

‘First academic forum for new agenda and paradigm concerning domestic compatriot issues’

OKA Commissioner Lee: ‘Developing customized programs for stable settlement of domestic compatriots’

The Overseas Koreans Agency (Commissioner Lee Sang-duk) held the 2024 Overseas Korean Policy Academic Forum on the topic of “Dialogue with the Government, Academia, and Civic Groups on the 2024 Domestic Overseas Koreans Policy” at the Luna Miele Convention Hall in the CCMM Building in Yeouido, Seoul, on Dec. 6. The forum was attended by approximately 200 people, including OKA Commissioner Lee Sang-duk, Rep. Yoon Hu-deok of the Democratic Party of Korea, professor Lim Young-sang of the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (former President of the Association for the Studies of Koreans Abroad) and professor Myeong Seung-hwan of Inha University’s Department of Public Administration, as well as officials from academia, the Ministry of Justice and other government ministries, and representatives of overseas Korean organizations.

This forum, held at the one-year mark since the launch of the OKA, was meaningful in that it was the first academic forum for a new agenda and paradigm that focused on compatriots residing in Korea as important policy subjects, rather than just on compatriots residing overseas, which had been the subject of policy until then.

The forum was even more meaningful as it featured suggestions from a variety of experts, including academics, government officials and people in the education sector. In the first session, director Kwak Jae-seok of the Migrant Research and Training Centre gave a presentation on the topic of “Measures to Improve Laws and Systems for Compatriots in Korea.” In addition, senior researcher Kim Jae-ho of the Dasan Economic Research Institute gave a presentation titled “Analysis of the Impact of Lowering the Age of Allowing Dual Citizenship for Overseas Compatriots” and presented the results of a recent study on overseas compatriots that showed that lowering the age of allowing dual citizenship from the current age of 65 to 40 would be the most economically effective.

The second session, titled “Methods for Spreading Domestic Awareness of Overseas Compatriots Living in Korea,” featured panelists Kim Yong-pil, CEO of Dongpo World Newspaper; Lee



Attendees take a commemorative photo at the Overseas Korean Policy Academic Forum held at the Luna Miele Convention Hall in the CCMM Building in Yeouido, Seoul, on Dec. 6.

Young-geun, director of the Overseas Koreans Cooperation Center; Song Seok-won, a professor at Kyunghee University; and Jeong Young-soon, president of the Association of Koryo Saram.

The third session, titled “Policy Dialogue for Settlement of Overseas Compatriots in Korea,” was moderated by Professor Emeritus Lim Young-sang of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (former president of the Association for the Studies of Koreans Abroad), and a lively discussion was held with experts from various fields and heads of overseas Korean organizations in attendance.

In his welcoming speech, OKA Commissioner Lee Sang-duk said: “Since the launch of the OKA, the government’s overseas compatriot policy has targeted only compatriots living overseas, but now domestic compatriots are also being considered. It is time to implement effective policies for those who have been excluded from overseas compatriot policies due to their domestic residence. Today’s event is the first step in such efforts. The OKA has reflected in next year’s budget for the first time the development of customized programs for the stable settlement of compatriots residing in Korea and the necessary support for each region. Starting next year, we plan to carry out domestic compatriot settlement support projects in collaboration with local governments and private sector organizations.” [\[창\]](#)