



## **PYONGYANG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

Jongjing Dong, Rakrang District, Pyongyang, Democratic People's Republic of Korea

**For immediate release**

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### **Second Graduation Event at Unique International University in Pyongyang**

*Pyongyang, Wednesday 19 November 2014:*

The Pyongyang University of Science and Technology (PUST) held its second graduation ceremony of 2014, on Wednesday, at the campus in the south side of Pyongyang, capital of the DPR Korea. One hundred (100) undergraduate students in science and technology received Bachelor degrees from the international and DPRK-side co-Presidents and other academic leaders of PUST.

The ceremony took place in the presence of senior officials and was also attended by members of the foreign and diplomatic community of Pyongyang, with ambassadors or their deputies and representatives, including Brazil, China, Czech Republic, Cuba, France, Malaysia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Sweden, the UK and the UNDP office.

These new graduates are the first year-group of students, who came to PUST in October 2010, when the university began classes. They have majored in electrical and electronic engineering, computer science; agriculture and life sciences; and finance and management. Some of them will remain at PUST as graduate students and most others will go to various DPRK state universities for further study. PUST is also active in sending graduate students for both short-term and long-term study abroad, at European and Asian universities, under various partnerships and scholarship schemes, such as the EU 'Erasmus' funding.

After the ceremony in the main auditorium of PUST, the students, faculty and guests went outside to plant trees: a traditional graduation practice, which is both functional and symbolic of a desire to work for the future good of the Korean people.

Dr Chinkyung Kim, the overseas-Korean founder and President of PUST, expressed his delight at the first fruits of the work of PUST in bringing an international education to the DPRK; and encouraged the students to press on to further achievements. Professor Chan-Mo Park, former President of POSTECH (South Korea) and now Chancellor of PUST, said, “They have worked very hard for four years to reach this ‘commencement’. We say congratulations! We expect to hear more about their success in future study and research.”

PUST now has a rolling programme of teaching both undergraduate and graduate students, with a new student intake each academic year to replace those graduating and moving elsewhere. A group of Masters students also graduated in May 2014. Higher-level research studies have begun, based on work-experience internships in the R&D Centre on the PUST campus, overseas placements, and doctoral-level research towards PhD degrees.

#### About PUST:

PUST is a unique partnership between overseas faculty and supporters (primarily Christian charities) and the DPRK education authorities, providing a high-quality, English-language-based university science education, in subjects that will benefit the people of the DPR Korea. PUST seeks to build bridges of trust and confidence between the DPRK and the wider world. Current subject areas are electrical and computer engineering, including electronics hardware and software; agriculture and life sciences, including plant breeding, food, nutrition and bio-chemistry; and management and finance. Future plans include a Medical Sciences division, covering medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health and dentistry; as well as a department of architecture, construction and the built environment.

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