

Rainer Dormels (2014)

Profiles of the cities of DPR Korea – Nampho

This work was supported by the Academy of Korean Studies (KSPS) Grant funded by the Korean Government (MOE) (AKS-2011-BAA-2105)

Find an introduction to the project at
<https://koreanologie.univie.ac.at/200413/introduction/>

This work has been published as a chapter in:
Rainer Dormels (2014): North Korea's Cities. Jimoondang. Seoul.

IV.2.13. Nampho

Port of Pyongyang – Second largest city of the DPR Korea

Nampho is the port of the capital Pyongyang and thus the largest trading port of North Korea on the Yellow Sea Coast. Further characterizations of the city are “industrial center of the Phyongan-Hwanghae region” and “location for stacking rice and seafood on the Northwest Coast” (Chosun Ilbo January 15, 1996). The development of the city, which was initially called Jinnampho, began in 1897 with the admission as an international treaty port by the Korean government. After the independence of Korea from Japanese rule, the syllable Jin (stock) was removed from the name, since it is reminiscent of the colonial heritage as a port of entry for the Japanese during the Sino-Japanese War (IPA-2 2003, 22-23).

Table Nampho-I. Basic data

Population	983,660 (Rank 2)
Area	1281 km ² (Rank 5)
Population density	768 l./km ² (Rank 10)
Administrative units	82 <i>dong</i> /49 <i>ri</i> (67%) (Rank 14)
“Urban” population/“rural” population	71.5%/28.5% (Rank 21)

The municipal area of Nampho changed several times in the course of time. In 1979 Nampho became a city with provincial status, thus independent from the Phyongnam Province, which apart from Nampho itself included Taean-si and Ryonggang-kun. In 1983 the city was composed of five *kuyok* and one *kun*. In 2004, however, Nampho again became a part of the Phyongnam Province, but the city area included only the two

southernmost *kuyok*. In 2010 Nampho was then detached from the Phyongnam Province and contains again all the parts, which were a part of the municipal area already before 2004 and additionally the Onchon-kun on the Yellow Sea coast. Thus, Nampho became the second largest city in terms of population of the DPR Korea.

The seaport of the Taedonggang-Basin, Jinnampho, was during the first Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895) a small fishing village (Lautensach 1945, 264). Since this war, the port of Jinnampho was a military supply base for the Japanese army (Hō U-gung 2007, 102). In 1897 Jinnampho was approved by the Korean government as an international treaty port.

The population of Jinnampho grew, the urban area expanded and industrial plants were established. By 1934, Jinnampho had grown into the third largest port of Korea (after Pusan and Inchon) (Lautensach 1945, 264). Factories for the processing of agricultural products and mineral resources originated in the vicinity of the port, from which the goods were then shipped to Japan.

On the basis of the steel industry the machine construction and the shipbuilding industry developed after 1945. Other commercial sectors such as the glass industry made Nampho into a major industrial city. Also the port grew further with the capital Pyongyang in the back.

In May 1981, on the occasion of a visit by Kim Il-sung in Nampho a plan was drawn up, which summarizes three goals:

Nampho as a gateway of the capital Pyongyang and as its biggest satellite town is to be developed into an international port city, which is often visited by foreigners,

Nampho is to be further developed as the largest trading port in the DPR Korea and its export volume is to be increased,

Nampho is expected to develop into the largest industrial region in the west of the DPR Korea, with a concentration to be made on heavy industry (iron production, smelting plants, machine construction, building material production) (Kim Wŏn 1998, 245).



Figure Nampho-I. Urbanised areas (light-blue) and industrial areas (dark blue); (Source Yi Sang-jun et.al. 2011, 52)

City on the lower reaches of the Taedong-gang

Nampho is located on the lower reaches of the Taedong-gang. Jinnampho developed between bays on the north side of the estuary of the Taedong-gang at the blunt end of a rocky headland (Lautensach 1945, 264), the southern part of the Osök-mountain range. In the west of the town center is the Yöndaë-san (98 m), the Wön-san (109 m), the Myönghyöp-san (35 m) as well as the Ma-san and in the east with the Handu-san (61m) some low elevations. The tides in Nampho are strongly distinctive. In 1915 land was filled between the built-up city and the Pibal island and the islands of Pibal and Kadök were artificially connected with the mainland (Kim Ryön-ok 1991, 405).

Within the Osök-mountain range in the south are with the Osök-san (566m) and the Kuksa-bong (506 m) also the highest elevations of the current municipal area. Apart from this mountain range mostly alluvial and erosional plains predominate. Especially at Samhwa-chön and at Söchön-gang wide plains have formed. Approximately 82% of the city is 50 m below sea level (Yi Sang-jun et.al. 2011, 42). In front of the city are numerous islands such as Cho-do and Ori-söm. On the coast of the Yellow Sea territory was recovered, which is now used for agriculture. There are also, in particular in the area around the Kwangryang bay, numerous plants for sea salt production.

Table Nampo-II. Climate values

Annual average	January temperature	August temperature	Precipitation
10.5°C (6)	-4.8°C (9)	24.2°C (5)	837.4 mm (19)

The southern location in comparison to other cities of the DPR Korea causes relatively high temperatures in January in Nampho, the western location for high August temperatures. Rainfall in Nampho in nationwide comparison is low. Only on the east coast are cities, where the annual rainfall is less than in Nampho.

Since the city is situated on the west coast and in the basin of the Taedong-gang, it is well suited for the cultivation of cereals, with wet rice cultivation playing an important part. Therefore, measures of irrigation like the establishment of the Kiyang Region Irrigation Management Office (Kangso) in 1959 have an important role. It is situated in Chöngsan-ri (Kangso-kuyok) and its task is the ensuring of the water resources of the Thaësöng-Lake as well as the water supply for the agriculture in the Kiyang region (IPA-2 2003, 47). The Kiyang No. 1 Pumping Station (Chollima-kuyok) with a size of 13,500 m², pumps for this purpose water from the Taedong-gang in the Thaësöng-Lake (IPA-2 2003, 139). Another Pumping Station, the Kiyang No. 2 Pumping Station, is situated in Kangso and has a size of 78,000 m². The Pumps for both stations were established in the Rakwön

Machine Factory in Sinuiju (IPA-2 2003, 47). In order to supply the urban population with meat, milk and eggs, large farms with intensive livestock farming were established, like the Nampho Chicken Farm, the Nampho Pig Farm, the Kangso Chicken Farm which was founded in 1967 in Janmjn-ri (IPA-2 2003, 46), the Kangso Pig Farm which was founded in 1970 (IPA-2 2003, 46-47) as well as the Taeon Chicken Farm. In Taeon-kuyok Taejŏng-ri numerous dairy cows are kept (IPA-2 2003, 35). Also the fruit cultivation in the urban area was very much extended. The most important fruits are apples, peaches, pears, grapes as well as persimmons. The rearing of silkworm cocoons in Nampho was also extended (IPA-2 2003, 35).

In Nampho are the fishing and fish cultures of particular importance. Important fish farms are located in Onchon County on the Yellow Sea Coast and Waudu-kuyok Ryŏngnam-ri, where the number of fisheries has increased strongly after the construction of the West Sea Barrage (IPA-2 2003, 35). Important is also the salt production in the plants Kwangryangman, Kuisŏng, Kŭmsŏng and Unha (Onchon-kun). The first two have already been built during the Japanese rule (Kwangryangman: at the beginning of the 1900s, Kuisŏng: in the 1920s) (IPA-4 2003, 340-341).

Major heavy industry companies in the Pyongyang–Nampho–Corridor

Nampho is an important site for key industries as well as the light industry. The four most significant companies of the city are the Chollima Steel Complex, the Taeon Heavy Machine Complex, the Kŭmsŏng Tractor Plant and the Taeon Friendship Glass Factory. The most important branches of the city are the metal industry (important huts for iron and iron compounds, like the Chollima Steel Complex, April 13th. Iron Works and the May 18th Forging Factory, which went into operation in 1989, are located in Chollima-kuyok), the machine construction, the mining industry (hard coal in Kangso, granite in the district Ryonggang and in Ryongwon-ri and in Mayong-rodongjagu, Onchon-kun), the chemical industry, the building material industry (sheet glass, ceramics, building stone, cement) and the light industry (fabrics, daily goods, food, shoes, paper) (IPA-2 2003, 31-35). In addition, the car factory Pyonghwa Motors is located in Nampho.

Table Nampho–III. Ranking (in parenthesis: number of industrial companies or cultural institutions)

Nampho	KOFC	MOU	IPA	KCNA	KIET	Summary
Companies-total	2 (35)	2 (71)	2 (81)	3 (27)	3 (115)	2
Companies-important	2 (15)	2 (8)	2 (26)		3 (45)	2 (27)
Cultural institutions			2 (36)			

Table Nampho-IV. Ranking (total number of companies in relation to population)

Nampho	KOFC	MOU	IPA	KCNA	KIET	Summary
Companies-total	21	16	5-11-11	19	15-12	15-13

It has already been determined by consideration of the sources that Nampho is the second most populous city in the DPR Korea, according to the evaluation of three sources the city is in second place and according to the evaluation of two other sources behind Hamhung in third place. KCNA is a North Korean source and the information in KIET is based on the North Korean daily paper Rodong Sinmun. Perhaps companies from Hamhung are more frequently mentioned in North Korean sources to emphasize the significance of the most important city of Northeast Korea.

Table Nampho-V. Specification (in parenthesis: industrial companies)

Nampho	Light Industry	Heavy Industry	Mining	Energy
KOFC	16 (7)	7 (26)	–	12 (2)
MOU	15 (42)	15 (20)	9 (8)	10 (1)
IPA	11 (42)	15 (32)	10 (7)	–
KCNA	13 (13)	12 (11)	6 (1)	14 (2)
KIET	23 (38)	6 (63)	7 (11)	11 (3)

Table Nampho-V shows, that the city has numerous companies from different industrial sectors. In addition to companies of the heavy industry, the city is also home to numerous companies of the light industry. However, the major companies belong in the vast majority to branches of the heavy industry.

In chapter III.7.3. 27 companies were identified as important, of which twelve are situated in Old-Nampho: the Nampho Shipbuilding Complex, the Nampho Ship Factory, the Nampho Ship Repair Factory, the September 10th Ship Repair Factory, the West Sea Ship Repair Factory, the Nampho Telecommunication Machine Factory, the Nampho Dye Factory, the Nampho Children's Medicine Factory, the Nampho Glass Complex, the Nampho Disabled Soldiers' Footwear Factory, the Nampho General Smeltery as well as the Nampho Electrode Factory. Eleven are located in the *kuyok* Kanso, Chollima and Taeon: the Kumsong Tractor Factory, the Kangso Knitting Mill, the Kangso Footwear Factory (Kangso), the Chollima Steel Complex, the April 13th Iron Works, the Kangson Automation Equipment Factory, the Taedonggang Tile Factory, the December Thermal Power Station (Chollima), the Taeon Heavy Machine Complex, the Taedonggang Electric Appliances Factory, the Taedonggang and the Taeon Friendship Glass Factory as well

as four in the *kun*: the Ryonggang Electric Machine Factory, the Ryonggang Generator Factory, the Ryonggang Granite Mine and the Onchon Sindok Spring Water Factory.

Most of the important companies are situated in the two southern *kuyok* of Old-Nampho.⁴⁸ In Nampho are important shipyards, starting with the Nampho Shipbuilding Complex, which is the most significant shipyard on the Yellow Sea coast. It has a total area of 273,000 m² and 7,000 employees. The Nampho Ship Factory, the Nampho Ship Repair Factory and the September 10th Ship Repair Factory are organisationally subordinate to it. Before 1945 mainly ships were repaired here. Afterwards the complex was expanded into a shipyard, which manufactures numerous types of ships (KOFC 2010, 319-322). The West Sea Ship Repair Factory is situated in the Waudu-kuyok.

The Nampho Telecommunication Machine Factory has a factory area of 23,000 m² and employs 3,000 workers. In 1947 it began the production of telephones, in 1962 the production of radios and in 1964 the production of televisions. Nowadays, it has a wide product range (IPA-2 2003, 164). *Inter alia* probably also radar installations for military use are produced (KOFC 2010, 308).

The Nampho Dye Factory started its operation in 1965 and manufactures apart from colours, a variety of chemical products (IPA-2 2003, 34).

The Nampho Children's Medicine Factory started its operation in 1966. Here, mainly multivitamin supplements as well as amino acid supplements for children are produced (IPA-2 2003, 162-163).

A spectacular project is the joint venture of the South Korean Pyonghwa Motors, which is owned by the Unification Church in North Korea. A contract was signed in 2000 and in 2002 a factory, 2 km away from the port was completed in Nampho. Workers "there completed partially built cars, in a form called knockdown kits, that were imported from manufacturers in Italy" (Fiat) and China (Ramstadt 2012). In a total area of 1,000,000 m² 340 people are working (KOFC 2010, 273). As part of restructuring after the death of the church founder in 2012, the management of Pyonghwa Motors was transferred to North Korea (Kim Sök-jong 2013).

Apart from that there are numerous companies of light industry in the two southern parts of Nampho, such as the Nampho Disabled Soldiers' Footwear Factory, the Nampho Knitted Goods Factory and the Nampho Foodstuff Factory. In the Nampho Knitted Goods Factory textiles for adults and children are produced. Main products of this factory are underwear, sweaters, bonnets and workout clothes. The factory was built in the 1970's with the support of the Pyongyang Textile Factory (IPA-2 2003, 164-165). The Nampho Foodstuff Factory is situated in Waudu-kuyok and is specialized in the manufacturing of products from sea products. The goods produced here are distributed throughout the whole

48 This refers to the two *kuyok* Hanggu and Waudu. Unless otherwise noted, are the companies located in Hanggu-kuyok.

country and are also exported. In 1986, a four-storey modern production building was completed (IPA-2 2003, 111-113).

The Nampho General Smeltery was located in Hadaedu-dong, Hanggu-kuyok. It was built between 1913 and 1915 and was a significant company of the non-ferrous metal smelting. Also chemicals were produced here (IPA-2 2003, 163-164). The Nampho Electrode Factory was located in Jungdae-dong. It has already been established at the time of the Japanese occupation and has manufactured furnishings for Smeltries (IPA-2 2003, 163). Both plants were torn down as port extension works (KOFC 2010, 110).

The Nampho Glass Complex was situated in Ryusa-dong, Hanggu-kuyok. Commodities were the abundant deposits of sand from the neighbouring Kumipho and Monggŭmpho (district Ryongyon). After the reconstruction after the Korean War, it was expanded to the leading glass manufacturer of the DPR Korea (IPA-2 2003, 163). In 2000 the factory was demolished due to its backwardness and from an environmental consideration (KOFC 2010, 441).

After the Nampho General Smeltery and the Nampho Glass Complex were torn down and the Taean Friendship Glass Factory was built, the four most important companies of Nampho are now in the area between Old-Nampho and Pyongyang, in the “Nampho-Pyongyang-Corridor” (Roussin/Ducruet 2010). In addition to the glass factory the Taean Heavy Machine Complex (also in the Taean-kuyok), the Chollima Steel Complex (in the Collima-kuyok) and the Kŭmsŏng General Tractor Factory (in the Kangso-kuyok) belong to the four most important companies of Nampho.

The Taean Heavy Machine Complex is situated in Taean-dong, in the *kuyok* of the same name. It produces electrical installations and special facilities. Before 1945, it was a simple iron foundry. As from 1945 initially small agricultural tools were produced. In 1948 electric motors and transformers were added. The electric motors played a major role in the construction of an irrigation network for the agriculture of the DPR Korea (IPA-2, 2003, 93-94). In 1954 the plant was supported by the PR China and in 1986 by the UNDP (KOFC 2010, 297). Between 1975 and 1980 the plant was converted for the production of heavy machinery. In 30 departments 10,000 employees work and produce mainly for domestic consumption⁴⁹ (Grabowsky 1985, 28). The Taean Heavy Machine Complex is situated on the banks of the Taedong-gang, on the four-lane highway between Pyongyang and Nampho and near the Phyongnam railway line. 14,000 people work on 1,130,000 m². In this company machines are produced, which are used in hydroelectric power stations and in other big manufacturing plants in the DPR Korea (KOFC 2010, 296-298). In 2004, within the Taean Heavy Machine Complex, the Taean Meccamidi (TM) joint-

⁴⁹ Grabowski (1985, 28), who had travelled in North Korea in the 1980's, explains that 5% of the production, according to the plant manager, would be exported, namely transformers and motors to Bulgaria, China, Thailand and India.

venture company, a French-North Korean cooperation, which employs approximately 100 workers, was established. This joint venture is specialized in the production of 1 to 50 M watts hydraulic power plant generator. With this numerous small and medium hydraulic power plants are to be equipped throughout the country (Roussin/Ducruet 2010, 14).

The Taedonggang Electric Appliances Factory began its operation in 1973. It manufactures electric power facilities like transformers and switchboards, which are used in the whole country (IPA-2, 2003, 93). The Nampho Electric Machine Factory, which is also located in the Tae-an-kuyok, manufactures electric domestic appliances like ventilators, small electric motors, transformers of all kinds, which are distributed throughout the whole country. Before its restoration and expansion in the 1980s, it was a small repair workshop for electrical appliances (IPA-2, 2003, 92).

The Tae-an Friendship Glass Factory is the largest glass factory in the DPR Korea. It was built with financial and technical support from the PR China. The start of construction was in July 2004, the completion was celebrated on October 9th 2005 on the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Worker's Party of Korea. The total size of the factory plant is 293,000 m². The factory is located on the banks of the Taedong-gang on the road between Pyongyang and Nampho. Electrical energy is drawn from the East Pyongyang Thermal Power Plant. Products of the factory are also exported to Russia and China (KOFC 2010, 440-441).

Important huts for iron and iron compounds, such as the Chollima Steel Complex, April 13th Iron Works and the May 18th Forging Factory, which became operational in 1989, are situated in the Chollima-kuyok. The Chollima Steel Complex is an important center for metallurgy in North Korea. Its former name is Kangsŏn Steel Works. In 1936 the works was founded and after 1945 it expanded more and more and other companies were allocated to it, so it evolved into a large complex. In 2007, factory facilities from China were assembled. The total size of the works is 2,740,000 m², 13,000 persons are employed there (IPA-2, 2003, 139-140; KOFC 2010, 208-210).

The April 13th Iron Works (Posan Iron Works) are situated in Posan-dong and produce iron from iron ore and coal from the environment exclusively for further processing in the Chollima Steel Complex (IPA-2, 2003, 139). The works became operational in 1969 and have 5,000 employees (KOFC 2010, 212-213). Besides, in the Chollima-kuyok the machine construction (Kangsŏn Automation Equipment Factory), the production of building material (Taedonggang Tile Factory) as well as the generation of energy (December Thermal Power Station) is represented by major companies.

The Kŭmsŏng General Tractor Factory is situated in Kiyang-dong, Kangso-kuyok and is a leading producer of tractors of the DPR Korea. Before 1945 the Japanese company Asahi produced light metal products here. From 1946, chemical products like caustic

soda and bleaching powder were produced here made from salt. After the Korean War smaller agricultural equipment under various corporate designations were manufactured. In 1956 the company was named Pyongyang Farm Machine Factory and started with the construction of tractors in 1958. The renaming to Kŭmsŏng Tractor Factory took place in 1973, and the company bears the name Kŭmsŏng General Tractor Factory (IPA-2 2003, 47-48) since 1985. Here, the red-painted tractors are built, which are used everywhere in North Korean agriculture (Dege 1991, 76).

Otherwise, companies of the light industry that are important, such as the Kangso Knitting Mill, which was a production cooperative in the 1950s and moved to Chŏngsan-ri in 1957, are located in the Kangso-kuyok. In 1966 the transformation into a factory took place. It mainly produces sportswear and underwear (IPA-2 2003, 47). The Kangso Footwear Factory sprang into action in the beginning of the 1980s and manufactures mainly boots, shoes for workers and sports shoes (IPA-2 2003, 47). In the 1990s the Kangso Ceramic Factory came on stream⁵⁰ (KCNA June 2, 2010). After the economic crisis in the 1990s, also in particular small and medium-sized coal-fired power stations were opened in the Kangso-kuyok.

In Ryonggang-up, the county capital, a factory for electrotechnical objects like generators, transformers and technical ceramics as well as a factory for agricultural gadgets like rice transplanting machines and threshing machines is situated (IPA-2 2003, 196). In both *kun* of Nampho-Si, Ryonggang and Onchon, are factories, which bottle Spring Water. In the Ryonghyo-ri (Ryonggang-kun) also granite is mined.

To support the industrial activities in the city are various universities and research institutes in Nampho with a focus on engineering, agriculture, fisheries, pedagogy and politics, which are partially affiliated with the big companies.

Largest port in the country and a good transport link to the neighbouring capital

Nampho has the largest international cargo port of the DPR Korea. The construction of the port served Japanese strategic purposes. In 1978 the port was extended with the help of the Soviet Union (KOFC 2010, 110). According to an assessment by Hŏ U-gung (2007, 102) one can observe concrete extensions and specializations of the docks until the 1970s. From this time on, however, the tempo of the extensions came to a standstill. However, an improvement of the situation brought the building of the West Sea Dam in 1986, which lead to a deepening of the gutter of the Taedong-gang and now is supposed to enable the

⁵⁰ Roussin/Ducruet (2010, 14) report about a Ceramic Factory in the Nampho-Pyongyang-Corridor that works “with Italian origin equipments”.

shipping to Sunchon and Tokchon (Hö U-gung 2007, 102-103). In 2000, the Nampho Smeltery and the Nampho Electrode Factory were torn down, in order to build a place for a container port, which was built between 2002 and 2005 (KOFC 2010, 110; KCNA December 13, 2005).

The West Sea Barrage system on the lower reaches of the Taedong-gang was inaugurated in June 1986. Within five years they had cordoned off the sea in a width of 8 km. The locks can be passed by ships up to 50,000 tons. Over the swing bridge on the lock basin lead a railway line, a highway and a walkway. The pent-up water in the basin is used for irrigation also of marsh land as well as for drinking-water and industrial water. In connection with the construction of the West Sea Barrage System, several other locks (e.g. Mirim Barrage and Ponghwa Barrage) were built on the Taedong-gang (Jo/An 2002, 157-161).

There are two motorways between Pyongyang and Nampho. One was built in 1978 and leads through Kangsön and Tæan, it is 44 km long, has a width of 15 m and four-lanes. It is mainly used for industrial purposes. Important companies in the Pyongyang-Nampho-Corridor are situated on this street. The other motorway was built from 1998 and completed in 2000, which leads from the Kwangbok Street in Pyongyang through the Kangso-kuyok, the Ryonggang-kun in the Hanggu-kuyok over the Chöngnyön Bridge (Youth Bridge). It is 46.3 km long, has a width of 64 m (of which 48 meters are road) and 12 lanes. It is called “Youth Hero Motorway” (Hwang Man-ik/Yi Ki-sök 2005, 136; KCNA November 13, 2010).

The Phyongnam rail road leads from Pyongyang over Kangsön, Kangso and Ryonggang to Nampho. There are numerous branch lines. From Nampho a line leads to Onchon.

Due to its location near the capital Pyongyang, the city of Nampho has always been a preferred location for foreign or South Korean investors in North Korea. The South Korean group Daewoo signed a joint venture contract with the North Korean company Samchölli in 1995. The National Industry Cooperation, which was founded through this, runs a textile plant in Nampho and exports shirts, bags and jackets to Japan and Europe (Yoon, Suh-kyung 2000). In 2002, a car factory was built due to the joint venture with the South Korean company Pyonghwa Motors. Among the 14 Economic Development Zones of the DPR Korea, which were named in 2013, is also the Waudo Export Goods Processing Zone.

In addition to the West Sea Barrage the KCNA (August 16, 2012) considers the Pyongyang Golf Course, the Ryonggang Hot Spring Center and the three old tombs in Kangso-kuyok and the tomb in Tokhung-Ri as important attractions in Nampho. The Koguryo Tombs were inscribed on the World Heritage List in June 2004. Numerous of those are in the area of Nampho-si. In September 1973, an athletes’ village with a stadium, sports halls, a swimming pool and an ice rink was created on the banks of Samhwa-chön (Pae Ki-chan 1994, 59).

Nampho – region of localization of political propaganda

In Nampho one finds concentrated places, which play an important role in the political propaganda of the DPR Korea. The Taean machine work is described as the “symbol of the industrialization by itself” (Grabowsky 1985, 28). When Kim Il-sung inspected the Taean heavy machine work in Taean-si (now Nampho-si Taean-kuyok) in 1961, he presented instead of the previous method of the management of factories and companies through the plant manager, the so-called Taean Work System, which intends a collective management by a party committee.

In Kangso-kuyok is the agricultural collective Chõngsan, where Kim Il-sung presented the “Spirit of Chõngsan-ri” and the “Method of Chõngsan-ri,” according to which the management should take the specific circumstances into consideration on the spot concerning the solution of problems. Foreign observers were given the impression that, in accordance with the Chõngsan-ri method, a lot of questions about the agricultural organisation were not centrally settled, but decentralized in the counties and cooperatives⁵¹ (Grabowsky 1985, 28-32).

Also the Kangsõn Steel Mill (today’s name: Chollima Steel Mill), where the Chollima Movement, North Korea’s first mobilization campaign is located, is situated in the Chollima-kuyok (Chosun Ilbo January 15, 1996). In 1956 there was a lack of materials and financial resources, also the domestic as well as the foreign political situation was very strained. Kim Il-sung therefore requested at the plenary session of the central committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea in December 1956, an early fulfilment of the Five-Year-Plan, which was planned from 1957. After the plenary session Kim Il-sung visited the steel mill Kangsõn and clearly defined his ideas (Jo/An 2002, 120-123). The campaign was named Chollima (Thousand-Mile-Horse). Later also the factory as well as the district, in which it is located, were named after the movement.

The Twin Cities Nampho (from 1950)/Taean (1978–1983)

In 1950, the city of Nampho was established, which was divided into 27 *ri*. There were large rearrangements in 1952. Afterwards Nampho consisted of 16 *dong* and seven *ri*, and in 1960, Nampho consisted of 15 *dong* and eight *ri*.

In March of 1978 the neighbouring Taean-si was established, but existed only until 1983.

In December of 1979 Nampho-si, Taean-si and Ryonggang-kun form Nampho-jikhalsi. The former Nampho-si turns simultaneously into the Nampho-kuyok, which

⁵¹ About the Chõngsan-ri Method see KCNA 8.2.2002.

consists of 26 *dong*.

In 1983, the Nampho-kuyok was divided into the Hanggu-kuyok and the Waudokuyok; Taean-si is divided into the three *kuyok* Kangso, Taean and Chollima. Nampho now consists of Ryonggang-kun and five *kuyok*:

Hanggu-kuyok: 15 *dong*, 5 *ri*

Waudokuyok: 14 *dong*, 4 *ri*

Kangso-kuyok: 12 *dong*, 7 *ri*

Taean-kuyok: 8 *dong*

Chollima-kuyok: 13 *dong*, 2 *ri*

On 9th January 2004 Nampho-jikhalsi is dissolved and the area is assigned to the Phyongnam Province. The former *kuyok* of Hanggu and Waudokuyok form the Nampho-tukkupsi, the other three *kuyok* (Taean, Kangso, Chollima) are each converted into a *kun*, also the Ryonggang-kun is part of the Phyongnam Province.

When in 2010 Nampho again was detached from the Phyongnam Province, all parts were again re-assigned to the again province-independent city, which already before 2004 belonged to the municipal area as well as additionally the Onchon-kun (previously Phyongnam Province).

In the analysis of the urbanization processes, the municipal area of Nampho shall now be looked at divided into three areas:

Old-Nampho: Hanggu-kuyok and Waudokuyok

Old-Taean (Pyongyang-Nampho-Corridor): Taean-kuyok, Chollima-kuyok and Kangso-kuyok

Ryonggang-kun and Onchon-kun

1963, 1974 and 1984 Enhancement of Old-Nampho

In Old-Nampho two main streets were extended in the 1970s, the main street of Hanggu, the Yurisŏn Street, which was completed in September 1973 and which runs from Hanggudong to the entrance of the Nampho sports complex and the Waudok Street from the Samhwachŏn Bridge to the salt extraction plant Nampho in the West of the *kuyok*. Dege (1991, 76) observed, that Nampho by the accumulation of the lower Taedong-gang became a city of islands, which had to be connected to each other by dams and bridges. On one of these islands is the Hanggu-Hotel which is also visited by foreigners.

Old-Nampho, that is to say, the former *kuyok* of Hanggu (H) and Waudokuyok (U), has

been expanded five times since 1950. In 1963, two *ri* from the Onchon-kun and three *ri* from Ryonggang-kun, in 1974 another three *ri* from Onchon-kun and in 1984 another three *ri* from Ryonggang-kun were incorporated. Then, in 1988, one *ri* from Unryul-kun (Hwangnam Province) was added to the municipal area and in 1996 the Chodo island, which previously was a *ri* of Kwail-kun (Hwangnam Province), was incorporated.



Figure Nampho-II. Old-Nampho – incorporations

Phases of urban development in Old-Nampho

In 1955 out of the 36 *dong* that existed in 2002, eleven *dong* are located in today's municipal area of Nampho, of which seven are in the former Waudo-kuyok (in the West) and four in the former Hanggu-kuyok (in the East).



Figure Nampho-III. 1955 – 11 *dong* in Old-Nampho

In the 1960s, between 1960 and 1967, 16 new *dong* were added, twelve of them by splittings from already existing *dong*. Five new *dong* originated in the western Waudo, eleven in the eastern Hanggu.



Figure Nampho-IV. 1960s-16 new *dong* in Old-Nampho

After 1967, only nine new *dong* were established in Nampho, three of them between 1977 and 1988. In the 24 years between 1968 and 1992 thus only three new *dong* were established within today's municipal border of Nampho. Only in the 1990's there was a stimulation. Six *dong* were established between 1993 and 1999.

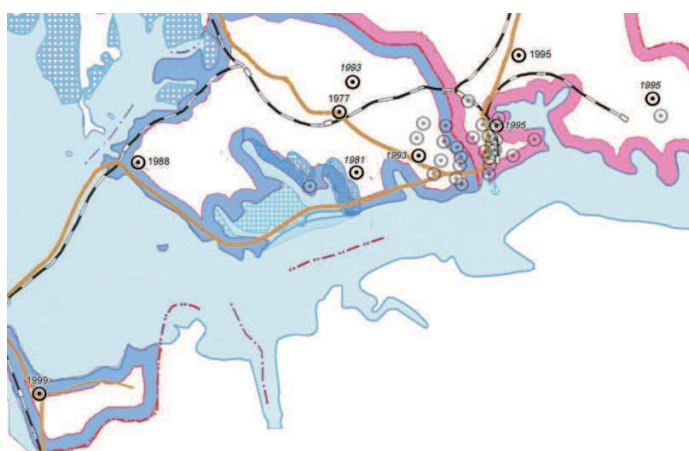


Figure Nampho-V. New *dong* in Old-Nampho after 1967

The first eleven *dong* that existed in 1955 in the municipal area of today's Nampho were all located within the area of the city center. In the 1960s this city center was strongly compacted. 14 of the 16 new *dong* of the 1960s are situated in the city center. Conversely, seven of the nine *dong*, which emerged from 1977, are outside of the city center. Therefore, concerning the development of Old-Nampho, one can conclude that until the second half of the 1960s, in particular urbanization processes through the development of

the city center took place and from the mid-70s also an increasing in the urbanization of settlements outside the city center can be determined.

The following table shows the number of *dong* differentiated by the former *kuyok*:

Table Nampho–VI. Number of *dong* in Waudu and Hanggu between 1955 and 1999

	Waudu (West)	Hanggu (East)
1955 (11)	7	4
1960 (15)	7	8
1963 (19)	9	10
1965 (24)	10	14
1967 (27)	12	15
1977 (28)	13	15
1981 (29)	14	15
1988 (30)	15	15
1993 (32)	17	15
1995 (35)	17	18
1999 (36)	18	18

If one compares the developments in the West (Waudu) with those in the East (Hanggu), three phases can be distinguished:

from 1960 until 1967: development of the city center with increased development in the East

from 1977 until 1993: development of the areas outside the center in the West

around 1995: development of the areas outside the center in the East

In particular the construction of the in 1986 finished West Sea Barrage might have been of great significance for the developments in the west of the city (Waudu).

Statistics: Nampho Waudu-kuyok and Hanggu-kuyok (altogether 36 *dong*)

1955 (11 *dong*)

	<i>Dong</i> -Formation	<i>Dong</i> -Splitting
1960 (15)	-	4
1963 (19)	1	3
1965 (24)	2	3
1967 (27)	1	2

1977 (28)	1	-
1981 (29)	-	1
1988 (30)	1	-
1993 (32)	-	2
1995 (35)	1	2
1999 (36)	1	-

Old-Taeon

The three *kuyok* of Kangso, Taeon and Chollima have emerged in 1983 from Taeon-si, which emerged in 1978 from Kangso county and from parts of Ryonggang, namely Taeon-rodongja, Taejong-ri, parts of Söngam-ri (Namyang village) and parts of Ripsong-ri (Ripsok village).

Prior to the formation of the city of Taeon, the following *up* and *rodongjagu* existed in this area since 1952 :

1952 (1 *up*, 2 *rodongjagu*): Kangso-up, Kiyang-rodongjagu, Kangsön-rodongjagu

1956 (1 *up*, 1 *rodongjagu*): Kangso-up, Kangsön-rodongjagu (the original Kangso-up was downgraded to Tökhüng-ri, Kiyang-rodongjagu and Thanpho-ri became the new *up*.)

1957 (1 *up*, 2 *rodongjagu*): Kangso-up, Kangsön-rodongjagu, Taeon-rodongjagu

1969 (1 *up*, 3 *rodongjagu*): Kangso-up, Kangsön-rodongjagu, Taeon-rodongjagu, Posan-rodongjagu

When Taeon-si was formed in 1978, Kangso-up and the three *rodongjagu* were divided as follows into 31 *dong*, so that Taeon-si consisted of 31 *dong* and ten *ri*:

Kangso-up (10): Segil-dong, Sanöp-dong, Saemmul-dong, Kiyang-dong, Munhwa-dong, Rakwön-dong, Pongsang-dong, Kisan-dong, Söhak-dong, Thanpho-dong

Taeon-rodongjagu (6): Töksöng-dong, Chungsöng-dong, Kūmsan-dong, Oksu-dong, Taeon-dong, Ŭndök-dong

Posan-rodongjagu (4): Namsan-dong, Munchön-dong, Posan-dong, Kwanpho-dong,

Kangsön-rodongjagu (11): Ponghwa-dong, Sangbong-dong, Yökjön-dong, Phogu-dong, Ssari-dong, Chönjin-dong, Chönnae-dong, Saegori, Jung-dong, Talma-dong, Wonjöng-dong

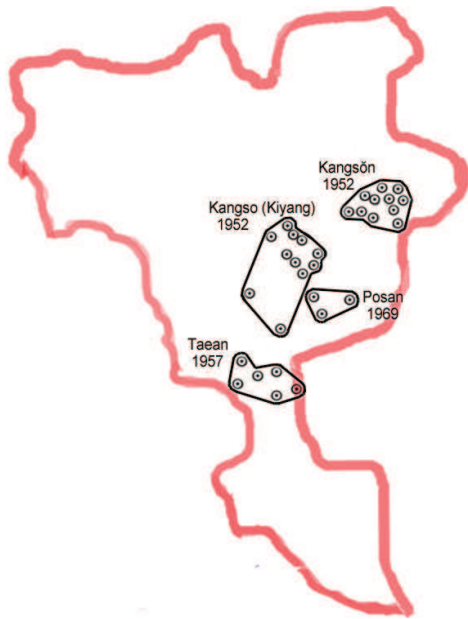


Figure Nampho-VI. Up and rodongjagu in Old-Tae'an

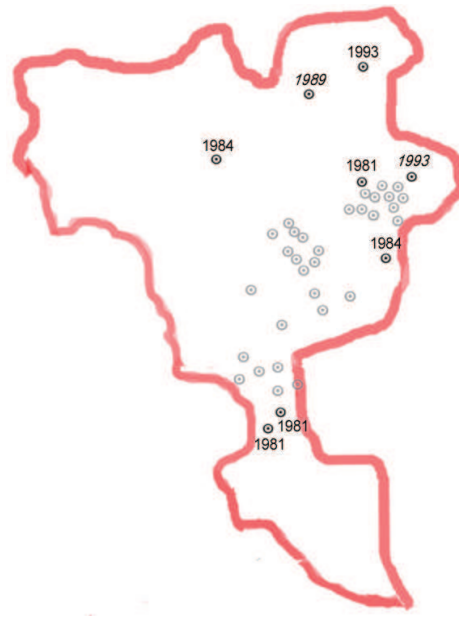


Figure Nampho-VII. New dong in Old-Tae'an between 1981 and 1993

In 1979 Tae'an-si was then removed from the Phyongnam Province and became part of Nampho-jikhalsi.

In 1981, three new *dong* were established that resulted from rearrangements from *ri*: from Taejŏng-ri Taejŏng-dong and Saemaul-dong are formed and from parts of three different *ri* Jŏnjin-dong arises, so that Tae'an-si, before its dissolution in 1983 consisted of 34 *dong* and 9 *ri*. These are split up into the three now emerging *kuyok* of Nampho:

Kangso-kuyon now consists of ten *dong*, which emerged from the division of Kangso-up, two of four *dong* (Namsan-dong and Kwanpho-dong), which emerged from the Posan-rodongjagu, the in 1981 newly emerged Jŏnjin-dong as well as eight *ri*. Kwanpho-dong however, was in 1984 assigned in the Chollima-kuyok.

Already at the formation of Chollima-kuyok it consists of 13 *dong* and one *ri*, wherein among those *dong* are the eleven, which emerged from the Kangsŏn-rodongjagu as well as the other two of the four *dong* (Posan-dong, Munchŏn-dong).

Eight *dong* were allocated to the Tae'an-kuyok, namely those six, which emerged from the Tae'an-rodongjagu as well as the two Saemaul-dong and Taejŏng-dong established in 1981.

After the formation of the *kuyok* they lightly change their size. After the Chollima-kuyok got awarded a part of Kwanpho-dong already in 1983, in 1984 Kwanpho-dong and Kochang-ri were assigned from Kangso-kuyok to the Chollima-kuyok, in the same year three *ri* from Ryonggang county were added in the Tae'an-kuyok. In 1987 Taebosan-ri from

Taedong-kun was added to the Kangso-kuyok, in the same year the Kangso-kuyok was extended at the expense of the Chollima-kuyok, by the adding of a part of Kochang-ri. In 1989 Taebosan-ri was added from the Kangso-kuyok to the Chollima-kuyok. Except for the inclusion of Taebosan-ri (today's Taebosan-dong), those were changes between parts of the current province-independent city Nampho.

Between 1984 and 2002 five new *dong* emerged in the three *kuyok*. In 1984 Tökhüng-ri (Kangso-kuyok) becomes a *dong*. Pobo-ri (Chollima-kuyok) changes into Kangchöldong.

Through reorganization in 1989 emerges in the Kangso-kuyok from various *ri* and a *dong* a new Sögi-dong. By a division of the Wonjöng-dong (Chollima-kuyok) the new Hwasök-dong emerges in 1993; in the same year Taebonsan-ri (Chollima-kuyok) becomes a *dong*. In 2002 the Kangso-kuyok has 14 *dong* and six *ri*, the Chollima-kuyok has 17 *dong* and one *ri* and the Taeon-kuyok has eight *dong* and three *ri*. In total are 39 *dong* and ten *ri* in the three *kuyok*.

Statistics (region of the former Taeon-si)

1978 31 *dong*

1981 34 *dong* (3 *ri* become a *dong*)

1984 36 *dong* (2 *ri* become a *dong*)

1989 37 *dong* (1 new *dong* due to the splitting from *dong*)

1993 39 *dong* (1 *ri* becomes a *dong*, 1 new *dong* due to the splitting from a *dong*)

Development in the counties (*kun*)

Ryonggang-kun was originally part of the Phyongnam Province. In 1979 it became part of the province-independent city of Nampho, then in 2004 it was again part of Phyongnam, in 2011 again part of Nampho. In 1952 the *kun* consisted of one *up* and 20 *ri*. In the course of time Ryonggang-kun has been reduced several times: in 1963 three *ri* were added to Nampho, in 1978 the Taeon-rodongjagu, which emerged in 1957 from Taeon-ri, as well as the Taejöng-ri, parts of Söngam-ri and parts of Ripsöng-ri were added to the newly founded Taeon-ri. In 1984 three *ri* were added to the Taeon-kuyok and



Figure Nampho-VIII. *Up* and *rodongjagu* in Ryonggang-kun and Onchon-kun

also three *ri* to the Hangu-kuyok, so that the district Ryonggang in 2002 consists of one *up* and ten *ri*.

Onchon-kun was formed in 1952 from parts of the *kun* of Ryonggang and Kangso. It consisted of one *up* and twelve *ri*. In 1958 the county was extended through parts of Jungsan-kun. In 1963 Taedae-ri and Hwado-ri were added to the Nampho-si. In 1965 the *ri* Wonŭp, Jŭngak and Porim each became *rodongjagu*. In 1967 there was a regrouping within the *kun*, also a part of Kangso-kun was added. In 1974 Sogang-ri, Ryongnam-ri and Sinryŏng-ri were added to Nampho. In 1991 parts of Ansŏk-ri were in the northwest of the *kun* connected with land, which was acquired through land reclamation and formed two new *ri* (Undok, Unjong). Kuisŏng-ri and Mayŏng-ri became *rodongjagu*. In 2003 the district thus had one *up*, five *rodongjagu* and 14 *ri*. Since 1952, therefore, there were following *up* and *rodongjagu*:

1952 (1 *up*) Onchon-up

1965 (1 *up*, 3 *rodongjagu*) Onchon-up, Wonŭp-rodongjagu, Jŭngak-rodongjagu, Porim-rodongjagu

1991 (1 *up*, 5 *rodongjagu*) Onchon-up, Wonŭp-rodongjagu, Jŭngak-rodongjagu, Porim-rodongjagu, Kuisŏng-rodongjagu, Mayŏng-rodongjagu

Whereas the Mayŏng-rodongjagu is located in the north of the county and here especially in basalt stones are drilled due to the mining, the other four *rodongjagu* are located in the south of the county, where the large salines are situated.

Nampho – a large potential for foreign investments after Korean Reunification

Through the regional changes in 2010, Nampho became the city with the second largest population of the DPR Korea. Also in terms of the area, through the merging of the Onchon-kun, today's Nampho is as large as never before in history. The fact that now, with Pyongyang and Nampho, two of three province-independent cities are located in the central west of the DPR Korea, stresses the importance the government of the DPR Korea attaches to Nampho and thus the central region in Northwest Korea for the economic development of the country. Due to its proximity to Pyongyang, but also to South Korea, Nampho belongs to the most popular locations of North Korea for foreign potential investor.⁵²

52 In an expert poll by the South Korean Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements (KRIHS) about a suitable location for a "second Kaesong Industrial Region" Nampho was by far named the most. This was followed by Haeju and Pyongyang. (Yi Sang-jun; Kim Chŏn-kyu; Yi Paek-jin 2012, 64).

Nampho can roughly be divided into three conurbations: Old-Nampho, the Pyongyang-Nampho-Corridor (Old Taean) and the agricultural and fishery regions (Ryonggang-kun and Onchon-kun). The demolition of obsolete and environmentally hazardous industrial plants in Old-Nampho in favour of docks illustrates a functional diversification towards the heavy industrial characterized Pyongyang-Nampho-Corridor.