



Special Article - 100th anniversary of Kantō Massacre; approx. 6,000 Koreans wrongfully killed
Special Feature - 'Reconfirmed solid U.S.-ROK relationship, Koreans have enhanced U.S. global position,' says Biden
Newsworthy Topic - 'Korean son-in-law' Hogan, governor of Maryland, ends 8 years of service



Seoul National University Siheung Campus: 'cradle of education for young overseas Koreans'

The Siheung Campus of Seoul National University was established to create a global leadership campus for the nurturing of future talent. Baegot New Town, located in Siheung, Gyeonggi Province, is where the campus sits. The name is pure Korean and means "a place of learning," and can be traced back to the way the linguist Ju Si-gyeong referred to Korean learning centers as "Hangeul Baegot." In keeping with such linguistic roots, the campus is located between Incheon International Airport and the Gwanak Campus of Seoul National University. It is close to Songdo, Incheon, giving it a geographical advantage as an international place of learning. Having been designated as a free-trade zone, it has become the ideal place for nurturing global talent.

The Overseas Koreans Foundation is currently pursuing the establishment of an Overseas Korean Education & Culture Center that will be used for education, research, culture, promotion and various other projects for the sake of the 7.3 million overseas Koreans abroad and the 800,000 overseas Koreans living in Korea. It is very meaningful that this center, to be a historic site of communication and harmony between overseas Koreans and Koreans living in the country, will be built on the Siheung Campus. As the generational shift in the overseas Korean community is proceeding rapidly, the cultivation of the Korean identity and education for the youth for enhanced exchanges is an important task for the overseas Korean community. We expect that by building the Overseas Korean Education & Culture Center on the Siheung Campus, much synergy will be created between the foundation and Seoul National University as well.

The Overseas Koreans Foundation is currently creating basic and working designs for the building, and construction will begin in the latter half of 2023, to be completed in late 2025. The center will open its doors at that time as well. Once the center is built, Seoul National University and the Overseas Koreans Foundation will cooperate to develop and operate high-quality programs, creating a foundation for the education of young overseas Koreans and contributing greatly to the discovery of young Korean leaders, as well as the cultivation of the Korean identity among the youth.



Kim Gyu Hong,
chief director of SNU Siheung Campus,
head of Office of Siheung Campus



Both institutions also seek to enhance the global Korean network and reinforce the basis for the global spread of the Korean Wave through a "Global Overseas Korean Leader Program." In addition, educational

programs for the cultivation of the Korean identity, such as those regarding Korean culture, history and the Korean language, are also planned. We will expand cooperation in the overseas Korean policy research department to seek out long-term solutions for the cultivation of the Korean identity. And finally, by cooperating with various public projects the Overseas Koreans Foundation is undertaking, we will contribute to the vitalization of the Korean network, enhance solidarity between overseas Koreans and carry out other important tasks, working with the foundation to strengthen the global Korean community and enhance the Korean identity.

South Korea has achieved enough growth to be acknowledged as an advanced country by the international society despite the many difficulties posed over the past few years by the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and unstable economic outlooks, among other problems. I believe reaffirming our identity and promoting our pride will be a great driving force in overcoming the challenges that lie ahead of our nation. It is my hope that the Overseas Korean Education & Culture Center, something long wished for by the overseas Korean community, will be successfully built. Through its establishment and operation, the students of Seoul National University, Koreans, and the 7.3 million overseas Koreans will hopefully come to understand and respect each other more deeply, boosting our people's energy. This will allow us to contribute to the overseas Korean community, as well as the growth of South Korea as a nation. 장



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재외동포의 창

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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

100th anniversary of Kantō Massacre; approx. 6,000 Koreans wrongfully killed

Powerful earthquake of magnitude 7.9 occurs on Sept. 1, 1923, in Kantō region

“Over 105,000 people died or went missing from the Great Kanto Earthquake, and a considerable portion (1 percent) of that number are assumed to have been murdered. There have been many indications that the term ‘massacre’ was appropriate for the event. Most of the targets were Koreans, and there were a small number of Chinese, as well as Japanese, who were also murdered.”

A 2009 report created by the “Expert Committee Regarding the Succession of Lessons Learned from Disasters,” a group of experts within the Japanese government, gave this report regarding the massacre of Koreans during the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the earthquake, which had a magnitude of 7.9 and struck the Kanto region, which includes Tokyo, on Sept. 1, 1923. The large-scale natural disaster led to the deaths of many Koreans living in Tokyo and the nearby regions.

However, following the earthquake, groundless rumors that Koreans were poisoning the wells, setting fires and committing other harmful acts spread. In response, Japanese civil militias, the police and soldiers massacred many Koreans. The Independent, also known as the Tongnip Sinmun, reported that the Korean victims of the massacre numbered 6,661. This event, in which the Koreans -- citizens of a colonized country, and thus second-class citizens -- were indiscriminately murdered, provides a symbolic insight into the colonial rule of Imperial Japan.

Exact number of victims and those responsible for organizing massacre still unknown

Even though 100 years have passed, the exact numbers of victims and active leaders in the massacre still remain unclear. Compared with issues of comfort women and forced slavery to Imperial Japan, this



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massacre did not receive as much attention.

It was revealed that the Japanese government was directly and indirectly involved in the massacre that occurred during the Great Kanto Earthquake. After the earthquake, the Japanese Home Ministry spread rumors to its local governments claiming that Koreans had caused a riot. The police station of the Saitama Prefecture spread a message throughout the country that seditious Koreans were about, and urgent measures were necessary. This resulted in a massacre of Koreans, not only by the law enforcement authorities of Tokyo, Yokohama, Chiba, Saitama, Gunma and other regions but also by Japanese civil militias.

Japanese government claims no connection to massacre; ‘There was no massacre,’ civil society claims

The Japanese government maintains that the massacre had nothing to do with the Japanese government, and historical revisionism has spread within Japanese society, making many claim that the massacre never happened at all. In a cabinet meeting in May 2017, the Japanese government finalized a response regarding this incident, stating it had no intention of ever providing an



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apology, citing as the reason that the Japanese government could find no records within its organization that it had been involved.

Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike, who has right-wing tendencies, stopped sending memorial letters in 2017 to the yearly ceremony held on Sept. 1 in front of the commemorative monument at Yokoamicho Park in Sumida, Tokyo, to mourn the victims of the massacre. This is in contrast to the former governors of Tokyo, including Naoki Inose and Yoichi Masuzoe, in addition to Shintaro Ishihara (who was known to be a far-right politician), who sent such letters during their terms.

Koike claims that the commemorative ceremony held for the Great Kanto Earthquake by the Tokyo Requiem Association “mourns for all victims” and thus it is unnecessary to send a separate message in mourning. In addition, she is known to sympathize with right-wing claims that the monument, which states that around 6,000 Koreans were massacred during the Great Kanto Earthquake, greatly exaggerates historical facts. Japanese far-right organizations have held rallies against the ceremony, claiming that the massacre of 6,000 Koreans never happened and that the monument, as a disgrace to Japan, must be taken down.

Only last December did the 2nd Truth and Reconciliation Commission publish the “Academic Research Report and Factual Survey on the List of Korean Victims of the Great Kanto Earthquake,” creating a database of 408 victims’ names. The list was revealed to the public. It was meaningful that the government, albeit late, had ascertained the victims, but there is still a long road ahead until the full truth is revealed.

Commemoration Committee for 100th anniversary of Kanto Massacre, composed of Korean Japanese civic groups, demands enactment of special law to ascertain truth

The Commemoration Committee for the 100th anniversary of the Kanto Massacre, meanwhile, held a press conference for the new year at the National Council of Churches in Korea in Jongno Ward, Seoul, on Jan. 13 to call for the ascertainment of the truth of the massacre and the enactment of a special law for the recovery of the honor of the victims.

“There are researchers and activists who have gathered witness accounts and data yearly,” the committee said. “The Korean government must create a special law and fulfill its historical duty.” The committee also had a message for



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the Japanese government: “The government should no longer evade responsibility for spreading false rumors and conducting the massacre.” The committee plans to hold symposiums in Japan, China and the United States, as well as visits to the sites of the massacre, historical lectures, seminars and other activities this year.

The ascertainment of the truth about the massacre is not important simply to the innocent victims killed a hundred years ago; it matters to us in the present day as well. If far-right activists in Japan, who claim that the past deeds never took place, manage to justify the massacre in this way, hate crimes against Koreans in Japan and other socially vulnerable groups in the country, such as foreigners, may continue. [창](#)

1 Bodies assumed to be those of the victims of the massacre during the Great Kanto Earthquake (Photo courtesy of Jeong Seong-gil, honorary director of the museum at Keimyung University Dongsan Hospital on Feb. 3, 2013)

2 The Korean Japanese dancer Kim Sun-ja dances a commemorative dance at the 99th commemoration ceremony of Korean victims of the Great Kanto Earthquake in front of the monument dedicated to the victims at Yokoamicho Park in Sumida, Tokyo, on Sept. 1, 2022.

3 A press conference for the new year is held by the Commemoration Committee for the 100th anniversary of the Kanto Massacre at the National Council of Churches in Korea in Jongno Ward, Seoul, on Jan. 13.

4 Yuriko Koike, right-wing governor of Tokyo (Photo courtesy of EPA)

‘Reconfirmed solid U.S.-ROK relationship, Koreans have enhanced U.S. global position,’ says Biden

U.S. president speaks in celebration of 120 years of Korean immigration to U.S., as well as Korean American Day

U.S. President Joe Biden published a statement on Jan. 12 in celebration of the 120 years of Korean immigration to the United States, as well as Korean American Day.

“Thanks to the contributions of Korean Americans, our lives have been enriched and the country’s global position has been enhanced,” he said. In the Korean American Day Community Leaders’ Briefing, held remotely from the White House on that day, Biden gave this message through a proxy reader and emphasized the importance of the U.S.-ROK alliance.

“It has been 70 years since we began our alliance, amid a worldwide threat to peace, democracy, and safety. We have reaffirmed our solid bond with South Korea,” he said. “Through my visit to the country last May, I was able to confirm that our relationship is stronger and livelier than ever. The countries are growing ever closer in the sense that more Koreans are living in the U.S., and that Koreans have enriched American culture and contributed to diversity over many

generations. I am grateful for everything the Korean community has done for our country.

“Congratulations on Korean American Day. One hundred and twenty years ago, 120 Koreans arrived in Hawaii seeking a new start, and their courage has been indelibly imprinted on our new traditions and customs.

“Korean Americans today have strengthened our industries and organizations, using their unique talent to contribute to America’s growth. They have helped improve the fields of science, culture, medicine, and newer industries and are making history in sports. I hope that the story of Koreans will be an inspiration for the promise of the ‘American Dream.’ Together, we are stronger. Let us walk together.”

Present at the event were Erika Moritsugu, deputy assistant to the president; Hannah Kim, policy adviser for Asian Pacific Americans; Philip Kim, White House liaison, and others. Korean community leaders within the U.S. also participated remotely.

Commemorative event held at House of Representatives as well Around 100 participated, including Korean American representatives

A celebration of Korean American Day and 120 years of immigration was





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held on the same day at the House of Representatives, with Korean American representatives and staff in attendance. The Korean American Grassroots Conference held a reception at the Rayburn House Office Building during the day, with participants that included members of the Democratic Party, such as Andy Kim (New Jersey), Marilyn Strickland (Washington), Judy Chu (California) and Jimmy Gomez (California). Around 100 people were in attendance, including Korean American staff of the House.

Andy Kim, a second-generation Korean American, was said to have asked his parents why they decided to immigrate 50 years ago. He was told that they wanted a better life and better opportunities for their children. “When we consider the history of Koreans in the U.S., we realize that it was the courage of our parents and grandparents that brought us here,” he said.

“Everything we have accomplished and will accomplish cannot be credited to us alone. It is part of something bigger than us. That’s why it’s important to show respect to the things that came before, and know that they did not happen with zero effort. What matters now is what we must do. The future 20, 50 and even a 120 years depend on us. When we say that the story of Korean Americans is the story of America, what matters is your role in that story.”

‘Experiences of Korean Americans are experiences of Americans,’ says Strickland


“The experiences of Korean Americans are equal to the experiences of Americans,” said Strickland, a Korean American. “I am proud to be the daughter of a Korean father, and we are everywhere in America, as soldiers, businesspeople, educators and so on. We are part of this country. Things are a



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bit chaotic and divided at the moment in Washington, D.C., but the Korean community has bipartisan support in the legislature. We have allies in both the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. If our voices are to continue to be heard, our grassroots activities matter very much.”

Chu, who is the chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, spoke of the Atlanta spa shootings of 2021 and pointed out the severity of the issue, saying, “Over the past three years, there have been over 11,500 Asian hate crimes.” She then mentioned the fact that the bill requesting the establishment of an Asian Pacific American history and culture museum, which she helped propose, was passed. “We must make it known that AAPI history is American history.”

Gomez, who represents Koreatown in Los Angeles, said: “We need to celebrate 120 years of Korean immigration to the U.S. as a milestone. It is an extension of American history.” With regard to the “Korean American National Museum,” which he is pushing to get built in LA, Gomez said: “I have secured \$7 million in budget for the first Korean American museum. It will become a place where people can read about history and even experience it for themselves.” 

1 Korean American U.S. Rep. Andy Kim gives a congratulatory speech at a Korean American Day event at the House of Representatives building on Jan. 12.

2 U.S. Rep. Marilyn Strickland gives a speech at the Korean American Day event.

3 U.S. President Joe Biden

4 U.S. Rep. Jimmy Gomez (Photo courtesy of AP)

‘Korean son-in-law’ Hogan, governor of Maryland, ends 8 years of service

Likely to run for president in next elections as anti-Trump candidate

Larry Hogan, governor of Maryland, who was known as the “Korean son-in-law” because of his Korean wife, finished eight years of service amid high approval ratings. He retired on Jan. 18.

Gonzales, a polling organization, surveyed 823 registered voters in Maryland from Jan. 9 to 14 and revealed the results on Jan. 17 (with a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points). WBAL-TV, a television station in Baltimore, Maryland, reported that the survey results indicated Hogan’s approval rating to be at 77 percent, with 81 percent for Democratic supporters, 68 percent for Republican supporters and 76 for independent voters.

The Democratic Party has a strong presence in Maryland, but Hogan, a Republican, had moderate political tendencies and has enjoyed much support from the Democratic Party as well. Gonzales revealed that the state approval rating for Hogan for the past eight years was between 67 and 78 percent.

Hogan began his first term in 2015 and managed to be reelected, serving two terms as governor, but he retired this time around because the maximum possible consecutive terms for a Maryland governor is two. His successor is Wes Moore, a Democrat who is also the first African American governor in the state’s history. In

the recent election, Moore defeated Dan Cox, a Maryland state delegate, whom former President Donald Trump openly supported. Hogan, who has always opposed Trump, did not support Cox at the time, even though they belonged to the same party.

Seen as potential presidential candidate within Republican Party; nationwide support remains unknown

Hogan is seen as a potential presidential candidate who could run for president in the 2024 elections, and is seen as an in-party rival for former President Trump, who has already declared he would be running for president in the next elections. The survey data was based on only voters from Maryland, however, and is not indicative of nationwide popularity. Hogan is way behind Trump and others like Ron DeSantis, the governor of Florida, in terms of nationwide approval. Inside the Republican Party, however, he is acknowledged enough to have refused a suggestion to run for the United States Senate from the leadership of the party in the Senate, and hasn’t bothered to hide his intentions of running for president.

Hogan displayed much interest in South Korea during his time as governor, on account of his wife, Yumi Hogan, who is of Korean lineage. He hosted a Korean American Day event every year for the eight years he was governor. In a speech during a celebration of 120 years of Korean immigration to the U.S., as well as Korean American Day, on Jan. 5, he said: “I would like to offer my congratulations on the 120th anniversary of Korean immigration to the U.S. I’m grateful for the extremely positive impact Korean immigrants have had on Maryland and American society. ... I will be stepping down as governor, but I





- 1 Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan gives a celebratory speech at an event for 120 years of Korean immigration to the U.S., as well as Korean American Day, on Jan. 5 at a Maryland government building.
- 2 Larry Hogan (4th from L) holds up a declaration with Consul General Kwon Se-joong (3rd from L) from the Korean Embassy in the U.S. at the event. The woman wearing a “hanbok” (2nd from L) is Hogan’s wife, Yumi Hogan.
- 3 Yumi Hogan (R) greets the audience at a press conference held for a visit to Korea by an economic mission from Maryland at the JW Marriott Hotel in Seocho Ward, Seoul, on Sept. 17, 2022.
- 4 Larry Hogan (3rd from L, front row) greets his supporters after giving his farewell speech at the Maryland State House on Jan. 10.

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will always be the ‘Korean son-in-law’ and proud of it,” displaying his affection for South Korea.

“The press will be very curious about this, but when we move out of our residence, we will be taking our kimchi refrigerator with us,” he said to a round of laughter. Hogan declared Nov. 22 as Kimchi Day on the same day last year.

Hogan showed much interest in South Korea during two terms His last official event also involved Koreans

Present at the last official event Hogan held on Jan. 5 were members of the Maryland state government, individuals from the local Korean community and Consul General Kwon Se-joong from the Korean Embassy in the U.S.

“The last 120 years were made possible by the diligence of the Korean community, their unshakeable work ethic, and their love for family and neighbors,” Kwon said. “I promise, as a representative of the Korean government and the embassy, that we will continue to support the growth of the Korean community in the U.S.”

He also read a congratulatory letter from President Yoon Suk Yeol addressed to Hogan.

“I hope you will continue to support the U.S.-ROK alliance and be a driving force in improving it,” Kwon read.

Hogan handed Kwon a declaration celebrating the 120th anniversary of Korean immigration, and Koreans in Maryland offered an appreciation plaque to his wife, who had been active in helping the Korean community.

Washington Post requests Republican Party ‘not exclude Hogan from list of presidential candidates’

The influential American paper The Washington Post requested that the Republican Party not exclude Hogan from consideration as a presidential candidate on Jan. 7, attracting much attention. The Washington Post said in an

opinion piece titled “If Republicans do not consider Larry Hogan, it will be their loss,” that if Hogan was politically forgotten, the Republican Party would stand to lose by it. Through this, The Washington Post showed its support for Hogan’s bid for the presidency.

The Washington Post emphasized that Hogan was a Republican who had maintained a pro-business stance, low taxes and other conservative elements while being one of the few elected politicians in high-ranking positions who hadn’t agreed with the lie that the 2020 election results had been rigged. Unlike most elected officials from the Republican Party, Hogan has criticized the excessive claims of hard-liners, such as Trump’s claim that the elections had been manipulated.

This reduced his foothold in the party, and a candidate for governor whom he supported in the off-year elections last year was defeated by another candidate who had Trump’s support. The Washington Post stated that Hogan will continue to strive for the return of the “traditional” Republican ways, even if it meant criticizing Trump and antagonizing most of the Republican Party. It predicted that his stance, along with the economic success he achieved during his time as governor, would aid him in his election campaign for 2024.

The paper then said, “If he decides to run for president, it would be wise for the Republican Party to give him a fair chance.” 🇺🇸

Toronto Korean Jason Koo, president of PH Food, has donated sliced rice cakes for 38 years

Generously funds scholarships yearly as well; ‘I’ll continue to do this until I die’

“Koreans who live overseas are reminded even more of their home when the new year arrives. I share sliced rice cakes in hopes that Koreans who feel this way can share some sliced rice cake soup and enjoy a slice of home.”

Jason Koo (77), president of PH Food, operates a rice cake store in Toronto. This is how he explains the reason that he has been donating rice cakes for 38 years. Koo donated 140 kilograms (430 servings) of sliced rice cakes for a gathering for the new year at the Korean community center by the Toronto Korean Association on Jan. 3 so that they could be used for rice cake soup.

“I started doing this so I could share a bowl with Koreans wishing to have some rice cake soup for the new year,” he said in a phone call with the press. “It’s already been nearly 40 years that I’ve been doing it. Many Koreans appreciate what I’m doing, and I’m going to keep this up until I die.”

He was born in Dangjin, South Chungcheong Province, and is the sixth of seven siblings. His father died during the Korean War, and he was raised by his mother. He moved to Seoul alone when he was



17, working in factories and delivering newspapers, but he didn’t give up on his studies. He still remembers the painful memory of not being able to go home, even during the holidays.

In an attempt to escape poverty, he flew to Germany in 1972 as a miner. He mined coal for three years, and after his contract ended, he flew to Canada. He founded PH Food with a companion who’d worked with him in the mines, and he has been providing rice cakes, tofu, bean sprouts, dumplings

and other foods to Koreans and Chinese, as well as the locals, for 45 years.

He also donates part of the profits from his company. Having received much help from those around him when paying his way through university in Seoul, he is an avid giver of scholarships. He provides scholarships to employees, Korean children facing economic difficulties, students of George Brown College and others as well.

“With scholarships, longevity matters more than the amount,” Koo said. “That is what makes them worth giving, and they symbolize hopes and dreams. I’m going to keep this up as long as I can.” He has also been giving money for youth history education seminars, unification lectures, rehabilitation camps for those with disabilities and other activities as well.

“I declared early on that I won’t be giving any of my wealth to my children,” said Koo, who has two daughters and one son. “I will work until I can’t do so anymore, return my wealth to society, donate my organs and die in peace.” Koo was awarded the Order of Civil Merit by the South Korean government in 2021. 🇰🇷



1 Jason Koo, president of PH Food, who has donated sliced rice cakes for 38 years

2 Jason Koo looks around the interior of a PH Food factory.

1st taekwondo major at Chinese college to be established

Beijing Original International Culture Limited to launch major in September at Capital University of Physical Education and Sports

A taekwondo major will be created for the first time at a Chinese college.

Beijing Original International Culture Limited (President Seo Won-sik) recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Capital University of Physical Education and Sports, the only municipal sports university in Beijing, to the effect that an “international taekwondo talent class” would be created in the Department of Martial Arts and Chinese Traditional Sports in the semester beginning in September.

The Capital University of Physical Education and Sports, which is attended by 5,000 students, has contributed to 79 gold medals and 39 silver medals for the Chinese national team at world competitions and the Summer Olympics.

Seo (55) created a Korean taekwondo demonstration team in Beijing in 2021, which he operates. “Taekwondo was an optional subject in some colleges in China, but this is the first time that a four-year bachelor’s degree will be offered for the sport,” he said on Jan. 3, during a visit to Korea to gather students. “It can’t be called a ‘Department of Taekwondo’ just yet, but I’ll work to make it happen.”

The first class of students will all be Korean. For undergraduates to apply, they must have graduated high school (or its equivalent) or higher and have the second rank or higher in taekwondo. Those undergoing a master’s or doctorate program must have the fourth rank or higher, and must be eligible for visas.

“Those who qualify will undergo a language learning program for six months, starting in March,” Seo said. “The first class of students will be given special scholarships by the school, which will fully cover their tuition and dormitory costs.” Next year, talented individuals seeking to learn taekwondo will be selected not only from China but from various countries (one per country) for the second class.



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“We get dozens of demonstration requests for taekwondo in China, but we simply don’t have the manpower to promote as well as we could,” he said. “Students that learn taekwondo through the program will be able to contribute to the growth of taekwondo inside the country and cultural exchanges between South Korea and China.”

Seo graduated from the College of Physical Education at Kyung Hee University with a taekwondo major. He received a master’s and doctorate degree at the same college. After finishing his service in the army, he opened a taekwondo studio in Seoul and operated six separate locations. After expanding to China in 2008, he opened a “premium taekwondo studio” in Beijing in 2011.

He began a doctorate program in the Department of Sports at Tsinghua University to build connections with the locals, and for the first time in this university’s 104-year history, he became the first foreigner to acquire a doctorate degree in taekwondo there. He was also an adjunct professor in taekwondo at Tsinghua University and Peking University until 2019, something unprecedented for a foreigner. 장

1 The Capital University of Physical Education and Sports in Beijing

2 Seo Won-sik, president of Beijing Original International Culture Limited



New York State Rep. Ron Kim leads official commemoration of Korean American Day

Relevant proposal submitted and passed; ‘Korean community and New York must achieve mutual growth’

A New York state representative has officially celebrated Korean American Day at the House level. Ron Kim, a Korean American, held a celebration of the passing of the proposal for Korean American Day at the New York State Legislature in Albany, New York, on Jan. 17.

Previously, Kim also submitted a proposal for the official celebration of Korean American Day (a day designated by U.S. Congress in 2005) at the state level, which was passed.

Kim was the first Korean American to become a New York state representative in 2021. “I’m proud that a proposal to remember and celebrate the many contributions of the Korean community to New York has been passed,” he said. “I hope that the Korean community and New York will continue to achieve mutual growth.”

Present at the event were Charles Yoon, president of the Korean American Association of Greater New York, as well as Kim Eui-hwan, consul general of South Korea in New York.

Kim, who was born in Korea and immigrated to the United States at 7 years of age, is seen as a politician who maintains his identity as a Korean American. Last year, he made a proposal to the state legislature that the state should also celebrate the South Korean holiday Kimchi Day on Nov. 22, which was passed.

Jeon Heung-bae, president of Federation of Korean Associations Japan, ‘to focus on securing political rights’

‘Will take lead in enhancing rights and interests of 140,000 newcomers and acting as bridge between Japan and South Korea’

The Federation of Korean Associations Japan, which represents new Korean immigrants to the country, recently elected Jeon Heung-bae (63), former president of the Federation of Korean Associations, Kansai Japan. He is the second president, with a term that will last two years.

“I will focus my efforts on securing regional political rights in Japan, something Koreans living here have wanted for a long time,” Jeon, who assumed the office Jan. 13, said in an interview with Korean press.

The Korean community in Japan can be divided into the existing residents (which includes the first-generation immigrants and their descendants, who are special permanent residents), as well as newcomers, who crossed over in order to study in the country or for other reasons and settled down. There are around 140,000 of these newcomers but less than 10 percent are registered with a Korean association.

“Most Koreans who are permanent residents here have no regional political rights, even though they pay their taxes,” Jeon said. “They are also being discriminated against, since they are prevented from taking managerial roles in the government.



“The acquisition of political rights for them will be a milestone that shows the international society that Japan has accepted foreign residents as part of their society and are making headway toward achieving multicultural harmony. We will take an active part in the vitalization of local Korean associations so that the scattered Korean Japanese can come together. We will also cooperate with the Republic of Korean Residents Union in Japan (Mindan), who represent existing residents, to enhance their rights and interests.”

He moved to Japan in 1997 as a resident employee of Dongmyeong Heavy Industries before settling down. He operates a company that produces parts for hydraulics, transplanters, tractors, and the like in China and Korea, then exports them to Japan.



Sukhee Kang, former mayor of Irvine, appointed regional administrator for northwest U.S. and other regions
Oversees Arizona, California, Nevada, Alaska, Oregon, among others

Sukhee Kang, former mayor of Irvine, was appointed regional administrator over the Pacific, northwest U.S. and west U.S. regions.

“President Joe Biden named me a regional administrator of the General Services Administration,” Kang said to the Korean press on Jan. 9. “I started work at the headquarters in San Francisco on Jan. 3.” He also explained that a regional administrator has the same role as the head of a public procurement service.

The regions he oversees are Arizona, California, Nevada, Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, American Samoa, East Asia and Guam.

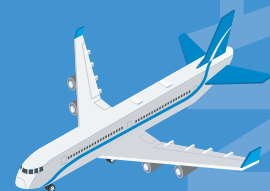
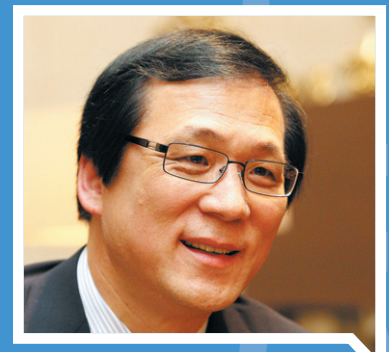
The GSA manages 8,300 buildings under U.S. government ownership and conducts construction, repairs and other general duties. It also provides all supplies used by federal institutions, including over 250,000 vehicles the government requires. It also manages all art pieces as well. Additionally, the institution handles the internal affairs of the federal government (overseeing all IT systems, for example) and supports presidential policies.

“I’m personally very honored,” Kang said. “I will use everything I’ve learned so far as a politician and work for the people.”

After graduating from Korea University in 1977 and immigrating to the U.S., he worked as a salesperson at an electronics distribution company. After witnessing the Los Angeles riots in 1992, he became a politician, feeling the importance of improving the political influence of Koreans.

He was a chairperson and president of the Korean American Scholarship Foundation and the executive director of the Korean American Coalition (an organization that supports the Korean community) in Orange County. He also founded the Korean American Democratic Committee before running for city councilor and being elected in Irvine in 2004 and 2006. In 2008, he was the first Korean to become the mayor of Irvine in a direct election, and he was reelected in 2010.

He was also the senior adviser of the Korean War Monument Establishment Committee and was the chairperson of Korean Americans for Political Action until recently, contributing to the growth of Korean political influence. 🇺🇸



Kwak Ki-hoon, who helped overseas victims of Japanese nuclear radiation receive benefits, passes away

He was exposed to radiation at Hiroshima in 1945, suffering severe burns

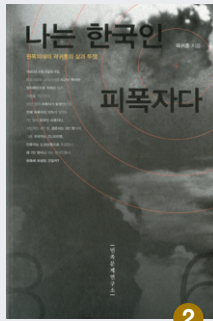
Kwak Ki-hoon was a victim of exposure to radiation, who brought about the ruling that the Japanese government must pay benefits to those who were exposed to radiation from the nuclear bombs dropped on Japan and subsequently moved overseas. His family stated on Jan. 2 that he passed away of old age at the With-Us Care Hospital in Gwangju, Gyeonggi Province, on Dec. 31, 2022. He was 98 years old.

The words of Junko Ichiba, the president of the Civic Group for Korean Radiation Victims, a Japanese civic group, were used by Kyodo News to report on Kwak's death.

Kwak was born in Imsil, North Jeolla Province, and was forcibly conscripted into a unit in the west of Hiroshima during his fifth year at the Jeonju National University of Education in September 1944. On Aug. 6, 1945, when a nuclear bomb fell on Hiroshima, he was dispatched to an engineering battalion around 2 kilometers away from the location of the bombing. He managed to survive but suffered severe burns to his upper body.

After returning to Korea in September that year, he serialized the accounts of his exposure to radiation in a daily newspaper in the 1950s, bringing up the issue of Koreans who'd been exposed like him. In 1967, he formed the Korea Atomic Bombs Victim Association and requested compensation from the Japanese government, but the only answer he received was that "All compensation had been made through the Treaty on Basic Relations Between Japan and the Republic of Korea in 1965." He participated in publishing "Koreans Exposed to Radiation," a book of the Asahi Shimbun Co., in 1975.

Kwak was also a geography teacher at Jinju Sungshim High School and Kumsan Industrial High School, as well as the vice principal at Myeongseong Girls' High School and the principal at the High School Attached to College of Education, Dongguk University. After retiring in 1989, he began to focus his efforts on demanding his rights in earnest. He visited Japan in 1998 for hospital treatment and



returned to Korea in July. When his benefit payments were stopped, he took his case to the Osaka local court against the Japanese government in October the same year, claiming it was not right that victims of nuclear radiation living overseas couldn't receive the relief payments because they lived outside the country.

He won his first trial in June 2001, as well as his second trial on Dec. 15, 2002, at the Osaka High Court. Because of the ruling, around 5,000 radiation victims living outside Japan were able to receive around 4 million won (US\$3,070) every year as compensation. Kwak wrote the book "I Am a Nuclear Bomb Victim from Korea," describing his experience with radiation and his trials, in 2013.

He was also a famous mountaineer who was selected as one of the Korean Alpine Federation's "Fifty Alpine Stars." He was a member when the Korean Alpine Federation was founded in 1962 and was also its president (1969-1976), as well as its finance manager (1989-1997). In 1971, he led the first foreign alpine expedition from Korea, which went to Yushan National Park. He also explored Tibet in 1995 and 1997.

He wrote "The Silk Road, Today and Tomorrow" (1984), "The Sun Shines on Antarctica" (1986) and "Thousand Years of Loneliness in Tibet" (1996). He explored the Chodang Cave in Samcheok, Gangwon Province, in 1966, and was a judge on the panel of the Korea Cave Association the same year.

"He was such an enterprising man that he would travel throughout Japan and Europe in the 1960s, filming videos and playing them in the Citizen's Hall in Jeonju," his son, Kwak Hyo-sung, said.

Kwak Ki-hoon was buried in a family burial grounds in North Jeolla Province. [\[창\]](#)

1 A photo of the late Kwak Ki-hoon taken in 2013 (All photos courtesy of The Center for Historical Truth and Justice)

2 The cover of Kwak's book "I Am a Nuclear Bomb Victim from Korea"

2nd-generation Korean American becomes president of Port of Seattle Commission

‘I will help Korean startups to expand to U.S.,’ says Cho Se-hyeon



A second-generation Korean American in his 30s was made president of the Port of Seattle Commission. Joy Seattle, a Korean American news agency, recently quoted an announcement from the Port of Seattle Commission, saying, “Commissioner Sam Cho (Korean name: Cho Se-hyeon) recently won the election for president of the Port Commission. For the first time in the 112 years the Port Commission has been in existence, an Asian president has been selected.”

The inauguration ceremony was held as a welcome reception at the Port Commission headquarters in Seattle on Jan. 10. Cho will be managing and operating the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (Sec-Tac), the 10th-largest airport in the United States, as well as the Port of Seattle, the seventh-largest port in North America. He will enforce the budget of the Port Commission, nearly US\$400 million annually, and supervise the port through the board of directors. He oversees the CEO, five elected commissioners and 2,000 employees as well.

“I’m happy to be the first Korean president the Port Commission has ever had,” Cho said. “I will work to grow the partnership between Washington and South Korea, and also work closely with the Korea Smes And Startups Agency to help startups connected to aviation and harbors expand to the U.S.”

His father, Cho Gyu-cheol, who passed away in May last year, previously operated a laundry shop after immigrating to the U.S.

Cho Se-hyeon, born and raised in the U.S., studied international relations at American University and completed a master’s in political economy at the London School of Economics. He was a congressional staffer to a U.S. state representative, after which he was a special assistant in the General Services Administration during the former Barack Obama administration.

He was previously named commissioner on the Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs by the governor of Washington. He was the first Korean to be elected in the Port Commission commissioner elections in Seattle in 2019, after which he worked as a member of the Seattle Port Commission, Position 2. 

1 Sam Cho, the first Asian to become president of the Port Commission in Seattle (Photo courtesy of Joy Seattle)

2 Sam Cho (7th from L), president of the Port Commission in Seattle, poses for a photo at his inauguration ceremony on Jan. 10 with Korean participants. (Photo courtesy of Hankook Ilbo).

Complicated inside story of Sinhanchon Monument, symbol of anti-Japan history in Vladivostok

Built in 1999 by Overseas Korean Research Center with approximately
300 million won in donated funds



“Shrine to the independence movement against Japan,” “symbol of the independence movement overseas,” “an outpost of anti-Japan freedom movement.”

These were the phrases used to describe Sinhanchon, a group residence of Koreans formed on a mountain on the outskirts of Vladivostok, Primorsky Krai, in the Russian Far East in 1911 (112 years ago). Around 10,000 overseas Koreans lived here in 1915, and many independence fighters who fought for freedom from Imperial Japan gathered here, such as Yi Dong-hwi, Lee Sangseol and Hong Beom-do, making the place a cradle for the anti-Japan freedom movement.

As is well known, no trace of the old Sinhanchon exists any longer, since apartments and shopping centers have been built. Only the Sinhanchon Monument, standing on Habarovskaya Street in Vladivostok, acts as a witness to the fierce independence fighters of the time.

This facility was built by the Overseas Korean Research Center with three marble pillars around 3.5 meters in height, using around 300 million won in donated funds in 1999. The monument is an essential element of tour programs, in which Korean tourists and Russian locals can learn about the history of the Korean freedom movement as it remains in Primorsky Krai. It is a symbolic space to the descendants of Koryo-saram who live in the region, something that proves their roots.

Accusations of ‘unreliable management’ brought up for over 10 years

Claims that sites of anti-Japanese movement activity that exist in this region are not being properly maintained have been made consistently for over 10 years. As the Korean press has pointed out many times already, the Sinhanchon Monument is included in this number. The management of the monument was arbitrarily assigned to the president of a Koryo-saram association in Vladivostok who aided in the building of the monument from its early stages.

Ever since he passed away in 2019, his wife has taken over the role. The association that her husband previously managed is known to be completely inactive at present. An iron fence has been set up around the monument for a long time to prevent vandalism, and entry is not possible unless management unlocks the gate.

A recent visit to this location revealed that the gate was locked, and that snow from two weeks ago had piled up on the monument. As is apparent, the issue of unreliable management has been raised for a long time but still there have been no signs of improvement. What could be the reason?



- 1 The Sinhanchon Monument, located on Habarovskaya Street, Vladivostok, Primorsky Krai, is seen here. The entrance to the fence-enclosed space is locked tightly.
- 2 The monument celebrates Sinhanchon, the “cradle of the independence movement.” The middle pillar is said to symbolize South Korea, the left one North Korea and the right one other overseas Koreans.
- 3 A notice regarding the Sinhanchon Monument on Habarovskaya Street in Vladivostok
- 4 Korean youths offer silent tributes at the Sinhanchon Monument on Aug. 4, 2019.

An excuse based on recent events states, “COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine has led to far fewer Korean tourists coming to Vladivostok, and there has been much less interest in the monument as a result.” But some research revealed that the underlying cause was something far more complicated.

According to the Consulate General of Korea in Vladivostok and others, it is very clear to see which organization established the monument, but it was difficult to tell who owned and managed the facility at present. This is because it isn't clear if the facility was officially registered with the authorities after it was completed. Another piece of recent information revealed that, despite past information to the contrary, it is no longer clear if the land on which the monument was built even belongs to Vladivostok at all. To this, the city of Vladivostok responded, “We're looking into the ownership of the monument and the land.”

If the monument is not, in fact, registered with the authorities, it could even be torn down as an illegal building in the worst-case scenario. Of course, such an event is very unlikely, considering diplomatic issues between Korea and Russia, and the historical and tourism value that the monument has. However, if it is indeed an unregistered facility, it will be a difficult affair to find out under who and how the 24-year-old building will be registered, and as to what sort of building it will be labeled.

Procedures to clarify owner and management necessary, even if much time has passed

If it thankfully turns out that the monument is registered, the records need to be traced to make certain of who owns and

manages the facility. Regardless of the result, it was clearly wrong to allow a major monument to the anti-Japan movement in the Primorsky Krai region to remain with an uncertain legal status for over 20 years.

It is a relief then that the Consulate General of Korea set out to hold proper discussions on this old issue with Vladivostok despite the circumstances leading to the present day. The Consulate General of Korea plans to inspect the entire proceedings involved in the building of the monument, including the approval and registration of the building, with local legal offices. If any inadequacies are found, supplementary measures will be made through discussions with relevant individuals and groups.

They will also seek proper management methods with the local authorities. The Overseas Korean Research Center, which built the monument, stated that they would also provide what help they could, if requested, to ensure that the problem is solved and that the management of the facility can be conducted properly.

The issue of the ownership and management of the Sinhanchon Monument is no longer a problem only Koreans are concerned about. Local media in Vladivostok have reported on the subject, and the Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation in the region is also watching the progress carefully. The situation has changed greatly after the war in Ukraine, but it is our hope that the monument will quickly recover its proper station through the cooperation of groups from both countries. [\[참\]](#)

Choi Su-ho,
Yonhap News Agency correspondent in Vladivostok, Russia

Korean American music organization Bel Canto attains Special Consultative Status with U.N.

Group, composed of opera singers and Korean musicians, volunteers for neighbors in need around the globe

The Bel Canto International Society (President Sungbae Ju), composed of Korean musicians active in New York and New Jersey, has recently attained Special Consultative Status with the United Nations.

“The United Nations Economic and Social Council recommended that 110 NGOs be given this status during a meeting at the New York headquarters on Jan. 23,” Ju said in a phone call with Korean press on Jan. 27. “The Bel Canto International Society was the only Korean American organization to be given this status.”

Bel Canto is a nonprofit organization founded in 2009 in order to aid people afflicted by war, famine, disease and poverty through public services and performing arts. It consists of around 60 members, including opera singers and musicians, and has performed around 230 times for the U.N., communities, U.S. Congress, federal U.S. government institutions, state judiciary organizations, Korean societies and other organizations, and



Sungbae Ju (R), president of Bel Canto, visits the U.N. headquarters with Korean teenagers. (Photo courtesy of Bel Canto)

also has provided leadership programs for teenagers and college students.

Bel Canto will now receive access to the U.N. headquarters in New York, as well as the United Nations Office at Geneva, and will be allowed to make statements at relevant committee meetings. It will be invited to various events and be allowed to use U.N. facilities. In order to gain Special Consultative Status, an evaluation must be performed after the submission of an organization’s mission, their activities, information about the management, plans regarding future activities, reports regarding

income and expenditures, website information and other requested information.

Ju, who leads Bel Canto, was head of the “Concert preparation committee for the 50th anniversary of the US-ROK alliance and 100 years of immigration” and oversaw the opening of the Korean festival held in celebration of 20 years of U.N. membership for both Koreas.

Koryoin Village in Gwangju seeks to create federation bringing world Koryo-saram organizations together

Inauguration ceremony to be held for federation in May

The Koryoin Village in Gwangsan Ward, Gwangju (Rep. Shin Jo-ya), with the largest concentration of Koryo-saram in the country, stated on Jan. 4 that it would be moving forward with the founding of a “World Federation of Koryoin Organizations” (provisional name) to serve as a hub for Koryo-saram organizations around the world.

This federation will not only encompass organizations in Korea, but Koryo-saram organizations in various regions and countries, including the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

“The need for a federation became apparent when we realized we needed a systematic structure to help Koryo-saram refugees produced by the war in Ukraine,” Shin said.

“Through cooperation and solidarity, we will be pursuing projects to enhance the Korean identity in younger generations and enhance their sense of pride, in addition to helping the Koryo-saram society and South Korea to achieve mutual growth,” he said.



A Chuseok festival is being held at Koryoin Village, Gwangju.

The Koryoin Village will be holding the inauguration ceremony in Gwangju in May, in collaboration with Koryo-saram associations around the world.

Woon Gyo-jin, former president of Korean Society of Christchurch, receives medal from New Zealand government in acknowledgment of contributions to community

Becomes third Korean to receive the medal

Yoon Gyo-jin (53), former president of the Korean Society of Christchurch and the principal of CHCH Korean School in New Zealand, received the Honorary Queen's Service Medal (HQSM) for her contributions to the community.

"The New Zealand government published the '2023 Honours List' on Dec. 31 last year," Yoon said to the Korean press on Jan. 13. "Along with three other people from New Zealand, I was put on the list for the HQSM. I will be receiving the medal from the prime minister in February or around then."

The New Zealand government stated that as the president of the Korean Society of Christchurch from 2011 to 2015 (as the 11th and 12th president), as well as from 2019 to 2021 (15th president), she participated in various activities for the Korean community, which experienced many hardships due to the earthquake in February 2011 and the COVID-19 pandemic, which began in March 2020.

In addition, she was described to have contributed to the spread of Korean culture through her time teaching Korean dance at Casebrook



Yoon Gyo-jin, principal of the CHCH Korean School in Christchurch, New Zealand

Intermediate School, Christchurch South Intermediate School, Riccarton High School and other local schools since 2014, in addition to taking part in multicultural events. The New Zealand government conducts a thorough evaluation that lasts about a year to select the winners.

Yoon will be the third Korean to win the medal, after the late Lee Seong-bang, as well as Hwang Seon-ha, a former principal of a Korean school. In acknowledgment of

Yoon's contributions, the South Korean government awarded her a commendation from the president on Korean American Day in 2020. Yoon was born in North Chungcheong Province. She studied dance at the Hyoseong Girls' College (now Daegu Catholic University) and worked as a teacher before immigrating to Christchurch with her husband in 1996.

National Institute of Korean History honors 60th anniversary of miners sent to Germany

Coal miners, settling in European country, give oral accounts of their lives

A collection of accounts by Korean workers sent to work in Germany's coal mines, who afterward settled down in the country, was released in celebration of the 60th anniversary of Korean miners being dispatched there. "Lives of Korean Miners Sent to Germany," planned and published by the National Institute of Korean History, consists of interviews with 10 miners sent to Germany in the 1960s and the 1970s, including Kim Geun-cheol (belonging to the first group of the first wave of dispatches).

Their history can be traced back to Dec. 21, 1963. In the first group, 123 Korean miners were sent to West Germany, and a total of 7,936 were dispatched up until 1977.

The collection was created from a series of reports based on interviews of Kim and other miners with Lee Yoo-jae (52), head of Korean Studies at Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen, along with Lee Seon-young, a Korean Studies researcher at the same university, between June and October 2012 -- just prior to the 50-year anniversary of such miners being dispatched.

Lee Yoo-jae selected parts of the report and published it in book form in 2021 with the title "Gluck Auf!" in Germany. In the Korean translation, he



The cover of "Lives of Korean Miners Sent to Germany"

added some commentary and included all the interviews with the miners. Lee himself is the son of a miner who worked in Germany, and he immigrated to the country with his father.

"Until now, no study has researched the lives of miners sent to Germany comprehensively. There is a sore lack of any research at all regarding them," he said. "By shedding light on their history, who have the longest history of Korean immigration to Europe, we sought to create data that would support further

immigration history studies."

President of the National Institute of Korean History Kim In-geol said in his publisher's note: "Korea's dispatching of miners to Germany helped create jobs by funneling excess labor overseas and improved the foreign-exchange earnings rate, greatly aiding economic development. On the other hand, the miners sent out were subjected to harsh labor in an environment where they did not speak the local language."

Prehistoric Dwelling Site in Amsa-dong from Neolithic Era Source of world's most beautiful and sophisticated comb-pattern pottery

Near a bend in the Han River lies the oldest village in Seoul. This place is called Amsa-dong, Gangdong Ward, where a historical site formed 6,000 years ago, during the Neolithic Era, can be found. It is marvelous that the world's most sophisticated comb-pattern pottery was unearthed in Amsa-dong, on the outskirts of Seoul.

Comb-pattern pottery is one of the most well-known types of relics from the Neolithic Era. The most refined type of comb-pattern pottery was found not only in Amsa-dong but in the central western region of the Korean Peninsula. As a result, archaeologists now believe that the culture of creating comb-pattern pottery originated in the northeastern region of China, as well as the Korean Peninsula.

Many citizens have shown an interest in the site, with around 120,000 people visiting the site yearly. The Gangdong Seonsa Culture Festival, which is held for three days every fall around the Amsa-dong site, attracts around 400,000 people.

Oldest village in Seoul

The Amsa-dong site features reconstructions of homes where people from the Neolithic Era lived. They are easy to mistake for thatched houses made of rice straw, but they are actually dugout huts with roofs made of silver grass. Agriculture hadn't begun on the Korean Peninsula in the Neolithic Era, and silver grass was common on the riverbanks of the Han River. Naturally, the grass was used for housing.

Models of humans from the Neolithic Era, portrayed as they hunt for fish or wild animals, should prove interesting and fun for children. The experience village in the site has models of boars, deer and other targets that children can shoot arrows at and knock over.

Not only is Amsa-dong the oldest village in Seoul, it is the largest of the Neolithic Era villages formed along the Han River basin, which is the lifeline of the peninsula. Around 40 homes were excavated here, all dugout huts 1 meter in depth with roofs placed on top. These homes are good for cold winter climates like in Korea, which



has clearly defined seasons. In the center of these homes, smooth stones were placed in circles and ovals to serve as furnaces. These were used for cooking, heating and lighting.

Besides the dugout huts, storage pits, clearings and areas covered with river gravel were found. The rocks were shown to have been exposed to fire, and dozens of comb-pattern pottery fragments were found in addition to singed dirt and coal. The rock-covered areas are assumed to have been a shared furnace or the site of a dugout kiln. Comb-pattern pottery, considered the essence of culture and art from the Neolithic Era, was made there.

Korean Peninsula, originator of comb-pattern pottery

The geometrical beauty of comb-pattern pottery is impressive, with patterns that feature three lines, five lines, crescents resembling fingernail markings, small dots made with something blunt and multiple V's placed close together.

Comb-pattern pottery has been discovered not only in Korea but in many regions around the world. It has been found all over Siberia, once leading to the assumption of a comb-pattern pottery "belt" in the country. There are many academic theories about the origins of comb-pattern pottery, but the most commonly accepted origin has been considered to be Siberia.



Recent research suggests, however, that the source of comb-pattern pottery was in fact the northeastern region of China, as well as the Korean Peninsula. This is because the pottery excavated in these regions are not only varied in their shapes and patterns but date back much earlier. Comb-pattern pottery with the most elaborate patterns were found in the central west part of the Korean Peninsula, as well as the Amsa-dong site.

Those found in Amsa-dong come in various sizes, with sharp or round bottoms. The outer surface has patterns in intaglio. Often, the pottery can be split into top, middle and bottom segments, with different patterns depending on the segment. The top portion mainly features short slanted lines, while the middle segment usually has fish bone markings. There are various other patterns as well.

Many digging tools, stone axes, flat stones used to mill objects and old stones used to craft tools were found at the Amsa-dong site. In an excavation survey in 2016 of a Neolithic Era site in Korea, the first-ever jade accessories were found. They became very important discoveries providing insight into the culture of prehistoric times in the Han River basin.

Korea cannot be left out when comb-pattern pottery is talked about. Gangdong Ward is currently seeking to have the Amsa-dong site, which has gained worldwide recognition, be recognized as a

UNESCO World Cultural Heritage. Not many sites from prehistoric times have been preserved. Because there are not that many relics that can be seen and touched, they receive less attention than those from the era of recorded history.

However, this view of cultural assets from prehistoric times is changing, and active efforts are underway to register them as UNESCO World Cultural Heritages. For example, China and Japan have been working to register their Neolithic Era sites with UNESCO. Considering this worldwide trend to reevaluate the value of sites from prehistoric times, it is not unlikely for the Amsa-dong site to be registered as well.

Han River has harbored Amsa-dong since Neolithic Era

The Amsa-dong site is inextricably connected to the Han River, since the village subsisted on fishing and gathering around the river. Currently, however, it has been blocked off from the river by the Olympic Expressway. Without it, the Han River would be visible from the site, and it would be possible to experience how the river became a source of life for the people of the past.

The value of historic sites and relics becomes apparent when they are situated in their original location. The conversion of the Olympic Expressway to an underground road near this site will probably become a task for future generations to undertake when South Korea becomes a more prosperous country. The Amsa Green Street was created to show the connection between the site and the Han River at least slightly under the current circumstances, in which the structure of the Olympic Expressway cannot be easily modified.

Once this street is completed, citizens will be able to walk from the site to the Han River. Five minutes by car from the site, along the river, are the Gwangnaru Han River Park and the Amsa Eco Park. The Amsa Eco Park is the restoration of a protective ecological space affected by removing the concrete shore protection blocks, bicycle roads and other objects, which were created as part of the general Han River development project in the 1980s. It connects to the Godeok Waterside Eco Park and the Han River's banks in Hanam, forming a large natural ecological space. 🌿

- 1 The Prehistoric Dwelling Site in Amsa-dong from the Neolithic Era, located in Gangdong Ward, Seoul
- 2 Dugout huts reconstructed at the Amsa-dong site are shown in this photo. The site contains models of humans tending to their fishing gear.
- 3 Comb-pattern pottery excavated in Amsa-dong
- 4 Flat stones used to mill objects, found in Amsa-dong, are shown in this photo. They served as millstones in the Neolithic Era.



Korean traditional cultural items to be provided to Korean associations worldwide

The Overseas Koreans Foundation will be providing traditional cultural items to Korean schools, Korean associations, Korean culture and arts organizations, and similar entities all over the world. The goal is to keep tradition alive in the overseas Korean community, encourage exchanges between generations and promote Korean culture through public diplomacy. “Samulnori” instruments (“janggu,” drums, small gongs, etc.), traditional Korean instruments (“gayageum,” “danso,” etc.), traditional outfits (“hanbok,” royal costumes, etc.) and traditional games (tops, “jegi,” “yut,” etc.) are on the list of objects to be supplied. Organizations who carry out traditional culture education or take part in local cultural events regularly will be given precedence. The foundation accepted applications until Feb. 21 on the KoreanNet website (www.korean.net).



Members of the “samulnori” team Haedong, from the Russian Far East, perform at the Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok on Sept. 15, 2020.

Recruiting 12th wave of volunteers for 2023’s OKFriends volunteer group

The Overseas Koreans Foundation is currently recruiting members for the 12th OKFriends Volunteer Group (2023), who will contribute to the formation of a global Korean network. Members of OKFriends will participate as staff members in various invitational projects run by the Overseas Koreans Foundation, such as invitational training for overseas Korean college students, and will form networks with young overseas Koreans. They will also function as a public diplomacy team, being sent to overseas Korean communities, where they will have an opportunity for direct and indirect interactions with said communities. They will be active between March and December, a period of 10 months. The foundation will issue diplomas signed by the president, and outstanding volunteers will be given an opportunity to be dispatched overseas as part of a public diplomacy team. The Overseas Koreans Foundation invites college students and graduate students with an interest in expanding the global Korean network to participate. Inquiries can be made to the Youth Projects Office of the Overseas Koreans Foundation (82-64-786-0277, 82-2-3415-0172) or via email (okfriends@okf.or.kr).



The launching ceremony of the 11th OKFriends Volunteer Group held on March 23, 2022

Recruiting overseas correspondents (8th iteration) for Study Korean

The Overseas Koreans Foundation is recruiting overseas correspondents for Study Korean, an overseas Korean language education website, for the purpose of promoting the superb activities of Korean schools, which are in charge of cultivating the Korean identity in the youth of the overseas Korean community. Overseas Koreans who are excellent writers, can collect news, and participate in Korean community and Korean school activities are qualified to apply.

Correspondents must write two columns (or produce one video) regarding the various events and educational accomplishments of Korean schools for the Study Korean website every month. They will be requested to do this between April 1 and Dec. 31, and will be paid for the content they create.

Applications were accepted until Feb. 24 through the website (<http://study.korean.net/>), and successful applicants will be notified individually.



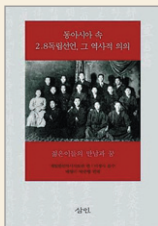
The recruitment announcement for the eighth iteration of Study Korean overseas correspondents

Overseas Koreans Foundation's Book Recommendations

'The Meaning of the 2.8 Declaration of Independence in East Asia'

The History Museum of J-Koreans / Samin Books

On Feb. 8, 1919, youths from Joseon gathered in a hall in Tokyo and read aloud a declaration of independence. Influenced by their voices, the March 1st Movement occurred the same year. Historians from Japan and other countries agree that the impact of the "2.8 Declaration of Independence" must be considered, not only on the historically known influence it had on the March 1st Movement but also on the civic movements in East Asia, as well as activities in the present day. Historians from Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and other countries came together and published a book dealing with this subject. Published by the History Museum of J-Koreans, scholars stated their hope that the students in East Asia today could discuss the meaning of the 2.8 Declaration of Independence and search for ways to achieve peace and solidarity throughout the region.



'At the Arkhangelsk Concentration Camp'

Kang Tae-soo / Minsokwon

A certain overseas Korean was accused of treason against the Soviet state and sent to slave labor in a concentration camp because of a poem he wrote while on an obligatory migration from the far northern parts of the Soviet Union to Kazakhstan in 1937. Because of this poem, written in Korean, he was forced to work in the concentration camp from 1938 to 1959. After he was freed, his poem was published by many prestigious Koryo-saram papers, including the Leninkichi, Seonbong and Goryeo Ilbo. Readers can get a peek into the unrecorded life of Kang Tae-soo, who lost his vision after being freed and died in his home, through his poems. A book containing a photo of his poem "On the Road," as well as a description of his life, was recently published. Professor Kim Pil-young, a Korean French, described Kang's life through the eyes of an overseas Korean. Read the book to learn about how Kang met with the Koryo-saram writer Cho Myeong-hee, the night he wrote the poem while on the train forcibly carrying him to Kazakhstan and his daily life in the concentration camp.





Korean Association of Cambodia supplies 'safety digital watches' to Koreans living alone

The Korean Association of Cambodia (President Jung Myung-gyu) will be supplying GPS-enabled "safety digital watches" to Koreans who live alone. The association cooperated with EUM Creative (President Ahn Young-sik), a Korean IT company, to develop a digital watch with GPS location tracking. They recently have finished software development for the project for the Cambodian region, including testing. An app connected to the watch shows information on the user's heart rate, blood pressure, oxygen saturation and other metrics. In addition, a user only needs to press a button to show his or her location information in case of an emergency. The company provided 25 of these watches free of charge to the association, and five are currently being tested.

Oratorical contest in Korean for young Koreans in Europe to be held in March

The Association of Korean Residents in Europe (President Yoo Je-heon) will hold the 10th Korean Oratorical Contest for Koreans in Europe in Wroclaw, Poland, from March 17 to 19. The association has been holding the contest every year to encourage the use of the Korean language among Korean youth and enhance their sense of identity. This year, the topics will include "100 years of Korean history in Europe," "Proud to be Korean," "The unification of the Korean Peninsula and the future," "Our language, our writing" and "My dreams." Teams will be separated into elementary, middle/high school and multicultural family categories. Anyone who has lived in Europe for three or more years can apply for the elementary category, and those who have lived in the region for five or more years can apply for the middle/high school category.



Korean youths in Japan to hold Winter Jamboree in Nagano to enhance sense of identity

The Korean Japanese Student Body, which is a subdivision of the Republic of Korean Residents Union in Japan (Mindan), will hold the 2023 Winter Jamboree, where Korean Japanese college students and Korean college students studying in Japan can gather and interact. The theme is "Make Friends to Last a Lifetime," and the event will last for four days starting Feb. 28 in Matsumoto, Nagano. The purpose of the event is to cultivate the Korean identity through talks, discussions and sports. Participants will listen to lectures and take part in talks regarding topics such as "How will we live as Korean Japanese?" and "The history of Koreans in Japan," with older, more experienced people, who are already active members of mainstream Japanese society. This event is sponsored by the Overseas Koreans Foundation.

Korean American Association of Greater New York holds 120th anniversary of Korean American Day

The Korean American Association of Greater New York (President Charles Yoon) held the 120th anniversary Korean American Day event at the Ziegfeld Ballroom in Manhattan on Jan. 13. Present at the event were approximately 300 people, including Chuck Schumer, chair of the Senate Democratic Caucus, New York Mayor Eric Adams, U.S. Rep. Grace Meng, other major politicians and Korean association staff. "The greater the number of Koreans there are, the more American society improves and flourishes," Schumer said. "If you want to see the future of American society, look at the Korean community." Adams declared this day to be a day of Korean Americans in the city of New York. Yoon said, "Let us cooperate to build a better society."



National Association for Korean Schools to hold symposium in San Francisco from July 20-22

The National Association for Korean Schools (President Chu Seong-heui) will hold a symposium in celebration of its 41st founding anniversary for three days in San Francisco, from July 20 to 22. The topic of the symposium will be "The Direction of Education for the Youth in the 21st Century-the Role of Korean Schools in the History of Korean Immigration, and Their New Goal." The association explained that the symposium will focus on the direction of education for the youth, which will have a major impact on the 21st century, through the role of Korean schools. The National Association for Korean Schools is a coalition of over 1,000 Korean schools in the United States. It was founded in 1981 and has 14 regional councils. Around 8,000 teachers currently teach approximately 80,000 students Korean culture and the Korean language.

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

My special bond with Korean school teachers

The time I've spent working with Korean school teachers all over the world has gone by so fast, and I now only have around three years until I retire as a professor. I believe it would be meaningful to look back on past events through this short article.

My special bond with Korean school teachers began when the Overseas Koreans Foundation signed an education and culture memorandum of understanding with the Digital Seoul Culture Arts University in February 2009. Since then, the International Language Institute of this university has offered the Online Training Course for Overseas Korean Teachers. I consistently took part in Korean teacher training in various regions around the world as a special lecturer. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, I gave these lectures in person, but I switched to remote meetings after it began.

After the first online course was completed in August 2009, I gave my first face-to-face lecture at a training seminar hosted by the New Zealand Korean School Association in October. My mother had passed away in early September from stomach cancer, and it was the first Chuseok holiday without her. I immediately set aside thoughts of rest and got on a plane for New Zealand. It wasn't an easy decision, but I was greatly moved by the enthusiasm of the Korean school teachers in New Zealand.

Then in 2010, I created the first "Personal Experience Submissions Contest for Korean Educators in Korea and Abroad" to celebrate Hangeul Day. This year marks the 14th iteration of the contest. I originally planned to publish a book of the winning submissions but instead decided to upload their submissions (from the first 13 iterations) on my university's Korean Education Department's website in order to allow Korean school teachers worldwide to access these firsthand accounts easily.

The Online Training Course for Overseas Korean Teachers exists to enhance the expertise and Korean education capabilities of Korean school teachers. The course contains an online Korean language teacher course, which is the basic class, and a required one, for overseas Korean teachers seeking to acquire Korean language teaching certificates. This was a very meaningful course for Korean school teachers who did not have access to many



Yook Hyo-chang,
professor of Korean Language Education and
director of International Language Institute of
Digital Seoul Culture Arts University

training programs, and this holds true even today.

Korean school teachers all over the world who finished this course received support from special university scholarships, which helped them enroll in the Korean Language Education Department at my university. Many of them acquired a Level 2 Korean language teacher's license. In addition, after making a request to the Overseas Koreans Foundation and undergoing a year's worth of preparations, my university and the OKF formed an MOU in 2019 to provide scholarships to Korean school teachers seeking to complete degrees. In addition, we worked to expand the MOU to other universities as well, so that more Korean school teachers could acquire a Level 2 license.

The Overseas Koreans Foundation canceled the invitational training for Korean school teachers in 2020, but in 2021, the program resumed via remote meetings, the first time the program hasn't been held in person. The OKF accepted bids from organizations seeking to carry out this online training, and the Digital Seoul Culture Arts University, as well as the Korean Management Association, who submitted consortium proposals, were selected. The competition ratio was 4 to 1. In August, 440 Korean school teachers from all over the world took part in the 2021's online training for overseas Korean school teachers, divided into two groups. The online program was highly regarded as one that had incorporated many elements of face-to-face programs (discussions and networking between trainees, group classes, etc.), establishing itself as a model for effective remote training in the post-COVID-19 era.

This was very pleasant news for me as the supervisor of the very first online training program held for Korean school teachers. I also cannot forget the way we developed the online origami teacher's license course for Korean school teachers by signing an MOU with the Paper Culture Foundation in 2019. That became a very useful source of content for Korean school teachers during the COVID-19 pandemic. I plan to continue working for the sake of Korean school teachers after I retire, maintaining my special bond with them. 

Recruiting 12th wave of volunteers for OKFriends volunteer group

The Overseas Koreans Foundation is currently recruiting members for the 12th OKFriends Volunteer Group (2023) who will contribute to the formation of a global Korean network. Members of OKFriends will participate as staff in various invitational projects held by the Overseas Korean Foundation, such as invitational training for overseas Korean college students, and will form networks with young overseas Koreans. They will also function as a public diplomacy team, being sent to overseas Korean communities where they will have an opportunity for direct and indirect interaction with said communities. We invite college students and graduate students with an interest in expanding the global Korean network to participate.

Inquiries can be made to the Youth Projects Office of the Overseas Koreans Foundation (82-64-786-0277, 82-2-3415-0172) or via email (okfriends@okf.or.kr).

Recruitment schedule

- **Application submissions:** February 1, 2023 (Wed) - February 26 (Sun), 18:00 deadline
- **Interviewee announcement:** March 7, 2023 (Tue)
- **Interview date (TBC):** March 11, 2023 (Sat)
- **Selection result announcement:** March 15, 2023 (Wed) 17:00 or later
- **Launching ceremony and workshop:** March 25, 2023 (Sat) - 26 (Sun)
(For successful applicants)

* The above dates are subject to change depending on the requirements of the foundation or government quarantine guidelines.

* Launching ceremony and workshop for successful applicants are mandatory (selection will be canceled for absentees)



Number being recruited/activity period

- **Number to be recruited:** 90 college students (graduate school students) living in South Korea (currently attending or on leave of absence)
- **Activity period:** March - December 2023 (10 months)

Qualifications

- College students (graduate school students) living in South Korea (currently attending or on leave of absence) as of February 2023. No restrictions based on major (students who have been admitted but not yet begun attending their university/graduate school may also apply)
- Students who will diligently and responsibly carry out their activities during the specified period
- Those who have the values of global Koreans and the requirements of global leaders preferred. (those with experience in public diplomacy, volunteer work or international camp personnel)
- Those with excellent foreign language skills preferred. (those capable of basic communication in English, Japanese, Chinese, Russian, Spanish, etc.)

Schedule of Overseas Koreans Foundation executives in FEBRUARY 2023

President Kim Seong-gon

Feb. 2: Meeting with professor Joseph Yoon

Feb. 3: Meeting with Lee Deok-ho, president of the Qingdao Korean Association

Feb. 6: Meeting with Chang So-Won, director general of the National Institute of Korean Language



750만 재외동포와 대한민국이 하나로 통하는 첫 번째 온라인 세상 코리아넷

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