

## OKA policy advisory committee says, ‘We need to bring together compatriot affairs that are scattered throughout government’

‘Control tower role needed’; ‘Overseas Korean of the Month’ selection and announcement also discussed

The Overseas Koreans Agency held the 3rd Overseas Koreans Agency Policy Advisory Committee Meeting in the main conference room of the OKA's office in Songdo, Incheon, on Dec. 2.

“When the OKA was launched, we did not make enough progress in unifying the work of overseas Koreans scattered across each ministry,” OKA Commissioner Lee Sang-duk said in his opening remarks. “In order to fulfill our functions and roles as the responsible agency for overseas Koreans policies, we must centralize the tasks of overseas Koreans around the OKA, even if it takes time.”

The advisory committee members expressed their active sympathy for the unification of policies for compatriots and expressed their opinion that “Inter-departmental work coordination and resource allocation should be carried out so that the purpose of the OKA being launched in June of last year can be maintained and



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its practical functions can be strengthened.”

To this end, they recommended ▲ Presentation of a vision for policies for compatriots, ▲ Reorganization of laws and systems that are out of date with the situation on the ground, such as the Overseas Koreans Education Act, ▲ Dispatch of consuls in charge of compatriot affairs to overseas diplomatic missions and ▲ Active negotiations with relevant

ministries and securing of a leadership role.

Meanwhile, the advisory committee also discussed the plan for selecting the “Overseas Korean of the Month” that the OKA will spearhead next year. The OKA plans to find compatriots who have contributed to the development of the Republic of Korea and the improvement of the status of Koreans in their countries of residence, and to widely publicize them in Korea and the overseas Korean community.

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## OKA to provide support for online degree courses to improve professionalism of Hangeul school teachers

Applications open until early Jan.; results announced at end of Feb.

The Overseas Koreans Agency (Commissioner Lee Sang-duk) announced Dec. 6 that it will help Hangeul school teachers take Korean language education degree courses at domestic cyber universities in order to improve their professionalism. The project to support Hangeul school teacher degree courses will help teachers obtain degrees and a Certificate of Korean Language Teacher (Level 2) by covering a portion of the tuition fees. Kyunghee Cyber University, Cyber University of Korea, Digital Seoul Culture Arts University, Cyber Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Sejong Cyber University, Soongsil Cyber University and Wonkwang Digital University operate degree courses aimed at third-year transfer students.

Since the deadlines are different for each university, it will be necessary to check the recruitment guidelines. The OKA will select

candidates based on its own criteria from a pool of successful applicants to the universities and will announce the results at the end of February. Those selected will take online classes in the Korean language, general linguistics and Korean language education theory, among other subjects, and receive a degree. If they meet the conditions, such as taking required subjects, they can obtain a Certificate of Korean Language Teacher (Level 2).

“Cultivating the identities of the next generation of compatriots is one of the core goals of the overseas compatriots policy, and Hangeul schools and Hangeul school teachers play an important role, so we will continue to support capacity building,” Commissioner Lee said.

For more information, visit the Overseas Koreans Agency ([oka.go.kr](http://oka.go.kr)) and Study Korean ([study.korean.net](http://study.korean.net)) websites.

## OKA to launch Global Next Generation Compatriots Committee next year to foster next generation

Preparatory meeting held Dec. 9; 12 overseas compatriots from 4 divisions in attendance, including next generation, adoptees

The Overseas Koreans Agency (Commissioner Lee Sang-duk) has decided to launch the Global Next Generation Compatriots Committee in the first half of 2025 to support the discovery and development of next-generation talents and their advancement into mainstream society.

The OKA held a preparatory meeting at the Overseas Koreans Welcome Center in Songdo, Incheon, on Dec. 9 to launch the committee. At the meeting, 12 overseas compatriots from four divisions, including ▲ Next generation, ▲ Adopted compatriots, ▲ Alumni from recipients of Korean scholarships and ▲ Overseas missions in Incheon, attended and expressed various opinions for building a next-generation network.



OKA Deputy Commissioner Byeon Cheol-hwan (7th from L) takes a commemorative photo after holding a preparatory meeting at the Overseas Koreans Welcome Center in Songdo, Incheon, on Dec. 9.

They discussed ways to enter the mainstream society of their country of residence and shared success stories. They also discussed specific ways for the next generation to contribute to the development of the Republic of Korea. After attending the meeting, they visited historical sites in Incheon, such as the Museum of Korean Immigration History, the Chemulpo Club and the Jogyeji Stairway, in order to foster their identity. The OKA plans to utilize the

Global Next Generation Overseas Koreans Committee as an official network for building a global next generation overseas Koreans network and developing global human resources, as well as an advisory group for the next generation of overseas Koreans policies.

## Overseas Koreans Business Advisory Group (OK BIZ) to support overseas expansion of K-food

OKA arranges export consultations for 42 domestic food companies with buyers from 12 countries

The Overseas Koreans Agency (Commissioner Lee Sang-duk) invited the Overseas Koreans Business Advisory Group (OK BIZ) to support the overseas expansion of K-food and held the 2nd World Korean Business Forum and Export Consultation Meeting at COEX in Gangnam-gu, Seoul, on Nov. 23.

This event was held in conjunction with the 2024 COEX Food Week. In particular, 20 food experts from 12 countries, including the United States, China, Japan and Germany, and 42 domestic food-related companies participated in the event and conducted export consultations. As a result, 157 cases and US\$14.45 million worth of export consultations were achieved.

This event is the second event following the 1st World Korean Business Forum (Theme: K-beauty) held in Incheon last August and was organized to support export growth and overseas market development of Korean food-related companies under the theme of K-food. In this forum, overseas Korean business advisers active in China, the U.S. and Germany, among other countries, presented



Participants take a commemorative photo at the 2nd World Korean Business Forum held at COEX in Gangnam-gu, Seoul, on Nov. 23. The export consultation meeting targeting domestic food companies resulted in export consultation results worth US\$14.45 million.

their export and import strategies. They analyzed the macroeconomic environment and local situations and presented practical and effective measures for domestic small and medium-sized enterprises to successfully enter the local market.

