

‘Strengthen education to foster stronger sense of overseas Korean identity’

Key action item is internalization of projects to support next generation of overseas Koreans

Strengthening education for overseas Koreans

The second of the organization’s five key priorities for the year is to foster a stronger sense of the overseas Korean identity. The first priority action task for achieving this is to improve overseas Korean education. To accomplish this, the Overseas Koreans Agency plans to first support the operation of Korean language schools and strengthen them internally to increase the number of students and teachers participating in Korean language, history and culture education for the next generation of Koreans. The budget for supporting the operation of Korean language schools has been set at 18.6 billion won, up 4.5 billion won (32 percent) from 14.1 billion won in 2023.

In addition, to strengthen the capacity of teachers at Hangeul schools, we plan to enhance their professionalism through on-site training, as well as support for obtaining degrees and completing teacher training programs. To this end, we will provide customized teaching methods that take into account differences in competencies by region and level.

In addition, we will improve the convenience of the Study Korean website, an online education platform for Korean language schools, by improving functions and expanding content. We also plan to diversify educational content by developing and distributing various educational materials tailored to learners’ characteristics and learning purposes, such as region and age.

In particular, we are promoting the construction of the Overseas Korean Education and Culture Center, an educational, cultural and training facility for overseas Koreans. To be built on Seoul National University’s Siheung Campus, the center will have five floors above ground and one basement floor with a total area of 7,063 square meters, and aims to provide education on the history of migration and enhance understanding of overseas Koreans by operating exhibition halls and providing experiential learning spaces. To effectively implement this, the center will collect overseas Korean archival materials and build a digital archive.

Consolidating projects for supporting next-generation compatriots

In order to internally strengthen the project to support the next generation of Koreans, the OKA will, among other things, expand



The Overseas Korean Education and Culture Center, which will be completed on Seoul National University’s Siheung Campus in 2026

the number of Korean youth and university students invited to their home country. The number of invitations will increase from 2,100 people and eight training sessions last year to 2,600 people and 10 training sessions this year.

We will also improve the promotion and system of invitational scholarship programs. This year, we plan to select 100 new talented students who will contribute to the overseas Korean community and their home countries and support them in acquiring degrees. In addition, we will promote follow-up and networking activities, such as activating exchanges among current students, exchanging graduates living in Korea and abroad, and building a talent database.

In particular, the tentatively named Global Next Generation Korean Committee will be established. In order to create policies that respond to changes in the Korean community, such as generational changes, a new committee of next-generation Koreans representing various regions and areas will be formed from next-generation leaders, representatives of adoptive Korean organizations, and related experts to discuss overseas Korean policy proposals, agenda selection and operational measures.

In addition, a youth internship program for overseas Koreans will be implemented. The program aims to foster global talent by giving overseas Koreans the opportunity to participate in Korean national affairs. It will support internships (six months) for overseas Koreans aged 20 to 34 at overseas diplomatic missions. 