



Window into Overseas Koreans

Special Article 1 - 232 Korean language school teachers from 46 countries to receive capacity-building training in their home countries

Special Article 2 - '2024 1st-3rd Next Generation Diaspora Motherland Invitational Training Program' completed

Special Article 3 - First invitational event for multicultural families from Vietnam and other countries; 72 people from 19 families across 4 countries

Policy in Focus - Cellphone personal identification now available overseas; Mobile Overseas Citizenship Card introduced

Survey on life of Sakhalin compatriots returning permanently to Korea to start next year

Current Issues & Topics - Second-generation Koryo compatriot releases book of Korean proverbs: 'We need to preserve our identity'





## Teaching the next generation their identity, the future is now

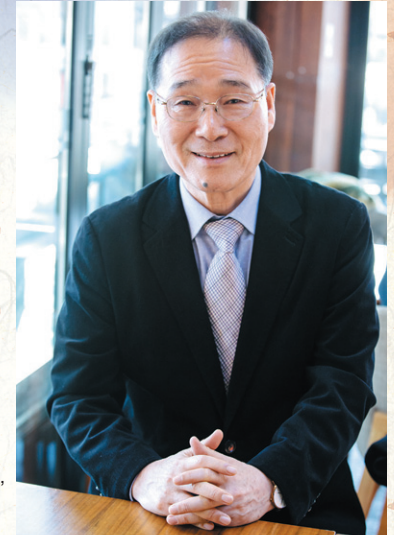
If there is one driving force of hope that has kept the global Korean diaspora community going through a history of hardship and adversity, it is the belief and expectation of the next generation's education and development. They have overcome the hardships of the immigrant community in the hope that the dedication and hard work of their generation will be used as a stepping stone for the education of the next generation. The Hangeul School fulfilled this wish and took on the task of educating the next generation on the Korean identity.

The more we realize that the global, once a desolate wilderness, is a concrete point of life, the more we cannot help but gaze to the future. And with this, the more we have to look at who we are and where we are going. We need to read "At the center of the global village is me" and look beyond the past to an identity that touches the future. Something that is not static. That is to say, a dynamic identity is coming. Today, educating the next generation about identity is one such difficult task. But it is also important.

The education of the next generation of Koreans centered on Hangeul schools is facing upheaval not seen in its early days. All of the world's education is in a whirlwind of upheaval. This is because of the phenomenon of the human, technological, cultural, communication and other ecologies surrounding education becoming incredibly variable. While traditional modern schools are facing disintegration, there are also signs of great transformation as education systems and instructional innovations respond to the technological ecology.

In order to make this great transition and jump forward, the education of the next generation of compatriots must be strongly challenged in two ways. One is to continuously innovate the curriculum of the next generation's education to adapt to the next generation's educational ecology, and the other is to expand the identity of the next generation to adapt to the future global ecology. Unless their identity is based on incredible flexibility and resilience, we cannot expect any educational momentum to take them to the global future. These two things are not separate. Internally, they are highly correlated and reciprocal.

In light of this, we turn our attention to the competencies of Cooperation, Solidarity and Interdependence that UNESCO has long emphasized as the goals of 21st-century education for all people. These competencies may seem like moral virtues at first glance, but the pedagogical wisdom inherent in them is profound.




Park In-gi,  
professor emeritus, Kyungin  
University of Education / chairman,  
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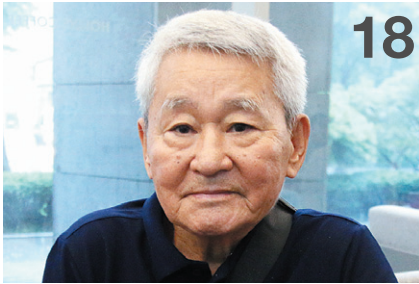
For the next generation, they will be the building blocks of their "global citizen identity."

At the same time, it promotes the practical cultivation of a "national identity" that will enable them to move confidently into the mainstream societies of their country of residence. In this sense, identity education raises their consciousness by embracing both present and future values. It is different from the past-based identity frameworks that previous generations held.

The identity of the Korean people is the source of the next generation's existence. That is why it is important. Identification with the country of residence is the force that drives the next generation's existence. That is why it is important. Global citizenship identity is the force of the mindset that creates the greatness of a Korean as a global citizen. Global citizenship identity elevates the future values and global values within us. This is something that the previous generation of overseas Koreans did not even have a chance to realize. National identity does not contain global citizenship identity, but global citizenship identity contains national identity.

It is clear that educating the next generation about identity is a new challenge. We cannot put it off. All actors must come together now to take a proactive leap forward in the next generation of identity education. So the future is now. 





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

# 2024년 한글학교 교사 초청연수



2024년  
한글학교 교사 초청연수

OKA Commissioner Lee Key-cheol delivers remarks at the opening ceremony of the 2024 Hangeul School Teacher Invitational Training Program.

## 232 Korean language school teachers from 46 countries to receive capacity-building training in their home country

To learn Korean language teaching methods and experience Korea's development history at OKA's headquarters in Incheon from July 22-27

Hangeul school teachers from around the world, who are leading the way in educating the next generation of Koreans about their identity, visited their homeland to learn how to teach Korean and experience and understand Korea's development.

The Overseas Koreans Agency held the opening ceremony of the 2024 Hangeul School Teacher Invitational Training Program at Songdo Convensia in Yeonsu-gu, Incheon, on July 22, launching the capacity-building training program, which will run until July 27.

The six-day training program was attended by 232 teachers and principals of Hangeul schools from 46 countries around the world.

They had previously received three weeks of online pretraining, beginning July 1, to focus on teaching the Korean language and Korean culture and history, and during the training, they learned how to improve their teaching methods through practical exercises.

They also participated in a program to experience and understand Korea's development so that they can have a sense of pride in Korea when teaching the next generation of compatriots.

"Cultivating the identity of the next generation of Koreans through Hangeul



schools is one of the government's top overseas Korean policy goals, and the OKA is striving to improve the treatment of Hangeul school teachers and strengthen their capabilities," said Lee Key-cheol, commissioner of the OKA, in his welcome address and keynote lecture at the opening ceremony.

"Through this training, you will be able to see and feel the development of Korea firsthand, and I ask you to convey this to your students in the field so that they can feel proud to be Korean," he said.

"We should be proud of our country, which is the only one among the 80 or so countries that gained independence after World War II that has achieved EU-level economic growth and democracy at the same time," he said. "Actively conveying these developments to the next generation in Korean language schools and informing the mainstream society will help to enhance the country's brand and improve its status in the countries where they live."

"The president is actively working to create and expand support for the OKA because the success of Korean compatriots in their countries of residence helps boost Korea's national strength," said Kim Seok-ki, chairman of the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee. "We will do our utmost to cooperate with the OKA to implement proactive policies, such as expanding support for Hangeul schools."

### Session on 'Feedback on Proposals from the Hangeul School Meeting' also held

The opening ceremony also included a session on "Feedback on Proposals from Hangeul School Meetings," which presented the results of actions taken on requests made by Hangeul schools since the opening of the OKA in June last year. The agency listened to the wishes that many more Hangeul school teachers would be invited to the training in the homeland, and that they would like to be informed of the dates of the training and the selection of participants sooner so that they can reduce airfare costs and adjust their school schedules by making early flight reservations. It was also a valuable time to demonstrate the agency's willingness to communicate and implement these suggestions in actual policies.

At the event, the agency introduced policies, such as increasing the budget to support Hangeul schools and expanding the invitational teacher training programs, and said it would listen to the stories from the field and reflect them

in its policies.

In his keynote lecture titled "Why Korea is a Proud Country," Lee emphasized the role of teachers in fostering identity and promoting the Korean development story.

During the training, participants attended a special lecture on "Life as an Overseas Korean and the Pride I Feel in Korea's Development" by Daniel Taendler, an expert in "hanok" architecture from Germany, and a forum on "Competencies and Teaching Strategies for Hangeul School Teachers" by Cho Byung-young, a professor of Korean Literature Education at Hanyang University.

This year's training consisted of five plenary sessions, five breakout sessions, regional and general discussions, experiences of Korea's development and observation of elementary school classes. The participants heard about model teaching practices and school management practices of Hangeul schools in each country and shared useful information.

In the breakout sessions, participants received hands-on training on how to teach Korean speaking and writing and how to use ed-tech in the classroom, as well as customized training for each participant, including effective classroom management for teachers and school management consulting for principals.

The participants also visited the Korea Economic Development Exhibition Center in Dongdaemun-gu, Seoul, to experience firsthand the proud development of Korea, and held intensive discussions on educational methods and effective local dissemination of Korean development.

At the request of last year's participants, on the fifth day of the program, they observed a Korean elementary school class and held a Q&A session with the teacher. [장]

Participating teachers take a group photo after the opening ceremony of the 2024 Hangeul School Teacher Invitational Training Program.





## ‘Communicating Korea’s progress, a precious gift for next generation’

Commissioner Lee emphasizes ‘valuable means for next generation to enter mainstream society’ in special lecture

Lee Key-cheol, the commissioner of the Overseas Koreans Agency (OKA), showed special affection for the teachers who participated in the 2024 Hangeul School Teacher Invitational Training. Calling the 15,000 Hangeul school teachers modern-day “independence fighters,” Lee showed his respect and gratitude with a 90-degree bow, drawing a loud applause from the teachers.

In particular, he gave a keynote lecture titled “Why Korea is a Proud Country,” in which he prepared a PowerPoint presentation for the teachers who are working tirelessly at the forefront of fostering the Korean identity among the next generation of Korean youth. In his lecture, Lee emphasized the role of Korean language school teachers in fostering identity and promoting Korea’s proud development.

In his lecture, Lee showed pictures of the devastation of Seoul in the immediate aftermath of the Korean War through the eyes of foreigners, pointing out that it was the poorest country in the world, with a per capita GDP of only US\$67, and was poorer than North Korea until the end of 1970. It also received economic aid from the Philippines and Thailand, he explained.

Lee, however, presented various economic indicators to show where South Korea’s economy stands today.

In 2022, the country’s GDP per capita in real purchasing power parity is projected to be \$56,709, which ranks among the middle of European Union countries at \$56,970.

He also emphasized that in 2023, Korea’s annual GDP was \$1.72 trillion, ranking 12th in the world, and its trade volume was \$1.27 trillion, ranking seventh in the world, and within the past 60 years, the GDP per capita has increased 400-fold and exports have increased 3,900-fold.

In addition, as a special item by industry, IT and shipbuilding are ranked first in the world, automobiles and overseas construction are among the top five in the world, and Samsung Electronics and LG Electronics are



Commissioner Lee Key-cheol delivers a keynote lecture titled “Why Korea is a Proud Country.”

ranked first and second in global TV sales, meaning that 1 out of every 3 TVs in the world are made in Korea. In addition, Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix account for 70 percent of the global memory semiconductor market.

### Join ‘30K-50M Club’ and become member of most developed countries

In particular, it holds four firsts for a formerly developing country, he said. It went from being an aid recipient to a donor country in 2010, hosted all three of the world’s major sporting events, including the PyeongChang Winter Olympics in 2018, and in 2019 joined the so-called “30K-50M Club,” which refers to countries with a population of 50 million and a national income of more than \$30,000 per capita, making it worthy of the title of developed country.

Accordingly, with an international credit rating of AA in 2022, only four countries among the Group of 20 countries -- the United States, Germany, Canada and Australia -- have a higher international credit rating than South Korea, ranking the country higher than the United Kingdom, France and Japan.





Lee shows a Dutch textbook detailing the development of South Korea and explains the situation at the time.

In particular, he introduced not only economic development but also the current state of political development. Lee presented statistics from the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

In 2023, the democracy indicator for South Korea was 8.09, placing it in the full democracy group, surpassing the median level of 7.90 for EU countries. South Korea's ranking is among the highest in Asia, having remained at around 20th to 24th place for 13 years since 2010, which is higher than France, Belgium and Spain, the commissioner added.

Therefore, Korea's political and economic development is of world historical significance as it is the only country in the world that has achieved both political and economic development at the EU average level after World War II, among more than 80 former colonized countries.

### Source of 'pride' in the best of all good countries

He emphasized that this development was achieved in 60 years under the most unfavorable conditions, including a small landmass, poor resources, the threat of North Korea and the former Japanese occupation, and as the best of the good countries, it is a source of "pride."

Commissioner Lee explained that South Korea's progress is an objective fact recognized by the international community that is statistically proven and was detailed on six pages in five Dutch textbooks in 2013. At this point, Lee drew attention by personally bringing out the five books that were published in the Dutch textbooks through his own efforts when he was serving as ambassador to the Netherlands, showing them to teachers and explaining the situation at the time.

Therefore, he emphasized, Korea's development can simultaneously fulfill two key goals of overseas Korean policies. The first is to foster the overseas

Korean identity, and the second is to support the next generation in entering the mainstream societies of their countries of residence. In the end, he said, this can all create a positive image of Korea. Therefore, he argued that the current global interest in K-culture should be capitalized on.

Lee also elaborated why it is important to foster the overseas Korean identity. Firstly, he mentioned that it is the most important wish of the Korean community, and the second is that it is the core goal of the government's overseas Korean policy. The third is that it is the basic direction of overseas Korean policy through Article 3 of the Basic Act on Overseas Koreans, and the fourth is that President Yoon Suk Yeol said the essential task of the OKA is to protect the identity of the next generation of overseas Koreans.

The expected effects of the spread of Korea's development are first, to foster the overseas Korean identity, and second, to help overseas Koreans enter the mainstream societies of their host countries and contribute to the development of shared human prosperity. He also emphasized that it can contribute to the "continuous spread of the Korean Wave" ("hallyu"). It can also help small and medium-sized enterprises expand overseas and improve misperceptions in Western countries, he said.

Lee suggested that the first step to communicating Korea's progress to the next generation of overseas Koreans should be in weekend Hangeul school classes. He also cited the dissemination of videos, overseas Korean youth conferences and training programs in their home countries, and holding meetings with compatriots.

He also emphasized that the second phase has a broader impact by including it in textbooks in the country of residence. In his opinion, the effect is maximized by targeting students, who are more sensitive.

In conclusion, Lee emphasized that informing students about Korea's political and economic development is a valuable tool to foster identity and help the next generation enter mainstream society in their country of residence. He emphasized that informing overseas Koreans about Korea's development is a project for overseas Koreans by overseas Koreans, and as such, it strengthens the fundamentals of overseas Koreans and is the most valuable gift for the next generation. He also called for the active participation of Hangeul school teachers. 장



## 'I'm happy to share Korean development story with French high school students'

Noh Sun-joo, director of the Dijon Hangeul School in France, first Korean author of French textbook

For the first time, a foreign textbook with a Korean as a contributing author has seen the light of day. The main character is Noh Sun-joo (55), the principal of the Dijon Hangeul School in France, who has been teaching Korean language and traditional culture and instilling a sense of identity in the next generation of Koreans for the past 27 years. The book is titled "Let's Go, Korea!" and will be distributed to bookstores at the end of August, and from the new school year in September, it will be used as a textbook in more than 70 schools in France that teach Korean as a second or third language.

It is especially significant that a focus project of the Overseas Koreans Agency, which has just celebrated its first anniversary since launching, was to include Korea's development in foreign textbooks. The inclusion of Korea's political and economic development in textbooks in overseas Korean communities has far-reaching effects. The effect is maximized because it targets students who have susceptible sensibilities, which is why the French Korean textbook is a model for the 1,500 Hangeul schools around the world.

"I am happy to share Korea's development and traditional culture with French high school students through the new textbook I wrote," said Noh, who came to Korea to participate in the 2024 Hangeul School Teachers Home Country Invitational Training, organized by the OKA.

"Despite efforts to expand the spread of the Korean language over the past 20 years, Korean textbooks have not been available, and I have been teaching using adult textbooks," she said. "We have been creating customized Korean textbooks for local high schools with the Korean Education Center since 2022.

"Writing a customized textbook for each country is a very important project," she said, adding that it requires a balanced view of world history and an accurate understanding of the curriculum in the country of residence.



The cover of the Korean textbook for French high schools that will be used starting in the September semester.

The new textbook, which we received in advance, details the development history of Korea, Korean holidays, such as Chuseok and Lunar New Year, food culture, such as "kimbab" and bibimbap, Seoul's sights, such as Gwanghwamun and Bukchon, "hanbok" and taekwondo, and BTS.

The Dijon Hangeul School in France started in 1998 with three Korean adoptee students, and in 2002, the school applied to the Korean Education Center at the Korean Embassy in France for a Korean language school license, which was granted in 2006 after a pilot period. Today, the number of students has grown to over 150.

"This is partly because of the Korean Wave, or 'hallyu,' but also because of the online video classes that we optimized for the Google Classroom after the COVID-19 pandemic. We have students from hundreds of kilometers away in France who want to take online classes, and we even have students from Germany and Spain."

After working as a high school French teacher in Korea, Noh moved to France in 1998 to study medieval French literature at the University of Burgundy, and she now teaches Korean at this university. She settled in Dijon, where she met her husband, worked as an interpreter, founded the Dijon





Noh Sun-joo, principal of the Dijon Hangeul School in France and the author of the new Korean textbook for French high schools titled "Let's go, Korea!"


Korean Association in 2002 and served as its president, and was hired as a Korean language teacher at an agricultural high school in Dijon in 2010.

In 2016, she spearheaded the adoption of Korean language and culture in after-school classes in all primary schools in Dijon and was awarded the 2016 Presidential Medal of Honor for her success in organizing the "Global Workplace," an exchange program between vocational high school students from Korea and France, and to help Korean students find employment in France.

Noh's ultimate educational goal is to create global citizens.

"The French national spirit of liberty, equality and fraternity goes hand in hand with Korean language education from a global perspective," she said. "We need a Korean language education program that goes beyond educating the next generation of overseas Koreans to foster global citizens."

When asked what she would like to see from the Korean government, including the OKA, Principal Noh replied: "There is no wish, you are doing so well. There is that saying, 'Korea in the world.' Korea is running forward with the world as its stage. But now people from all over the world are running to learn Korean. I now think 'The world in Korea' is a suitable saying. The whole world is running into Korea's arms, and people from all over the world are flying to Korea for jobs. The overseas Koreans are the bridge between the world and Korea. We need to be ready to welcome them. We need to show them a warm Korea, a happy Korea and a passionate Korea that welcomes guests by establishing policies, such as Korean language training, Korean culture training and next-generation cross-border exchange programs.

"When we organized a youth camp in Dijon, France, Mr. Kerazian, a member of the Dijon City Council, said, 'The Hangeul School is a living model of migration policy.' All of this was possible thanks to the support of the Korean government." 



Korean-related content in a Korean language textbook that will be used in French high schools starting in September.



## ‘2024 1st-3rd Next Generation Diaspora Motherland Invitational Training Program’ completed

Commissioner Lee: ‘providing opportunities for 2,000 next-generation Koreans to foster identity and understand Korea’s development’

The 2024 1st-3rd Next Generation Diaspora Motherland Invitational Training Program, organized by the Overseas Koreans Agency to provide the next generation of overseas compatriots with the opportunity to experience Korea’s history and culture and to enhance their sense of identity and pride in their homeland through an understanding of Korea’s development, was successfully completed from July 15-29 in Incheon.

The 2024 Next Generation Diaspora Motherland Invitational Training Program is planned to be held for a total of eight sessions, each lasting six days and seven nights, with six summer sessions (July-August) hosting more than 1,800 youth and university students from 75 countries.

In accordance with the First Basic Plan for Overseas Koreans, the OKA plans to make 2024 the first year of the expansion of the Next Generation Diaspora Motherland Invitational Training Program, starting with 2,000 participants this year and expanding to 6,000 by 2028.

### Total of eight motherland training sessions in 2024; 2,000 next-generation Koreans to visit their home countries

At the first training program on July 15, the Incheon City Dance Troupe set the tone for the opening ceremony by performing an opening celebration showcasing Korean songs through dance and traditional instruments.

“Korea has been able to overcome the adversity of colonial domination and the devastation of the Korean War, and achieve European-level democracy and economic development based on liberal democracy, and this development has meaningful historical lessons that are unprecedented in world history,” Commissioner Lee Key-cheol said in his opening remarks.

“By teaching these stories of Korea’s development in



OKA Commissioner Lee Key-cheol delivers remarks at the opening ceremony of the 2024 1st Next Generation Diaspora Motherland Invitational Training Program at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Incheon, South Korea, on July 16.

overseas Korean language schools, we can strengthen our identity as Koreans, and by including these stories in textbooks in our countries of residence, we can enhance Korea’s national brand and contribute to improving the status of our next generation of compatriots in their countries of residence,” he added, urging Koreans to actively participate in spreading the word about Korea’s development.

“We have a historical obligation to protect and develop the liberal democracy that has been the foundation of Korea’s development and pass it on to future generations,” Lee said. “I hope that through this visit, the next generation of Koreans will be able to strengthen their sense of democratic solidarity as global citizens, in order to face challenges and crises that jeopardize freedom and democracy.”

In his welcoming remarks, Incheon Metropolitan Mayor Yoo Jung-bok said: “I hope that this visit to the motherland will be a beneficial opportunity for you all in the future too. I look forward to the next generation of compatriots helping the Republic of Korea develop in the future.”

### Incheon City Dance Co.’s opening performance; taekwondo demonstration team finale draws attention

In his welcome speech, Lee Sang-don, deputy superintendent of Incheon city schools, urged the next generation of compatriots to “cultivate your





Participants pose for a photo after the opening ceremony at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Incheon on July 15.

identity as Korean people and take pride in your country, even though you live in different countries.”

In particular, a keynote lecture on the topic of “Why Korea is a Proud Country” was delivered by OKA Commissioner Lee.

“We are promoting an ambitious project to educate the next generation of overseas Koreans about Korea’s political and economic development over the past 70 years and include it in foreign textbooks, as a core task of the agency,” he said, explaining how he introduced Korea’s development in Dutch textbooks when he was ambassador to the Netherlands, after which he personally brought out Dutch textbooks to show them to the youths participating in the training.

The finale of the opening ceremony was a taekwondo demonstration by a group of young people from Incheon. As the title “Taekwondo Arirang” suggested, the troupe showcased the charm of Korea through taekwondo and “Arirang,” and received a loud applause.

### Plans to expand to 6,000 participants by 2028

The OKA has organized a varied and substantial program for the next generation of Koreans who will be participating this year.

After attending the opening ceremony on the morning of July 16, the young overseas compatriots had a hands-on learning experience at the Incheon Arago School in the afternoon, organized by Incheon metropolitan city and Incheon Office of Education. Following a welcome speech by Arago Principal Son Kyung-hee, the participants enjoyed a five-piece band, a “hanbok” fashion show and a K-pop dance performed by Arago students.

In the Korean cultural experience, which was divided into three groups, one group of 50 students learned how to play “samul nori” instruments, including the drum, “janggu” and “kkwaenggwari” gong, and had a fun time matching their instruments to the beat.

They also enjoyed traditional Korean games, including the “Mugunghwa flower has bloomed” (Red light, Green light) game through the movie “Squid Game.” In the hanbok dressing experience, the overseas youth were eager to

take pictures in the traditional Korean clothing.

On July 17, they visited the Korean Folk Village in Yongin and went to Gyeongju, the thousand-year capital of Silla, where they toured UNESCO World Heritage Sites, such as Bulguksa Temple, Cheomseongdae and Woljeonggyo.

### Next generation of compatriots in Seoul: Gwanghwamun and Insadong cultural experience

On July 19, participants were divided into groups of 10 to explore the Gwanghwamun area of Seoul to help them understand Korean history.

Guided by a group leader, the participants reflected on past history in front of the statue of King Sejong the Great and Gen. Yi Sun-sin in Gwanghwamun Square, and then headed to Insadong through the Jongno area. They stopped by cosmetics and souvenir shops to buy gifts for their families and had fun playing claw machines in an arcade.

Esther Park, 16, from Bulgaria, has a grandfather who is a Korean War veteran.

“Although all of the participants live in different places, we have a common ethnicity, so we quickly formed a bond,” she said. “I hope to be a link between Korea and Bulgaria in the future.”

Jin Dain, 20, a Koryo compatriot from Uzbekistan who participated in the program in the summer of 2022, was the leader of Group 7, guiding the juniors around Jongno.

“I hope it was an opportunity for them to feel their Korean identity,” Jin said. 창

## ‘Symbols of Hope’ in the spotlight: next generation of compatriots

‘I’m grateful to find my identity as a Korean through visiting my home country’

### ‘I am proud to call Korea my home and feel a great sense of pride’



“I am very proud to call Korea, a country that has become one of the world’s top 10 economies despite the Japanese occupation and the Korean War, my home country.”

Nam Hye-rin, 15, of Mexico City, told reporters in Gyeongju on July 18, “I am very happy and grateful that I was invited to visit Korea, which I had

only heard about through books and media because Mexico is so geographically far away.”

Born and raised in Mexico City after her father, a businessman, immigrated to Mexico, she said, “I have been struggling with identity confusion for a long time. I have found a lot of comfort in meeting compatriot friends who are from different countries with different living environments and languages but look like me and have the same feelings, and I am grateful to find my identity as a Korean.”

She is a “volunteer angel” who has been working hard at volunteering even at a young age. She has volunteered at an organization that provides housing for migrants and refugees. She has also volunteered at a center that provides specialized education for children with Down syndrome.

Unlike other contestants who were born and raised abroad, Nam was noticeably better at Korean. She attributes this to the influence of Hangeul School. She participated in the Hangeul School’s essay contest and poetry exhibition and has won several awards.

### ‘When I return to Bulgaria, I will promote Korea’s development and traditional culture’



Ester Park (16, Bulgaria) was born and raised in Bulgaria and lives in a small town called Levski, Bulgaria. It is a small town of fewer than 10,000 people, with no Koreans. “I didn’t have access to a Korean language school, so I learned Korean from my parents and two older brothers.”

From a young age, she loved exploring the world and experiencing new cultures, so she chose to attend a foreign language high school, where she learned Bulgarian, English and German, exploring different languages and cultures.

“Through the media, K-pop’s wonderful music and dance, K-beauty’s unique makeup style, Korea’s innovative industries and beautiful architecture have always piqued my curiosity. Also, my passion for art has been my closest friend since childhood. Expressing myself creatively through painting and drawing, and conveying emotions through music are great pleasures in my life.”

Park’s biggest influence is her grandfather. He came to South Korea from North Korea and enlisted when the Korean War broke out. He then lived for more than 60 years in Munsan, Paju, dreaming of reunification.

“He died in 2017 without seeing the reunification he had hoped for and is now buried in the National Cemetery in Seoul. My grandfather instilled in me a strong sense of patriotism and sacrifice, and he always made me think about country and family, sacrifice and hope.”

Through this program, Park hopes to “become a link between Bulgaria and Korea. By experiencing and communicating with different cultures, I hope to broaden my horizons and find ways to make the world a better place.”



“

Hosted by the Overseas Koreans Agency and organized by the Overseas Korean Cooperation Center, the 2024 Next Generation Diaspora Motherland Invitational Training Program will be held in eight sessions, each lasting six days and seven nights, and with more than 2,000 youth and university students from 75 countries participating. The first round of the program was successfully held from July 15-21 with 298 participants. Here we introduce four participants who stood out from the crowd. <Editor's note>

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### Winner of grand prize at 2023 Peace and Unification Golden Bell Contest organized by Democratic Peace Federation



Cho Yoon-ah (16) emigrated to Brazil at the age of 4 due to her father's business. Although she was born in Korea and speaks Korean, she did not have the opportunity to receive any education about Korean history and culture. However, a few years ago, the boom of "hallyu" culture, such as K-dramas, music and food,

sparked her interest from Brazil.

In 2023, she participated in the Golden Bell Competition organized by the National Council for Democracy, Peace and Reunification, and won the grand prize after studying Korean history and acquiring a lot of materials and information online to gain more knowledge. Last year, she also won the grand prize at the Brazilian Dream Presentation Contest, and is expected to grow into a global leader through leadership education and her understanding of Korean history and culture.

"In the process of preparing for the contest, I was able to learn about the sense of unity that my people should have, and as I searched for my identity, I became determined to study Korea properly," she said.

"Through this training program, I was able to go beyond studying Korean culture and history in books, and experience Korean history and culture at the Gyeongju Historic Area and Yongin Korean Folk Village, and communicate with friends from different countries, which strengthened my identity as a Korean," Cho emphasized.

"I took pride in the diversity and creativity of Korean society and felt a sense of mission to become a cultural evangelist to introduce various aspects of Korean language, culture and history to Brazil."

### Winner of top prize at the 4th Korean Traditional Arts Masterclass in 2021



Kim Ro-ah (15, Moscow, Russia) was born in South Korea in 2008 and moved to Russia with her parents when she was less than 100 days old. She is the oldest of four siblings, with one sister and two brothers.


"My parents said that Korean people should never lose their Korean identity, so I completed kindergarten

and primary school at a Korean school in Moscow."

The Russian high school she now attends is a special school founded by a Korean Russian principal and is known locally as the Korean School.

"As a Korean, I help my teacher in Korean language class to help my classmates write and speak Korean, and I have participated in various competitions about Korea and won prizes," Kim added.

In 2020, she won an Honorable Mention at the Peace and Reunification Speech Contest, followed by the top prize "Serfitikat" at the 4th Korean Traditional Arts Masterclass in 2021 and the top prize Diploma at the Moi Dome Moscow competition in the same year. Last year, she also won the runner-up prize at the Golden Bell Moscow Council Qualifying Competition, organized by the Democratic Peace Federation, and a runner-up prize at the 9th Unification Children and Youth Painting Contest.

"This training program for the next generation of compatriots in their home countries will bring me one step closer to my dream of becoming a bridge between Russia and Korea." 

## First invitational event for multicultural families from Vietnam and other countries; 72 people from 19 families across 4 countries

Part of OKA's 'Caring for Compatriots' program, fostering Korean identity and pride

A group of multicultural families, made up of Koreans who moved to Southeast Asia and married and started families with locals, visited South Korea for the first time at the invitation of the Korean government.

The Overseas Koreans Agency invited 72 people from 19 families from four countries -- Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand -- for a four-day visit starting July 23.

The visit to the home countries of multicultural families is part of the agency's "Caring for Compatriots" project, which fulfills President Yoon Suk Yeol's promise to the next generation of overseas Koreans to "provide excellent Korean language education and visit and experience programs in Korea" at the launch of the agency in June last year.

Named the "Invitational Event for Next Generation Koreans from Multicultural Families," the program aims to expand the understanding of Korea among members of multicultural families in Southeast Asia and especially for next generation compatriots to experience Korea's

development history and to foster a sense of identity, pride and connection to Korea.

In order to prepare the next generation of Korean diaspora from multicultural families to serve as "future ASEAN-Korea civilian diplomats," the OKA has organized programs, such as urban cultural tours, to showcase the developed city of Seoul, experience Korean pop culture (K-pop) that is spreading around the world and visit high-tech manufacturing companies.

The program also included historical and cultural lectures, tours of historic sites, traditional dance and martial arts performances, and traditional clothing experiences to showcase the proud history and excellence of Korea's traditional culture.

OKA Commissioner Lee Key-cheol delivered a lecture on "Korea's Political and Economic Development" to the participants. The purpose of the program was to inform the participants about Korea's unprecedented economic growth and political development, which has put the country on par with the world's leading industrialized nations, and the excellence of the Korean people, so that the next generation of multicultural overseas Koreans can develop a sense of identity and pride as Koreans.

"Please remember that Korea is the only country in the world that has achieved democracy and economic development at the average level of the



Participants pose for a photo after the opening ceremony.





OKA Commissioner Lee Key-cheol delivers a greeting at the Invitational Event for Next Generation Koreans from Multicultural Families at the Mayfield Hotel in Seoul.

EU, which has world historical significance,” Lee said. “If you feel that this is a long-winded way of saying it, please say confidently and proudly that Korea is the best country among good countries.”

### Keynote speech emphasizes ownership and curiosity

Given the large number of children in attendance, Lee drew attention when he shared his own childhood dreams and advice for the next generation of children and their parents. “I hope that parents who are wondering how to do good in life and who agree with me can also tell their children later on,” he said.

Lee said it is important for children to have dreams.

“When I was in elementary school, my dream was to be a fisherman. I read a travel log in a Korean language textbook, and the sunset after catching fish was so beautiful that I decided I should be a fisherman. But when I was in middle school, I wanted to be a diplomat, and then my dream of becoming a diplomat became an important guide for my life. I thought, ‘I must do these things because I have to be a diplomat,’ so in the end, the dream I had in middle school came true.”

The second thing Lee urged was to take ownership. He recounted a story he heard from a high-level Dutch CEO when he was ambassador to the Netherlands in 2013.

“They say there are three kinds of people in the world: those who make things happen, those who let things happen and those who are surprised when they see things happen. The children who are here today should definitely be of the first category. These stories tell us how important ownership is, because if you don’t take ownership, you’ll never be an owner, and I think only those who take ownership of what they do can be owners later in life.”

The third thing Lee emphasized was to be curious. He hoped that parents would help their children become curious.

“Curiosity is the driving force of human development. When I was ambassador to the Netherlands, I was invited by the Israeli ambassador to have dinner at his residence, and he said something like, ‘Only 0.25 percent of

people in the world are Jews, but they are 25 percent of Nobel Prize winners. That’s over 100 times the normal average. And I said, ‘What do you think is the reason for that?’ And he said, ‘Talmudic education.’ The key is to ask questions, and I think it’s very important that when you go to school, students get in the habit of always asking questions of their teachers.”

### ‘We must be proud of Korea’

Finally, Commissioner Lee urged them to be proud of their home country, Korea. He emphasized that being proud of one’s home country and actively promoting Korea’s development will help the next generation of Koreans enter the mainstream society in their countries of residence. It will also help the products of Korean companies be exported and especially help the sustained expansion of the current Korean Wave (“hallyu”).

He added that it contributes to shared human prosperity. Korea was a poor and developing country in the past, but by showing that with hard work one can become a developed country, it can influence other developing countries, they will also be able to develop, and if there are more such countries, it will eventually contribute to the common development of mankind.

Meanwhile, the OKA will continue to provide excellent Korean language education and visit and experience programs for the second and third generations of overseas Koreans in multicultural families to foster their identities and continue their connection with Korea. [▶](#)

## ‘I am grateful to Korean government and people for giving me great opportunities and memories’

Siem Leakana from Cambodia, invited by OKA, ‘I hope other multicultural families will be happy’

“I have one son and one daughter, and we are living happily and well. I hope other multicultural families are also happy.”

Siem Leakana, 34, from Cambodia, who participated in the “Next Generation Koreans from Multicultural Families” program organized by the Overseas Koreans Agency, met with reporters on July 23 and shared her impressions of her visit to Korea.

First, she was asked how she felt about visiting Korea at the OKA’s invitation.

“I’m very happy and grateful. It’s a good opportunity for my daughter, and I’m grateful for the good memories, especially for meeting other multicultural families.”

I wondered how she met and married her husband.

“I majored in hotel and tourism management at a university in Cambodia. I needed to study a foreign language to get better at my job in this field, and I chose to study Korean as my minor. I studied Korean in earnest at the Korea-Cambodia Cooperation Center (CKCC). I first came to Korea in 2014 as an exchange student at Daegu Catholic University. After finishing my studies in Korea, I returned to Cambodia and worked as an interpreter at Hansol Garment Co. in 2015. Through this, I was introduced to my husband, Lee Eon-ho (41), who was in Cambodia for business.”

How soon after meeting her husband did she get married?

“We dated for three or four months and got married in 2017. We have a daughter, Lee Arin (6), and a son, Lee Dagun (4).”

Siem is still working as an interpreter and managing the Cambodian branch of her husband’s animation company.

What would she like to say to the Korean government and the Korean people?

“I would like to thank the Korean government for providing



OKA Commissioner Lee Key-cheol goes around a table and kneels down to talk to the next generation of children during a dinner at the multicultural family invitational event.



Siem Leakana meets with reporters and thanks the Overseas Koreans Agency for inviting her. On the right, Lee and Siem’s family pose for a photo.

Cambodia with so much support, such as technology and the Korean people for welcoming us so warmly.”

Currently, Siem and her family live in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia. Her husband has a business in Korea, so they travel back and forth between Korea and Cambodia, and this was Siem’s first trip to Korea in three years due to COVID-19. Her daughter, Lee Arin, is in first grade at Phnom Penh Korean International School.

Her in-laws live in Yangsan, Gyeongnam.

“I am grateful to my in-laws for their kindness and support.” 🙏



### Korean teenagers and young adults in Russia and CIS to experience native country

OKA begins monthlong ‘Understanding Korea Course’ for 32 participants from 8 countries

Korean teenagers and young adults from Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) will embark on a monthlong experience in their home country on July 22.

The Overseas Koreans Agency is holding an “Understanding Korea Course” for 32 Korean teenagers and young adults from eight countries, including Russia, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, until Aug. 23.

Kyungin University, which is running the course, has organized a diverse program using its expertise and infrastructure as an educational institution.

Participants will improve their Korean language skills and participate in programs to experience traditional Korean culture, such as “gukak” and taekwondo, as well as Korean popular culture, such as K-pop.

They will also receive special lectures on Korea’s development history, tour Korean industrial sites and visit broadcasting stations.

“We hope that the Understanding Korea Program will serve as a



stepping stone for the next generation of Koryo compatriots to establish their identities as Koreans and grow into leaders who can serve as a bridge between their homeland and their countries of residence, based on pride in their homeland,” OKA Commissioner Lee Key-cheol said.

### Six Cosmetic Association certificates exempted from notarization process

OKA and Food and Drug Administration to ease industry hurdles, support cosmetics exports

Six certificates required to be issued by the Korea Cosmetics Association for cosmetics exports will be exempted from further notarization.

The Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) and the Overseas Koreans Agency announced today that they have improved the process to allow cosmetics exporters to obtain an apostille (public document issuer) and headquarters consular confirmation without the need for additional notarization of the original six certificates, including manufacturing and sales certificates.

The six certificates are the cosmetics manufacturing and sales certificate, manufacturing certificate, manufacturer’s certificate, responsible distributor certificate, change of address certificate and certificate of origin for species identification.



The K-Cosmetics Global Competitiveness Enhancement Plan and Industry Roundtable held on July 24.

The apostille and consular confirmation of headquarters are documents that certify domestic documents to be valid abroad and are issued only for official documents.

Accordingly, the six types of certificates issued by the Korea Cosmetics Association, which is not a government agency, had to be further notarized before they could apply for an apostille and consular confirmation. The move will save the cosmetics industry about 1.8 billion won annually in notarization costs,

according to the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety and the OKA.

For more information on how to apply for an apostille and consular confirmation of headquarters, please visit the OKA website ([www.oka.go.kr](http://www.oka.go.kr)) or call the 365 Civil Service Call Center at 02-6747-0404.

# Cellphone personal identification now available overseas; Mobile Overseas Citizenship Card introduced

Pilot issuance at seven locations, including Consulate General in Los Angeles and Korean Embassy in China

The Mobile Overseas Citizen Identity Verification will be introduced, allowing overseas Korean citizens to verify their identities on their mobile phones.

The Ministry of the Interior and Safety announced on July 3 that it will launch the Mobile Overseas Citizen Identity Verification service for citizens living abroad in collaboration with the Digital Platform Government Committee and the Overseas Koreans Agency. The Ministry of the Interior and Safety has been building a mobile ID ecosystem, including the introduction of a mobile civil servant ID in 2021, a mobile driver's license in 2022, a mobile veterans ID last year and a mobile national ID card in December this year.

In contrast, citizens living abroad have faced difficulties in verifying their identities when using South Korean online services due to the lack of Korean cellphones.

In response, the government has decided to introduce the Mobile Overseas Citizens Card to eliminate digital blind spots and realize an inclusive digital society where digital services can be accessed anywhere in the country and abroad.

Starting July 3, the Mobile Overseas Citizens Card will be launched in a pilot period at seven locations -- the Consulate General Los Angeles (LA) in the United States, the consulate in Oakland, the embassy in China, the embassy in Vietnam, the embassy in Indonesia, the embassy in the Philippines and the Consulate General in São Paulo.

Beginning Aug. 1, 14 additional locations will also begin issuance, including the embassy in South Africa, the embassy in Canada and the embassy in Belgium.

The government will use the pilot period to perfect the convenience of the program and then expand the service to all diplomatic missions. The Mobile Overseas Citizens Card will be



OKA Commissioner Lee Key-cheol delivers a greeting at the launch ceremony of the Mobile Overseas Citizens Cards at the Diplomatic Town in Seocho-gu, Seoul, on July 3.

available on Government 24 and the Overseas Koreans 365 Civil Service Portal (formerly Consular Civil Service 24) upon issuance, and within the year will be expanded to apostille and the Electronic Family Relationship Registration System, which are frequently used by overseas Koreans.

The Ministry of the Interior and Safety, the Digital Platform Government Committee and the OKA held a ceremony on July 3 to commemorate the issuance of Mobile Overseas Citizens Cards, as well as a meeting to hear the opinions of Korean citizens living abroad, at the Diplomatic Town in Seocho-gu, Seoul, with the participation of Interior Minister Lee Sang-min, Digital Platform Government Committee Chairman Ko Jin and OKA Commissioner Lee Key-cheol.

“We will continue to listen to more opinions and provide digital platform government services that provide real-life benefits,” OKA Commissioner Lee said. [▶](#)



# Survey on life of Sakhalin compatriots returning permanently to Korea to start next year

## Amendments to Enforcement Decree of Sakhalin Compatriots Act; application process to be systemized



The amendments to the enforcement decree of the Special Law on Support for Sakhalin Compatriots paved the way for systematic support through a survey of permanent returnees. The photo shows a welcoming ceremony for Sakhalin compatriots who returned permanently from Russia through the Port of Donghae in May.

The Overseas Koreans Agency will begin conducting a factual survey next year to systematically support compatriots who went to Sakhalin during the Japanese occupation and have now permanently returned to Korea.

The move follows the Cabinet's approval of several amendments to the enforcement decree of the "Special Law on Support for Sakhalin Compatriots," which went into effect on July 17. The amendments include a survey on the resettlement of permanently returned Sakhalin compatriots and their families in Korea.

Starting next year, the living conditions of compatriots, including housing and economic conditions, will be surveyed every two years to serve as a basis for establishing policies to support Sakhalin compatriots. A legal framework has also been established to strengthen support for Sakhalin compatriots.

First of all, if a Sakhalin compatriot dies, if their spouse is a citizen of Korea, they can continue to receive the housing support that the compatriot received when they were alive. In addition to clarifying the support under the Basic Livelihood Guarantee Act, the law also


establishes a legal basis for Sakhalin compatriots to visit their homeland. The application process for their permanent return will also be systemized.

Applications will begin being accepted two months earlier, changing from June 30 to April 30 each year. This is expected to speed up the process of selecting

candidates, notifying them of the results, surveying and assigning rental housing needs, and follow-up measures after entering the country.

A "Permanent Return Support Eligibility Selection Committee" composed of relevant organizations will also be established to select candidates for their permanent return.

The OKA's commissioner will decide who will be eligible for permanent return and who will be a reserve candidate after deliberation by the committee, and will notify applicants of the results by July 31. Applicants can also withdraw their applications after being selected.

"The amendments to the law and enforcement regulations have made it possible to provide systematic support to Sakhalin compatriots who were forcibly mobilized to Sakhalin during the Japanese occupation and were unable to return home after liberation," Commissioner Lee Key-cheol said. "We will continue to support their stable resettlement so that they can feel the warmth of their homeland." 

## Second-generation Koryo compatriot releases book of Korean proverbs: ‘We need to preserve our identity’

Author Kim Vladimir publishes ‘Korean Proverbs’ and first volume of full-length ‘Kimgane’ series

Chairman of collection committee for Museum of Koryo People’s History, to be built in Tashkent in 2027

“Koreans living abroad, such as in Uzbekistan, are losing their identity with each passing generation. We must protect our identity as one people by understanding Korean culture.”

Speaking to Yonhap News Agency at a cafe in Jongno-gu, Seoul, on July 18, this is how Kim Vladimir (Korean name: Kim Yong-taek, 78), a second-generation Uzbek Korean who recently visited Korea, explained how he came up with the book “Korean Proverbs” (Best Design Publishers), a collection of Korean sayings and maxims.

Kim has been writing a blog run by Koryo people for more than a decade, refining and adding new content. “It is darkest under the lantern” and “A single word repays a thousand debts” are introduced in Korean, with Russian explanations.

“For Koryo people living in Russia, the CIS region and Korea, it is fundamental to know the proverbs and sayings that contain everyday wisdom to understand Korean culture,” he said. “We hope that this book, which explains Korea from a Koryo people’s perspective, will be useful for those who want to learn Russian and for scholars studying the history of Korean migration to Russia.”

According to the Overseas Koreans Agency’s “Status of Overseas Koreans in 2023,” there are currently 447,000 Koryo people living abroad, with the population living in Uzbekistan 172,000, Russia 121,000 and Kazakhstan 119,000. As of the beginning of this year, there were 112,000 Koryo people living in South Korea.

Born near Tashkent, Kim spent his childhood in North Korea and China. After studying journalism at Tashkent State University, he worked as a reporter and served as the Uzbekistan correspondent and Tashkent bureau chief for the Koryo Ilbo, a Korean-language newspaper.



Author Kim Vladimir (front row, R) and Koryo compatriots pose for a photo during a dinner for compatriots hosted by President Yoon Suk Yeol during his visit to Uzbekistan on June 13 as part of his Central Asia tour. (Provided by Kim Vladimir)

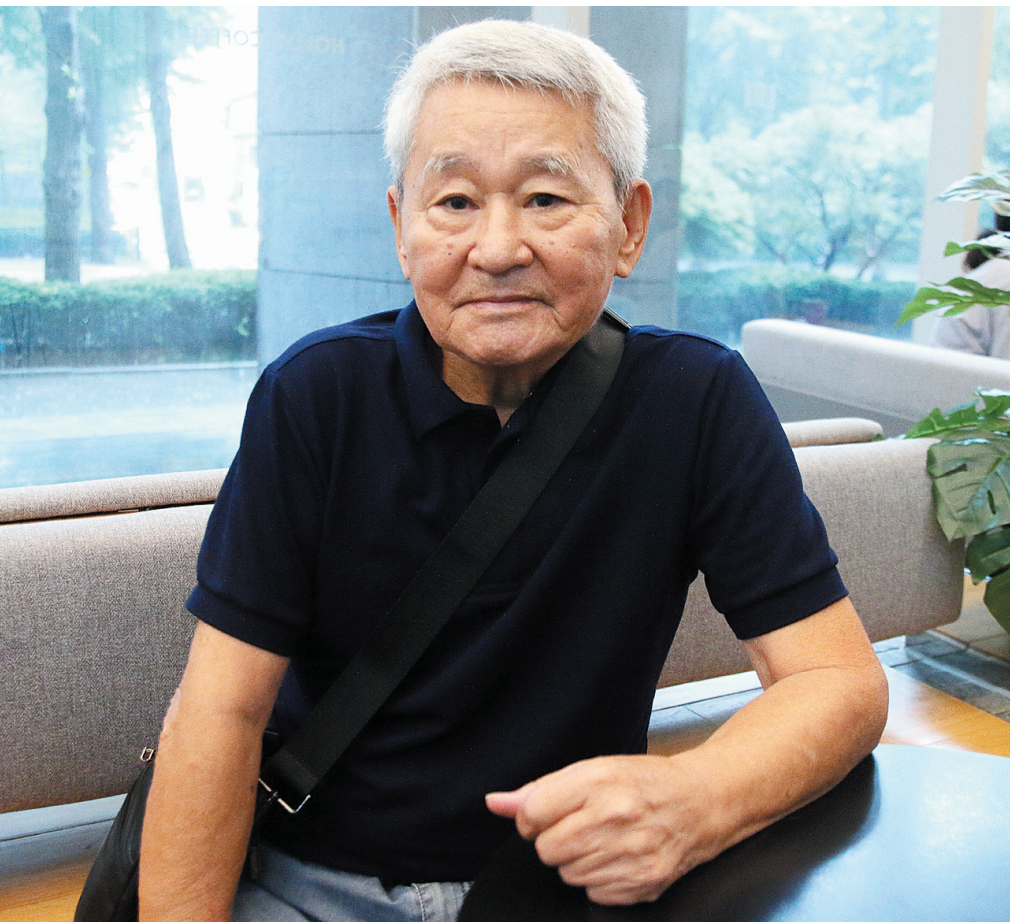
In 1988, he was the only Koryo person to receive the title of Honored Journalist of Uzbekistan, and in 2018, he received the KBS Overseas Korean Award. In Uzbekistan, he worked to promote Korean language education and led a movement to establish a Korean literature center.

“The Koreans who lived in the Primorsky Krai (Yeonhaeju) were forcibly relocated to Central Asia in 1937 during the Japanese occupation,” Kim said. “I write novels with the hope that the fourth- or fifth-generation Koryo people will not forget the painful history of my parents’ generation.”

In 2003, he published “Kimgane,” the first installment of the “Kimgane” series of novels about the lives of his Koryo compatriots, and the second installment, “Forced Migration,” in 2020. He plans to publish the final volume, “The Korean War,” in 2027, the 90th anniversary of the settlement of Koryo people in Uzbekistan and the 35th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The first volume of the series, “Kimgane,” was published in Korea on June 10 in two parts.





A copy of "Korean Maxims" published by second-generation Koryo Uzbek author Kim Vladimir. (Provided by Kim)

“During my visit, I met with Speaker Woo Won-sik of the National Assembly and Chairman Moon Young-sook of the Choi Jae-hyung Memorial Foundation and presented the new book to them,” he said. “Speaker Woo, the maternal grandson of independence hero Kim Han (1887-1938), promised to visit Uzbekistan in the fall of this year.”

Kim expressed his expectations for more exchanges and cooperation between the two countries, noting that President Yoon Suk Yeol visited Uzbekistan in the middle of last month during his Central Asia tour and agreed to build the Koryo People’s History Museum in Tashkent in 2027.

He is a board member of the Koryo Cultural Association, a representative organization of the Koryo people in Uzbekistan that will operate and manage the museum, and the chairman of the data collection committee for the establishment of the Koryo People’s History Museum.

“Building a Koryo history museum is a long-awaited project of the compatriot community,” Kim said. “We are in contact with various local organizations to collect documents and other materials related to the history of the Koryo migration to be displayed in the museum.

“When we look at the history of the Koryo people, there are parts that we can be proud of, and there are parts that are difficult, painful or regrettable,” he said. “The goal is to create a historical museum that can shed light on various aspects at a glance, and I think it is the last project we must fulfill for future generations.”



Kim (L) presents the first volume of his “Kimgane” series of novels about the lives of his Koryo compatriots to National Assembly Speaker Woo Won-sik during a recent visit to the National Assembly. (Provided by Kim)

# GLOBAL KOREAN



## Breaking glass ceiling again: NYPD's first 'Korean American Police Inspector' Heo Jeong-yoon nominated for senior leadership position First Korean American female officer to be appointed in 1998; 'I'm happy to make Korean presence known'

The New York Police Department (NYPD) in the United States has appointed its first senior Korean American officer to the rank of superintendent. According to the NYPD and the Korean Consulate General in New York, NYPD Inspector Heo Jeong-yoon was recently promoted to the rank of deputy chief.

The deputy chief is one rank above police inspector, who is in charge of the front-line police departments, and is a senior officer position similar to a deputy assistant commissioner in South Korea, although the ranking system is not directly comparable. The rank insignia also changes from an eagle, which symbolizes the police inspector, to a single star, equivalent to the military general's star ranking system.

The NYPD is the largest police organization in the United States, with 36,000 police officers and 19,000 civilian employees. Heo was appointed to the NYPD in 1998 as the department's first female Korean American officer.

She has since spent her career working in Korean American neighborhoods in Manhattan and Queens, and has made a number of "Korean firsts" for the NYPD, including becoming the first Korean American to be promoted to chief superintendent in 2022 and the first Korean American to be promoted to police inspector at the end of 2023. This latest promotion comes about six months after the promotion to police inspector.

"It's a novel feeling to be the first Korean American to wear a star, and as a Korean American, I feel like, 'I've done something,'" Deputy Chief-elect Heo told reporters. "I'm happy to be able to showcase the presence of Korean Americans in the NYPD."

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## Attorney Jasmine Yoon to become Virginia's first Korean American federal judge

### Senate confirms nomination two months after appointment by President Biden

For the first time in the history of the U.S. state of Virginia, a Korean American has become a federal court judge.

The U.S. Senate recently met to confirm Jasmine Yoon (Korean name: Yoon Hye-jung, 44), a 1.5-generation Korean American, to serve as a judge in the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia, according to the Korean American community.

President Biden, upon the recommendation of U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, announced his nomination of Yoon to serve as a federal judge in January, and the Senate confirmed her within two months.

"As Virginia's first Asian American federal judge, she has incredible skills and a deep commitment to public service, and we are confident she will be a great asset to the federal





judiciary,” Warner and Kaine said in a press release shortly after the Senate confirmation.

Yoon will begin her term in July of this year when Chief Judge Michael Urbanski retires. A native of Ulsan, South Korea, Yoon immigrated to Maryland with her family at the age of 14.

She graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law and subsequently practiced at a law firm. She was awarded the firm’s Pro Bono Attorney of the Year award for her pro bono work on behalf of immigrants and victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.

She then spent six years as a prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Virginia, where she investigated and prosecuted more than 80 financial crimes and public corruption cases.

Starting in 2019, she served as general counsel at the University of Virginia for three years, and from 2022 until recently, she was vice president of business ethics and investigations at Capital One Financial Corp., a financial services company. Her husband, Christopher Kavanaugh, is a prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Virginia.

In her written testimony to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, Yoon previously stated that if confirmed as a federal judge, she would conduct business in a manner that would avoid conflicts of interest.



Attorney Jasmine Yoon, a 1.5-generation Korean American, was appointed as Virginia’s first Korean American federal judge.

## Anita Tsoy, 3rd-generation Koryo singer, honored by Russian President Putin

### Recognized for social activism, including establishing foundation to help children with disabilities

Anita Tsoy, 53, a third-generation Koryo singer living in Russia, was awarded the First Class Order of Merit of the Fatherland by Russian President Vladimir Putin on July 8.

“Anita Tsoy was awarded the medal by the President in accordance with the decree in recognition of her many years of social contributions,” according to the Kremlin’s website.

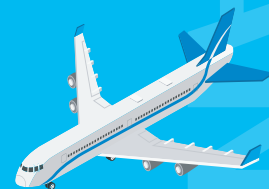
In addition to her career as a singer and creating a foundation to help children with birth defects, Tsoy is the founder and director of Gallery Master, an exhibition platform for artists and designers.

Tsoy is a third-generation Koryo person who has enduring popularity in Russia, following in the footsteps of Viktor Choi, the legendary Koryo rock singer and leader of the band Kino during the former Soviet Union.

In 2014, she organized a gala concert in Moscow to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Koryo immigration to Russia, and her spectacular performance sent the audience into a frenzy.

Tsoy made her debut as a singer in 1997 and was awarded the title of Meritorious Artist in 2003 and People’s Artist of Russia in 2021, an honor bestowed by the Russian government on those who have made outstanding achievements in the arts.

President Putin also awarded the Order of Labor to Tsoy’s husband, Rosneft Vice President Sergey Tsoy, a former press secretary to Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov. 🇷🇺



## Overseas Koreans will soon be able to issue non-face-to-face e-signature certificates without Korean cellphone

OKA improves accessibility and convenience of domestic digital services for overseas Koreans through public-private partnership

Overseas Koreans can now get an electronic signature certificate without using a Korean cellphone. This was made possible after the Overseas Koreans Agency led a public-private partnership to resolve the inconvenience of overseas Koreans who have difficulty verifying their identity when using digital services in Korea.

The agency signed a memorandum of understanding with the Government Committee on Digital Platforms (Chairman Ko Jin), Korea Internet & Security Agency (Director Lee Sang-joong), Kookmin Bank, Viva Republica, Shinhan Bank, Woori Bank and Hana Bank, as well as five private e-signature certification providers to improve overseas Koreans' accessibility and convenience to domestic digital services.



Officials pose for a photo after signing the memorandum of understanding.

As a result, overseas Koreans without Korean cellphones will be able to conveniently use domestic digital services by obtaining a safe and reliable non-face-to-face identity verification certificate through their existing e-passports and overseas residency information.

Through the MOU, ▲ the OKA will establish and implement a policy for non-face-to-face identification of overseas Koreans, ▲ the Government Committee on

Digital Platforms will create a convenient domestic digital usage environment for overseas Koreans, ▲ and the Korea Internet & Security Agency will establish a reliable identification method for overseas Koreans and provide it in cooperation with the public and private sectors.

## OKA and Korean Association for Policy Studies collaborate to establish overseas compatriots policy

MOU signed for cooperation on research and development, academic exchanges, etc.

The Overseas Koreans Agency (Commissioner Lee Key-cheol) will work closely with the Korean Association for Policy Studies (KAPS, Director Yoon Ji-wong) to establish and implement effective overseas Korean policies.

The two organizations signed a memorandum of understanding to this effect at the OKA headquarters in Yeonsu-gu, Incheon, on July 11. The signing ceremony was attended by Commissioner Lee Key-cheol, Director Yoon Ji-wong and other officials.

The MOU was signed with the aim of establishing a close cooperation system and exchanging knowledge, information, and data to contribute to the effective establishment and implementation of overseas Korean policies.



Lee Key-cheol (R), commissioner of the Overseas Koreans Agency, and Yoon Ji-wong (L), director of the Korean Association for Policy Studies (KAPS), pose for a photo after signing a memorandum of understanding.

Accordingly, the two organizations agreed to cooperate only on the following areas related to overseas compatriots policy: ▲ research, development, and advisory services, ▲ establishing networks to promote academic exchanges at home and abroad, ▲ and co-hosting or participating in academic seminars and forums.

“Since its launch in June last year, the OKA has been continuously striving to establish and implement compatriot policies that can provide practical help to compatriots,” Lee said. “We look forward to working with KAPS, which has expertise and experience in policy research, to establish customized compatriot policies that overseas Koreans can feel the effects of.”



## OKA and Small & Medium Business Distribution Center to support overseas expansion of Korean SMEs and small businesses

MOU signed to promote revitalization in connection with overseas Korean entrepreneurs around the world

The Overseas Koreans Agency and the Small & Medium Business Distribution Center (SBDC, CEO Lee Tae-sik) will work together to promote the overseas expansion of Korean SMEs and small businesses.

OKA Commissioner Lee Key-cheol and CEO Lee Tae-sik signed a memorandum of understanding at the headquarters of the OKA in Yeonsu-gu, Incheon, on July 9.

The two organizations agreed to work together to: ▲ support the overseas expansion of Korean SMEs and small businesses using the global Korean network, ▲ cooperate to link the OKA's hansang.net and the distribution support portal site



OKA Commissioner Lee Key-cheol (L) and Lee Tae-sik, CEO of the Small & Medium Business Distribution Center, pose for a photo after signing the MOU.

(fanfandaero.kr) operated by the SBDC, and ▲ work on other agreed-upon issues to promote the overseas expansion of Korean SMEs and small businesses.

In particular, the SBDC will be in charge of the business exhibition, a major program of the 22nd World Korean Business Congress, which will be held from Oct. 22-24 across Jeonju, North Jeolla Province and Chonbuk National University.

The two organizations also agreed to expand practical results through efficient matching between overseas Korean buyers from around the world and Korean SMEs and small businesses.

## OKA collaborates with Incheon Veterans Hospital on medical support for overseas Koreans

OKA Commissioner Lee: 'We will provide practical services to help overseas Koreans'

The Overseas Koreans Agency has joined hands with the Incheon Veterans Hospital (Director Kim Chun-dong) to cooperate on medical support for overseas Koreans and stabilize the settlement of overseas compatriots entering Korea.

The two organizations signed a memorandum of understanding at the OKA's headquarters in Songdo, Incheon, Korea, on July 28, in the presence of OKA Commissioner Lee Key-cheol and Incheon Veterans Hospital Director Kim.

Under the MOU, the two organizations will work together to stabilize the settlement of overseas Koreans living in the Incheon area, including expanding medical support for those with historical special status, such as Koryo people and Sakhalin compatriots.

Lee and Kim recognized the need for mutual cooperation



OKA Commissioner Lee Key-cheol (R) takes a commemorative photo with Kim Chun-dong, director of Incheon Veterans Hospital, after signing a memorandum of understanding.

between the two organizations to strengthen medical support for overseas Koreans living in the Incheon area, so that overseas Koreans who wish to enter and settle in Korea can receive practical help.

The two organizations plan to cooperate in the following areas: ▲ cooperation for medical support for vulnerable overseas compatriots living in Korea, ▲ domestic and international medical cooperation for overseas Koreans, including descendants of independence fighters in the Russian-CIS

region, ▲ expanding public access to veterans' medical care by identifying veterans' unmet medical needs among overseas Koreans, and ▲ social contribution activities, such as outreach medical services, to strengthen public health care for overseas Koreans living in Incheon.



## OKA Upcoming Events

Inauguration ceremony for Lee Sang-deok, second commissioner of the Overseas Koreans Agency (July 31)

## OKA Commissioner's Activities in July

July 3: Mobile Overseas Korean Identification Card issuance event (Diplomatic Town)  
9: MOU signing ceremony for OKA and Small and Medium Business Distribution Center (OKA Headquarters)  
10: 3rd external commissioners' meeting (Government Complex Sejong)  
11: MOU signing ceremony for OKA and Korean Association for Policy Studies (OKA Headquarters)  
16: Opening ceremony of 1st Motherland Training Program for overseas Korean youth (Incheon Hyatt Hotel)  
17: 76th Constitution Day celebration (National Assembly)  
17: Plenary meeting of Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee (National Assembly)  
22: Opening ceremony of Hangeul School Teachers' invitational training (Songdo Convensia)  
23: Invitational event for next generation of Koreans from multicultural families (Seoul)

## OKA Announcements

# OKA to host this year's World Congress of Korean Association Presidents from Oct. 1-4 in Seoul

Discuss ways to build global backbone nation through Korean networks

The Overseas Koreans Agency will host the World Congress of Korean Association Presidents 2024 from Oct. 1-4 at Lotte Hotel World in Songpa-gu, Seoul. On the final day, Oct. 4, the 18th World Korean Day will be celebrated at the same venue.

Under the theme of "Contributing to Building a Global Backbone Nation through the Global Korean Network," the congress will be attended by more than 450 participants, including incumbent Korean association presidents from around the world, presidents and executives of 10 Korean Federations across the continents and invited guests from related overseas Korean organizations.

The congress will kick off with the "Feedback on Recommendations from the Compatriot Community" program, which will announce actions taken on recommendations made at events and meetings with compatriots since the opening of the OKA in June last year. This will be the first time that the World Congress



This photo shows last year's World Congress of Korean Association Presidents.

of Korean Association Presidents reveals all the actions taken in response to civil inquiries from the Korean community.

A discussion session will also be held with the overseas Korean community to explore ways to form a new unification discourse based on a liberal democratic basic order and international solidarity for unification. There will be a workshop on the "Foreign Textbooks on Korea's Political and

Economic Development Project" promoted by Korean associations and discussions to hear feedback on current issues in overseas Korean policy areas.

In addition, government departments, such as the OKA, the Ministry of Justice, the National Election Commission and the Armed Forces Administration, will explain overseas Korean policies, Korean associations will present case studies of excellent businesses, and there will be a wrap-up meeting to summarize the main points of the congress.

## Key Information for Overseas Koreans

- 2024 Incheon Youth Diaspora Video Contest (registration Aug. 1 - Sept. 20)
- South Jeolla Province is recruiting participants for "Let's Travel to Our Beloved Hometown" for overseas Koreans. The program will provide up to 150,000 won per person per day. To apply, participants can prepare proof of their hometown and apply through the Jeonnam Tourism Platform (JN TOUR), an integrated reservation and payment application for tourism, transportation, accommodation and gourmet food created by South Jeolla Province.





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