

441 next-generation Koreans from 31 countries learn about Korea and strengthen Korean identity

OKA and Overseas Koreans Cooperation Center host 7th and 8th Home Country Invitational Training

The Overseas Koreans Agency has invited 441 next-generation Koreans from 31 countries around the world to Korea to learn about and experience Korea through a series of programs.

The 7th Next Generation Compatriots Home Country Invitational Training, which began Jan. 13, was attended by 253 youths from 31 countries, and the eighth program, which began Jan. 14, was attended by 188 university and graduate-level students from 31 countries.

The programs lasted one week each. This year's program was designed to help the next generation of Koreans experience Korea's culture and history, reflect on its development and increase their pride in their country.

Experience Korean culture, history, development

The Next Generation Home Country Invitational Training program was organized by the Overseas Korean Cooperation Center, an agency under the OKA.

The participants of the seventh program experienced the past and present of traditional culture and K-pop in Seoul, Buyeo and Daejeon, and learned about the history of Baekje's high level of culture, including its transmission of Chinese characters to Japan through its maritime expansion. In particular, they also experienced the science of space exploration and technology and sports using augmented reality at the National Science Center.

In the eighth training program, participants experienced the history and culture of Seoul, Busan and Incheon, as well as programs to foster global leaders, such as the global response to climate change.



The opening ceremony of the 8th Next Generation Compatriots Home Country Invitational Training, hosted by the Overseas Koreans Agency and delivered by the Overseas Koreans Cooperation Center, was held on Jan. 15 on the Seoul National University Siheung Campus.

Global leadership program also held

The participants took part in major events, including ▲ Attending an opening ceremony at the Seoul National University campus in Siheung, Gyeonggi-do, ▲ Experiencing the history and culture of Busan, a city specializing in maritime trade and science, ▲ Touring Seoul's history, culture and development, ▲ Experiencing Korean etiquette culture, such as the Hanbok Festival, and ▲ Carrying out a global citizen action project on climate change.

“Inviting the next generation of overseas Koreans to study in their home countries is one of the core programs of the OKA,” OKA Commissioner Lee Sang-duk said at the opening ceremony of the eighth training program on Jan. 15. “During the training program, we hope that the next generation of compatriots will build networks among themselves and between themselves and their friends in their homeland of Korea, cultivate their Korean identity and grow into valuable assets for Korea.” 장