

The People's Korea

No. 1,876

NOVEMBER 25, 2000

http://www.korea-np.co.jp/pk/ (1961年8月22日第3種郵便物認可)

KPA, U.S. Forces Agree to Set Up N-S Joint Control Area in DMZ

*DPRK-U.S. Military Talks on DMZ
Held in Panmunjom*

PANMUNJOM, November 17 (KCNA) — General officer-level talks were held in Panmunjom on November 17 between the sides of the Korean People's Army (KPA) and the U.S. forces as regards the issue of opening some portions of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

The KPA side was represented by Senior Colonel Pak Rim Su of the Panmunjom Mission of the KPA and the U.S. forces side by Major General Michael M. Dunn.

As already reported, talks between the defense ministers of the north and south of Korea took place on Jeju Island between September 25 and 26 to implement the June 15 Joint Declaration adopted at the Inter-Korean Summit. At the talks, it was proposed to open some portions of the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) through which railways and road will pass to relink the north and the south, and put them under the control of the north and the south sides and ensure safety in the projects there.

This was a matter to be discussed between the KPA side and the U.S. forces side, signatories to the Armistice Agreement (AA), as required by the agreement.

Therefore, the KPA side proposed to work out a supplementary agreement of the AA related to the projects so as to militarily and legally guarantee the issue of relinking the railways and road between the north and the south, and had several working contacts with the U.S. forces side at

Panmunjom to this end.

A draft agreement discussed at the working-level contacts so far was finally confirmed and ratified at the general officer-level talks held on Nov. 17 between the two sides.

The agreement was signed by Pak Rim Su and Michael M. Dunn.

The agreement said that both sides will open some portions of the MDL and the DMZ through which Sinuiju-Seoul Railways and Kaesong-Munsan Road will pass and put those portions under the control of the north and the south in accordance with the AA.

According to it, both sides will allow the armies of the north and the south to consult and deal with the technical issues concerning the opening of some portions of the DMZ and military problems arising in the portions under the control of the north and the south in conformity with the AA.

The agreement said it goes into effect from the date of its ratification at the general officer-level talks in Panmunjom.

The agreement on opening some portions of the DMZ and placing them under the control of the north and the south reached between the signatories to the AA provides a legal guarantee for the north and the south to consult and settle the technical problems concerning the relinking of the Sinuiju-Seoul Railways and Kaesong-Munsan Road.

Foreign Minister of Australia Officially Visits DPRK



Photo shows the delegation of Australian Foreign Ministry led by Foreign Minister Alexander Downer (center).

From November 14 to 16, Alexander John Gosse Downer, Foreign Minister of Australia, and his party officially visited the DPRK for the first time after the diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Australia were restored on May 8 this year following a 25-year hiatus.

Paek Nam Sun, Foreign Minister of the DPRK, met them on November 14 at the Mansudae Assembly Hall, as well as Kim Yong Nam, President of the presidium of the Supreme Assembly of the DPRK, on November 15.

During his visit, a memorandum on joint agricultural research and development plan was signed between the governments of the DPRK and Australia.

The DPRK government gave a reception for the Australian Foreign Minister and his party on November 14, and each foreign minister made a speech there.

The DPRK Foreign Minister said in his speech, "The two countries share the de-

sire to contribute to developing the bilateral relations on the publicly recognized principles of international law — mutual respect for sovereignty, non-interference in the other's internal affairs, equality and reciprocity — and achieving regional reconciliation, cooperation and prosperity," emphasizing that the visit of the Australian Foreign Minister to Pyongyang marked an important occasion to promote the mutual understanding and confidence and give impetus to the development of the bilateral relations.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said that he was very pleased to visit Pyongyang and he was impressed when he saw the north and the south Korea entering the Sydney Olympic Stadium together with one flag, praising the inter-Korean summit held in Pyongyang in June. He also hosted a reception on November 15 in token of his gratitude to the DPRK government.

Pyongyang Hails Year 2000 As Milestone in History of Reunification Movement of Korea

PYONGYANG, November 18 (KCNA) — The year 2000 is marked by significant events in the history of the Korean people's struggle for independent and peaceful national reunification.

The historic Pyongyang meeting, north-south summit and the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration are the greatest successes in the reunification movement since the country was divided into two parts over half a century back.

The North-South Joint Declaration published at the Pyongyang meeting between the two heads of the north and the south is displaying its tremendous vitality.

A series of ministerial and Red Cross talks between the north and the south have been held in the north and the south to implement the joint declaration.

And the high-level military talks and the talks between the Foreign Minister of the north and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the south, which were aimed to discuss mutual cooperation in external relations and on the international arena, were held. A delegation of south media organizations visited Pyongyang and a joint communique of media organizations in the north and the south was published.

The project to relink the severed railways and roads between the north and the south, the table-tennis game for reunification and the north's State Symphony Orchestra's performance in Seoul, etc, bolstered up the whole nation's enthusiasm for

reunification.

This year the north and the south showed the nation and the world their will to trust and unite with each other, free from mutual misunderstanding and the stand of confrontation.

Separated families and relatives in the north and the south had an emotion-charged reunion in Pyongyang and Seoul, the first of its kind in over 50 years, on the occasion of the August 15 liberation day. And over 60 unconverted long-term prisoners, products of division and confrontation, returned to the DPRK in early September under the blessings of the whole nation.

The athletes of the north and the south jointly entered the 27th Sydney Olympics to be cheered by more than 100,000 spectators and the north-south joint resolution "peace, security and reunification on the Korean Peninsula" was adopted at the plenary meeting of the 55th UN General Assembly to command widespread support of the international community.

A special mention should be made of the fact that General Secretary Kim Jong Il sent gifts to President Kim Dae Jung and members of several delegations of the south side, which visited Pyongyang, on the occasion of Chusok (autumn festival).

These noteworthy events this year greatly help bring earlier national reunification, the cherished desire of the nation.

Korean People Celebrate 10th Anniversary of Pomminryun

PYONGYANG, November 20 (KCNA) — Rodong Sinmun on November 20 dedicated a signed article to the 10th anniversary of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminryun), an umbrella organization of the pro-reunification patriotic forces in the north, south and abroad.

Pomminryun was founded on November 20, Juche 79 (1990). Its mission is to achieve national reunification on the three principles — independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity — and it is a patriotic organization of the movement for reunification which speaks for the common will of Koreans in the north, south and abroad.

The formation of the organization enabled all the pro-reunification patriotic forces at home and abroad to unite close under the banner of national reunification and the reunification movement, which had been dispersively conducted in the north, south and abroad, to develop into a nation-

wide movement of solidarity on an organized basis, the article says, and goes on:

Over the last 10 years Pomminryun conducted various movements for national reconciliation, unity and reunification and other pro-reunification patriotic activities of various forms and methods among Koreans at home and abroad and made a great contribution to expanding and developing the movement for national reunification into a nationwide movement.

Pomminryun should continue waging a dynamic drive to carry through the three-point charter of national reunification and the five-point policy of great national unity, regarding them as its guideline and life-line. This is a historical review of Pomminryun activities and its valuable experience.

It is an important task of Pomminryun at present to wage a positive struggle to support and implement the historic June 15 North-South Joint Declaration.

DPRK History Society Asserts Illegality of "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty"

The History Society of the DPRK asserted in an article on November 16 that the Japanese imperialists forged the "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" on November 17, 1905 to extort sovereign rights from Korea.

Rodong Sinmun on November 17 gave one whole page to the article, titled "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty' is an uncompleted, illegal false document," that discloses once again the illegality of the "treaty."

In its first part, the article refers to the shameless and brigandish deeds committed by the Japanese imperialists to forge the "treaty".

The "call for conquering Korea" was zealously advocated in Japan just after the "Meiji Restoration." Availing themselves of this situation, the Japanese imperialists were hell-bent on the moves to turn Korea into their colony under the pretext of "protecting" its independence from aggression by big powers.

At a cabinet meeting on October 27, 1905, they reached an agreement on reducing Korea to a "protectorate" of Japan and set early November for forcing a "protectorate treaty" upon Korea. It was under this brigandish, shameless and aggressive plan that the "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" was rigged up and announced.

Their brigandish deeds found their manifestation in the fact that they threatened and blackmailed the king of Korea, the highest representative of the feudal government of Ri Dynasty, and ministers of its government and took the seal of the Foreign Minister away to stamp the "treaty" willfully.

The Japanese imperialists pressed ministers of the Korean government to allow the conclusion of the "treaty" whose original copy was worked out by Japan, concocted its approval, forced stamping on the treaty and announced the signing of the treaty unilaterally.

In the second part, the article says the "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" is an illegal and false document devoid of any modalities of a treaty.

This "treaty" lacked elementary modalities as a treaty such as title, signature of

the king and the print of the national seal, which are important procedures for putting a treaty into effect, and credentials of a representative.

It was mainly because the feudal government of the Ri Dynasty resolutely opposed its signing as it would be a victim to it and the Japanese imperialists disregarded the requirements of international law while resorting to military threat and coercion.

The third part of the article deals with the resistance struggles waged by the Koreans to nullify the "treaty" and the conclusion based on international law branding it as illegal.

Enraged at the news of the illegal "treaty" forged by the Japanese imperialists, the Korean people strongly protested against their aggressive moves and the deeds of the Ulsa five traitors and rose in a vigorous resistance against them. Various forms of resistance struggles for the abrogation of the "treaty" evidently proved that the Korean nation had never recognized it.

It was also recognized by the world community that the "treaty" was an illegally fabricated document. There were many worldwide arguments based on international law declaring this "treaty" null and void. In 1906 a French scholar Francis Rey made public a paper in this connection for the first time. This issue was also dealt with in a report submitted by the law college of Harvard University in 1935, which set up a committee for the study of international law and had several years of discussions on it, and at a meeting of the UN International Law Commission on the treaty law in 1963.

The "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" is a false document forged and proclaimed willfully by the Japanese imperialists through coercion and blackmail by force of arms in disregard of state-to-state relationship and international law. It is a historical evidence fully disclosing the unprecedentedly shamelessness and brigandish nature of the Japanese imperialists in the past and today, stresses the article.

Italian Minister of Industry and Foreign Trade Visits DPRK



Premier of the DPRK cabinet Hong Song Nam (right) shakes hands with Italian Minister of Industry and Foreign Trade Enrico Letta on Oct. 15.

Italian Minister of Industry and Foreign Trade Enrico Letta visited north Korea and had a talk with Hong Song Nam, premier of the DPRK cabinet at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on Oct. 15, the KCNA reported.

It also reported the talks went on in a friendly atmosphere and Jon Sung Hun, Minister of Metal and Machine-Building Industries, Kim Pong Ik, Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade, and officials concerned were present there.

It quoted the Italian Minister as saying the DPRK and Italy were on the way to good relationships and that he was sure that his government would achieve great results from the relationships.

His visit to the DPRK was arranged when the DPRK Foreign Minister Paek Nam Sun officially visited Italy in September this year. The DPRK had established diplomatic ties with Italy in January this year.

Rodong Sinmun Runs Putin's Article

PK Correspondent in the DPRK

Rodong Shinmun on Oct. 14 carried an article written by Vladimirovich Putin, President of the Russian Federation, entitled "Russia: A New Review of the East."

This is the first time for Rodong Sinmun to carry the full text of an article written by another country's leader.

President Putin visited the DPRK in July this year for the first time as a head of the Russian government.

In the midst of developing friendly relationships between the DPRK and Russia, north Korean media reported in detail on the policy of the Russian government and its recent internal situation.

Putin, who had earlier participated in the APEC held in Brunei, made public his intention to improve economic and political relationships between Russia and Asia-Pacific countries, saying in the article, "I have always remember the fact that a large part of Russian territory belongs to Asia."

He mentioned Russia has played an important role in connecting Asia, Europe and the U.S., saying that people in Asia-Pacific countries would profit greatly if they use Russia's main transport services such as its railroads.

He appealed to Asia-Pacific countries for

cooperation in developing the vast natural resources of Siberia where the country's railroads are laid and emphasizing that it is made clear one of the country's on-going plan to construct a gas pipeline, which will connect Irkutsk to east China and the Korean Peninsula.

He also expressed in the article that Russia is ready to contribute to its neighbor countries by launching a space instruments, saying his country had launched Indonesia's artificial satellite by using a Russian rocket.

The article called for a need to develop a plan to develop "Reactor Technology based on a new Principle" and "Nuclear Reaction Cycle Technology" in cooperation with Asia-Pacific countries.

The article also mentioned Russia's interests in maintaining a secure situation in the region.

Finally the article emphasized the fact that "Russia is in a position to help north-south national reconciliation and extend cooperation and support in the way of independent and peaceful reunification of Korean Peninsula."

FAO/WFP Special Report on Food Shortage Released

Special Report of the FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission to DPRK was released on 16 November. The report concludes a sizeable reduction in rice and maize production in the year 2000.

According to the report, the rice production is estimated at 1.69 million tons, 734,000 tons (31 percent) lower than last year. An assessment of the maize output, based largely on data provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, is estimated to have fallen to around 1 million tons, some 235 000 (19 percent) lower than last year.

The Special Report said:

The reduction has been due to a combination of drought, at critical stages in the crop cycle, particularly planting, and the cumulative effect of underlying problems in agriculture, which continue to constrain production heavily. The most important of these constraints have been the severe shortages of electricity and fuel that have drastically reduced the ability of irrigation systems to cope with the drought. The situ-

ation was further worsened in August and September, when the typhoons Prapiroon and Saomai brought localized damage to crops.

Overall, domestic grain availability for the next marketing year, in cereal equivalent, is projected at 2.92 million tons. Against this, grain demand for food and other utilization needs for 2000/01 is estimated at 4.79 million tons, leaving an import requirement of around 1.87 million tons.

Food availability disparities have also been identified. The urban population that lives far from the main sources of food production is estimated to have 20-25 percent less cereal available per capita than individuals in rural areas.

Over the short term, food aid will continue to play a major role in guaranteeing food security.

(See the full text of the report on the WFP website: <http://www.wfp.org/newsroom/Korea/WFPandNKorea.htm>)

New DPRK Ambassadors Appointed

According to decrees of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, Pak Tong Chun, Choe Pyong Gwan and O Nam Jung were separately appointed ambassadors E.P. of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Republic of Cuba, the Lao People's Democratic

Republic and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Jang Myong Son was appointed as Ambassador E. P. of the DPRK to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Kang Tal Son was appointed as Ambassador E.P. of the DPRK to Singapore.

CEO of ABB Ltd. Visits DPRK

Goran Lindahl, President and Chief Executive Officer of the ABB Ltd., and his party visited the DPRK from November 22 to 24 to discuss future economic exchange and business between the company and the DPRK.

During his stay, he had talks with high-ranking DPRK officials including Kim Yong Nam, President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, and Hong Song Nam, Premier of the DPRK Cabinet.

According to south Korea's Yonhap News on November 24, the DPRK and ABB Ltd. signed an accord on cooperation

in the production of electrical machinery and equipment as well as in the modernization of the DPRK's electric power system.

On November 24, Goran Lindahl met interviewers and explained his company's activity and his first visit to Pyongyang. He said in the interview that he came to know well about the economic potentials of the DPRK while touring various places, adding that all the successes made in the DPRK are due to the wise leadership of General Secretary Kim Jong Il.

(Continued on page 4)

Pyongyang Computer Program Expo Shows Signs of Fast-Growing Software Industry of DPRK

A Glimpse of On-Going Software R&D in DPRK



Visitors keep their eyes on newly developed software programs with great interest.

Ri Sang Yong
PK staff reporter

Demonstrating about 270 kinds of creative computer programs developed by top-class universities and institutes, the annual software exhibition in Pyongyang impressed the visitors with rapidly developing software industry in the DPRK under the policy of "attaching great importance to science."

The 11th national computer program contest and exhibition was held between October 26 and November 11 in

Pyongyang. Programs exhibited were developed each by 11 universities including Kim Il Sung University, Han Duk Su Light Industry University and seven organizations including the State Planning Commission, the Academy of Social Sciences, the Pyongyang Program Center and Kim Man Yu Hospital.

The first prize went to "Ryongnamsan" 3.2 (Korean language OCR program) developed by Kim Il Sung University, "Pyongyang" 2.0 (Korean speech recognition program) developed by University of Science and "Buruna" 2.0 (Korean chess

program) developed by the Kim Chaek University of Technology.

Special prizes went to "Tangun" (standard Korean character program - Pyongyang Program Center), "Pyongyang" (Korean language memory system - Kim Il Sung University) and "Mitppuri" (production optimization system at the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex - University of National Economies). The first place in the exhibition category was given to "Sachol" 1.0, a fish farming information system developed by Kim Il Sung University.

"Puhung" (reconstruction), a support program for drawing state economic plan, realized automation of calculation duties, which occupied 80 percent of the process of state economic planning. "Nalgae" (wing), a support program for calculation of balance between sectors of the national economy, can remove 4.3 percent deviations in the distribution plan of supplies and reduce to 3 months the process of dovetailing work among sectors, which took 5 to 6 months.

Other remarkable programs were "Manpung-ho" (Lake Manpung) version 2, a land adjustment design program; "Supung", a supporting program for production planning hydroelectric power plants; "Tamsaek-1" (search), a supporting program for crude oil-probing projects. These programs were developed in order to solve urgent problems, which now confront the construction of the DPRK's socialist economy.

Some of the displayed programs are already in practical use in various fields of the national economy.

Capable of computerization of evaluation of silk thread quality, a production-and-management program, developed by Han Duk Su University of Light Industry, has proved its effectiveness, as it reduces the number of labor personnel to a quarter of the former number, the amount of consumption of raw materials by four-fifth of the former level and shortened the time needed to do evaluation work to one-eighth of the time formerly required.

In addition, cryptographic programs - "Pogom" (Valuable Sword) and "Hwasal 3" (Arrow), which were developed for the purpose of protection of secret information - were on display at the exhibition. As computers are in common use throughout the world, encryption programs were developed in accordance with a new request to save information in computer networks and to keep the secrecy of transmission.

Meanwhile, attractive multi-media and game programs also attracted visitors' attention. A Korean language OCR (Optical Character Reader) program, a speech recognition program, Russian-English-Korean multilingual translation program and Choson Changgi (Korean chess) program caught visitors' attention. Engineers had improved the quality of programs, focusing on heightening accuracy and the operation speed of programs.

Promising programs

"Yeji" (wisdom) — Basketball tactics training program

"Yeji" was developed by Kim Chaek University of Technology for acquiring the skill and tactics of basketball and providing technical support in a real game. The program can draw up the best strategy on the basis of data on players' individual

(Continued on page 4)

Selected Programs Developed by Korean Computer Center (KCC)

Program name	English name	Content
Koryo-Chingu	KORYO Acupuncture	Traditional Koryo medical expert system - For acupuncture treatment and training of acupuncture experts
Gumpital	Golden Horse	Program for classification of physical constitutions and for medical treatment by using finger ID technology
Jonghap-Uiryo-Bongsa-System (Integrated Service Digital Medicine)	ISDM	System of prescription and treatment method for diseases based on Koryo medicine - Consists of preliminary examination, diagnosis, Koryo medical system.
Jinung-chalpan-chege	Intelligent Salesman	POP (Point of Sales) system
Moho-37	MOHO-37	Fuzzy theory-based ore dressing software
Tosong-6	Satum-6	Air Traffic Control System - Radar signals processing system, radar data-processing system, data-recording & reproduction system
Jimin-jamulsoe (Fingerprint Verification Software)	FVS-P	Automated Fingerprint Identification System

Selected Programs Developed by Unbyol Institute of Computer Technology

Program name	English name	Content
Unbaduk	Silver Baduk	Computer Baduk (go) game program, utilizing with AI algorithm
Taekwondo	Taekwondo	Examples of practice in the basic movements of Taekwondo, physical training, special technique and application examples of the art of self-defense
Choson-upyo	Korean Stamps	Over 3,700 kinds of Korean stamps issued between 1945 and 1996 - year- and theme-classified search engine

Source: KOTRA (South Korean Trade-Investment Promotion Agency)

Selected Items of Computer Programs Developed by National Academy of Sciences

Program name	English name	Content
Pidulgi	Dove	Multilingual conversation study program - Korean-English, English-Korean, Korean-Japanese and Japanese-Korean conversation programs, over a thousand examples of usage
Kul-tongmu	Word-mate	Word-studying software (Korean, Japanese)
Mae	Eagle	Korean language OCR program
Majigae	Rainbow	Japanese-English translation program
Study Tetris	Study Tetris	Learning computer game program - Study English words and physics formulas through playing computer games
Business	Business	Support program for writing English business letters
Mangnani-kong (Chong-Kaeguri 1)	Free Ball (Tree-Frog 1)	Artificial intelligence-development program
Ryori-300	Food-300	Electric cooking book - Over 300 kinds of Korean ethnic foods are included.

Selected Programs Developed by Pyongyang Informatics Center

Program name	English name	Content
Changdok	Changdok	Multilingual word processor - Korean, English, Japanese, Hanja (Chinese characters), Russian
Tangun	Tangun	Standard Korean character program
Jonja-chalpan-chege	DTP	Multilingual DTP program (Korean, English, Japanese)
Inshik		Korean word recognition program (recognition rate: 95%)
Gohyang		Database Management System (DBMS)
Sarak		Architecture Design Support System; Fully supports architecture design, as 3D modeling, architectural technology design, construction framework design, electric supply work design, heating system, architecture drawing test, etc.

Chongryun Spurs Up General Campaign to Meet New Century with Brilliant Patriotic Success

Chongryun C.C. Holds 4th Meeting of 18th Congress

TOKYO, November 10 (KNS-KCNA) — The 4th meeting of the 18th congress of the Central Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryun) was held at the Korean hall in Tokyo on Nov. 9.

The meeting discussed the first agenda item "on greeting the 19th congress of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan with brilliant patriotic success by doing well the work among broad segments of compatriots in conformity with a new favourable situation" and the second agenda item "on convening the 19th congress of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan."

First Vice-Chairman of the Central Standing Committee of Chongryun So Man Sul in his report on the first agenda item highlighted the need to make all efforts for making the 19th congress of Chongryun a congress of victors and a congress for providing a new milestone to the movement of Korean residents in Japan in the 21st century.

Mentioning the successes the Korean

people achieved in the construction of a powerful nation and landmark events in the efforts to achieve national reunification and in the international arena, he said that the dramatic events in 2000 are a brilliant fruition of the outstanding leadership ability of the respected Kim Jong Il and the valuable gains the people in the homeland rallied close around Kim Jong Il in one mind and purpose made.

He continued:

Broad segments of compatriots will be led to make all their efforts to hold Kim Jong Il in high esteem and preserve the Juche character and national character so as to greet the 19th congress of Chongryun which will be held in Tokyo in May 2001, with a new upsurge and brilliant success in the patriotic work of Chongryun.

Ho Jong Man, Chief Vice-Chairman of the Chongryun Central Standing Committee, made a report on the second agenda item "on convening the 19th congress of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan."

Second Chongryun Home-Visiting Group Visits S. Korea



In a mood of inter-Korean reconciliation, a group of 119 members of Chongryun visited south Korea as its second home-visiting delegation from November 17 to 22. Members of the group visited their birthplaces between November 18 and 21 and was reunited with their long-lost families, relatives and old friends.

Program Exhibition (Continued from page 3)

ability, such as defense, offense, dribbling ability. The program also provides users appropriate timing and ways of changing players.

"Yeji" helped the "Faepul" basketball team, which took 6th place in the Mangyondae National Cup in April, win second place in the following Pochonbo Cup held in June, according to persons concerned. Minor teams also have achieved good results with the support of the program.

The program includes a total of 370 strategic programs and personal training pro-

grams. late curriculums in a shorter time. Formerly, it took 10 to 15 days for even experienced and veteran teachers to prepare a teaching curriculum, but this program shortens the time needed for preparing a curriculum to only one hour.

The program was developed by Han Duk Su Light Industry University.

IT in DPRK - Software Development

While the DPRK-made software has won a worldwide reputation for its creativity and high quality, Pyongyang aims to enter the fast-growing IT market of the world, structuring computer networks and necessary infrastructures and promoting computerization in the country.

As for Information Technology, the DPRK government realized the importance of electronics related to high-tech as a key to its economic development and started to establish a master plan in the early 1980s. Recently, this policy was reflected in a joint leading article of the three leading newspapers of the DPRK, dated on Jul. 4, 1999, entitled, "Let us build a powerful nation, firmly adhering to the idea of attaching great importance to science."

Recent years witnessed the start of a computer college and computer faculties, computer science classes and programming centers.

In 1999, the DPRK government newly established the Ministry of Electric Industry. The major organizations engaged in software development are the Korean Computer Center (KCC), established in October 1990, the Pyongyang Informatics Center (PIC) established in 1986 and the National Academy of Sciences. Regardless of the difference of organizations, the programs are developed for IBM PC compatibles, NEC PC9801 series and Macintosh computers. The products are aimed for domestic uses as well as for exports.

KCC, a mecca of the country's computer industry, is believed to employ more than 1,000 north Korean researchers and developers in its lab, operating hundreds of PCs. Universities also have promoted R&D for original programs. Reflecting Pyongyang's enthusiasm for the development of programs, the national computer program contest and exhibition has been annually held since 1990.

Encouraged by the government's policy of attaching great importance to science, the DPRK's software R&D has been brisk in various fields.

According to a KCNA report, a KCC-made OCR program reached level of recognizing 99.9 percent in printed documents and 95 percent of hand-written documents.

Korean High School Qualified to Compete in Japanese Football Championships



Osaka Korean High School has acquired a qualification to participate in High School Football Championships in Japan, winning in the Osaka regional elimination match against Seihu High School 2-1.

Korean high school took part in the championships in 1954 winning an elimination match held in Tokyo as a Japanese high school, not as a Korean high school.

This is the first time for one of the 12 Korean high schools in Japan to appear in the arena of the championships since Korean high schools had been entitled to compete in elimination matches in 1996.

The word recognition rate of a Korean speech recognition program is over 90 percent. Its high-performance word processor is said to be as good as those developed in south Korea or other countries.

Meanwhile, the KCNA also reported on Nov. 14 that a newly built "computerized library" in Wonsan was drawing many visitors, providing necessary information to them.

Linked with a computer network of the

centers for dissemination of science and technology across the country, the library enables its users to search and get necessary information from the Grand People's Study House, the Central Scientific and Technological Information Agency, the invention bureau of the Academy of Sciences in Pyongyang, etc. Reportedly, computer networks have been widely structured among universities, party and state organizations, institutes and factories.

ABB Group (Continued from page 2)

ABB Ltd. is the holding company of a group of companies formerly operating under the wing of ABB Asea Brown Boveri AG. The group was jointly owned by ABB AG (Switzerland) and ABB Participation A/B (Sweden) until June 1999 when these two companies were restructured to form a single holding company incorporated in Switzerland, ABB Ltd. At the end of 1998, the group consisted of approximately 1,000 companies in 33 business sectors organized into 7 divisions. The power transmission division and the power distribution division build and distribute a complete range

of electrical transmission and distribution equipment, machinery and systems. In the automations division drives, motors, power electronics, instruments and robotic systems are developed and manufactured. The oil, gas and petrochemical division constructs oil and gas production systems, refineries and other petrochemical plants. The building technologies division is involved in the design and manufacture of fans and ventilation systems for industrial and commercial buildings. The last division, the financial services division manages the groups assets and debts, is involved in project development and provides financial consultancy services.

grams.

"Tamjing" 1.0 — Korean-Japanese bilingual translation program

The bilingual translation program "Tamjing", which includes 200,000 words, can translate 300 kilobytes of Korean text into Japanese within three minutes. According to the maker, an average translation rate without errors reaches 93 percent.

The feature of "Tamjing" is that it works on both English and Japanese versions of Windows 95/98 operating system and it can translate various Korean documents which were written in different codes, such as DPRK's original codes ("Tangun"), WK-FEP (Front End Processor)/Wink code, Korean Writer codes.

"Tamjing" 1.0 is now available on the market. This software is sold at the Pyongyang Program Center for 20 dollars.

Curriculum-making Program 2.0

This program enables teachers to formu-