

‘Strengthening protection and support for compatriots worthy of Korea’s national standing’

Enhancing status of compatriots in their countries of residence and supporting vulnerable compatriots at home and abroad

The third of the five key initiatives for 2025 is to strengthen the protection and support of compatriots in line with national dignity. The priority actions for this are as follows.

Advancing status of overseas Koreans in their countries of residence

To improve the status of overseas Koreans in their countries of residence, the Overseas Koreans Agency will support the development of rights and interests tailored to local conditions. We will review and support the impact of changes in U.S. immigration policy on the Korean diaspora and prepare measures to support the legal residency status for Koryo people who are considered stateless. We will also promote the improvement of the dual citizenship system in accordance with the changing times, such as lowering the age for dual citizenship. Last year, the OKA completed a research study to analyze the impact of lowering the age for overseas Koreans to hold multiple citizenships.

In particular, we will strengthen the promotion of nationality systems, such as multiple citizenship, through collaboration with relevant organizations to improve understanding of the multiple citizenship system. To this end, the Traveling Integrated Civil Service System will directly visit overseas Koreans in their countries of residence to explain and counsel them on the nationality and military service systems. In addition, various measures will be taken to establish a network of overseas adopted Korean citizens and to promote their rights and interests.

Support for vulnerable compatriots at home and abroad

First, we support the permanent return, resettlement and stabilization of Sakhalin compatriots. The Sakhalin Compatriots Act has been amended to expand the scope of accompanying family members and stabilize the permanent return of Sakhalin compatriots to Korea. For the first time, a survey on the living conditions of permanently returned Sakhalin Koreans will be conducted.

We will also diversify support for the rights and interests of Koryo compatriots. We will also conduct a survey of stateless Koryo people, which has not been conducted since 2007. Support policies will be tailored to the needs of local Koryo communities. In



Byun Chul-hwan, deputy director general of the Korean Overseas Korean Affairs Office, welcomes Sakhalin compatriots who returned to Korea after 80 years through Donghae Port in Gangwon Province on Feb. 9.

accordance with the agreement between the Korean and Uzbek presidents, we will prioritize the construction of a Koryo history museum in Uzbekistan. In addition, we will support the Korean children of women returning to Vietnam, support for Korean communities in crisis abroad and support for vulnerable Koreans living in Korea.

Promoting comprehensive and practical policies to support Korean compatriots in Korea

To support Korean compatriots in Korea, the OKA will:

- ① Develop and operate customized adaptation education programs for Korean compatriots,
- ② Promote resettlement support projects for Korean compatriots by region and local government,
- ③ Conduct a survey of Korean compatriots in Korea,
- ④ Establish a collaborative network of relevant ministries, parliaments, local governments, academia and compatriot organizations, and
- ⑤ Provide convenient services for Korean compatriots’ entry and stay in Korea.

Improving domestic public awareness of overseas Koreans

- To improve public awareness of overseas Koreans, ① Include overseas Korean-related content in domestic textbooks, ② Conduct “traveling education on understanding overseas Koreans,” ③ Establish a communication platform with overseas Koreans, and ④ Select and announce the Overseas Korean of the Month. [창]