

‘Helping overseas compatriots settle in Korea will be our new agenda’

OKA Commissioner Lee expresses his position at first Overseas Koreans Policy Advisory Committee meeting



Lee Sang-duk (3rd from R) delivers remarks at the second plenary meeting of the OKA Policy Advisory Committee in the OKA building's main conference room on Aug. 30.

The Overseas Koreans Agency held its second plenary meeting of the OKA Policy Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of Commissioner Lee Sang-duk in the main conference room on the 36th floor of the OKA building in Songdo, Incheon, on Aug. 30.

The meeting was attended by Kyungin University emeritus professor Park In-gi (committee chair), Chairman of K&K Trading in Vietnam Ko Sang-gu, Inha University professor Lee Jin-young, Yonhap News Agency's overseas Korean specialist reporter Kang Sung-cheol, Editor-in-Chief of the World Korea newspaper Choi Byeong-chun, Transitional Justice Working Group Chairman Lee Young-hwan and Next Generation committee member Shin Yeon-jeong, while members Kim Young-gil and Choi Mi-young, who are overseas Koreans living in the United States, participated virtually.

“As the number of overseas Koreans living in Korea is increasing and policy demands for social integration are emerging, settlement support for overseas Koreans is a new policy agenda that the OKA must consider and organize,” OKA Commissioner Lee said.

“The OKA is working in various ways to build a customized policy and total care system for Korean compatriots that is differentiated from immigration policies for foreigners,” he said, and sought the opinions of the committee members.

The advisory committee members expressed their strong agreement on the timeliness and importance of the policy to support the resettlement of Korean compatriots in a situation where

regional populations continue to decline, and expressed their willingness to faithfully fulfill their roles as advisory committee members to ensure that the projects promoted by the OKA achieve practical results.

In particular, Committee Chair Park suggested that as an important task of the policy to support the resettlement of Korean compatriots, the OKA should take the lead in designing customized educational programs, including language education, and effectively promote them in collaboration with local governments and educational institutions.

The committee members also emphasized the importance of promoting comprehensive and detailed policies that reflect the needs of the diverse nationalities and age range of compatriots residing in Korea, including restoring the Korean nationality, improving relevant laws and systems, and cooperating with local governments.

The members also emphasized that domestic compatriot policies can lead to tangible results if they are implemented in parallel with efforts to improve domestic public perceptions of Korean compatriots.

The OKA plans to continue to stably operate the OKA Policy Advisory Committee through regular communication so that the diverse experiences and expertise of the members can be reflected in the policy process. 