

Group blood donation with Chinese compatriots

OKA Deputy Commissioner Byun Chul-hwan, ‘We thank Chinese compatriots for their exemplary role as a bridge between China and Korea’



OKA Deputy Commissioner Byun Cheol-hwan (7th from L) and OKKA President Kim Ho-rim (6th from L) pose for a commemorative photo in front of a blood donation bus during a blood donation event in front of Daerim Station in Daerim-dong, Yeongdeungpo-gu, Seoul, on Jan. 21.

The Overseas Koreans Agency and the Overseas Koreans in Korea Association (OKKA) jointly organized a blood donation event in front of Daerim Station in Daerim-dong, Yeongdeungpo-gu, Seoul, on Jan. 21.

The event was organized to help alleviate blood shortages and stabilize the blood supply, and to raise awareness of compatriots from China through their public service activities. The event was attended by 50 people -- 40 members of the OKKA and 10 officials from the OKA.

“We recently volunteered at the site of the Muan Jeju Air disaster with our members,” OKKA President Kim Horim said. “Unlike other foreign compatriots, compatriots from China face the reality of hidden discrimination, so we participated in the event to improve the opinion on Chinese compatriots.”

“As an overseas Korean living in Korea, I joined the blood drive to contribute to society,” said Lim Do-kyung, CEO of Woori Donghaeng, who serves as the auditor of the OKKA. “The blood drive with the OKA made me feel the overwhelming emotion that ‘We are one.’”

“I’ve been wanting to donate blood for a long time, and when I

heard the OKKA was holding a blood drive, I was happy to participate,” said Lee Kwang-il from Yanbian, China. “I hope I can help someone who needs a blood transfusion.”

“Of the more than 870,000 compatriots living in Korea, more than 670,000 are compatriots from China, who serve as a bridge between Korea and China,” said Byun Chul-hwan, the OKA’s deputy commissioner. “They are not only exemplary in Chinese society but also lead exemplary lives in Korea.”

“We are grateful to the members of the OKKA for their participation in this meaningful event, and the OKA is pleased to join the blood donation drive to show our support for their generosity,” he said, in explaining the thinking behind the event.

The event was organized by the OKKA, which was founded in 2003 by the first generation of Chinese compatriots who acquired Korean citizenship under the name of the National Association of Returned Korean Compatriots. The organization changed its name to the Overseas Koreans in Korea Association in 2023 and has been working to improve the lives and empower the Chinese diaspora in Korea. [\[창\]](#)