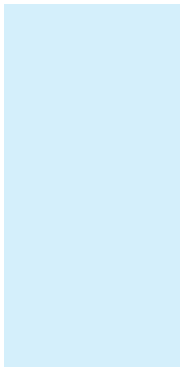




Special Article 1 - Commemorative event held for 30th anniversary of 1992 Los Angeles riots, 'shout of harmony' heard in Koreatown
 2 - Peace Memorial Hall, symbolizing harmony, opens in Utoro, Japan
 Special Feature - 2023 World Korean Business Convention to be held in Orange County, U.S.
 Newsworthy Topics - Sohee Park, starring as Mozasu in TV series 'Pachinko,' considers himself Zainichi



Looking forward to worldwide spread of Korean culture and strengthened solidarity and cooperation between overseas Koreans and their motherland



Son Se-joo,

10th head of the Advisory Committee of the Overseas Koreans Foundation (former consul general of the Republic of Korea in New York, United States)

Korean culture has been influencing the world with the extreme popularity of BTS and works like “Parasite,” “Squid Game,” “Minari” and “Pachinko.” “Minari” was directed by a Korean American director and depicted the life of an immigrant family who clung to hope despite its struggles in the United States. It was nominated for multiple categories at the Academy Awards.

“Pachinko” was also written by a Korean American and delves deeply into the struggles and ordeals of overseas Koreans and how they overcame the difficulties. It became a New York Times bestseller. Apple TV created a drama series based on this novel, which has been available to global audiences for the last two months.

The two works have something in common in that they are both collaborative projects by Korean immigrants and Korean actors, showcasing the cooperation between overseas Koreans and their mother country.

Such stories are autobiographies of the 7.5 million overseas Koreans living in 180 countries around the world. Koreans living overseas have overcome all manners of difficulties, such as cultural and language differences, with the Korean DNA of perseverance and creativity, successfully settling in their respective destinations. In addition, they are contributing to greater solidarity and exchanges between their home country and their countries of residence.

Regarding this, I recall an event from when I was the consul general in New York. I was invited by the Pennsylvania State Senate on Nov. 12, 2013, to give a lecture to members of the Senate and the House of Representatives. As a part of a plan to enhance relations between Korea and Pennsylvania, I suggested the signing of a mutual driver’s license certification agreement between them.

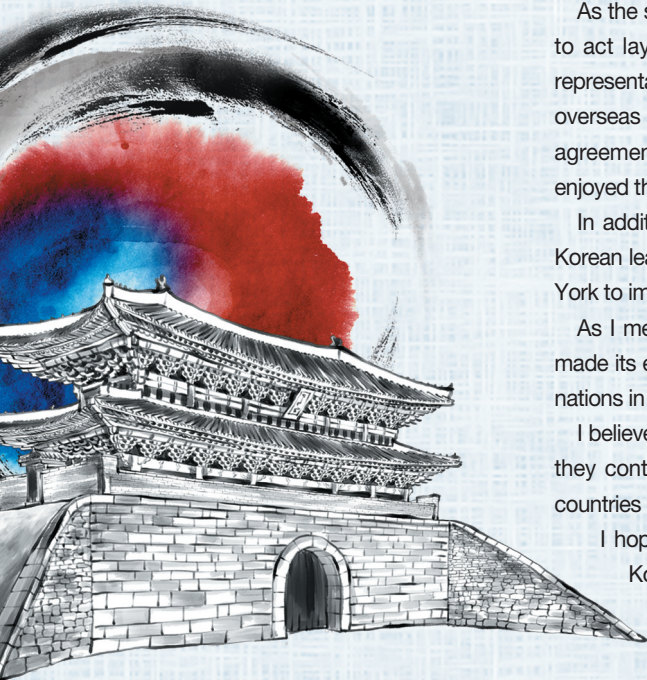
As the state government took a passive approach to such matters, the key to persuading it to act lay in winning over the senators and representatives. Because the senators and representatives who were favorably disposed to Korea -- and had close relationships with overseas Korean leaders, including a local taekwondo instructor -- played a vital role, the agreement was signed after a lengthy effort. Many Korean students and residents have enjoyed the time and cost-saving benefits of the agreement since then.

In addition, I am always grateful to the amazing help I received from the major overseas Korean leaders who had close connections with mainstream U.S. society as I worked in New York to improve Korea-U.S. relations.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, Korean culture, or K-culture for short, has made its entry on the global stage. Korea is now, both in name and reality, among the top 10 nations in culture and economics in the world.

I believe overseas Koreans will continue to share their Korean identity and take pride in it as they continue their entry into and exchanges with mainstream society in their respective countries of residence.

I hope the Korean government and the Overseas Koreans Foundation, as well as the Korean citizenry at large, will continue to strengthen the solidarity and cooperation with the overseas Korean community, contributing further to the virtuous cycle of growth between it and the motherland. 장





02 Preface	Looking forward to worldwide spread of Korean culture and strengthened solidarity and cooperation between overseas Koreans and their motherland Son Se-jo, 10th head of the Advisory Committee of the Overseas Koreans Foundation (former consul general of the Republic of Korea in New York, United States)
04 Special Article 1	Commemorative event held for 30th anniversary of 1992 Los Angeles riots, 'shout of harmony' heard in Koreatown
06 Special Article 2	Peace Memorial Hall, symbolizing harmony, opens in Utoro, Japan
08 Special Feature	2023 World Korean Business Convention to be held in Orange County, U.S.
10 Newsworthy Topics	Sohee Park, starring as Mozasu in TV series 'Pachinko,' considers himself Zainichi
12 The Korean Connection	'Hanbok-wearing,' symbol of Korean identity, to become National Intangible Cultural Asset
14 Global Koreans	Lead roles in 'Kim's Convenience' take home awards at Canadian Screen Awards Oh Ryong-ho, adviser at Republic of Korean Residents Union in Japan (Mindan), wins municipal Educational Culture Promotion Award Another Korean to be named judge on U.S. court of appeals
16 Cultural Heritage	Gyeonggijeon Shrine, Jeonju 'Joyous site' where Joseon Dynasty arose
18 Global Correspondence	Korean War sketches by American soldier with art major see the light for first time in 70 years
20 Compatriot News	Koreans in Washington, D.C. donate over US\$210,000 to Red Cross in support of Ukrainian refugees (1 other piece included)
21 Compatriot Calendar	Koryoin Village in Gwangju educates children of Koryo-saram refugees from Ukraine to help them adjust to Korea (4 other pieces included)
22 Next Generational Focus	Two Korean American journalists win Gracie Awards
23 Column	Two-way diaspora Eirik Hagenes, secretary-general of GOAL
24 OKF News	20 people, including Son Se-jo, former consul general of the Republic of Korea in New York, selected for OKF advisory committee (2 other pieces included)
26 Foundation Announcements	Apply for 2022 OKF Literary Awards

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Commemorative event held for 30th anniversary of 1992 Los Angeles riots, ‘shout of harmony’ heard in Koreatown

Korean and African American groups come together, call for ‘proactive gestures of friendship and hope’



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Koreans and African Americans united their voices on the 30th anniversary of the 1992 Los Angeles riots on April 29 as they resolved to achieve harmony. The Korean American Federation of Los Angeles and other Korean American organizations gathered in a grassy square in Liberty Park, located in the Koreatown neighborhood of Los Angeles, to join African American organizations in the hosting of the “LA Uprising | Saigu Peace Gathering.”

The 1992 Los Angeles riots occurred after the acquittal of four Los Angeles police officers charged with beating Rodney King, a young African American man. Angry African Americans poured out into the city, and looting, assault and arson occurred. This coincided with the “Soon Ja Du” incident, in which an African American girl was shot to death at a Korean supermarket, resulting in the anger being directed at

Koreans. The Koreatown that stood at the center of the city at the time was burned to the ground.

The ceremony for racial harmony recalled the pain of the riots 30 years ago, as well as the lessons they had taught, then emphasized solidarity between Koreans and African Americans. The Korean American Federation of Los Angeles, Koreatown Youth and Community Center, Korean American Coalition and the LA branch of Asian Americans Advancing Justice came together with the First African Methodist Episcopal Church (a pillar of the African American community) and the Los Angeles Urban League (an African American nonprofit organization) for this event.

“We are all here today: Koreans, African Americans, whites and Latinos,” Rev. J. Edgar Boyd of the First African Methodist Episcopal Church said. “We all know that there is life beyond fear, conflict and destruction. That is why we have gathered here today.”

“We are gathered to seek prosperity, progress and hope,” he emphasized. “We can find and create a common connection, a new friendship and a new hope.”



“The shock and immense damage of the riots 30 years ago left a terrible memory,” said James Ahn, president of the Korean American Federation of Los Angeles. “However, the LA riots were fundamentally caused by American society’s structural discrimination against ethnic minorities rather than an issue between Koreans and African Americans. I look forward to seeing the Korean community strive to get along with its neighbors. What we must do is offer our hand first.”

President Kim Seong-gon of the Overseas Koreans Foundation, who was present at the event, said in his speech: “This Peace Gathering, a peace concert for the 30th anniversary of the LA riots held by the Korean community, along with people from other ethnicities, is a very special event and a platform for harmony. I hope that this concert will allow Korean, Latino, African American and Asian communities to understand each other even better, and head toward healing and coexistence.”

Shouting ‘Black Lives Matter’ and ‘Stop Asian Hate’ together

The participants of the event also shouted the slogans “Black Lives Matter” and “Stop Asian Hate” together. Korean, Asian and African American musicians took part in the event and performed for the viewers, delivering a message of healing and harmony. Koreans, African Americans, Caucasians and Latinos all mingled and enjoyed themselves. After the event, everyone marched through the city streets together wishing for racial harmony.

The Korean Consulate General in LA and the Cultural Center also held various events. The consulate general, together with the Association of Korean Corporations, donated supplies created by Korean companies to the LA community. The Cultural Center held the “Flashpoint 4.29” concert in the evening.

Miljenko Matijevic, lead vocalist of Steelheart (most famous for “She’s Gone”), and others performed. Pianist Joe Rotondi joined singer Seo Yeon-woon for a joint “pansori” performance (pansori is a Korean genre of musical storytelling).

“I am pained at the fact that the Asian community is suffering from racial discrimination and hate crimes,” Lora King, Rodney King’s daughter, said in a video message. “We must find a way to bridge the gap between us and help each other overcome the hate crimes.”

Lora King had previously taken part in events to call for peace with local human rights groups in LA.

“My father was never a proponent of hatred or violence,” she said. “When

the entire city burned 30 years ago, he called for peace, asking, ‘Can we all get along?’ Unity is my father’s legacy.”

Korean American US representatives state LA riots taught lessons in unity and solidarity

The Korea American U.S. Reps. Andy Kim (Democrat Party, New Jersey) and Marilyn Strickland (Democrat Party, Washington) also called for unity and harmony between people of color. The two representatives participated in the leadership conference jointly hosted by the Korean American Coalition (KAC) and the Council of Korean Americans (CKA).

“Nothing great can be accomplished in this country without solidarity,” Kim said. “The riots were a serious request for the Korean American community to bind together even more strongly. Before requiring friends, one must become a friend to others. Relationships must be made with others before tragedy strikes. (The Korean community) must unite with other groups.”

“The Rodney King incident and the LA riots were a story about people without hope or a sense of belonging,” Strickland said. “What angers me most is that white supremacy still exists today in America’s politics, society and economy. They are always trying to divide us and scare us, making sure we find no commonalities. We must find a way for the people of color to unite. We must grow stronger and make our voices heard.” 🇺🇸

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- 1 Two elderly women (one Korean and one African American) at the event for the 30th anniversary of the LA riots.
 - 2 Kim Seong-gon, president of the OFK, gives a speech at the event.
 - 3 Heads of Korean and African American organizations come together to take a group photograph at the commemorative event.
 - 4 African Americans spread the message of harmony at a performance held at the event.
 - 5 Korean American U.S. Reps. Marilyn Strickland (L) and Andy Kim.

Peace Memorial Hall, symbolizing harmony, opens in Utoro, Japan

Memorial hall sheds light on history of Koreans in Japan forcibly mobilized during Japanese occupation



The Utoro Peace Memorial Hall, which was built to publicize the history of Utoro -- a village of Koreans who were originally brought together for the building of an airfield in Japan during Japan's occupation of Korea -- and spread the message of peace, has opened its doors. The Utoro Private Fund (President Kwak Jinwoong) opened the Utoro Peace Memorial Hall on April 30 in Utoro, 51 Isedacho, Uji, Kyoto, Japan. The building has a total floor area of around 461 square meters.

The Utoro Private Fund held an opening ceremony at 11 a.m. the same day, and the doors were opened to the public at 1 p.m. The hall is open to everyone every Monday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. On Tuesdays, the hall is reserved for group visitors only.

"It is thanks to the support of many people in Korea and Japan that this memorial hall was able to open its doors today despite the painful history and difficulties that stood in the way," said Cho Seong-ryeol, consul general of the Republic of Korea in Osaka, at the opening ceremony. "This memorial hall is a symbol of the potential in the future of the two countries, given that the citizens of both countries are willing to work together."

Kim Seong-gon, president of the Overseas Koreans Foundation, also wrote a speech that the resident officer of the OKF in Japan, Kim Chae-young, read in his stead.



"Utoro is where the complicated history between Korea and Japan, and the sad reality of the division of our people after the Korean War reside," the officer said. "I hope that this memorial hall can grow to be the center of the community in the region and also be a first step toward mutual peace and prosperity for Korea and Japan."

The village of Utoro was formed in 1941, when Koreans were forcibly mobilized for the construction of Kyoto Airfield. Since it was not an authorized village, a Japanese company with rights to the land sued for the villagers to be evicted in 1989, putting the villagers at risk of losing their homes. In 2004, a purchaser of the land went ahead with the forced evictions, and the issue became known worldwide.

The residents lost their case in the courts and were also at risk of losing their livelihoods. Those affected by the plight formed the Association to Protect Utoro in 1989. This news spread to Korea as well, and the International Solidarity to Protect Utoro was formed.

Afterward, through the contributions of Japanese citizens, civil organizations in Korea and others, the land was purchased in 2007 with a subsidy from the Korean government. Redevelopment in the region was performed by the Japanese government with guarantees for the resettlement of the original residents, and in 2018, some of the residents moved into the first municipal



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dwellings there. This year construction on the second wave of such houses will begin, with the rest of the residents to move in by next year.

Items on display include shanties, manual water pumps, records of people fighting discrimination

The items put on display at the memorial on its opening day included ones that explained why Utoro was formed during the Japanese occupation and what the lives of Koreans were like at the time. For example, basic amenities were so poor that the construction of waterworks only began in 1988, and to hammer home this fact to visitors, motor pumps and manual pumps used by residents at the time were put on display.

There were also records of how Koreans fought back against discrimination, including how they protested by refusing to give their fingerprints when they were deprived of their Japanese citizenships with the establishment of the Treaty of San Francisco. Many complaint documents, which were sent to residents after they were sued for eviction, showed just how large of a barrier the law posed for Koreans in Utoro, who had little knowledge of the law or land contracts. There were also multiple photos of residents protesting and requesting help as they fought to protect their homes.

Korean traditional percussion instruments like the small gong, the “jangu” (a double-headed drum), drums and “jing” (gong), and documents about the establishment of a Korean school showed how the residents of Utoro strove to maintain their identities. There was also a special exhibit on the first generation of Koreans who lived in the village and messages they left during their lives. This special exhibit was created by the fund.

Project, backed by government funding, inundated with donation and volunteer requests

The construction of the memorial hall took approximately 200 million yen (US\$1.5 million). Most of the money was provided by the Korean government through the Overseas Koreans Foundation, and citizens of Korea and Japan participated in the fundraiser to raise operational funds for the hall. Over 600,000 registered as volunteer workers. A crowdfunding project was held, and the Utoro Private Fund told the story of one elderly woman, not familiar with computers, who brought in 1 million yen in cash.

Considering that a ruling from the Supreme Court of Japan in 2000 put the



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village at risk of being wiped off the map, the fact that apartments are now being built for the residents and a memorial hall has been built with Korean and Japanese cooperation is significant. This signifies that the history of Korean Japanese will be remembered.

“We will make this memorial hall into an open community focal point that tells the history of Korean Japanese at large and interacts with the residents,” Kwak Jin-woong, president of the Utoro Private Fund, said. “We will be operating the hall on a reservation basis for a while, considering the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Akiko Takawa, director of the memorial, said: “We almost lost hope of protecting the village. The Koreans in the village were subjected to severe discrimination, but we shared in small joys too as we built it up. We wish to preserve it if we can.” [\[창\]](#)

- 1 A sign inside the Utoro Peace Memorial Hall explaining the story of Utoro village.
- 2 The Utoro Peace Memorial Hall, which opened its doors on April 30.
- 3 Participants at the tape-cutting ceremony.
- 4 Akiko Takawa, director of the memorial, explains how residents of the village used conventional pumps to draw water for their laundry.
- 5 A photo of residents from the village.

2023 World Korean Business Convention to be held in Orange County, U.S.

First to be held overseas, management committee based decision on infrastructure, other criteria

Next year's World Korean Business Convention will be held in Orange County, California. The Overseas Koreans Foundation finalized the location of the 21st World Korean Business Convention (2023) at the 40th World Korean Business Convention Management Committee Meeting, held at the GLAD Hotel in Yeouido, Seoul, on April 6.

This will be the first time the convention is held overseas, except for the very first convention in 2002. The members of the management committee considered facilities, such as convention centers and hotels, the possibility of cooperation with mainstream society in the area and the willingness of the applicant to hold the event, among other criteria, in arriving at their final decision.

Prior to the decision, the foundation conducted due diligence on four locations (New York, Dallas, Atlanta and Orange County) of the Korean American Chamber of Commerce USA (President Hwang Byeong-gu). The first internal evaluation committee meeting was then opened, at which Dallas and Orange County were selected as candidates.

"Koreans have lived in Orange County for a long time," President Kim Seong-gon of the Overseas Koreans Foundation said. "It has an excellent industrial infrastructure and also has developed Korean business

districts. It's a perfect location. This is the first time we're holding the convention overseas, and we'll work to make it a success through the active cooperation and support of local Korean businesses."

Sean Roh (52), president of the Korean American Chamber of Commerce of Orange Country (KACCOC), who succeeded in getting the event to be held in California, stated his resolve, "We will use existing formats like exhibitions and one-on-one business consultations, and also add in Korean culture festivities."

Korean Business Leading CEO Forum and seminar jointly hosted by National Assembly and OKF

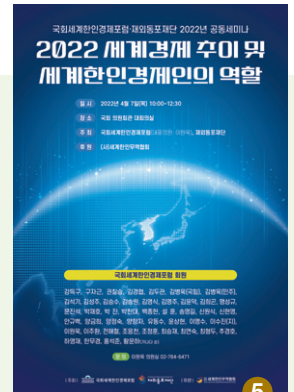
A Korean Business Leading CEO Forum meeting also took place at the same venue on April 6. The Korean Business Leading CEO Forum is a network of Korean businesses with capital of US\$3 million or more and yearly sales of more than US\$30 million.

A seminar was held at the function room of the Members' Office Building of the National Assembly the next day. The seminar, jointly hosted by the National Assembly World Korean Economic Forum (headed by Democratic Party of Korea member Lee Won-wook) and the Overseas Koreans Foundation, was held under the theme "Methods for Continuous Growth in the Post-COVID Era and the Role of Global Korean Businesspeople."

The goal of the seminar was to look for methods of further and continued growth for Korea in the post-COVID-19 era, inspect the roles and capabilities of the 7.5 million overseas Koreans and global Korean businesspeople, and discuss the creation of systems and policies necessary for economic diplomacy.

Around 70 people took part in the seminar. These included politicians





belonging to the National Assembly World Korean Economic Forum, overseas region management committee members who were part of the World Korean Business Convention Management Committee, members of the Korean Business Leading CEO Forum and employees of World-OKTA.

“The core values of the era are (environmental, social and governance),” Lee Won-wook, president of the National Assembly World Korean Economic Forum, said in his opening speech. “ESG is the key to continual growth and coexistence with future generations. Every country is striving to look for opportunities for new growth in the post-COVID-19 era. The National Assembly Forum and the Overseas Koreans Foundation will implement laws and policies that Korean businesspeople around the world need, and support them as they drive the K-economy all over the world.”

In his opening speech, President Kim Seong-gon of the Overseas Koreans Foundation said: “This seminar is taking place at the same time as the National Assembly World Korean Economic Forum seminar and the 40th Korean Business Leading CEO Forum. The insights and vision you set forth will be an important foundation for the development of the Korean business network, which was promised by the newly elected government. I am certain that the joint seminar today will be an important milestone for Korea’s leap toward becoming an economic and cultural powerhouse.”

The seminar consisted of two parts: the first comprising presentations and the second composed of discussions. Lee Geum-ryong, CEO of the Trade Times, who gave the first presentation titled “Changes and Innovation for Continued Growth,” emphasized the importance of creative management.

“The fourth wave, based on creativity and imagination, that is changing industrial trends is expanding to the areas of culture, art, design and entertainment, as well as health, eco-friendliness and beauty,” he said.

The second speaker, Yoon Won-seok (head of the Joint Management Committee of the National Assembly World Korean Economic Forum and the president of the Institute for Global Industry Competitiveness), gave a presentation on “The Role of Economic Diplomacy and Korean Business.”

“Korean businesses led economic diplomacy last year, by setting out to support Korea by helping buy urea water solution, for example,” Yoon said. “The importance of Korean business is growing by the day regarding soft power expansion through public diplomacy.”

Yoon went on to suggest official development assistance projects, a global supply network (of parts, etc.), digital platforms and “hallyu” (Korean Wave) content as part of the scope of participation for Korean businesses regarding economic diplomacy.

In the second half of the seminar, Jung Gwang-il, project managing director at the foundation, oversaw the meeting. Yoon Young-gon (AI convergence professor at Global Cyber University), Matthew Lee (senior vice president of the World Federation of the Overseas Korean Traders Association), Hwang Byeong-gu (president of the Korean American Chamber of Commerce USA) and Kim Jeom-bae (head of the 20th World Korean Business Convention) took part. After the discussions, Kim Hyun-kyum, president of the Greater Dallas Korean American Chamber of Commerce, introduced the activities of the Korean American Chamber of Commerce USA. [\[참\]](#)

- 1 The 40th World Korean Business Convention Management Committee meeting, held at the GLAD Hotel in Yeouido, Seoul, on April 6.
- 2 The 40th CEO Forum.
- 3 President Kim Seong-gon of the Overseas Koreans Foundation gives a welcome speech at the seminar jointly hosted with the National Assembly.
- 4 A scene from the seminar held jointly by the National Assembly and the Overseas Koreans Foundation.
- 5 A poster for the seminar on "Methods for Continuous Growth in the Post-COVID Era and the Role of Global Korean Businesspeople."

Sohee Park, starring as Mozasu in TV series ‘Pachinko,’ considers himself Zainichi

‘My family history is similar, and I naturally lost myself in the role’



“I am neither Korean nor Korean Japanese. I am simply Zainichi.” Sohee Park (47), a third-generation Korean Japanese who plays the role of Mozasu in Apple TV+’s drama series “Pachinko,” emphasized his identity during a video call on April 10. Zainichi, a Japanese term used to refer to Koreans living in Japan, also has connotations of the history of Koreans who immigrated to Japan during the Japanese occupation of Korea and retained their identity despite various kinds of discrimination.

“Pachinko,” based on The New York Times bestselling novel of the same name, tells the story of four generations of a family of Koreans who moved to Japan during the Japanese occupation of Korea. In the drama, Park is a second-generation Korean Japanese, the son of Seon-ja (Youn Yuh-jung) and the father of Solomon (Jin Ha), who operates a pachinko parlor.

“(Pachinko is) similar to a game of marbles, where you push in marbles into the machine,” Park said. “If you win, you get a lot of these marbles which you can then turn into cash. Anyone can play it, but it’s essentially gambling, and the industry was regarded as

shady. The Japanese avoided it, so Koreans living in Japan jumped in to try and eke together a living.”

Koreans left in Japan after World War II were categorized as “Joseon People” by the Japanese government and given special permanent resident status until the restoration of diplomatic relations between Korea and Japan in 1965. Because of Japan’s strong tendency toward homogeneous nationalism, they found it hard to find proper jobs in Japanese society. They opened “yakiniiku” restaurants, which sold grilled meat similar to Korean bulgogi, or other types of restaurants or entered the private loan industry or the casino industry (of which pachinko parlors are a good example).

‘I may be a marginal man, but I haven’t lost my pride. ... I feel great satisfaction in having let people know about Korean Japanese.’

“The drama Pachinko offers raw insight into the lives of Koreans in Japan,” Park said. “Though I played the role of Mozasu, I take the biggest pride in the fact that I’ve contributed to letting the world know about Korean Japanese.”

Park, who knew Min Jin Lee (the author of the book “Pachinko”), agreed without hesitation when Lee asked for an interview for a book she was writing on the lives of Koreans in Japan. Park told her about his family history and how he’d grown up. He introduced her to his acquaintances who’d experienced crises with their national identity.

Park’s grandfather was born in Uiseong, North Gyeongsang Province. Park



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himself was born in Niigata Prefecture (a western region in Japan) and grew up in Tokyo and the nearby Chiba Prefecture. His father was a founding member of a Japanese Korean newspaper called the Tongjillbo, where he worked as a journalist. After leaving the newspaper, he worked as a journalist and human rights activist for 15 years, issuing a magazine called Yakiniku. Koreans living in Japan at the time used Japanese aliases to avoid discrimination, but Park's father insisted on using Korean names and had his children do the same.

"I got nervous whenever I moved up to a new grade in elementary school," Park said. "Sometimes I even got into fights with the Japanese kids who whispered about me and made fun of my Korean name on the first day of school." Having wanted to work globally, leaving the discrimination rife in Japan behind, he majored in trade at Waseda University. He chose the path of an actor, however. "I have been a movie enthusiast ever since I was little," he said. "I watched all the Hollywood movies featuring Gary Cooper and Ingrid Bergman. I naturally grew interested in becoming one myself. I auditioned at a theatrical troupe and got in."

Though he appeared in plays and movies in Japan for 10 years, he never stopped using his Korean name. Then, with the 2008 movie "Ramen Girl," he began his acting career in America. Ironically, he used the Japanese name Soji Arai in the United States.

He smiled bitterly as he said: "In America, people want to hire Japanese actors for Japanese roles in TV and movies. My resume wouldn't even get looked at if I wrote myself up as the Korean Japanese Sohee Park. The only way to continue acting was to use my Japanese alias."

He rushed to a bookstore to buy "Pachinko" when it was published and cried many times while reading it. The book reminded him of his grandparents and parents who'd lived arduous lives as Koreans in Japan, and he found touching traces of his own pain in the book. He auditioned for the drama "Pachinko" and was selected for the role of Mozasu. In the drama, Mozasu builds up his wealth while running a pachinko parlor and sends his son Solomon to the land of opportunity, America, so that he might live free of discrimination.

Park attended the "Pachinko" premiere held March 16 at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles wearing a badge that featured both


the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese archipelago.

"I made the badge myself to represent my identity as a marginal man who belongs to both countries," he explained.

'Korean friends I met from all over the world at Future Leaders' Conference were enormous boon'

Park took part in the Future Leaders' Conferences held in Seoul at the invitation of the Overseas Koreans Foundation in 2014 and 2017. He made friends with many Koreans who came from many countries from around the world, and he describes those friends as a huge boon.

Apple TV+ has recently announced Season 2 of "Pachinko." Park will appear as Mozasu once more. He said that thanks to his role in the drama, he has grown more popular.

"My dream is to visit the overseas Korean communities around the world and make a documentary on their immigration histories and lives." 

- 1 Sohee Park, who plays Mozasu in the TV series "Pachinko."
- 2 A promotional poster for the TV series "Pachinko." (courtesy of Apple TV+)
- 3 Sohee Park at the 2017 Future Leaders' Conference and the Future Leaders' Networking Event.
- 4 A screenshot from the TV series "Pachinko." (courtesy of Apple TV+)

‘Hanbok-wearing,’ symbol of Korean identity, to become National Intangible Cultural Asset

Both a historic cultural element and means of well-wishes for families



- 1 Children smile while wearing hanbok.
- 2 Elementary school students learn etiquette while wearing hanbok.
- 3 A dressmaker makes hanbok.
- 4 People wear hanbok in a folk painting by Kim Hong-do.

“Hanbok-wearing,” a traditional practice imbued with Korean identity and values, will now become a cultural heritage item. The Cultural Heritage Administration gave notice on March 24 that “hanbok-wearing,” a culture of wearing hanbok (traditional Korean clothing) for ceremonies and plays requiring etiquette and formal dress, will become a National Intangible Cultural Asset.

The value of hanbok-wearing as a cultural asset was acknowledged because of its long history, having been passed down for many generations on the Korean Peninsula, as well as its function as a medium necessary for well-wishes for families and etiquette. Academic research is also being conducted on hanbok in various areas, including history, aesthetics, design and fashion, and relevant knowledge is being handed down through various heritage groups.

Even today Koreans will put on hanbok for meaningful occasions, such as Seollal, Chuseok, first-birthday parties, weddings and ancestral rites, even though they usually wear Western-style clothing. The Cultural Heritage Administration, in consideration of the fact that “hanbok-wearing” was a custom passed down and enjoyed throughout the Korean Peninsula, decided not to acknowledge specific groups or individuals laying claim to cultural items, such as with “kimchi-making,” “rice cake-making” and “makgeolli-brewing.”

The administration also explained the announcement had nothing to do with the controversy over the appearance of a woman wearing hanbok at the Beijing Olympics in February.

“We hired services to confirm the value of hanbok-wearing as a cultural heritage item,” a worker at the Cultural Heritage Administration said. “Related techniques, such as ‘chimseonjang’ (needlework technique) and ‘nubijang’ (quilting technique), have already been designated as intangible cultural assets.”

Hanbok is composed of a “jeogori” (Korean traditional jacket) and pants or a dress, and features coat strings. The pants or dress are usually put on first. The basic form of hanbok, according to ancient Goguryeo tomb murals, clay dolls from the Silla period and Chinese history books, was probably created in the era of the Three States. Hanbok developed as a unique dress code before the form was firmly established in the Joseon period. The word “hanbok” is assumed to have been used to differentiate traditional clothing from Western clothes after the opening up of the country’s ports to foreign trade in 1876 (after which Western products began to be imported), but the exact origins are unknown.

In “The Journal of the Royal Secretariat from 1881,” the phrase “Joseon clothing” is used; and in an article from a Japanese newspaper in 1894, we can see the word “hanbok” being used. With the issue of the Civil Servant Dress Code in 1900, civil




3

servants were required to wear Western suits. After this, a clothing culture that mixed hanbok and Western suits took hold.

Prior to the modern era, housewives made and mended hanbok through needlework. On national holidays, they used new fabric to make “seolbim” (New Year’s dress) or “chuseokbim” (Lunar New Year’s dress) while wishing for their family’s good health. “Baenaenjeogori” (clothes for infants) were made with care in order to make them as comfortable as possible for infants’ sensitive skin, while “ggachidurumagi” (vibrantly colored outer coats worn by children on New Year’s Day) were given multicolored sleeves as a gesture to ward off evil spirits and bring good luck.

Brides wore “nokeuihongsang” (light green traditional jackets with crimson dresses) at their weddings. There were also shrouds meant for the dead that were said to grant long life if they were created in advance during a leap month. Shrouds were not tied out of a wish for family members to reach oneness with nature.

“Though the forms of hanbok have become simpler and hanbok is now only worn for formal ceremonies, its fundamental use lives on: clothing worn for formal occasions to show respect,” a Cultural Heritage Administration employee said. “Hanbok-wearing is a very important asset for the Korean people.”

The Cultural Heritage Administration will consider various opinions during a 30-day notice period, after which the Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee will hold a review to confirm the cultural heritage status for “hanbok-wearing.” 



4

GLOBAL KOREAN



Yoon Jin-hee (L) and Lee Sun-hyung, who received Best Actress in a Comedy Series and Best Actor in a Comedy Series, respectively, at the Canadian Screen Awards.



Lead roles in ‘Kim’s Convenience’ take home awards at Canadian Screen Awards

Lee Sun-hyung and Yoon Jin-hee win for comedy lead actor and actress

Korean actors won Best Actress in a Comedy Series and Best Actor in a Comedy Series at the 2022 Canadian Screen Awards, sometimes called the Canadian Academy Awards. According to the Canadian Screen Awards website (www.academy.ca) and CBC television (a Canadian broadcast television network), the awards went to Lee Sun-hyung (Paul Sun-Hyung Lee) and Yoon Jin-hee (Jean Yoon), who played the roles of Appa and Umma, respectively, in the CBC sitcom “Kim’s Convenience.”

They received their awards at the ceremony held April 10. Lee Sun-hyung played the role of Appa in the original play, which was performed in 2011. He had already won Best Actor in a Comedy Series at the 5th Canadian Screen Awards in 2017 for his enthusiastic role in the same sitcom. He also gave a talk titled “Exploring New Territory” in February on the global lecture platform TED.

Yoon Jin-hee was a playwright and actress in the 1980s. She gave up on acting at one point after experiencing racial discrimination. She resumed her trade as Umma at the suggestion of Ins Choi, a Korean Canadian playwright, and she won the ACTRA Award of Excellence in 2020 for her performance in the sitcom.

“Kim’s Convenience” began with season one on Oct. 4, 2016, and ended after five seasons in April 2021. It was a comedy TV series that depicted the interesting and genuine stories of the Korean Kim family after they immigrated to Toronto in the 1980s and began operating a convenience store.

This sitcom was nominated 11 times for the 2017 Canadian Screen Awards, hosted by the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television, and rose to worldwide popularity when it came to Netflix last year.

Oh Ryong-ho, adviser at Republic of Korean Residents Union in Japan (Mindan), wins municipal Educational Culture Promotion Award

Led city policy conferences for foreign residents for 18 years, working for multicultural harmony

Oh Ryong-ho, the chairperson of the City Policy Conferences for Foreign Residents of the city of Higashiosaka and adviser for Mindan in the Osaka Prefecture, was awarded the Educational Culture Promotion Award, according to the Republic of Korean Residents Union in Japan (Mindan) on April 6.

Oh was one of the first members of a committee the city formed (composed of foreign residents, nongovernmental organization participants, local government staff and scholars) in 2004. He has continued to be a member of the committee for seven iterations.

The city gave the award to Oh in acknowledgement of his efforts for the advancement of the rights and interests of foreigners and multicultural harmony. His efforts include being a chairperson since 2014, adding Korean text to city policy announcements and creating the Information Plaza for the convenience of foreign residents. Oh became the

first Korean national to receive the award in 2017. The recent award is his second.

Higashiosaka is a central city of the Osaka Prefecture with a population of nearly 500,000, including around 17,000 foreigners. Among the cities in Japan with populations greater than 300,000, it has the largest proportion of foreigners.

“Eighty percent of the foreign residents in Higashiosaka are Koreans,” said Oh, who also has held the position of president of the Republic of Korean Residents Union in Japan in Osaka. “They live here, along with foreigners from China, Vietnam, Africa and various other countries. I will continue to strive to make sure that foreigners can become part of this city without experiencing discrimination and help the Korean Japanese of the next generation maintain their identity.”

Another Korean to be named judge on U.S. court of appeals: Upon Senate approval, John Z. Lee will take seat on U.S. Court of Appeals for Seventh Circuit

It is likely that yet another Korean American Court of Appeals judge will soon be appointed. John Z. Lee (54, Korean name Lee Ji-hun), who immigrated to the United States with his parents at a young age and became a judge of the United States District Court for Chicago, has been nominated as a United States Court of Appeals judge.

According to the Chicago Tribune and NBC, the White House announced five new judge nominees on April 13 and described Lee as “the first Asian American who will work at the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.” Lee has been a district judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (Chicago District Court) for 10 years.

Lee is the oldest of three sons born to Lee Seon-gu, a Korean miner dispatched to Germany, and Lee Hwa-ja, a nurse. He was born in Germany. He was sent to Korea when he was about 3 months old and grew up under his maternal grandmother until he was 5.

His family immigrated to Chicago in the early 1970s and settled in the suburbs to the northwest of the city. Lee, who currently lives in the Chicago suburbs, has one son and one daughter with his wife, who is a doctor.

He attended primary, middle and high school in Chicago. He then studied at Harvard University (graduated in 1989), as well as Harvard Law School (graduated in 1992). He has worked as a litigator specializing in commercial disputes regarding areas of antitrust, commerce regulation and intellectual property rights at large Chicago law firms like Mayer Brown, Grippo & Elden and Freeborn & Peters. He was selected as a district court judge during former President Barack Obama’s administration.

The United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in Chicago handles cases from the seven district courts in Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana.

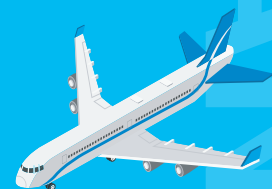
If Lee’s appointment is approved, he will continue in the footsteps of Korean court of appeals judges like Herbert Choy (1916-2004, Korean name Choi Young-jo), former Judge Lucy Koh (53, Korean name Koh Hae-ran), Judge Kenneth Lee of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and Michael Park from the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. 🇺🇸



Oh Ryong-ho (L), adviser of the Republic of Korean Residents Union in Japan (Mindan) and chairperson of the City Policy Conferences for Foreign Residents in Higashiosaka, Osaka Prefecture, receives the Educational Culture Promotion Award from the mayor of Higashiosaka for his leadership in multicultural harmony. (Courtesy of the Republic of Korean Residents Union in Japan)



John Z. Lee, judge of the United States District Court of Chicago, who has been nominated as a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.



Gyeonggijeon Shrine, Jeonju 'Joyous site' where Joseon Dynasty arose



Jeonju, Jeonbuk Province, is the birthplace of Taejo of Joseon, the founder of the Joseon Dynasty. The progenitor of the Jeonju Lee clan is Lee Han, who was a “sagong” (an official who oversaw the building and maintenance of towns) at the time of Munseong of Silla. The clan had been living in Jeonju since then, from the time of Taejo’s great-great-grandfather, Mokjo (Yi An-sa).

The first thing that comes to mind when Jeonju is mentioned is the “hanok” village: a cluster of some 700 of the traditional Korean homes. At the center of the hanok village is Gyeonggijeon Shrine, which houses the royal portrait of Taejo of Joseon, the founder of Joseon. After its establishment, Joseon enshrined portraits of Taejo in six locations: Hanyang, Jeonju, Yeongheung, Gyeongju, Pyeongyang and Gaegyong.

The name Gyeonggijeon means “a joyous site that gave rise to a dynasty.” Gyeonggijeon Shrine, which was built in the 10th year of Taejong’s reign (1410), was lost in the 30th year of Seonjo of Joseon (1597) during the Japanese invasion of Korea (1597-1598) and repaired in the sixth year of the reign of Gwanghaegun of Joseon (1614). Here we’ll delve into the important sights to see at Gyeonggijeon Shrine with its 600 years of history.

Place where royal portrait of Taejo is enshrined, ‘Get off that horse!’

At the front gate of Gyeonggijeon Shrine is the Hamabi Stele

(North Jeolla Province Tangible Cultural Property No. 222), which was moved from its original position next to the Hongsalmun Gate. The stele carries an inscription asking visitors on horseback to dismount as an expression of respect and forbidding entry to outsiders, since the place holds the portrait of Taejo. This stele, which was erected in the sixth year of the reign of Gwanghaegun of Joseon, differs from ordinary steles because it rests on a flagstone and has two mythical creatures (one male, one female) supporting it.

Past the front gate is the Hongsalmun Gate (indicating a sacred place), the Oesinmun Gate (the first gate leading into Gyeonggijeon Shrine), the Naesinmun Gate (leading to the Jeongjeon or main hall) and the Jeongjeon (National Treasure No. 1578), where the portrait of Taejo is enshrined.

In the “gamsil” (a facility inside a Confucian shrine used to store the spirit tablets of the ancestors) is the portrait of Taejo wearing a blue dragon robe and the “ikseongwan,” the official crown worn by Joseon kings while dealing with political and state affairs. He stares forward as he occupies the throne. The old portrait that was first enshrined at the Gyeonggijeon Shrine was washed with water, placed in a white porcelain pot and buried to the north of the Jeongjeon in the ninth year of Gojong (1872). The current portrait was painted by Kwon Oh-chang in 1999. The portrait of Taejo from the time of Gojong (National Treasure No. 317) has been moved into storage at the Royal Portrait Museum.

Jeonjusago, which held 'Veritable Records of the Joseon Dynasty'

To the east of Gyeonggijeon Shrine is Jeonjusago, or the archives of the Annals of the Joseon Dynasty, which was used to store books of importance to the nation, including the "Veritable Records of the Joseon Dynasty." This collection of records (National Treasure No. 151), which was registered as a UNESCO Memory of the World in 1997, contains historical records of 25 generations (from Taejo to Cheoljong) spanning 472 years. It is an expansive historical text with 1,893 books and 888 volumes. The Jeonjusago contained the annals of the kings from Taejo to Myeongjong of Joseon, "Goryeosa" (History of Goryeo), "Goryeosa Jeolyo" (Essentials of Goryeo History) and other texts totaling 1,344 volumes prior to the Japanese invasion of Korea in 1592.

The annals of the three archives, located in Chunchugwan, Chungju and Seongju, were all lost during the Japanese invasion of Korea in the 25th year of Seonjo of Joseon (1592). Only the annals in the Jeonjusago were kept intact. This was thanks to the fact that after the Japanese invaded, Oh Hee-gil (chambong of Gyeonggijeon), Son Hong-rok (a Confucian scholar living in Taein, Jeongeup), An-eui and others moved Taejo's portrait and the annals to Naejang Mountain. After the invasion ended, Seonjo of Joseon republished the annals using the copy in Jeonjusago as the original manuscript, sending copies to the five archives: Chunchugwan in Hanyang, the Jeongjok Mountain Sago on Ganghwa Island, the Odae Mountain Sago in Pyeongchang, the Taebaeksan Mountain Sago in Bonghwa and the Jeoksangsan Mountain Sago in Muju. Though the annals from Jeonjusago were stored at the Jeongjoksan Mountain Sago, they are now being held at the Gyujanggak Archives at Seoul National University. Jeonjusago was restored in 1991 after it was destroyed in 1597 during the Japanese invasion of Korea.



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Royal Portrait Museum: only museum in Korea specializing in royal portraits

To the north of Gyeonggijeon Shrine is the only museum in Korea that specializes in royal portraits, the Royal Portrait Museum. This museum, which opened its doors in 2010, contains Royal Portrait Room 1, which houses Taejo's portrait, on the ground floor. On the basement floor is Royal Portrait Room 2, which holds the portraits of Sejong, Yeongjo and other kings, as well as a history chamber and palanquin room, which show the artifacts and palanquin used to enshrine the portraits. There is also a storage area.

In Royal Portrait Room 1, one can see a portrait of Taejo wearing a blue dragon robe and one of him wearing a red dragon robe, as well as one of Taejo restored from a photograph of the portrait in Junwonjeon Royal Hall, Yeongheung. The portrait of

Taejo in Gyeonggijeon Shrine depicts him as an old man with a white beard, creating the impression of a virtuous king.

In Royal Portrait Room 2, portraits of Sejong, Yeongjo, Jeongjo, Cheoljong, Gojong and Sunjong are on display. The only existing portraits of the 25 kings from Taejo to Cheoljong are of Taejo, Yeongjo and Cheoljong. The portraits of Sejong and Jeongjo are not true-to-life portraits but approximated standard portraits (nationally certified portraits), while the portraits of Gojong and Sunjong were based on real photos.

The History Chamber describes the history of Gyeonggijeon Shrine, including its establishment, the process of enshrining Taejo's portrait, the story of the portrait's ordeals and preservation, maintenance of the portrait and ancestral ritual formalities performed at Gyeonggijeon Shrine. It also showcases the cultural heritages of Jeonju: the cradle of the Joseon Dynasty. 

- 1 A view of the entire Gyeonggijeon Shrine.
- 2 The royal portrait of Taejo of Joseon.
- 3 The Jeongjeon, where the portrait of Taejo of Joseon is enshrined.
- 4 Jeonjusago, restored in 1991.



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Korean War sketches by American soldier with art major see the light for first time in 70 years

War veteran Stringham donates some 60 sketches to Korean War Legacy Foundation

A 22-year-old soldier who studied art at the California College of the Arts drew the mountains and scenery of Gangwon Province, vivid portrayals of his comrades in arms and various military activities. The only art tools he had access to on the front lines of the fierce war were a pencil and paper he'd torn out from the bottoms of supply boxes containing items like beer, tobacco, toothpaste and soap.

He didn't give up on his drawings despite the tension-filled days, wanting to inform his parents in Berkeley, California, that he was alive and well.

The sketches of the Korean War he sent with every letter soon numbered over 60. His mother collected the sketches and once held an exhibition at an art gallery in San Francisco in 1952.

After this, the sketches that had been put

into storage at the soldier's home and watercolors that were redrawn after he moved to Japan in 1952 -- totaling around 60 works about the Korean War -- saw the light of day once more on April 9 for the first time in 70 years through the nonprofit Korean War Legacy Foundation, located in the United States.

The works of Roger Stringham (93) that the foundation revealed through its website are vivid portrayals of close combat, trench warfare, bomber planes, crashed fighters, night patrols and soldiers on the move.

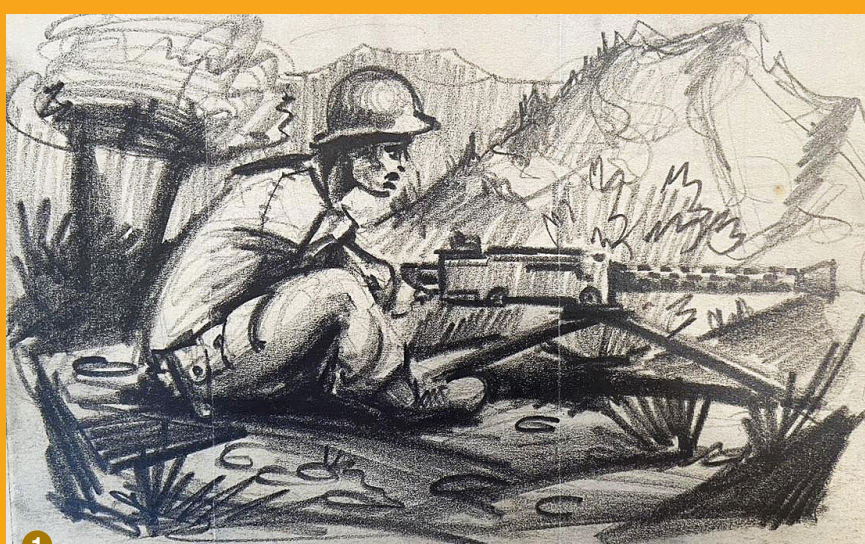
Stringham said he was moved to draw by the beauty of the natural scenery in Korea. Many of his works reflect this, as they often focus solely on the scenery surrounding the battlefield. The last scenery of Korea he saw on his departing ship was turned into multiple watercolor paintings after he arrived

in Japan.

He made the comment during an interview in February in Hawaii, where he currently lives, with the chief director of the foundation, Han Jong-woo.

Han, who has been involved in creating a war veteran's digital archives for the United Nations with the support of the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, went to Hawaii to create an educational collection detailing the KIA identification activities of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency of the U.S. Department of Defense.

During Han's encounter with Stringham, the U.S. artist said he had been looking for a suitable place to permanently store his works and accepted Han's suggestion, stating that uploading all his sketches and watercolors to the foundation's website was "the best possible solution."



Stringham is a descendant of Roger Sherman -- the only person to sign all four major founding documents of the United States, including the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution -- and Washington Irving Stringham, the famous mathematician. He set foot on Korean soil for the first time in 1951 as part of the 21st Infantry Division of the 24th Regiment, assigned to the headquarters company.

He said he still can't forget landing in Incheon and walking along the land without a single building in sight. He and his comrades in arms, who were deployed to the Battles of Paroho Lake and Kumsong in Gangwon Province, suffered from frostbite because of the extreme cold. Some even lost their lives.


Stringham left Korea in March the next year when his unit was assigned to Sendai, Japan.

"The first thing I did after getting to Sendai was go outside and buy watercolor paper and paint," he said, adding that although it was over 70 years ago, "I still have nightmares about finding my dead comrades."

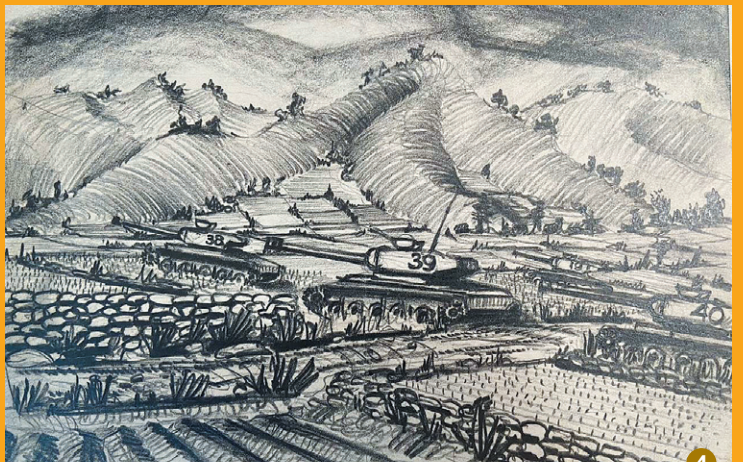
His life changed completely after experiencing the war and returning to the U.S. Stringham switched his major to physical chemistry and wrote over 100 academic papers on cold fusion, becoming a prominent expert in the field.

He was invited multiple times to symposiums in Korea and expressed great surprise in the country's achievements, saying: "I was startled by the scientific and technological progress made by a country so devastated by war. I told myself I must be dreaming as I saw Incheon International Airport, the skyscrapers of Seoul and the transportation system."

Han, who has collected eyewitness accounts from war veterans of 21 nationalities out of the 22 countries that participated in the Korean War, plans to visit the last country, India, at the end of April to interview the war veterans there.

"I plan to create educational material using the war veteran interviews and use it as an asset for diplomacy that rewards patriotism," Han said. "It will be distributed to teachers around the world and used as a lasting means to educate people regarding the significance of the Korean War in world history and the accomplishments of Korea before and after the war. We will create such materials in the U.S. and the U.K., followed by the other 20 countries, and educate teachers in all of them." 

Kang Geon-taek,
New York correspondent for Yonhap News



- 1 "Machine gunner, Antone." (All photos courtesy of the Korean War Legacy Foundation)
- 2 "Cutting down mountaintop tree to improve view."
- 3 "A friendly flair uncovering our position in the snow."
- 4 "Tanks rumbling up the valley towards Kumsong."
- 5 "P-51 Mustang landing after hit to cooling system while supporting ground advances."

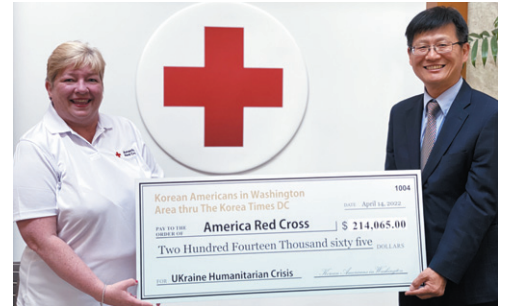
Koreans in Washington, D.C. donate over US\$210,000 to Red Cross in support of Ukrainian refugees

Koreans living in the capital of the United States raised US\$214,000 for refugees of the war in Ukraine.

According to The Korea Times newspaper in Washington, D.C., the fundraiser began March 4, and the funds collected so far were sent to the Fairfax branch of the American Red Cross on April 14. Individuals, Korean associations, alumni associations and religious groups (totaling 2,000 people) took part in the campaign.

Many people and organizations also sent brief letters or notes describing their anger toward Russia and their wish for peace in Ukraine.

The funds will be used to purchase food, medical supplies and clothing, as well as to provide housing support, which will be distributed to Ukrainian refugees through Red Cross workers dispatched to Poland.



Park Tae-wook (R), president of The Korea Times in Washington, visits the Fairfax office of the American Red Cross on April 14 to deliver the funds for Ukrainian refugees raised by Koreans in the Washington, D.C. area.

Mindan requests coalition government's Komeito party prohibit discrimination toward foreigners

Emphasis on ending hate speech and allowing regional suffrage

The Republic of Korean Residents Union in Japan (Mindan), an organization formed by Koreans living in Japan, delivered a request to the Komeito party for a prohibition on discrimination against permanent foreign residents and better treatment for them, the union said March 24. The Komeito party has 32 seats in the House of Representatives and has formed a coalition with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Yeo Geon-yi, head of the central headquarters of the Republic of Korean Residents Union in Japan, and Lee Woo-hae (president of the Judicial Forum of Koreans in Japan) visited the second members' hall of the House of Representatives of Japan, in Toyko. There they met with Hiroshi Ishikawa, head of the Osaka headquarters and a representative of the Komeito party, and Takae Ito, vice chairperson of the Women's Committee. Mindan delivered a written request addressed to the head of the Komeito party, Natsuo Yamaguchi.

The request contained petitions for ending hate speech, granting



Yeo Geon-yi (2nd from L), head of the central headquarters of the Republic of Korean Residents Union in Japan, delivers a request for better treatment of foreigners residing in Japan on March 17 to Hiroshi Ishikawa, a representative of the Komeito party.

regional suffrage to permanent residents who are foreigners, deleting the nationality clause for the appointment of regional/education public servants, and providing damages and compensation to "Korean B and C War Criminals" (Koreans forcibly conscripted for the Pacific War). There was also a request to apply the same reentry procedures to Japan that were used for those that migrated to Japan during the Japanese occupation and their descendants (special permanent residents) to permanent residents that migrated in or after the 1980s.

"Koreans in Japan have always spoken up actively regarding better treatment for foreign permanent residents," Yeo said. "There are many such permanent residents of varying nationalities, and we need policy-level consideration for them in order to realize a truly multicultural society."

Ishikawa said: "We are working on mid- to long-term policies for a coexisting society. We will reflect the requests made and work to improve the lives of foreign residents."



Koryoin Village in Gwangju educates children of Koryo-saram refugees from Ukraine to help them adjust to Korea Koryoin Village (headed by Shin Jo-ya) in Gwangsan Ward, Gwangju, declared on April 14 that it would provide education to the children of Koryo-saram refugees from Ukraine who came to Korea in order to help them adapt to life in Korea. There are over 100 Koryo-saram refugees from Ukraine who have settled in Koryoin Village, and 15 of them are school-age children. An additional 300-400 refugees are expected to move to Gwangju, and there will probably be more children in need of education as well. In order to help them settle down in Korea and receive education, Koryoin Village has decided to utilize various institutions in the village, including the Youth Cultural Center, the Regional Children's Center, the Saenal School (an alternative school) and day care centers.

Malawi chapter of National Unification Advisory Council holds K-pop competition for 'peace on Korean Peninsula' A K-pop competition was successfully held in Malawi, Southeast Africa. Cho Yong-deok, head of the Malawi chapter of the African Council (a branch of the National Unification Advisory Council), held a K-pop competition on April 23 at Daeyang University and Daeyang Luke Hospital in Lilongwe, as part of public diplomacy to promulgate the desire for peace on the Korean Peninsula. About 20 people took part in the competition, singing Korean songs, including "Arirang," and dancing. Around 300 people came to see the event, including Minister of Sports and Culture Richard Banda, a proxy of the mayor of Lilongwe, city councilors and Koreans. According to Cho, the venue was so full that some people were forced to peer in through the window.



'Three,' movie created by Korean and Kazakhstani teams, previewed to Koryo-saram living in Korea The Koryo Business Network, composed of Koryo-saram businessmen, held previews for the movie "Three" in Incheon on April 10 and Ansan, Gyeonggi Province, on April 17. The movie, directed by the fourth-generation Koryo-saram Ruslan Pak, was given the New Currents Award -- an award created with the purpose of discovering new directing talent in Asia and providing encouragement -- at the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) in October 2020. The movie was also shown in the 43rd Moscow International Film Festival and the 9th Muju Film Festival last year. It also premiered recently in Kazakhstan, the first film created by both Korean and Kazakhstani teams to ever do so.

Koreans in Europe to hold athletics competition in Istanbul in May The Association of Korean Residents in Europe, which oversees 120 Korean associations in 24 European countries (President Yoo Je-heon), will hold the 2022 Athletics Competition for Koreans in Europe from May 27-29. The Turkey Korean Association is the host of this year's competition, which has been held annually since 2012 to further friendships and harmony among Koreans living in Europe. The competition had been halted since 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic but is resuming this year. The event will feature a football tournament with various countries represented as teams. Those seeking to take part must submit documentation proving their Korean ancestry.



Koreans in Bến Tre region have been donating bikes to elementary schoolers for 10 years The Vietnam Council of the National Unification Advisory Council (President Park Nam-jong) donated 43 bicycles, as well as helmets, to elementary school students in the Bến Tre region, which is a three hours' drive from Ho Chi Minh City. President Park and Park Young-hee (head of the Women's Subcommittee) visited the area in person on April 15 and held a delivery ceremony with the support of the Bến Tre Province Friendship Association. The Women's Subcommittee has been visiting regions in distress in Vietnam and donating bicycles and helmets for the past 10 years. Their hope is for the unification of the Korean Peninsula.

Provides updates on events held by overseas Korean organizations (Korean associations, Korean language schools, etc.).
If you have news you'd like widely shared, please submit it to prc@okf.or.kr

Two Korean American journalists win Gracie Awards

Roh Jung-min and Cheon So-ram, reporters of Radio Free Asia, awarded for in-depth coverage of North Korean female defectors

Two Korean American journalists have been selected as Gracie Award winners for their reporting on women that have defected from North Korea. These two reporters are Roh Jung-min and Cheon So-ram, who are part of Radio Free Asia's in-depth reporting team.

For their radio coverage titled "The journey of North Korean defectors who pioneered a new path," they will receive the prestigious American award at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Los Angeles on May 24. The award event is hosted by the American Media Foundation Women's Association (AWM). The AWM stated on April 13 that their coverage was selected as this year's best work in the foreign language radio category.

"In our coverage, we shed light on the human rights of North Korean women who are forced into marriage and childbirth," Roh said, while revealing news of her award. "They have no freedom over their choice of job or even how they look."

She explained that through the story of how two North Korean women who defected and met each other in a Southeast Asian country in 2019 before settling in Korea, an in-depth interview with the wife of an English diplomat who lived in Pyongyang for two years, and the eyewitness accounts of women of various ages (women in their 20s to those in their 50s) who defected from North Korea, the two journalists provided a diverse report on the difficult lives of North Korean women. These women are often forced to perform many roles and simply wish to have rights and freedom.

"We put a lot of work into the project," Roh said. "It took us two years to get the story of the two defectors who left North Korea so that they could chase their dreams in South Korea.

"We learned that the desire for change lives even in North Korean women who have long lived under oppression. I hope that through this award, we will bring the story of North Korean women's lives and thoughts to a broader audience," Roh said.

The Gracie Awards, which have been around for 47 years, annually select the best works that shed light on women on TV, radio, cable and other platforms, as well as other news media.



Roh Jung-min (L) and Cheon So-ram, winners of Gracie Awards.



An image of the Gracie Award-winning coverage provided by Korean American journalists.

Well-known news companies, such as The Washington Post, CNN, ABC and NBC, took part in the event this year as well.

The RFA, which is based in Washington, is an international broadcasting agency established according to legislation passed by the U.S. Congress. The Korean services provided by the RFA target North Korean residents, who do not have free access to news and information. 🇰🇷

Two-way diaspora

I woke up on a sunny morning in April 1989 in an unfamiliar place. As I wandered around this new house, a big black retriever approached me and prompted me to open the door that led to the living room. Slightly tingling with fear and excitement, I complied, and we entered together. In front of me was a panoramic view of Sognefjord, and in awe, I quietly said, “Hangang” (the name of the main river running through Seoul). My Norwegian parents were standing behind me, laughing as they witnessed my first interaction with Norway.

When defining diaspora, it is often divided into either two categories or several. To mention the basics: forced or voluntary diaspora. To break it down even further: victim diaspora, labor diaspora, trade diaspora, imperial diaspora and cultural diaspora. I will leave it up to the reader to decide where we as overseas adoptees belong.

My name is Eirik Hagenes. I am a Korean adoptee who grew up in Norway. I moved back to Korea in 2010 and have since worked for international companies and run my own business, and am now working as the secretary-general of the Global Overseas Adoptees’ Link (GOA’L).

I was adopted domestically in Korea after I was born in 1982. I was then sent to Norway for overseas adoption in 1989. I have very little memory of my time as a child in Korea, which is not necessarily a good sign but a raw and real one. It certainly puts certain things in perspective regarding a child’s resilience and ability to adapt to a new environment.

Being 7 years old and starting school the same year I arrived in Norway, it took me four months to acclimate and learn the new language. The school declared it was suitable for me to attend at the standard level with supplemental Norwegian classes. Within six months, I completely stopped talking in Korean and left my old life behind.

It is estimated that over 200,000 children have been sent abroad to more than 15 countries for overseas adoption, from infants to teenagers. These children involuntarily became overseas Koreans, at least statistically. We can debate what roles the adoptees play in



Eirik Hagenes,
secretary-general of GOA’L



Eirik Hagenes as a child living in Norway.

this context, as we have no cultural ties to Korea besides our appearance and genetics.

In an attempt to raise awareness, Adoption Day was created and celebrated annually on May 11. The awareness campaign, I believe, is targeted at Korean nationals, who, in general, are not aware of the full scope of the history of adoption since the 1950s.

There is no need for me to repeat the various issues and controversies surrounding the who, what, when, where, why, for how much, etc. No matter how you start this conversation, it becomes a volatile debate that tries to cover all the aspects of adoption and, ultimately, turns political.

Let’s shed some light on the fact that adoptees returning to Korea are entirely rebranded. We are indeed overseas Koreans by blood, although maybe not as obvious. Still, in actuality, we represent the country where we were adopted.

Some adoptees are so rooted in their upbringing that Korean food and culture can be hard to adjust to, while others embrace them as

their true heritage. If you ask me what my favorite food is and what I like to do most in this world, I’d answer, “smoked lamb meat and fishing in a mountain lake.” And if you ask anyone of the hundreds of other adoptees from around the world who reside in Korea right now, you would get many unique responses. It is a small community of people with many different cultural backgrounds but with the same ethnicity.

We come here for love, safety, to seek answers and sometimes just to rebel. We return to our adoptive country in peace and in anger, confused, exhausted and defeated. I know we are truly unique as a diasporic experiment that still affects hundreds of thousands of lives worldwide and the people we meet along our journeys.

I gave up nearly everything in Norway to live a life in Korea. I’m about halfway through my life, and it’s been an unpredictable path. I am hoping it will throw me some more surprises that will enrich my experience along the way. 🇰🇷

20 people, including Son Se-joo, former consul general of the Republic of Korea in New York, selected for OKF advisory committee

The Overseas Koreans Foundation appointed 20 people as members of its advisory committee at the Lotte Hotel in Sogong-dong, Jung Ward, Seoul, on April 15.

Those selected include Kwak Jae-seok (head of the Korean Migrant Policy Research Institute), Kim Bum-soo (deputy director at the Institute for Peace and Unification Studies, Seoul National University), Kim Boo-yong (assistant professor at the Department Northeast Asian Trade and Commerce of Incheon University), Kim Soo-kyeong (head of the English Education Center of the National Institute for International Education), Kim Yo-jin (head of the Brazilian Taekwondo Federation), Kim Woong-gi (professor at the Institute of Japanese Studies, Hallym University), Kim Jeom-bae (president of the United Korean Association in Africa & Middle East), Park Jong-beom



The appointment ceremony for the 10th Overseas Koreans Foundation Advisory Committee.

(president of Youngsan Group), Byeon Jong-deok (chief director of the 21 Hope Foundation in New York), Shim Sang-man (president of the World Assembly of Korean Associations) and Yoon Young-gon (director of the Global Management Research Institute).

The newly appointed members held a meeting that day to welcome Son Se-joo, a former consul general, as the head of the committee.

“I would like to ask that this 10th advisory committee put forth various opinions based on the activities of the foundation over the past 25 years, its accomplishments and needed improvements so that the mutually cooperative relationship between the Korean communities abroad and their motherland may be strengthened even further,” President Kim Seong-gon of the OKF said.

OKF and National Institute of Korean Language resolve to reinforce Korean education for overseas Koreans

The Overseas Koreans Foundation (President Kim Seong-gon) and the National Institute of Korean Language (Director General Chang So-won) have decided to cooperate for the improvement of Korean education for overseas Koreans. The two institutions signed a memorandum of understanding April 5 at the National Institute of Korean Language in Gangseo Ward, Seoul.

According to the MOU, the two institutions will work together in the following ways: joining efforts by sharing content and developing educational material to be used in Korean language schools all over the world, improving the teaching abilities of Korean language school teachers and striving to discover new ways to cooperate for the improvement of the Korean language schools.

“Just as trees are planted on Arbor Day, both institutions will do our best to perform our given roles so that better Korean education can be provided to overseas Koreans,” Kim said. “I hope that through this MOU, Korean education for overseas Koreans will improve and spread further.”

Chang added, “Just as trees planted on Arbor Day will one day form a vast forest, I hope that this agreement between the two institutions will serve as a strong foundation for the global spread of



Kim Seong-gon (L), president of the Overseas Koreans Foundation, and Chang So-won, director general of the National Institute of Korean Language, stand together for a photograph after the MOU signing ceremony.

the Korean language -- coloring the world green with a lingual forest of its own.”

The Overseas Koreans Foundation has operated a Korean language school teacher certification course since 2017 in order to improve the teaching skills of Korean language teachers. The National Institute of Korean Language, on the other hand, has developed a skills certification program for Korean language teachers abroad (currently given the tentative name K-Teachers).

OKF holds meeting with executives of Korean language schools around the world

As part of the Overseas Koreans Foundation’s program “The OKF Comes to You,” the foundation held a meeting with staff from the associations of Korean schools around the world who had mentioned difficulties in school management, including school closures. The meeting was held to discuss such difficulties regarding the operation of Korean language schools amid the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic, as well as methods to strengthen the associations of Korean schools in various regions.



An online meeting takes place between the Overseas Koreans Foundation and executives and workers from the associations of Korean schools around the world.

In consideration of time zones, the meeting was held three times: on March 15, 22 and 31. Thirty executives and workers of these associations took part from their respective locations in North America, Latin America, Asia, Oceania, Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Africa and the Middle East.

Participants requested the care and consideration of the foundation, stating more schools were suspending operations

temporarily and fewer students were attending amid the long pandemic. They also mentioned hardships experienced while running the schools, involving problems such as a lack of teachers and difficulties purchasing pandemic supplies.

They emphasized that cooperation between the associations and the OKF to allow schools to reopen was important. They also requested that a regular meeting with the executives of associations be arranged to reflect pertinent opinions from the field on

the OKF’s projects.

“I would like to thank all of you for working hard for the education of overseas Koreans of the next generation despite the difficult circumstances,” OKF President Kim Seong-gon said. “We will continue to enhance communications between the associations and the foundation, and do our best to strengthen the operations of the Korean language schools.”

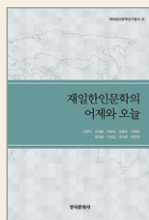
Overseas Koreans Foundation’s Book Recommendations



‘The Past and Present of Korean Japanese Literature’

Kim Yeong-mi / Hankuk Munhwasa

A book of research on Korean Japanese literature has been published. It analyzes the literature by generation and notes the differences. The book offers insight into how the perceptions of Korean Japanese changed with the changing times and how Korean Japanese literature changed as the writers struggled with their sense of identity. The writings of second-generation Korean Japanese show resistance to discrimination and social pressure, as well as efforts to search for ethnic identity. With third-generation Korean Japanese, however, their writings show a focus on individual identity amid their unusual lives rather than the issues of a larger group of people. As such, third-generation Korean Japanese literature shows a tendency to move away from nationality and perceptions, and evinces the confusion that results for “the marginal man.”



hearts. The city of Kumamoto, where the author once lived, was home to nearly 1,000 Koreans at the time. Their history, however, is not found in Korean history books or regional historical accounts. The author states that he wishes to tell future generations of their history and their lives before all traces disappear. “Mother” has a strong autobiographical element.



‘Mother’

Kang Sang-joong / Sakyejul Publishing

In this book, the author describes the story of second-generation Korean Japanese. Though they were forced to move to Japan during the Japanese occupation, they were discriminated against and subjected to hardship all their lives for their Korean nationality. With the division of Korea that followed, they lost contact with their homes and were forced to live on with homesick

‘Learn Korean Through K-Dramas’ (Japanese version)

Seoul Selection / Shokakugen Publishing

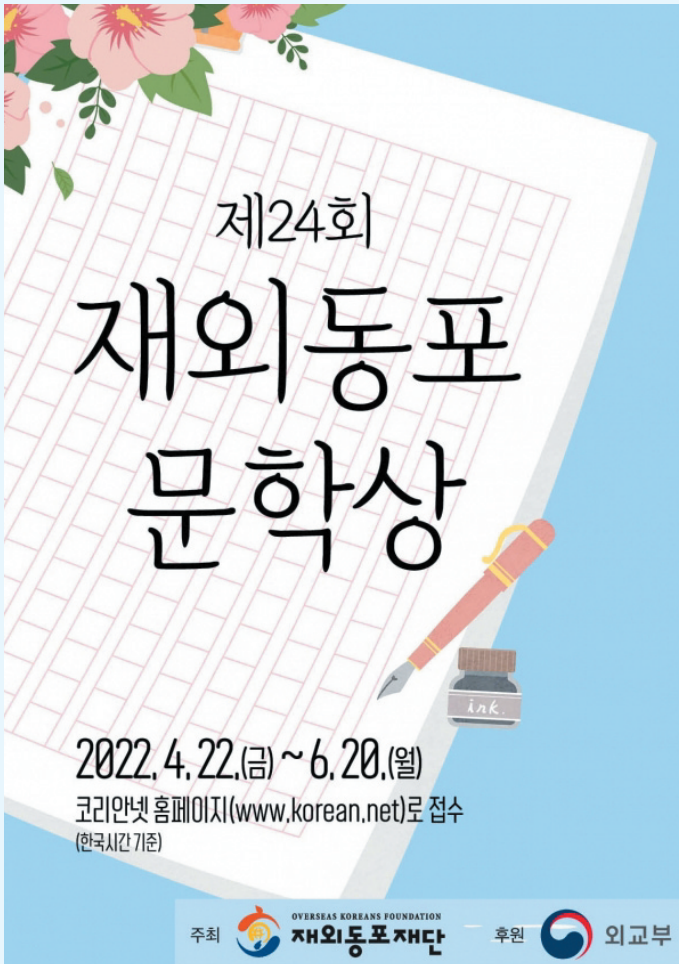
“Learn Korean Through K-Dramas” (Japanese version) was published recently in Japan as the popularity of K-dramas has been growing in the country. According to the Japanese publisher Shokakugen, the Japanese version features a comic on the cover to target Japanese fans of K-dramas.



Dramas featured in the book include “My Love from the Star,” “Descendants of the Sun,” “Goblin: The Lonely and Great God,” “Hotel Del Luna” and “Crash Landing on You.” Seoul Selection, the publisher of the original Korean book, explained that the dramas used in the book were selected from major video streaming services like Netflix and based on popularity. A second volume is planned for release for the Japanese version.



Apply for 2022 OKF Literary Awards



The Overseas Koreans Foundation will accept applications through June 20 for the 24th OKF Literary Awards at KoreanNet (www.korean.net). Any Korean with foreign citizenship may apply. Those who have lived in a foreign country for seven or more years (five years for teenagers) may also apply.

Adults may apply for the categories of poems, short stories and general prose (essays/writings about personal experiences); teenagers may apply for elementary/middle/high school writing; and adopted Koreans may apply with an account of their adoption experience. The total prize money for adults and adoptees has increased by 20 million won compared with last year, and more winners will be picked for the poem, essay and personal experience piece categories. The Korean Language School Special Award will be given to the Korean language school with the largest number of teen winners and applicants who make it to the main evaluations.

The OKF Literary Awards were first created in 1999 to encourage the creation of Korean literature by Koreans all over the world. Last year, 635 overseas Koreans from 54 countries submitted 1,321 pieces.

Schedule for submissions, winner selection and awards

April - June: submissions open (two months)

July - August: selection of winners

September - October: announcement of winners and creation of a collection of winning submissions

November - December: distribution of winning submissions and award ceremonies at relevant official residences

Monthly OKF executives' schedule for April 2022

President Kim Seong-gon

April 5: MOU signing ceremony between the Overseas Koreans Foundation and the National Institute of Korean Language

April 6-7: Korean Business Management Committee meeting

April 8: 4·3 Peace Walk on Jeju

April 15: 10th Overseas Koreans Foundation Advisory Committee Appointment Ceremony

April 19: 'OKF Comes to You' event for associations for Korean schools around the world

April 21: 'OKF Comes to You' event for overseas Koreans of the next generation



750만 재외동포와 대한민국이 하나로 통하는 첫 번째 온라인 세상 코리아넷

코리아넷 회원에 가입하시면 재외동포 민원, 재외동포 단체,
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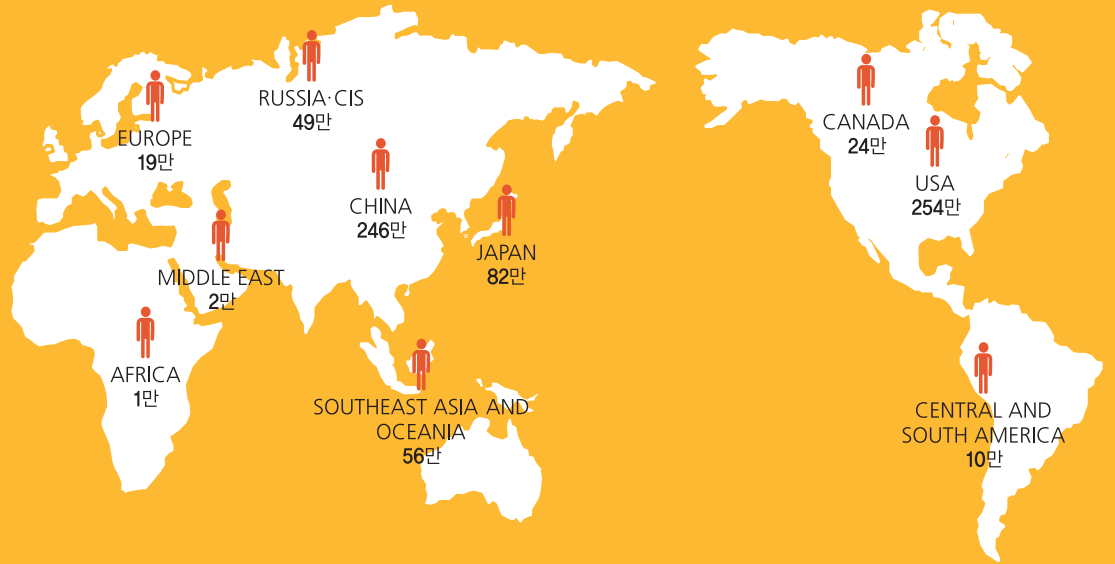


단체 홈페이지
제작
및 운영지원



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