

## Overseas Koreans can now verify their identities without using domestic phones or visiting embassies

OKA, Korea Communications Commission, Ministry of Science and ICT launch pilot service for Overseas Korean Authentication Center

The Overseas Koreans Agency (Commissioner Lee Sang-duk) launched the Overseas Korean Authentication Center service on a pilot basis on Nov. 28 in cooperation with the Korea Communications Commission (KCC), the Ministry of Science and ICT, and the Digital Platform Government Committee to improve accessibility to domestic digital services for citizens residing overseas.

After signing a business agreement with relevant ministries in March, the government established a non-face-to-face identity verification system for overseas citizens (Overseas Koreans Authentication Center) based on electronic passports, developed through interagency working-level consultations and business briefings for private businesses.

In the past, citizens living abroad had to travel distances to an overseas mission to obtain a joint or financial certificate in order to use domestic online services. In addition, even if a certificate was issued, domestic mobile phone verification was required to

actually use the service, which was inconvenient.

However, from now on, if overseas compatriots register as overseas citizens and have a resident registration number and possess a valid electronic passport, they will be able to obtain an overseas citizen certificate through a civil application and verify their identity online. During the pilot service period, certificate issuance will be the priority.

With the launch of the service on this day, certificates can be issued through the Shinhan Bank and Viva Republica (Toss) apps, and starting in December, they can also be issued through Kookmin Bank, Woori Bank and Hana Bank. Moreover, in addition to the five types of certificates that can be issued currently, there are plans to add other certificates that can be used by overseas Koreans.

### Overseas Korean Certification Center to officially launch services next year

In addition, in line with the official launch of the Overseas Korean Certification Center next year, plans are being put in place to offer services so that through their certificates, overseas nationals can use various domestic online services, such as e-government services, e-finance services, non-face-to-face medical services, online education services and online shopping.



OKA Commissioner Lee Sang-duk (6th from R) and other key participants press the pilot service launch button at the ceremony to commemorate the launch of the pilot service of the Overseas Koreans Certification Center, held at the Diplomatic Town in Seocho-gu, Seoul, on Nov. 28.

# 재외동포인증센터 시범 서비스 개시 기념행사

2024년 11월 28일(목) 10 ~ 11:35 | 신라호텔 12층 대회의실



The OKA holds a ceremony at the Diplomatic Center in Seocho-gu, Seoul, to commemorate the launch of the pilot service of the Overseas Koreans Certification Center, a non-face-to-face identity verification service that resolves the inconvenience of overseas Koreans having to visit overseas diplomatic missions and own Korean mobile phones, on Nov. 28. The photo shows OKA Commissioner Lee Sang-duk (6th from L, front row) taking a commemorative photo with the participants.

The Overseas Korean Certification Center service is the world's first project to build and operate a non-face-to-face identity verification system for overseas nationals based on electronic passports and overseas residence information, and can be said to be the best and most innovative project for a digital platform government.

The OKA plans to continue to expand various digital civil service services that will allow overseas Koreans to experience practical convenience, including through the Overseas Koreans Certification Center.

The commemorative event was attended by OKA Commissioner Lee Sang-duk, KCC director Jo Seong-eun, policy director of the Ministry of Science and ICT's Information Protection Network Kim Nam-cheol, director of the Service Innovation Bureau of the Digital Platform Government Committee Lee Byeong-yeon, director of the Digital Safety Support Headquarters of the Korea Internet & Security Agency Kim Jeong-hee, Shinhan Bank Vice President Lim Su-han, Woori Bank Vice President Kim Beom-seok, Hana Bank Vice President Lee Seon-yong, director of Kookmin Bank Park Hyeong-ju and Viva Republica Vice President Kim Gyu-ha.

"The overseas Korean community has been curious about what has improved in terms of the rights of overseas Koreans since the launch of the OKA," OKA Commissioner Lee said. "This service is the most tangible service. Anyone who has lived abroad even for a little while will realize the importance of this service, and although it is a pilot service, I ask that you make an effort to spread it widely among the overseas Koreans community."

"Previously, overseas Koreans had to maintain domestic mobile phones for domestic financial transactions while living overseas, which meant they had to pay unnecessary costs, and overseas Koreans living far from embassies had to visit the embassy far away for authentication, which was very difficult. The launch of this Overseas Koreans Authentication Center service is a good

example of incorporating advanced domestic IT into administration, and the OKA will continue to expand digital civil affairs services in the future."

"It is especially meaningful in that it provides a digital platform that allows our compatriots around the world to connect more closely with the Republic of Korea," KCC director Jo Seong-eun said. "The KCC will spare no support to realize a digital society without discrimination for all citizens."

Kim Nam-cheol, director of the Information Protection Network Policy Bureau of the Ministry of Science and ICT, said: "Through the efforts of many organizations and companies the Non-face-to-face Identity Verification Support System for Overseas Citizens has been launched. The Ministry of Science and ICT will continue to do its best to ensure the stable operation and support of the system."

## Demonstration event for receiving certificates also held

At the ceremony, a demonstration event for receiving certificates was also held for Koreans from the United States, Canada, France, Indonesia and Singapore.

Mr. B, a Korean American who received a certificate via Zoom from Denver, U.S., said, "It was burdensome to have to go to the LA Embassy 2,000 kilometers away just for a copy of my resident registration, but now that I can receive it online from home, I feel so liberated." 🇺🇸