop nuclear arms as a way to avoid opening to the world. Furthermore, by forcing neighboring countries through nuclear threats to assuage it with economic assistance, the North can attempt to revive its already

bankrupt economy.

In the NDC statement, the North reaffirmed its commitment to denuclearization, recalling that achieving a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula is one of the key death-bed instructions of Kim Il-sung, the founder of North Korea, and Kim Jong-il, his son and the country's former leader. Notably, it is the first time that the North has renewed its denuclearization pledge since Kim Jong-un took power.

Yet the young leader has vowed to pursue a dual-track strategy of nuclear buildup and economic development. In this sense, the NDC statement calls into question the credibility of the denuclearization pledge by justifying the North's possession of nuclear weapons. It argues in a contradictory fashion that the North's nuclear armament is intended to make the entire Korean Peninsula free of atomic weapons.

## Typical Tactic

Experts said the North appeared to be using its typical tactic of seeking direct talks with the U.S. while sidelining the South, which they said would no longer work given the current strength of the alliance. They noted Pyongyang, which proclaimed itself as a nuclear-armed state in its constitution last year, contradicted itself by putting the issue of a nuclear-free world on the agenda. The North's intentions behind the apparent shift in tactics remains unclear but should reflect Beijing's increasing pressure, Pyongyang's own need for economic assistance and its strategic calculations.

Now international efforts to get North

Korea to give up its nuclear weapons are gaining speed as countries which have committed to the denuclearization process in the past get ready for fresh rounds of negotiations following Pyongyang's latest overtures. Still, the road toward restarting the six-party talks is rough. South Korea and the U.S. remain unwavering in their demands for North Korea's sincerity toward denuclearization despite the socialist state's peace offensive.

Meanwhile, North Korea's point man on nuclear issues visited Moscow in early July and held a five-hour meeting with Russian officials with both sides expressing interest in resolving problems on the Korean Peninsula. Kim Kye-gwan met with Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov and other senior diplomats in Moscow on July 5.

Russia's foreign ministry said that Russian officials stressed the need to ease tension and return to the six-party talks based on adherence to the Sept. 19 Joint Declaration. The declaration reached in 2005 calls on the North to carry out verifiable denuclearization in exchange for extensive economic assistance, while the six-party talks aim to end the North's nuclear program in a mutually acceptable manner.

North Korea watchers in Seoul said Kim's trip to Russia, following a similar visit to China, is a sign that Pyongyang is moving towards dialogue with neighboring countries over the nuclear standoff. They speculate that vice minister Kim probably asked Moscow to support its position in future talks, and to get Russia to call for talks without pre-conditions. (Yonhap News)

# DETERMINATION FOR FREEING OF KOREAN WAR ABDUCTEES

**South Korea plans to conduct an investigation to discover the actual abductees across the country from the latter half of this year.**

■ By Kim Tae-shik

South Korea on June 28 urged North Korea to free South Koreans believed to have been abducted by the North during and after the 1950-1953 Korean War. “North Korea should be cooperative with our efforts to overcome the tragic history,” Unification Minister Ryoo Kihl-jae said in a commemoration event held in Seoul by the families of South Korean abductees, marking the June 25 outbreak of the civil war more than six decades ago.

The North should not turn a blind eye to the abductee issue, Ryoo said, adding that the government will make steady efforts to verify the fates of South Koreans believed to have been kidnapped by the North, and to bring them back home.

## Important Task for Government

The government has repeatedly called on Pyongyang to free the abductees, but North Korea has never admitted to the existence of the abductees, claiming that they were defectors who went to the North on their own will. The government estimates that about 100,000 South Koreans have been kidnapped by the North since the outbreak of the fratricidal war.

“For the government resolving the issue of Korean War abductees and victims is a task as important as the inter-Korean policy,” the minister said. Ryoo was the first unification minister who has attended the annual gathering, which kicked off in 2010.

On June 21 a government panel decided to add 274 more people, including the vice chief of the Korean Provisional Government during

President Park Geun-hye (center) attends an event to mark the 63rd anniversary of the outbreak of the 1950-53 Korean War together with Korean and foreign veterans at a Seoul hotel on June 24. (Yonhap Photo)



the Japanese colonial era, to its official list of abductees by North Korea during the Korean War.

During the ninth meeting of the National Commission on Korean War abductees chaired by Prime Minister Chung Hong-won, the government confirmed that 274 more Koreans were kidnapped by the North, bringing the total number of the victims officially tallied by the government to 2,265.

It was discovered that most of the newly recognized figures were abducted from their residences and forced to cross to the North by the (North) Korean People's Army in 1950, the commission said.

While about half of them were farmers and fishermen, the new list also includes high-profile figures such as Kim Kyu-sik, former vice president of the Korean Provisional Government in Shanghai, China, in the 1940s; lawmaker Shin Yong-hoon; and former Gyeonggi Governor Gu Ja-ok.

The total 2,265 victims range from politicians to soldiers to students, with farmers and fishermen accounting for the largest share of 40.7 percent, followed by businessmen with 14 percent, civil servants with 8.4 percent and students with 7.8 percent, according to government data.

"I'd like to express my words of consolation to those families who have been in agony for the past 60 years after the war ended in a cease-fire, not knowing whether their family members were dead or alive," Prime Minister Chung said presiding over the meeting.

"The government will make every effort to support the commission's fact-finding missions and make endeavors to help people who were forcibly taken by North Korea to regain their reputation," Chung added.

The commission was established in 2010 to uncover the truth about the abduction issues, help recover the reputations of their families and to achieve national unity. Under law, the

commission will continue to serve in its role until 2017.

Referring to the South Korean national commission's recent decision to recognize 274 missing South Koreans as abductees, North Korea on June 28 condemned South Korea's efforts to track war abductees, saying Seoul is trying to disguise voluntary defectors as victims of abduction.

"(Seoul has turned) patriotic figures who came to the North in search of justice and truth (into war abductees)," the North said in a report carried by the state-run (North) Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

Kim Kyu-sik voluntarily crossed the border into the North, the KCNA report said, adding that the commission's decision constitutes an attempt to stir accusations of human rights violations across the country.

South Korean President Park Geun-hye, meanwhile, offered on June 29 to return hundreds of sets of remains of Chinese troops killed in the 1950-53 Korean War in a symbolic gesture of humanitarianism and friendship to China, a battlefield foe six decades ago.

Park made the offer during a meeting with Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong at Beijing's Tsinghua University right before delivering a speech at the alma mater of Chinese President Xi Jinping, presidential spokeswoman Kim Haing told reporters.

Kim revealed the president's proposal in the ancient Chinese city of Xian, the second leg of Park's four-day state visit to China, which started on June 27 with the South Korean-Chinese summit talks in Beijing.

## **Remains of Chinese Troops in the South**

"This year marks the 60th anniversary of the (Korean War) armistice," Park was quoted by the spokeswoman as saying. "There are 360 sets of remains of Chinese soldiers in South Korea. The South Korean government has taken good care of them, but the bereaved families in China must be waiting for their return, and we would like to repatriate the remains."

Liu expressed gratitude, saying the offer conveys Park's intentions for friendship toward China well, according to the spokeswoman. "The families are waiting for them. I will immediately report this to President Xi Jinping," the spokeswoman quoted Liu as telling Park.

During the Korean War, China fought alongside North Korea against the U.S.-backed Allied Forces. History records show that more than 1 million Chinese soldiers were killed in the three-year war.

Since 1981, a total of 403 sets of remains of Chinese troops have been unearthed in South Korea, with 43 sets already repatriated via the U.N. Military Armistice Commission that supervises the cease-fire.

The remaining 360 sets are buried at a cemetery in Paju, north of Seoul.

In a related move the government conferred an order of military merit to a former captain of the "KLO Unit," a guerilla unit under the U.N. Command (UNC) that operated in North Korea during the Korean War. He was abducted to the North after the war while fishing in

the Yellow Sea in June 1967.

The government decided to decorate Choi Won-mo, the captain of the guerilla ship "Bukjin," during the Korean War with the National Order of Military Merit, Hwarang, for his feats. As Choi was abducted to the North and his fate is not known, Choi's son, Choi Seong-ryong, received the order on behalf of his father at a ceremony held at an army unit in Seoul on July 1.

After the war, Choi Won-mo had led a life as an ordinary fisherman residing in Seocheon, South Chungcheong Province before he was kidnapped by a North Korean patrol ship along with seven other fishermen while fishing in the waters off Yeonpyeong Island near the sea border with North Korea. Five fishermen were set free later, but Choi was detained in the North for his activities during the Korean War. Choi's status has not been known, but rumors said he was executed in the North in 1970.

It was the first time that the government awarded an order of military merit to an abductee after the war is over for his feat during the war.

Observers said the government's decision to award the order to Choi whose whereabouts are unknown shows the government's firm determination that it will never forget the feats of the people who devoted their lives for the sake of the country whether they have been kidnapped or are dead.

## **Various Plans for Korean War Abductees**

The government is estimating there are some 500 Korean War prisoners detained in North Korea. According to data released by the National Intelligence Service in June 2006, names of 1,734 South Korean soldiers who were taken to the North during the war have been confirmed. Of the total, 885 were believed to have died, 548 others were known to live in the North and the remaining 301 are listed as missing.

North Korea claims the issue of Korean War prisoners had been settled with the exchange of war prisoners in 1953 in accordance with the Korean War Armistice Agreement.

The UNC estimated in 1953 that the number of South Korean soldiers missing in action totaled 82,318, but only 8,343 were repatriated to the South by North Korea in the exchange of war prisoners.

The government plans to conduct an investigation to discover the actual abductees across the country from the latter half of this year, an indication that the government will put more emphasis on resolving the abductee issue.

The commission has reviewed the reports submitted by the families of abducted people, but it will dig into the truth of abductions even without requests by the families. Since the commission was launched, only 3,000 cases of abduction have been reported, although the government estimates some 100,000 South Koreans were taken to the North against their will. (Yonhap News)

## OBAMA'S NEW NATIONAL SECURITY TEAM & ITS POLICY DIRECTIONS

**Obama's second administration has said it will not talk to North Korea, unless it shows seriousness in its commitment to denuclearization.**

■ By Tong Kim, *a Visiting Professor of the University of North Korean Studies and a Visiting Research Professor with the Ilmin Institute of International Relations at Korea University in Seoul*

The second term administration of President Barack Obama has completed the formation of a new security and foreign policy team. At the White House, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice replaced Tom Donilon as the national security advisor. Donilon was regarded as the architect of Obama's "Pivot to Asia" policy to rebalance toward the region against a rising China. Like most of her predecessors in that position, Rice will coordinate and consolidate views and recommendations from the vast security and foreign policy structure that involves several departments, including State and Defense, and the intelligence community, before she would advise the president. Historically the national security adviser's own policy input has depended on the adviser's style and personality and on the other key players' relationship with the president.

In view of the president's confidence in her, the new security adviser is expected to be a strong, assertive national security adviser. She had first been considered for

the post of Secretary of State, but she withdrew from consideration after some Republican senators avowed to frustrate her confirmation hearing if she were nominated due to the controversy over the Sept. 11, 2012 terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya.

### Obama's New Team

As the U.S. ambassador to the U.N., she was instrumental in the passage of tough sanctions against North Korea for its missile and nuclear tests. She is known to be bold and assertive, and holds negative views of North Korea. Republican Senator John McCain, also a strong critic of North Korea, who had criticized her report on the Benghazi incident, said he would work with Susan Rice, who does not require Senate confirmation.

Rice will be replaced by another close confidante of Obama, Samantha Power, as the U.S. ambassador to the U.N. upon the Senate confirmation. Power is known to be a human rights advocate, and her role is likely to impact human rights issues in

North Korea. However, she would not be involved directly in dealing with the formulation of North Korea policy, except when the North defies its obligations under U.N. resolutions and when the U.N. Security Council considers new sanctions and implements the existing sanctions.

Since taking office in February, Secretary of State John Kerry quickly got on with his job making several orientation trips to different regions of the world, including East Asia. During the height of tension on the Korean Peninsula in April, he met with the leaders of South Korea, China and Japan, and reaffirmed the robust U.S. commitment to defend American allies. He also pledged that the U.S. would work closely with its allies and partners to deal with North Korean provocations and the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. In Seoul, he welcomed the “trust building process on the Korean Peninsula” proposed by President Park Geun-hye.

Kerry is widely known as a foreign policy expert of suave sophistication, as he was the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, whose integrity and expertise was respected from both sides of the aisle in the Senate. To Koreans, both North and South, John Kerry, along with Republican Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, is known as a prudent proponent of dialogue and engagement, who prefers to resolve international disputes peacefully and diplomatically. However, as the Secretary of State, Kerry is yet to show his leadership in initiating a new productive policy to resolve the Korean issues more proactively and more creatively. Now with his new Assistant Secretary of State for East

Asia and the Pacific Affairs, and a new White House national security adviser in place, Secretary Kerry should be better prepared to make a real difference in U.S. policy toward Asia and the Korean Peninsula.

Even after the Cheonan ship's explosion in 2010, John Kerry, who was then the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman, said, “Even as we are fully prepared to deter and defend against any North Korean aggression, we must remain equally ready to pursue a peaceful, negotiated solution to the underlying security challenges. It is not enough for us to avoid another war on the Korean Peninsula. We must forge a lasting, just peace ... It is more important than ever that we find a path forward to the resumption of dialogue with the DPRK as soon as possible.”

## Rise of Daniel Russell

As a Senator, Kerry talked to North Korean Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Ri Yong-ho in March 2012 in New York and intensively listened, asking tough questions to the North Korean diplomat who came to the U.S. to attend a conference sponsored by an American private organization. Ri Yong-ho told Kerry that his government would strictly abide by the February 29 agreement, which was scrapped after Pyongyang launched a satellite rocket. The North Koreans alleged the launching of the rocket was not subject to the moratorium which they had agreed to apply to new nuclear and missiles tests.

Unlike his Democratic and Republican predecessors - Madeline Albright in 1999

and Colin Powell in 2002 – who respectively met with their North Korean counterpart, Paek Nam-sun, at the ASEAN Regional Forum, Secretary Kerry chose not to have a bilateral contact with North Korean Foreign Minister Pak Ui-chun in June at the same forum in Brunei.

Kerry could have explained directly to Pak the specifics of U.S. conditions for responding to Pyongyang's call for talks with the United States and hear firsthand about the DPRK's position beyond connotations of North Korean propaganda statements or a message delivered by a third party. An unconditional, exploratory dialogue would also be helpful to determine North Korea's seriousness to fulfill its commitments to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

The newly posted Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific Daniel Russell comes from the White House NSC, where he served as Senior Director for Asian Affairs during the first term of the Obama administration. In that role, Russell accumulated sufficient experience and knowledge of North Korean issues. In addition, he is a strong Japan hand as he headed the Office of Japanese Affairs at the State Department. Reportedly, he is close to the president's chief of staff, Dennis McDonough, who believes in the importance of Asia.

Russell has extensively traveled to the capitals of East Asia, including Pyongyang. When he was serving as a junior foreign service officer at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul in 1994, he came to Geneva to support the negotiation of the Agreed Framework. He was recognized as an excellent cable

writer covering sessions of talks with the North Koreans. Robert Gallucci, who was then the Assistance Secretary of State for Political and Military Affairs and the head of the U.S. negotiation team, personally introduced Russell to then-Secretary of State Warren Christopher, commending Russell's outstanding ability and dedication as a promising foreign service officer.

Russell said during his June confirmation hearing that he would actively pursue the denuclearization of Korea through a process of "halt, roll back and elimination of the North Korean nuclear weapons." He also said he would work for a transformation of North Korea after Burma's model. His predecessor Kurt Campbell was credited to have turned around Burma.

### **Trilateral Security Relationship**

Russell's advantage lies in his knowledge of, and his familiarity with, how things work at the White House and the State Department. In addition to Kerry's popular standing at Congress, this Kerry-Russell team emerges as a strong one and is likely to earn the support of both the White House and Congress on their Korea policy. Both men are keenly aware that no administration's foreign policy can succeed without Congressional support.

During the just concluded fifth U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue, the two "major countries," whose relationship is best described as one of "cooperation and competition," reaffirmed the agreement reached between Barack Obama and Xi Jinping in early June in California that the two sides are committed

to working together for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The leaders of China and the United States also assured President Park Geun-hye of South Korea through their respective recent summit that they would not accept a nuclear-armed North Korea. At a time when South Korea, the United States and China appear to be united on denuclearization, the strained relationship between South Korea and Japan poses a recurring problem for Washington, which has long sought a trilateral security relationship among Japan, South Korea and the United States.

Six months in office, Secretary Kerry is expected to further develop a good working relationship with the White House to carry out a successful foreign policy. In Seoul last April, Secretary Kerry said the United States was committed to peaceful denuclearization through talks. It has been over a month since North Korea told China that it would engage in dialogue with the relevant parties at various forums, including the six-party talks, and since it offered direct talks with the United States without preconditions. However, Obama's second administration has said it will not talk to the North Koreans, unless they show seriousness in their commitment to denuclearization, sticking to the same old policy position under "strategic patience" that failed to produce any positive result for the first four years of the Obama administration. At the conclusion of the recent Strategic and Economic Dialogue, China said it is committed to "creating conditions for early resumption of the six-party talks." China wants dialogue among all the parties concerned.

By tradition and practice, the secretary of state relies on the assistant secretary of state for East Asia and the Pacific for the formulation and implementation of regional policy. In this sense, Daniel Russell is the point man who can help make an innovative Korea policy and who can directly contribute to the settlement of peace and to the accomplishment of the goal of denuclearization. He can contribute to the reduction of tension, help facilitate the trust building process on the Korean Peninsula, remove what he calls "the imaginary threat" from the United States, initiate the discussion of a peace regime to replace the precarious Armistice Agreement that North Korea says was abrogated, and work toward the normalization between Pyongyang and Washington to bring the North into the international community. Nevertheless, no progress is possible without engagement.

### **Trust Building Process**

Granted, the U.S. domestic environment is unfavorable to launch a new, positive approach to North Korea, as North Korea has been demonized to the American public, perhaps more severely than warranted. In reaction to Pyongyang's unrestrained release of bellicose statements earlier this year, some members of the Congress demanded putting North Korea back on the list of terrorism sponsors and toughening up U.S. sanctions against them in addition to the stricter enforcement of U.N. sanctions. The North Koreans may be unreasonable to think they are threatened and to commit acts of provocations by

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***Trust is built through the implementation of agreements that are negotiated through dialogue and engagement. In this context, the new foreign policy team of the second term Obama administration should spell out what the North must do to prove its seriousness for denuclearization. In the meantime, if North Korea proposes that the U.S. and the North go back to the February 29 agreement, it would provide a basis for re-engagement.***

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launching missiles and conducting nuclear tests, which the North Koreans claim is their sovereign right to explore space and build a nuclear deterrent. Nevertheless, their fear of the might of the advanced U.S. weapons, on top of their suspicion of the U.S.'s intent, as demonstrated during the last combined U.S.-South Korea military exercises, appears genuine.

Given the zero level of trust between Pyongyang and Washington, it is almost impossible for either side to move forward without knowing the true intent of the other side. Trust is built through the implementation of agreements that are negotiated through dialogue and engagement. In this context, the new foreign policy team of the second term Obama administration should spell out what the North must do to prove its seriousness for denuclearization. In the meantime, if North Korea proposes that the U.S. and the North go back to the February 29 agreement, it would provide a basis for re-engagement. In the agreement, Pyongyang had promised to place a moratorium on missile and nuclear activities, and invite IAEA inspectors back to North Korea, in return for the U.S. ending its hos-

tility and a U.S. provision of 240,000 tons of nutrients to the North.

One sure way of finding out the intent of the North Koreans and learning more about them is to talk with them. There would be no peaceful diplomatic resolution of the North Korean issues without directly engaging them. The complacency of reliance on China's seemingly more aggressive cooperation could be as unproductive as the waiting game under the name of "strategic patience," which fortunately seems to have been discarded, while it is not clear what Secretary Kerry's "impatient" strategy will be. Anyway, we are watching how the new policy team of the second Obama administration will develop and carry out their policy toward Korea. Putting everything together, there is good reason to believe the new team will do a better job than the previous team. (Yonhap News)

## N. KOREA'S SPECIAL PRISON AND IMPRISONED AMERICAN

Sources said the 'special prison' for Kenneth Bae seems to be a facility to show the outside world that the country treats prisoners well.

■ By Kim Tae-shik

In an unprecedented move, North Korea released a detailed description of the life of a Korean-American who is serving 15 years hard labor at a special penitentiary in the country, through a pro-North Korean newspaper published in Tokyo. Kenneth Bae, whose Korean name is Bae Jun-ho, was sentenced by the North Korean supreme court in late April for an unspecified "anti-North Korea crime."

*Choson Sinbo*, published by the pro-Pyongyang General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon), carried a detailed report on Bae in its July 3 issue with an interview and some photos. *Choson Sinbo* said its reporter interviewed Bae at his prison after receiving approval from North Korean authorities.

### Detailed Report on Bae's Life

The revelation of Bae's life behind North Korean bars is unprecedented and observers say Pyongyang seems to want to use the detained American to press Washington to comply with its call for talks. North Korea has officially proposed high-level talks with the U.S., but Washington has said that Pyongyang must first show its sincerity for denuclearization through actions before talks can take place.

According to the paper, Bae wakes up at 6 a.m. and farms from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Bae is the first American national to serve a hard labor term in the North. The paper said Bae expressed hope that he would be set free and be allowed to return home after an amnesty is granted.

Bae was arrested in November last year after entering North Korea with a group of tourists. Some identified him as a tour operator, while

others said he worked as a Christian missionary.

North Korea claimed that the 44-year-old Bae had attempted to overthrow its regime. The North Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said on May 2 that Bae's trial took place at the Supreme Court of the DPRK (North Korea) on April 30. He was arrested while committing "hostile acts against the DPRK" after entering Rason City as a tourist on Nov. 3 of last year. The Supreme Court sentenced him to 15 years of compulsory labor for his crime.

"Bae, wearing a prison uniform with ID number 103, was imprisoned on May 14 and was seeding and weeding on corn, potato and bean farms in prison," *Choson Sinbo* newspaper said. In an interview, Bae expressed hope to convey his request for an amnesty to the North Korean and U.S. governments, the paper said.

The report comes as North Korea is trying to reopen dialogue with the United States over its nuclear programs. The U.S. maintains that it would agree to engage North Korea in dialogue only after the socialist country first shows with actions, not words, its sincerity to denuclearize.

Bae is the sixth U.S. citizen to be detained by the North since 2009. All other Americans were freed via contact between the two nations. The U.S. government has so far unsuccessfully tried to win his release. Since his detention in May, the Swedish Embassy in Pyongyang has once visited him on behalf of the U.S., which has no diplomatic relations with Pyongyang, the paper said. The paper also printed three photos of Bae with the story. The U.S. government expressed "grave concern" on July 3 over the apparently worsening health of Bae.

## **Attempt to Seek Dialogue with U.S.**

Responding to an interview in prison with Bae by *Choson Sinbo* and aired by CNN, the U.S. State Department also urged Pyongyang to grant him amnesty and immediate release. "We have seen the interview footage of Mr. Bae. It is clear that his health is deteriorating, which is of grave concern to us," a department official told reporters on background. "There is no greater priority for us than the welfare and safety of U.S. citizens abroad."

Bae said he has diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, a fatty liver and hardening arteries before he was arrested and he said he is now suffering from back problems. He was arrested in North Korea in November after entering the nation with a group of tourists. Some reports say he was serving as a tour operator, while others say he was working as a Christian missionary.

In the interview, a weary-looking Bae said, "Although my health is not good, I am being patient and coping well. And I hope that with the help of the North Korean government and the United States, I will be released soon." The interview conducted by *Choson Shinbo* was made available to CNN.

The U.S. said it is in regular communication with the Embassy of Sweden in Pyongyang over the issue of Bae. The embassy serves as a protecting power for U.S. nationals in North

Korea. North Korea has denied access to Bae since May. However, the Swedish Embassy has requested consular access on numerous occasions since its last visit on May 21, according to the official.

The paper, which serves as a mouthpiece of Pyongyang, said it confirmed Bae's latest status after visiting the prison where he is being kept. *Choson Sinbo* said its reporter received approval from North Korean authorities to meet Bae on June 26.

Experts on North Korean affairs interpret the rare move by the North as an attempt to seek dialogue with the United States. It is not the first time that Pyongyang has tried to use the issue of a detained American as a means of urging talks with the U.S. North Korea managed to have former U.S. President Bill Clinton visit the country for the release of two American female reporters detained in 2009.

North Korea called in former President Jimmy Carter to discuss the release of Aijalon Mahli Gomes, an English teacher in South Korea who was sentenced to eight years of hard labor for crossing into the socialist country illegally in 2010. He was released on Aug. 27, 2010. The 30-year-old Gomes, from Boston, was the fourth American detained by North Korea for illegal entry in less than a year. Journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee were held for five months before their release in August 2009, and activist Robert Park was expelled some 40 days after crossing into the country on Christmas 2008.

It is also noteworthy that North Korea released the status of Bae not through its official news outlets such as the KCNA, but through *Choson Sinbo*, an indication that North Korea wants to utilize the detained American as a humanistic issue to press the U.S. for talks with Pyongyang. Yang Moo-jin, a political science professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul, said North Korea seems to be using Bae to create a favorable atmosphere for high-level talks between Pyongyang and Washington.

The special prison where Bae is being kept looks clean and relatively pleasant, according to the photos carried by *Choson Sinbo*. The paper said the 12-square-meter cell is equipped with a bed, desk and television. The photos of Bae's room show an electric fan, clean bedding and a desk, the complete opposite of ordinary cells for North Korean prisoners where a dozen inmates have to sleep piled up in a small room, which, as a matter of course, has no amenities such as a desk or a TV.

The paper said the special prison is exclusive for foreigners who commit anti-state crimes. Sources well informed in North Korean affairs said, however, the "special prison" for Bae seems to be a facility to show the outside world that the country treats prisoners in accordance with international standards and to conceal the severe human rights abuses committed in North Korean prisons.

North Korea experts in Seoul said there is a showcase "special prison" near Pyongyang which houses foreigners who are arrested for political reasons. North Korea brings international human rights bodies to the showcase foreigner prison when they visit North Korea to inspect human rights conditions, they said. (Yonhap News)

## NORTH KOREA'S NEW POWER ELITES AT THE FOREFRONT

**Kim Jong-un has put his stamp on the military with a significant reshuffle and shifted some power from the military to the ruling Workers' Party.**

■ By Lee Kwang-ho

Since North Korea's new leader Kim Jong-un succeeded power from his father Kim Jong-il, North Korea's power hierarchy has undergone many changes in the field of personnel affairs, characterized by the replacement of older generations with younger ones. The new power elites serve as the backbone of the new leadership of Kim Jong-un, who pursues a two-pronged policy of constructing nuclear and economic power.

Most of the new faces did not work as core members of the military or of the ruling party under former leader Kim Jong-il, who abruptly died in December 2011. Until recently, many of the rising stars have not been exposed to the public, but as of late their profiles have been slowly revealed.

### **Emergence of New Elites**

Since his ascension to power, Kim Jong-un has put his stamp on the military with a significant reshuffle and also shifted some power from the military to the Workers' Party of (North) Korea (WPK), a departure from his father's adamant "military-first" or *songun* political ideology, which favored the military in almost every way.

The new faces are less known, but used to be the close aides to the young leader when he was the hereditary power successor of the Kim dynasty, descending from North Korean founder Kim Il-sung, who died in 1994, to Kim Jong-il and then Kim Jong-un.

With the emergence of the new elites, the young leader is trying to consolidate his nascent power base through the personnel reshuffle, by

appointing them to the core posts. Kim's most visible achievement in the past year was replacing a string of high-ranking military officials. But this year, new names of the power echelon have begun to surface.

Rising stars from the military are colonel generals Son Chol-ju and Pak Jong-chon; lieutenant generals Yun Tong-hyon, Ju To-hyon, Ryom Chol-song, So Hung-chan, Kim Su-gil and An Ji-yong; and major general Rim Kwang-il.

Son Chol-ju, vice director of the Political Bureau of the (North) Korean People's Army (KPA), began accompanying Kim Jong-un's field inspection tours since April last year. He used to be core members of the political division at military units. This year alone, he aided the young leader's field inspections more than 20 times as of July. But it has not been confirmed yet what his exclusive duty is, but observers predict, as he was a political member of the KPA's field units, he must be the vice director in charge of either organization or propaganda of the KPA's General Political Bureau.

Pak Jong-chon's rise is notable, too. He began escorting the new leader more than 20 times since April last year. Pak accompanied the young leader not only to military units, but also to agricultural and economic facilities such as factories, orchards and even houses of scientists. He was known to be an artillery commander, but it is estimated that he was assigned to another important post in the North's power hierarchy.

More recently, the less-known military figures Jang Jong-nam and Ri Yong-gil were abruptly named the defense minister and operation bureau chief of the general staff of the KPA, respectively. It is common for the socialist country to keep the personnel shakeup under wraps until the North's state-run media outlets report the list of new names when they attend state functions and events.

## **Reshuffle of Key Military Posts**

In a similar case, Pyongyang's main media reported on May 13 that the country replaced its defense minister with a young, little-known three-star general, dismissing hard-liner Kim Kyok-sik. It was learned that Jang Jong-nam was appointed as the Minister of the People's Armed Forces.

Kim Kyok-sik, who is reportedly in his 70s, was former commander of the 4th Corps who choreographed the sinking of the Cheonan, a South Korean warship. He was also behind the deadly shelling of Yeonpyeong Island in 2010. Kim, a four-star general, was named defense minister in October last year.

The North's official media reported on May 13 that leader Kim Jong-un attended a musical performance by public security guards along with his wife Ri Sol-ju and other high-ranking officials, including the newly minted defense minister who was identified as Jang Jong-nam. Sources in Seoul said the new minister is in his 50s and is a member of a junior circle in the North Korean People's Army.

In December, North Korea held a military rally in front of the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun

in Pyongyang where a series of North Korean commanders swore their loyalty for their leader. At that time, Jang was introduced as a two-star general and the commander of the 1st Corps of the North Korean military. With the appointment of the new defense minister, all of the men in North Korea's key military posts are younger than 70, considered young for North Korean politics.

Right after he took power, Kim Jong-un attempted to purge the powerful military elite from the Kim Jong-il era, getting rid of army chief Ri Yong-ho, and first-deputy director of the State Security Department U Tong-chuk. Observers said Kim Jong-un restored power and the role of the ruling party, which had been crippled because of the strong military, and also appointed his confidants to all of the positions in the military, the party and the cabinet.

Ri Yong-ho, reportedly 71, was replaced by Hyon Yong-chol, an obscure 64-year-old general who was promoted to four stars in September 2010 along with Kim Jong-un. Kim Jong-gak, 72, chief of the General Political Bureau of the KPA, was replaced by Choe Ryong-hae, a close confidant of Kim Jong-un. Ri Yong-ho and Kim Jong-gak were ones of the seven power elite members who accompanied the hearse of late leader Kim Jong-il during his funeral in December 2011.

But hawkish Gen. Kim Kyok-sik was later named chief of the Army's General Staff. The North's official KCNA news agency reported on May 22 a visit to China by Vice Marshal Choe Ryong-hae, the military's top political officer, and mentioned that he was seen off by Kim Kyok-sik under his new title.

## Rise of New Figures

Outgoing army chief Hyon Yong-chol has apparently been moved to the 5th Corps in the central region. "It may look like a demotion, but he may have been given a special mission when he was appointed to lead frontline troops," said a military source in Seoul. The equally aggressive Kim Yong-chol, the director of the Reconnaissance General Bureau, has apparently been appointed vice army chief, according to the source.

The characteristics of the new faces are mostly from the working-level groups who did not previously hold core posts. Many of them were picked up by Kim Jong-un himself during his field inspections. This explains why his frequent tours to the military units and economic sites give an impression that the young leader is trying to reinforce his friendly image to the people.

Emerging from the ruling Workers' Party, meanwhile, are first-vice director Choe Hui, vice directors Pak Tae-song, Hong Yong-chil and Ma Won-chun. They are all less known and relatively young people. Choe Hui had worked for the ruling party as vice director of the organization and in the guidance department. Since May this year, he has been accompanying Kim Jong-un's open activities as the vice director of the party's organization guidance department. Others say Choe serves as vice director of the propaganda and information department.

The most notable figure is Pak Tae-song. He was introduced to the public for the first time

last August when Kim Jong-un made an inspection tour of Pyongyang's commercial Changjon streets. In June alone this year, Pak accompanied Kim on his inspection tours 20 times, the most frequent accompanying member of the entourage.

When North Korean media listed the names of officials who attended state functions, Pak was listed just after Choe Ryong-hae, the director of the KPA's General Political Bureau. Pak has been frequently known to the public since May 30 when he visited the international Boy Scout-like camp with leader Kim Jong-un.

Hong Yong-chil is also frequently listed as an entourage member of Kim Jong-un right after the country conducted its third underground nuclear test in February. He mostly toured with Kim Jong-un at the logistic meetings of the military and ammunition industry, a hint that he assumed a high-profile post such as at the party's mechanical industry department or at the No. 2 economic committee. Known to be in his early 50s, Hong has been touring with Kim Jong-un in the machinery factories and also artillery drill of the army units.

Ma Won-chun is known as the vice director of the finance and accounting department of the Workers' Party. Since May last year, he is frequently listed as an accompanying member of the North Korean leader's field trips.

Meanwhile, younger figures rose to main posts in the party when they had previously been assigned to inter-Korean affairs during the previous liberal South Korean governments of Kim Dae-jung and Roh Moo-hyun.

Among them are Kang Ji-yong, director of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea and also the vice director of the Unification Frontline Department of the party. Maeng Kyong-il is also a new face in the power group, who is known as the vice director of the United Frontline Department.

A source at Seoul's North Korea assistance organizations said that new faces are emerging in the arm of the North's organizations in charge of South Korean affairs. One of them is Kang Ji-yong, he said. In contrast to the rising figures, some of the aides close to Kim Jong-il are disappearing from the political scene.

After the successful launch of the long-range Unha-3 rocket in December, the stars of three party officials who are known to be rocket experts – called the Rocket Trio – are rising: Pak To-chun, a party secretary in charge of the war industry; Ju Kyu-chang, director of the party's machinery industry department; and Paek Se-bong, chairman of the party's Second Economic Commission.

Meanwhile, former North Korean leader Kim Jong-il's widow appears to have fallen victim to a purge by the new regime, Radio Free Asia said recently. Kim Ok and her father Kim Hyo, a senior official in the Workers' Party's Finance and Accounting Department, "have recently been dismissed from all their posts," RFA quoted an informed source as saying. "They may have fallen victim to a political purge." The defector-run radio station speculated that young leader Kim Jong-un has sacked his stepmother to tighten his own grip on power. (Yonhap News)

## AN OLD VETERAN'S TRAUMA ON KOREAN WAR

**Sixty years later, Nicolas Lopez came back to South Korea to see one of the most ferocious battle sites with other veterans from the U.N. forces.**

■ By Kim Eun-jung

Nicholas Lopez knew nothing about communism, even less about Korea. He started to work as a merchant seaman in Hawaii and joined the U.S. Army's Fifth Regimental Combat Team in 1948.

On a July morning in 1950, the 20-year-old, newly married man kissed his wife and left home, without knowing it would be the last kiss before he went off to a war in Korea.

"It was just any normal day of going to work," Lopez, now 83, said during an interview with Yonhap News Agency during a recent visit to Seoul at the invitation of the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs.

"No one knew we were going to Korea to fight a war that no one knew why. Not even our families knew we were going that day."

His unit was deployed to Korea to reinforce the U.S. Army in the shrinking area of United Nations control against North Korean forces, he later found out.

Aboard a ship at Pearl Harbor, Lopez received basic military training and learned how to use a machine gun. When he arrived in South Korea's southern port city of Busan, he drove a military convoy for senior officers.

Having been pushed to the brink of defeat, U.N. troops were rallied to make a final stand against the invading North Korean army at that time.

In the next 13 months, Lopez and his comrades fought the war inch by inch, mountain by mountain, advancing north of the 38th parallel line – a line drawn after the World War II to divide Korea between American and Soviet influence – and then being pushed back south of

it. The three-year-old conflict led to an eventual stalemate on the Korean Peninsula.

One of his memories of encountering North Korean soldiers lives on six decades later.

While Lopez was carrying ammunition to his unit and was holed up in mountain bunkers in the southern city of Masan, a North Korean soldier infiltrated and dropped a grenade.

“It blew out all of his insides, and one of the pieces hit my side,” he said.

Hit by one of the shrapnel fragments, Lopez passed out and hit his head on the embankment.

Although he didn’t bleed, he was sent to a hospital in Japan for treatment and was dispatched to the 68th Chemical Company of the Eighth U.S. Army in Seoul.

There, he made smoke screens over the Han River to cover the path of American soldiers retreating from North Korean forces. Housewives were washing clothes in the river bank when dead bodies were swept down from the upper river, he recalled.

Over a year later, Lopez returned home and rejoined his family. He lost a lot of buddies in Korea.

“When they sent me home, I didn’t realize I was going home,” he said. “I saw my son, and he was already one year old. It was the first time to see him.”

Years after he returned from the brutal battle, Lopez was in desperate condition and decided to end his life.

He hung himself from a banister, but his brother and sister found him and cut the rope. During those days, he would sweat at night and couldn’t sleep until 2 or 3 in the morning.

“I’d been dreaming bad dreams for years when I came back from Korea. I don’t think I could put up with what I did,” he said. “I didn’t want to remember all that.”

Later, he was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which many war veterans suffer long into their golden days.

While the former staff sergeant becomes forgetful about the number of kids he had with three spouses, Lopez says his dreams showed the exact numbers and days related to the Korean War. They rekindled guilt feelings related to his lost comrades as well.



Nicolas Lopez shows his autobiography, “No Regrets,” during an interview. (Yonhap Photo)

To find clues what he was going through, he was advised to write down whatever comes to his mind. That's how the retired boxer started writing.

"During those years, the first thing I did in the morning was to write down what I dreamed of," he said.

He wrote about his life from the early days, military service during two wars in Korea and Vietnam and boxing career to his search for true love after two divorces.

With two years of work, he last year published a 77-page autobiography titled "No Regrets." His story is about tragedy and triumph.

"Now it's kind of cleared up. I used to cry like a baby while watching war movies. But now, I can go to movie and watch it without crying," he said. "This book helped me to ease the pain."

Lopez hopes his book can help other soldiers suffering from post-war trauma overcome their ordeals.

Sixty years later, the old veteran came back to South Korea to see one of the most ferocious battle sites with other veterans from the U.N. forces as the country commemorated the 63rd anniversary of the outbreak of the war.

Although Lopez had a chance to revisit South Korea as a merchant seaman in the 1970s, his recent visit as a revered war veteran to Korea made him proud of what he had done to defend the country.

"When I came back (here) in the 1970s as a seaman, it wasn't like this. What happened was they made so much progress from the 1950s and the 1970s," he said. "And now, I thought I came back to paradise."

He was so amazed to observe high-story buildings and streets full of cars in the capital Seoul: the city only with dirt roads and mud houses has turned into something totally different.

Although many things have changed over the years, he said one thing hasn't changed since then: People are friendly like they were in those times.

"It (Korea) has come a long way. After 60 years to see it like this, that is a surprise," Lopez said. "I'm glad I came back."

Rethinking history, Lopez says regrets remain over the Korean War and its remaining legacy of a divided nation.

What if U.N. forces had repelled the North Korean army all the way up to the Yalu River, which is on the border with China, to make one Korea? What if China hadn't sent hundreds of thousands of its soldiers into the war to help the North Korean forces fight their way back to the South?

What's past is the past, he says.

Looking back on his tortuous life, the veteran says there's no regret, no tears.

"Everything went well, and it took a long time for me to get where I am at today."  
(Yonhap News)

# REALITY OF INHUMANE TREATMENT IN THE NORTH

**The inhumane treatment methods are often inflicted by security agents at the detention centers or correctional facilities.**

**H**arsh treatment methods such as beatings and torture are still reported to be prevalent at various detention and correctional facilities, including Correctional Centers, Labor Training Camps and Detention Facilities in North Korea. Some defectors witnessed cases where inhumane treatment resulted in serious injury, illness and even death.

These inhumane treatment methods are often inflicted by security agents at the detention centers or correctional facilities. According to one testimony, this practice became routine because security agents worried that if they inflicted harsh treatment themselves, complaints might be filed with them. However, this practice seems to be encouraged by the North Korean authorities who are mindful of outside criticism.

## **Correctional Center and Labor Training Camps**

Human rights violations, such as beatings and inhumane treatment, were pervasive in all Correctional Centers. In particular, numerous testimonies centered around the Jongori Correctional Center.

- Defector XXX testified that while he was detained in the Jongori Correctional Center in Hoeryong City, he was beaten with a rifle butt for helping a weak fellow inmate.

- Defector XXX testified that while he was detained in the Jongori Correctional Center in July 2009, he was unable to work due to fever. Because of this, an agent beat him and he suffered from back pain.

- Defector XXX testified that while he was detained in the Jongori Correctional Center in October 2010, he was beaten and kicked as punishment for having been caught giving corn to his cousin.

As in the Correctional Centers, incidents of beating in Labor Training

Camps were very frequent.

- Defector XXX testified that he saw his aunt XXX being beaten because of her poor work performance at the Labor Training Camp in February 2010.

- Defector XXX testified that on February 16, 2010, while he was detained in the Labor Training Camp in Kimchaek, North Hamgyong Province, he saw a fellow inmate beaten to death by a security agent because he had stolen and eaten goats feed (boiled corn).

- Defector XXX testified that during his detention in the Labor Training Camp located in the Mount Donghung region of Hamhung in March 2010, he saw fellow inmate XXX beaten. The security agents forced inmates to beat fellow inmates for fear that if the agents themselves inflicted the beating, complaints might be filed against them.

- Defector XXX testified that when he happened to see his next-door neighbor after her discharge from the Labor Training Camp in Dokchon County, South Phyongan Province in May 2010, she had been beaten so frequently that he could not recognize her face.

- Defector XXX testified that he heard that an inmate named Cho Myeong-seong beat fellow inmates at the instruction of agents inside the Labor Training Camp in Bukchang in August 2010.

- Defector XXX testified that while he was detained in the Labor Training Camp in Bocheon County, Ryanggang Province, in September 2010, he saw his group leader smash a fellow inmate XXX with a club for not following his instructions.

### **Short-Term Labor Detention Facilities**

Like Labor Training Camps, Short-Term Labor Detention Facilities are a type of detention facility not stipulated in the penal code. However, the level and frequency of human rights violations such as beatings in these centers is known to be very serious. Most defector testimonies singled out the situation in the provincial Short-Term Labor Detention Facility in Chongjin City, North Hamgyong Province.

The provincial Short-Term Labor Detention Facility in Chongjin City holds only those who were caught after crossing the border illegally. There are about 1,500 detainees in the center at any given time. These people are held until People's Security agents from their hometowns come to pick them up and escort them back to their respective hometowns. Those from Chongjin, Hoeryong, and other cities within the province are released within six months, but those from Phyongan and Hwanghae provinces have to wait for up to a year or more. Very few people from these inner provinces attempt to cross the border. Due to poor means of transportation to and from these provinces, Social Safety agents often neglect to pick up their residents in Short-Term Labor Detention Facilities even after being notified of their detention.

- Defector XXX testified that while she was in a Short-Term Labor Detention Facility in Sariwon, Hwanghae Province in 2008, she saw a People's Safety agent order a group leader to beat all of her fellow inmates because a female inmate refused to respond to his instructions to sing a song.

- Defector XXX testified that while he was detained in the provincial Short-Term Labor Detention Facility in Chongjin in August 2009, a fellow inmate called Sergeant XXX kicked and beat him because he did not work fast enough.

## Detention Facilities

Beating, torture, or harsh treatment as a form of punishment has been routine in the Ministry of People's Security Detention Facility.

- Defector XXX testified that when he was detained in the Safety Agency Detention Facility in Musan in April 2009, he saw X Jong-cheol, an investigation official between 36 and 40 years old, kick and beat XXX, a suspect, with a club. The suspect was detained in the Detention Facility on charges of bike theft. Defector X Jong-cheol inflicted inhumane treatment on the suspect, injuring his leg and causing him to limp. Later, the victim was sent to a Labor Training Camp. After four months of detainment in the camp, he eventually had the injured leg amputated.

- Defector XXX testified that while he was detained in the Security Agency Detention Facility in Hyesan City, his entire group experienced hazing punishment. They were ordered to stand at attention and were struck with fists.

- Defector XXX testified that when he was detained in the People's Safety Ministry's Detention Facility in the Potong River area of Pyongyang in July 2009, he saw XXX, a fellow detainee, deprived of sleep for three days and beaten by hand for half a day. The victim had been detained on drug possession charges after receiving drugs in exchange for lending 2,000 dollars to a security agent.

Many defectors have testified that serious incidents of human rights violations have occurred inside the Onsong County Security Agency. It appears that strict controls are being enforced at the detention points of the security agencies along the border as the number of defectors had increased. Maintaining order is said to have become more difficult but absolutely imperative. Other inhumane treatment, such forcing inmates to remain in fixed positions for long periods of time, can be imposed instead of forced labor.

- Defector XXX testified that while he was detained in the Security Agency Detention Facility in Onsong in 2000, he saw a security agent beat a fellow inmate for not telling the truth. Afterward, the inmate was hospitalized for a month.

- Defector XXX was detained in the Security Agency Detention Facility in Sinuiju in February 2011. Every time he wanted to go to the bathroom, he had to get a permission by asking "May inmate number XX in room XX go to the bathroom." He sometimes had to hold his hand up for thirty minutes before he received permission. After going to the bathroom, he also had to ask for permission to sit back down on the prison floor; again, he might be made to stand still for thirty minutes before permission was granted.

(This is an excerpt from White Paper on Human Rights in North Korea 2012 published by the Korea Institute for National Unification in Seoul, Korea)

## North Korea Heightens 'Memorial Fever' of Late Leader Kim Il-sung

**N. Korea held 'remembrance' rallies and commemorative events across the country while its state media mobilized to carry lavish coverage of Kim Il-sung.**

**N**orth Korea on July 8 marked the 19th anniversary of its founder's death with the country's leadership, people and media all paying respects to Kim Il-sung.

Amid deepening economic plight, North Korea held "remembrance" rallies and various commemorative events across the country while its state media mobilized to carry lavish coverage of Kim, depicting him as the "eternal leader" as a means of boosting the personality cult on the founder of the country.

Kim, who founded the socialist country in 1948, laid the foundation of the state before his death in July 8, 1994. He is immortalized in the North and remains the "Eternal President of the Republic" even after his death.

Highlighting the importance of the day, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, the founder's grandson, paid homage to Kim's remains at the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun in Pyongyang along with senior military officers at the stroke of midnight.

Kim's visit to the mausoleum marks the second in less than three months since

April 25, the founding day of the (North) Korean People's Army (KPA).

The day was also marked by editorials and articles carried by such media outlets as the (North) Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) and *Rodong Sinmun*, the organ of the Workers' Party of (North) Korea (WPK), which called on the people to defend and adhere to the patriotism, philosophy and achievements of the founder.

### Respects to Late Leader

The KCNA said, "Kim Jong-un, the first secretary of the WPK, first chairman of the National Defense Commission (NDC) and supreme commander of the KPA, visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun in Pyongyang to pay tribute to Generallissimos Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il at midnight on July 8, the greatest memorial day of the nation."

The KCNA said papers stress that the president was the peerless patriot, prominent elder statesman and father of socialist Korea who achieved undying feats before

Marking the 19th anniversary of the death of North Korean founder Kim Il-sung on July 8, a large crowd of North Koreans pays homage to Kim's remains preserved at the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun in Pyongyang. (KCNA-Yonhap Photo)



the country and people with his profound ideology and theory, rare leadership ability and gigantic revolutionary practice.

*Rodong Sinmun* said Kim's idea and exploits serve as the driving power helping the DPRK (North Korea) dignified with independence make a dynamic advance along the road of prosperity, demonstrating its might by dint of Songun (military-first) politics.

The paper said the feats performed by President Kim Il-sung will be praised along with the development of the human cause of independence.

The paper said the greatest exploit made by him for the country and revolution is that he provided a sure guarantee for successfully carrying forward and completing the revolutionary cause of *juche* generation after generation, justifying the hereditary succession of power for three generations on to Kim Jong-un.

The paper carried seven color photos of Kim Il-sung taken during the 1980s and

1990s on the entire second page. The paper has carried Kim's photos and stories about him from the beginning of July, introducing him as a benevolent leader of the people and a prominent and devoted revolutionist.

*Minju Joson*, the government paper of North Korea, stressed that "very bright and rosy is the future of the (North) Korean revolution, which advances under the leadership of the dear respected Kim Jong-un, holding the President (Kim Il-sung) and leader Kim Jong-il as the sun of *juche* and *songun* in high esteem."

More stories eulogizing the founder were carried the next day. The KCNA said on July 9 President Kim gave field guidance to a great number of farms to boost the country's grain output and rendered active assistance to developing countries in separate stories.

Besides calls for loyalty and remembrance, memorial services and events celebrating Kim's achievements took place all

across the country, sponsored by the military, youth and women's groups.

The KCNA said senior officials of the party and state, chairpersons of friendly parties and party officials, armed forces and power organs, working people's organizations, ministries and national institutions visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun on July 8, the greatest memorial day of the nation, to pay homage to President Kim Il-sung and leader Kim Jong-il.

Diplomatic envoys of different countries, representatives of international organizations and the military attaches corps in Pyongyang also visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun to pay tribute to Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il on the 19th anniversary of demise of Kim Il-sung. An endless stream of service personnel, people from all walks of life, and youth and students visited the park in the plaza of the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the KCNA said.

## Arirang Performance

Floral tribute was paid to the statues of President Kim Il-sung in different parts of the country on the anniversary. North Koreans visited statues of Kim Il-sung and leader Kim Jong-il on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang and paid the highest tribute to them.

Pyongyang, meanwhile, claimed condolences flowed in from such countries as Russia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal and Ethiopia while papers and radio services of various countries carried special write-ups and made special reports to commemorate the 19th anniversary of demise of Kim.

North Korea also held various concerts and performances, including a remembrance concert, "The Leader Will Always Be with Us," given by the National Symphony Orchestra at the Moranbong Theatre in Pyongyang on July 8.

North Korea also will likely place an emphasis on propagandizing Kim Il-sung's feats during its performance of "Arirang" mass gymnastics to begin from later July although this year's performance is titled to commemorate the 60th anniversary of "the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War."

The grand gymnastic and artistic performance "Arirang," a winner of the Kim Il-sung Prize, will be given here as part of galas to mark the 65th birthday of the DPRK and the 60th anniversary of the (North) Korean people's victory in the Korean War (June 25, 1950-July 27, 1953), the KCNA said, adding that the performance will begin at May Day Stadium in Pyongyang on July 22.

"The upcoming performance will focus on the undying feats President Kim Il-sung performed in winning the Fatherland Liberation War against the U.S. imperialist aggressors who boasted of being 'the strongest' in the world," the KCNA quoted Kim Kum-ryong, the chief director of the state preparatory committee for the performance, as saying.

"It will also feature the feats performed by leader Kim Jong-il to turn the DPRK into a satellite manufacturing and launching state, and a nuclear state as well as the achievements scored in the country under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea," Kim Kum-ryong told the KCNA. (Yonhap News)

## North Korea Steps up Propaganda Offensives on Korean War Anniversary

**N. Korea held a series of massive rallies and various commemorative events to promote its propaganda for the “anti-U.S. joint struggle.”**

**N**orth Korea has stepped up its propaganda efforts to blame the United States as the starter of the Korean War in 1950 with the June 25 anniversary of the outbreak of the three-year conflict approaching in an apparent move to bolster its strategic policy of pursuing economic construction and nuclear arms buildup simultaneously and to press the U.S. to comply with its persistent call to discuss the introduction of a peace regime in the Korean Peninsula.

On June 21, *Rodong Sinmun*, the organ of the Workers' Party of (North) Korea (WPK), denounced the U.S. of misleading the truth by falsely accusing North Korea that it provoked the Korean War. The paper claimed the U.S. imperialists had made precise preparations to provoke a war (against North Korea) since it landed in South Korea in September 1945 as part of its ambition to dominate the whole Korea.

On June 23, *Rodong Sinmun* again accused Washington of starting the 1950-53 Korean War and called the superpower a “criminal” for discarding the Armistice

Agreement that halted the conflict. It also said Washington is the “real culprit” behind the current nuclear crisis.

The daily, which effectively reflects the views of the communist country's leadership, claimed that the joint military exercises carried out around the Korean Peninsula by South Korea, the United States and Japan are all aimed at waging war against Pyongyang. It said Washington's hostile policy stance against the North is the root cause behind peace and stability being threatened in the region.

On the eve of the June 25 anniversary, North Korea's History Society released a memorandum that the KCNA said disclosed the “true colors of the U.S. imperialists as provokers of the Korean War with the approach of the 60th anniversary of the victory in the great Fatherland Liberation War.” “The U.S. is the chieftain of aggression as it sparked the inter-Korean confrontation and fratricidal war in Korea,” the memorandum said.

North Korea also held a series of massive rallies attended by citizens, soldiers, farmers and workers, and various com-

memorative events to promote its propaganda for the “month of anti-U.S. joint struggle” from June 25 through July 27, when the Korean War Armistice was signed in 1953.

North Korea arranged a trip to the truce village of Panmunjom for the military attaches corps in Pyongyang. The military attaches also were invited to a movie screening event where they watched a documentary film titled “Provokers of the Korean War.”

On June 25 a mass rally took place at Kim Il-sung Square in Pyongyang with the senior party, state officials and foreign diplomats in attendance. Among them were Premier Pak Pong-ju; WPK secretaries Kim Ki-nam, Choe Thae-bok and Kim Yang-gon; and Yang Hyong-sop, the vice president of the Supreme People’s Assembly Presidium.

During the rally speakers said that the U.S. imperialists ignited the Korean War for the sinister purpose of stifling the DPRK (North Korea) and dominating the world, adding that they hurled into it huge armed forces for aggression, the South Korean puppet army and troops of their 15 satellite countries, reducing everything of this land to ashes and committing the most barbaric and inhumane crimes in the world history of wars, according to the KCNA.

The rally was followed by a mammoth demonstration. There were similar rallies in major North Korean cities and provinces. It has been an annual event for North Korea to accuse the U.S. around June 25 of starting the Korean War but the propaganda offensives this year will likely be much more intense than previous years, North

Korea watchers in Seoul said.

While accusing the U.S. as the starter of the Korean War, North Korea called for a permanent peace arrangement to replace the cease-fire armistice on June 25, which marks the 63rd anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War. *Rodong Sinmun* said in a front-page editorial that it is of the utmost importance that every effort is made to remove the nuclear threat posed by the United States. It said such a step can be taken if a lasting, peace regime is created.

The report monitored in Seoul stressed the U.S. must halt all military exercises and desist from future hostile activities. It added that South Korea must respect promises made at the first and second bilateral summit talks by leaders of the two countries in 2000 and 2007.

In a separate article, the paper said that all people must never forget the Korean conflict and realize that the U.S. will never change, and that any calls for North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons are aimed at removing Washington’s main obstacle in meeting its “endless greed and ambition.”

The North has persistently maintained that the United States started the three-year war that devastated the peninsula.

North Korea seems to want to stress the situation on the Korean Peninsula is still in a state of uneasiness and is likely to push ahead with its previous logic that a peace agreement should be concluded. When it proposed high-level talks with the United States on June 16, North Korea included the transfer of the armistice to a peace treaty in the agenda of the talks, experts said. (Yonhap News)

## <Internal Affairs>

### **N. Korean Leader Calls for Drive to Produce Modern Machines**

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un called for “a dynamic drive” to produce modern machines during his visit to a machinery manufacturing plant, the North’s state-run news agency said on June 17.

“(Kim) gave field guidance to the machine plant managed by Ho Chol-yong. Going round the processing and assembling shops, he learned in detail about the production and modernization of the plant,” the (North) Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

The leader also visited the plant, believed to be in North Phyongan Province, in January and on May Day last year.

Kim “called on the relevant units to wage a dynamic drive to provide updated machine parts of the Korean style,” the KCNA said, adding that the leader stressed the importance of producing more effective and user-friendly machines and parts.

“He said the plant is of weighty importance in the nation’s machine-building industry and the (governing) Workers’ Party of Korea attaches great importance to it,” the report also quoted Kim as saying.

Kim, accompanied by several top-rank military and party officials, also toured a kindergarten and a health complex belonging to the plant during the visit, according to the report.

The visit is seen as reflecting one of the top priorities the leader has put on the development of the national economy. (Yonhap News)

### **Repatriated Defectors Make Appearance on N. Korean TV**

Nine young North Koreans who were forced to return home after being arrested in Laos for illegal entry appeared on North Korean television on June 21, claiming that they were kidnapped to defect to South Korea.

The North Koreans, aged between 15-23, were rounded up in Laos on May 10. On May 27, they were expelled to China, where they were subsequently deported to their home country.

The youngsters, neatly dressed and wearing lapel pins of the North’s founding leader Kim Il-sung and his son, Kim Jong-il, explained how they ended up in Laos and their reported journey back home.

Their accounts of the episode were contrary to what have been reported by South Korean and other international human rights activists who helped them in the escape from the North.

During the 26-minute talk show, the youngsters claimed that during several months of

their stay in China, they lived in hiding in an apartment arranged by a South Korean Christian missionary who they claimed “hurt” them.

However, they gave no details of the hardship they claimed they had gone through at the apartment.

At the end of the talk show, they, standing stiffly at attention, sang a song pledging loyalty to North Korea’s current leader Kim Jong-un.

Meanwhile, North Korean watchers in Seoul said that judging by the fact that there was no hesitation or slip of the tongue throughout the interview, they may have been trained well by their handlers after they were brought back to Pyongyang on May 28.

About 25,000 North Koreans have so far defected to South Korea mostly through China, since the end of the Korean War in 1953. Southeast Asian countries have recently emerged as a major transit point for those would-be North Korean defectors.

The two Koreas are technically at war, with no peace treaty signed at the end of the Korean conflict. (Yonhap News)

## **N. Korea to Offer Max 50 Years Lease on Land in Economic Zones**

**N**orth Korea will offer a maximum 50 year lease on land for the economic development zones it wants to set up across the country to spur outside investment, an analysis of a propaganda magazine monitored in Seoul showed on June 23.

Close examination of the May 29 edition of the *Tongil Sinbo*, a weekly magazine that highlights activities taking place in the isolationist country, revealed the lease system.

The 50-year scheme for development zones is on par with land lease favors offered by Pyongyang to businesses operating in the Kaesong Industrial Complex and the Rason Economic and Trade Zone. The plan can offer assurances to investors, which can be a critical incentive.

Kaesong is just north of the demilitarized zone, while Rason is located in the country’s northeastern region near the border with China and Russia.

In addition, the weekly said companies will be able to freely buy and sell rights on buildings and land in the economic zones and even hand over property deeds with a clause being fixed that can allow the present rights holder to release it to a third party. Development of land leased can be assisted by North Korean state organizations and companies.

The weekly said Pyongyang has set corporate tax rates for these zones at 14 percent of earnings after the settlement of accounts, with the government pledging the safety of all foreigners in the special zones under North Korean law.

In regards to where the development zones will be set up, the weekly said the North will give priority to areas that can trade easily with the outside world, a region that can contribute to the advancement of the national economy, and a location that is separate from local residences.

The report said that all authority for the new development zones will be given to a centralized economic oversight organization to make it easier for investors to talk to authorities and receive administrative assistance. (Yonhap News)

## North Korean Students Win International Programming Contest

A team of North Korean student programmers has won a global programming contest on the Internet, the North's state media said on June 28.

The group of four students from Kimchaek University of Technology, the country's top engineering school in Pyongyang, took the head spot in the June competition of Codechef, a monthly programming contest hosted by an Indian software company, *Rodong Sinmun* reported.

In lauding their successful debut in the competition, the newspaper described the online event as a test ground for "intellectual potentials" of participating countries.

"Such outstanding performances that our university students have achieved point to the proud development of the *juche* education and signal the bright future of the *juche* science technology," *Rodong Sinmun* said. The *juche* spirit of "self-reliance" is the dictating ideology of North Korea.

More than 3,400 teams from some 100 countries globally entered the 10-day competition, which took place in mid-June, according to its website.

North Korea is considered an IT powerhouse with significant cyber warfare capabilities, although the vast majority of its civilians are known to be deprived of technology and Internet access. (Yonhap News)

## N. Korea Stresses Measures to Prevent Flood Damage in Rainy Season

North Korea has stressed the establishment of measures to prevent flooding during the rainy season this summer. North Korea has suffered flood damages almost every year which aggravates the country's already severe food shortage.

*Rodong Sinmun*, the organ of the ruling Workers' Party of (North) Korea, carried five articles dedicated to the prevention of flood damages in almost half of its fifth page on July 5.

In a story titled "anti-damage measures prepared with innovative insight," the paper said construction to double the width of a river in Kumya County, South Hamgyong Province, was carried out last winter to control flooding and that water levels of several streams in the region now can be controlled thanks to the embankment of a hydraulic power plant in the Kumya River.

The newspaper introduced anti-disaster efforts in co-op farms in Mundok County, South Phyongan Province, and in Unjon County of North Phyongan Province and a fruit farm in

Sariwon, Hwanghae Province.

*Rodong Sinmun* also asked the people to take good care of livestock and poultry during the rainy spell and to thoroughly disinfect their living quarters in order to prevent animal disease epidemics.

Earlier on June 18, the paper urged residents to prepare thorough measures to prevent flood damage in an editorial. It said the country is having much more precipitation these days than before and that there will likely be heavy rains and typhoons this summer.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency reported last year that 560 people were killed or listed missing by torrential rains and floods which hit the country from late June to late July. The damages also included destruction of 8,600 homes and the flooding of 65,000 hectares of farm land. In addition, 212,000 people were left homeless.

The (North) Korean Central TV Broadcasting Station, which airs TV programs nationwide, released a program titled "measures to protect farm crops during the rainy season" on July 4. (Yonhap News)

## **N. Korea Steps up Measures for Better Treatment of Scientists**

**N**orth Korea is ramping up efforts to give better treatment to its scientists and engineers under the new leader in hope of spurring the development of the science and technology sectors.

In an editorial on July 5, *Rodong Sinmun*, the organ of the North's ruling Workers' Party, called on party officials to ensure the comforts of the technocrat workers and to refrain from mobilizing them to irrelevant activities that may distract their research.

"The success of the two-pronged policy line hinges on the rapid progress of science and technology," the editorial said. Pyongyang has pursued the two-track strategic line of developing the economy and its nuclear capabilities simultaneously since new leader Kim Jong-un gained power.

In line with such efforts, a special residential complex for scientists and engineers is under construction in the suburbs of Pyongyang, according to the North's other media reports. The new estate will accommodate hospitals, schools, amenities and parks for some 1,000 families of scientists and engineers, the reports said.

During his recent visit to the construction site, Kim Jong-un ordered officials to "build the best houses for our scientists," and said he will personally inspect them upon completion to see if they are up to his high standard, according to the state media.

North Korea watchers point out that the socialist country wants to instill strong pride and confidence in its scientists and engineers.

Hundreds of scientists and technicians had been awarded honorary titles, medals and prizes after the North successfully carried out the December rocket launch and a nuclear test in February. (Yonhap News)

## Pyongyang Honors 52nd Anniversary of Sino-North Amity Pact

North Korea on July 11 marked the 52nd anniversary of an alliance treaty with China with high publicity in a bid to squelch views that the two countries' long-standing ties are showing signs of wavering.

To mark the anniversary, North Korea hosted a special reception at Okryu Restaurant in Pyongyang a day earlier, inviting the Chinese Ambassador to North Korea Liu Hongchai, and a return banquet was held on the following day by the Chinese Embassy in the North at the Pyongyang Koryo Hotel, according to the North's official KCNA.

In the special reception hosted by the (North) Korean Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Central Committee of the (North) Korea-China Friendship Association, Minister of Public Health Kang Ha-guk emphasized that consolidating the Sino-North Korean relationship had been the "noble wish" of late leaders Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il and is still a matter of deep interest to the incumbent leader Kim Jong-un.

Kang, who also heads the friendship association, said, "The treaty has helped the two countries accelerate their socialist construction and protect the regional peace and stability since its conclusion," according to the KCNA.

North Korea and China signed the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance on July 11, 1961, which centered on mandating automatic intervention if either side came under a military attack.

In addition, *Rodong Sinmun*, the organ of the North's ruling Workers' Party, carried a special editorial on July 11 asserting the close-knit relationship between the two neighboring allies.

Citing North Korean Vice Marshal Choe Ryong-hae's recent trip to China as an example, the newspaper said ongoing cooperation and exchange between Pyongyang and Beijing is "clear evidence that the treaty's spirit of friendship, cooperation and favorable assistance is alive and steadfast even after the turn of the century."

The North's other state-run TV and radio stations joined the commemoration by airing a special documentary film parading the intimacy between Kim Il-sung and late Chinese leader Mao Zedong, and broadcasting the state's commemorative messages intended for the Chinese public. (Yonhap News)

## N. Korea Holds Cabinet Meeting to Encourage Economic Achievements

North Korea's Cabinet recently held an enlarged session of its plenary meeting to review the country's economic achievements and encourage the economic plan for the latter half of the year, the North's media reported on July 15.

Premier Pak Pong-ju presided over the meeting, where the participants resolved to carry out the nation's important tasks by working hard. One task that received special note was

the “Masik Pass,” which those in attendance pledged to construction with speed, according to the North’s official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

The Masik Pass, or Masikryong, is a massive construction site near the scenic Mount Kumgang area, which is slated to be developed into a “world famous” ski resort and tourist site.

In June, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un sent a letter of appeal to all service personnel, titled “Let Us Create the ‘Masikryong Speed’ and Usher in New Heyday on All Fronts for Socialist Construction.”

Kim Jong-un stressed that the construction of the Masik Pass Skiing Ground must be completed by the end of the year, saying that all people at all construction sites should respect the creative spirit of the “Masikryong speed.”

The Cabinet meeting also reviewed the fulfillment of the national economic plan for the first half of the year and discussed measures to successfully carry out the national economic plan for this year’s third quarter.

Participants at the Cabinet meeting noted that the reclaimers of the Sepho tableland made shining achievements with the goal to reclaim more than 50,000 hectares of grassland and to finish the construction of a stock-breeding management center within this year.

Fresh successes and innovations are being made in the construction of major projects including the construction of the Chongchongang Power Stations and apartment houses for scientists, they said. (Yonhap News)

## <External Affairs>

### North Korea Slams U.S. for Stirring Nuclear Arms Race

Just one day after North Korea proposed high-level talks with the United States, the socialist country on June 17 criticized U.S. efforts to develop its own nuclear arsenal, saying it is triggering an international arms race.

U.S. President Barack Obama has declared international efforts to reduce arms, but the country is still seeking to modernize its own nuclear weapons, the North’s main newspaper *Rodong Sinmun* said in an article.

In response to U.S. nuclear development, other member countries of the United Nations Security Council are seeking to modernize their own nuclear warheads and vehicles, the newspaper said, arguing that the U.S. is stirring the international arms race.

The newspaper also denounced the U.S. for heavily meddling in Iran’s nuclear activities while turning a blind eye to Israel’s possession of nuclear weapons. “(The world) should end the U.S. policy to dominate the world through nuclear weapons possession,” it said.

Analysts said the article's reference to Obama's Nobel Peace Prize-winning efforts to make the world nuclear-free may have been to help induce the U.S. to accept the North's offer to talks.

On June 16, the socialist country proposed holding high-level talks with the U.S. over security issues, including denuclearization. There is little prospect of the talks taking place, with the U.S. saying that the North should first show sincere actions before sitting at the negotiating table. (Yonhap News)

## **N. Korea Threatens to Punish Defectors Who Slander Leader, Regime**

**N**orth Korea's security agency on June 19 threatened to punish defectors for slander after a defector-run news site claimed the North has been spreading Nazi ideology to its people.

In a special statement, the Ministry of the People's Security warned it will take "substantial measures to physically remove" those committing treasonous acts at the instigation of the South Korea and the United States.

The threat carried by the Korean Central News Agency monitored in Seoul said that South Korea's Park Geun-hye administration is openly supporting organizations made up of defectors who attack the North.

The ministry cited an article published by New Focus, an Internet-based news source in Seoul that is published by defectors, which claimed Kim Jong-un presented senior ruling Workers' Party officials with copies of Adolf Hitler's autobiography "Mein Kampf" early this year. The article that received coverage by South Korean and U.S. media also said Pyongyang and its leadership is trying to learn from the experiences gained in the building of Hitler's Third Reich following the World War I.

It said the New Focus article constituted a heinous crime because it belittled the "great personality of the leader of the DPRK (North Korea)."

The ministry, which is equivalent to a national police agency, said such reporting by defectors has inflamed and outraged the North Korean army and the people. (Yonhap News)

## **Kim Kye-gwan Returns Home after Visit to China**

**N**orth Korea's First-vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye-gwan returned home on June 22, the North's state media reported, following a trip to China that raised hopes for a possible resumption of six-party talks aimed at ending the North's nuclear programs.

Kim Kye-gwan and his party returned home after visiting China, the North's official KCNA said in a brief report, monitored in Seoul.

The report gave no further details except to say that he met in Beijing with Yang Jiechi,

state councilor of China, and Wang Yi, Chinese foreign minister, respectively on June 21.

Kim's trip sparked new hopes for resumption of the six-way talks as he noted that denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula was a dying wish of the North's late leaders – Kim Il-sung and his son Jong-il.

The six-party forum has been suspended for over four years amid high military tensions on the Korean peninsula, exacerbated by the North's rocket launch in December and its third nuclear test in February. The talks involve both South and North Korea, the United States, China, Japan and Russia.

Kim's trip to China came shortly after Pyongyang proposed high-level talks with the United States and ahead of a scheduled summit meeting in Beijing between South Korean President Park Geun-hye and Chinese President Xi Jinping in late June.

The U.S. has rejected the North's offer for high-level talks, urging the socialist country to show by action, not words, its sincerity toward denuclearization. (Yonhap News)

## **North Korea Slams South Korea for Releasing Summit Transcript**

**N**orth Korea launched into a tirade on June 27 against South Korea's recent declassification of a transcript of an inter-Korean summit in 2007.

A North Korean agency handling inter-Korean affairs accused the South's conservative forces of attempting to use the secret documents for political purposes and further undermining summit deals on inter-Korean reconciliation between then-leaders Roh Moo-hyun and Kim Jong-il.

"The group's unilateral opening to public the summit minutes without approval of the North is a mockery of the dignity of its supreme leadership and a grave provocation to the dialogue partner," the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of (North) Korea (CPRK) said in a English-version statement carried by the North's official KCNA.

Earlier, the National Intelligence Service (NIS), South Korea's top state spy agency, released a verbatim transcript of the Roh-Kim meeting despite strong resistance from the main opposition party.

According to the transcript, Roh proposed a Yellow Sea peace zone to replace the Northern Limit Line (NLL), the de-facto sea border between the two sides. The controversial line is a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended in a ceasefire, not a formal peace treaty.

The North has long sought to nullify the NLL, while South Koreans believe it should be kept until a lasting peace mechanism is established on the peninsula.

The North's committee described the NLL as a "bogus line." "As far as the issue of the 'northern limit line' in the West Sea touted by the conservative group is concerned, it is a bogus line because even its architect American master recognized it as an illegal one. It is, therefore, preposterous to vociferate about its 'defence' and 'preservation,'" it argued.

It accused the South Korean intelligence body of making public the minutes in order to distract public attention from its alleged intervention in the 2012 presidential elections.

“By origin, the summit minutes are handled as top secret in any country and they have been strictly kept secret as ‘minutes of president’ in South Korea, too,” the committee said. (Yonhap News)

## **North Korea Holds Military Talks with Cuba in Havana**

**T**op military officials from North Korea and Cuba met in Havana to reaffirm their long-time alliance, the North’s state media said on July 2.

The visiting North Korean military delegation headed by Kim Kyok-sik, the chief of staff of the KPA, discussed with Cuba’s armed forces chief Leopoldo Cinta Frias ways to bolster the military and diplomatic ties between the two countries, the KCNA reported.

The talks proceeded in a cordial fashion, according to the report. The North’s delegation had left Pyongyang for Cuba on June 26.

The close alliance between the two socialist countries dates back to 1986 when Cuban leader Fidel Castro made the first state visit to Pyongyang on invitation of the North Korean founder Kim Il-sung. Sharing a common view on their military-oriented political system and a negative view on the United States, the two countries have since held military talks regularly.

The last two military talks between the two countries took place in April and October 2011, during which then top North Korean military chief Ri Yong-ho met Alvaro Lopez Miera, the first-vice minister of the Cuban armed forces. (Yonhap News)

## **U.N. Chief’s Adviser Visits North Korea for Four Days**

**A** delegation led by the special adviser for U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on sports and peace visited North Korea for four days starting July 6, the North’s media reported.

The delegation led by Wilfried Lemke, Ban’s special adviser on sports for development and peace, arrived in Pyongyang on July 6, the North’s official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said in a one-sentence dispatch.

The KCNA gave no other details, including the purpose of the U.N. official’s visit but his title indicates that he may try to promote peace on the Korean Peninsula through sports exchanges.

A day before, South Korea approved the entry of the North Korean women’s national football team to play in a continental tournament in July.

The North Korean team arrived in Seoul via Beijing on July 18 for the July 20-28 East Asian Cup tournament.

The move came a day before officials from the two Koreas were to hold a rare meeting to

discuss ways to reopen a joint industrial complex in the North that has remained shut down for nearly three months.

The Koreans remain technically at war, since the 1950-53 Korean War ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty.

Meanwhile, the special adviser visited North Korea at the invitation of the socialist country, a news report said on July 9, pointing to Pyongyang's efforts to promote sports diplomacy.

The special adviser was on a four-day visit to the North at the request of the North Korean regime, Washington-based Radio Free Asia (RFA) said, citing U.N. deputy spokesman Eduardo del Buey.

Eduardo del Buey said the special adviser was to discuss ways to promote sports for women and disabled people, meet with high-ranking officials and tour sports facilities during the visit. (Yonhap News)

## <Inter-Korean Relations>

### S. Korea Invites N. Korea to 2014 Incheon Asian Games

South Korea has invited North Korea to attend next year's Asian Games to be held in the western port city of Incheon, a senior government official said on June 18.

"We asked North Korea to participate in the 2014 Incheon Asian Games some two months ago via the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)," Park Jong-gil, the second vice minister of culture, sports and tourism, told reporters.

"We also conveyed our hope via other channels for inviting not only its athletes but supporters," he said. "The North has yet to make any response, but I expect to hear good news from Pyongyang soon."

Inter-Korean relations remain soured after an agreement to hold their first high-level talks in six years unraveled on June 11 due to a dispute over the level of chief delegates that were to attend the meeting.

Earlier June, Incheon Mayor Song Young-gil made an official request to OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah and Prince Ali Bin Al-Hussein of Jordan, FIFA's vice president, for their cooperation in inviting the socialist North to the upcoming sporting event in his city, just west of Seoul.

The 2014 Asian Games, the 17th of its kind, is scheduled to take place in Incheon for 16 days from Sept. 19, with 437 events in 36 sports.

Incheon was awarded the right in 2007 defeating Delhi, India, to become the third city in South Korea to host the Asian Games after Seoul (1986) and Busan (2002).

Pyongyang competed in the 2002 Busan Games, dispatching 184 athletes and more than 100 supporters. It marked the first time that the North took part in an international competition held in the South since the armistice that halted the Korean War (1950-53).

North Korea did not apply to participate in the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games held eight days in Incheon from June 29, 2013, becoming one of three countries out of 45 OCA members choosing not to take part, along with East Timor and Afghanistan. (Yonhap News)

## **N. Korea Calls for Talks on Family Reunion, Mount Kumgang Tours**

**N**orth Korea has called for talks on resuming programs to reunite families separated by the Korean War and restarting South Korean tours to a scenic mountain resort in the North, the South Korean government said on July 10.

The North proposed that talks on Mount Kumgang tours take place on July 10 and the family unions on July 19, Seoul's unification ministry spokesman Kim Hyung-suk said.

He said that the North wanted the talks on family reunion and Mount Kumgang to be held either in the North's border city of Kaesong or at Mount Kumgang.

The two proposals came from different North Korean organizations. The North's Korean Asia-Pacific Peace Committee, a party organization, requested for the Mount Kumgang tours to be resumed, while the country's Red Cross suggested that the family reunions take place around the Chuseok holiday. Chuseok, considered the Korean equivalent of Thanksgiving Day, falls on Sept. 19 this year.

The spokesman said that the talks on Mount Kumgang tours should be put off until the ongoing talks on reopening the Kaesong complex are concluded. "It is advisable at present to focus on Kaesong," he said, effectively rejecting the North's proposal on the cross-border tour.

He said that in light of the pressing need to alleviate the plight of the separated family members, the government accepted the North's proposal for talks on family reunions, but suggested that the meeting take place at the Peace House in the border village of Panmunjom.

North Korea, however, with drew proposal for family union and talks on Mount Kumgang tours on July 11.

Millions of Koreans have been separated since the three-year Korean War ended in 1953. A few thousand of them had temporarily reunited.

The tours to Mount Kumgang, launched in 1998, has been suspended since 2008 when a South Korean tourist was shot dead.

Seoul has since demanded the North provide assurances that no more innocent civilians be hurt, but the North has maintained that the tourist was killed because she entered a restricted area.

A government official raised suspicions that the North may have some motive in making the proposals, but declined to elaborate. (Yonhap News)

# FOOD SITUATION FACING NORTH KOREA UNDER THE KIM JONG-UN REGIME: CURRENT SITUATION AND PROSPECTS

## I. Introduction

The international community had mixed feelings about new North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, the third son of late former leader Kim Jong-il, when he made his debut on the North Korean political scene in September 2010 in his capacity as successor-designate. But today, one year after the inauguration of his regime, worries are growing about him among North Korea watchers in Seoul and elsewhere. Gone is the favorable international view that the young Kim, believed to be in his late 20s, had rapidly built himself a firm power base, sweeping away widespread concerns about socio-political unrest in the country following the death of his father in December 2011. Today, there is a growing view in the international community that the young leader could be playing with fire due to his uncertain political base.

For a short period following the official inauguration of the Kim Jong-un regime in April 2012, North Korea attempted to implement various reform measures, including giving more authority to the premier-led Cabinet over economic management. It was then that many North Korea watchers in Seoul and elsewhere shared the view that the young leader was showing a more practical posture with intent of opening-up to the international community. Some experts even opined that the North may be taking active steps to substantially open-up its economic sector. At the turn of July 2012, rumors were even being spread that the North might take reform measures regarding its agricultural

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sector in the near future. The North Korean authorities concerned reportedly held classes to teach officials from both the government and the Workers' Party of (North) Korea (WPK), the North Korean version of the Communist Party, about a new economic management system.

The new economic management system, dubbed the "June 28 New Economic Measure," which the North reportedly attempted to put into force on June 28 of last year, contains an array of reform measures affecting the operation formula for various business and industrial sectors. To put the new economic management system into operation, North Korea reportedly selected two officials each from all provincial, county and city governments, plus WPK chapters, in addition to two officials each from the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), the head and branch offices of the central bank, the People's Security Ministry, and the Central and Public Procurators' Offices for one month of education on the reform measures last October. There were even rumors that the North would establish an office the following month responsible for monitoring the implementation of the reform measures.<sup>1)</sup> Many North Korea watchers expected the sixth session of the 12th-term Supreme People's Assembly (SPA), the North's rubber-stamp parliament, held on Sept. 25 of last year, to have dealt with the new economic measure and taken policy steps to implement it. But there were no North Korean reports on any SPA move in that direction despite the rumors that the SPA Presidium has dealt with the reform measures in a close-door meeting.<sup>2)</sup>

Reportedly, North Korea has planned to

introduce the new economic management system into the agricultural sector this year. The reforms calling for a reduction in the number of members of a work squad from 15-20 to 4-6 and allowing the work squad to take 30 percent of its products, minus its repayment of fertilizers and other inputs in loans from the state, while the remaining 70 percent will go to the state.

## **II. Food Situation in North Korea under Kim Jong-un's Leadership and Prospects for This Year**

### **1. Estimates on North's Production of Food Grain in Food Year 2011-12**

Even North Korea watchers in Seoul have to depend on estimates made by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), both specialized agencies of the United Nations, or the Rural Development Administration (RDA) in their country, should they get statistical data on the production of food grain in the North. This is because the North rarely announces farming data. The FAO/WFP data on the North's food production for year 2011-12 is comprised of estimates for the 2011 main season harvest and the forecast for 2012 early season crops. The special report of the FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission to North Korea on Nov. 25, 2011 is the sole source of data on the North's food production for year 2011-12. This is because the RDA has not announced data regarding the food situation facing the North in recent years.

When a rice paddy is converted to milled rice and soybeans to the cereal equivalent, the FAO/WFP's estimate of the North's total production of food grain in 2011-12 comes to 4.45 million tons. This total includes 3.931 million tons in the 2011 main season harvest, 224,000 tons from double cropping and 295,000 tons from household gardens and sloping land.

The food grain production in 2011-12 showed a 5.3 percent increase from the preceding food year. The main season harvest in 2011 increased 8.6 percent from a year earlier, but the early harvest in early summer 2012 from double cropping decreased by as much as 41.1 percent from a year earlier to 224,000 tons, less than half the earlier projection of 500,000 tons because of unfavorable weather conditions. The cultivated area for the double cropping of barley, wheat and potato increased slightly from the preceding year, but their per-unit yield decreased remarkably.

## **2. Food Supply/Demand Balance in Food Year 2011-12**

North Korea's food import in 2011-12 is estimated at about 340,000 tons. Noteworthy is the fact that it imported food not only from China but also from Argentina and Russia. It imported more than 300,000 tons of maize, rice, wheat flour and soybean from China while having purchased wheat from Russia and maize from Argentina.

Foreign food assistance given to the North in food year 2011-12 is estimated at about 410,000 tons. It imported 220,000 tons of maize and 33,211 tons of rice from China, 34,000 tons of wheat from Russia

and 120,573 tons of various cereals from the WFP, a large increase from the 26,029 tons in the preceding food year. South Korea provided 300,000-400,000 tons of food in concessional loans to the North annually from 2000 to 2008 when the South suspended not only its direct food supply in loans to the North but its indirect food assistance to the country through the WFP.

In 2012, South Korea proposed the free supply of wheat flour to the North in a move to help the North's flood victims, but the North rejected the offer. NGOs in the South, however, have continued humanitarian food assistance to the North.

The total food supply in the North in food year 2011-12 is estimated at 5.2 million tons, or 200,000 tons less than the country's minimum need. That shortage was the lowest in recent years. The North could make domestic supply of that amount of food grain that year because of the favorable main season harvest, its active food imports, plus an increase in food assistance from both China and the international community.

But the food situation facing the vulnerable class in the North has been continually adverse because of the high food costs on the market and the unstable food rationing of the state. To make matters worse, the North took measures to take more intensive control of the market and foreign currency shortly after it revalued its own currency in late November 2009, causing inflation to skyrocket while depriving the poor of pursuing private business activities on the market.

Market activities in the North did not shrink last year despite the inauguration of

the Kim Jong-un regime. This is because the government's control of the market has been loose under the leadership of the young leader. The food situation in the country has been somewhat stable because the government has put top priority on the stability of the people's living. Despite these policy measures, food prices on the North Korean market have remained high because North Korean citizens have been worried about high inflation fueled by rumors that the new economic management system will be put into force in the immediate future.

Rice prices have continued to rise on the North Korean market in 2012, but the prices marked by the U.S. dollar have remained relatively stable. Even rice prices marked by the greenback showed uneasy movement that July because of an extremely poor harvest from double cropping and rumors of implementation of the reform measures, which likely had a negative effect on the market. Rice prices on the market have been above 6,000 North Korean won per kilogram. Under this price level, a majority of North Korean laborers can buy only 0.5 kg of rice with their monthly income. The exchange rate between the North Korean won and the U.S. dollar has remained at 4,000 won per dollar since early last year until August when the rate jumped to 7,000 won per dollar. The foreign exchange rate remained at that level until late last year, but the rate rose to 9,000 won per dollar at the turn of this year. Food prices have remained stable in the North since last August because of the good main season harvest last year.

North Korea has kept a stable balance between the supply and demand of food

at the national level, but the food situation facing North Korean citizens showed a wide gap between the rich and the poor. In other words, the food situation was good for those entitled to state food ration on a long-term basis, but it was bad for those who are not eligible for food ration whether they are living in urban areas or rural ones. Urbanities can hardly expect an increase in their income through market activities because of the ever-keen competitiveness of the market, and the food situation for them is getting worse because of rising food prices. And farmers are annoyed by an increase in their mandatory payments to the state and the army, which results in less food grain they can use. In a move to make up for the food shortfall, they have attempted to increase the farming of household gardens and slopping land only to face the government's strict restrictions on farming activities outside their cooperative farms.

### **3. Estimates of Food Production in North Korea in Food Year 2012-13**

The FAO and the WFP jointly announced on Nov. 12, 2012 the food situation facing North Korea in food year 2012-13 in a report of their Food and Crop Security Assessment Mission to the North. When rice paddy is converted to milled rice and soybeans to the cereal equivalent, total food production in that food year is estimated at 4.92 million tons, the report said. That figure is equivalent to 5.8 million tons on an unhulled cereal basis, up 10.1 percent from the preceding food year. The production in the main harvest season in 2012-13 showed a 5.9 percent increase on

an unhulled cereal basis over a year earlier.

The double-digit increase in overall food grain production is ascribable to a rise in the per-unit yield, plus an increase in the total area planted, which crossed the 2 million hectares mark in 2012, compared with 1.74 million hectares the preceding year.

The main season harvest situation for different cereals varies. Production of rice, maize and minor cereals increased from a year earlier while that of potato and soybean decreased. The harvest increase rates were 8.2 percent for paddy, 9.9 percent for maize and 20.5 percent for minor cereals, while the decrease rates were 30.6 percent for potato and 31.4 percent for soybean. A 6 percent increase in the cultivated area for maize is mainly responsible for the remarkable increase in its production, while a decrease in both the cultivated area and per-unit yield for potato and soybean resulted in a big reduction in their production.

Despite some flood damage to paddy crops in the main grain producing provinces in July-August, the timely availability of key inputs, including fertilizers, and an increase in state procurement prices resulted in an overall increase in the main season crop harvest, the FAO/WFP report said. The North has also exerted its best efforts to minimize the damage from natural disasters, mobilize its manpower en masse to constantly funnel irrigation water to paddy fields and repeatedly sow the seeds of maize.

Tractors numbered 60,472 in 2012, or about 2,500 fewer than 62,988 in 2011, but their operation rates maintained at a level similar to the preceding year, ranging from 68 percent to 74 percent. The amount of diesel used by tractors in 2012 decreased 5

percent, or 3,500 tons from the 68,000 tons in 2011, but 7,200 tons of petrol was used for farming machines, up 6 percent from 2011. The dry spell in May and June 2012 brought with it an increase in soil pests such as cutworms and wireworms, and the subsequent moist conditions saw an increase in white grub activity, causing for more agrichemicals, including 1,218 tons of herbicide, to be used. Integrated pest management (IPM) is widely used with varying degrees of success to reduce damages from diseases and harmful insects, according to the FAO/WFP report.

The major realignment of irrigation canals that were implemented over the past decade and the resulting increase in gravity-fed systems has ensured better, more reliable and efficient irrigation of paddy fields, the report said, adding that paddy was only marginally affected by the dry spell since most fields do not now need pumping for irrigation. Furthermore, the impact of the prolonged dry spell in the first half of the season was largely mitigated by increased irrigation efforts including mass mobilization of people to water maize plants. Weather conditions in summer were favorable for the cultivation of maize and rice paddy, and the sufficient hours between sunrise and sunset served as a driving force for increasing per-unit yield. The increase in maize production is ascribable partly to the favorable weather conditions although the harvest was later than preceding years because of the spring dry spell.

FAO and WFP specialists view, as aforementioned, that a relatively large increase in state procurement prices resulted in an overall increase in the main season crop harvest. The government procurement

prices for paddy, maize, wheat and barley increased by 10 won per kg, with the increase rates ranging from 34 to 56 percent. Those for soybean went up by 4 won, up 10 percent, and those for potato increased by 1 won, up 13 percent. But the North Korean government froze or slightly increased the prices of farming inputs, resulting in substantial improvement in terms of trade in farms. But it is doubtful that an increase in the state procurement prices actually encouraged farmers to work harder, because the state procurement prices remain less than one hundredth of market prices. The paddy-to-rice milling ratio rose from 65 percent to 66 percent improving the food situation in the North, albeit only slightly.

#### **4. Prospects for Food Supply/Demand Balance in Food Year 2012-13**

If the FAO/WFP estimates of North Korea's food production for food year 2012-13 reflect the real situation, the North will enjoy its most favorable food conditions since the middle of the first decade of the 21st century. It will be the first time in that cited period that the food situation in the North will be better than the previous year and the North will be able to secure the minimum quantity of food demanded in the country.

The FAO/WFP report estimated the North's food demand in food year 2012-13 at 5.429 million tons on a hulled cereal basis, comprising 4.298 million tons of food for its standing population of 24.7 million. These numbers are based on the annual per capita consumption of 174 kg of basic food commodities covering cere-

als, seed requirement of 210,000 tons, animal feed at 120,000 tons, post-harvest losses at 663,000 tons and reserves at 137,000 tons. This demand is meant for a food deficit of about 507,000 tons for food year 2012-13 because the North's food production this year is estimated at 4.92 million tons. If the North imports 300,000 tons of food as it has in preceding years, the deficit will shrink to 207,000 tons. In other words, the North needs food assistance from the international community should it balance its food supply with its food consumption for this food year 2012-13.

North Korea will probably not enjoy amicable relations with South Korea and the international community this year because of its recent provocative activities. Shortly after the North's third nuclear test in February of this year, the European Union said it has no plan to send food to the North. The United Nations is also taking a similar position. President Barack Obama has said the U.S. is not considering humanitarian food assistance to the North. While mentioning her idea for a trust-building process on the Korean peninsula, President Park Geun-hye has clarified that an improvement in relations between the two Koreas requires the North's suspension of its nuclear ambitions. The new Chinese leadership led by President Xi Jinping is also against a nuclear-armed North Korea. In a move to abide by U.N. Security Council's sanctions against the North, China applied international rules on its trade with the North under a strict customs clearance procedure. As a result, trade between China and the North this year suffered a remarkable decrease from last year and this development will likely

continue unless the North discards its provocative behavior.

### **III. Prospects for Kim Jong-un Regime's Food Policy**

#### **1. The Question of Reform in the Farming Sector and Prospects**

Will North Korea take measures to introduce a new economic management system this year? This is the question presently drawing the attention of North Korea watchers in Seoul and elsewhere. The new system reportedly calls for the drastic downsizing of the work squads at farms. This new system, if put into operation, will most likely encourage farmers to work harder to produce farm products. The new system reportedly calls for advanced payments in loans to farmers, the distribution ratio of harvested food grain between the state and the farmers at 7:3 and the disposal of farm products given to farmers, among other things. If the North Korean government guarantees the distribution of that portion of crop harvest to farmers and allows them to use it at their will, the new system will probably appear a more attractive incentive to farmers than an increase in the state procurement prices aforementioned by the FAO/WFP report.

North Korea has exerted strenuous efforts for agricultural reform in its own way, but the efforts have yet to pay off. This is because both the formula and content of the reforms fell short of farmers' expectations. Even a brief comparison between the programs for economic reforms pursued by China and the North

shows that the reform level in the North is much lower than that in China in many aspects.

Whenever it mentions a change in its economic policy, North Korea internally uses the term, "improvement," instead of "reform."<sup>3)</sup> Externally, it favors the term, "renovation," instead of "innovation." The *Economy Studies*, a quarterly journal of the Academy of Social Sciences in the North, has said that the North is pursuing a policy change under its own logic, not under foreign pressure, putting an accent on the succession of the policy line originating from its founding leader, Kim Il-sung, and his son and successor, Kim Jong-il.

In its economic management, North Korea has traditionally depended basically on factors necessary for its command economy while using market-oriented factors as auxiliary means. But for the past 10 years, the North has shown a change in its accent on these two economic factors. The North's adoption of an array of economic reform measures on July 1, 2002 served as an occasion to emphasize market factors for years. But from 2006 through 2009 it intensified regulations on market factors. There, however, came a move in 2011 to stress the need to utilize market factors in the North's economic management.<sup>4)</sup>

The new economic management system of the North, which has been rumored since sometime in the second half of last year, has yet to reveal its real aspects. Also uncertain is whether or not the North Korean government has discussed its enforcement in earnest. Known to date are rumors that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has made the "establishment of the new economic management system of our own

style" a policy line. Choosing some areas and farms, including Taehongdan County, Paekam County and Potae Cooperative Farm for pilot projects of the new system last year, the North Korean government has reportedly provided farmers there each with a certain portion of cultivated land and allowed them to grow and harvest crops on an individual basis. But a North Korean refugee in Seoul, who is well informed about recent developments in the North, said that the WPK has yet to make a decision on the proposed new economic management system, adding that there is no reason for the sixth session of the 12th-term SPA held on Sept. 25 of last year to include the new system in its agenda if the Party decides to institutionalize it. But possibilities are high that the North will introduce the new economic management system this year or next year, although it is hard to spell out the exact date. There is the need to review that the North took an array of measures for a new economic management system on July 1, 2002 although Kim Jong-il gave instructions regarding it to North Korean authorities concerned in October the preceding year.

If the North goes ahead with reforms in the agricultural sector, it will likely go through a process similar to those experienced in China, Vietnam and former East European countries which implemented reform measures to switch their command economy to a market economy. The North will likely behave similarly because its market-oriented reform was not completed in a single attempt, but after repeatedly taking forward and backward steps. There is the need to view reforms as a process as seen in developments after the July 1, 2002

reform measures were taken in the North. The reform programs for the farming sector the North is going ahead with can be summed up as follows: While the collective farming system will be maintained in cooperative farms, work squads will be downsized to give the impression that they are engaged in individual farming. The state will provide each work squad with a certain area of cultivated land and production costs in loans in advance. The farm products will be distributed to the state and farmers at a ratio of 7:3, but the ratio can be 5:5 in areas that experience a bad harvest. In other words, the state will purchase 70 percent of the products at market prices and allow the farmers to use 30 percent of the products at their will. The state will allow more rights to farmers on the portion of products in excess of the production plan. The state loans to farmers should be recovered immediately after the main harvest season. Accordingly, the distribution of products to the state and farmers is made on a basis of net production, which equals total production minus state loans to farmers. The value of both inputs for farming and farm products will be calculated on a market prices basis.

## **2. Requirements for Successful Agricultural Reform in North Korea**

Successful agricultural reform requires a change in related laws, the system, policies and the behavior of both policy makers and farmers. In case the North fails to secure a sufficient fund necessary for a reform in the farming sector and other economic arenas, an increase in its money supply, which will most likely result in

inflation, will be inevitable. China and Vietnam faced this problem in the course of their economic reforms and they began to enjoy substantial economic growth when they succeeded in attracting a good amount of foreign capital.

The work squads at farms need to purchase commodities necessary for farming on the market, instead of their supply coming from the state should the smaller work squads stand on their own feet and continue successful farming. These developments require more private ownership by farmers. The state will likely continue to supply farmers with means of production, including tractors. The state will most likely be unable to meet the demand for farming machines, because there just are not enough, yet many machines are worn out, at a time when the number of work squads will be tripled. The inability of the state to meet the demand for farming machinery could hamper the proposal agricultural reform in the North.

There could be a gap in the distribution of resources even between work squads in a farm as well as in the distribution of products between them due to the difference in the harvests between various crops. The state is required to solve problems caused by these gaps, giving a freer hand to farmers in choosing crops to grow and on other farming affairs and bridging their income gap through its food grain procurement program.

There are 1.463 million hectares of cultivated land through North Korean cooperative farms as of food year 2011-12, and the number of farming households there was tallied at 1.993 million in 2008. These figures brought the area of cultivated land to

0.73 hectare per household of 4.3 members. In the case of farmers being given 30 percent of their harvest, 660 kg of food grain will be distributed to each household, because 3 kg of food grain is produced per hectare. This is meant for 153 kg of per capita distribution, which falls short of 220 kg, normal per-capita distribution in cooperative farms. Putting into consideration 100 kg of per-household production through kitchen gardens and sloping lands, the per-capita food supply will reach 177 kg, which is nearly in accord with the per-capital food demand in the North calculated at 175 kg. But the state recovers its annual loans to farmers before the distribution, and the actual portion of food given to farmers will be less than 660 kg per household.

The new economic management system will continue to demonstrate its strength only when the state guarantees fair distribution of resources to the industrial sector and their continued production activities. In the capitalist society, factors of production are distributed to industrial sectors in a fair way only when the distribution is made in reflection of their contribution to achievement in production. In business concerns, fruits of business activities are given to investors and laborers for their respective contribution to the business, with capital and labor. And in the agricultural sector, rewards are given to land owners, investors and farmers for their contribution to farming with their land, capital and labor. But the socialist society recognizes only the creative value of labor. For this reason, some portion of the products is distributed to laborers and the remaining portion goes to the state.

Continued production activities require the continuous supply of capital by the state to the production units. In sharp contrast with the farming sector, products minus production costs are reportedly distributed to the state and laborers at the ration of 7:3. The North needs to hold the balance in income between farmers and laborers should it keep the balance between the agricultural sector and other industrial sectors. The North can hardly attain this balance if it fails to set prices of farm products much higher than prices of manufactured goods. But high prices of farm goods will give rise to another problem regarding food for laborers.

#### IV. Conclusion

Even if the North downsizes the work squads at farms, there will remain fundamental problems caused by collective farming, and for this reason, there is a limit for the North to increase productivity in the farming sector through increasing the work efficiency of smaller work squads. The North needs to learn from China and other socialist countries which have been successful in economic reforms and introduce a family farming system even if the state continues to have land ownership should it want to increase agricultural productivity. At the same time, it needs to take reform measures also in its distribution sector in a way to allow not only the trade of agricultural and industrial products but that of raw materials and other capital goods should it dismantle the double-price mechanism in the North and make meaningful the right of work squads farmers to

dispose of farm products given them at their will.

As experienced by China and Vietnam, the North can hardly attain sustained production growth in the agricultural sector with only an improved system for production and distribution if and when it fails to maintain prices of farm products at a high level through policy measures until it boosts agricultural production to a certain level. Also at stake is the lackluster production of farming equipment and inputs, including fertilizers. Necessary for the North is the attraction of foreign capital to finance modern facilities to manufacture those goods. In other words, successful reform of the agricultural sector should be accompanied by an opening-up backed up by new attractive systems which are valid also to the international community.

(This is an excerpt from an essay carried in the spring 2013 edition of the *North Korean Economy*, a quarterly published by the Seoul-based Export-Import Bank of Korea, dubbed the Korea Exim bank.)

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#### Notes:

- 1) Radio Free Asia, Sept. 28, 2012.
- 2) Radio Free Asia, Oct. 9, 2012.
- 3) Lee Young-hoon, "Prospects for North Korea's Change and Its Implications on Political Developments in Northeast Asia," The 56th Forum of Experts The Peace Foundation, 2012.
- 4) Kwon Young-kyoung, "The Aspects of North Korea's Reforms and Opening-up and Prospects" (an academic report presented in an international forum co-sponsored by the Export-Import Bank of Korea and the Korea Institute for National Unification in 2012).

**N. Korea Asks to Be Recognized as Nuclear Weapons State**

<Yonhap from SEOUL/ June 16, 2013>

— North Korea asked China in May to be recognized as a nuclear weapons state, a source familiar with Seoul-Beijing affairs said on June 16, amid indications China is taking a firm stance against Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programs.

— North Korean Vice Marshal Choe Ryong-hae made the request in a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping during his visit to Beijing in May, according to the source inside South Korea's ruling Saenuri Party.

— The source said a high-ranking Chinese military official told a team of South Korean civilian and military representatives about Choe's request during its recent visit to China. Beijing, Pyongyang's main ally and benefactor, has recently shown signs that it is taking a firm stance against its socialist neighbor's nuclear weapons programs.

**N. Korea to Import 100,000 Smartphones from China This Year**

<Yonhap from SEOUL/ June 18, 2013>

— North Korea plans to import about 100,000 smartphones from China this year, a report said on June 18.

— China is planning to export a total of 500,000 mobile phones to the North and 100,000 of them will be smartphones, the Washington-based Radio Free Asia (RFA) report said, referring to a Chinese government official's posting on Weibo, a Chinese microblogging website.

— Chinese smartphones sell for about 1,000 Chinese yuan (US\$163.27) per unit in China, but the price tag comes to 2,800 yuan per unit in North Korea, the report said, adding profits from the price difference will go into the pocket of the North Korean regime.

**North Korea Rolls out 900 New Tanks in Last Seven Years**

<Yonhap from SEOUL/ June 19, 2013>

— The North Korean Army has deployed about 900 new tanks equipped with improved armament in the last seven years to modernize its aging vehicles, a South Korean military source said on June 19.

— The new tanks, known as the "Chonma-ho 5" (sky horse) and the "Songun-ho" (military first), are equipped with an advanced fire control system and turret guns, an upgrade compared to the Pokpung-ho (storm) tank, which was first revealed in October 2010 during a military parade.

— The Chonma-ho 5 is the latest variant of North Korea's main battle tank, the Chonma, which was built based on the Soviet T-62 tank.

**U.S. Extends Sanctions on North Korea for Another Year**

<Yonhap from WASHINGTON/ June 21, 2013>

— U.S. President Barack Obama said on June 21 that he will extend economic sanctions on North Korea for another year, citing "unusual and extraordinary threat" to national security.

— In a notice to Congress, Obama said he will continue the “national emergency” declared with respect to North Korea, stressing the continued “existence and risk of proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula.”

— Under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), the U.S. president annually updates the list of countries subject to economic sanctions based on security risks posed to the U.S. and its allies.

### **Historic Places in N. Korea Listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites**

<Yonhap from SEOUL/ June 23, 2013>

— Historic sites in North Korea’s ancient city of Kaesong were added to the world heritage list of UNESCO on June 23, official sources said.

— The decision was made during the 37th session of UNESCO’s World Heritage Committee (WHC) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, earlier in the day, sources following the event said. The session is set to continue until June 27.

— Kaesong was the capital of the Goryeo Dynasty that ruled the Korean Peninsula from 918 until 1392 when it was replaced by the Joseon Dynasty. It now sits just outside the inter-Korean border that separates the two Koreas roughly along the 38th parallel. Pyongyang requested Kaesong’s historic monuments be registered as a global heritage in mid-2012.

### **North Korea 23rd Most Failed Nation: U.S. Magazine**

<Yonhap from WASHINGTON/ June 27, 2013>

— North Korea is the 23rd most failed state in the world in a U.S. index gauging states’ management of social, economic and political affairs, a foreign affairs magazine said on June 27.

— The Failed States Index, compiled annually since 2005 by U.S. think tank Fund for Peace and the magazine Foreign Policy, ranked the North 23rd out of a total of 178 nations.

— The index examines 12 social, political and economic factors like a government’s practical control over its territories, non-provision of public services, corruption, criminality, refugees and sharp economic decline. Countries in the upper ranks are those in the worst conditions regarding the 12 factors.

### **More Than 1,700 N. Korean Workers Employed in Mongolia**

<Yonhap from SEOUL/ July 3, 2013>

— A total of 1,749 North Koreans are working in Mongolia with most of them employed in the construction sector, a news report said on July 3.

— The number of North Korean workers, tallied at the end of April, accounts for the second largest foreign workers’ group in the central Asian country, after the Chinese, the Washington-based Radio Free Asia said, citing Mongolia’s labor ministry.

— Chinese workers in Mongolia stood at 5,976 as of end-April, it said. Given that most foreign workers in Mongolia are employed in the construction industry, the majority of the North Korean workers are presumed to also work in the sector, the report said.

## PEOPLE

**Kim Jong-un** (김정은) : Supreme Commander of the (North) Korean People's Army (KPA), First Secretary of the Workers' Party of (North) Korea (WPK), First Chairman of the National Defense Commission (NDC)

- June 16 gives field guidance to the machine plant managed by Ho Chol-yong.
- 19 receives a reply message from Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and president of the People's Republic of China.
- 22 gives field guidance to the Kanggye General Tractor Plant.
- 23 gives field guidance to the Kanggye General Precision Machine Plant and Jagang Machine Tool Plant.
- 28 provides field guidance to the February 11 Factory of the Ryongsong Machine Complex in Hamhung, South Hamgyong Province.
- 29 provides field guidance to the Sinhung Machine Factory in Hamhung, South Hamgyong Province.
- July 1 guides an artillery fire of the KPA Unit 851.
- 2 visits the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, which is close to completion.
- 8 visits the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun in Pyongyang to pay tribute to Generalissimos Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il at 00:00 on July 8, the greatest memorial day of the nation.
- 11 visits the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum in Pyongyang shortly before its opening. He called for making good preparations for the opening.

**Kim Yong-nam** (김영남) : President of the Supreme People's Assembly Presidium

- June 18 sends a congratulatory message to Hassan Rouhani upon his election as president of Iran.
- 27 meets with Gerhard Thiedemann, the German ambassador to the DPRK (North Korea), who paid a farewell visit to him at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang.

**Pak Pong-ju** (박봉주) : Premier

- June 24 makes field surveys of the work of the Tanchon Magnesite Factory, Tanchon Smeltery and Tanchon Port in South Hamgyong province.
- 24 makes field surveys of production in mines and other industrial establishments and the work for preventing damage in the rainy season, while touring different places of Komdok area.
- 29 makes a field survey of various sectors in North Phyongan Province.
- July 1 makes a field survey of the Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex.
- 4 makes a field survey of the construction site of the Mushroom Research Institute under the State Academy of Sciences.
- 7 visits the Suncheon Cement Complex, the Suncheon Chemical Complex and the Suncheon Nitro-Lime Fertilizer Factory.

**Choe Ryong-hae** (최룡해) : Director of the General Political Bureau of the KPA

- June 25 makes field surveys of the construction of the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, the Mirim Riding Club and the Munsu Wading Pool in Pyongyang.
- July 5 makes a field survey of the reclamation of the Sepho tableland.
- 12 visits the Revolutionary Museum in the historic site associated with the Fatherland Liberation War.

## CHRONOLOGICAL REVIEW

### (Local Events)

- June 16 Mass rallies take place in provinces and cities on June 15 and 16 to vow to devotedly carry out the important tasks given by Kim Jong-un in his appeal and respond to the letter sent to the people across the country by those reclaiming the Sepho tableland.
- 17 The KCNA says the second batch of Rason-Mt. Kumgang international tourists brought to the North by the ship Royale Star went sightseeing in Mt. Kumgang from June 16-17.
- 18 Rallies take place in South Phyongan, South Hwanghae and Kangwon provinces as well as Rason City on June 17 and 18 to vow to devotedly carry out the important tasks laid down in the appeal of Kim Jong-un.
- 18 A national meeting is held at the April 25 House of Culture in Pyongyang to mark the 49th anniversary of late leader Kim Jong-il's start of work at the WPK Central Committee.
- 20 Agricultural workers and members of the women's union hold meetings at the Sinchon Museum in South Hwanghae Province and the Susan-ri House of Class Education in the Kangso District, Nampho City, swearing to take revenge on the U.S. with the approach of June 25, the starting day of the Korean War.
- 20 The Turf Research Center which has been built under the State Academy of Sciences at the initiative of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un opens in a ceremony.
- 21 Employees of factories and enterprises and members of co-op farms in various parts of the country hold rallies to vow to devotedly carry out the important tasks set forth by Kim Jong-un.
- 23 More rallies are held at industrial establishments, co-op farms across North Korea to vow to devotedly carry out the important tasks set forth by Kim Jong-un.
- 24 The History Society of the DPRK releases a memorandum disclosing what it claims the true colors of the U.S. imperialists as provoker of the Korean war with the approach of the 60th anniversary of the victory in the great Fatherland Liberation War.
- 25 A Pyongyang City mass rally takes place at Kim Il-sung Square in Pyongyang on the occasion of "the day of struggle against the U.S. imperialists."
- 28 Mass rallies take place in North Hwanghae and Ryanggang provinces and Nampho

- City to commemorate the breakout of the Korean War.
- July 2 A delegation of the Students Sports Association of the DPRK leaves Pyongyang to take part in the 27th Universiad to be held in Kazan, Russia.
- 4 A remembrance meeting of officials and members of the women's union takes place at the Hall of Women in Pyongyang to mark the 19th anniversary of the demise of President Kim Il-sung on July 8.
- 4 Working people and members of the General Federation of Trade Unions of (North) Korea (GFTUK) hold a meeting to take an oath before the statue of President Kim Il-sung in the Tae'an District of Nampho City to mark the 19th anniversary of his demise.
- 5 The KCNA says the grand gymnastic and artistic performance "Arirang", a winner of the Kim Il-sung Prize, will be given in Pyongyang as part of galas to mark the 65th birthday of North Korea and the 60th anniversary of the Korean people's victory in the Fatherland Liberation War (June 25, 1950-July 27, 1953).
- 10 North Korean gymnast Hong Un-jong bags a gold medal in the female long horse event of the 27th Universiad held in Kazan, Russia,
- 12 The DPRK Taekwondo team leaves Pyongyang to take part in the 18th World Taekwondo Championships to be held in Sofia.

### (Foreign Events)

- June 16 North Korea, in a statement of the spokesman for the NDC, proposes senior-level talks between the authorities of the North and the U.S. "to defuse tensions on the Korean Peninsula and ensure peace and security in the region."
- 18 *Rodong Sinmun* claims the South Korean authorities should not hamper with efforts for the improvement of North-South relations.
- 18 Kim Kye-gwan, first-vice minister of Foreign Affairs, leaves Pyongyang to visit China until July 22.
- 19 Strategic dialogue between the foreign ministries of North Korea and China is held in Beijing.
- 20 The Ministry of the People's Armed Forces holds a film show for foreign military attaches in Pyongyang with the approach of the June 25 through July 27 month of the anti-U.S. joint struggle.
- 21 The KCNA claims the South Korean forces have become all the more undisguised in their acts of alluring and abducting citizens of North Korea.
- 22 The military attaches corps in Pyongyang visit the truce village of Panmunjom on the occasion of the June 25-July 27 "month of anti-U.S. joint struggle."
- 22 A delegation of the Kim Il-sung Socialist Youth League leaves Pyongyang to take part in the second international preparatory meeting for the 18th World Festival of Youth and Students to be held in Spain.
- 24 Foreign Minister Pak Ui-chun meets with German Ambassador to North Korea Gerhard Thiedemann, who paid a farewell call to him at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang.
- 25 Pyongyang University of Dramatic and Cinematic Arts and Beijing Film Institute adopt

an agreement on establishing friendly relations.

- June 26 A military delegation led by Kim Kyok-sik, the chief of the General Staff of the KPA, leaves Pyongyang to visit Cuba.
- 26 Choe Thae-bok, the chairman of the SPA, meets with German Ambassador to North Korea Gerhard Thiedemann, who paid a farewell call on him at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.
- 27 The Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of (North) Korea (CPRK) denounces South Korea for releasing the transcript of an inter-Korean summit in 2007.
- 27 The KCNA claims the U.S. killed many innocent people “in a brutal way beyond human imagination” during the Korean War (June 25, 1950-July 27, 1953).
- 29 North Korea warns against a plan of flying anti-Pyongyang leaflets into the North by a group of North Korean defectors and a U.S.-based human rights agency from Imjingak, a South Korean pavilion just south of the border.
- July 1 The spokesman for the Committee for the CPRK accuses South Korean President Park Geun-hye of her “anti-North Korea remarks.”
- 2 Kim Kye-gwan, the first vice-minister of Foreign Affairs, and his party leave Pyongyang to visit Russia until July 9.
- 2 The KCNA says talks between North Korean and Cuban military delegations took place in Havana on June 30.
- 3 North Korea says it will allow South Korean businessmen to visit their plants in Kaesong joint industrial complex, which has been suspended since early April.
- 4 The KCNA in a commentary denounces South Korean authorities as “the most wicked politicians” for revealing the transcript of an inter-Korean summit held in 2007.
- 4 The KCNA says talks between Pak Ui-chun, foreign minister of the DPRK (North Korea), and Mohamed Bolkiah, minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei, were held in Bandar Seri Begawan on July 3.
- 5 The KCNA says talks were held in Moscow on July 4 between Kim Kye-gwan, first-vice minister of Foreign Affairs, and Vladimir Titov, first-vice foreign minister of the Russian Federation.
- 5 The KCNA says a meeting of the chairmen of the North, South and overseas sides of the Committees for Implementation of the June 15 Joint Declaration was held in Beijing from July 4 to July 5 to mark the 41st anniversary of the historic July 4 joint statement.
- 6 Wilfried Lemke, special adviser to the U.N. Secretary General on Sports for Development and Peace, and his companion, arrive in Pyongyang.
- 7 The working-level talks between authorities of the North and the South for the normalization of the Kaesong Industrial Complex are held at the Thongil House in the north side of Panmunjom on July 6 and 7.
- 10 A new round of working-level talks between the two Koreas to normalize the Kaesong Industrial Complex ends without agreement on detailed measures to reopen the complex.
- 11 *Rodong Sinmun* says the North Korea-China friendship is an unbreakable one in an

- article dedicated to the 52nd anniversary of the DPRK-China Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance.
- July 11 The DPRK Embassy in Beijing hosts a reception to celebrate the 52nd anniversary of the DPRK-China Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance.
- 11 The Chinese ambassador to the DPRK hosts a reception at Pyongyang Koryo Hotel to mark the 52nd anniversary of the DPRK-China Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance.
- 11 The Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea sends a notice to South Korea on the South's rejection of working-level talks for the resumption of tours to Mount Kungang on North's east coast.
- 14 The KCNA says the DPRK permanent representative at the U.N. said in an interview with foreign reporters on July 10 that to dismantle the illegal and ghost-like "U.N. Command" is a prerequisite to defusing tensions and ensuring peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and in the Asia-Pacific region.
- 15 Avia Baatarhuyag, the director general of the Mongolian News Agency Montsame, arrives in Pyongyang.
- 15 Lundeg Purevsuren, the national security and foreign policy adviser to the president of Mongolia, and his party arrive in Pyongyang.
- 15 The third round of working talks between the authorities of the two Koreas are held in the Kaesong Industrial Zone to normalize operations at the factory park.

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Subscription rates (mailing cost included) : US\$70.00 for one year, US\$7.00 per copy

VOL. 36 NO. 8 Copyrights © 2013 by **YONHAP NEWS AGENCY**  
 Publication Registration No : Culture RA-08259  
 Printed by The Korea Herald Company, Seoul, Korea

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