

Korea achieves second place overall at Asian Winter Games, best result ever

Cheongchodang volunteer group wins gold medal

Korean volunteer organization united in spirit of An Jung-geun -- from cheering to language interpretation for tourists

With Korean athletes winning 45 medals -- 16 gold, 15 silver and 14 bronze -- at the Harbin 2025 Asian Winter Games to finish second overall behind China, Korea's best performance ever, the efforts of the Korea Consulate General in Shenyang, the Korean Cultural Centers in the three northeast provinces and the Korean Volunteers of Cheongchodang were also described as "worthy of a gold medal."

According to the Overseas Koreans Newspaper, the joint public-private volunteer effort consisting of 11 organizations, including the Cheongchodang Korean Volunteer Group (hereafter referred to as the Volunteer Group, President Kim Jeong-yeol), the Dandong Korean Association (President Song Yong-wan), the Dalian Korean Association (President Yoo Dae-sung) and the Fushun Korean Association (President Lim Eun-sun), conducted systematic volunteer activities, including a welcome ceremony for the Korean athletes, cheering group, interpretation support, and introduction to the history and culture of Harbin and the three northeast provinces.

The volunteers first held a welcome ceremony for the Korean team (head coach Choi Hong-hoon) upon their arrival at Harbin Taiping International Airport on Feb. 4 and then encouraged the Korean athletes by handing out Team Korea scarves, Team Korea cheering brochures and souvenirs to the entire team.

"As this tournament is being held for the first time in eight years, the athletes have been preparing thoroughly to perform well," said Choi Hong-hoon, head coach of the Korean National Team. "We will bring joy to the Korean people with the best possible results."

"I would like to sincerely welcome the Korean athletes, their families and supporters to Harbin despite the current national difficulties," said President Kim Jong-yeol in his welcome address. "I hope that the good performance of the Korean athletes at the Games will bring comfort and a message of hope to the Korean people who are going through a difficult time."



Athletes of the South Korean team pose for a photo with members of the Harbin 2025 Winter Asian Games Civilian Joint Committee and the Korean Volunteer Group at Harbin Taiping International Airport in Harbin, China, on the afternoon of Feb. 4, three days before the opening of the Harbin Asian Winter Games.

"Cheongchodang" is one of the many papers written by An Jung-geun (1879-1910) between Feb. 14, 1910, when he was condemned to death in Manchuria's Yushun Prison, and his martyrdom on March 26, 1910. The paper's title means the hope of the hill by the water's edge where green grass springs up. Harbin Park (now Jiaolin Park) is the place where An took a walk two days before his death and the monument to An's "Cheongchodang" now stands.

Above all, the sacrificial spirit of the volunteers shone through at the Harbin 2025 Asian Winter Games. Due to local territorial customs, it was not easy to secure funds to pay for visitor tickets. In response, the volunteers secured special sponsorships from the Shenyang Korean Visa Center (Director Oh Jum-geun) and the Korean Cultural Center of the Three Northeast Provinces (Chairman Park Shin-heon) to create a group of supporters for Korea in the audience. During the ice hockey games between Korea and Thailand and Korea and Kazakhstan, the volunteer team mobilized more than 60 international students from Harbin, including the Harbin Korean Association, to fiercely cheer for the Korean athletes. [\[장\]](#)