

## **DPRK & Prizes of the International Grand Master of Memory**

Players from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea participated in the 28<sup>th</sup> World Memory Championships held in Wuhan, China, from December 4 to 8, 2019, and achieved remarkable successes, striking the world with amazement.

### **A High Phase of the WMC Ushered In**

The World Memory Championships which started in 1991 is a world's intellectual power game held on the largest scale.

Several hundreds of players who were selected from several countries and regions participate in the annual championships. They compete one another in ten events including 15 min-long memory of abstract patterns, 30 min-long memory of binary digits, 5 min-long memory of numbers, an hour-long memory of playing cards, 15 min-long memory of faces and names and 5 min-long memory of historical events. The championships confer to excellent players various prizes including the prize of International Grand Master of Memory, the top prize of the championships, respectively, according to the standards set by the organizing committee. And the updated world record is registered in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Six Korean young men and women participated in the 28<sup>th</sup> championships.

In the first day they all entered the rankings from the first to seventh places except second place at the adult group event for the memory of Mach speed, and four of them broke previous world records. At the adult-level event for the memory of binary digits they not only occupied the rankings from the first to the fifth places but smashed again the world records. In the second and third days they also challenged the previous world records, thus snatching one medal after another.

In the championships the Korean players won 28 medals in total, including eleven gold medals, eight silver medals and nine bronze medals, topping the country medals table. They also updated the world records in four events and won three gold trophies. The six Korean players all received the prize of International Grand Master of Memory.

The general director of the Council of the WMC said, "Korean players displayed their practical abilities to the full and created records and successes unprecedented in the history of championships. It is beyond my imagination. As all of the six Korean players have won the prize of International Grand Master of Memory, they ushered in a highest

phase in the history of the championships.”

### **Memory Masters Grow Up**

This was not the first time that the Korean players astonished the world people in the WMC. In the 27<sup>th</sup> WMC held in 2018 they also evoked a huge response from the world.

It was their debut in the WMC. They, however, displayed their abilities to the full from the beginning. Three Korean players won seven gold medals, seven silver medals, five bronze medals and four trophies, and two players were awarded the prize of International Memory Master. At the championships nine new world records were created, four of them being made by three Korean players.

Witnessing the amazing memory abilities displayed by the Korean players at the 27<sup>th</sup> WMC and then 28<sup>th</sup> WMC, numerous people showed great interest in the educational mode in that country. The rector of the intellectual academy of Mongolia, which occupied the second place at the country medals table at the 28<sup>th</sup> WMC, said that thanks to their introduction of training mode of Korea they were able to produce many brilliant students.

His remarks were not accidental.

Ten years ago a well-regulated educational system of super speed reading was set up at middle schools No. 1 and other universities across the country. National super speed reading contest of students from universities and senior middle schools is being conducted at the same standard as the world intellectual power Olympiad and the WMC. In this course, numerous talents who are possessed of super speed reading abilities of the world standard have been produced. The six students, who participated in the 28<sup>th</sup> WMC, excelled at the domestic super speed reading contests, and they are now studying at universities including Kim Hyong Jik University of Education and Pyongyang University of Foreign Studies.

When asked about the secret of success the head of the Korean delegation replied to the foreign journalists, “It is not accidental that we have gained success. Just as there is a gardener before beautiful flowers, so numerous super speed reading masters will be produced in Korea which is provided with an excellent educational system of super speed reading.”