

OKA Commissioner Lee Sang-duk visits Australian compatriots for ‘NextGen Economic Seminar’

Event in Sydney was great success with diverse participation from different generations

Lee Sang-duk, commissioner of the Overseas Koreans Agency, visited Melbourne and Sydney in Australia from Feb. 20-22 to hold a meeting with compatriots and the “NextGen Economic Seminar.”

On Feb. 21, Lee attended the General Assembly of the Federation of Korean Societies of Oceania in Melbourne, where he met with more than 80 representatives of Korean associations in Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea, as well as the heads of major Korean organizations in Melbourne, to listen to the major issues of the local Korean communities and explain the major policies and projects of the OKA this year.

Lee evaluated the development of the Korean diaspora in the Oceania states, which have settled down stably despite a short immigration history compared with the United States and China, and emphasized the need to expand intergenerational communication and the participation of the next generation in the Korean diaspora to ensure the sustainable growth of the Korean diaspora and called for the Korean diaspora’s interest in the “NextGen Academy,” a model project of the OKA.

Prior to the meeting, Lee visited Melbourne’s Koreatown, where he interacted with Korean small business owners, encouraged them to work together to promote Koreatown in the multicultural society of Australia, and listened to the process and challenges of promoting the town.

Following his visit to Melbourne, Lee traveled to Sydney on Feb. 22 to host the “NextGen Economic Seminar,” a major initiative of the OKA, and a meeting with the Sydney Korean community. The seminar was attended not only by representatives from major Sydney-based Korean organizations but also by second-generation Korean immigrants, including 1.5-generation Korean immigrants, local-born second-generation Korean immigrants, international students and working holiday participants, providing an opportunity for intergenerational communication. The seminar, which was organized for 100 people through advance registration, was a great success, with all 100 people who expressed interest attending.

The lectures by experts on the topics of “How to be 100% Successful” and “Empathy Marketing” were well-received, as they



Lee Sang-duk (front row, 6th from L) cheers with participants at the compatriots meeting of the Federation of Korean Societies of Oceania on Feb. 21.

shared real-life startup experiences and know-how to succeed in the industry. At the meeting of Sydney compatriots held after the seminar, Kim Min-cheol, director of exchange and cooperation, explained the major policies and projects of the OKA this year, including the new overseas Korean TV program that allows the Korean community to communicate with their home country at all times.

In his greetings, Lee emphasized the importance of fostering the next generation of talented people with a Korean identity and intergenerational communication for the future of the Korean community, and called for the participation of the compatriot community to strengthen the capabilities of the Korean community with stable generational change so that the capabilities of the entire Korean nation can be gathered and multiplied for the mutual development of the Korean community in the home country and around the world.

The participants at the meeting expressed various opinions on establishing a closer communication channel between the OKA and the Korean associations, bidding to host the World Korean Business Convention in Sydney, lowering the age of multiple citizenship, expanding opportunities for youth to visit their home countries, government support for spreading Korean culture and pretraining for the safety of working holiday participants.

Prior to the economic seminar, Lee held a meeting with officials of the Australian Council of Hangeul Schools on Feb. 20 to listen to the difficulties of teachers in the field and discuss ways to support them.