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Window into Overseas Koreans



Special Article - President Yoon hosts luncheon on Chuseok for Korean victims of atomic bombing in Japan
 Special Feature - President Yoon holds luncheon with workers dispatched to Germany; 'We will honor your sweat and dedication' OKA to 'inspire pride among compatriots by including Korea's history of growth in foreign textbooks'
 Newsworthy Topic - First Korean Day ceremony after establishment of Overseas Koreans Agency



President Yoon's opening remarks at 2023 World Korean Association Presidents' Conference and 17th Korean Day commemoration ceremony

Greetings, compatriots. And welcome. I'm really happy to see you all like this. We sincerely welcome you all from all over the world to meet under the clear autumn sky of your home country upon the occasion of Korean Day and the World Korean Association Presidents' Conference. I would also like to express my sincere congratulations and gratitude to those who were awarded medals of honor just now for their contributions to the development of the compatriot community and their home country.

The 120-year history of immigration, which began in search of new opportunities, has been a great momentum for developing Korea's capabilities. The money earned from the hot sugar cane fields of Hawaii and the cactus farms of Central and South America was used to fund our country's independence. Remittances from miners and nurses dispatched to Germany became valuable core funds of our industrialization process. I'm not sure if you're aware that 90 percent of Korean embassies in Japan, including the embassy and consulate general, were built thanks to donations from Korean residents in Japan. That's how special the love our overseas compatriots had for their home country was.

During the Seoul Olympics, and when we experienced the foreign exchange crisis, you, our overseas compatriots, gave us strength. Overseas Koreans, who have overcome adversity in foreign countries, have been strong supporters of the development of Korea. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my compatriots once again.

This Chuseok, I met compatriots who were affected by the atomic bombing, and yesterday I met compatriots who were dispatched to Germany. The lives of the people I met were part of Korea's modern history of overcoming hardships with indomitable will.

The government will carefully monitor our compatriots around the world, especially through the Overseas Koreans Agency (OKA), which was newly launched in June. By strengthening our global




President Yoon Suk Yeol

network, we will expand the playing field where our companies, citizens and 7.5 million compatriots can work together around the world. Now, Korea has overcome the ruins of war and is leaping forward as a pivotal country of the world that fulfills its responsibilities and role in the international community. In my keynote speech at the United Nations General Assembly last month, I suggested that we join forces and unite around the United Nations to coexist with and reduce the gap between countries, and promised that the Korean government will play a leading role in that effort.

The international community's trust and expectations for Korea are growing. We will contribute more to and cooperate more with the international community so that our compatriots can have pride in their home country. What the government aims for is the establishment of liberal democracy and the restoration of the market economy. And by obeying freedom, human rights and lawful rule, we will become a country that contributes to the freedom, peace and prosperity of not only Korea but also the world. To do so, we must follow global standards and pursue internationalism. Our compatriots have provided a lot of support and contributions to our country so far. The fact that we have established a network with our compatriots and created the Overseas Koreans Agency to closely assist you is in line with our government's philosophy of pursuing internationalism and promoting our country's liberal democracy and the order of the market economy.

I am always proud of our overseas Koreans. Our compatriots' initial overseas expansion started out arduous and insignificant, but through your hard work, you have written the great immigration and economic history of Koreans. Once again, we ask our compatriots to join us and help us realize our vision of becoming a global hub that contributes to freedom, peace and prosperity around the world.

Thank you. 



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This magazine can also be viewed at <http://webzine.korean.net>

President Yoon hosts luncheon on Chuseok for Korean victims of atomic bombing in Japan

President Yoon Suk Yeol invited atomic bomb victims living in South Korea and Japan to the Cheong Wa Dae reception hall for a luncheon for Chuseok on Sept. 29. In his welcoming remarks at the luncheon, which he hosted with his wife, Kim Keon Hee, he said: “It has taken 78 years to host you here. I would like to apologize once again for it being so late.

“Tens of thousands of Koreans lost their lives and their homes in the atomic bombing during World War II,” President Yoon said, adding with sympathy, “During the colonial period, living away from their homeland must have made their grief and pain even greater.”

In particular, Yoon said: “I also know that the long-standing uneasy relationship between Korea and Japan has made your lives difficult. The government will never turn a blind eye to your pain again. I hope this visit to Korea will bring you some small comfort for the sorrow you have experienced.”

Visit fulfills promise of invitation at Hiroshima G7 Summit last May

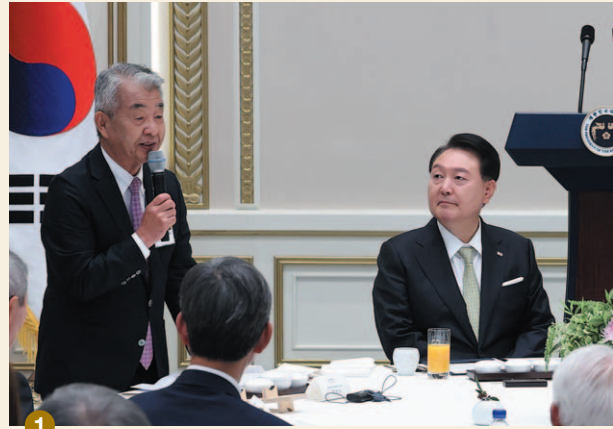
The luncheon follows a promise made by Yoon four months ago. On May 19, during his visit to Hiroshima, Japan, for the Group of Seven (G7) summit, he became the first president to meet with compatriots of the atomic bombing and promised to invite them to Korea. At the luncheon, Yoon recalled visiting the memorial to Korean atomic bomb victims with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, saying: “We commemorated the atomic bomb victims who suffered the horrors of war in a foreign land, far from home, and vowed to build a future of peace and prosperity together. We will do our best to develop future-oriented relations with Japan and Korea and take care of our fellow countrymen.”

Chairman Kwon Jun-oh says, ‘I have gained hope’

Referring to President Yoon’s visit to the Hiroshima memorial, Kwon Jun-oh, chairman of the Special Committee on Korean Atomic Bomb Victims, said: “I felt that the 78 years of bitterness and pain had disappeared. As Koreans living in Japan, we want to see good relations between Japan and Korea. We have hope that we and our children can now live in a good environment, different from the past.” He praised the recent improvement in relations between Korea and Japan.

At a private luncheon afterward, atomic bomb victims and their families continued to express their gratitude.

“My two older sisters and my parents were victims, but they were living in hiding, unable to speak out,” said Yoo Young-hee, secretary-general of the Korean Association of Atomic Bomb Victims. “Thank you again for organizing this event today,” she said with tears in her eyes, according to presidential office spokesman Lee Do-woon.



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- 1 President Yoon Suk Yeol listens to a speech from Kwon Jun-oh, chairman of the Special Committee for Korean Atomic Bomb Victims, during a luncheon for compatriots who were victims of the atomic bomb at the Cheong Wa Dae reception hall for Chuseok on Sept. 29.
- 2 President Yoon Suk Yeol and his wife, first lady Kim Keon Hee, greet participants after taking a commemorative photo at the luncheon for compatriots affected by the atomic bomb.
- 3 President Yoon Suk Yeol delivers a welcome speech at the luncheon for compatriots affected by the atomic bomb.
- 4 Lee Key-cheol (center left), commissioner of the Overseas Koreans Agency, welcomes a delegation of visiting atomic bomb victims at Incheon International Airport on Sept. 28.



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The luncheon featured dishes for feeling the Chuseok spirit, such as tricolor pancakes, traditional “japchae,” steamed abalone and grilled “tteokgalbi.” Additionally, the Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation’s artistic troupe put on a “gayageum” trio performance and a fan dance, as well as a congratulatory performance by baritone Kim Dong-kyu.

Before leaving the event, President Yoon told his compatriots, “I hope you can experience firsthand your country in its developed state and enjoy the autumn atmosphere of your homeland.”

The ceremony was attended by 43 atomic bomb victims and their families in Hiroshima, Japan, and 43 victims and their families in South Korea, as well as People Power Party Rep. Kim Ki-hyun; Rep. Yoon Jae-ok, floor leader of the ruling party; Cho Tae-yong, the national security adviser; Kim Eun-hye, chief of public relations; Kim Tae-hyo, deputy head of the security office; and Lee Key-cheol, commissioner of the Overseas Koreans Agency.

OKA’s ‘Caring for Compatriots’ program invites Hiroshima atomic bomb victims and their families

Forty-three atomic bomb survivors and their families living in Hiroshima, Japan, arrived in Korea at Incheon International Airport on Sept. 28, as the first project of the Overseas Koreans Agency’s “Compassion for Compatriots” program.

“You have suffered for a long time due to radiation exposure, but from now on, the Overseas Koreans Agency will take an active role in supporting and embracing marginalized compatriots so that you can feel that the country and the homeland are by my side,” said OKA Commissioner Lee Key-cheol, who welcomed them at the airport.

The group stayed in Seoul until Oct. 3 and toured Gyeongbok Palace,

Insadong, the National Cemetery, Seodaemun Prison and Lotte Tower Observatory to experience the development of their homeland. Lee hosted a dinner to commemorate their sacrifices and suffering, and the Korean Red Cross Medical Center provided them with special health screenings.

The United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on Aug. 6 and 9, 1945, respectively. At the time, 50,000 Koreans were living in Hiroshima due to forced labor during the Japanese occupation, and it is estimated that up to 30,000 died. The OKA also invited Korean residents of Nagasaki to participate in the program, but it was postponed due to difficulties in their mobility due to their advanced age. [창](#)



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President Yoon holds luncheon with workers dispatched to Germany; ‘We will honor your sweat and dedication’

‘Your life is our modern history. Now it is Korea’s turn to serve you’



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President Yoon Suk Yeol invited 240 former German miners, nurses and nursing assistants living within and outside of Korea to a luncheon at the Grand Walkerhill Hotel in Gwangjin Ward, Seoul, on Oct. 4.

“I am happy to welcome you all in this meaningful year,” he said. “Your sweat and dedication were the foundation for Korea’s industrialization.

“In the 1960s and 1970s, Korea achieved the miracle of the Han River by using foreign currency sent by over 20,000 miners and nurses in Germany, a thousand miles away, as seed funding. ... Your lives are the modern history of our country.”

Yoon emphasized: “Your sense of responsibility to your family and homeland even in an unfamiliar environment and dangerous worksite created the Korea that we have today. Now it is Korea’s turn to thank and honor the miners and nurses dispatched to Germany. We will honor and remember your sweat and dedication in the name of the nation. We will take great care to ensure that the Overseas Koreans Agency, which was launched in June, can serve as a strong fortress.”

Event commemorating 60th anniversary of labor dispatch to Germany; first luncheon with workers sent to Germany

The office of President Yoon said this luncheon was an event to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the labor dispatch to Germany and the 140th anniversary of the establishment of

diplomatic relations between the two countries. The presidential office added that this was the first time that a current president has invited these workers to an exclusive luncheon. At the luncheon, the Glüngauf Choir, made up of 30 miners and nurses dispatched to Germany, performed “Lorelei,” “Bodhi Tree” and “Doraji Taryeong,” among others. First lady Kim Keon Hee, Foreign Affairs Minister Park Jin, Employment and Labor Minister Lee Jeong-sik, OKA Commissioner Lee Key-cheol and People Power Party floor leader Yoon Jae-ok were also in attendance.

OKA holds photo exhibition commemorating 60th anniversary of labor dispatch to Germany at Blue House

Meanwhile, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Korean labor dispatch to Germany, the Overseas Koreans Agency held a five-day photo exhibition at Chunchugwan at Cheong Wa Dae from Oct. 5-9. The exhibition was curated to commemorate and to express consolation and gratitude to the workers dispatched to Germany who gave their young adult lives to our country’s economic modernization. [\[Photo\]](#)

1 President Yoon Suk Yeol speaks at a luncheon, commemorating the 60th anniversary of the labor dispatch to Germany, at the Grand Walkerhill Seoul in Gwangjin Ward, Seoul, on Oct. 4.

2 President Yoon Suk Yeol looks at photos of workers dispatched to a mining site in Germany prior to the luncheon.

OKA to ‘inspire pride among compatriots by including Korea’s history of growth in foreign textbooks’

Road map announced at OKA’s 100th-day meeting; ‘We will lead amicable relationship between compatriot community and home country’

“The Overseas Koreans Agency seeks to actively promote public diplomacy together with overseas Koreans. We will focus on including Korea’s history of growth in the textbooks of resident countries so that our compatriots can own and take pride in their Korean identity and stay active,”



OKA Commissioner Lee Key-cheol gives an opening speech at a press conference in the conference room of the OKA in Yeonsu Ward, Incheon, on Sept. 13 to mark the OKA’s 100th day.

OKA Commissioner Lee Key-cheol announced at a press conference on Sept. 13 to mark the 100th day of the launch of the OKA. The OKA was launched on June 5 after being upgraded from the Overseas Koreans Foundation (OKF) under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to an external agency.

“Including Korea’s history of political and economic development in foreign textbooks will form a link between the home country and the next generation of Koreans who are being localized in their new countries,” Lee said. “Ultimately, this will become the foundation for the coexistence of the overseas Korean society and Korea.

“Among the 80 countries that gained independence after World War II, Korea is the only country that has simultaneously achieved democracy and economic growth that meets the level of the European Union (EU). This is something the Korean community should feel proud of. Public diplomacy projects are about promoting Korea not only through foreign textbooks but also the local media, so we plan to pursue them in collaboration with compatriot communities who have knowledge about the local circumstances.”

Commissioner Lee said: “Unlike the OKF, the OKA has the authority to establish policies. To utilize this function, we have held meetings since the launch with Koreans in four countries, including the U.S. and Japan, and by next year, we will hold conferences in over 20 countries, including China, where many overseas Koreans live. Through these meetings, we plan to understand urgent issues and gather opinions.”

It was announced that these meetings would specifically focus on expanding the scope of granting permanent returns to Sakhalin Koreans, relaxing provisions on nationality renunciation to resolve the issue of innate dual nationality and improving the legal status of overseas adoptees in their countries of residence.

Increasing budget to support Korean language schools, underprivileged compatriots, compatriots residing in Korea

It was also announced that the OKA’s budget had increased significantly. In comparison with the OKF’s 2023 budget -- 63 billion won (US\$46 million) -- the 2024 budget is 105.5 billion won. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs increased the overall budget for overseas Koreans, but even without this, the OKA’s budget has been increased by 14.7 billion won.


“This reflects the significance of overseas Koreans, especially considering how the government is curtailing its overall spending,” Commissioner Lee said.

He specifically emphasized that the budget for fostering the next generation has been increased.

“We increased the support for the operation of Korean language schools and teacher training by 28 percent, from 16 billion won to 20.4 billion won, and increased the scale of next-generation invitation training from 2,300 to 3,000 people,” he said. “We plan to increase the number to 9,000 within five years.”

The projects to invite underprivileged compatriots and support compatriots residing in Korea were introduced as the OKA’s new initiatives. The OKA will invite compatriots who have been relatively marginalized, such as Koreans in Japan affected by the atomic bombing, workers dispatched to Germany and Koryo-saram, to enhance their bonds with the home country. In addition, as a solution to the population cliff, a project to help overseas Koreans stay and settle in their home country will be carried out.

Until now, the target of the OKF’s projects was limited to Koreans living abroad, so compatriots living in Korea were excluded from various types of support. The OKA plans to provide support for them to help them feel a sense of belonging as members of their home country. Regarding the projects that the Overseas Koreans Foundation had been carrying out, Lee added that he will push for internal improvements to engender better outcomes.

“We have recently assigned the necessary personnel for each department through a competitive recruitment process, so various projects will soon be on track,” he said. “We will strive to become an office that is more open and directly communicates with the people to resolve immediate issues for our compatriots.” 

First Korean Day ceremony after establishment of Overseas Koreans Agency

President Yoon: ‘Compatriots are our reliable supporters. We will expand playing field for these 7.5 million people’

President Yoon Suk Yeol spoke at the 17th Korean Day ceremony at Lotte Hotel World in Jamsil, Seoul, on Oct. 5.

“We will strengthen our global network and expand the playing field for our businesses, people and 7.5 million compatriots around the world to gather and run together,” he said. “The government, with the Overseas Koreans Agency at the center, will keep a close eye on our compatriots around the world.”

The ceremony was the first Korean Day event organized by the Overseas Koreans Agency since its launch in June and was held in conjunction with the 2023 World Korean Association Presidents’ Conference.

“The 120-year history of immigration, which began in search of new opportunities, has been a great momentum for developing Korea’s capabilities,” Yoon said. “The money earned from the hot sugar cane fields of Hawaii and the cactus farms of Central and South America was used to fund our country’s independence. Remittances from miners and nurses dispatched to Germany became valuable core funds of our industrialization process. I’m not sure if you’re aware that 90 percent of Korean embassies in Japan, including the embassy and consulate general, were built thanks to donations from Korean residents in Japan. That’s how special the love our overseas compatriots had for their home country was.”

President Yoon expressed his pride, saying, “Our compatriots’ initial overseas expansion started out arduous and insignificant, but through your hard work, you have written the great immigration and economic history of Koreans.

“We will contribute more to and cooperate more with the international community so that our compatriots can have pride in their home country,” he said, entreating “compatriots to join us and help us realize our vision of becoming a global hub that contributes to freedom, peace and prosperity around the world.”

In attendance were 450 people, including first lady Kim Keon Hee, Foreign Affairs Minister Park Jin; Overseas Koreans Agency Commissioner Lee Key-cheol; National Security Adviser Cho Tae-yong; Kim Tae-hyo, first deputy chief of the National Security Office; Rep. Kim Seok-ki, chair of the Overseas Koreans Committee; and Rep. Tae Young-ho, as well as presidents of Korean associations from 192 regions around the world.

‘Pachinko’ star Park Sohee, a third-generation Korean Japanese, ‘As Zainichis, we have 200 percent of Korea and Japan in our identity’

Park Sohee, a Hollywood actor who is third-generation Korean Japanese and a U.S. citizen, read a speech at the event as a representative of the next generation of overseas Koreans. Park starred as the second son in “Pachinko,” a drama that chronicles four generations of a family who immigrated to Japan during the Japanese occupation.

“As my Japanese friend asked, ‘Which country should I go back to?’ Through the drama ‘Pachinko,’ I found the country I was looking for,” said Park, who goes by the name Soji Arai in Hollywood. “It was good to be able to promote the existence of Zainichi through the drama. I am a proud Zainichi who is 200 percent Korean and Japanese. I would like to say to Korean compatriots around the world, only when we live our lives without losing our Korean identity will we truly become 200 percent of ourselves.

“As a Zainichi I hope to make you proud as an overseas Korean, and I hope Korea will build a strong fence for me,” he continued, drawing loud applause from the audience.

In his speech at the ceremony, Kim Byung-jik, co-president of the Federation of Korean Associations USA, said, “Together with President Yoon Suk Yeol, the No. 1 salesman for Korea, we will also become 7.5 million salespeople and actively promote the 2030 Busan Expo bid and ‘hallyu’ culture.”

The ceremony also featured the presentation of governmental awards to five compatriots, including the awarding of the Grand Order of Mugunghwa to Bae Hyo-joon, chairman of the Asia Foundation, in recognition of his contributions to cultural exchanges between Korea and Japan over the past 35 years.

2023 World Korean Association Presidents’ Conference seeks shared growth of compatriots and motherland

The 2023 World Korean Association Presidents’ Conference, which brings



together leaders of the Korean community from around the world to seek shared growth between the diaspora and their home countries, was held at the Lotte Hotel World Crystal Ballroom in Jamsil, Seoul, from Oct. 4-6. Held under the slogan “Proud Overseas Koreans, Strong Korea,” this year’s conference was attended by around 500 people, including the current presidents of Korean associations from over 60 countries and executives from federations of Korean associations, as well as more than 100 representatives from the National Assembly and related government agencies.

The opening ceremony on Oct. 4 was attended by Kim Seok-ki, chairman of the National Committee for Overseas Koreans (People Power Party); Lim Jong-sung, senior vice president of the World Democratic Congress (Democratic Party of Korea); Rep. Tae Young-ho (PPP), Reps. Kim Hong-gul and Lee Won-wook (DP); Lee Key-cheol, commissioner of the Overseas Koreans Agency; Incheon Mayor Yoo Jeong-bok; and Park Ki-tae, president of the cyber diplomatic network VANK.

From overseas, attendees included event co-chairs Yeo Geon-yi, head of the Korean Residents Union in Japan (Mindan), and Kim Byung-jik, president of The Federation of Korean Associations USA, who were joined by the presidents of Korean association federations by continent, including Shim Sang-man, president of the World Assembly of Korean Associations; Yoon Hee, president of the Asian Federation of Korean Associations; and Yoo Je-heon, president of the Association of Korean Residents in Europe.

OKA commissioner: ‘We will do our best to provide practical help to overseas Koreans’

The event featured discussions on the current issues in 10 regions, including the U.S., Europe, Canada and Asia, as well as presentations on the best practices of Korean associations. In addition, dialogues with government agencies, such as the Ministry of Justice and the National Election Commission, were held, and booths for related organizations were also operated. In particular, the “Dialogue with the Government” program provided an overall explanation of the Overseas Koreans Agency’s policies for Koreans and introduced the one-stop civil request handling service provided by the Service Support Center that compatriots can use when visiting Korea.

At the plenary session on the closing day of the conference on Oct. 6, the Korean association presidents adopted eight resolutions, including “Becoming a global hub and contributing to the shared prosperity of mankind,” “Making joint efforts to foster overseas Korean identity and pride,” “Conducting public

diplomacy to promote Korea’s development,” “Amending the Nationality Act to improve the overseas voting system and resolving the issue of multiple nationalities,” “Urging the establishment of an overseas Korean educational and cultural center” and “Supporting the Busan Expo bid.”

The best case study of a Korean association’s operation was selected as the Korean Association of Turkey, which presented a project to build a Korean village for victims of the Turkey earthquake. The co-chairs of the next congress will be Kim Jum-bae, president of the Middle East and Africa Korean Association, and Hyun Kwang-hoon, president of the Federation of Korean Associations in Oceania.

In his closing speech, OKA Commissioner Lee Key-cheol said: “The greatest meaning of this convention is that we were able to meet and communicate directly with the heads of Korean organizations from around the world. The Overseas Koreans Agency will do its best to provide practical help to the 7.5 million overseas Koreans.” [창](#)

1 President Yoon Suk Yeol (5th from L) and first lady Kim Keon Hee (6th from L) pose for a photo with the attendees of the 2023 World Korean Association Presidents’ Conference and 17th Korean Day ceremony at Lotte Hotel World in Jamsil, Seoul, on Oct. 5.

2 Park Sohee, a third-generation Korean Japanese (Zainichi) and actor who starred in the drama “Pachinko,” based on the international best-selling novel, gives a speech during the 2023 World Korean Association Presidents’ Conference and 17th World Korean Day ceremony.

3 Lee Key-cheol, commissioner of the Overseas Koreans Agency, delivers a final speech at the closing ceremony of the 2023 World Korean Association Presidents’ Conference at Lotte Hotel World in Seoul on Oct. 6.

President Yoon Suk Yeol holds meeting with compatriots in New Delhi

President Yoon Suk Yeol visited New Delhi, India, the host of a Group of 20 (G20) summit, on Sept. 8, where he met with Korean compatriots living in India.

“India is an important partner that we should work together with to build an Indo-Pacific region of freedom, peace and prosperity based on freedom, human rights and the rule of law,” Yoon said at a dinner for compatriots at a hotel in New Delhi. “With this year being the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our two countries, Korea-India relations have been developing non-stop.”

‘Thanks to your efforts in opening up the market alongside our companies, our bilateral relationship was able to develop’

“Since the early 1990s, when India’s economy was opening up, Korean companies have boldly entered the country, and Samsung, LG, Hyundai and Kia are now beloved brands in India,” Yoon said. “More recently, our companies have expanded into sectors such as finance, defense, food and clothing. It is thanks to your efforts in opening up the Indian market alongside our companies that our bilateral relationship has grown to this point.”

President Yoon also referred to the launch of the Overseas Koreans Agency on June 5, explaining, “The Overseas Koreans

Agency will closely connect you to your homeland and play the role of a reliable fence by becoming a global business hub for all overseas Koreans.

“We will also provide customized services for you as you pursue your entrepreneurial endeavors,” he added. “I ask you to work hard at the forefront of bilateral economic cooperation. If you have any difficulties or wishes for the government of your home country, please do not hesitate to tell us.”

“Korea will contribute more to the international community and play a more active role in solving the challenges of humanity as a whole,” President Yoon concluded. “This is not only for the sake of contributing to freedom, peace and prosperity in the world but also for the sake of Korea.”

In his welcoming remarks, Kang Ho-bong, president of the Korean Association of India, said, “Unlike the diaspora in other countries who abandoned India following the evacuation orders of their home countries during the difficult COVID-19 pandemic, most of our compatriots stayed in India and overcame the difficulties together with Indians. This has become an opportunity to further raise the profile of Koreans in India.”

President Yoon and first lady Kim Keon Hee received flower bouquets from a group of men and women dressed in traditional Korean and Indian attire.





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- 1 President Yoon Suk Yeol and first lady Kim Keon Hee listen to welcoming remarks by Kang Ho-bong (front row, far right), president of the Korean Association of India, at a dinner for Indian compatriots at a hotel in New Delhi on Sept. 8.
- 2 President Yoon Suk Yeol (C) poses for a photo with business leaders at a luncheon for Korean businesspeople in India at a hotel in New Delhi on Sept. 10.
- 3 President Yoon Suk Yeol delivers an encouraging speech at a dinner for Korean compatriots in India at a hotel in New Delhi on Sept. 8.
- 4 President Yoon Suk Yeol holds a bilateral meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Bharat Mandapam, a summit venue in New Delhi, India, on Sept. 10.

Luncheon meeting with businesses in India

President Yoon also met with Korean businessmen in India on Sept. 10. During a luncheon meeting at a hotel in New Delhi, he discussed the market conditions and entry strategies in India with entrepreneurs, and also heard about the challenges they face in the country, including customs clearance, administrative regulations and infrastructure. President Yoon spoke words of encouragement to entrepreneurs who are raising the profile of Korean brands in the Indian market and noted that he will actively support them to resolve difficulties so that Korean companies can fully utilize the strategic opportunities in the Indian market.

Agreement reached to strengthen strategic communication and cooperation at summit with Modi

President Yoon held a summit with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the same day and agreed to strengthen strategic communication and cooperation between the two countries as key partners in the Indo-Pacific region. The two leaders reached the agreement at a separate bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit. This year marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Korea and India.

According to the office of President Yoon, the two countries agreed to continue working together to ensure the smooth progress of the second batch of K-9 self-propelled howitzers (Indian name:

Vajra), a symbol of defense cooperation between the two countries, and to develop cooperation in the security and defense sector.

The two leaders also appreciated that Korean companies have been working together to build a stable supply chain in India by continuing to expand their investments in high-tech manufacturing industries, including electric vehicles, and decided to expand the scope of supply chain cooperation, focusing on new industries, such as IT and electronics.

Mutually noting that the Republic of Korea successfully launched the Nuri rocket in May and India’s lunar probe Chandrayaan-3 successfully landed on the south pole of the moon in August, they agreed to strengthen space cooperation based on the two countries’ excellent space development capabilities. Yoon and Modi also plan to advance negotiations on improving the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the two countries.

Yoon requested Modi’s special attention to the creation of a customs clearance environment and the removal of import restrictions so that Korean companies can continue to expand their investments in India. In the area of security, the two leaders agreed that North Korea’s unprecedented provocations pose a serious threat to peace and stability not only on the Korean Peninsula but also to the international community as a whole and require a united and decisive response from the international community. [출처]

GLOBAL KOREAN



Andy Kim announces candidacy; will he be first Korean American to be elected to U.S. Senate?

Running against New Jersey Sen. Menendez, who has been indicted on bribery charges

Andy Kim (41), a second-generation Korean American congressman who won his third term as a member of the Democratic Party in New Jersey, is running for the U.S. Senate. The American news channel CNN reported on Sept. 23 that Rep. Kim announced his intention to run for the U.S. Senate in New Jersey. He plans to run in the party's primary election against incumbent Bob Menendez, another Democrat. Menendez was indicted by federal prosecutors on Sept. 22 on charges of receiving cash and gold bars as a bribe from entrepreneurs in New Jersey, his local constituency.

On the same day, Rep. Kim announced his candidacy on X (formerly known as Twitter), saying, "I feel the responsibility to make Menendez step down," after mentioning that Rep. Menendez refused to resign from his seat in Congress despite criticism from within the party. "The Democrats cannot lose the New Jersey Senate race or undermine the integrity of our country," he said, adding, "It is time to restore our faith in democracy." If Kim wins the Senate election after the Democratic primaries next year, he will become the first Korean American U.S. senator.

Kim, who grew up in southern New Jersey, is a Middle East security expert who graduated from the University of Chicago. He was selected as a Rhodes Scholar and granted a doctorate in international relations from the University of Oxford in England. He joined the State Department in September 2009 as an Iraq expert, and he served in 2011 as a strategic adviser to the commander of U.S. forces in Kabul, Afghanistan.

From 2013 to February 2015, he served as an adviser for Iraq at the Department of Defense and the White House National Security Council (NSC), contributing to the response to the Islamic State (IS), a militant Sunni organization. Rep. Kim's local constituency is South Central New Jersey, where Republicans hold strong ground, but he managed to be elected to a third term as a member of the House of Representatives in last year's midterm elections.

Rep. Cho Sung-hoon appointed as minister of long-term care in Ontario, Canada

Second Korean minister in Ontario after Cho Sung-joon

Deputy Transport Minister Cho Sung-hoon (English name Stan Cho, 46), a second-generation Korean Canadian, was appointed as the minister of long-term care in Ontario, the province containing Canada's largest city of Toronto and Ottawa, the capital, with a total population of 14.5 million people.

Doug Ford, the premier of Ontario, presided over a cabinet reshuffle on Sept. 5, which included appointing Minister Cho as the new minister of long-term care. He is the second overseas Korean to become a minister in Ontario -- the first being the current minister of senior welfare, Cho Sung-joon (English name Raymond Cho, 86).

Minister Cho Sung-hoon was successfully reelected in the state assembly election in



June last year by residents of the Willowdale constituency in North York. A native of Willowdale, Toronto, he formerly worked in the real estate industry. He also took the lead in serving the Korean Canadian community by being the moderator at major events, such as the Peace Marathon and the Chuseok Korean Festival.

Having worked in Minister Cho Sung-joon's camp, he entered the state legislature in 2018 and served on the Finance Committee and as the assistant minister of finance before being selected as the deputy minister of transportation.

The local Korean community has welcomed Minister Cho's appointment, saying the construction of a second Korean nursing home got a green light. Cho also suggested to "work together with the Ministry of Senior Welfare to promote projects, such as the construction of a new nursing home."

Fullerton Mayor Fred Jung elected vice chairman of League of California Cities' board

1.5-generation Korean American who migrated at age of 5; Fullerton's first Korean American mayor

Fullerton Mayor Fred Jung, a 1.5-generation Korean American, was elected as the vice chairman of the board of the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), a consultative body of cities in California. Overseas Korean media, including local Korean broadcasters, announced on Sept. 20 that Jung was elected during the recently held annual Cal Cities meeting.

With 476 member cities, Cal Cities is a collective that was created to defend the rights and interests of each Californian city. Vice Chairman Jung will oversee the league's Transportation, Communications and Public Works Committee until December next year. The committee is comprised of 70 councilmen from municipalities that include Orange, Los Angeles, San Diego, Riverside County, Central Valley, Imperial Valley, North Bay, Monterey Bay and Sacramento Valley.

Vice Chairman Jung gave his impressions, saying, "I will work to ensure that the voices of Koreans living in each city are reflected in California's state policies."

Vice Chairman Jung currently serves as the chairman of the Orange County Power Authority (OCPA) Board of Directors, vice chairman of the Transportation Committee of the Orange County Transportation Authority and director of the Metropolitan Water Authority of Southern California.

His family migrated to the U.S. when he was 5, and while growing up in Fullerton, Orange County, he witnessed the Los Angeles Riots of April 29, 1992. After graduating from the University of Southern California (USC) with a degree in political science, he worked in business and ran a nonprofit organization for youth. He served as the city transportation and circulation commissioner, Sunny Hills High School football coach, parks and recreation commissioner and police search commissioner.

In November 2020, he became the first Korean American to be elected a city councilman of Fullerton, a city with a population of about 140,000, and was elected as the first Korean American mayor at the plenary session of the City Council held the following year. 🇺🇸



‘Living witness of Korean community in Vietnam’; Lee Sun-heung, former president of Korean Association in Ho Chi Minh City, passes away

Lee Sun-heung, former president of the Ho Chi Minh Korean Association in Vietnam, has passed away at the age of 85. The Ho Chi Minh Korean Association reported that former President Lee passed away on the night of Sept. 20 and that the funeral was held by the Ho Chi Minh Korean Association on the second floor of the annex of the Korean Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly the Korean Community Center).

According to the Ho Chi Minh Korean Association, the deceased, who was called “a living witness of the Korean community in Vietnam,” established a presence in South Vietnam in 1968 through his company, which exported materials, such as scrap iron and non-ferrous metals, to the country.

Seven years later, on April 30, 1975, the capital city of Ho Chi Minh City (then known as Saigon) fell to the communist North Vietnamese army, and he was interned there for six years until May 1981. This was because on that day, while helping the Korean mission and compatriots who remained in Ho Chi Minh City, he missed the last helicopter of the withdrawing U.S. forces.

He served as the second and third president of the Ho Chi Minh Korean Association on behalf of more than 150 compatriots who did not make it out of Vietnam during this period, helping them in phased exits from the country, and also supporting eight Korean diplomats who were detained, including Lee Dae-yong, the then Korean consul in Vietnam. This event was publicized to the world in a book the consul later wrote, called “The Saigon Detainees.”

A graduate of Deoksusang High School and the English Department of the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Lee returned to Vietnam in 1994, two years after South Korea and



Lee Sun-Heung, former president of the Ho Chi Minh Korean Association in Vietnam

Vietnam established diplomatic relations, to reopen his business. He worked in trade brokerage and real estate investment consulting, and also founded a local business magazine called Vietnam Today. He also served as the first chairman of the Vietnam Council at the World Federation of Overseas Korean Traders Associations (World OKTA) and the sixth chairman of the board of the Korean International School in Ho Chi Minh City. For his achievements, he was awarded the Tongil Medal of the Order of National Security Merit by the Korean government in 1981 and was designated a Person of Distinguished Service to the State in 1993.

Son In-sun, president of the Federation of Koreans in Vietnam and the Ho Chi Minh Korean Association, said, “We are deeply saddened by the loss of the deceased, who made a mark in the history of the Vietnamese diaspora and contributed greatly to building the foundation of the Korean community in Vietnam.” 장



Korean high school student Choi Jun-hyuk selected for New Zealand's national table tennis team


Also selected as junior representative; 'Goal is to qualify for 2024 Olympics in Paris'

A Korean high school student in New Zealand has been selected to play for the country's national table tennis team. The Korea Post, a local Korean compatriot newspaper, reported on Sept. 21 that Choi Jun-hyuk, 15, a student at the prestigious Auckland Grammar School (AGS) for boys, will represent New Zealand after placing first at the recent national trials.

Choi has been selected for the under-13 and under-15 junior national teams every year since he was 10, and this time, he was selected to the national team. He will participate in major international tournaments organized by Table Tennis New Zealand (TTNZ). Starting in early October, he will compete in back-to-back tournaments in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and Doha, Qatar.

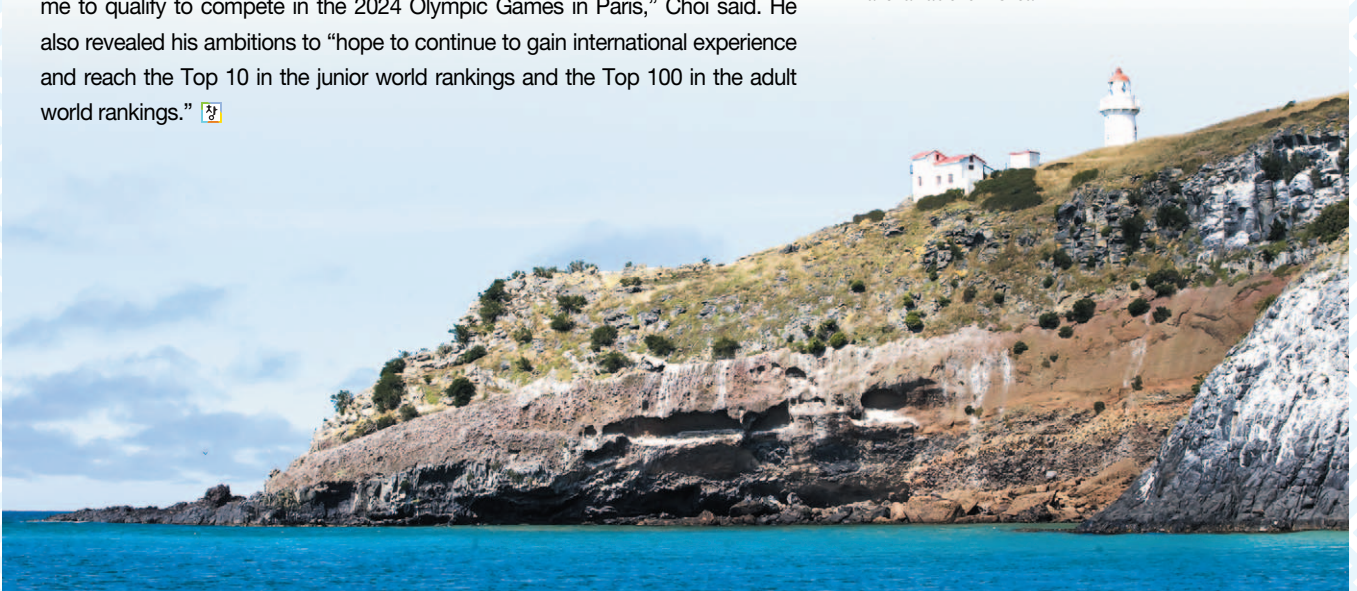
Over the years, Choi has achieved victory in the Olympic qualifiers, the Oceania Championships and the North Island Championships, and has been ranked first in the adult men's singles and doubles, as well as placing first in the under-19 singles and doubles. He first started playing table tennis at age 7. He started playing for fun with his father but quickly became hooked.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, he used to fly to South Korea every December for a monthlong training camp. This was because a friend of his father's was the head coach of a middle and high school table tennis team.

"My current goal is to win the Oceania continental qualifier, which will allow me to qualify to compete in the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris," Choi said. He also revealed his ambitions to "hope to continue to gain international experience and reach the Top 10 in the junior world rankings and the Top 100 in the adult world rankings." 



Choi Jun-hyuk (15) has been selected for the New Zealand national table tennis team.



Korean American pastor in U.S. who listens to dying patients' 'last words'

CNN interviews Park Joon, who worked for 8 years at Tampa General Hospital in Florida

Broadcaster CNN reported on the story of Park Joon (41), a pastor of Korean heritage who worked at a general hospital in the United States and listened to the stories of thousands of dying patients. On Sept. 19 CNN reported, "He still thinks about his patients even after they're gone from this world," as part of a detailed report on Park's work at the hospital over the years.

A young man living on the streets who dreamed of becoming a musician before he was diagnosed with cancer told Park on his deathbed, "I'm sorry I couldn't fulfill my dreams," and shared with him one last song about the home he never had. A mother who lost her newborn triplets all at once let out an anguished scream in front of Park. A teenage girl, terrified of death, asked him to pray that she would not die.

The pastor calls himself a "grief catcher," spending the past eight years as a chaplain at the 1,400-bed Tampa General Hospital in Florida, where he sat by the side of the dying. As he became deeply invested in the lives of the patients he met, he looks back on the experience as "like living another life."

'Pain of childhood abuse led me to the path of chaplaincy. I want to comfort patients' souls'

Childhood wounds played a large role in Park's decision to become a hospital chaplain. A second-generation Korean American immigrant, he grew up in Largo, Florida. Under his parents, who valued adult authority, he recalls that he was verbally and physically abused as a child. As an adult, he struggled to heal his inner wounds and overcome his trauma, and found solace in spirituality.



"I was trying my best, but I was exhausted and depressed," he said. "I had some serious trauma that affected my ability to immerse myself in anything." Through counseling and deep reflection, he learned that his wounds could be a pathway to beauty.

He chose to become a pastor because he wanted to become the role model that he wanted to have as a child, and after graduating from a seminary in North Carolina, he entered Tampa General Hospital because "I wanted to help people who have been traumatized like me to have a voice."

Park says that his own life experiences have allowed him to empathize more deeply with patients and their families, adding, "Working as a chaplain has taught me to see, hear and become other people, without any agenda whatsoever and with only complete compassion and understanding."

1 Pastor Park Joon (L) and his fellow chaplains at Tampa General Hospital (Captured from Joon's Facebook page)

2 Pastor Park Joon (R), a chaplain at Tampa General Hospital in Tampa, Florida, sings a hymn while playing the guitar at the hospital with a fellow chaplain. (Captured from CNN's homepage)

3 Chaplain Park Joon (Captured from an X post by Park Joon, @jsparkblog)



'Therapist' -- halfway between priest and therapist

Park also described himself as a "therapist," a personality halfway between a priest and a therapist, and said his calling is to listen to patients and comfort them, rather than serving a religious purpose.

"We can have religious conversations if they want to but most of our conversations are very diverse, ranging from mental health to grief," he said. "We're in that space between faith and death, and whatever form they want to have this conversation in, I am there for them."

He has shared his hospital experiences on social media, including Instagram and X (formerly known as Twitter), where he has conversations with people around the topic of death. Recently, he wrote, "A few reminders from someone who faces grief every week: You don't have to laugh in every situation. Just because you're laughing doesn't mean you're not sad." He said he loves his work but inevitably "anxiety around death" is part of his everyday life.

"When I'm sitting with a friend, I think, 'This could be the last time I see this person.' We're just paper lanterns, really. We can burn out at any moment."

He says that this forces him to make the best of every moment in his relationships.

'My hope is to care for the patient in their entirety as they find freedom'

Howard Tuch, director of palliative medicine at the hospital, said that Park and other chaplains play an important role in supporting

patients and families at the hospital. Park said a common theme among dying patients is regret, noting that most of their regrets are that they did "what other people wanted, not what I wanted."

He said: "This is not always our fault, sometimes it's because of the resources we have or the system or the culture around us didn't allow it. ... It's my hope that we can now fully see and hear the patients who have gone to freedom." 🙏

Lim Mina, Los Angeles correspondent, Yonhap News Agency



‘Hyeonhaetan,’ play about colonial youth’s anti-Japanese activism, opens in Tokyo

A play based on the novel “Hyeonhaetan,” which depicts how a young Korean man’s national consciousness awoke during the Japanese occupation and his subsequent anti-Japanese activism, ran in Tokyo on Sept. 2-3. Written in 1954 by Kim Dal-Soo, a first-generation Korean Japanese novelist, “Hyeonhaetan” depicts the national consciousness of Korean intellectuals before liberation.



A scene from the play “Hyeonhaetan” staged in Tokyo, Japan

The play has been recognized by mainstream literary circles for its outstanding portrayal of inhumane Japanese colonial rule, and was nominated for the Akutagawa Prize, Japan’s highest literary award. The play follows the protagonist as he feels the shame of his role as a journalist employed by the Kyung-sung Ilbo, the newspaper of the

Japanese colonial government, subsequently joining the anti-Japanese movement to restore his national pride.

The play, which was staged at Tokyo’s Sengawa Theatre with the support of the Ministry of Overseas Japanese Affairs, features actor Ninomiya Satoshi, who previously appeared in a one-man show about the life of poet Yun Dong-ju.

“This play is designed to spread the message of peace and coexistence

that the author portrays in his work far and wide,” said Oh Mun-ja, a Korean Japanese essayist who led the group that organized the performance. “Only by facing the dark history of modern bilateral relations can Japan and South Korea build a relationship of mutual benefit and cooperation.”

Oh Hye-young elected 34th chairman of Australia Korea Cultural Exchange Association

First female chairman: ‘I will help enrich the lives of immigrants’

Oh Hye-young has been elected as the 34th chairman of the Australia Korea Cultural Exchange Association of Sydney, Australia. In an election held Sept. 23, Oh defeated three other candidates to become the 34th chairman, the Sydney Korean Association announced. Oh, who represents more than 100,000 Koreans in Sydney, is the first female chairman in the organization’s history and began her two-year term in October.

After immigrating to Australia in the late 1980s and working in banking, she served as a Korean school teacher for 10 years and a Korean school vice principal for eight years. In 2019, she established the Australia Korea



Oh Hye-young (L), the 34th chairman of the Sydney Korean Association, with Vice Chairman Shin Jeong-gu

Cultural Exchange Association, and under the supervision of the Australia Day Council, she received federal government funding to host Australia Day celebrations, including a conference for senior Koreans and multicultural senior ministers. Recently, the association opened a cultural school, Doan College, which runs various programs for Korean seniors.

“I want to help Korean Australians quench their thirst for a diverse cultural life in multicultural Australia and enrich their immigrant lives,” Chairman Oh said.

Her running mate, lawyer Shin Jeong-gu, was elected vice chairman.

Museum of Korea Emigration History presents special exhibition on history of Korean immigrants in Japan

5-part series on history of Korean Japanese who contributed to their homeland

The Museum of Korea Emigration History (Kim Sang-yeol, director) is holding a special exhibition highlighting the history of Korean Japanese who contributed to their homeland. The special exhibition, titled “Koreans who overcame hardship to stand tall, Zainichi, or Korean Japanese,” opened Aug. 29 and will run until Dec. 3.

Part 1 of the exhibition, “Prologue,” introduces “Family Portraits,” which shows the personal histories of Korean Japanese. Parts 2 and 3, titled “From Colonial Korea to Members of the Inner Circle” and “From Koreans to Zainichi,” respectively, focus on the history of the Koreans in Japan during the Japanese colonial period and the laying of their roots in Japanese



The Museum of Korea Emigration History's "Illumination of Korean-Japanese History Special Exhibition"

society amid discrimination after independence.

Part 4, “Koreans in Japan, Standing Tall in the Archipelago,” and Part 5, “Epilogue,” introduce examples of contributions, from Korean Japanese student soldiers who volunteered to fight in the Korean War and businessmen investing in the motherland to donations to the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games and the donation of land for a public Korean hall in Japan.

The exhibition is being held in collaboration with the Korean-Japanese History Museum and the Kang Deok-Sang Data Center of the Dongnong Memorial Association.

Korean American Foundation Hawaii installs signs at 14 historic sites of Civil Rights Movement

In commemoration of the 120th anniversary of Korean immigration to the United States, the Hawaii branch of the Korean American Foundation (KAF) announced on Sept. 15 that it has recently installed plaques at all 14 of Hawaii's independence movement sites.

With the support of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Hawaii chapter has been working to install signs at independence movement sites since January, starting at the Christ United Methodist Church, the first Korean American church overseas. In particular, the Oahu cemetery, where more than 900 early immigrants are buried, erected a memorial marker to honor an unknown independence activist.

The marker includes a handwritten “Thank You” from Veterans Affairs Secretary Park Min-sik. The Department of Hawaiian Affairs also reconstructed the gravestone of independence leader Won Myung-chung, who is buried at Oahu Cemetery, with the support of



Officials pose for a photo at a cemetery in Oahu, Hawaii, after unveiling a memorial marker honoring unknown Korean American independence fighters.

the Department of Veterans Affairs.

A first-generation Hawaiian immigrant, Chung was awarded a prestigious medal in 2014 for his role in founding the Hap-Sung Association, the first anti-Japanese national organization in Hawaii, in 1907.

Gangjin Baekryun Temple and Dasan Chodang: ‘Holy place of Buddhist pursuits’ and ‘cradle of Silhak’

Two cultural relics 800 meters apart connected by mountain path on Mount Manduk



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- 1 A view of Gangjin Bay from Baekryun Temple
- 2 A portrait of Dasan Jeong Yak-yong
- 3 Dasan Chodang on Manduk Mountain in Gangjin
- 4 The second course of the “Jeong Yak-yong Namdo exile route” in Gangjin
- 5 A panoramic view of Baekryun Temple in Gangjin, South Jeolla Province

The sonorous chanting of sutras by a Buddhist nun praying at dawn flew through the thick raindrops falling from the eaves of the main hall of Baekryun Temple in Gangjin, South Jeolla Province, and echoed over Gangjin Bay. A quiet and cozy day began at Baekryun Temple, a 1,000-year-old temple located on Manduk Mountain (409 meters) in Gangjin. A mountain path of about 800 m connects Baekryun Temple to Dasan Chodang, the cradle of Dasan Studies compiled by Dasan Jeong Yak-yong (1762-1836), a Silhak (practical science) scholar in the late Joseon Dynasty. Manduk Mountain is also called Dasan because it is home to many wild tea trees. There is also a small peak named Dasan. Jeong Yak-yong, who studied Silhak in seclusion for over 10 years in his Chodang, took the name of this peak as his pen name. On Mandeok Mountain, the sacred site of Buddhism and the cradle of Silhak are side by side.

Baekryun Temple: home to eight state priests of Goryeo Dynasty and site of Baekryun Purification Movement

During the Goryeo Dynasty, Baekryun Temple produced eight state priests, the highest-ranking individuals of Buddhist priesthood, and is where the movement to purify the Buddhist religion during the dynasty’s military regime took shape. The temple’s main site, nestled in Mandeok Mountain and overlooking Gangjin Bay, is densely surrounded by camellia forests, bamboo and tea fields, which are now designated natural monuments. Baekryun Temple, once the largest temple in the country that housed around 800 people, is no longer as large or extravagant as its former reputation. Rather, it is quiet and gives the true feeling of a temple, which has become rarer these days. The Daeung Treasure Hall was designated as a national treasure of Korea in June this year.

In the early Joseon Dynasty, Prince Hyoryeong, King Sejong’s second older brother who was excluded from succession to the throne, stayed away from politics and became a monk at this temple. He stayed in seclusion for eight years at Baekryun Temple, located near the southern tip of the peninsula, and guided the local land reclamation project. Prince Yangnyeong, King Sejong’s eldest brother, also lived in Gyuldong Village, close to Baekryun Temple.

Jeong Yak-yong, a genius Joseon scholar who overcame despair with books and friends

Dasan Jeong Yak-yong is a figure who is most considered a genius of the Joseon Dynasty, along with Maewoldang Kim Si-seup, Yulgok Yi I and King Jeongjo the Great. Dasan, who was intelligent enough to learn the 1,000-character script at 4 years old and publish his own poetry collection at 10, was not only skilled in academics, art and medicine but was also a mathematician and scientist who designed boat bridges (“baedari”), Suwon Hwaseong Fortress and a crane for construction sites (“geojunggi”). For these feats, modern people gave him the nickname “Leonardo da Vinci of Joseon.”



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There were many Catholics around Dasan. Jeong Yak-jong, who was executed during the Catholic Persecution of 1801, was his third brother, and Hwang Sa-yong, who sparked the Hwang Sa-yong White Paper Incident that led to a large-scale arrest and execution of Catholics in Joseon, was his nephew-in-law. Lee Seung-hoon, the first Korean Catholic Baptist, was his brother-in-law.

Dasan, who was exiled to Gangjin in 1801 and lived there for 18 years, moved around taverns at first, including Sauijae, Goseong Temple's Boeun Sanbang, and finally settled in Dasan Chodang in 1808. Dasan, who wrote most of his 500 publications during his Chodang period, described his work as "the pain of having my ankle bone pierced three times." It appears that the reason Dasan was able to sublimate his frustration and despair into learning was because he had books and friends nearby.

Nokwudang, the old home of Gosan Yun Seon-do in Haenam, not far from Gangjin, had a library of over 2,000 books at the time. Among them were numerous Oriental classics, rare books and famous books published in China and Japan. Academics presume that Dasan borrowed books from Nokwudang, read them avidly and used them in his writings. In recognition of his life and achievements in seeking to enrich the lives of his people and pursuing the value of sustainable development as a civil servant, Jeong Yak-yong was the first Asian to be selected as a UNESCO World Memorial Figure in 2012.

Hyejang, the chief priest of Baekryun Temple, was also a great comfort to Dasan. Hyejang, who was well-versed in Confucian

scriptures and The Book of Changes, was influenced by Dasan's academic depth and frequently went down to Chodang from Baekryun Temple to exchange thoughts with him. Through Hyejang's introduction, Dasan also interacted with the Zen master Choui (Choui Seonsa) based at Daeheung Temple in nearby Haenam. Choui Seonsa, who was well-versed in academics and trained in writing poetry, established the Korean style of tea-making and is hence also known as the "Korean Tea Saint."

Jeong Yak-yong finished his major works at Chodang, including 'Mokminsimseo'

Chodang was originally a small mountain pavilion owned by the Haenam Yun family. Dasan, after being allowed to stay there, was finally able to find peace of mind and focus on training his pupils and writing. At Chodang, he completed or laid the foundation for major works, such as "Mokminsimseo." Chodang is divided into Dongam, where Dasan lived and used as a

writing room; Seoam, which was a space for his pupils; and the main building, which was used as a lecture space. During his free time, Dasan walked around valleys and ponds with his pupils, drank tea and recited poems about the scenery. Rather than being a lonesome residence in exile, Chodang was reborn as an ideal space for scholars and an important cradle for the academic history of the Joseon Dynasty.

'Jeong Yak-yong's Namdo exile route' connects Dasan historical sites

In Gangjin, there is a trail called "Jeong Yak-yong's Namdo exile route" that connects historical sites related to Dasan. It is a cultural and ecological trail with a total length of 65.7 kilometers. This route, which consists of four courses, starts in Jangsu Village in the Bukil district of Haenam, and continues through Jujak Mountain, Jujak Mountain Rock, the tomb of Dasan's son-in-law, Dasan Chodang, Baekryun Temple, Lee Hak-rae's birthplace, Sauijae, Goseong Temple's Boeun Sanbang and finally leads to Cheonhwang Temple on Wolchul Mountain in Yeongam. Gangjin, with a population of about 33,000, is not just a small corner of the Korean Peninsula but a site with a deep history, scholarship, religion and culture. The Buddhist monk presiding over morning meditation awakens the dawn of Baekryun Temple. Chants of Buddha's prayers, clear sounds of a wooden handbell and Buddhist temple bells linger for a long time as a profound resonance in the memories of living beings who rest here for a night. 🏯

OKA and VANK join forces for public diplomacy efforts around Republic of Korea

The Overseas Koreans Agency (OKA) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Voluntary Agency Network of Korea (VANK), a cyber diplomatic network, on Sept. 11 to better communicate Korea's development, history and culture to overseas Korean communities and their countries of residence. The MOU, which was signed at the OKA's office in Yeonsu Ward, Incheon, aims to inform the next generation of Koreans born, raised and localized overseas of how Korea is a nation to be proud of. It also aims to strengthen their identities as Koreans and inspire a sense of pride.

In addition to creating a favorable environment for the next generation of overseas Koreans to enter and participate in the mainstream society of their country of residence, OKA and VANK will work to improve the perception of overseas Koreans in Korea. Specifically, in order to accurately communicate Korea to the rest of the world, they will develop content related to political and economic developments, history and culture, foster the identities of overseas Korean youths and train overseas Korean language school teachers on Korean developments.



Lee Key-cheol (R), commissioner of the Overseas Koreans Agency, and Park Ki-tae, head of the cyber diplomatic mission VANK, pose for a photo after signing a memorandum of understanding to strengthen public diplomacy at the OKA headquarters in Yeonsu Ward, Incheon, on Sept. 11.

They also decided to promote public diplomacy with the Korean diaspora by including political and economic developments in local textbooks, such as the fact that Korea is the only country in the world that has transformed from an international aid recipient into a donor country. In addition, the two organizations will work together to improve awareness and understanding of the Korean diaspora, by coordinating efforts to promote the history of Korean migration and Korean compatriots' contributions to their motherland.

“Promoting the political and economic development of Korea far and wide is an important element in achieving the core objectives of the overseas Korean policy, which is to foster the identities of the Korean diaspora and integrate the next generation into the mainstream society of their country of residence,” said OKA Commissioner Lee Key-cheol.

“We will actively work together to ensure that public diplomacy with overseas Koreans is conducive to the mutual development of overseas Korean communities and their home countries,” said Park Ki-tae, the head of VANK.

World Assembly of Korean Associations delivers presentation on state of motherland contributions at National Assembly, sponsored by OKA

The World Assembly of Korean Associations (WAKA, Chairman Shim Sang-man), representing Korean associations around the world, held a presentation on the contributions of Korean associations in various countries to the motherland of Korea in the small meeting room No. 2 of the Korean National Assembly Members Office Building on Oct. 2.

The purpose of the presentation was to inform the Korean public about the public service and diplomacy of the Korean associations that have contributed to the independence, founding, industrialization and democratization of their countries.

At the seminar, titled “The Contributions of Korean Associations to Their Homelands, Present and Future,” Dr. Lee Jin-young, director of the Institute of International Relations at Inha University, gave a presentation on how Korean associations around the world have contributed to the developments of their homelands. Following this, Kim Woong-ki, a professor of the Institute of Japanese Studies at Hallym University,



A poster for the seminar “The Contributions of Korean Associations to Their Homelands, Present and Future” and the 2023 Workshop held by WAKA in October

presented the current contributions of the Korean Association of Central Luzon in the Philippines, the Korean Association of Siem Reap in Cambodia and Korean associations in Japan.

Representatives from The Federation of Korean Associations USA, the Korean Association of Alabama, the Korean Association of Pittsburgh, the European Federation of Korean Associations, and the Federation of Korean Associations in Asia and the Middle East also gave updates on their commitment to their home countries. The seminar was co-hosted by

Rep. Lim Jong-sung of the Democratic Party of Korea and the Inha University Institute of International Relations and sponsored by the Overseas Koreans Agency.

On Oct. 6, WAKA also hosted the 2023 Workshop at Olympia Hall in Olympic Parktel in Seoul, with more than 150 participants, including Chairman Shim Sang-man and the organization's advisers, executives, members and advisory board members.

Teacher training for Hangeul schools in Central America and Caribbean, sponsored by OKA

The Central American and Caribbean Hangeul School Council (President Jin Jung-ah) held the 9th Central American and Caribbean Hangeul School Teacher Training Program in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The training was held from Sept. 14-16 to encourage and strengthen the efforts of Hangeul school teachers, who have been leading the way in establishing the identity of the next generation of Koreans in Central America.

The event was attended by President Jin Jung-ah, Korean Embassy in the Dominican Republic Consul Son Il-seok, Dominican Korean Association President Choi Sang-min and more than 40 teachers from Hangeul schools in the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Guatemala. They received lectures from Yuk Hyo-chang, a professor of Korean language education at Digital Seoul Culture Arts University, and Lee Seung-min, the principal of the New Covenant Academy in Washington, D.C., on “Teaching Hangeul Using the Hoonmin System and the Discipleship Principle,” “Korean Pronunciation and Hangeul Education,” “Running a School and Council” and “Designing a Learning Plan,” among others. Following a cultural tour, a ceremony was held to recognize long-term educators.

In addition, the Central American and Caribbean Hangeul School Council signed a business agreement with the International Language Education Department at the Digital Seoul Culture Arts University to



Participants in the Central American Hangeul School Teacher Training Program pose for a photo in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

support Hangeul school teachers in obtaining teacher certifications and to promote online and offline education. This year’s training was sponsored by the Overseas Koreans Agency.

“Hangeul school teachers, who are at the forefront of Korean language and identity education, are the true independence fighters,” OKA Commissioner Lee Ki-chul said in a recorded congratulatory message. “We will do our best to improve treatments for poor working conditions.”

Overseas Koreans Foundation's Book Recommendations



'To My Respectable Father'

By Fukazawa Ushio

Translated by Lee Jae-bong, Jeon Mang

This is a full-length novel by Fukazawa Ushio (57), a second-generation Korean Japanese writer who has consistently published works on the subject of Koreans in Japan. Like much of Fukazawa’s work, “To My Respectable Father” depicts how the deep-seated racism that exists in Japan affects the lives of Koreans in Japan and, in turn, how their lives affect Japanese society.

A large part of the story follows the psychological turmoil and anxiety experienced by a mixed-raced woman named Totomi, who believed herself to be wholly Japanese, when she learns the shocking truth that her father is Korean and has been accused of espionage. Furthermore, the story of her becoming an expert on Korea, as well as the discriminatory and oppressive structure of Japanese society that is

revealed in the process of overcoming this problem, is another major theme of the novel. The process of resolving misunderstandings about her father, who disappeared during her childhood, is also an important pillar of the novel.

The father who Tomomi is searching for is indeed a very important figure in the novel. His life is barely visible on the surface, as evinced by the fact that the pseudonyms Sugihara Mitsuo and Lee Kwang-Nam, as well as his real names Kaneda and Kim, are also means of hiding himself. The author highlights remaining unseen as a way of life as a major literary theme. This novel makes the reader contemplate a new area of Korean Japanese literature.





Koryo-saram Culture Day celebrates Chuseok in Ussuriysk, Primorsky Krai Koryo-saram in Russia's Primorsky Krai held a festival to celebrate Chuseok. The National-Cultural Autonomy of Koreans of Ussuriysk held the 2023 7th Koryo-saram Culture Day at the Ussuriysk Korean Cultural Center on Sept. 29 and 30. This festival was held 16 years after its sixth event in 2007 and is also an event preparing for the 160th anniversary of Korean immigration to Russia coming up next year. Participants wore traditional "hanbok" and marched through downtown Ussuriysk, mingling with people of various ethnic groups and performing "samulnori" to liven up the atmosphere of Chuseok, the biggest holiday for Koreans. Koryo-saram Culture Day began in 2001 with the support of Koryo-saram organizations in Primorsky Krai, the Overseas Koreans Foundation (now the Overseas Koreans Agency) and the Northeast Asia Peace Solidarity to restore their historical and cultural identity.

History Museum of Japanese-Koreans in Japan holds 'Testimony of Great Kanto Earthquake Massacre' exhibition To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Great Kanto Earthquake, the History Museum of Japanese-Koreans (director Lee Seong-si) is holding a special exhibition to reveal the truth about the massacre of Koreans at the Central Hall of the Korean Residents Union in Japan. The exhibition, titled "Witnesses of History," is to be held from Sept. 1 to Nov. 24 and will collect and introduce historical materials, including testimonial records from those who experienced or witnessed the actual site at the time of the earthquake. The exhibition is divided into two sections: "Witnesses of that day 100 years ago," which introduces the records of testimonies in various investigations after witnessing the massacre, and "Witnesses who broke their long silence," who did not testify at the time but later confessed their observations of or involvement in the massacre. It also displays relevant books and manuscripts by the late former director Kang Deok-sang, who wrote "Memories of Massacres: The Great Kanto Earthquake," which first informed not only academia but also the general public about the massacre of Koreans.



300 Korean merchants to help South Chungcheong Province companies export products Korean merchants in the Asian region are attempting to develop overseas sales channels for small and medium-sized businesses in South Chungcheong Province. The Asian Federation of Korean Associations and the Asian Federation of Korean Merchants Associations (Chairman Yoon Hee), representing Korean associations in 22 countries in the Asian region, will be holding the 2023 Asia Korea Business Convention from Nov. 8-10 at the Nonsan Art Center and a gymnasium in Nonsan, South Chungcheong Province. About 300 Korean merchants from 23 countries in the Asian region will participate in the convention, initiated under the slogan "Asian Korean merchants and Nonsan flying over the world." This is the first time that this organization is holding the Asian Korean Business Convention in Korea. They plan to pave the way for exports for about 50 companies in the South Chungcheong region and pass on their accumulated experience through corporate exhibitions and one-on-one advisory sessions.

Mindan holds 'Hanbok Experience' event for next generation of Korean residents in Tokyo The Korean Residents Union in Japan (Mindan) held the "Hanbok Experience" event for the next generation of Korean residents in Japan at the Union's Central Hall in Tokyo on Oct. 15. Lee Hyang-sun, president of the Hanbok Promotion Association, served as an instructor and gave lectures on traditional Korean clothing, the way to wear hanbok, bowing and traditional etiquette. This event was sponsored by the Overseas Koreans Agency.



Ha Ki-hwan, chairman of 21st World Korean Business Convention

‘WKBC with 21-year history takes leap forward by being held in U.S. for first time’



Ha Ki-hwan,
chairman of the 21st World Korean
Business Convention

“The World Korean Business Convention has been somewhat stagnant in its 20 years, but we expect it to take a big leap forward again with it being hosted for the first time in the United States this year,” said Ha Ki-hwan, the chairman of the 21st WKBC.

He explained how special it was for this year’s convention to be held at the Anaheim Convention Center in Orange County, California, on Oct. 11. Formerly titled the World Hansang (Korean Businessmen) Convention, the WKBC was held in Korea for its first 20 years. This year, however, it was renamed the World Korean Business Convention and was held in the U.S. The event ran for four days until Oct. 14.

“At the event held in Ulsan last year, there were only a few attendees and corporate exhibition halls,” Ha said. “It was worrying. I believe that the first overseas convention will serve as a catalyst for a revival. The number of visitors has already surpassed 10,000 on the first day, so this year will definitely turn out to be a success.”


Going forward, the WKBC’s operational committee has decided to hold the event overseas every other year, starting with this year’s edition in the U.S.

“If we hold it overseas once every two years, the atmosphere of the convention will change a lot,” the chairman said. “I think it will become a much more meaningful and large-scale event.”

Chairman Ha is the CEO of Hannam Chain, one of the leading Korean food distributors in the U.S. Founded in 1998, Hannam Chain has six stores in Los Angeles and one in New York, with annual sales exceeding \$250 million. As one of the leading Korean businessmen in Los Angeles and Orange County, Ha took charge of the event and prepared it in collaboration with the Korean American Chamber of Commerce of Orange County (KACCOC) and the Korean American Chamber of Commerce USA.

Korean products poised for success: Chairman Ha

“There are many high-quality products in Korea, but I’ve thought it is quite unfortunate that the companies have been unable to introduce these products to the U.S. or global market due to their lack of promotion,” Ha said. “I hope this year’s convention held in the U.S. will be their first channel (into the market).

“Korea is now known as a prosperous country, and with teams like BTS gaining popularity, the perception and reputation of Korea have improved greatly in the U.S.,” he added. “If Korean companies could expand overseas while maintaining their products’ quality, there is great potential for success. Human networking is the most important factor in business. I hope this convention will grow further in the future to serve as a mecca for Korean businessmen.” 

9th Global Korean Politicians Forum to be held from Nov. 13-16 in Seoul



Yonah Martin, president of the Overseas Korean Politicians Council, delivers an opening speech at the 8th Global Korean Politicians Forum at the Fairmont Ambassador Hotel in Yeouido, Seoul, on Aug. 16, 2022.

The 9th Global Korean Politicians Forum, which aims to build a close network among Korean politicians around the world and promote the political power of the Korean community, will be held from Nov. 13-16 at the Shilla Hotel in Jung-gu, Seoul.

Organized by the Overseas Korean Politicians Council (Chairperson: Canadian Sen. Yonah Martin) and sponsored by the Center for Overseas Korean Cooperation (Director Kim Young-geun), a department of the Overseas Koreans Agency, the forum is being held with the slogan “Our network is our net worth.” The forum is expected to be attended by more than 100 Korean

legislators and elected officials from around the world, as well as senior appointed officials, and the next generation of promising politicians nominated by diplomatic offices or current politicians. The event will include a program of opening and closing ceremonies, luncheons and dinners, lectures and industrial site visits.

Following the event, the Overseas Koreans Agency will host the 2023 25th Future Leaders Conference in Korea from Nov. 28-Dec. 1, inviting next-generation Korean leaders from around the world to create a space for communication and harmony.

OKA Commissioner's Activities

Oct. 17: Attended and delivered remarks at a ceremony on the eve of the World Kimwa Convention

Oct. 5: Attended the World Korean Day Ceremony

Oct. 4: Attended an event to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the dispatch of Korean miners to Germany

Attended the opening ceremony of the World Congress of the Korean Association Presidents

Sept. 13: Held a press conference to commemorate the 100-day anniversary of the opening of the Overseas Koreans Agency



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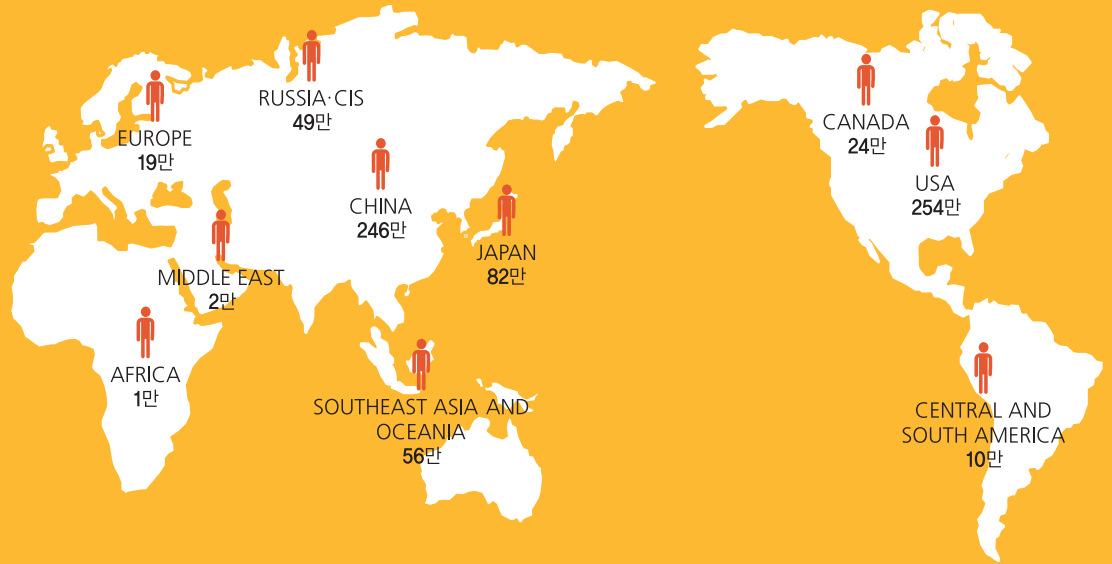


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