

### **Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill**

Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill is situated on the bank of the Taedong River which flows through Pyongyang, the capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

This factory, with a total floor space of over 90 000 square metres and fed by cocoons as raw materials, produces silk thread of various specifications and floss and supplies them to other textile mills for their raw materials.

It is associated with the exploits of Kim Jong Suk (December 24, 1917 – September 22, 1949), who is highly praised as a heroine of the anti-Japanese war by the Korean people and world progressive people.

She joined the anti-Japanese armed struggle organized and led by General Kim Il Sung to liberate the country from the military occupation by the Japanese imperialists (1905 - 1945) and fought for ten-odd years, thus greatly contributing to accomplishing the historic cause of the Korea's liberation (August 15, 1945). After liberation she worked hard to carry out Kim Il Sung's line of building a new Korea. For four years from the country's liberation until her death, she visited factories, rural communities, schools, hospitals, crèches and other several hundred units on more than 700 occasions to help Kim Il Sung in his work. Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill is one of them.

She visited the mill on April 12, 1947. Looking at the workers grading cocoons at the outdoor sorting yard, she said that now that the country had

been liberated and workers had become masters of their country and their factories, they must be happy in their work, encouraging them to work harder.

Although officials accompanying her dissuaded her from doing so, she made her way towards the reeling workshop No.1. At that time steam was floating so densely that one could not see ahead and drops of water were trickling down from the dingy ceiling. Having seen for a good while a girl picking cocoons out of water above 80°C, Kim Jong Suk dipped her own hand in the hot water, and then stroked the girl's swollen hands tenderly. And at the sight of the worker's breasts getting wet from the drops of water splashing while combing cocoons to find filament she felt so sad and advised the accompanying officials to make the workers work with something like a rubber apron.

She went on, "We must not forget that it is not a machine but man that does labour. We must treasure and love workers."

Officials were deeply moved by her instruction filled with love for the working class.

That day Kim Jong Suk warned them the girls' hair might be twisted into the reeling machine, urged them to install air exhausters in the workplaces lest any harm be done to the workers' health and said that the wire entanglement around the factory should be removed and the height of the fence be lowered. Before liberation the Japanese imperialist had surrounded the factory with a fence as high as five metres and built on it three layers of the wire entanglement, in order to prevent the draft workers from escaping. She stressed that their deep seated wound should be

healed as soon as possible, saying that it had been in order to tear down such fences geared to restraining human liberty that the guerrillas had fought in the mountains.

When she visited the factory's hostel, she felt the workers' bedding and examined the room temperature; she said that as most of the factory employees were female workers, it was important to keep their rooms warm, stressing that officials should take better care of their living. Looking round the canteen, she reiterated that the workers should be supplied with warm rice and soup at every meal.

After the inspection of the factory, she told its officials to pay deep attention to the workers' working and living conditions, particularly to those who were living in the hostel, stressing that those who took loving care of the workers were true officials Kim Il Sung wanted.

That day she informed Kim Il Sung of the actual situation of the factory.

Kim Il Sung took steps to provide the factory with dishes and bowls, blankets, flooring paper, window paper, washing boards and washing machines which were need for the workers' living.

After Kim Jong Suk's visit, the workers of the silk mill made vigorous efforts to boost production, thus leading the country in fulfilling the National Economy Plan for 1947, the first plan for prosperity and development of the national economy after Korea's liberation. The factory produced 11 tons of silk thread in 1947, 14.3 tons in 1948 and 15.5 tons in 1949, which was more than twice as much as the highest output during the Japanese imperialist rule.

Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill was honoured with on site guidance

of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il on several occasions, and has now developed into a production base of silk thread, a special product of Korea.

In January 2009 when he visited this factory, Kim Jong Il said that, as it claims a lion's share in the country's silk thread production, the factory should raise its production capacity without letup to the world standard, stressing that the Workers' Party of Korea is firmly resolved and willing to provide the people with better clothes.

To hand down Kim Jong Suk's noble intention and undying exploits through generations, this factory was named after Kim Jong Suk.