

# DPRK Business Monthly

Volume IV, No. 4, May 2013

As a rich man is likely to be a better customer to the industrious people in his neighbourhood than a poor, so is likewise a rich nation. [Trade embargoes] by aiming at the impoverishment of our neighbours, tend to render that very commerce insignificant and contemptible.

Adam Smith, *Wealth of Nations*

## International

### “Sanctions on NK’s Foreign Trade Bank Could Affect Millions”

Reuters reported that European aid groups said their banks in Europe had stopped sending money to North Korea in the wake of US sanctions on Pyongyang's main foreign exchange bank, leaving them scrambling for a solution short of hand-carrying cash into the DPRK.

Aid groups said if it became impossible to send enough money to operate, donors might withdraw support for their programs.

"This could eventually reduce our ability to carry out projects or even force a complete close down," Mathias Mogge, director of programs for German aid group Welthungerhilfe, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"If all the agencies had to pull out, it would affect millions of people," said Mogge.

The biggest problem had been the Bank of China's recent decision to shut the account of the North's Foreign Trade Bank, EU officials and non-governmental organizations said. Money to North Korea was routed through China's biggest foreign exchange bank, they said.

Chinese firms doing business in North Korea said they were also finding it difficult because Chinese banks were becoming increasingly reluctant to deal with their North Korean counterparts, whether it was the Foreign Trade Bank or other banks.

Washington imposed sanctions on the Foreign Trade Bank in March. The measures prohibit any transactions between US entities or individuals and the bank. Under the Patriot Act, Washington does not have to produce any evidence of wrongdoing before it blacklists a bank, company or individual.

Experts have said Washington's move was designed to make international banks that do business in the United States think twice about dealing with North Korea, in much the same way banks have become wary about having ties with financial institutions in sanctions-hit Iran.

All NGOs, UN agencies and embassies in Pyongyang have to use the Foreign Trade Bank, aid workers and other officials said.

One EU source said there were indications some European embassies in Pyongyang were having similar difficulties with transferring funds. US officials have urged the European Union to put sanctions on the bank. EU diplomats have discussed the issue but are worried about the impact.

French NGO Triangle Generation Humanitaire said its French bank would no longer send funds for its operating expenses even though the EU had not yet imposed sanctions, said Anne Trehondart, desk officer in charge of Asia for the group.

"According to the sanctions, it's not forbidden. This makes it plain that some banks are just reluctant to transfer money there," said Trehondart, indicating fear of retaliation from the US.

A representative from another European NGO, who asked not to be identified because of the sensitivity of the matter, said he had "little hope" that a recent money transfer would reach North Korea. He declined to name the group's European bank.

The only alternative would be to send an expatriate employee on a "cash run" from China to North Korea -- a limited option because Chinese customs only allow foreigners to take a few thousand dollars out of the country at a time, he said.

The Bank of China announced it was shutting the Foreign Trade Bank account earlier this month. It gave no reason for the move.

"So far all our bank accounts with North Korea have been channeled through the Bank of China. This option is closed now for us," said Simone Pott, a spokeswoman for Welthungerhilfe.

Welthungerhilfe said routine transfers amounting to 300,000 euros (US\$386,300) had been blocked in recent weeks, and attempts to use other international banks had also failed because of the US sanctions.

Japan has also imposed sanctions on the Foreign Trade Bank, and Australia is expected to follow suit, according to Reuters.

The latest UN sanctions on North Korea don't mention the bank.

The US Treasury Department has said it had no intention of hindering aid work in North Korea, although NGOs say this is precisely what is starting to happen.

A source at Shenyang-based Liaoning Wellhope Agri-Tech Co. Ltd, a mid-sized unlisted producer of livestock feed, said the company had been unable to send payments to North Korea, although its feed mill in the country continued to operate.

A businessman in the Chinese border city of Dandong, which accounts for as much as 80 percent of China's trade with North Korea, said sanctions had made conditions worse.

Dandong Bank's main branch, which deals with foreign exchange, said it had stopped working with North Korea.

"The tricky thing is that the Foreign Trade Bank is the clearing house for all foreign transactions, whether they're related to weapons or not, so there's a lot of legitimate business that goes through it," said Andray Abrahamian of the NGO Choson Exchange, which has trained officials from the bank. "Sanctioning this bank is going to force more and more business underground."

## NGO Initiatives in DPRK:



World Food Programme

In July 2012 WFP resumed its “Nutrition Support to Women and Children in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK)” operation, which seeks to combat continued hunger and undernutrition among children and their mothers, and restore and rebuild livelihoods. WFP’s operation targets 2.4 million of the most vulnerable women and children – as well as food-insecure families – in the most food-insecure parts of the country.

The “new” operation initially started in July 2010, but was suspended in April the following year, when WFP launched an emergency operation to address sudden increased needs following one of the most bitter winters in living memory, and a squeeze on commercial imports and bilateral food assistance.

The resumed operation has now been extended in time to June 2013, and is targeting more women and children than previously – about 2.4 million in total. WFP operations will now extend to 85 counties, instead of the 65 targeted in 2010.

The October 2011 Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) confirmed the continuing need for food assistance to vulnerable groups in North Korea. The CFSAM recommended a continued focus on addressing the lack of dietary diversity and consequent malnutrition through the distribution of Super Cereals and other types of nutritional supplements for the most vulnerable.

WFP’s operation will be implemented under stringent monitoring conditions which include immediate permission for missions to access all parts of the operational chain, access to markets and state shops, and the use of Korean speakers.



**From the left: Mr Dierk Stegen, WFP Representative in DPR Korea, Ms Han Bok Rok, Chairperson of the County FFCD Management Committee, Mr Mun Jong Nam, Division Director of the National Coordination Committee (NCC)[Photo: WFP/Xuerong Liu]**

## **UNFPA Provides Medical Aid to NK mothers**

Yonhap reported that a United Nations organization supporting child birth has provided US\$500,000-worth of medical aid to North Korean mothers and children.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) shipped the drugs and medical equipment in April for mothers with newborn babies in the North.

The goods were sent to about 300 health facilities in the country, and the UNFPA tapped into the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund in order to provide the assistance.

With a budget of US\$10 million, the UNFPA has been leading a five-year project to help pregnant North Korean women and conduct a census in the DPRK since 2011.

Maternal deaths in the North reached 77 in 2008, up 40 percent from 54 recorded in the 1990s, according to the UNFPA. The rate refers to the number of women dying from child birth-related complications per 100,000 live births.

## **“Sanctions Hit Humanitarian Funding”**

According to the AFP, the UN Children’s Fund (Unicef), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization

(WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and UN Population Fund (UNFPA) said they were feeling fallout from efforts to increase North Korea's isolation.

“Even though the imposed sanctions clearly exclude humanitarian assistance, a negative impact on the levels of humanitarian funding has been experienced,” the agencies said in a statement.

The agencies said they had received just over a quarter of the US\$147 million they needed for operations in the North this year.

“As a result of the persisting deficit, agencies are unable to respond effectively to the humanitarian needs, of which the most critical and life-saving ones urgently require US\$29.4 million,” they added.

The agencies said there had been “a slight improvement” in the humanitarian situation in the past year. But Unicef said it was running short of cash for basic vaccines and medicines for child killers such as pneumonia and diarrhea.

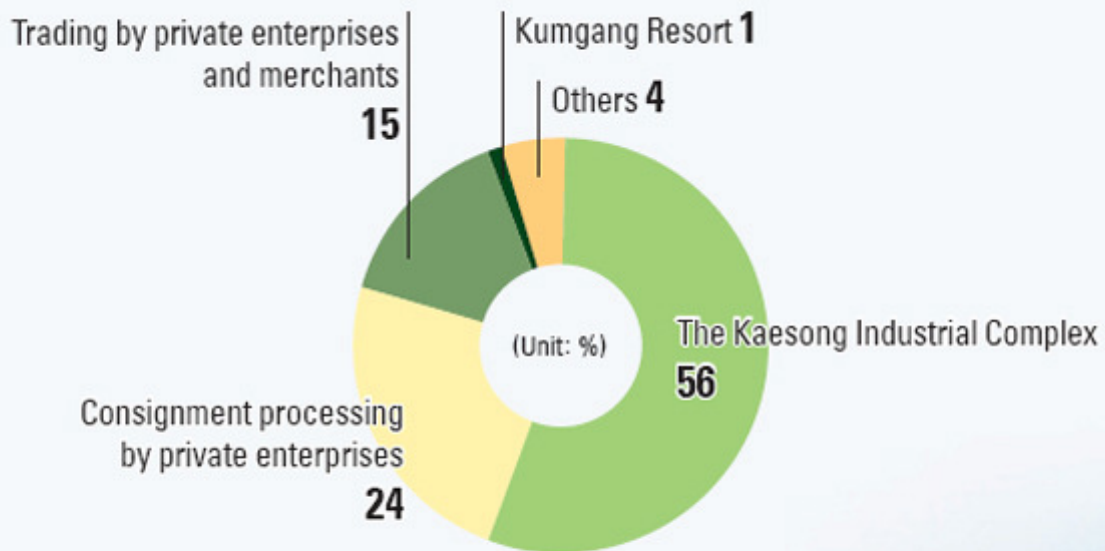
The UN estimates that about one-third of North Korean children under five are chronically malnourished.

## Inter-Korean

### **Inter-Korean Business at a Standstill**

[The following is an edited version of a *JoongAng Daily* report.]

## Trade volume of each business in 2009



Source: Ministry of Unification



**This gas station was nearing completion in Kaesong City, North Korea, on December 18, 2008. The station, built by a South Korean enterprise called Badubatu, was never finished after inter-Korean business was halted by Seoul in 2010.**

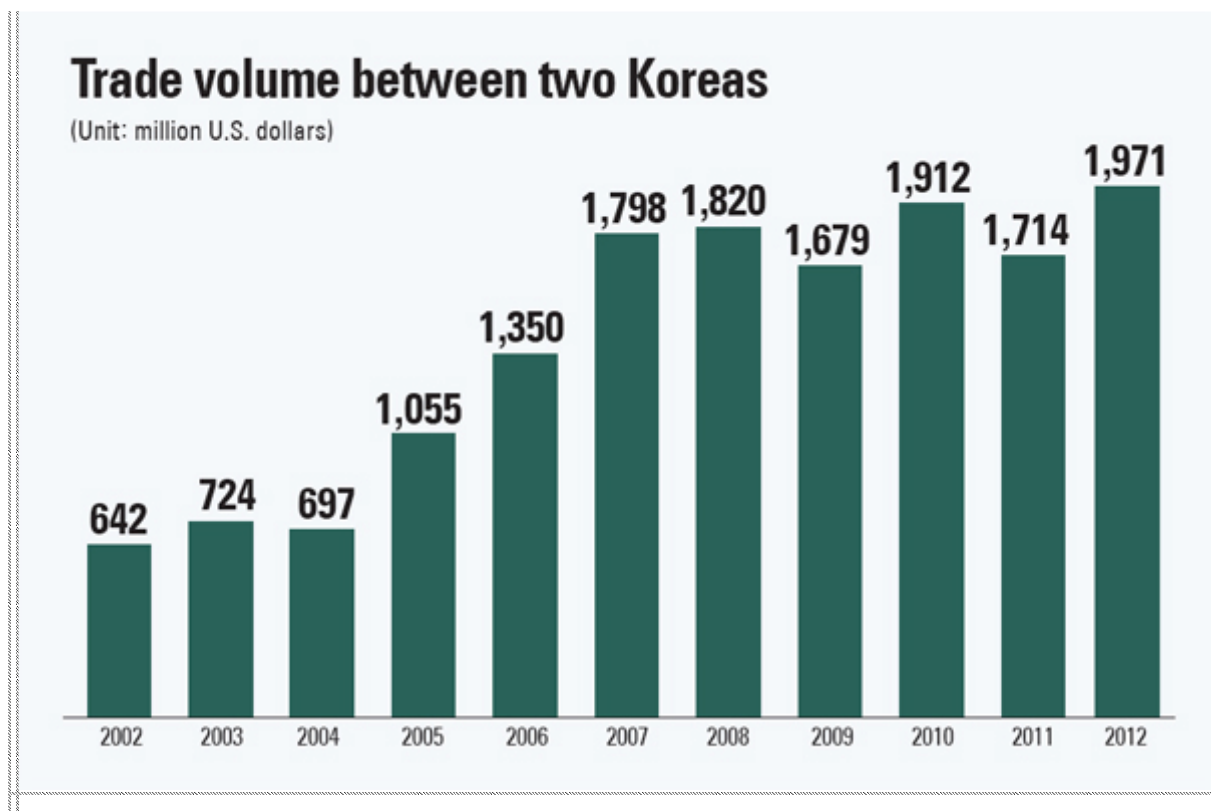
A coalition of South Korean businessmen who were traders or investors outside the Kaesong district in North Korea said that the Seoul government should restart all inter-Korean businesses, not just the Kaesong Industrial Complex.

“Roughly 1,000 people ran inter-Korean businesses, including some 40 South Korean businessmen who invested large sums of money in the North,” Ryoo Dong-ho, a representative of the coalition, told the *JoongAng Daily*. “The total loss of the investors and the traders is estimated to be about US\$136 million.”

“Just like the Kaesong complex companies, we also ran inter-Korean businesses,” he said. “However, while the government arranges an array of measures for the Kaesong companies, we have not received any compensation or help from the government.”

Most of the businessmen ran small-sized companies, such as importers of natural resources into the South or running factories outside of the Kaesong complex.

“I built a gas station, and it was almost completed,” Ryoo said. “But due to the May 24, 2010 sanctions [imposed after the sinking of the Cheonan warship], I had to walk away from it. I also purchased some land in the North to build a hotel, which was also halted.



“One businessman brought sand from the North entailing a huge investment,” he continued. “Some brought stones from North Korea to be used in construction in the South. Another businessman built a clothing factory in Kaesong City.”

In 2009, according to the South’s Ministry of Unification, business by private investors and traders apart from the Kaesong complex and the Mount Kumgang Resort accounted for about 40 percent of all inter-Korean business. But after the 2010 sanctions, revenues from the Kaesong complex accounted for 99 percent of inter-Korean businesses.

“We were the first generation who paved the way for inter-Korean business before the Kaesong complex was built,” Ryoo said. “Based on our businesses, the government could be certain the Kaesong complex would be successful.”

In fact, inter-Korean businesses have a history of less than 25 years. On July 7, 1988, former South Korean President Roh Tae-woo announced an end to confrontation with Pyongyang and approved inter-Korean business for the first time.

Inter-Korean trade increased from US\$18.7 million-worth in 1989 to US\$19.7 billion-worth in 2012, according to statistics from the Unification Ministry.

The early stage of inter-Korean business was trade. Four months after Roh’s declaration, on November 18, 1988, the Daewoo Group, a leading conglomerate in the South at the time, imported a total of 519 North Korean ceramic vases through a Hong Kong broker, getting the first government approval for such trade.

Most inter-Korean trade was so-called “consignment processing” : Southern business owners took raw materials or equipment to North Korea, where wages are low, importing completed products into the South.

Inter-Korean business accelerated after the late chairman of Hyundai Group, Chung Ju-yung, crossed the heavily fortified border in 2000 with an array of trucks carrying a herd of cattle to the North, a milestone in inter-Korean history. During his meeting with then-North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, Chung reached an agreement to start the Mount Kumgang Resort and the Kaesong industrial project.

In 2000 Hyundai Asan and North Korea reached an agreement on the Kaesong Industrial Complex; in 2002 the South’s government held a groundbreaking ceremony to build the Gyeongui Line, a railway line linking Seoul and Uiju County, North Korea, and reconnected a road across the border; overland tours to the Mount Kumgang Resort began in 2003; the Kaesong complex released its first products in December 2004.

In 2006 both sides signed an agreement on inter-Korean business in light industry and natural resources development. The South provided a total of US\$80 million-worth of raw materials for the North, such as textiles, shoes and soap, to develop

its light industries as a loan between July 2007 and March 2008. In return, the North offered a total of 1,005 metric tons of zinc used in automobiles, worth US\$2.4 million, between December 2007 and January 2008. Pyongyang promised to pay back the rest of the loan from 2014.

“Apart from Kaesong, the second-biggest victims of the halted inter-Korean business were those who invested in the Kungang resort,” Ryoo said. “One of the businessmen even committed suicide after the shutdown of the resort, and most of them are still struggling.”

After North Korea’s second nuclear weapons test in 2009, a cooperative farm and the natural resources business were also halted by the Southern side.

After the Cheonan was sunk in 2010, which South Korea blamed on the North, the Lee Myung-bak administration imposed the so-called “May 24 measures,” which prohibit all inter-Korean relations except humanitarian aid for children and some underprivileged people.

Aside from the Kaesong complex, inter-Korean business withered. Inter-Korean trade outside of Kaesong was worth about US\$435 million in 2010, but it dropped to US\$1 million-worth in 2012.

“For the future of the two Koreas, boosting private inter-Korean business is good,” Ryoo said. “North Korea has plenty of high-quality natural resources and cheap labor. What we really want is not compensation from the government, but resumption of inter-Korean business. And I think the businessmen in the Kaesong complex are of the same opinion.”

## Domestic

### **Manpho Yonha Power Station Opened**

KCNA reported that the Manpho Yonha Power Station was opened at a ceremony April 26. In attendance were DPRK Cabinet Premier Pak Pong Ju, Korean Workers’ Party [KWP] Secretary Pak To Chun, Supreme People’s Assembly Presidium Vice-President Yang Hyong Sop, DPRK Cabinet Vice-Premier Jon Sung Hun, Minister of Electric Power Kim Man Su, Chief Secretary of the Jagang KWP Provincial Committee Ryu Hyong Sop, Chairman of the Jagang Provincial People’s Committee Kim Tok Hun along with “relevant functionaries, power plant builders and volunteers from Manpho.

Manpho is the third-largest city in Jagang Province. A railway bridge links the city to China across the Yalu (Amnok) River.



View of the newly operational Manpo Yonha Power Station [Photo: KCNA]

## “June 28th New Management Methods in Force”

The *Choson Sinbo*, a pro-Pyongyang newspaper published in Japan, reported that North Korean officials have formally acknowledged that some factories, enterprises and cooperative farms have been experimenting with new economic management methods -- known as the “June 28th Policy” -- since last year.

Cabinet official Kim Ki Cheol and State Planning Commission Deputy Director Ri Young Min are quoted as saying that some new economic measures have been adopted, but add that legal and institutional frameworks still require alteration if the changes are to be expanded.

Under the new policy, farming work units were to be reduced in size. At the same time, farmers were to retain 30% of their production plus any production in excess of state targets, and procurement prices paid by the state were to rise to reflect market levels. Meanwhile, state distribution of foodstuffs was to cease for workers in some factories and enterprises, while wages were to rise and be paid in money rather than in kind.

The *Choson Sinbo* stressed, “All problems that arise in the course of economic activities are focused on the Cabinet, and rules and regulations are being comprehensively established under the Cabinet’s unified leadership.”

## Economic Zones

### “Rason Could Be NK's Shenzhen”

[The following is an edited version of an article carried in *The Shanghaiist*.]

AP's Alexa Olesen recently traveled to North Korea's Rason Special Economic Zone, where it's said any foreigner may now enter visa-free as long as the trip is booked through an approved travel agency.

Here's what she found:

[Rason] lies in the far northeastern tip of North Korea, 600 miles (1,000 km) from Pyongyang, but will be about an hour's drive from China once a new road is completed.

Rumbling Chinese cargo trucks already ply the route, churning up plumes of choking dust and ferrying containers of Chinese-made shoes, plastic toys, computer speakers, T-shirts and DVDs to the Rason Free



## Trade Market.

The market, a 13-year-old experiment in small-scale capitalism, has been so successful that the Chinese managing company, the Tianyu Group, is planning to expand the jam-packed 5,000-sq-m market by six times, Tianyu Deputy Director Zheng Zhexi said. "As I see it, this is the way of economic development, and it's something that the people want," Zheng added. "I think it's reached a point where it cannot be reversed."

Rason has benefited from the shift in Pyongyang's priorities. When Zheng arrived in 1997 to set up the market, people were hesitant to get involved. Now Tianyu doesn't have the space to approve even a fraction of the applications from prospective vendors, he said.

"Ordinary people's sense and the awareness of the market, and their views on the economy — all these have changed a lot," Zheng said.

If this is an accurate reflection of changes on the ground, then things are finally looking up for Rason. First designated a special economic zone in 1991, the project quickly floundered as foreign investors stayed away. It wasn't until 2010, when the DPRK's Supreme People's Assembly issued an edict declaring Rason a "special city" that the region was revived again.

If these changes keep chugging along, Rason could very well become to North Korea what Shenzhen is to China.



**Model of the expansion of the Rason Special Economic Zone**

## Comment

The latest move by the US Treasury Department to cripple the DPRK's foreign trade is a severe blow to North Korea's attempts to conduct normal business with the outside world. Washington not only forbids US entities to deal with the Foreign Trade Bank, Pyongyang's only conduit for foreign currency transactions, it also threatens non-US business people with retaliation if they dare to undermine the US economic embargo by engaging in legitimate trade with the DPRK. Even humanitarian programs are now at risk. As quoted above, "The US Treasury Department has said it has no intention of hindering aid work in North Korea, although NGOs say this is precisely what is starting to happen." Even foreign embassies (The US refuses to set up an embassy in Pyongyang) have expressed worries about being able to pay their staff.

It is important to understand that the latest UN sanctions on North Korea don't mention the bank. This is purely a US

move. And to show how powerful the US is in international financial circles, even the Bank of China has fallen into line and closed the Foreign Trade Bank's account. But, considering the huge amount of business China does in North Korea, one wonders if China is quite as frightened as it appears to be.

## Touring North Korea



.:| 2 NEW TOURS ADDED FOR JULY |:.



### Great News Everyone!

We have added two new tours for July as the ARIRANG Mass Games 2013 are scheduled to run from July 22nd to September 9th, 2013.

**MASS GAMES OPENING TOUR 2013** July 22 - 25/26 (Mon - Thurs/Fri) | 3 Nights  
With this short tour you can attend the first ever mass games performance of 2013 - a boast-worthy event indeed! This trip also takes in the highlights of Pyongyang and a visit down to the DMZ at the border with South Korea where North and South Korean soldiers continue their decades-old face-off. Check out the [full itinerary and more information >](#)

**VICTORY DAY CITY BREAK TOUR 2013** July 27 - 30/31 (Sat - Tue/Wed) | 3 Nights  
Arrive in Pyongyang in time to see the afternoon celebrations on this most important of occasions, the 60th anniversary of the end of the Korean War. The exact nature of events will be unfurled on the spot in Pyongyang but you can guarantee that we will get you to whatever is possible. You will also see the highlights of Pyongyang including the newly-opened, better-than-before, Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum telling the history of the Korean War from the North's perspective. And of course, an opportunity to see the spectacular Arirang Mass Games.

[For more information and full itinerary >](#)



Mass Games can basically be described as a synchronized socialist-realist spectacular, featuring over 100,000 participants in a 90 minute display of gymnastics, dance, acrobatics, and dramatic performance, accompanied by music and other effects, all wrapped in a highly politicized package. Literally no other place on Earth has anything comparable and it has to be seen with your own two eyes to truly appreciate the scale on display.

We also have several tours (independent tours possible as well) during the Arirang Mass Games period, if you are interested in making an **independent tour**, don't hesitate to **get in touch**, you can find a full list of our scheduled group tours with dates, prices and itineraries [here](#)



#### Mass Games Behind the Scenes Film Clip

From a 2002 DPRK-made documentary about the Arirang Mass Games, showing some of the behind the scenes activities that go towards this extraordinary performance.





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## KORYO TOURS GUIDE TO MOBILE & INTERNET SERVICES IN THE DPRK



There are two mobile phone networks in the DPRK – one for locals and one for foreigners. These two networks do not interlink. It is not possible for someone on one network to call someone on the other network. The following information relates to the foreigner network only.

**MOBILE SERVICES**

It is possible to buy a SIM card upon arrival in Pyongyang at the Koryolink booth in the airport terminal. You can either buy a **Visitor Line** or a **Foreigner Line**. It is possible to make and receive international calls but there is no international texting:

**VISITOR LINE**

Visitor Line 1; costs EUR 50; preloaded balance EUR 30; 14 day validity  
 Visitor Line 2; costs EUR 75; preloaded balance EUR 55; 1 month validity  
 Visitor Line 3; costs EUR 100; preloaded balance EUR 80; 2 month validity

**Local calling rate:** EUR 0.2/min

**Local receiving rate:** EUR 0.2/min

**SMS & MMS:** EUR 0.2

**FOREIGNER LINE**

Costs EUR 50; monthly fee 800 KPW (approx EUR 6/USD 8); each month you receive 200 free minutes of calls and 20 free SMS to other local lines

**Local call rate:** 4.2 KPW/min (EUR 0.03)

**Local receiving rate:** 3.5 KPW/min (EUR 0.02)

**SMS:** 2.8 KPW (EUR 0.01)

**MMS:** 7 KPW (EUR 0.05)

**INTERNATIONAL CALL RATES**

China & South East Asia – EUR 1.43/min  
 Russia – EUR 0.68/min  
 France & Switzerland – EUR 0.38/min  
 UK & Germany – EUR 1.58/min  
 USA – EUR 5/min

**INTERNET SERVICES**

**Koryolink offers the following mobile Internet connections:**

- On your Laptop (USB Modem)

Pay a one-off connection fee then choose one of the monthly packages:

Browser package (2GB /month)

Streamer package (5GB /month)

Business package (10GB /month)

- On your phone

Pay a one-off connection fee then subscribe to a mobile internet monthly package

**Internet can be accessed in the following places:**

High Speed: Pyongyang city centre

High Speed: Main Highways

Normal Speed: Outside Pyongyang (anywhere that has mobile coverage)

**How to set up the service on your computer:**

Take passport and fill out an application form at the ICC store or Koryolink airport booth.

Pay the one-off connection fee (EUR 150) plus one-month subscription fee.

You will receive a USB modem and a SIM card. Insert the SIM card in the modem.

To pay for the service you use cash recharge or top-up cards from the ICC store.

**How to set up the service on your mobile phone:**

Take passport and fill out an application form at the ICC store or Koryolink airport booth.

Pay the one-off connection fee plus one-month subscription fee.

You must buy a **Koryolink Foreigner Line** (see above for details) which costs EUR 50 and has a monthly subscription of KPW 800 (approx EUR 6/USD 8). Note that you cannot get Internet access with the Koryolink Visitor line which has a fixed validity (14 days, 1 month or 2 months).

To recharge your phone you need to buy top-up cards.

**COSTS****Mobile Internet on your computer (USB Modem)**

One-off connection fee EUR 150 (includes USB modem & sim card).

Choose from one of 3 monthly packages.

<b><u>MONTHLY PACKAGES</u></b>	<b><u>PRICING/MONTH</u></b>	<b><u>FREE UNITS</u></b>	<b><u>EXTRA UNITS</u></b>
Browser	EUR 150	2GB	EUR 0.05/MB
Streamer	EUR 250	5GB	EUR 0.04/MB
Business	EUR 400	10GB	EUR 0.02/MB

**Mobile Internet on your phone**

One-off connection fee EUR 75

Monthly Package

<b><u>MONTHLY PACKAGES</u></b>	<b><u>PRICING/MONTH</u></b>	<b><u>FREE UNITS</u></b>	<b><u>EXTRA UNITS</u></b>
Mobile Internet	EUR 10	50MB	EUR 0.15/MB



This could be you!

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## Young Pioneer Tours

### Sinuiju Open to Western Tourists

Gareth Johnson of Young Pioneer Tours said his Xi'an-based company had received Pyongyang's approval to organize tours for non-Chinese foreigners to the North Korean border town of Sinuiju, which so far has been open only to Chinese tourists.

Johnson said he expects the day trips — which may begin in June — to be popular among Westerners looking for an affordable and convenient option to visit the largely isolated country.

Westerners already can visit North Korea on weeklong organized tours, with an average cost of US\$1,300 per person, while day trips would cost considerably less and could fit into the travel itinerary of someone who is visiting China, Johnson said.

Sinuiju is connected by bridge to the Chinese city of Dandong along the Yalu River. It has been open to Chinese tourists since the 1990s and receives about 20,000 Chinese visitors each year.

Meanwhile, Simon Cockerell of Koryo Tours has already made an exploratory trip to Sinuiju.



Simon Cockerell of Koryo Tours [center, rear] poses with kindergarten children in Sinuiju.

Koryo Tours says: We are pleased to announce that after several years of pressure on the part of Koryo Tours it is about to become possible for western tourists to visit **the North Korean city of Sinuiju**, situated on the opposite side of the Yalu (Amnok) river from the Chinese border city of Dandong.

Sinuiju has long been open to day-trippers from China and many tens of thousands have made this trip, yet it has remained stubbornly closed almost all western tourists, a situation that is about to change. Koryo Tours will be offering the most comprehensive tours to Sinuiju available, including day-trips from Dandong, overnight stays, extensions to our regular DPRK tours to enable people already travelling in North Korea to add on a day or two in Sinuiju to their trip, in short anything that is possible to do in this fascinating city we will offer

Full details will be available soon as we are currently putting together what we will offer to anyone interested in this unique trip. As always Koryo Tours will offer the most in-depth and detailed tour experience possible so we ask anyone interested to await further details and prepare for a very special trip!

A selection of photos from a previous Koryo Tours trip to Sinuiju can be found with this newsletter and Koryo Tours' General Manager Simon Cockerell has been to Sinuiju to continue the discussions and tour arrangements which we have been working on for much of the last two decades

Visits to Sinuiju will include; the main square of Sinuiju with its bronze statue of DPRK President Kim Il Sung, Revolutionary Museum, local school and park, and so much more!!!

For any media enquiries or interest in tours to Sinuiju please contact [info@koryogroup.com](mailto:info@koryogroup.com) or visit [www.koryogroup.com](http://www.koryogroup.com) for general information of all the tours we offer



Looking across the Amnok (Yalu) River at Sinuiju from Dandong in China. The broken bridge on the right was bombed by the US during the Korean War (1950-53) and is now a tourist attraction. The full-length bridge on the left carries a busy stream of goods traffic between the two countries. [Photo: AFP/Getty Images]



## Fishing in Pyongyang

Young Pioneer Tours has announced that it is offering a new tour program from May that includes fishing in Pyongyang.

The company said the week-long program also offers a visit to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and the re-opened Kumsusan Memorial Palace, where the bodies of the late leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il are kept lying in state.

Send an email to [tours@youngpioneertours.com](mailto:tours@youngpioneertours.com) for further enquiries or ask us to give you a call. Let us take you on the adventure of your lifetime!

Can't see a tour that suits your dates? Ask us about our independent tour options and build your own itinerary!

## Rajin-Mt Kumgang Tours to Resume

North Korea will resume cruise ship tours between its Rajin port and the scenic Mount Kumgang resort.

Young Pioneer Tours said Pyongyang has authorized seven, four-day tours to the port and resort on its east coast from late April though mid-October.

## Korea Compass

**[The purpose of this section is to provide some background knowledge, especially for people making their first trip to the DPRK. If you know something about what you are going to see beforehand you will greatly impress your hosts, not to mention other foreign visitors, and save yourself having to listen to long-winded explanations when you really want to get down to business. Proverbs have the handy function of offering a quick insight into the thinking and attitudes inherent in a different culture.]**

### Dolmens

The Korean Peninsula has the largest collection of dolmens in the world – 35,000, or 40%. The only parts of the peninsula they are not found are North Hamgyong Province in the extreme northeast and Cheju Island off the southwest coast. Korean dolmens are divided into the northern and southern types. The first type consists of a large capstone resting on three other natural stones. The second type has a cist under the ground. Dolmens are found in a huge arc stretching from Ireland to Japan. They are thought to have been New Stone Age graves and were originally covered with an earthen mound. It is likely that the northern type was earlier than the southern type, as only stone tools have been found in the former, while bronze objects have been recovered from the latter.



A well-preserved dolmen on Kanghwa Island, Kyonggi Province, ROK. [Photo: Wikipedia]

## **Korean Proverb**

Mogul kakkai hamyon komojinda.

(“If you go near an inkstick you’ll get black smudges.”)

You cannot touch pitch and not be defiled.

