

## **PYONGYANG PUBLICIZES ECONOMIC SITUATION ON 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE DPRK**

In order to inform the North Korean public of the current economic situation on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (Sept. 9), state-run media outlets in the North are reporting on the construction or expansion of factories and facilities in each region of the country.

According to reports by (North) Korean Central Broadcasting, Pyongyang Broadcasting and other North Korea media outlets, three to four production facilities per month began operations through July, and seven facilities opened last month. The news is also reporting that six new facilities have been completed or have begun operations during what little time has passed this month.

It appears that North Korea is concentrating its efforts on expanding production facilities in the mining and metalwork production realm, despite facing difficulties brought on by resource and material shortages. Construction work to increase the Kumduk Mining Enterprise's mineral conveyance system capacity in Danchon, South Hamyong Province, the heart of the iron and zinc-producing region, was completed at the end of last month, as was the first stage of construction on the refurbishment of the Danchon Mining Equipment Factory. Construction on a new production factory extracting primary elements from coal was completed this month at the Moonpyoung Refinery in Kangwon Province, where gold and other minerals are mined. Authorities are toting the new facilities as "One More Monumental Creation of the Military-First Era."

North Korean media outlets are also reporting on economic developments affecting food supply to the North Korean population. In the town of Singye, North Hwangae Province, the Singye Sweet Potato Processing Plant, which produces noodles, sweets, and other food products from sweet potatoes, went into production at the beginning of August. It was also reported that in the middle of last month, construction was completed on a computerized meatpacking plant at the Kangseo Pork Processing Facility in Pyongnam. On the third of last month another pig farm in Kanggye, one which Kim Jong Il complemented during an on-site inspection in January, calling it “one more modern livestock facility for Jagang Province,” also began operations.

The Generator No. 1 and the pressure tube at the Wonsan Centennial Power Plant were completed in the middle of last month, and the water flow channel for Generator No. 2 at the Baekdu Mountain Military First Centennial Power Plant and the Pyongnam Military First Centennial Power Plant were completed at the beginning of this month.

In reporting the completion of power plant construction projects, the media announced that they “would be able to contribute to the improvement of the lives of the people and the normalization of factory and enterprise production.”