

Rainer Dormels (2014)

Profiles of the cities of DPR Korea – Hamhung

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.2.23. Hamhung

Hometown of the Joson royal family

Hamhung is the largest city on the East Sea coast of the DPR Korea and is situated 344 km away from the capital Pyongyang. It is the cultural and economic center of Northeast Korea. Hamhung is considered to be the base of chemical industry of the country. The urban area was modified several times. The southern part of today's city area was a separate city under the name of Hungnam-si between 1949 and 1960 and 2001 and 2005, so one could speak of the twin cities Hamhung-Hungnam. After the Korean War, Hamhung was rebuilt with the help of the GDR.

Table Hamhung-I. Basic data⁹²

Population	768,551 (Rank 3)
Area	556 km ² (Rank 14)
Population density	1,382 I./km ² (Rank 5)
Administrative units	101 <i>dong</i> /19 <i>ri</i> (84%) (Rank 6)
"Urban" population/"rural" population	91.6%/8.4% (Rank 4)

Hamhung is conveniently situated for public transport, because traffic routes that pass along the seaside of the East Sea intersect with streets that partly go through structural valleys and reach to the Kaema Highlands. Early on, it became a market place where agricultural products of the lowlands in Hamhung, fish and salt from the East Sea and special products as well as mineral resources from the highlands were merchandized. However, more important was the relevance of Hamhung as an administration center and military fortress against threats from the Northeast (Saitschikow 1958, 279).

Hamhung is considered to be "the hometown of the Joseon royal family" (National Museum of Korea). Yi Sŏng-gye (1335-1408), who founded the Joson period (1392-1910) as King Taejo (r. 1392-1398) spent his adolescence here and returned back to Hamhung, after he lost his position to his second son.⁹³ In Sonamu-dong the Hamhung Pon'gung (Hamhung

proportionally (KJY-26 1990, 525).

⁹² In Hamhung 99 *dong* and the *rodongjagu* of Choun and Raeil are located.

⁹³ Also the time of the presence of Yi Sŏng-gye in Pon'gung probably refers to the proverbial term "Hamhung

Royal Villa) is located. It was constructed under Yi Sŏng-gye after his departure from the kingly office on the very spot, where the house of his ancestors was located.⁹⁴



Figure Hamhung-I. Hamhung Royal Villa (Pavillion) (2012)



Figure Hamhung-II. Hamhung Royal Villa (2012)

Based on extensive hydro power sources of the rivers that run from the Kaema Highlands as well as due to local natural resources, Hamhung became an industrial city during the Japanese Occupation of Korea (Saitschikow 1958, 278). The urban image changed radically as well. The total population of approximately 10,000 at the end of the 19th century increased more than tenfold and neighborhoods with straight-lined, asphalted streets and multistoried buildings were created in the city center (Saitschikow 1958, 279). The Korean population lived in the southern part of the city. In the middle, the business district was situated from the train station to the West and in the Northeast to the Panryongsan (new name since 1977: Tonghŭng-san) the Japanese town developed (Lautensach 1945, 209). The Japanese colonial rulers built Hamhung because of its military strategic position on the Korean east coast as a starting point for the expansion towards China to an industrial center. (Speckmann 2010).

Hungnam grew from a fishing camp to a major location of chemical industry. Since 1927 the Noguchi fertilizer plant was built as one of the “largest fertilizer plants in the world in the early 1940s” (Armstrong 2005, 176) and completed in 1931 (KOFC 2010, 381). According to Saitschikow (1958, 278), its company grounds took up not less than half of the area of Hungnam.

messenger (Hamhung-chasa),” which means that a person who went away, who didn’t return and nothing more had been heard from that person. Legend has it, that Yi Sŏng-gye killed or imprisoned those envoys that were sent from King Taejong (r. 1400-1418), the fifth son of Yi Sŏng-gye, in to appease him.

94 During the Hideyoshi invasions (1592-1598), it was destroyed in the end of the 16th century. In 1610, it was rebuilt but was repaired later; in the end of the 17th century it was again rebuilt. Also during the Korean War it was partly destroyed but then later restored (IPA-12 2003, 292-293).

Reconstruction of Hamhung and developments after 1945

After the Korean War many North Korean cities were in ruins, which especially applied to Hamhung. In November and December 1950, 80-90% of the city was destroyed by the USA when American troops beat their retreat due to the intervening Chinese (Speckmann 2010). Regarding the reconstruction of the cities after the war, the DPR Korea was supported by Eastern European states. The support of the GDR for the reconstruction of the city of Hamhung is especially highlighted in representations of “post-Korean War reconstruction of North Korea” (Armstrong 2005, 161-187). Kim Wön (1998, 244) lists the cities that received help for their reconstruction from the Eastern bloc.

Table Hamhung-II. Support for the reconstruction of North Korean cities by COMECON-states (according to Kim Wön 1998, 244)

City	Supporting countries	Planned timeframe
Pyongyang	Hungary, Bulgaria	1954–1957
Hamhung	GDR	1955–1964
Sunchon	Romania	1958–
Wonsan	Poland	1954–1966
Tokchon	Tchecoslovakia	1954–1956

However, the GDR quit offering their help two years earlier. Until 1962 around 450 East Germans should have stayed in Hamhung for a year (Speckmann 2010). During this time, the experts of the GDR built up with their Korean colleagues 5,236 apartments, many schools and kindergartens, one hospital, one concrete plant, one earthenware pipe factory and one construction and furniture joinery (Becker 1988, 42). Besides, a great number of professionals were educated. In total, the GDR invested according to Kang-Schmitz (2010, 128) 208 million rubles (218.4 million German mark) on the project.

In 1958 a plan for the reconstruction of the city was announced with the following focus areas:

1. Concentrated construction of apartments and cultural facilities in the center with Jungang-dong, Hoesang-dong, Wilhelm Pieck-Street⁹⁵ etc.
2. Measures, in order to use the support of GDR for the reconstruction of the city effectively
3. Construction of dikes and power plants to prevent the flooding caused by the Söngchön-gang.

⁹⁵ One main road in Hamhung, in particular the street that connects at the bridge over the Söngchön-gang into the city was named after the GDR president, Wilhelm Pieck. However, it was later renamed into Jöngsöng-Street.

In June 1981 another plan was announced that discusses Hamhung not only as center for chemical industry, but aims to expand it as the largest international trading port in the northeast of Korea. In concrete terms the refurbishment of the Fertilizer Plant Hamhung, the 2.8. Vinalon Factory and the Ryongsŏng Machine Factory, the extension of the city area and the street network, the construction of an apartment tower complex in the Sapho area, the construction of day nurseries, kindergartens, leisure homes for children and youths and the enlargement of cropland for peanuts were planned (Kim Wŏn 1998, 247).



Figure Hamhung-III. Overlooking Jŏngsŏng-Street (2012)



Figure Hamhung-IV. Jŏngsŏng-Street (2012)

Location in the largest plain at the Northeast Korean East Sea Coast

Hamhung is located in the eastern part of the Hamhung Plain, which is also known as the Hamju-(100 Ri-)plain (IPA-12 2003, 37, 52). This plain lies in the reach of the lower course of the Sŏngchŏn-gang and the Kwangpho-gang and extends to the areas of Hamhung-si (including Hungnam) as well as Hamju-kun and Jongphyong-kun. It has a spread of 600 km² (IPA-12 2003, 52) and is for this reason the largest plain on the Northeast Korean East Sea coast. The Hamhung Plain, starting with the Sŏngchŏn-gang, is traversed by many large and small rivers and to a great extent the eastern part is fertile aggradation land and a sand beach coast developed as well (Kang Sŏk-o 1984, 344-345). The delta plain of the Sŏngchŏn-gang narrows due to the mountain spur of Tonghŭng-san (319 m) in the North, so that, seen from the East Sea, the first favorable transition possibility for streets and railroad arises here. The center of Hamhung developed at the bottom and slope of Tonghŭng-san which affords protection against flooding and it widened later to the Horŏng-chŏn in its flood-meadows (see Lautensach 1945, 209).



Figure Hamhung-V. Söngchön-gang (2012)



Figure Hamhung-VI. Center (view towards North) (2012)

At the border to Sinhung-kun are the Pakdal-bong (905 m) and the Kaejae-san (883 m), in the Northeast is the Hamgwanryöng mountain range with the mountains Ponghwa-san (814 m) and Kalmi-bong (787 m). The Tonghŭng-san (319 m) is located in the Southwest.

In the northeast of Hungnam the Hamgyong mountain range spans to the sea. The Chönju-bong (561 m) is situated in it.

Table Hamhung-III. Climate values

Annual average	January temperature	August temperature	Precipitation
10.0°C (9)	-4.2°C (8)	22.8°C (18)	822.3 mm (20)

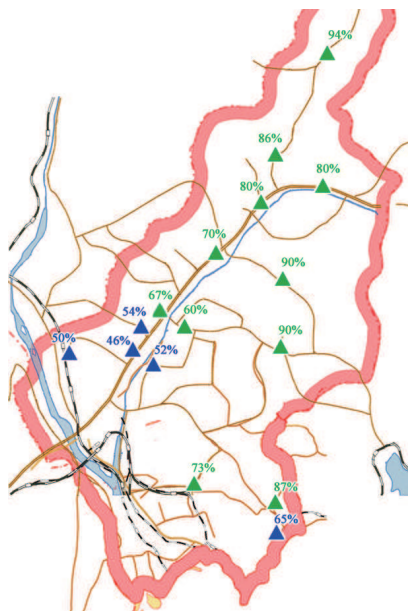


Figure Hamhung-VII. Forest area in the *ri*

A strong wind blows from the sea, except in winter.

Approximately 60% of the city region consists of woodland. Figure Hamhung-VII shows that the agricultural crop areas are almost limited to the southern parts of the municipal area. Important fishing companies of the city are the Söho Fishery Station and the Hŭngnam Fishery Station.

72 km away from the center of Hamhung, the Ræil-rodongjagu is located. It was built in August 2001 as an exclave of Hamhung-si out of Hamju-kun (Hamnam Province) and Taehung-kun (Phyongnam Province). 90% of the area consists of forests. An important establishment is the Goat Farm (IPA-12 2003, 66). The Hamhung

(City) Youth Goat Farm “is one of the largest stock-breeding bases in the DPRK” (KCNA December 7, 2009). “It is made up of tens of branch farms built along the 60 km-long ring-shape road of pasture” (KCNA July, 31 2002). Even though the Raelil-rodongjagu is only since 2001 an administrative part of Hamhung-si according to IPA-12 (2003, 48), its history as a goat farm region, in order to provide the people of Hamhung with food, is longer. According to a North Korean film documentation in 1992, 108 newlyweds were relocated into this region to cultivate a village for the keeping of domestic goats in order to ease the nutritional situation of Hamhung (Pak Hŭi-jin 2013, 336).

City of chemical industry

Hamhung was and still is famous for being an industrial city, especially as a city of chemical industry. The Hungnam Fertilizer Complex and the February 8 Vinalon Complex belong to the most important chemical companies of the country. Also machinery construction, first of all the Ryongsŏng Machine Complex, plays an important part. Further important industrial sectors of the city are the metal, material, and textile industry etc.

However, production decreased already in the second half of the 80s. The supply of primary products and other materials from the major providers China and Russia was almost aborted (Chosun Ilbo December 18, 1995). After the failure of Comecon, the situation turned dramatically and Hamhung was mocked as the „capital of the unemployed“ (Bauer 2005).

Table Hamhung-IV. Ranking (in parenthesis: number of industrial companies or cultural institutions)

Hamhung	KOFC	MOU	IPA	KCNA	KIET	Summary
Companies-total	3 (33)	3 (58)	3 (36)	2 (39)	2 (126)	3
Companies-important	5 (8)	4 (7)	4 (12)		2 (47)	3 (20)
Cultural institutions			3 (28)			

Table Hamhung-V. Ranking (Total number of companies in relation to population)

Hamhung	KOFC	MOU	IPA	KCNA	KIET	Summary
Companies-total	18	14	13-20-12	6	4-4	12-14

Nampho is ranked at second place in the ranking of industrial companies, according to three sources, although that rank belongs to Hamhung according to two other sources. The two latter sources are sources that directly stem from North Korea (KCNA) or are based on

North Korean sources (KIET is based on Rodong Sinmun). Companies from Hamhung are frequently mentioned in North Korean sources, since the city is often visited by high-level representatives of the state and many political events take place in Hamhung.⁹⁶ According to Ko Yu-hwan/Pak Hui-jin (2013, 109) Hamhung can be considered as “political city.”

Table Hamhung–VI. Specification (in parenthesis: number of industrial companies)

Hamhung	Light Industry	Heavy Industry	Mining	Energy
KOFC	10 (9)	8 (24)	–	–
MOU	13 (36)	7 (22)	–	–
IPA	13 (18)	7 (18)	–	–
KCNA	16 (15)	4 (23)	–	16 (1)
KIET	19 (44)	2 (80)	–	14 (2)

All sources clearly indicate that the focus of the industry of Hamhung is on heavy industry. However, the result would be different if Hungnam would not be included in the calculation. At least the most important heavy industry plants are located in the northern part of the twin city Hamhung-Hungnam. Nevertheless, in “actual” Hungnam in the south many companies of the light industry are situated.

In chapter III.7.3. 20 companies were identified as important: Hungnam Fertilizer Complex, February 8 Vinalon Complex, Sinhŭng Chemical Complex, Hamhung Tire Factory, Hungnam Pharmaceutical Factory, Ryongsŏng Machine Complex, Hamhung Machine Tool Factory, Hamhung Trailed Farm Machine Factory, Sŏngchŏn’gang Electric Appliances Factory, Hungnam Smeltery, Smeltery July 27th, Hamhung Silicate Brick Factory, Hamhung Ceramic Constructional Goods Factory (Hamhung structural ceramics factory), Hamhung Wood Processing Factory, Hamhung Cornstarch Factory, Hamhung Woolen Mill, Hamhung Silk Mill, Hamhung Knitwear Factory, Sŏngchŏn’gang Garment Factory, Hamhung Disabled Soldiers’ Essential Plastic Goods Factory.

Due to the electricity supply of the Jangjingang Power Station, the Pujŏngang Power Station and the Hŏchŏngang Power Station, the two most important chemical factories of the city are located in Hungnam, namely the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex and the February 8 Vinalon Complex. The Hungnam Fertilizer Complex is one of the major producers of chemical fertilizer in the DPR Korea. The factory was built between June 1927 and August 1931. After its destruction during the Korean War, it was rebuilt between 1953 and 1958 with Soviet help. From 2003 onwards, outdated parts of the factory were demolished and newly built. Recently, on the basis of coal gas fertilizer is produced. For that reason brown coal is used. The hard coal that is processed in this factory stems from

⁹⁶ The February 8 Vinalon Complex, the Ryongsŏng Machine Complex and the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex belong to the companies that are mostly mentioned by the KCNA.

the Sudong Coal Mine, iron(ous) sulfate come from the Mandök Mine, apatite derives from the Tongam Mine and the Ssangyong Mine, and chalkstone comes from the Puraesan Mine. Industrial water either derives from the Söngchön-gang, which is sterilized in the Sapho sewage disposal facility, or from the sea (KOFC 2010, 381-384).



Figure Hamhung–VIII. Ryongsöng Machine in the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex (2012)



Figure Hamhung–IX. February 8 Vinalon Complex (2012)

The February 8 Vinalon Complex is situated in Sapho-kuyok and has an area of 2,730,000 m². Different organic chemical products are made from vinalon and carbide. The factory was built between 1935 and 1936, destroyed in the Korean War and rebuilt in 1955 (KOFC 2010, 581-584). From 2004 onwards, outdated parts of the factory were demolished and rebuilt. The production of vinalon was cut off for 16 years, but recently resumed again (The Pyongyang Times February 11, 2013). Vinalon, which is also known as “Korean fiber,” was, according to North Korean expositions, invented by Ri Sung Gi in the 1930s (1905-1996) and used as fiber after 1945. Raw materials are chalkstone and anthracite. The production of vinalon started on May 6th, 1961 (Jo, Am/An Chol Gang 2002, 142). The complex derives coal from Ŭn’gok Coal Mine, chalkstone from the Puraesan Mine, salt from the Phyongnam Province, industrial water is provided by Söngchön-gang. Vinalon and other synthetic fibers are delivered to textile factories in the DPR Korea (KOFC 2010, 581-584).

The Sinhŭng Chemical Complex produces agricultural pesticides and its construction was completed in September 1992 (KOFC 2010, 387).⁹⁷ The Hungnam Pharmaceutical Factory was founded in 1947. Its predecessor was the Pon’gung Chemical Factory which was established before 1945. It is the biggest producer of synthetic drugs and

⁹⁷ According to NTI (Nuclear Threat Initiative), the plant has an area of 1.235.870 m² and produces chemical weapons; and it differs from the information in KOFC, as the information states that the plant is not located in Hamhung but in Sinhung-kun (NTI o.J. b).

pharmaceutical elements of the DPR Korea (IPA-12 2003, 291-292; KOFC 2010, 389). The in 1970 established Hamhung Tire Factory belongs to the most important tire factories of the country and is the most important one in the northeast of Korea. The Hamhung Factory Nr. 17 produces RDX (Research Department Explosive), fuel gas, dynamite and ammonium nitrate explosives. It was built in 1936. After an explosion accident in 1965 the production volume was further increased (KOFC 2010, 390).

The Ryongsŏng Machine Complex builds facilities for power plants, engine lathes, big tool machines, turbines, presses etc., which are used in mines, shipyards and other important establishments of the DPR Korea. The total complex area is 686,000 m². Approximately 10,000 people are employed here. The complex was built in 1938 as branch plant of the Hamhung Fertilizer Factory. After the destruction during the Korean War, it was rebuilt at first as Mine Machine Factory. Between 1957 and 1960 the factory was extended with the help of the Soviet Union and the product range was enlarged. Afterwards, further enlargements of the factory took place (IPA-12 2003, 289-290; KOFC 2010, 298-301).

Further important companies in the field of machine construction in Hamhung are amongst others the Hamhung Machine Tool Factory, the Hamhung Trailed Farm Machine Factory and the Sŏngchŏn‘gang Electric Appliances Factory.

Also metallurgy is an important industrial sector of the city. The Hungnam Smeltery is located in Kŭmpich-dong, 600 m away from the port of Hungnam. It produces lead, copper, nickel and various types of metal alloys. Approximately 4,000 people are employed here. The smeltery was built in 1930, at the same time as the Hungnam Fertilizer Factory. During the Korean War the smeltery was badly damaged, but it was rebuilt again so that the work could resume from 1955 onwards. Copper ores are delivered by the Mandŏk and the Sangnong Mine, lead comes from the Kŏmdŏk Mine, the San‘gok Mine, the Chŏnnam Mine, the Hamhŭng Mine and the Taehŭng Mine, nickel from the Punyun Mine (Chongjin), Samhae Mine (Rajin) and the Phangyo Mine (Kangwon Province) (IPA-12 2003, 291; KOFC 2013, 233). Electricity is delivered by the Jangjingang Power Station and the Pujŏngang Power Station.

The Smeltery July 27th (former name: Hungnam Nr. 2 Smeltery) is located in Songhŭng-dong (Hae-an-kuyok) with a total plant area of 150,000m² in a region that consists of 100 m high hills. In a circuit of 2 km around the plant, the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex, the February 8 Vinalon Complex and the Hungnam Smeltery are located. The Smeltery July 27th was built between 1981 and 1983 with the aim of gold production. Considerably high were the environmental problems that were caused by the smeltery. In 1990 the factory was closed (KOFC 2010, 235-237).

Also many other establishments of light industry are situated in this city. The most important foodstuff factory is the Hamhung Cornstarch Factory. It was built in 1974. Amongst others, confectionery products, oil and soy sauce are produced here. In 1980 the factory was restored and enlarged (IPA-12 2003, 54-55; KOFC 2010, 54-55).

The textile industry is represented by many establishments. The Hamhung Woolen Mill was built from 1964 onwards and with the help of the Soviet Union the construction was completed in 1967. It is situated in Hoesang3-dong and is considered to be the leading woolen mill in the DPR Korea. The total area of the company is 440,000 m² and approximately 5,000 people are employed here (IPA-12 2003, 55; KOFC 2010, 597-598). Other textile industry companies of Hamhung that are mentioned in many sources are the Hamhung Silk Mill, the Hamhung Knitwear Factory and the Sŏngchŏn‘gang Garment Factory. One example for an establishment that produces essential goods is the Hamhung Disabled Soldiers’ Essential Plastic Goods Factory.

It started in 1953 as a cooperative, when essential goods out of metal were produced to cover the postwar-needs. Since 1961 artificially produced resin is used as basic material in order to produce *inter alia* rainwear and bags (IPA-12 2003, 56).

The production of building materials has a great importance in Hamhung. The Hamhung Silicate Brick Factory was built since December 1986 and used sand from the banks of the Sŏngchŏn-gang (KOFC 2010, 447). The Hamhung Ceramic Constructional Goods Factory (Hamhung Architectural Ceramics Factory) was established in the context of the first Seven-Year Plan for the economy of the DPR Korea (1961-1970) and produces amongst others tiles (IPA-12 2003, 54; KOFC 2010, 54). The construction of the Hamhung Wood Processing Factory was started in 1958 and the factory went into operation in 1960. Here, furnishings and other timber products are produced. The total area of the factory is about 25,000 m² (IPA-12 2003, 55; KOFC 2010, 55).

The port of Hungnam is the third largest commercial port of the DPR Korea. Important export items are magnesite, cement, pig iron, graphite, steel ware, artificial fertilizer, machinery supplies etc. Important import items are chalkstone, mineral ores, salt, coal, and coke (KOFC 2010, 113).



Figure Hamhung–X. Majon Bathing Resort (2012)



Figure Hamhung–XI. Hungnam Port (2012)

In Hamhung are several universities with focus on Koryo Pharmacy, agriculture, education, politics, water technology, medicine, computer technology as well as various other aspects in the field of chemistry. There are also research institutions with focus on high polymer chemistry, analytical chemistry, organic chemistry, chemical engineering, disease prevention, surgery and clinical medicine, noble metals and agriculture. There are many cultural institutions in Hamhung as the city is a provincial capital and considered as the center of the northeastern part of Korea: an artist group that represents the Hamgyong Province, a daily newspaper, one stadium, museums, a broadcast station. Especially worth a mention is the Hamhung Grand Theater that was completed in 1984. Specialties of the city are acorn liquor and cold noodles that are for example offered in the restaurant Sinhüggwan on Jöngsöng street that was erected in 1976. The Majon Bathing Resort is situated 25 km southeast from the center of Hamhung. Of recent date the Majon Hotel was completed in 2009 with over 100 rooms (KCNA 28.7.2009).

Administrative Overview

Hamhung, the capital of the Hamnam Province was appointed to a city (*pu*) in 1930 and its municipal area was expanded several times. In 1938, together with Hungnam, it had 128,793 inhabitants (Lautensach 1945, 209). It developed on the eastern slope of the Söngchön‘gang-plain.

In 1949 parts of Hamju-up were incorporated to Hamhung. Hungnam was designated as a city and thereby expanded. During the Korean War 80-90% of Hamhung was destroyed. The reconstruction in 1954/55 until 1962 was supported by technicians from the GDR.

In 1960 Hamhüŋg became a *jikhalsi*. Hüngnam-si, Thoejo-kun and parts of Hamju-kun as well as Oru-kun (in 1981 it was renamed Yönggwang-kun) were added. Also, Hamhung was divided into *kuyok*.

In 1970 Hamhung again became a normal city. During this process Thoeju-kuyok and Töksan-kuyok, which both consist out of regions that belonged to Thoeju-up, were again outsourced and became *kun*.

In 1974 Töksan-kun is included into the municipal area.

In 2001 Hungnam is rebuilt out of the *kuyok* of Hüngnam, Hüngdök, Haeän and parts of Sapho-kuyok. The *kuyok*-system was abolished.

In 2005 Hungnam becomes again part of Hamhung-si.

Summarized, the following facts are considered as important administrative changes:

- Hamhung as province independent city: 1960-1970,
- existence of the city of Hungnam: 1949-1960 and 2001-2005,
- existence of the *kuyok*-system: 1960-2001 and since 2005.

Changes within the *kuyok*-system

Firstly, the most important changes of the *kuyok*-system are ascertained:

Due to the introduction of the *kuyok*-systems in 1960, nine *kuyok* were formed:

Thoejo, Töksan, Pon'gung, Panryong, Sapho, Söngchön, Hoesang, Ryongsöng, Namhüng.

In 1970 (7 *kuyok*): Thoejo and Töksan become again *kun* of the Hamgnam Province.

In 1974 (6 *kuyok*): Pon'gung-kuyok becomes part of Sapho-kuyok; Töksan-kun becomes part of Hoesang-kuyok.

In 1977 Panryong-kuyok is renamed to Tonghüng-kuyok. In 1990 Söngchön-kuyok is renamed to Söngchön'gang-kuyok and Ryongsöng-kuyok is renamed to Haeam-kuyok.

In 1995 (7 *kuyok*): Hüngdök-kuyok is split off from Sapho-kuyok. This involves the regions that formerly belonged to the in 1974 integrated Pon'gung-kuyok.

At the time of the abolishment of the *kuyok*-system seven *kuyok* existed in 2001. The *dong* and *ri* that belonged to *kuyok* of Söngchön'gang (Söngchön), Tonghüng (Panryong),

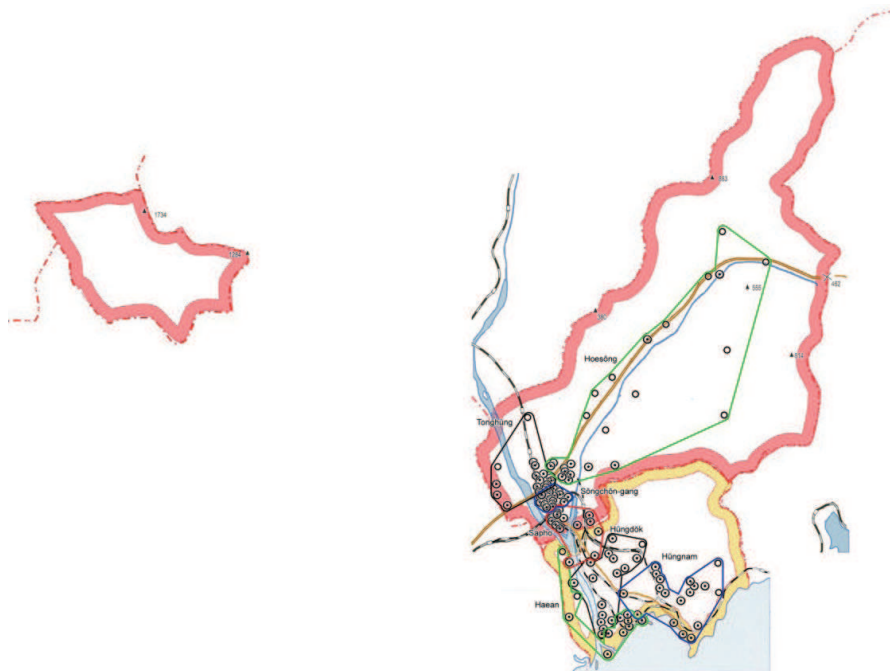


Figure Hamhung-XII. Districts and *dong* in Hamhung

Hoesang as well as parts of Sapho-kuyok remained with Hamhŭng-si.

Due to the rebuilding of Hŭngnam-si in 2001 the larger part of Sapho and the *kuyok* of Hŭngdŏk (Pon'gung, 1974-1995 part of Sapho), Haean (Ryongsŏng) and Hŭngnam became part of Hungnam-si.

After the reconstruction: Developments of the Sapho region

In the context of the reconstruction of Hamhŭng after the Korean War the city was divided into five *up*. According to Frank (1996, 22) those are: Center, P'alryong-san, Hoesang-ri, Sap'o-ri and Hamju.

The "Center" might be today's Sŏngchŏn'gang-kuyok. The other three refer to regions that are located in today's *kuyok* of Tonghŭng (formerly: Panryong), Sapho and Hoesang. The former Hamju-up (first in 1960, later again in 1974) was later included into Tonghŭng-kuyok.

The Sŏngchŏn'gang center is located at the train station. Tonghŭng adjoins in the West. In the Southwest is Old-Hamju (until 2001 also part of Tonghŭng-kuyok). In the East Sapho adjoins and in the South Hoesang is located, which consists of an urban part in the South and a rural part in the North. In the southern part of Sapho the Saegori 1-4-area developed.

Hungdŏk adjoins to the former Hungnam-si at the southern part of Sapho, farther South the actual Hŭngnam is located and in the East is Haesan located (s. figure Hamhung-XII).

The development of each *kuyok* in regards to the reshuffle of *dong*:

Table Hamhung-VII. Number of *dong* in the *kuyok*

	1955	1956	1957	1960	1963	1965	1967	1970
Hamhung (Total number)	62	52	55	64	77	85	93	91
Hamhung (Total changes)		-10:-	-:-6/9	5:-1/5	4:9	2:6	-:8	1:-3
Sŏngchŏn	13 : -		- : 4	- : -1	- : 1		- : 1	
Tonghŭng	7 : -		- : 1	2 : 1	1 : 2		- : 2	-:(-3)
Hoesang	3 : -		- : 4	1 : -		2:1		1:-
Sapho	8 : -	-3 : -	-:-2/1	1 : -	2 : -	-:1	- : 1	
Hungnam	16 : -	-4 : -	- : -2	1 : 1	- : 1	-:1	- : 2	
Haean	7 : -		- : -2	- : 1	- : 2	-:2		
Hŭngdŏk	8 : -	-3 : -		- : 1	1 : 3	-:1	- : 2	

	1974	1982	1993	2001	Total	Population
	94	98	100	101		
Hamhung	-:3	(1):3	1:1	(1):-	99+(2)	768.551
Söngchön					18	127.102
Tonghŭng	- : (3)				16	120.559
Hoesang					12	156.608
Sapho		1 : 3	- : 1		13 +(1)	115.317
Hungnam					16	99.994
Haean			1 : -		11	80.878
Hŭngdök					13	68.093

Table Hamhung–VIII. Decrease of *dong* and formation of new *dong* in the up

	1950s	1960s		1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s
Hamhung (decrease of <i>dong</i>)	-16	-1	Hamhung (formation of new <i>dong</i>)	9	38	1	4	2
Söngchön		-1	Söngchön	4	2			
Tonghŭng			Tonghŭng	1	8			
Hoesang			Hoesang	4	4	1		
Sapho	-5		Sapho	1	5		4	1
Hungnam	-6		Hungnam		6			
Haean	-2		Haean		5			1
Hŭngdök	-3		Hŭngdök		8			

One can find that there were many *dong*-formations in the 1950s, but also several *dong*-mergers. Also, several *dong* were transformed again to *ri*. In the 1960s, as a result of the splitting or transformation of a *ri*, 39 new *dong* emerged in Hamhung (today's municipal area). After that time no major city developments in regards to *dong* is identifiable. Of the four new *dong* that emerged in the 1970s, three are the result of the re-splitting from the again incorporated (Old-) Hamju-up.

In the 1980s only four new *dong* emerged, in the 1990s two *dong* emerged as well the Raeil-rodongjagu that is located in an enclave. Five of the six new *dong* from the 1980s and 1990s are situated in Sapho, we are speaking about the Choun-dong, which emerged in 1982 and was converted into Choun-rodongjagu in 1984, and Saegöri-dong 1 to 4. This data suggests that from the middle-end of the 1960s almost only Sapho (Saegöri region) records new developments.

North Korean media were talking about a construction boom of apartments in multistoried buildings in the 1980s. The 20-storied circular Wönhyöng-apartment tower in

the Sapho region, for example, offers approximately 300 apartments (Ko Yu-hwan/Pak Hŭi-jin 2013, 110).



Figure Hamhung–XIII. Wŏnhyŏng–apartment tower (2012)



Figure Hamhung–XIV. Dong (Center)

Table Hamhung–IX. Increase of the number of *dong* (without *rodongjagu*)

	1955	Total	
Hamhŭng	62	99+(2)	60%
Sŏngchŏn	13	18	38%
Tonghŭng	7	16	129%
Hoesang	3	12	300%
Sapho	8	13 +(1)	63%
Hŭngnam	16	16	0%
Haean	7	11	57%
Hŭngdŏk	8	13	63%

	1955	1960	1970	1982	1993	2001
Hamhŭng	62	64	91	98	100	101
Sŏngchŏn	13	16	18	18	18	18
Tonghŭng	7	11	13	16	16	16
Hoesang	3	8	12	12	12	12
Sapho	8	5	9	13	14	14
Hŭngnam	16	12	16	16	16	16
Haean	7	6	10	10	11	11
Hŭngdŏk	8	6	13	13	13	13

	1955	1956	1957	1960	1963	1965	1967	1970
Hamhŭng	62	52	55	64	77	85	93	91
Sŏngchŏn	13	13	17	16	17	17	18	18
Tonghŭng	7	7	8	11	14	14	16	13
Hoesang	3	3	7	8	8	11	11	12
Sapho	8	5	4	5	7	8	9	9
Hŭngnam	16	12	10	12	13	14	16	16
Haean	7	7	5	6	8	10	10	10
Hŭngdŏk	8	5	5	6	10	11	13	13

	1974	1982	1993	2001	Total
Hamhŭng	94	98	100	101	99+(2)
Sŏngchŏn	18	18	18	18	18
Tonghŭng	16	16	16	16	16
Hoesang	12	12	12	12	12
Sapho	9	13	14	14	13 +(1)
Hŭngnam	16	16	16	16	16
Haean	10	10	11	11	11
Hŭngdŏk	13	13	13	13	13

Hamhung – center of Northeast Korea

Hamhung is the most important center in the northeastern part of Korea. In regards to the statistics about industrial companies, Hamhung is partly better ranked than Nampho, which might be due to the fact that Hamhung is a “political city,” in which representatives of the state and the party show up frequently. A possible background might be the attempt to prevent or dam regionalism.

Hamhung, particularly Hungnam, is a city of chemistry. For this reason the absence of energy and raw materials was especially difficult for the city.

Hamhung was destroyed in the war and was rebuilt until the 1960s. The analysis of *dong* implies that there were not a lot of changes in the 1970s. The increase of development particularly in the Sapho region in the south of the city region in the direction of Hamhung only appeared in the 1980s.