

Koryo teachers shout, ‘Kareya Ura. ... We will foster Korean pride’

Invited by Overseas Korean Cooperation Center to deepen Korean teaching methods and cultural experience

“I shouted ‘Kareya Ura’ with all my might in front of the Seodaemun Prison History Museum. I was overwhelmed with gratitude after learning how my ancestors defended our country. Now, when I return home, I will take the lead in instilling Korean pride in the next generation.”

When asked on Jan. 10 about their impressions of participating in the “CIS Korean Language Teacher Training Program” at the invitation of the Overseas Korean Cooperation Center, an organization under the Overseas Koreans Agency, the Koryo-saram Korean teachers said, “We have improved our skills, but the biggest harvest is that we have a greater sense of our roots.”

“Kareya Ura” means “Long live Korean independence” in Russian, a phrase shouted by the actor who played Dr. Ahn Joong-geun after he shot Ito Hirobumi in the recently released movie “Harbin.”

The 20 teachers from Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and other countries participated in the training program at the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies from Jan. 2-12. During the training, they watched “Harbin” and visited the Seodaemun Prison History Museum.

“After watching the movie and visiting the Seodaemun Prison History Museum, I deeply understood how our ancestors overcame hardships to achieve independence,” said Kim Yekaterina (31), a Korean language teacher at the Korean Language Institute in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. “I felt grateful after leaving the history museum and vowed to live as a descendant without shame.”

“I was not sure about teaching because of my little experience, but after intensively learning the Korean language and teaching methods and listening to the know-how of senior teachers, my confidence grew,” said Shen Yulia, 23, a teacher from Mirae



Koryo-saram teachers who participated in the “CIS Korean Language Teacher Training Program” pose for a photo at the opening ceremony at the University of Foreign Studies on Jan. 2.

Hangeul School in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. “Above all, I learned a lot about the history and culture of the Koryo people, which gave me the confidence to continue teaching.”

“I learned how to teach well through hands-on lessons,” said Yugai Tatiana, 37, a teacher at a Hangeul school in Rostov-on-Don, southern Russia. “I will eagerly pass on what I have seen and learned to the next generation of the Koryo people.”

“Since I was a child, my elders told me that I needed to speak Russian well to succeed, and so I had almost forgotten our language,” said Cha Svetlana, 67, a teacher with 27 years of experience at a regular secondary school in Uzbekistan. “Now that I’m older and have a sense of my roots, I’ve learned it again, and I’m eager to tell the next generation how exciting it is to know our language and culture.” 