

## **Economic Achievements Propagated for the 2012**

The Choson Sinbo, Japan-based newspaper, reported on November 4 that a new phrase, “kindle of Hamnam” (Northern Hamgyong Province) is appearing everywhere in North Korea, indicating the nation’s fervor of accelerating plans to build a strong and prosperous nation by 2012.

The newspaper depicted the current atmosphere in Pyongyang with the article titled, “The Term *Kindle of Hamnam* Is Appearing All over the North Korean Media from Late-October.” The mood is explained that the nation’s focus has turned to economic revival in all sectors, chiefly highlighting the achievements of Northern Hamgyong Province.

Kim Jong Il is reported to have begun his field guidance visits to Chollima Steel Complex from December 2008 and for the last three years has particularly made more visits to Northern Hamgyong Province than any other region in the country.

The news also boasted about the “outstanding development in all sectors,” naming a few places in particular: that is, the February 8 Vinalon Complex, Hungnam Fertilizer Complex, Ryongsong Machinery Complex, Daehung (Taehung) Youth Hero Mine, Ryongyang Mine, Danchon (Tanchon) Magnesia Factory, Ryongjon Fruit Farm, and Danchon (Tanchon) Port Construction.

In addition, Kim has reportedly “commended the accomplishments of these industrial units” and reportedly has invited “scientists, technicians, and workers that have contributed to technological development, modernization and scientification in the region” to Pyongyang. They were greeted with flowers and warm welcome. Every move of these representatives were followed and covered in the media, which quickly spread the new expression, “kindle of Hamnam” across the nation.

Other news media began to feature the story, linking as news of the creativity and revolution that all the people of North Korea are pushing forward with economic reconstruction.

The KCNA, North Korea’s official mouthpiece, also reported on October 17 that the construction of Hungnam Fertilizer Complex Gas Generator No. 1 was completed, claiming it as a “breakthrough in accomplishing fertilizer production goals.” The second gas generator is expected to be completed by next year, to commemorate the centennial birthday of Kim Il Sung.

While the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex is located on the east coast, on the west lies Namhung Youth Chemical Complex (Southern Pyongan Province). The news reported on the completion of gas generators 1 and 2 of the Namhung Complex and emphasized that this represents the end of imported resources, and that now the country was equipped with self-sustainable fertilizer production system with naturally abundant anthracite.

North Korea is forecasting the completion of Hungnam’s second gas generator will secure enough fertilizer necessary for yearly production of one thousand tons of grain.

North Korea has implemented a nationwide land adjustment program since the end of 1990s and has especially focus on the development of agricultural through science and technology

to improve grain production. The main obstacle, however, was fertilizer. With obsolete equipment and financial difficulties, needed fertilizers could not be provided to farms. Even those fertilizers that came in as aid from South Korea and other countries were not consistent and untimely made the fertilizer supply unstable and ineffective in improving the farming situation.

North Korea assures that the Namhung Chemical Complex will soon be able to provide stable supply of fertilizers to farms for more secured production of crops.