

10
2022

재외동포의



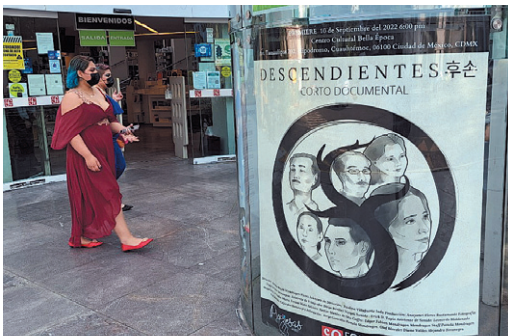
Special Article - Future Leaders' Conference 2022 ends successfully

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Special Feature - Next Generation Overseas Korean Adoptee Program 2022 opens 'for increased solidarity with motherland'

'I want to give my biological mother a warm hug': May Lin Gjøn, Korean adoptee in Norway

Newsworthy Topic - 'Even if you fail, try again': John Z. Lee, first Korean judge of U.S. Court of Appeals for Seventh Circuit



Prime Minister Han Duck-soo gives celebratory speech at HANIN 2022



First of all, President Yoon Suk-yeol had agreed to participate in this crucial event, but he was unable to do so by unavoidable circumstances. He requested that I offer warm greetings to all the heads of Korean associations that have traveled a long way to come to this event. I'd like to welcome you all.

Respected 7.3 million overseas Koreans around the world! I would like to sincerely congratulate you on Korean Day, the 16th as of this year. I would like to thank all the heads of Korean associations who represent their respective bodies around the world, as well as all the overseas Koreans who are watching virtually.

This year is a very meaningful year, as it is the 120th anniversary of Korean emigration. It was in this very city, Incheon, where the first ship headed for Hawaii carrying Koreans; I believe that fact makes this celebration of Korean Day even more meaningful. You all left your mother country and forged new lives for yourselves all over the world, creating a Korean community that sets an example for everyone. Fellow Koreans are distinguishing themselves in various fields, such as politics, economics, society and culture. I thank you all for wielding the spirit of the Korean people globally and becoming the pride of our people.

Overseas Koreans! South Korea is now an estimable country the entire world is focusing on. It is a democratic country that respects the values of freedom and human rights, and ranks 10th and seventh globally in economy and trade volume, respectively. We are also very advanced in terms of technology, with the fourth-highest internet supply rate. We also ranked first on the Bloomberg Innovation Index. We are a country with a powerful cultural influence, beloved by people around the world. In stride with this elevated position, South Korea will now expand its role and contribution to the international society.

President Yoon Suk-yeol has stated publicly at the 77th UN General Assembly meeting that our country will perform its role



제16회 세계한인의 날 기념식

Han Duck-soo,
Prime Minister

responsibly to ensure freedom for the world citizen and prosperity for international society. In order to respond to the new dangers faced by the world today, we will cooperate closely with other countries who share the same universal values and standards. We will not waver in our efforts to bring peace and prosperity to the Korean Peninsula, either.


Overseas Koreans! In order for South Korea to become a central country on the global stage, we need the support and love of you all, the 7.3 million overseas Koreans out there, more than anything else. The government will create overseas Korean policies that will allow you to maintain your Korean identity while also growing into

world citizens with the Koreans living in our mother country.

The establishment of a new overseas Korean service, a long-cherished wish of the overseas Korean community, is going well in tandem with the national goals of the new administration. We will cooperate actively with the National Assembly so that relevant laws can be passed quickly. The government, with the support of all Korean citizens, is currently working to ensure that the 2030 World Expo is held in Busan. We ask for the active interest and support of the overseas Korean community regarding this.

Overseas Koreans! Your success equates to South Korea's success. As our Korean community grows, so will the public status of this country. The government will do its best to create a country you can be proud of and rely upon.

Through today's celebration of Korean Day, I pray that the solidarity that exists between Korea and the overseas Korean community will grow even stronger. And I also hope that HANIN, held in tandem with the event, will give rise to many constructive conversations for the improvement of the overseas Korean community.

I wish all 7.3 million of you good health and happiness. Thank you. 



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Compatriot News - Organization committee for next year's Korean Business Convention in U.S. established, joint heads of convention selected (3 other pieces included)
Cultural Heritage - Placenta Chamber of King Myeongjong, Haemieupseong Walled Town and Rock-carved Buddha Triad in Seosan
South Chungcheong Province city is cultural treasure trove
OKF News - Foreign Affairs Minister Park Jin visits Overseas Koreans Foundation and Korea Foundation (2 other pieces included)
Compatriot Calendar - Overseas Koreans and Korean university students studying in Japan engage in exchanges at jamboree in Tokyo (4 other pieces included)
Column - The Grass Isn't Greener: Life as a Korean adoptee
Nadja Christiansen (Oh Eun-joo)
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The Overseas Koreans Foundation is an institution affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that engages in various projects to further the rights of the 7.5 million overseas Koreans around the world and facilitate their entry into mainstream society in their respective countries of residence.

You can also read this publication online at webzine.korean.net

2022 세계한인차세대대회

The 24th Future Leaders' Conference



Future Leaders' Conference 2022 ends successfully 75 people from 18 countries participated in 5 days of exchanges

The 24th Future Leaders' Conference, where young overseas Korean leaders from all over the world were invited to communicate and harmonize, was hosted by the Overseas Koreans Foundation from Sept. 4-8 at the Conrad Hotel in the Yeouido district in Seoul. The theme of the event was "Korea, Connected Globally by the Next Generation," and 65 young leaders from various fields, including politics, economics, law and the arts, as well as NGO leaders, from 18 countries participated in the event, in addition to 10 more young leaders from inside Korea.

Notable participants were Anna Lee, co-founder of Lionness Health (listed in the "Forbes 30 Under 30" in 2020); Jong Song, a federal prosecutor for the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions in Australia; Sohee Park, a third-generation Korean Japanese who played Mozasu in the drama "Pachinko"; and Ten Ilya, who is a cellist and musical director in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

Besides them, there was the only Korean

dermatologist in New Zealand, Kim Yena; Syunghea Noh, a French lawyer who won the LTI Korea Award for Aspiring Translators; the patissier Sora Lee, who is known for her Korean-themed desserts; Yuri Kim, a third-generation overseas Korean who teaches martial arts, culture and dance of South Korea in Kazakhstan; and Kim Seung-cheol, an English doctor from Scotland.

'I hope the event allows people to seek a vision as world citizens,' OKF President Kim Seong-gon

At the opening ceremony on Sept. 4, Oh Joon, the former Korean ambassador to the United Nations and the chair of the board of Save the Children, gave a keynote speech titled "World Citizen Awareness and Korean Youth in the Global Era." A celebratory performance, relevant video screenings and a welcome banquet followed.

"The UN and the international society as a whole are focusing on cosmopolitan education, requiring the interest and action of each government," Oh said in his speech. "Many countries, including South Korea, are reflecting such a vision in their educational policies; but in order for such global citizenship education to begin in earnest, citizens of each country must be aware of the necessity of this education, and political leaders must create changes for relevant efforts to take place.

“What the world needs today for a sustainable future for humanity is better world citizenship awareness and global governance. This is not a matter of choice, but a strategy for the survival of the human race,” he said.

Kim Seong-gon, president of the Overseas Koreans Foundation, said in his opening speech, “I hope that this year’s Future Leaders’ Conference will allow young leaders from all over the world to seek their visions as world citizens, and discuss what is necessary for world peace and the joint prosperity of mankind.”

The participants, most of whom were meeting each other for the first time, took part in recreational activities for two hours after the opening speech, engaging in mutual communication.

The event was presided over on Sept. 5 by director Joseph Juhn, creator of the documentary movie “Jeronimo” (dealing with Korean descendants in Cuba). A forum involving actress Sohee Park, author Song Anna and the president of KINO5 Entertainment, Lee Kyu-chang, was held on the same day. This was followed by a luncheon hosted by Lee Do-hoon, vice minister for foreign affairs, and special lectures by Choi Tae-sung, a history instructor, and Lim Eun-jung, director of the Institute of Korean Education and Culture in Kongju National University.

On Sept. 6, the participants traveled to Incheon, where the 120 years of Korea-U.S. immigration history began, and visited the Museum of Korea Emigration History to study the history of overseas Koreans that played an important part in making the Korea of today possible. Participants also visited the prime minister’s official residence in Samcheong-dong, Jongno Ward, Seoul, during the event period to communicate with the South Korean government, in addition to various presentations and discussions, such as the Insight Forum, World Citizen Forum and regional networking events.

Participants state their resolve to ‘take lead in improving relations between our mother country and countries of residence’

Concluding the event on Sept. 8, participants all echoed the resolve to take an active part in the improvement of relations between South Korea and their respective countries of residence.

“This event allowed me to communicate with young leaders around the world and expand my professional knowledge. It helped me learn my mother country’s culture and societal norms as well,” said Sua Seo, a lawyer from Australia, during the closing ceremony. “The participants will cooperate and communicate, and we’ll also strive to improve relations between South Korea

and the countries we reside in.”

“I was able to frankly share with others my crises I’ve had due to my ethnic identity, allowing me to feel a sense of oneness with the others here,” said Ekaterina Lee, a program manager at FHI 360 from Kazakhstan. “It helped me cement my identity as a Korean.” FHI 360 is an international organization that deals with food and family planning matters.

“I ask that you young Korean leaders help continue the traditions of Korea and play a role in connecting the South and the North, which have been painfully separated,” said OKF President Kim. “In addition, I would like to ask that you form a peaceful Korean body and join us in the quest for world peace.”

The Overseas Koreans Foundation has held the event every year since 1998, and approximately 1,500 young leaders from various fields have taken part so far. The conference is open to permanent residents of foreign countries aged between 25 to 45, Koreans with foreign citizenship, overseas residents who have lived abroad for at least 10 years, and individuals who have contributed to better communication between overseas Koreans and to the development of the Korean community abroad. 📺

- 1 People participate in a Taegeukgi performance at the opening ceremony of the Future Leaders’ Conference 2022.
- 2 This photo shows major participants of the Future Leaders’ Conference 2022 (from top L, clockwise): Sohee Park, a third-generation Korean Japanese actor; Anna Lee, co-founder of Lionness Health; Ten Ilya, a cellist and musical director; and Jong Song, a federal prosecutor for the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions in Australia.
- 3 Oh Joon, chairman of the board of Save the Children, gives a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the event.
- 4 Kim Seong-gon (C), president of the Overseas Koreans Foundation, gives the closing speech of the Future Leaders’ Conference 2022.



Next Generation Overseas Korean Adoptee Program 2022 opens ‘for increased solidarity with motherland’

Around 150 participants from 14 countries experience Korean culture in event hosted by OKF



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The Next Generation Overseas Korean Adoptee Program 2022, held to help cement the sense of identity of overseas Korean adoptees and increase their sense of connection to their motherland, was hosted at the Novotel Ambassador Seoul Yongsan hotel in Seoul from Oct. 12-17. This event, hosted by the Overseas Koreans Foundation and sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, drew around 150 Korean adoptees from 14 countries, including the United States, France, Sweden and Germany, in addition to their families.

This event was organized to allow overseas Koreans who had been adopted overseas at an early age to network with each other and learn about their mother country. In addition, they were able to discuss their identities with other Korean adoptees and experience the Korean Wave, Korean language, Korean food and other aspects of Korea that have been popularized globally.

Participants experienced K-pop, taekwondo, Korean cuisine, folk painting and other activities, and visited Gyeongbok Palace, Sajikdan, Gwanghwamun and other places. The following programs were held during the event period: a forum where people shared their adoption experiences under the theme “My Heritage, My Korea,” an informative session that provided practical information regarding Korean systems and policies that could be useful for Korean adoptees, and Korean history and cultural experiences on traditional handcraft, K-food, K-pop and other subjects as well.

“The Next Generation Overseas Korean Adoptee Program is one of the most meaningful of the foundation’s projects,” Overseas Koreans Foundation President Kim Seong-gon said in his welcome

speech at the opening ceremony. “The name Korea is based on the name of a country that existed 1,100 years ago, Goryeo, which means very beautiful. Korea not only has beautiful natural environments and a beautiful culture; the hearts of its people are exemplary as well. I hope that you will enjoy the beauty of your mother country to the fullest through your visit.”

At the closing ceremony on Oct. 17, participants all described the event as a precious opportunity to learn about their roots and were grateful for the warm welcome from their mother country.

“This was a very special meeting with overseas Koreans through which we were able to speak heart-to-heart,” said Jung Gwang-il, project managing director at the OKF through a closing speech. “We will continue to strengthen the adoptee network so that people all over the world can connect.”

The Overseas Korean Foundation, which supports the 7.5 million overseas Koreans worldwide and connects them to the 52 million South Korean citizens, has been actively supporting overseas adoptees and their children, accepting them as overseas Koreans. The Next Generation Overseas Korean Adoptee Program was unable to open in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was held in an online and offline hybrid format in 2021. This year, it was held as an offline event for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began. [\[장\]](#)

1 Kim Seong-gon, president of the Overseas Koreans Foundation, gives a welcome speech for the Next Generation Overseas Korean Adoptee Program 2022 on Oct. 13 at the Novotel Ambassador Seoul Yongsan hotel in Seoul.

2 Participants of the Next Generation Overseas Korean Adoptee Program 2022 pose for a group photo.

'I want to give my biological mother a warm hug': May Lin Gjøen, Korean adoptee in Norway

She visited Korea for Next Generation Overseas Korean Adoptee Program
2022 hosted by OKF

"If I meet my biological mother, the first thing I want to do is give her a warm hug. I want to tell her that she doesn't need to feel guilty about giving me up for adoption, since I have a fantastic life in Norway," said May Lin Gjøen (Korean name: Park Ji-heon), a 47-year-old Korean adoptee from Norway, in a press interview on Oct. 17. "I was adopted into an affluent family. It was a good choice to give me up for adoption, and I want to tell my biological parents that I don't hold it against them."

She came to Korea for the Next Generation Overseas Korean Adoptee Program 2022, which the Overseas Koreans Foundation hosted from Oct. 12-17.

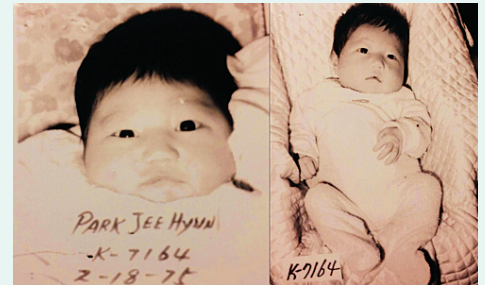
Born on Feb. 18, 1975, at Samsung Clinic in Daegu, she was left in the care of the Christian Adoption Program of Korea on March 7 of that year. She was adopted three years later. The records show that her biological father was Park I-dong (born 1954) and her biological mother Lee Ok-seon (born 1955).

"I had no way of knowing if my biological parents had filed their names and mine differently, or if the adoption agency had put in random names because the real ones weren't known," Gjøen said. "That made it difficult to find my real parents."

She missed her biological parents as she grew up and came to Korea 13 years ago to find them. She visited the Seobu Bus Stop in Daegu, where her parents had worked as a bus driver's assistant and information attendant, but no records of them remained. Samsung Clinic had also closed down long ago, but in 2017, she was able to locate her biological father through a DNA test.

"My biological father is only 18 years older than me. He wasn't even aware that he'd had a daughter, but he soon accepted the fact, and we've been in touch ever since," Gjøen said. "After I met him, I learned that my surname was Seo and that my adoption papers must have been wrong. He doesn't remember who my mother was, making it very hard to locate her."

Gjøen hasn't given up hope, however. The final joint of her pinkie has been bent backward ever since she was a baby. She hasn't



May Lin Gjøen (L), a Korean adoptee living in Norway whose story of her search for her biological parents was published in the book "Together At Last"
May Lin Gjøen is pictured here at 3 years of age when she was with the Christian Adoption Program of Korea.

performed surgery on this finger, however, in hopes that her mother might recognize her. She worked at Qatar Airways for around 20 years after studying at the University of Bergen in Norway. She quit two years ago during the COVID-19 pandemic and has been working at the Oslo branch of Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering ever since.

Gjøen's two other siblings were also adopted; one of them is from Korea and the other is from Vietnam. Her adoptive parents told her from an early age about the country she was from and helped her acquaint herself with Korean culture.

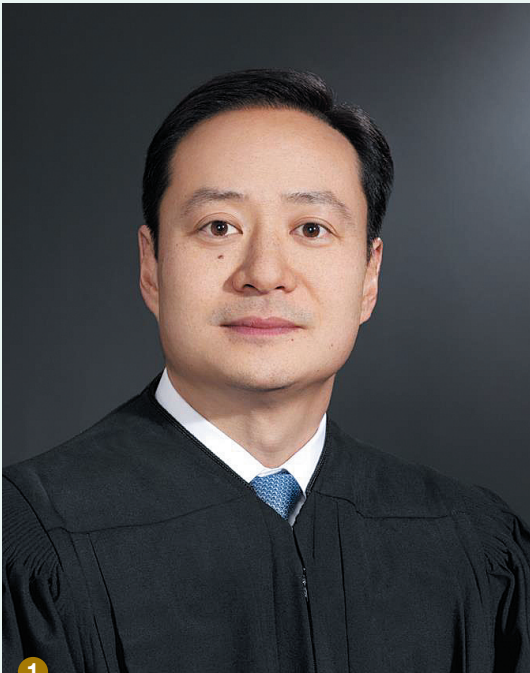
"They encouraged me when I said I wanted to look for my biological parents," she said. "Both my adoptive and biological parents are family to me. The Korean employees at my new job treat me very warmly, making me feel even closer to my home country. I named my son Daehan so that he won't forget the country of my birth. Even though I grew up from an early age in Norway, it's undoubtedly true that I have Korean blood in my veins."

The story of Gjøen's search was included in the recent book "Together At Last," which was published by the Korean adoptee organization 325Kamra.

"Though I must live as a 'boundary person,' I won't stop searching for my biological mother," Gjøen said. "I want to learn about my roots." 🇰🇷

‘Even if you fail, try again’: John Z. Lee, first Korean judge of U.S. Court of Appeals for Seventh Circuit

‘Symbol of the American dream,’ according to U.S. state senator; he is son of Korean miner and nurse dispatched to Germany



“If you harbor a big dream, set goals and work hard toward achieving them, you can do it. Life isn’t a straight line. There are uphill paths, and there are downhill paths. Please don’t give up, even if you stumble, try again. Life is full of surprising joys.”

John Z. Lee (54, Korean name Lee Ji-hun), the first Asian judge and also the first Korean judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, gave this message to the youth in a meeting with journalists in an office of the Dirksen Federal Building in downtown Chicago on Sept. 19.

It has only been one week since Lee was sworn in.

“I have been placed in an important post, and I feel the weight of responsibility,” he said. “I think it’s very meaningful that I can become a good role model for future generations, especially young people who work in a legal profession.”

Lee was selected as a judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (with a life tenure) by former President Barack Obama in 2012, 10 years before his recent promotion.

President Joe Biden named Lee as a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, which oversees seven district courts in Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana, on April 13. The U.S. Senate then held a Judiciary Committee Hearing and confirmed this nomination at a regular session on Sept. 8.

Lee was sworn in by the chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, Diane Schwerm Sykes, on Sept. 12. The date of the official inauguration hasn’t been set yet.

“I am extremely honored and thankful,” Lee said.

He expressed special thanks to his nominator, President Biden, and Richard Joseph Durbin and Tammy Duckworth, two senators who wrote letters of commendation for him.

“The time that it took from the president’s nomination to the Senate’s confirmation wasn’t short. My family was relieved and happy when they heard the news of the confirmation,” he said. “But there has been too much work from the district court to take care of that the fact hasn’t really sunk in yet. I ate out with my wife, just the two of us, to celebrate.”

Lee’s office was moved up five floors from the 21st floor of the federal building to the 26th floor, reserved for court of appeals judges.

When asked about the most impactful change of his recent appointment, Lee said, “The biggest difference is that I won’t be presiding over trials anymore.”

He explained that he won’t be listening to the defense counsel’s defense, the prosecutor’s statement and witness questioning as much, and focusing more on interpreting and applying the law in hearings.

“I enjoyed dealing with a variety of cases over the past 10 years as a U.S. magistrate judge and learning about many new areas,” he said. “That will be a continuing trend.”

He added, however, that patent-related disputes are handled by the DC Court of Appeals regardless of where the first trial is held and thus he won’t be handling patent violation lawsuits anymore.

When reminded of the fact that he’d been a lawyer specializing in patents, intellectual property rights, commerce regulations and monopolies at a large law firm before his lifetime appointment as a judge, he said: “I don’t regret becoming a judge. It’s more interesting to deal with a variety of cases.



“I’ve strived to become a fair and careful judge, and I’ll continue to apply myself to my case hearings with those values in my heart. I will make sure that people can feel that I’ve listened carefully to both sides and considered their stances fully.”

‘I want to give courage to young people that they can do it too. I will become a fair and careful judge’

“I’m grateful that I’ve been given the opportunity to be a good role model and inspire others,” he said, regarding the fact that he is the first Korean judge in his position. “As a young lawyer, I would be greatly encouraged whenever I saw a minority judge at a court of law. I want to encourage young people that they too can succeed. People need to dream big. If they don’t, they won’t have anything to achieve.”

Speaking about the youth of immigrant families, he said: “America gives limitless opportunities to everyone. If you’re willing to put in the effort, anything is possible.

“Tomorrow is always waiting for us,” Lee said. “We learn many things through our failures. I also achieved my growth through various frustrations. If you don’t give up, a new opportunity is sure to arise.”

Lee is the first son of miner Lee Seon-gu (83) and nurse Lee Hwa-ja (80), who were dispatched by the Park Chung-hee administration in the 1960s to Germany through the Recruitment Agreement between Germany and South Korea, and was born in Aachen. He was sent to Daejeon when he was 3 months old to the home of his mother. He was raised by his maternal grandmother until the age of 4, when he immigrated to Chicago with his parents.

Early on in their new life in America, the circumstances were difficult. Both his father and mother had to leave their young son at home and go to work at a

shoe factory and a hospital, respectively. With regard to this aspect of Lee’s life, U.S. Sen. Durbin described him as “a symbol of the American dream and the story of the country.”

Lee, who attended elementary, middle and high school in the suburbs of Chicago, studied at Harvard University (graduated in 1989) and Harvard Law School (graduated in 1992), and began working as an attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice Environment and Natural Resources Division. After that, he worked for large law firms like Mayer Brown, Grippo & Elden and Freeborn & Peters before being selected as a United States judge.

Lee currently lives in the Chicago suburbs with his wife, June Lee (Korean name: Lee Yun-jeong), who is an anesthesiologist. His daughter (24) and son (20), who were in middle school and elementary school, respectively, 10 years ago when he was appointed to the position of a U.S. magistrate judge, have become college students and are now living in different states. When asked about his next goal, he replied, “My unchanging goal is to become a good judge.” 🇰🇷

- 1 John Z. Lee, the first Asian judge appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- 2 John Z. Lee stands in front of an office inside a federal court building in Chicago.
- 3 John Z. Lee gives a press interview in a federal court office.

‘I will nurture talent to lead Korean Wave’: Chung Ho-hyeon, principal and founder of Korean language school in Cuba

School opened in early September with help of OKF
180 teenage and adult students have applied

“It is my goal to properly teach the Korean language and culture not just to Korean descendants in Cuba but to all those interested in the country, turning the students into amazing people that can act as a bridge between the two countries.”

Chung Ho-hyeon is the principal of the Korean language school that opened its doors at the Korean Cultural Center in Havana, Cuba, on Sept. 5.

“Korean descendants will be able to learn Korean to become interpreters and guides, and in the long term, I will help foster researchers in the field of Korean studies,” the 50-year-old said.

There are around 1,000 people of Korean descent living in Cuba. Koreans first settled in the country on March 25, 1921. Around 275 Koreans who lived in Mexico immigrated to Cuba in search of new livelihoods, and they worked at henequén haciendas as they lay down new roots.

Most have become locals over the 100 or so years that have passed. A Korean community also has formed around the Korean Cultural Center, which was previously Club Martiano Amistad Cuba Corea. Chung, who was the first Korean to attain permanent residency by marrying a Cuban, is also a documentary producer who creates videos promoting Cuba.

The Korea Foundation established a Korean language lecture at the University of Havana in 2012 and operated it until 2018. Korean descendants also operated Korean language classes, but they closed down due to financial difficulties, among other issues.

The Korean language school that opened this time is an official school that has received an overseas educational institution certificate from the diplomatic office in Mexico, with funding from the Overseas Koreans Foundation. Many people made inquiries after hearing that a school was being established, and 180 students enrolled in seven basic classes and two intermediate ones. Korean descendants and local Korean Wave fans also came, with 20 percent being middle school, high school and college students, and the rest being adults.

The classroom material was provided by the King Sejong Institute Foundation, and a Korean language school in Mexico also provided educational materials, school supplies and other items.

‘I will help Korean descendants form a sense of identity and allow them to act as bridges between the countries’: Chung

“We have two active classes, and there are three Cuban teachers, as well as



- 1 Chung Ho-hyeon, founder and principal of a Korean language school located at the Korean Cultural Center in Havana
- 2 A Korean language class takes place in Havana after the school opened its doors on Sept. 5.
- 3 The 77th Anniversary Event for the National Liberation Day of South Korea takes place at the Korean Cultural Center on Sept. 14.
- 4 The Korean Cultural Center in Havana, Cuba, where a Korean language school was founded



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three special teachers who are Koreans living in Cuba. They are volunteers,” Chung said. “Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, it has been difficult to even acquire basic supplies. We have to rely on overseas aid for the various supplies we need to carry out education.

“After a fire at a large crude oil storage facility, we also have had a severe shortage of electricity,” she added. “We had a blackout on the day we opened, and even though the air conditioners weren’t operational in the humid weather, everyone was eager to learn.”

Chung said that she was very reassured by the Latin American and Caribbean Council of the National Unification Advisory Council, which provided active support for the opening of the school and also promised to build a generator for the school.

“Many students love K-dramas very much and wish to learn Korean, hoping to visit Korea one day if they have the chance,” she said. “We plan to hold various Korean culture classes in addition to the language classes.”

The school held the “Cuban Youth Dream Festival” on Oct. 8 in celebration of Hangeul Day, where students took part in a Korean speaking competition.

In the long term, the school will collaborate with the Korean Cultural Center to hold Korean Culture Day events, support Korean Wave fan club events and create booths at the Feria Internacional



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del Libro de Cuba.

“Korean Wave fan clubs in Cuba include ArtCor, CUBAamoCorea and many others,” Chung said. “A major TV channel in the country has K-pop programs, and there are even channels that play only K-pop for two hours every week.

“Though diplomatic relations between Cuba and Korea have not been formally established yet, I hope that this will change in the near future thanks to the Korean Wave,” she said. “In preparation for this, I will work hard to make the school a focal point for the dissemination of Korean culture.” 장

GLOBAL KOREAN



Korean Canadian Caroline Kim becomes new judge on Ontario Court of Justice **Kim, who represented clients in family law matters as a lawyer, is now first Korean Canadian to become a judge on provincial court**

Ontario, the largest province in Canada with a population of 14.5 million, has named a second-generation Korean Canadian to its Court of Justice for the very first time. The new judge is Caroline Kim, a former lawyer specializing in family law (Korean name: Kim Dong-yeon). She began her work on Sept. 29 with the commendation of Ontario's attorney general and the nomination of the province's lieutenant governor.

According to the Ontario Province website, her father (Kim Geun-rae, who heads the Child Fund Ontario Chapter) and the Hankook Ilbo in Toronto, she was nominated for the position in recognition of her work experience with children's rights and family law.

Ontario's court system consists of the Court of Justice, the Superior Court of Justice and the Court of Appeal. The Court of Justice mainly deals with small claims (worth less than CA\$10,000), minor offenses and family law.

In order to become a Court of Justice judge, one must be an active member of a bar association for at least 10 years. Though the retirement age is 65, there are exceptions that allow one to retain office until 75. Kim, who was born in Toronto, majored in biology at McGill University in Montreal and acquired a master's in genetics there. She then attained her law degree from the same university and began working as a family lawyer in 2008.

She worked at a legal clinic where she represented survivors of domestic violence and also worked as a family lawyer at a law firm. Kim taught international human rights law at the Centre for Mental Health Law and Policy in Pune, India, and serves as an executive board member of the Sexual Assault Support Centre of the Waterloo Region.

Grand prize of this year's Chang Po Go Korean Commerce Awards goes to Korindo Group President Seung Eun-ho

Chang Po Go Global Foundation selects 6 winners, including Jae My Holdings Group President Lee Suk-jin for Speaker of National Assembly Award

Seung Eun-ho (80), president of the Indonesian Korindo Group, was selected for the grand prize of this year's Chang Po Go Korean Commerce Awards. The Chang Po Go Global Foundation (President Kim Deok-ryong) and Wando County, South Jeolla Province (Gov. Shin Woo-chul), held an evaluation committee meeting for the 7th Chang Po Go Korean Commerce Awards at the Local Finance Association in Mapo Ward, Seoul, on Sept. 1. They selected Seung for the grand prize.

Seung immigrated to Indonesia in 1969 and created a large forest over 53 years, and established factories for the production of solid wood, plywood, paper, tissues and other goods, achieving vertical integration of the wood processing industry. In addition, he founded Korindo Group, which has 30 affiliates in television, commercialized trucking, bus production, finance, logistics, real estate and energy production, such as biogases and small hydropower. It has now become a mid-sized group with 20,000 employees that earns US\$1 billion in sales annually.

He became the first president of the Korean Chamber of Commerce in Indonesia in 1998 and shared his business experience with companies that expanded to Indonesia. In 2003, he founded the Asian Korean Business Association, which he was the president of for 15 years as he worked to create a Korean business network. For such achievements, he received the Seongnyu Medal and Moran Medal of the Order of Civil Merit of South Korea and a



commendation medal from the Indonesian government.

This year's Speaker of the National Assembly Award went to Lee Suk-jin, president of Jae My Holdings Group in Australia; the Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism Award to Choi Kyung-ju, president of the KJ Choi Foundation; the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Award to Matthew Lee, president of KMT Group in Malaysia; the Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy Award to Kim Kyeong-wuk, president of Galtex International in Vietnam; and the Minister of Oceans and Fisheries Award to Chang Jae-jung, president of UNI Group Companies in the Philippines.

The Chang Po Go Korean Commerce Awards acknowledge Korean businessmen who have greatly expanded Korea's economic and cultural turf overseas, and have also taken the lead in the development of the Korean community and the cultural center of the Korean identity. The award recognizes 21st-century people who exemplify Admiral Jang Bogo of the Silla Dynasty. Including the winners of this year's awards, 37 people from 16 countries have been recognized so far.

Third-generation Korean Yuri Lim elected as Oblast Duma member in Sakhalin, Russia

To be vice chairperson on Federal Assembly's economic development committee 'Will enhance Koreans' status through education focusing on their roots'

"I will speak far and wide of the Koreans who have become part of Sakhalin society, so that future generations of Koreans may live with pride in their hearts."

Yuri Vladimirovich Lim (51), who was elected as a member of the Sakhalin Oblast Duma to a five-year term on Sept. 11, said in an email interview with the press on Sept. 26, "I will create a regional studies notebook to teach about regional histories so that students can learn about their roots from elementary school onward."

In the Oblast Duma elections, Yuri Gwangsovich Choi was the only other person of Korean descent running and was successful in his reelection bid. Lim, who is a third-generation overseas Korean, was assigned the role of vice chairperson of the Economic Development Committee by a general assembly meeting of the Sakhalin Oblast Duma. Stating his resolve, he said, "I will utilize my background as a labor law lawyer to take the lead in revitalizing the regional economy."

Lim grew up in Saint Petersburg, graduated from St. Petersburg Naval Academy, and was stationed in Saint Petersburg as an officer. After leaving the military, he worked at a large corporation in Saint Petersburg, and studied law and economics through a correspondence school to become qualified as a lawyer.

He returned to Sakhalin on account of his father and his Korean wife missing their birthplace. After running a construction company for some time, he decided to run for election. He moved to begin regional studies classes in the educational body and elementary schools of his electoral district, Nevelsk, as soon as he was elected.

"Learning about the history of the region or city one lives in, as well as the immigration history of minority groups, will allow people to develop affection and pride for their home region," he said.

Lim's father is a Korean and his mother is a Russian.

"I have many Korean relatives, and most of my friends are Korean as well. I believe that the same blood runs in my veins," he said. "Wanting to be of help to the Korean community, I provided free legal advice as an executive member of the Sakhalin Korean Association for the past two years." 🇰🇷



Song Bu-yeong, chairman of Korean Japanese Association board, wins Japan Foundation Award

Reward given in acknowledgment of 50 years of Korean-Japanese exchanges in culture and arts

“The more youth from each country visit the other, the better Korean-Japanese relations will get. It’s important to know each other well for a relationship of trust and friendliness to form,” said Song Bu-yeong, a winner of the 2022 Japan Foundation Awards, hosted by the foundation (a public diplomacy institution under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan), in an interview with the press on Sept. 24. “I’m happy to be acknowledged for my silent efforts to bridge the gap in the exchanges between the countries a little.”

The Japan Foundation has been annually selecting individuals and organizations who have contributed to mutual understanding between Japan and a foreign country whose future cultural (academic, artistic, etc.) activities hold promise since 1973.

Koreans who have won this award include Han Byeong-sam, former director of the National Museum of Korea; Lee O-young, former minister of culture, sports and tourism; and Ji Myeong-kwan, former professor at Hallym University.

This year, Robert Lepage, an actor, director, playwright and filmmaker from Canada, as well as Goenawan Mohamad, a poet and artist from Indonesia, also won the award. The Korean Japanese Association is the only organization to ever win the award. The award ceremony was held in Japan on Sept. 19.

The Korean Japanese Association, established in 1971 and located in Seocho Ward, Seoul, has consistently taught Japanese, led exchanges between Korean and Japanese youths, held Japanese studying and employment expos, and carried out other endeavors.

“We’re currently holding a Japanese education contest for middle and high schoolers, a Japanese translation contest for college students, and the ‘Lee Soo-hyun Commemoration Project,’ which seeks to remember the Korean student Lee Soo-hyun, who died while trying to rescue a man who fell onto the railway tracks at Shin-Okubo Station in Tokyo in 2001,” Song said. “Over 100,000 young



Song Bu-yeong (C), chairman of the board of the Korean Japanese Association

people have participated in direct or indirect exchanges with Japan so far through our projects.”

Song, who is also the chairman of the board at Haewei Education Development Co., Ltd., a company that specializes in overseas study and training in Japan, was formerly the vice president of the association before becoming president in 2001. He has been leading it as the chairman since the association adopted a board system in 2006.

“There is often political strain between Korea and Japan due to various factors, including historical interpretation, but it is at times like these that civilian exchanges must continue,” Song said. “Helping the younger generations see each other without bias and engage in correct exchanges is the association’s vision.

“Discrimination starts from not knowing the other party properly. Exchanges held to learn about each other will reduce the distance between the countries in time,” he said.

The Korean Japanese Association has been led by people like Hwang Jong-ryul, former minister of finance (who was the first president); Moon Hong-ju, former minister of culture and education; Lee Dong-won, former minister of foreign affairs; and Jung Il-kwon, former prime minister. They were all major dignitaries and leaders of Korean society. That shows how important civilian exchanges between Korea and Japan really are.”

He explained that he felt the most gratification when young people who took part in the various exchange activities or competitions hosted by the association went on to become university professors or experts, and added that holding Korea-Japan exchanges for the youth is equivalent to sowing seeds for friendly future relations between the two countries.

Song stated his resolve by saying, “The association will continue to work toward establishing a positive neighborly relationship between the two countries, unswayed by the political climate.” 장

Lawyer Syunghea Noh is ‘sturdy backup for Korean French community’

She provides legal services to Koreans facing language barrier

“I will become a reliable backup for the 10,000 or so Koreans in France who do not know its complicated legal processes.”

Syunghea Noh, who works as a lawyer in commercial law in Paris, describes herself as a “lawyer specializing in helping Koreans in France.”

The 36-year-old visited Korea for the 24th Future Leaders’ Conference hosted by the Overseas Koreans Foundation in Seoul on Sept. 4, an event where 65 next-generation Korean leaders from 18 countries took part.

“I have not been a lawyer for that long, don’t belong to a law firm and work alone. This naturally led to my working with the Korean community,” she said in a press interview on Sept. 7. “There’s probably a lot of things I can help with, since there aren’t many lawyers who specialize in helping Koreans.”

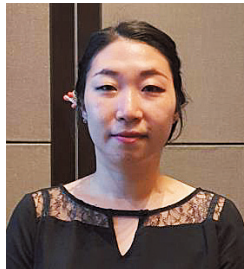
She grew up with her grandfather, who produced violins for students, and her father, who repaired string instruments. She went with her father to France in 1991, when he left to study stringed instruments there, and this was her first experience with the country.

She returned to Korea after three years and attended a French international school in Seorae Village in Seoul. She then returned to France and graduated from college there, studying at HEDAC (Haute Ecole des Avocats Conseils des Barreaux du ressort de la Cour d’appel de Versailles), and became a lawyer in 2017.

She worked briefly at ARCHE law firm before opening her own office in Paris under her own name, Syunghea Noh.

She normally provides services for Koreans regarding family problems, issues regarding purchases of restaurants or companies and legal problems that arise in cases where one has expanded their business to France or is planning to do so.

“Most people fail to understand French law because of the language barrier. They come to me, unable to deal with the complex processes that include preliminary contracts, main contracts and so on. I do my best to be as kind as possible in



Syunghea Noh, who works as a “lawyer for Koreans” in France

explaining legal matters,” Noh said.

She volunteers whenever she can, participating in lectures hosted by Korean organizations like AFCF-KOWIN France to speak about civil law and other matters. She recently contributed to persuading the Korean Embassy in France to issue “legal opinions.”

In one case she handled, a Korean woman had married a French man, and the man had intended to adopt the wife’s child. The French court

requested a document, which was supposed to be issued by the embassy, but the embassy had never issued such a document before. Noh persuaded the embassy to issue it -- one that does not exist in Korea -- to the couple.

She also said she intends to publish a book detailing such cases and others she has experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. She has worked in the publishing industry before, receiving an award for aspiring translators from the Literature Translation Institute of Korea for her translation of Kim Hyeon-su’s “Five Joys of Walking” into French in 2009.

Returning to her mother country for the first time in four years, she explained that her original dream had been to become a translator and interpreter who closed the language and cultural gap faced by Koreans. She also plans to apply as an authorized translator in court if she has the opportunity.

She explained that she faces both regret and gratification in the course of her work.

“This may look like work for the sake of Koreans, but I’m doing it because I like it,” she said. “I enjoy meeting various people and working in many fields.”

Noh is married to a French man and has one child. She confessed that instilling a sense of identity in her child may become a problem later on.

She was certain that events like the Future Leaders’ Conference and invitational events supported by the Korean government will help in this regard. She said such events allow overseas Koreans to feel that they “have a home to return to.” 🇰🇷

Movie about Korean descendants funded by Mexican fan club of BTS and Lee Min-ho released

23-minute documentary contains interviews of 2nd- to 5th-generation overseas Koreans

“The children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of patriots who had no way to return to Korea shared their sad stories with one another here in Mexico as they settled down.”

Mexicans who love Korean culture interviewed the descendants of Korean immigrants who immigrated to Mexico 117 years ago and created a short documentary film.

The documentary, titled “Descendientes,” has a running time of 23 minutes. It delivers the story of the Koreans who moved to Mexico in 1905 and the following generations in the serene voices of their descendants.

Eight people who were second- to fifth-generation Korean Mexicans participated in the interviews. Through the interviews, they described the difficult lives of their first-generation ancestors from their faint memories and stories they’d heard from their families, as well as the identity crises they themselves had been forced to deal with.

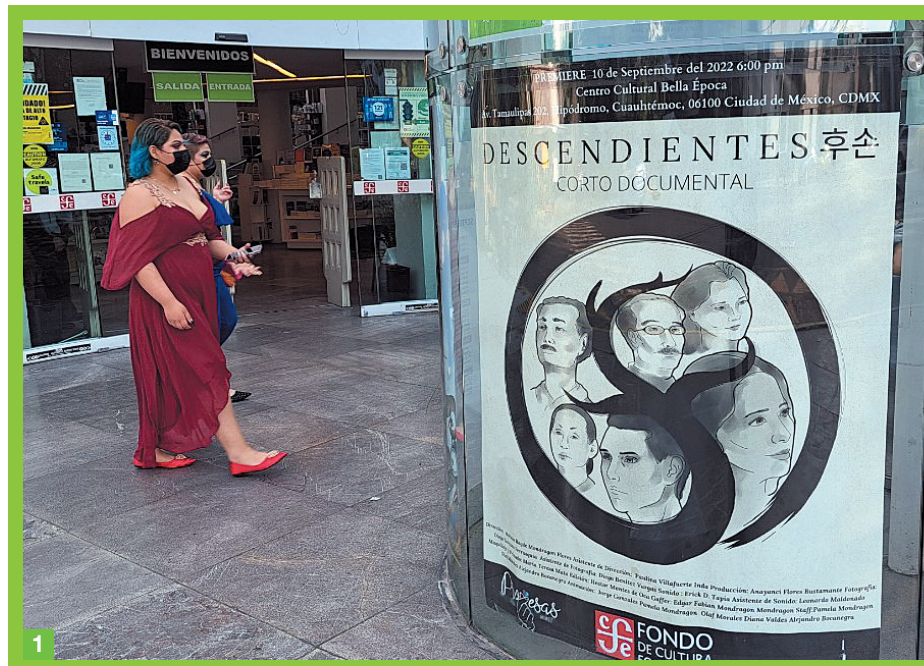
Every interviewee in the film shed tears as they spoke, and some even had to pause and cry before they could continue.

Melissa Mondragon, the director of the film who majored in cinematography in Mexico, spoke to the press on Sept. 12.

“(The film) contains the stories of descendants who lived in a very different country, with very different traditions,” she said. “I wanted to describe the natural cultural mix that resulted from the 117 years that Koreans have been living in Mexico.”

‘Descendants grew up as members of community that shared in hard work and sadness’: Mondragon

Mondragon, who began the project in March, worked on the filming and editing of the film for five months with 19 staff members. She explained that she worked nearly 18 hours every day.



“Korean descendants shared the stories of their ancestors, stories of hard work and sadness, and witnessed their growth into a community in Mexico,” she said. “Since Korea and Mexico share a similar history, I wanted to make something special this year, which marks the 60th year of diplomatic relations between the countries.”

The premiere, held Sept. 10 at the Centro Cultural Bella Época in Mexico City, attracted around 100 viewers, attesting to the interest it had garnered.

Gabriel Yu (head of the Association of Korean Descendants in Mexico City), who appeared in the film and is the descendent (fifth generation) of Korean patriots who were active in Mexico (Yoo Soon-myeong and Lee Myeong-won), said: “I really hope that the Korean descendants who live in Mexico won’t be forgotten. I want people to know that these descendants of patriotic ancestors are working hard to spread the Korean language and Korean culture.”



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1 A promotional poster for the documentary film "Descendientes" put on display in front of the Centro Cultural Bella Época in Mexico City on Sept. 10

2 The documentary film "Descendientes" being shown at the Centro Cultural Bella Época

3 Melissa Mondragon (R), director of "Descendientes"

4 The staff who participated in the production of "Descendientes"



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This documentary's production process was just as special as its content, since the film was sponsored by the Promesas Minoz ARMY, the Mexican fan club for BTS and actor Lee Min-ho. The group participated in the project to encourage active cultural exchanges between the two countries and to do a good deed in the name of its favorite stars.

"We're thankful and proud to participate in this beautiful project," a representative of Promesas said, stating they are resolved to continue helping those in need.

In April 1905, directly before the Japanese occupation of South

Korea, 1,033 Koreans got on a ship leaving Jemulpo Harbor (currently Incheon Harbor) and traveled for 40 days to the Yucatán Peninsula. They then spread out to henequén haciendas (henequén was a type of plant used to create ropes for use on ships), where they performed strenuous labor. By the time their contracts ended, the Japan-Korea Treaty of 1910 had deprived them of a home to return to. They traveled throughout Mexico or to Cuba instead and settled down. [\[참\]](#)

Lee Jae-rim,

Yonhap News Agency correspondent in Mexico City, Mexico

Organization committee for next year's Korean Business Convention in U.S. established, joint heads of convention selected

Heads of convention Yoon Man, Lee Joong-yeol, Kim Hyeong-ryul, James Ahn and Lee Kyeong-cheol promise US\$100,000 each in donations

An organization committee for the 21st Korean Business Convention, to be held from Oct. 11-14 next year at the Anaheim Convention Center in Orange County, California, has been established. The convention is run by the Overseas Koreans Foundation and hosted by the Korean American Chamber of Commerce USA (President Hwang Byeong-gu) and the Korean American Chamber of Commerce of Orange County (President Sean Roh).

"We held the launching ceremony of the organization committee at the Marriott Hotel in Anaheim on Sept. 22," Hwang, head of the committee, said through a phone call with the press. "We delivered letters of appointment to the five people selected as joint heads of the convention."

The joint heads of the convention selected that day are as follows: Yoon Man, vice president of the Korean American Chamber of Commerce of Orange County; Lee Joong-yeol, adviser to the Korean American Chamber of Commerce of Orange County; Kim Hyeong-ryul, Atlanta Council president of the National Unification Advisory Council; James Ahn, president of the Korean American Federation of Los Angeles; and Lee Kyeong-cheol, senior vice president of the Korean



The Overseas Koreans Foundation (President Kim Seong-gon) holds the 40th World Korean Business Convention Management Committee meeting on April 6 at the GLAD Hotel in Yeouido, Seoul, and designates Orange County as the site of the 21st World Korean Business Convention.

American Chamber of Commerce USA. They each promised to donate US\$100,000.

The following individuals were selected as vice chairs of the committee: Cho Won-hyeong, president of the National Federation of Beauty Suppliers; Kwon Yeong-hyeon, former president of the New York branch of the World Federation of Overseas Korean Traders Association (World-OKTA); Choi Young-seok, president of the LA branch of the same association; Kim Moo-ho, the former president of the branch; and Hong Dae-soo, president of the New York Association of Korean-American

Businessmen.

"The preparations for the convention are well under way, including reservations for the convention itself and lodging," Hwang said. "Next year's convention will be the first to be overseas, and we'll make sure it becomes a festival for the 2 million Korean Americans and overseas Koreans out there."

Korean American Chambers of Commerce have been established in 78 cities in all 50 U.S. states, and the Korean American Chamber of Commerce USA oversees them all, making it the largest Korean economic body in the U.S.

70th anniversary of establishment of Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture

The Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture, or Yanbian for short, located in Jilin Province, China, celebrated its 70th founding anniversary on Sept. 3. Yanbian celebrated the occasion by setting off 128,000 fireworks in Yanji for 30 minutes.

Prior to this, large art performances, exhibits, tours, kimchi-making contests and various other celebrations were also held. The international trade sessions in Tumen, which opened Sept. 2, continued until Sept. 5.

The Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture was established on Sept. 3, 1952. It comprises Yanji city, Tumen city, Hunchun city, Longjing city, Helong city and Dunhua city, as well as Wangqing County and Antu County, with a total surface area of 42,700 square kilometers.



A night view of the city of Dunhua celebrating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture in Jilin, China (Photo courtesy of People's Daily)

The proportion of ethnic Koreans living in Yanbian, which was 70.5 percent at the time, slowly fell to 30.8 percent (approximately 598,000) as of 2020. The proportion of Han (Chinese), on the other hand, increased to 66 percent, as many ethnic Koreans living in China moved to Korea and southeastern China. The total number of ethnic Koreans living in China, including Yanbian, peaked in 2000 at 1.92 million and has slowly decreased since then to 1.7 million.

Experts suggest that the position and role of the Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture is on the decline, with China's recent emphasis on Chinese nationalism and national integration. Yanbian executed the "Detailed Regulations for Joseon Language Usage Ordinance" on July 25, which gives Chinese characters precedence in language usage.

Henequén machinery, symbol of Korean history in Mexico, put on display at Museum of Korea Emigration History in Incheon

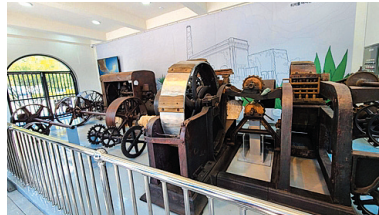
‘All Koreans who managed to settle down through all their hardship are heroes’: Figueroa, Mexican ambassador to Korea

Henequén machinery, which is a symbol of Korean emigration to Mexico, was restored at the Museum of Korea Emigration History in Jung Ward, Incheon, and revealed on Sept. 20. The Incheon City Museum (director Yoo Dong-hyeon) held an opening ceremony at the museum for the “Henequén Machinery Exhibit.”

Henequén are a species of flowering plant in the family Asparagaceae that were used between the late 18th century and the end of the 20th century to create ropes for use on ships, burlap bags and other items. Henequén machinery was used to extract the fiber needed to craft the items.

Present at the opening ceremony were around 100 people, including Bruno Figueroa Fischer (Mexican ambassador to Korea), Heo Sik (chairperson of the Incheon Metropolitan Council), Han Byung-gil (president of the Korean Council on Latin America & the Caribbean), Jung Kil-hwa (director of the Korean Foundation for International Cultural Exchange) and Mexican students studying in Korea.

“The 1,000 or so Koreans who set foot for the first time in Mexico in 1905 scattered to the 25 henequén haciendas at the time and settled down



Henequén machinery are displayed at the Museum of Korea Emigration History in Jung Ward, Incheon.

despite the difficult work,” Figueroa said in his celebratory speech. “They did not forget their motherland and retained their identity, however, and this makes them all heroes.

“Their descendants, which number around 30,000 people, are a precious asset that can make exchanges between Korea and Mexico possible,” he added.

“We procured henequén machinery that was used in henequén haciendas in the Mérida region

with the help of Korean Mexicans and the Korean Embassy in Mexico, and brought them into the country,” said Yoo Dong-hyeon, director of the Incheon City Museum. “We stored them away, then restored them this year for the 60th anniversary of Korea-Mexico diplomatic relations. We also built a separate outdoor exhibit to showcase them in.”

The exhibit displays the engine that supplies power to the machine, a pulley system that transports henequén leaves and the main body of the machine, which separates the fiber from the outer layer of the leaves. The screens in the exhibit also show videos of how the machinery actually extracts fiber.

‘The 7.5 million overseas Koreans in 180 countries are civilian diplomats for public diplomacy’

Sentiment emphasized by speakers at public diplomacy seminar hosted by OKF

“The 7.5 million overseas Koreans residing in 180 countries around the world are not simply immigrants; they must take pride in the fact that they are agents of public diplomacy who can speak about their country in their countries of residence.”

The speakers at the public diplomacy seminar hosted by the Overseas Koreans Foundation (President Kim Seong-gon) at the Jeju International Convention Center on Sept. 15 as a Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity session all emphasized that “Overseas Koreans must take upon themselves the duty of acting as bridges to their countries of residence, spreading Korean culture in their countries of residence.”

The speakers at the seminar were President Kim Seong-gon; Yumi Hogan, wife of Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan; and Sohee Park, a third-generation Korean Japanese who played Mozasu in the drama series “Pachinko.” They spoke under the theme of “public diplomacy of global Koreans aimed at peace and coexistence.”



Yumi Hogan (C, on stage), wife of Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, who spoke at the public diplomacy seminar of the Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity on Sept. 15

Kim defined public diplomacy in the following way: “Public diplomacy is any activity that increases Korea’s influence in international society by doing the following: spreading sympathy regarding Korean history, culture and policies through communication with foreign citizens, creating trust, and improving diplomatic relations and our national brand.”

“I have lived in the U.S. for 33 years, but I have never once forgotten Korea,” said Yumi Hogan, who was the second speaker. “It is our duty to remember our roots and teach future generations about our culture.”

She spoke of various related activities, saying, “One of the things I have worked the hardest to achieve while living as the first Korean to become the first lady of Maryland since 2015 was spreading knowledge of Korea.”

Actor Sohee Park said, “I have always remembered what my parents told me as a child: that I must live an exemplary life, considering myself as a Korean diplomat, and that if I ruined my own life, it would reflect badly on my mother country.”

Placenta Chamber of King Myeongjong, Haemieupseong Walled Town and Rock-carved Buddha Triad in Seosan South Chungcheong Province city is cultural treasure trove

Around Route 619 and Route 647, which connect Unsan Township and Haemi Township in Seosan, there are many precious cultural heritages from Baekje, Goryeo and Joseon, including the Placenta Chamber of King Myeongjong and accompanying memorial stones, the Haemieupseong Walled Town and the Rock-carved Buddha Triad of Seosan (also known as the “smiles of Baekje”). The variety of cultural assets that can be found in this one region is surprising.

Memorial Stones and Placenta Chamber of King Myeongjong of Joseon

The Memorial Stones and Placenta Chamber of King Myeongjong of Joseon (1545-1567), the 13th ruler of the Joseon Dynasty, was designated as a national treasure (No. 1976) in March 2018. It was the first to be named as such among the placenta chambers of Joseon.

Placenta chambers are small stone rooms where the placentas were enshrined in a pot and stored after a child was born in the royal Joseon Dynasty. The people regarded the placenta to be a part of the child and treasured it, and this indicates how much life was valued in the culture of the time. The reason this particular placenta chamber was designated a national treasure was because it has never been moved since it was first built around 500 years ago and still retains its original shape. The monuments and placenta chamber are located in Taebong-ri, Unsan-myeon, Seosan.

Though the incline leading up to the chamber isn't very well kept, the weeds had been trimmed short during a visit by the author, making for a refreshing stroll. A 15-minute walk from the parking lot takes one up to the chamber and monuments. Taebong Mountain is a bit small to be considered a real mountain, but it is at the very center of the peak of this mountain that the placenta chamber can be found. There are three memorial stones that have been erected around the stone railing that surrounds the chamber.

Myeongjong was the second son of Jungjong of Joseon and the younger brother of Injong of Joseon. Myeongjong became king at a young age, and after the death of his mother, who had ruled as the queen regent before him, he worked to rule justly. The placenta chamber is composed of a support stone, a round body stone



containing the placenta and a roof stone. The memorial stones were created in 1538, when the placenta chamber was built, in 1546 following the enthronement of Myeongjong and in 1711 during Sukjong of Joseon's reign, respectively. Imperial Japan moved the placenta pot containing Myeongjong's placenta to the Seosamneung Royal Tombs in Goyang, Gyeonggi Province, in 1928.

This pot was recovered in 1996 by the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage through an investigation and is now stored at the National Palace Museum of Korea. Most of the placenta chambers of the Joseon Dynasty have been relocated or are dilapidated, and in many cases the relevant records have gone missing. Myeongjong's placenta chamber, however, stands in its original state even 482 years since it was created, and the records of the Joseon Dynasty contain detailed information about it. Academic circles still view this placenta chamber as highly valuable for placenta chamber research in the field of Korean art history.

Well-preserved Haemieupseong Walled Town

The Haemieupseong Walled Town was originally a fortress. Perhaps it is due to its 600 years of history, but it currently feels like a structure just as beautiful as its name (“haemi” meaning “beauty of

the sea”), not a dull military building. The stone walls are imbued with around 600 years of history, and the walled town is known as one of the three major walled towns, along with the Gochangupseong Walled Town in North Jeolla Province and Suncheonupseong Walled Town in South Jeolla Province. Haemieupseong Walled Town is without a doubt the most pristine site of the three. The yellowed stones each shine with a hoary light in the transparent fall sun, maybe thanks to all the years that they have been there.

The grassy field inside the castle was once a training ground for soldiers. The castle also was once the military headquarters of the Byeongma Jeoldosa of South Chungcheong Province in the early Joseon period. It was built between the 17th year of Taejong’s reign (1417) and the third year of Sejong’s (1421), and its walls surround the local government building, as well as the residential area. The reason the fortress is so well-preserved is because it was built sturdily from the start and because there were no large battles that took place around it. A “construction liability policy” that existed at the time had a large impact on the quality of the construction. The work of building the walled town was assigned to districts in the vicinity, and each district was required to leave its name inscribed in a stone as a mark of liability.

The Haemieupseong Walled Town is also a place where Catholics were persecuted and killed. The persecution of Catholics intensified after the French expedition to Korea (1866) and the German Ernst Jakob Oppert’s unsuccessful attempt to loot the Tomb of Prince Namyongun, Heungseon Daewongun’s father. The Haemieupseong Walled Town, which was a military stronghold, was where Catholics in the South Chungcheong region were brought by government soldiers and executed. The number killed is said to be over 1,000. In 2014, Pope Francis went to the town and prayed for the martyrs during his visit to Korea.

Rock-carved Buddha Triad of Seosan, also known as ‘Smiles of Baekje’

The Rock-carved Buddha Triad of Seosan is a prime example of the miraculous preservation of a historical artifact. Was it the proclivity for science in the Korean genes or the Korean humanistic capacity that allowed this cultural



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heritage to be preserved for 1 1/2 millennia? The smiles of the three stone-carved Buddhas, called the “Smiles of Baekje,” are peaceful, subtle and ample. What is even more mysterious than the smiles is that the smiles appear to change slightly, depending on the direction of the light and the viewing angle.

These Buddhas, carved out of the rocky cliff to the left of the entrance to Yonghyeon Valley on Gaya Mountain in Seosan, are the oldest rock-carved Buddhas in Korea and are extremely beautiful. Found in 1958, they were designated as a national treasure four years later. The triad comprises a standing stone Buddha in the center, a Bodhisattva on the right and what is presumably a Maitreya in meditation on the left. The date of the carving is estimated to be around the

late Baekje period.

The Buddhas are almost unharmed, other than slight damage to the nose and arm of the Maitreya. The lines of the body and background of the carving are clear and full of life. The state of its preservation is nothing short of astonishing, considering the 1,500 years that the carving has existed. Many experts point to the location and direction of the triad as the primary cause. The triad stands below a large rock that functions as an eave, and the surface of the carving is slanted at around 80 degrees, preventing rain and wind from pelting it directly. Did the stonemasons consider such conditions as they worked? No doubt they wished for the smiles of Baekje to be seen by many generations to come.

The authorities installed a protective building over the statues in 1974 to protect the carving from the weather, but this caused them to turn white, and the Smiles of Baekje were no longer viewable in natural light. The building was removed in 2006. The carving can be found only 200 meters up from the entrance of Yonghyeon Valley, and it is a miracle that the Buddhas have retained their original form in a relatively populated place. 🙏

- 1 The South Chungcheong Province Memorial Stones and Placenta Chamber of King Myeongjong of Joseon, located in Seosan
- 2 The three memorial stones around the Placenta Chamber of King Myeongjong
- 3 The Haemieupseong Walled Town in Seosan, boasting 600 years of history
- 4 The Rock-carved Buddha Triad of Seosan and their “Smiles of Baekje”

Foreign Affairs Minister Park Jin visits Overseas Koreans Foundation and Korea Foundation

Foreign Affairs Minister Park Jin visited the Overseas Koreans Foundation and the Korea Foundation, which are affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and located in Seogwipo City Hall 2 on Jeju Island on Sept. 15. During his visits, he called for efforts to boost the national status of South Korea. It has been around four years since the two institutions relocated to Jeju Island, and this was the first time the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited in person.

Park received work reports from Kim Seong-gon, president of the OKF, and Lee Geun, president of the Korea Foundation. He also took photographs with staff members.

During his visit to the Overseas Koreans Foundation, he requested that President Kim, the executives and the employees cooperate with the government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to collect ideas for the establishment of an overseas Korean service.



Foreign Affairs Minister Park Jin (4th from L, front row) poses for a photograph with Overseas Koreans Foundation President Kim Seong-gon (5th from L, front row), executives and employees during a visit to the foundation on Jeju Island on Sept. 15. They held a banner rooting for the 2030 World Expo to be held in Busan.

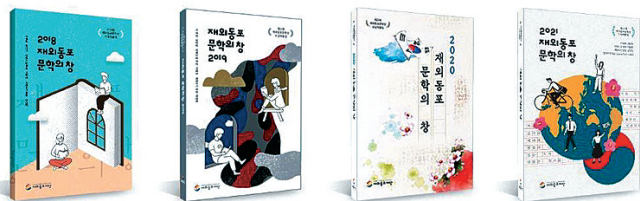
Korean Chinese Ju Yang-soo's 'Chimaeggot' wins Grand Poetry Award at 24th OKF Literary Awards

The Korean Chinese Ju Yang-soo's "Chimaeggot" won the Grand Poetry Award at the 24th OKF Literary Awards. Besides this poem, the Overseas Koreans Foundation selected 40 nominees, celebrating the literary sensibility and nostalgia of overseas Koreans. The selected works were revealed on Sept. 23.

Winners of a Poetry Award included "A Wedding Photograph" by Hannah Yoo, who resides in Germany, and "Shoe" by Ko Ann, a resident of the United States. For the grand prize of the Short Story Award, "Tiger mask" by the Korean American Lee Su-jeong was selected. For the Prose Award, "Tree with Deep Roots" by Korean American Jeon Helena was nominated.

The Best Writing Award for Middle and High School, "Everyone Has a Winter" by Choi Chan-ah (Kazakhstan) was selected. "I am Kazanka" by Joo Se-ah (Russia) took the Writing Award for Elementary School. The Korean Language School Special Award went to the Shanghai Pudong Korean Weekend School, the Kazan Volga Korean Language School (Russia) and the Almaty Korean Saturday School (Kazakhstan).

The Overseas Koreans Foundation accepted entries between April 22 and June 20 (approximately 2 months), resulting in a total of 802 submissions from 43 countries.



The collections of winners of the OKF Literary Awards from 2018 to 2021 published by the Overseas Koreans Foundation

"The OKF Literary Awards have become a recognized literary awards thanks to the interest of many overseas Koreans over the past 24 years," said Kim Seong-gon, president of the Overseas Koreans Foundation. "We will try to make them even more meaningful next year."

The awards ceremonies are held at the end of the year through the overseas official government residences in each country, and a collection of the winning submissions will be published as physical and electronic books around November. Winning works can also be read on the resources page of the Overseas Koreans Foundation website (research.korean.net).

OKF holds History and Culture Experience for scholarship recipients invited to Korea

The Overseas Koreans Foundation invited overseas Koreans studying in Korea through scholarship programs to the History and Culture Experience program from Oct. 3-10.

This program, which went on hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was resumed after three years, allowed 220 university and graduate school students to visit Seoul, Jeonju and Yeosu under the theme “Inside a Uniting World.”

They took part in academic guideline presentations, networking sessions, mentoring lectures focusing on academics and career paths, and other activities at COEX in Seoul from Oct. 3 to 5. Starting Oct. 7, they visited Jeonju Hanok Village in Jeonju and the Royal Mausoleum of King Sejong in Yeosu, and also watched and learned “pansori.” They also watched “gijeop nori,” a traditional “pungmul” performance. On Hangeul Day on Oct. 9, they went to the National Hangeul Museum to experience



The students who took part in the 2022 History and Culture Experience, a program resumed for the first time in three years, pose for a group photo.

Korean calligraphy.

“This is a program we created to give students with scholarships who will be working in various fields in the country after they graduate a proper sense of their ethnic roots,” said Kim Seong-gon, president of the Overseas Koreans Foundation.

Overseas Koreans Foundation's Book Recommendations



'Kangaroo Girl'

Lee Mari / Chunggaeguri Publishing

“Kangaroo Girl,” set in Australia, details the pain of comfort women of the Japanese Imperial Army during the Pacific War. Sun-hee, who secretly makes her escape as the Japanese retreat, is stranded on the Australian coast when the warship carrying her sinks. An Australian soldier rescues her, and she is sent to a protective facility for girls. This facility forcibly collected children of mixed blood and sent them as maids to white people's families. Girls subjected to such treatment shared a similar fate to Korean comfort women, who were kidnapped and sent away unbeknownst to their parents. “Kangaroo Girl” refers to these girls as “stolen children.” Mirunda, who is in the facility with Sun-hee, is in a similar position. Through the story of Sun-hee and Mirunda, the author reveals the cruelty of the Japanese with regard to the “comfort women” and the policies of Australia toward mixed-blood children, reminding readers of how girls' human rights were completely ignored and how such girls lived. The adventures and friendship of Mirunda, Sun-hee and Nula, a mixed-blood girl who helps them, allows readers to revisit the meaning of life, freedom and human rights.



'Girl Freedom Fighters and Korean Schools'

Lee Mari / Happy Wood

“Girl Freedom Fighters and Korean Schools” depicts the life of Mirok Li, a writer who struggled for independence and strove not to lose touch with the Korean culture and language while living in Germany during the Japanese occupation of Korea. Most historical novels set in the Japanese occupation usually deal with only the Korean or Manchurian regions, but “Girl Freedom Fighters and Korean Schools” is set in Germany and provides a peek into the international situation at the time. Miru, the protagonist, takes an active part in the March 1 Independence Movement but is chased by the Japanese police. He passes through Shanghai, China, and leaves for Germany, where he acquires a degree and becomes a professor. He is unable to return to his mother country, however, and writes of his sorrow. What he wrote regarding Korea was so beautiful that Germans found the content refreshing after the toll war had taken on them. His writings were even incorporated into textbooks. Miru meets professor Xilo and Hans, who are opposed to Nazism, and begin an independence movement in Germany. Wielding a pen instead of a sword or gun, he teaches of Korea through his writing and imparts knowledge that should not be forgotten. “Girl Freedom Fighters and Korean Schools” is a young adult novel that deals with the independence movement that sought to protect Korean culture and spread the Korean language. Readers can learn about the eventful life of Mirok Li, who disseminated knowledge in far-away Germany through his pen.





Overseas Koreans and Korean university students studying in Japan engage in exchanges at jamboree in Tokyo The Korean Japanese Student Body (President Min Su-ji) held a jamboree in Tokyo from Oct. 8-10 where Korean Japanese university students and Korean students studying in Japan could socialize with each other. The event, which was held for students of Japanese universities, graduate schools, junior colleges, technical colleges and other educational institutes, consisted of talks between participants, a tour of the Korean Embassy in Japan, sports and recreational activities, and career advice featuring older people who have operated their own business or worked at a Japanese company. The jamboree was sponsored by the Republic of Korean Residents Union in Japan (Mindan) and the Overseas Koreans Foundation.

K-Festival in New Zealand displays K-dramas, K-pop, Korean food The K-Festival Executive Committee in New Zealand held the K-Festival 2022 at a performance venue in Henderson, Auckland, on Sept. 10, featuring various aspects of Korean culture. The theme of the event was "Happy Together," out of a wish for everyone to find happiness moving past the COVID-19 pandemic. The event opened with the "K-Chef Show," where chefs running Korean restaurants in New Zealand showed off traditional and fusion Korean table d'hôte menus, as well as bulgogi, "galbi" (grilled ribs) and various desserts. An event regarding K-dramas and K-pop was also held, and the festival was sponsored by the Korean Embassy in New Zealand, as well as the Overseas Koreans Foundation.



Photo exhibition detailing joys and sorrows of Koryo-saram opens at Gallery Still in Ansan Neomeo, a support organization for Koryo-saram, held a photo exhibition titled "Koryo-saram, flowers that do not fall in the wind" at Gallery Still in Ansan, Gyeonggi Province, from Sept. 26 to Oct. 2. The event was organized to improve awareness of Koryo-saram living in Korea and to promote certain artists, who are active in Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), in Korea. Han Geum-seon, who majored in photography at ICART and University Paris 8, exhibited photos themed around the lives of Koryo-saram families living in Korea and Central Asia. The works of Hannah Kim, an abstract painter from Kazakhstan, as well as the painter Evgenia Park, were also put on display.

World Korean Women Association and Korean American Women's Association sign MOU

The World Korean Women Association (President Cho Gyu-ja) and the Korean American Women's Association (President Kwon Jung-hee) signed a memorandum of understanding on Sept. 27 at the Koreana Hotel in Jung Ward, Seoul, agreeing to mutually cooperate on projects that seek to improve the rights, interests and quality of life of overseas Koreans in their countries of residence.



10,000 spectators attend traditional costume fashion show held in celebration of 30th anniversary of Korea-Vietnam relations The Hanmunhwa Association (President Jung Jae-min) hosted the "Korea-Vietnam Traditional Costume Fashion Show" at Gwanghwamun Square in Seoul on Sept. 4. The event, which was held to celebrate 30 years of diplomatic relations between Korea and Vietnam, was arranged to teach the traditional culture of both countries to the citizens of Seoul and further friendly relations between the countries. Present at the event were approximately 40 people, including the well-known "hanbok" designer Hahm Eun-jung; individuals active in culture and the arts, such as Shin Ae-su, Choi Suk-heon and Kim Jeong-ah; Vietnamese Ambassador to South Korea Nguyen Vu Tung; and diplomatic officials from both countries. "We hope exchanges between the countries will grow more active through this event," Samuel Jeong, head of the Korean Culture Diplomatic Mission, said. "It is my hope that this event held in Korea to celebrate 30 years of relations between the countries will carry over to Vietnam," Nguyen said.

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

The Grass Isn't Greener: Life as a Korean adoptee

Every now and then people tell me how grateful I should be that I was adopted and that my Danish parents indeed saved my life, and wow, what a beautiful story it is ... but the truth isn't that pleasant. Every ray of sunlight also brings shadow. While my life in Denmark probably seems better, where health care and education are free due to high taxes and the full workweek is 37 hours, there are downsides as well.

I have been able to travel around the world, yet my Korean father and youngest brother have never left South Korea. My Korean parents got divorced; my Danish parents stayed together. In Denmark, I'm an only child; in Korea, I have siblings.

Countless times I've had to defend my "Danishness" while growing up in Denmark as an ethnic Korean. Strangers have approached me with comments such as, "Go back to your own country" and "Oh you're Korean, then you must be good at math and playing the violin." All this is not easy to face for any person trying to find his or her path in life. For many adoptees, this sadly becomes their "daily life."

When I first came to Korea in 2010, it was like entering my own wonderland because suddenly I just blended in walking on the street. I could reach the handles in public transportation, and my feet reached the floor when sitting on the toilet! However, every time I needed to communicate, my wonderland collapsed, and I brutally woke to an overwhelming feeling of loneliness, not understanding my mistakes and trying to blend in with the culture.

People looked at me like I was mentally disabled, and they couldn't understand why I didn't act more Korean. Inside, I felt more Danish than ever.



Nadja Christiansen
(Oh Eun-joo)

It has been a struggle and a sorrow for me not to feel 100 percent connected to Denmark nor Korea. In Denmark, people ask me about Korea and vice versa. Slowly the world has discovered Korea. It's relatively easy to watch K-dramas and see the glamorous facades of shiny skyscrapers, advanced technology and almost perfect-looking people everywhere due to the popularity of plastic surgery.

But it is a huge challenge that takes much more time than people estimate to really understand a new country. It takes much more effort than visiting the fancy tourist highlights to get to the bottom of why Koreans feel it's necessary to go under the

knife and change their looks, why Korea's suicide rate is among the top four countries in the world, and why so many elderly people are collecting cardboard and paper on the street.

I started living in Korea before I understood the real meaning behind actual Korean phrases, like "Have you eaten?" and "How are you?" On the other hand, my Korean parents probably have been super confused each time they've asked and I've answered: "Not yet, but I'm about to eat soon."

No matter what path we choose in life, there are pros and cons. I'm just trying to get the best I can from all sides. As an adoptee curious about my birth country, I want to know more about Korea: not only to speak the language but to understand the true Korea, the unwritten rules, everything. I especially want to bond with both Koreans and other adoptees, which is why I'm so grateful to be able to join programs like the Overseas Koreans Foundation's 2022 Gathering because it helps me to understand Korea and who I am. 🇰🇷



20th World Korean Business Convention set to run from Nov. 1-3 in Ulsan

The Overseas Koreans Foundation will host the largest Korean global business networking event, the 20th World Korean Business Convention, at the Ulsan Exhibition and Convention Center in Ulsan from Nov. 1-3.

This year's event will be held under the theme "20 Years of Great Korean Business: Embracing the World" and be attended by around 2,000 Korean businessmen from 40 countries all over the world, including South Korea. Approximately 200 corporations and institutional bodies will take part in business programs, such as corporate talks and business exhibitions.

This year, in particular, in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the World Korean Business Convention, the entrepreneur and



pioneer spirit -- the identity of "Korean business" -- will regain the spotlight, and there will be expanded opportunities for participants to expand their business network.

"This year, as befits the 20 years of this convention's history, we've prepared a robust program that will create practical business opportunities between Korean businessmen and promising corporations throughout Korea, including Ulsan," said Kim Seong-gon, president of the Overseas Koreans Foundation. "We expect the convention to showcase Korean business that contributes to

the activation of the domestic economy, expanding overseas, creating jobs for the youth in South Korea and drawing investments to the mother country."

Invitational training to be held for overseas Korean journalists in China and CIS

The Overseas Koreans Foundation will be inviting journalists from China, Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) who are involved with Korean newspapers, Korean broadcasting and Korean internet media for theoretical and practical training. The training will run from Nov. 11 to Dec. 8, and there are around 20 slots available.

Qualified candidates are journalists who have worked for three to 10 years at an overseas Korean newspaper, broadcasting agency or internet media company located in China, Russia or the CIS region.

Trainees will learn to understand the characteristics of Korean media, how to write articles correctly, photography methods and video editing techniques. They will also be dispatched to major press agencies in Korea to grow their skills in the field through spot news



coverage and other training.

Participants will be allowed to plan their own reporting projects and participate in explorations of the history and culture of their motherland. The Overseas Koreans Foundation will cover the costs of round-trip tickets (economy), lodging, insurance, living expenses during the stay, historical/cultural experience expenses, etc.

Schedule of Overseas Koreans Foundation executives in October 2022

- President Kim Seong-gon**
- Oct. 5: **2022 HANIN and 16th Korean Day Celebration**
 - Oct. 12: **Next Generation Overseas Korean Adoptee Convention 2022**
 - Oct. 26: **Preview of movie 'Chosen'**



750만 재외동포와 대한민국이 하나로 통하는 첫 번째 온라인 세상 코리아넷

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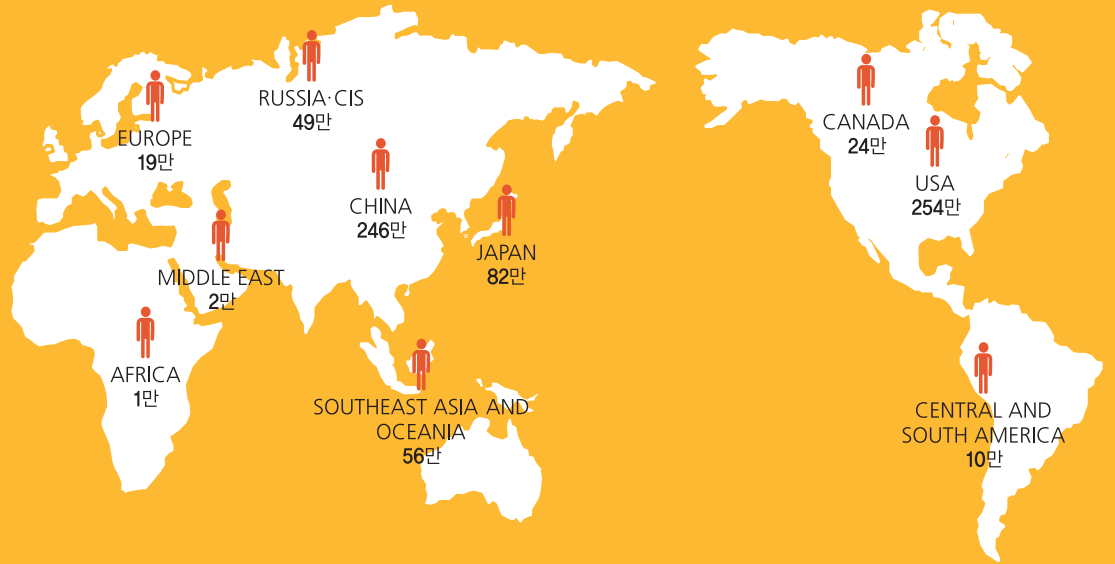


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