

Kim Hyun-tae appointed new president of Federation of Korean Associations in Japan

‘We will further activate exchanges between two countries on 60th anniversary of normalization of diplomatic relations’

The Federation of Korean Associations in Japan announced that Kim Hyun-tae (68), the former president of the Kyushu Korean Federation in Japan, was elected as the third president of the organization and began his duties following his inauguration ceremony on Feb. 11.

The inauguration ceremony, which was held at Hassenkaku in Fukuoka, Japan, was attended by more than 130 key figures from both Japan and Korea. The inauguration ceremony was a meaningful occasion to strengthen harmony and unity between the two countries, as it brought together not only the executives of Korean associations across Japan but also the heads of major Korean organizations, as well as the heads of local Korea-Japan Friendship Associations and Korean lawmakers.

Kim Yi-jung, president of the central headquarters of the Korean Residents Union in Japan (Mindan), and Takeo Kawamura, chair of the Japan-Korea Friendship Association, a leading pro-Korean group in Japan, were present. Joo Ho-young, deputy speaker of the National Assembly (chair of the Alliance of Korean and Japanese Lawmakers), and Kim Seok-ki, chair of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee (vice chair of the Alliance of Korean and Japanese Lawmakers) also attended the event, which was an opportunity to promote harmony and future-oriented development not only among the Japanese diaspora but also between Korea and Japan, which celebrated the 60th anniversary of diplomatic normalization this year.

In his inaugural speech, Kim Hyun-tae said: “We are people who have left the mainland of Korea and made our own small Koreas abroad, and as Korean associations and small Koreas around the world, we should strive to develop further for the honor of our homeland. Especially this year, which marks the 60th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and South Korea, we Korean Associations will further activate exchanges between the two countries and pursue meaningful activities alongside Mindan.”



Guests pose for a photo during the inauguration ceremony for the new president of the Federation of Korean Associations in Japan at Hassenkaku in Fukuoka, Japan.

The Federation of Korean Associations in Japan was founded in 2017 as an alliance of Korean associations representing newcomers who moved to Japan after the 1980s. Currently, there are nine Korean associations in Tokyo, Osaka, Fukuoka and other cities across Japan.

Kim, who was elected president at the general assembly late last year, announced his ambition to lead the federation under the banner of “Leading the Korean community as One Family” by: ▲ Establishing the role of the Federation, ▲ Establishing a new award for Japanese people who have contributed to the spread of Korean culture, ▲ Strengthening the federation’s position globally, ▲ Respecting the independence of regional Korean associations, ▲ Strengthening the national network and ▲ Encouraging the establishment of new Korean associations. Kim will serve a two-year term until December 2026.

Kim, who is also vice president for Japan in the World Federation of Overseas Korean Traders Associations (World-OKTA) and president of the World Korean Hotel Association, graduated from Kyung Hee University with a degree in hotel management and worked in major luxury hotels in Korea, serving as general manager of Ramada Hotel. In Japan, he served as general manager of IP City Hotel and is currently managing the Benikea Calton Hotels in Osaka and Fukuoka. [\[장\]](#)