

‘Improve legal and institutional framework to establish system for strengthening overseas Korean policies’

Priority action to revitalize pan-governmental collaboration and collect opinions from compatriot communities

Improve legal and institutional frameworks

The key actions to establish a system for improving overseas Korean policies are to strengthen the legal and institutional framework and to activate intergovernmental collaborations and collect opinions from the Korean compatriot community.

To strengthen the legal and institutional foundation, the first step is to revise the Basic Law on Overseas Koreans. The main focus has been set as “Policy for supporting the settlement of returned overseas Koreans in Korea,” including Sakhalin compatriots. It also stipulates the responsibilities of local governments for the smooth implementation of overseas Korean policies. The OKA plans to improve the system for establishing and evaluating the implementation plan for overseas Korean policies.

In addition, the OKA plans to change the name of the Overseas Koreans Cooperation Center and adjust its functions. In line with the purpose of establishing the Overseas Koreans Cooperation Center, we will change the name of the organization to the Institute for Compatriot Exchange and adjust the scope of its activities, including public relations projects. Lastly, the government plans to establish a system to follow up on grants to overseas Korean organizations.

The second way to strengthen the legal and institutional foundation is to establish a pan-governmental “Overseas Korean Policy Implementation Plan.” The first Basic Plan for Overseas Korean Policy (2024-2028) was established on Jan. 30, 2024, and on Sept. 9 of the same year, the “2024 Overseas Korean Policy Implementation Plan” was established. This year, we plan to establish the “2025 Overseas Korean Policy Implementation Plan,” which is in line with the first basic plan.

Revitalizing intergovernmental collaboration and collecting opinions from compatriot community

To revitalize intergovernmental collaborations and collect opinions from the compatriot community, first, the OKA will hold compatriot meetings on the occasion of major events, such as the overseas tours of the president and prime minister.

Second, the Overseas Koreans Policy Committee will be internalized. Four subcommittees, including the Subcommittee on Current Laws and Systems, the Subcommittee on Next Generation



Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yeol (C) presides over the 24th meeting of the Overseas Koreans Policy Committee at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jongno, Seoul, South Korea, on Feb. 11.

Diaspora and Education, the Subcommittee on Historical and Special Diaspora, and the Subcommittee on Compatriot Services will be activated to quickly identify and respond to issues in each area of overseas Korean policy at the pan-governmental level. To this end, we plan to synthesize the results of the subcommittee meetings and link them to higher-level meetings at the ministerial and vice-ministerial levels (Overseas Korean Policy Committee and Working Committee) to internalize the policy promotion system.

The third is to improve and internalize statistics on the status of overseas Koreans. To this end, we will research and publish the “Status of Overseas Koreans in 2025,” which is the status of overseas Koreans by country of residence. We also plan to prepare statistics on compatriots residing in Korea in cooperation with relevant ministries, such as the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior and Safety, and local governments.

The fourth is to revitalize policy research to support the resolution of current issues in the Korean diaspora. To this end, we will conduct customized policy research by identifying and surveying the current situation of overseas Koreans in the Americas, Europe, Oceania, Asia, and the Russian Federation and CIS. We will also study ways to respond to current issues in each area, such as generational changes in the Korean community and the increase in the number of overseas compatriots staying in Korea, including naturalized returning Koreans. In addition, the OKA will organize the “Academic Forum on Overseas Korean Policy in 2025” and an academic seminar involving overseas Koreans and private sector experts.