



Special Article - Yoon Suk-yeol becomes 13th president of South Korea; 'I will rebuild our country to give full ownership to the people'

Special Feature - President Yoon reiterates promise to establish service for overseas Koreans

News-worthy Topic 1 - 'We must find forgotten Koryo-saram who contributed to independence of Korea': Yulia Piskulova, great-granddaughter of Hague secret emissary Yi Wi-jong

News-worthy Topic 2 - 'Korea is like a second mother country to me': granddaughter of Kim Kyung-cheon, officer who led armed struggle against Japan



President Yoon Suk-yeol gives motivational speech at invitational reception for overseas Koreans on May 11



President Yoon Suk-yeol

Hello to you all, fellow countrymen. I thank you for coming so far to participate in my inauguration.

Thanks to your support and enthusiasm, Korea has now become a global leader.

It is my goal to make certain that we as a country are respected by the global community based on the values of freedom, human rights, fairness and solidarity for all of you who live as Koreans overseas.

In particular, in keeping with my promises during the election period, I will create a global Korean community that will allow overseas Koreans to experience mutual growth with those of us in Korea. For this purpose, I will execute tangible policies that enhance the interests of overseas Koreans.

I will found an overseas Koreans service and also create a system to allow overseas Koreans to easily access administrative services much like how it is possible inside the country. I will work to resolve the difficulties that you experience by making the necessary changes in domestic laws and systems. I will also inspect the flaws of the overseas voting system, which has been in place for over 10 years, and work to improve it where necessary.

In order for you and your children to retain your pride as people of Korea, I will expand cultural education projects and enhance the overseas Korean network in each field, including politics, the economy and the press, and also actively pursue the discovery of new talent, who will come to represent the future overseas Korean community, as well as projects to enhance communication.

Respected overseas Koreans!

You and your mother country, Korea, are one. We need to help each other in times of need, and we must now become partners that provide each other with mutual aid. I will provide all the support possible so that overseas Koreans from different countries, generations and backgrounds may unite as one with their country and together work with the rest of the world to overcome many difficulties that may exist in Korea and abroad.

I feel privileged to be able to work with you all to protect the values of freedom and human rights, and make our country a global leader. You are my source of strength and courage. Thank you. 창





02 Preface	President Yoon Suk-yeol gives motivational speech at invitational reception for overseas Koreans on May 11
04 Special Article	Yoon Suk-yeol becomes 13th president of South Korea; 'I will rebuild our country to give full ownership to the people'
06 Special Feature	President Yoon reiterates promise to establish service for overseas Koreans
08 Newsworthy Topic 1	'We must find forgotten Koryo-saram who contributed to independence of Korea': Yulia Piskulova, great-granddaughter of Hague secret emissary Yi Wi-jong
09 Newsworthy Topic 2	'Korea is like a second mother country to me': granddaughter of Kim Kyung-cheon, officer who led armed struggle against Japan
10 The Korean Connection	New York State Assembly holds event for designation of Kimchi Day
12 Global Koreans	Korean politician proposes anniversary for influential Korean American businessman Hong Myung-ki Kim Sun-yub, president of Korean American Chamber of Commerce, wins Ellis Island Medal of Honor Yumi Hogan, wife of Maryland governor, throws first pitch at MLB game
14 Next Generational Focus	Korean American singer Alexa wins American broadcaster NBC's contest
16 Cultural Heritage	Goguryeo Monument, seven-story pagoda located in Chungju
18 Compatriot News	'We mustn't give up working toward our dreams': football coach Park Hang-seo (3 other pieces included)
20 Meritorious Compatriots	Oleg Li, Kazakhstani Koryo-saram and veteran actor/director, wins national medal
21 Global Correspondence	Korean immersive content experience exhibition opens in New York
22 OKF News	HANIN to be held in Incheon from Oct. 4-7 (4 other pieces included)
24 Compatriot Calendar	Korean Association of Sakhalin opens community center for first-generation Koreans in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk (4 other pieces included)
25 Column	30 years in Ukraine Kim Seok-won, professor at Kyiv University.
26 Foundation Announcements	Apply for 2022 Online Training for Overseas Youth and College Students (1 other piece included)

Publisher: Kim Seong-gon **Registration number:** Munwha-Ra 0824
Issuing institution: Overseas Koreans Foundation
Head office address: 55, Sinjung-ro, Seogwipo-si, Jeju-do, Republic of Korea (formerly Seogwipo City Hall 2)
Phone: 82-64-786-0200 / **Fax:** 82-64-786-0239 / www.korean.net / webzine.korean.net
Seoul office address: #405 & #406, 2558, Nambusunhwan-ro, Seocho-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea
Phone: 82-2-3415-0100 / **Fax:** 82-2-3415-0118 / www.korean.net / webzine.korean.net
Planning / editing: Promotion & Culture Research Division of the Overseas Koreans Foundation (prc@okf.or.kr)
Produced by: Yonhap News Agency **Printed by:** Pyeonghwadang

The Overseas Koreans Foundation is an institution affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that engages in various projects to further the rights of the 7.5 million overseas Koreans around the world and facilitate their entry into mainstream society in their respective countries of residence.

You can also read this publication online at webzine.korean.net

Yoon Suk-yeol becomes 13th president of South Korea; 'I will rebuild our country to give full ownership to the people'

He emphasizes freedom, human rights, solidarity, 'Anti-intellectualism is putting democracy at risk'

Yoon Suk-yeol, the 13th president of South Korea, was officially inaugurated on May 10, beginning his five-year term. The ceremony, which was held at the National Assembly in Yeouido, Seoul, at 11 a.m., was attended by distinguished domestic and foreign guests, representatives of the National Assembly and government, representatives of various fields, ordinary citizens who were invited and overseas Koreans, totaling 41,000 people.

Yoon put forth "freedom" as a key value, resolving that he would create a country where the people were the true owners.

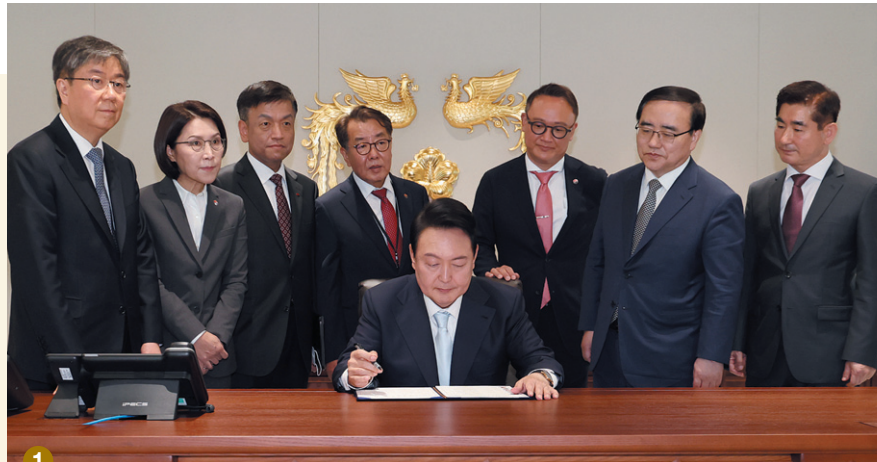
"I stand here with a mission to rebuild this country to have its citizens as its true masters, based on liberal democracy and the market economy, and as a country that fulfills its role and responsibility in international society," Yoon said in his 16-minute inaugural speech.

He mentioned various current issues, including the pandemic crisis, supply network reorganization, climate change, food/energy crises, hyper-low growth and large-scale unemployment, polarization and social conflict.

"Politics must resolve these issues," he said. "But there is a democratic crisis going on that prevents it from performing as it should."

He pointed out "anti-intellectualism" as the biggest issue.

"Science and facts must be used as a basis to harmonize and negotiate differing opinions," Yoon said. "That is the rationalism and intellectualism that supports democracy. Excessive group conflicts twist known truths. Anti-intellectualism, which selects only desirable truths or suppresses other opinions based on the power of numbers, is putting democracy at risk."



'Prosperity, abundance and economic growth are extensions of freedom. ... We need sustainable peace, not weak peace'

He also emphasized the value of freedom.

"It is very important for us to share a universal value so that we can deal with these difficulties," Yoon said. "That value is freedom. We must properly and accurately acknowledge the value of peace, rediscover it. Prosperity, abundance and economic growth are extensions of freedom. Freedom is a universal value."

He also emphasized economic growth, stating: "Many citizens will discover new opportunities amid fast-paced growth. Increased social mobility will allow us to remove the causes of polarization and conflict. Rapid growth and leaps in progress can only be made through science, technology and innovation."

"Science, technology and innovation will allow us to protect our liberal democracy, expand our freedom and continue to allow us to live as we should. We can't do this on our own. By respecting freedom and creativity, we must cooperate and connect with many countries that have accomplished scientific progress and innovation."

'We will leave the door open for negotiation. ... Upon transition to denuclearization, a bold plan for enhancement of North Korean economy will be prepared'

Regarding matters of national security, Yoon said: "We must not seek weak



2



3



4

peace that serves as temporary avoidance of war. We need to pursue sustainable peace that supports freedom and prosperity. No country is free from threats to freedom and peace.”

Yoon added that the peace on the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia were in a similar position.

“We will leave the door open to conversation for a peaceful solution to North Korea’s nuclear development,” Yoon said. “If they will cease such development and transition to practical denuclearization, we will cooperate with the global society to prepare a bold plan that will greatly improve the economy and the quality of life of North Korean citizens.

“We must be a global leader in the active support and protection of universal, international regulations based on the values of freedom and human rights,” he added. “Based on the values of freedom, human rights, fairness and solidarity, I will work with you all to create a country where the citizens are the true masters, a country that performs its role in global society and is respected.”


Yoon becomes commander-in-chief at 12 a.m. on inauguration day, inspects military readiness

Yoon began his duties at 12 a.m. earlier that day, becoming the commander-in-chief of the nation’s military at the National Center for Crisis Management (an underground bunker), located under the presidential office in Yongsan. He received a report of his appointment from the command-and-control center of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and subsequently inspected the military status of North Korea and the military readiness of South Korean troops.

He spent the night preceding his inauguration day at his residence in Seocho-dong, Seocho Ward, Seoul, and set out on his first commute at 9:50

a.m. with his wife, Kim Kun-hee. Yoon immediately visited Seoul National Cemetery, where he wrote in the visitor log.

“I shall not forget the sacrifice and dedication of the patriots who died for our country and work to create progress and prosperity for the nation,” he wrote.

After the inauguration, Yoon moved to his office in Yongsan and began his official duties. The first agenda item on his schedule was passing the motion regarding the appointment of Han Duck-soo as prime minister. He also met with the multiple diplomatic envoys of major countries that visited Korea for the inauguration. Yoon took part in the celebration taking place at Rotunda Hall in the main building of the National Assembly. He then took part in a banquet for foreign guests at Hotel Shilla in Seoul before completing the rest of his schedule on his first official day in office. 

- 1 President Yoon Suk-yeol signs a motion regarding the appointment of Han Duck-soo as prime minister in the presidential office in Yongsan, Seoul. This was the first approval Yoon gave after his inauguration.
- 2 Yoon Suk-yeol, the 13th president of Korea, gives his inaugural oath.
- 3 President Yoon Suk-yeol becomes the commander-in-chief of the nation’s forces at 12 a.m. on May 10, 2022, at the National Center for Crisis Management in the presidential office in Yongsan, Seoul.
- 4 President Yoon Suk-yeol and others perform a silent tribute to the memorial tower in Seoul National Cemetery, located in Dongjak Ward, Seoul.



President Yoon reiterates promise to establish service for overseas Koreans

Newly elected president took part in reception for overseas Koreans day after inauguration

President Yoon Suk-yeol met with the overseas Koreans that participated in the inauguration on May 11 one day after the event and reiterated his promise to establish an overseas Koreans service which was one of his election promises. Yoon gave a speech that afternoon at the Lotte Hotel (Sogong-dong, Jung Ward, Seoul), where a celebratory event was held for the inauguration of the 13th president, with many overseas Koreans invited.

“I will create a global Korean community that will allow overseas Koreans to experience mutual growth with those of us in Korea,” Yoon said. “For this purpose, I will execute tangible policies that enhance the interests of overseas Koreans.

“I will found an overseas Koreans service and also create a system to allow overseas Koreans to easily

access administrative services much like how it is possible inside the country,” he said. “I will work to resolve the difficulties that overseas Koreans are experiencing through legal and systemic changes.”

The establishment of a service for overseas Koreans was one of the promises Yoon made with regard to diplomacy and national security during his campaign. It will be an institution that oversees the various overseas Korean policies that are currently scattered throughout various government departments. This promise, however, was not included in the national goals presented by the Presidential Transition Committee on May 3.

Yoon explained he will work to enhance the overseas Koreans network and pursue the discovery of and communication among young talent in various fields.

“I will inspect and improve what is lacking in the voting system for overseas Koreans, which has been in effect for over 10 years,” he said. “You must become partners with those of us in Korea, working for mutual good. I will work with the overseas Koreans all over the world who take pride in our



2



3

country and make Korea a country based on the values of freedom, human rights, fairness and solidarity; a country that will be respected by the international society.”

Around 1,100 invited overseas Koreans and 190 Korean dignitaries, who were invited to the inauguration the previous day, were present at the event. The overseas Koreans were known to have used their private funds to attend the inauguration. While Yoon was giving his speech, some in the crowd even cheered him on.

Gov't will spare no diplomatic effort for improvement of overseas Korean community: Prime Minister Kim Bu-gyeom

Prime Minister Kim Bu-gyeom, who hosted the reception, delivered the opening speech.

“The government will spare no diplomatic effort to ensure that the overseas Korean community may improve and its members may enjoy all the rights that they deserve in their respective countries. The government will do its best to

make certain that all overseas Koreans feel that they are part of the Korean people,” Kim said.

“Korea has been coping better than most other countries with the immense crisis that COVID-19 represents,” he emphasized. “It is also the first country that rose from a developing country to an advanced one after the establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and is now ranked among the top 10 economic powers.

“Culturally, works containing our culture and imagination, such as the songs of BTS and Min Jin Lee’s ‘Pachinko,’ have grown immensely popular around the world. We have now become a culturally powerful nation, something the independence activist Kim Gu always desired.

“We achieved all of this together, and through our solidarity, we are enjoying the fruits of our labors,” the prime minister said. “This was only possible because there were overseas Koreans who were civilian diplomats and cultural emissaries who represented us to people around the world.”

For Kim, who resigned the same day at midnight, this was his final speech as prime minister.

Present at the event were Park Jin, candidate for the position of minister of foreign affairs; Kim Ki-hyeon, the People Power Party representative; Choi Jong-moon, second vice minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Park Ju-seon, chair of the inauguration preparatory committee; Kim Han-gil, head of the Presidential Committee for National Cohesion; Kim Seok-gi, senator of the People Power Party; Tae Young-ho, senator of the People Power Party; Kang In-seon, spokesperson for the office of the president; Kim Seong-gon, president of the Overseas Koreans Foundation; Shim Sang-man, president of the World Assembly of Korean Associations; and Yeo Geon-yi, head of the central headquarters of the Republic of Korean Residents Union in Japan. [\[창\]](#)

1 President Yoon Suk-yeol gives an encouraging speech at the overseas Koreans invitational reception at Lotte Hotel in Seoul on May 11.

2 President Yoon Suk-yeol greets the participants after his speech at the overseas Koreans invitational reception.

3 Prime Minister Kim Bu-gyeom gives the opening speech at the reception.

‘We must find forgotten Koryo-saram who contributed to independence of Korea’: Yulia Piskulova, great-granddaughter of Hague secret emissary Yi Wi-jong

Head of Russian Patriots’ Descendants Association visits Korea for President Yoon’s inauguration

“The descendants of Koryo-saram independence activists are now three to four generations removed. Their memories of their ancestors have faded, and some are even completely unaware of their ancestors’ activism. I ask that the Korean government be more active in the discovery of independence patriots,” Yulia Piskulova said.

She is the great-granddaughter of Yi Wi-jong, a man dispatched to the Second Peace Conference at The Hague as an emissary of Gojong of Joseon during the late period of Joseon, when Japan sought to swallow up the nation. He was unable to take part because of the opposition of Japan, and instead informed the entire world of Japan’s invasion and called for Korean independence.

“Discovery of forgotten patriots is the same thing as setting the record straight,” Piskulova said.

She is a historian who graduated from Moscow State University and is also the president of the Russian Patriots’ Descendants Association. She came to Korea for President Yoon Suk-yeol’s inauguration on May 10.

“Many Koryo-saram from Russia and the Central Asian region have contributed to the independence movement of Korea,” she said. “In many cases, it’s not known where and when they died or where their descendants are now. My association has focused on finding these descendants, delivering decorations and giving them pride in their roots.”

Yi Beom-jin, Yi Wi-jong’s father and one of the first emissaries to Russia, killed himself after Japan’s annexation of Korea in 1910. Yi Wi-jong, who was the second son, became a Russian officer after being dispatched to The Hague and took part in armed activism but went missing thereafter.



Yulia Piskulova, the great-granddaughter of the independence activist Yi Wi-jong and president of the Russian Patriots’ Descendants Association, introduces a book she wrote about her ancestor and a picture album of the 25 years of the association.

Piskulova, who has been active in her search to discover what part her great-grandfather had in the Korean independence movement in Russia and what happened to him after he went missing, has written books that include “The Russia-Korea Relationship” and “Yi Beom-jin.” In 2020, she created a photo book of the activities of the association for the 25th anniversary of its establishment, and shared it with the Koryo-saram community and people in her country.

“The book was what allowed me to discover that a descendant of Yi Young-ho, who took an active part in the struggle against Japan in Primorsky Krai, currently resides in Kazakhstan, and deliver a commendation to him,” she said. “That was something made possible through the cooperation of various patriots’ descendant associations like us and Koryo-saram associations throughout Russia and Central Asia, as well as the governments of the

countries involved.”

During her visit to Korea, Piskulova visited the monument in front of the Seoul Central Post Office, where the house of Yi Beom-jin and Yi Wi-jong once stood.

“I’m glad that I’m able to remember my ancestors in my mother country,” she said. “I’m working on having a statue erected in Saint Petersburg, Russia, where Yi Beom-jin was last known to have lived. Things are looking hopeful, as the city recently approved the project.”

She added that she will actively pursue communication with patriot organizations during her time in Korea.

“I will take an active part in reaffirming the Korean identity by allowing young Koryo-saram in Russia and Central Asia to experience their mother country.” 🇰🇷

‘Korea is like a second mother country to me’: granddaughter of Kim Kyung-cheon, officer who led armed struggle against Japan

‘The decoration conferred by the Korean government restored a pride I’d once lost’: Galina Polonskaya

“My entire family cried in each other’s arms when we heard the news that the Korean government would be conferring a decoration to my grandfather, who took part in Korea’s independence movement. It also helped me restore the self-respect that I’d lost, and Korea is now a second mother country for me.”

Galina Polonskaya, the granddaughter of Kim Kyung-cheon, who participated in the armed struggle against Japan in Siberia during the Japanese occupation of Korea and accomplished many war achievements, said in an interview, “The acknowledgment and recording of people in history who contributed to an independence movement, regardless of ideology, is truly what it means to set history right.”

Polonskaya, a retired doctor who graduated from a medical college in Moscow and is now an active member of the Russian Patriots’ Descendants Association, visited Korea for President Yoon Suk-yeol’s inauguration on May 10.

“I always feel at home in Korea, the country my grandfather always dreamed of returning to,” Polonskaya, who acquired her Korean citizenship in 2015, said. “I visited a monument a few days ago in Sajik-dong, Jongno Ward, Seoul, where his house used to be, where I was nearly moved to tears.”

Her grandfather Kim, who was born in Pukchong, North Hamgyong Province, came from a family of military officers. His father was the leader of an artillery supply unit for Daehan Jeguk. Following in the footsteps of his older brothers, who were soldiers, he graduated from the Imperial Japanese Army Academy and served as a cavalry officer, the pain of the loss of his mother country was buried in his heart. Influenced by the 2.8 Independence Declaration made by Korean students in Tokyo in 1919, he went to Manchuria, where he joined the cause for Korean independence.

He worked as an instructor at the Shin Hung Military Academy, a training center for officers of the independence movement against Japan, before going to Primorsky Krai, forming an armed unit and participating in many battles against Japanese forces. He rode a white horse, led nearly 600 mounted soldiers and killed hundreds of Japanese soldiers. He also fought Chinese bandits and allied with the Russian army to defeat forces allied with Japan.

Kim’s bravery was so well known that the Japanese military command at the time would even instruct Japanese troops that it was acceptable to avoid encounters with Kim’s squadron.

Academic circles have consistently suggested that Kim Il-sung, the founder of North Korea, stole Kim’s history of anti-Japanese activities and his public image. After Vladimir Lenin’s death, Kim Kyung-cheon was accused of being a political criminal by Joseph Stalin, his successor, and was subjected to forced labor in a concentration camp before dying in 1942. The Korean government awarded him posthumously with the Presidential Medal of the Order of Merit for National Foundation.

‘History of struggle for independence should be kept on record regardless of ideology or beliefs. It is important that younger generations are made aware’

“My grandfather was once a member of the Communist Party,” Polonskaya said. “Rather than focusing on his beliefs or ideology, it is important to let people know how he fought against Japanese soldiers and how much he desired independence.

“I grew up with stories of how my grandfather threw a Japanese spy off his tracks during his independence activism in the Far East, of how my grandmother was captured and tortured by the Japanese and yet refused to reveal my grandfather’s location, and so on. Such things sound like tall tales, and I doubted anyone would believe me when I was younger, but I can now be proud of what they did thanks to Korea’s acknowledgment of his contributions and the history being brought to the light again.

“It is our duty to discover forgotten independence activists and teach younger generations about them,” Polonskaya said. “I will dedicate the rest of my life to cooperating with the Russian Patriots’ Descendants Association and the Koryo-saram associations everywhere to restore such important elements of history.” 장



Galina Polonskaya, the granddaughter of Kim Kyung-cheon, an officer who led the armed struggle against Japan in Siberia, introduces a Russian translation of Kim’s diary.

New York State Assembly holds event for designation of Kimchi Day

3rd Kimchi Day designation following California and Virginia

New York, the state with the most varied food culture on the planet, held an unprecedented event on May 24. The New York State Assembly, located in the state capital of Albany, held an event celebrating the establishment of Kimchi Day. The special day is held Nov. 22 each year. It was designated first by the Korean government in 2020 for the promotion of the kimchi industry and the development of kimchi culture.

New York is the third U.S. state after California and Virginia to pass the proposal to honor Kimchi Day. The proposal was processed online, however, without an audience due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Accordingly, the state assembly set aside time to introduce the proposal during the meeting that day and celebrate its approval. The proposal described kimchi as a health food beloved by New Yorkers, as well as Koreans, after it was introduced to the U.S. and suggested that its history be commemorated. The proposal also described kimchi as a traditional Korean food with over 2,000 years of history and that kimchi-making was a UNESCO intangible heritage.

Crystal Davis Peoples-Stokes, a party representative of the majority party (Democrat Party), introduced Jeong Byeong-hwa, consul general of the Republic of Korea in New York; Kim Chun-jin, president of the Korea Agro-Fisheries & Food Trade Corp.; and Charles Yoon, president of the Korean American Association of

Greater New York, to the representatives present. It is quite rare for the state assembly of New York to designate a special day honoring a specific food. According to the state assembly, there are no such days for Asian cuisine with the exception of foods that have already been incorporated into American food culture, such as Japanese sushi and Vietnamese rice noodles.

Rep. Ron Kim, who led the proposal, describes it as 'good example of acceptance of varied cultures'

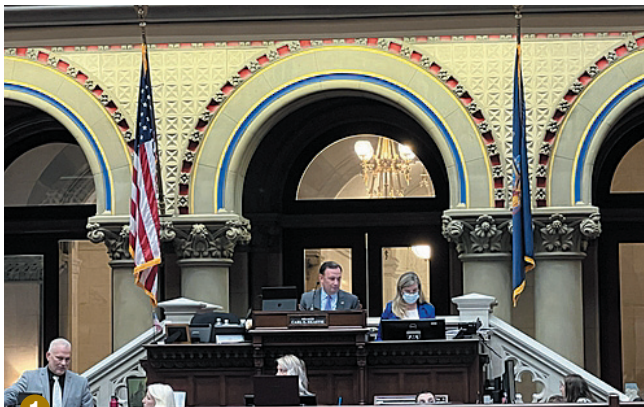
The Korean American New York State Rep. Ron Kim held a press conference that day with the American press and emphasized the significance of the establishment of Kimchi Day.

"As we can see from the menus of restaurants we visit in New York, as well as the rest of the nation, there is a growing interest in kimchi and foods made with kimchi," Kim, whose constituency is Flushing, New York, said. "The fact that non-Korean consumers are also increasing their consumption of kimchi points to a positive case of the acceptance of varied cultures."

Kim immigrated to the U.S. when he was 7 and recalled the discrimination he experienced.

"When I was little, I couldn't even dream of taking kimchi to school," he said. "The kids would make fun of me, saying it smelled bad."

He explained that such experiences did not deter him from





3



4



5

maintaining his identity as a Korean American, and that such experiences became a very precious asset to him after he became a politician.

In 2012, Kim became the first Korean American to be selected as a New York State representative. He stated that the establishment of Kimchi Day will help maintain the identities of young Korean Americans, such as third-generation Korean Americans. His argument is that there is great symbolic value in the fact that kimchi, a traditional Korean food, has been successfully accepted by U.S. society. Around 10 percent of his constituency is Korean, smaller in number than Chinese voters.

The assembly meeting that day also featured a promotional booth set up by the Korea Agro-Fisheries & Food Trade Corp. (aT). Opinion leaders of New York were invited to a tasting event with kimchi as a theme, featuring salads, burgers and other dishes.

“The fact that Kimchi Day is being honored by New York, a central hub of the world economy, will help elevate the prestige of Korean kimchi,” Kim Chun-jin, the president of aT, said. “We will work toward having this happen in other states as well, including New Jersey and Maryland.”

The Virginia State Assembly had passed a similar proposal, stating that kimchi originated in Korea, for Kimchi Day in February. This proposal described the history of kimchi and its properties as a health food. Also, the California State Assembly passed the same proposal in August last year, being the first state to officially honor Kimchi Day in the U.S. The proposal also described Korea as the originator of kimchi, the history of kimchi and its excellent healthy properties.

This initial proposal was brought forward by the Korean American Rep. Steven Seokho Choi, with the support of other representatives

known to be friendly toward Korea, such as California State Rep. Sharon Quirk-Silva. In the wake of such events, revenue from Korean kimchi exports to the U.S. reached US\$28,250,000, which was a 22.5 percent increase over 2020’s record revenue.

Argentina Senate passed similar proposal last October

The Argentina Senate passed a similar proposal to honor Kimchi Day last October, by a unanimous vote from all 47 representatives present. Magdalena Solari Quintana, a national senator of Argentina, who brought the proposal forward, explained prior to the vote that kimchi was a cultural treasure with ties to Korean culture and the Korean identity.

Quintana mentioned in detail the relations between Korea and Argentina, reaching 60 years of diplomatic relations in 2022.

“Honoring Kimchi Day will allow us to celebrate the cultural and social contributions of Korean immigrants and enhance friendly relations with Korea,” she said.

The Korean government designated Nov. 22 as Kimchi Day because November is the 11th month of the year and kimchi is made by adding ingredients, including cabbage, radish, salt, vegetables and pickled seafood, “one by one,” and those ingredients have 22 beneficial effects. 🇰🇷

-
- 1 The New York State Assembly explains the proposal to honor Kimchi Day.
 - 2 The Virginia State Assembly discusses the proposal to honor Kimchi Day in February.
 - 3 New York State Rep. Ron Kim, who led the proposal for Kimchi Day.
 - 4 Participants make kimchi at an event celebrating the very first instance of Kimchi Day in the U.S. in California on Nov. 22, 2021.
 - 5 Sen. Magdalena Solari Quintana, who brought forward the proposal for Kimchi Day in Argentina.

GLOBAL KOREAN



Hong Myung-ki, former president of the M & L Hong Foundation



Korean politician proposes anniversary for influential Korean American businessman Hong Myung-ki

If bill is passed by California legislature, he will be second foreigner after Ahn Chang-ho to have special day named after him

Hong Myung-ki, who was an influential Korean businessman in the United States and the president of the M & L Hong Foundation, may have a special day designated in his name. Choi Seokho (Steven Choi), a California state representative, proposed the creation of Hong Myung-ki Day in memory of the many donations and contributions he made before his passing in August 2021.

Choi delivered the news through a phone call on April 22, stating the proposed date is the birthday of the deceased. The proposal contained references to the many donations and contributions Hong made to the Korean American community.

“If this proposal is passed, he will be the second foreigner to be remembered this way in California after Ahn Chang-ho (pen name Dosan),” Choi said. “This is something to be remembered in the 119 years of the history of Korean immigration to the U.S. There’s no reason for this proposal not to pass. I’m sure that it will pass by a unanimous vote.”

Hong went to the U.S. in 1954 to pursue his studies, after which he settled down in the country and worked at a paint company. Unable to bear the discrimination he faced at the workplace, he left his job and founded his own company at age 51, chasing the American dream. The company he founded was Dura Coat, which developed and produced special paint used for construction and industrial applications. The company rose to become one of the top five in the global special paints market, reaching US\$300 million in annual sales within 30 years.

After that, he used approximately \$10 million out of his pocket in 2001 to found the Bright Future Foundation, creating educational projects and scholarship programs. It was later renamed the M & L Hong Foundation, using the initials of his and his wife’s first names. He was a key figure in the management of the World Korean Business Convention and was a co-chair at the Leading CEO Forum, taking the lead in providing scholarships, overseas job opportunities and other benefits to Korean youth. His efforts were rewarded by the Korean government with the Mugunghwa Medal of South Korea’s Order of Civil Merit.

Choi, who brought forward the proposal, has served as a spokesperson for Koreans in the state of California, heading various successful proposals, such as those for the designation of Kimchi Day, Taekwondo Day and Korean American Day, as well as for a law on the protection of Korean adoptees.

Kim Sun-yub, president of Korean American Chamber of Commerce, wins Ellis Island Medal of Honor

Kim was awarded for his contributions to American history and immigrant community

Kim Sun-yub, president of the Korean American Chamber of Commerce, won the 2022 Ellis Island Medal of Honor. According to the National Ethnic Coalition of Organization (NECO), which hosts the awards, and the Ellis Island Medal website

(www.eihonors.org), Kim was selected for the award in 2020, but the ceremony was delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ceremony took place May 14 at the Ellis Island National Museum.

Kim was the president of the Korean American Chamber of Commerce of New York, chair of the Council of Korean Economic Groups in New York, senior vice president and president of the Korean American Chamber of Commerce USA, and the senior vice president of the Korean American Political Alliance of New York. He immigrated to New York in 1974 and founded a trading company that catered to clients in Korea, China and Southeast Asia. He also supplied food ingredients to Yale University.

The Ellis Island Medal of Honor was created in 1986 with the active support of the United States House of Representatives in order to celebrate key figures that contributed to American history and the immigrant community. Records of the winners are preserved at the House of Representatives. Former recipients of the award include former Presidents Ronald Reagan and Gerald Ford, as well as former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the boxer Muhammad Ali. Koreans that have received the award include former Washington State Sen. Shin Ho-beom, Hong Seong-eun (president of the Rainier Group), certified public accountant Lee Hyeong-roh and Ha Yong-hwa, honorary president of the World Federation of Overseas Korean Traders Association (World-OKTA).

Yumi Hogan, wife of Maryland governor, throws first pitch at MLB game Korean American chosen in honor of Mother's Day

Yumi Hogan, a Korean American and the wife of Gov. Larry Hogan, who is regarded as a promising Republican Party candidate for the presidential election, threw the first ball of the Major League Baseball game between the Baltimore Orioles and the Kansas City Royals on May 8. This was in celebration of Mother's Day in the U.S. The governor and his wife have three daughters, and Hogan himself earned the nickname "Korean son-in-law" because he married a Korean American wife.

Hogan and his wife are considered figures friendly to Korea who have a special attachment to the country. They have showed great interest in Korea through the designation of a commemorative day for veterans of the Korean War and Taekwondo Day, and also officially designated a Koreatown in Ellicott City, where many Korean businesses are located in the state, in October last year. Yumi Hogan received the Dongbaek Medal of the Korean Order of Civil Merit from the Korean government in November 2020 for her contribution in spreading knowledge about Korean culture in Maryland.

Larry Hogan succeeded in winning a second term in Maryland, a state where the Democrat Party usually holds sway, and is thought of as a dark horse for the upcoming 2024 presidential elections, as a person who could potentially run against former President Donald Trump. Hogan's term ends in January 2023 and though he has been pressured by his party to run for Congress during the off-year elections in November, cementing the party's position there, he has also been considering running for president instead in 2024. 🇺🇸



Kim Sun-yub, president of the Korean American Chamber of Commerce, who won the Ellis Island Medal of Honor (Photo courtesy of The Korea Times)



Yumi Hogan, wife of Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan



Korean American singer AleXa wins American broadcaster NBC's contest

'Miraculous feat' represents first time K-pop singer has won large-scale audition competition in U.S.

AleXa, a Korean American K-pop singer, took first place in an audition program hosted by NBC, an American cable broadcaster. "American Song Contest" was broadcast in the United States, and AleXa defeated many talented participants to become the winner on May 10.

"It is the first time a K-pop artist has won a large audition program in the U.S.," ZB Labels, her record label, said.

"American Song Contest," which first aired in March, featured 56 contestants -- 50 representing one state each, five representing one territory each and one representing the nation's capital -- who compete with each other to win first place with original songs. This was an American remake of "Eurovision Song Contest," which pitted countries against one another, and was hugely popular in Europe as well.

Many well-known artists took part in this program, and AleXa represented the state of Oklahoma. The 26-year-old was the only K-pop artist among the contestants and had formerly won the greatest number of viewer votes through her song "Wonderland." AleXa was the only person in the finals who reached a score above 700 and received the winning trophy, beating the likes of Allen Stone (Washington) and Michael Bolton (Connecticut). She

attracted a lot of attention throughout the show with "Wonderland" and received the most votes in the quarterfinals and semifinals, and graced the end of the audition with her victory.

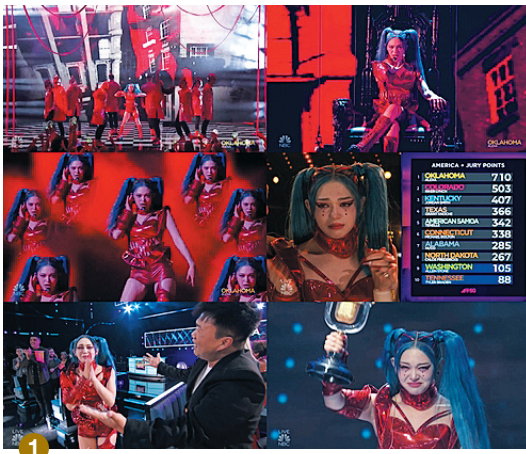
AleXa burst into tears when her name was called as the final winner.

"I wasn't expecting this at all," she said through her label. "I'm very grateful. I was able to get to the final stage thanks to everyone who cheered me on. Thank you for this miraculous gift."

The international press responded eagerly to AleXa's victory as well. Billboard, an American music and entertainment magazine, described AleXa's journey to victory and conducted an interview with Kelly Clarkson, the MC of the show.

"I knew about AleXa before the show, since I have a relative who is a K-pop fan," Clarkson said. "I've never seen anyone perform like her. I think that's her biggest selling point."

New Musical Express, a British music, film, gaming and culture website, praised AleXa, saying, "Her selection of costumes, stage direction and choreography made her performances exquisite." CNN, People, E-NEWS, BBC and other broadcasters also covered her victory.





AleXa also ranked high in the global music charts at the time that “American Song Concert” was airing. Right after the show, she reached the top of the iTunes K-pop charts in Sweden and the U.S. with “Wonderland,” achieving significant results globally.

AleXa first appeared on the 2019 MNet audition program “Produce 48.” She debuted afterward with her first song, “Bomb,” and she achieved the unprecedented feat of reaching No. 7 in the World Digital Song Sales chart of Billboard. After moving on to the semifinals of “American Song Contest,” AleXa said in an interview, “I am a K-pop artist, and I want to show people how special it can be.”

Amid all the attention she received worldwide, she was given an opportunity to perform at the Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas, held on May 15, thanks to her status as the victor of “American Song Contest.” The Billboard Music Awards is regarded as one of the three biggest music awards ceremonies in the U.S., and AleXa was the second ever K-pop artist to perform there after BTS. Psy performed a dance battle with Tracy Morgan at the ceremony in 2013 after the success of “Gangnam Style” in 2012, but it was not an official performance.

After her TV schedules were over, she held fan meetings in three cities, including Las Vegas and Los Angeles. As “American

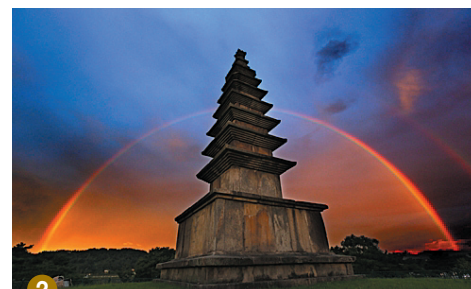


Song Contest” depended on the votes of viewers in each state, she held fan meetings to thank her fans for all the love and encouragement they’d given her. AleXa also held fan meetings in San Francisco in March, which was attended by an extremely large crowd. Her recent fan meetings are known to have been similarly popular.

ZB Labels said on April 28 that AleXa debuted as an actor through the anthology film “Urban Myths.” The movie, which premiered the previous day, contains 10 strange tales set in Seoul, and in it, AleXa played the role of Se-ri, a social media influencer. She is offered a 10 million-won (US\$7,779) sponsorship to escape a special escape room but is mortally threatened by many dangerous devices hidden inside. [\[장\]](#)

-
- 1 K-pop artist AleXa wins “American Song Contest.” (Screen capture from NBC’s broadcast)
 - 2 AleXa sings her original song “Wonderland” on stage. (Screen capture from NBC’s broadcast)
 - 3 K-pop artist AleXa. (Photo courtesy of ZB Labels)
 - 4 AleXa is featured in her debut film “Urban Myths.” (Photo courtesy of ZB Labels)
 - 5 AleXa is featured on an NBC audition show with MCs Kelly Clarkson and Snoop Dogg. (Screen capture from NBC’s broadcast)

Goguryeo Monument, seven-story pagoda located in Chungju Landmark of Jungwon that showcases heated competition of Three Kingdoms era



- 1 The Seven-story Stone Pagoda in Tappyeong-ri, Chungju.
- 2 The pagoda features seven stories above double stylobates.
- 3 The Goguryeo Monument in Chungju.
- 4 The Goguryeo Monument Museum, which opened its doors in 2012.

The Chungju region, located in North Chungcheong Province, linked the Han River and Nakdong River basins and had rich reserves of iron, making it an important strategic location for the Three Kingdoms. The Three Kingdoms -- Baekje, Goguryeo and Silla -- fought fiercely to take control of the land. The Chungju region was the center of operations for these states. It was called Nangjagokseong, Nangjaseong and Mieulseong during the Baekje period, while it was referred to as Kukwonseong during the Goguryeo era.

The Kukwon Sogyong (secondary capital) was created at the time of Jinheung of Silla, and during the period of the unified Silla, it was reverted to being called Jungwonkyeong (one of the five secondary capitals). Jungwonkyeong was a second capital for the nation after Gyeongju, and Unified Silla had nobles and children of the wealthy, as well as the residents of Gaya, move to this city.

This region was controlled by Baekje, Goguryeo and Silla in turn in the wake of many heated battles and was renamed Chungju, which means center of a district, in the 23rd year (940 A.D.) of the reign of Taejo of Goryeo. Because of this historical background, cultural sites from the era of the Three Kingdoms can be found scattered through the region.

The Seven-story Stone Pagoda in Tappyeong-ri, Chungju, the only seven-story stone pagoda from the Silla period, and the

Goguryeo Monument in Chungju, the only monument from Goguryeo on the Korean Peninsula, which can be found here, have been designated as national treasures that represent the culture of Jungwon.

Seven-story Stone Pagoda in Tappyeong-ri, Chungju, stands on high earthen platform

The Namhan River wraps around Gyemyeong Mountain and the city of Chungju before winding past Tappyeong-ri, Jungangtapmyeon. Tappyeong-ri is a village in an alluvial basin that developed to the west of the river, and the name of the village is connected to stone pagodas. The Seven-story Stone Pagoda in Tappyeong-ri, Chungju, which was built sometime between the late eighth century and the early ninth century A.D., is the tallest and largest of the pagodas that exist today from the Unified Silla period. Though three-story pagodas were in vogue during the period, this pagoda has double stylobates, atop of which seven stories were built, and features a metal tip.

The entire pagoda boasts a height of 12.86 meters, but because it stands on a high earthen platform, it looks much taller than it actually is. No records remain of this beautiful pagoda that stands on the earthen platform in the middle of a broad open space, including information regarding when it was built and why. Stone

pagodas were customarily built at the entrance of Buddhist sanctuaries. The National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage has excavated the surrounding area three times since 2008, but no traces of a temple were ever found. This is why many tales exist regarding the building of this pagoda.

One of these stories speaks of Wonseong of Silla, the 38th king of Silla, who wished to know the center point of the country's land; he is said to have chosen two strong men who had the same stride lengths and had them start walking from the northern and southern border of the country, respectively. The point where the two men met was where the pagoda was built.

Other tales also exist, with one claiming the pagoda was built by Silla to please the migrants from Baekje and Goguryeo through the power of religion and induce stability in the region after the unification of both states by Silla, and another stating that the pagoda was built as a deterrent at the spot after signs were discovered that a king would one day be born in the region. Because of the tale involving Wonseong of Silla, it is more often referred to as the Central Pagoda than by its official name.

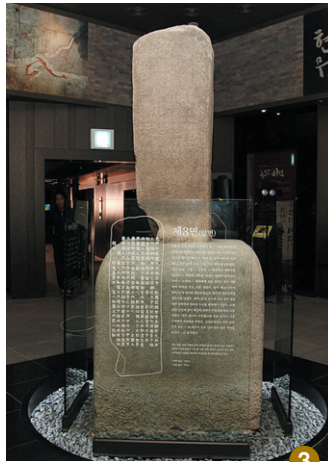
A historical park was created around the pagoda in 1992, and right next to it stands the Chungju Museum and Liquorium.

Goguryeo Monument proves Goguryeo expanded south of Han River

There is a village 3 kilometers away from the pagoda containing a famous menhir, where the Goguryeo Monument Museum is located. This is where the Goguryeo Monument, the only stone Goguryeo monument in Korea and a rubbed copy of the Gwanggaeto Stele in Ji'an, Jilin, can be found. There are also materials regarding Anak Tomb No. 3 in South Hwanghae Province, North Korea, kept at the museum, as well as a sculpture of Goguryeo mounted soldiers on armored horses.

The first exhibit describes the history of Chungju and the village with the menhir, their geopolitical importance and how the Goguryeo Monument was discovered. A menhir has long existed in the village, and the villagers used it as a pillar for a blacksmith's forge. They also regarded it as a holy stone that protected the village, offering rice cakes to it and praying to it for sons to be born.

The menhir once was toppled during a great flood in 1972. It has, however, remained as a piece of Goguryeo history for many years. The Yesong Culture Research Association, which researches the local history of the region, chanced across it in 1979 and reported it



to academic circles. When an investigative group deciphered the writing on the stone, it became known that it was from the Goguryeo period.

Goguryeo mounted soldier on armored horse regarded to have been 1,000 years ahead of West in terms of warfare

A rubbed copy of the Gwanggaeto Stele in Ji'an, Jilin, a stone stele over 6 m in length and engraved with 1,775 characters, is on display at the second exhibit. Given the narrow space, only part of it can be seen, while the rest of it has been rolled up. There is also a corner that shows the elite soldiers of Goguryeo and a sculpture of a Goguryeo mounted soldier on an armored horse. Such mounted soldiers rode horses that wore their own armor, and these soldiers are regarded to have been far ahead of the times. They were invulnerable to arrow and spear, which allowed Goguryeo to win many battles. It is said that there were over 50,000 of these


soldiers during the time of Gwanggaeto the Great.

The third exhibit is a broad chamber featuring paintings of the four mythical creatures that protect the universe and signify the four cardinal directions: the Azure Dragon, the White Tiger, the Vermillion Bird and the Black Tortoise. At the center of the exhibition hall stands the Goguryeo Monument. The monument looks almost identical to the Gwanggaeto Stele but is much smaller. The monument is 203 cm tall, with its front surface being 144 cm high and 55 cm wide.

The surfaces were carved out of natural stone, and all four surfaces were engraved with letters, but traces of the writing only remain on the front and left surfaces. Much of it has been rendered unreadable over the many years it has stood exposed to the elements, but precious writing that describes the history of the times has been discovered nonetheless.

"The great king of Goguryeo wished to be as brothers with the king of Silla and for such amity to continue throughout the generations," the introduction on the front surface states. "The king of Silla respectfully complied."

It describes how the king of Goguryeo gifted clothing to the king of Silla. The kings of Silla are referred to as "maegeum," and this affords us a peek into a Goguryeo-centric worldview.

Of note is China's false claims, with its Northeast Project of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, that Goguryeo was a region ruled by China. The Goguryeo Monument Museum allows us to experience the great kingdom of Goguryeo that once ruled the continent. It truly is "a place to see before you die." 

‘We mustn’t give up working toward our dreams’: football coach Park Hang-seo

Coach provided career mentoring to Korean elementary/middle schoolers at Korean International School HCMC

The Korean International School HCMC, located in Ho Chi Minh City (principal Son Seong-ho) invited Park Hang-seo, the head coach of the Vietnam national football team, on June 2 to hold a career path mentoring session for Korean students. Park, who is referred to affectionately as Park Hang-seo Magic in Vietnam, won the second gold medal in a row during the Southeast Asian Games in May with his U-23 Vietnamese football team.

The event came about after the students of the school sent in a video cheering for the Vietnamese national team with a song and a dance, leading Park and the rest of the team to visit the school to express their appreciation. Park spoke to around 400 elementary and middle schoolers, describing how he quit being a football player, became a coach and ended up working in Vietnam. He also answered students’ questions, including ones on how a leader should lead, and discussed



Football coach Park Hang-seo (C) provides career mentoring at the Korean International School HCMC.

career path difficulties with them.

He told them that their video, which had been sent right before the finals, had encouraged him greatly.

“I started playing football much later than others when I was little, but I did my best in each situation, which allowed me to reach the position I occupy now,” he said. “I would like to advise that you never give up on your dreams even when difficulties come your way.”

Park Chan-ho, an eighth grader who’d participated at the event, said: “I became a fan of Vietnamese football after Mr. Park took charge of our national team. It feels like a dream to meet this amazing man who connects Korea and Vietnam, and receive encouragement from him.”

The Korean International School HCMC, which first opened its doors in 1998 as a formal school for the children of overseas Koreans certified by the Ministry of Education, is the largest Korean school overseas with around 2,000 students in elementary, middle and high school grades.

Korean American U.S. representatives press Biden administration for stronger deterrents against North Korea

U.S. Reps. Young Kim and Michelle Park Steel send joint letter to U.S. secretary of defense and secretary of state

Korean American U.S. Reps. Young Kim and Michelle Park Steel requested President Joe Biden’s administration for expanded deterrents against North Korea on May 9, in celebration of the inauguration of President Yoon Suk-yeol of Korea. The two representatives sent a joint letter addressed to U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

“We show strong support for the Korea-U.S. alliance,” a joint letter by the representatives stated. “In consideration of the provocations of North Korea, we request the U.S. collaborate with the Yoon administration to enhance deterrents on the Korean Peninsula.

“North Korea fired 15 test missiles this year, while in March they fired their first intercontinental ballistic missile since 2017, adding to the general concern.



Korean U.S. Reps. Michelle Park Steel (L) and Young Kim

“It is clear that Kim Jong-un (Supreme Leader of North Korea) is not interested in declaring an end to the war and that he has been focusing on North Korea’s ability to fire nuclear warheads and conventional short-distance warheads at Korean, Japanese and U.S. bases. It is important that we cooperate with the Yoon administration to enhance U.S. control in Southeast Asia to stop North Korea

from enhancing their (nuclear/missile) capacity.

“The U.S. has an important role in supporting this alliance and increasing the strategic stability of the Korean Peninsula,” it read.

They then explained that increased control will open up a path to providing resources and weapons needed on the Korean Peninsula. Steel and Kim belong to the Republican Party and represent the state of California.

Japanese Association of Goryeo History opens history lecture about Goryeo immigrants

Introducing history of Korean-Japanese relations and descendants of Koreans who settled in Japan after fall of Goguryeo

A historical lecture that sheds light on those of Goguryeo descent who live in Japan and their significance will soon be held. According to the Japanese Association of Goryeo History on June 4, it will open a history lecture on the Goryeo region at the Koma Shrine in Hidaka, Saitama Prefecture.

Goguryeo is often referred to as Goryeo in Japan. According to “Shoku Nihongi,” an imperially commissioned Japanese historical text, Yakgwang (the son of Bojang of Goguryeo, the last monarch of Goguryeo) went to Japan in 666 as part of a diplomatic delegation. When the country fell two years later, he remained in Japan and brought together immigrants (including those from Goguryeo) to create the Goryeo region, in what is now the Kanto region in 716.



A poster for historical lectures by the Japanese Association of Goryeo History regarding the Goryeo region.

Though the name is no longer used, the descendants still live on in and around Hidaka. The Koma Shrine worships Yakgwang and the immigrants from Goguryeo.

The association, which has led the research on immigrants from the Korean Peninsula, will hold lectures on the topics of “The construction of the Ruins of Musashi-Kokubunji Temple and the Goryeo region,” “The Goryeo region in the Edo era, seen through regional texts,” “The establishment of the Goryeo region, and a study of the surrounding regions” and “The founder of the Goryeo region, Yakgwang, and his descendants.” The lectures will be offered until June 10.

“It is a historical fact that those of Goguryeo descent, who spread throughout Japan from the Goryeo region, gave rise to many clans,” a representative from the association said. “We created this lecture series so that we could describe the history of the Goguryeo immigrants, whose descendants have become established members of Japanese society today and share information about the significance of Korean-Japanese interchanges leading up to the present day.”

Four descendants of Korean American patriots who were active in Hawaii discovered

Medals to be given out on National Liberation Day to Moon Ddona, who provided monetary aid to independence movement

Direct descents of Korean and foreign patriots who were active in Hawaii were belatedly discovered. They will receive patriotism benefits from the government. According to the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs on May 2, it was able to confirm that there are four direct descendants of three people from Moon Ddona’s family (first-generation immigrants to Hawaii) -- Cheon Jin-hwa, Kim Ye-jun and George S. McCune (an American citizen) -- through its collection of data regarding the independence movement abroad and search for descendants in December of last year.

Moon began her activities in 1913 as a member of the Association of Korean Women, the first women’s organization in Hawaii. She then moved on to become a managing member at the Korean Association of Hawaii and the Korean National Revolutionary Party and contributed funds to the Korean independence movement. Moon’s daughters, Jeong Weol-la and Jeong Won-myeong, as well as their husbands, were also known to have engaged in various patriotic activities, including monetary contributions.



(From L, clockwise) Moon Ddona (R) and her daughter Jeong Weol-la, Jeong Won-myeong (C of front row), George Shannon McCune and Cheon Jin-hwa (Photo courtesy of the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs)

The Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs explained that they’d based their screening and review on an article from 1959 covering Jeong Weol-la’s death and World War I conscription information on Jeong Won-myeong to determine that Moon’s maternal great-granddaughter Elsa Carl was a direct descendant.

The granddaughter and children of Cheon Jin-hwa and Kim Ye-jun, who contributed funds to the independence and resistance movement, were also confirmed as descendants. Through the recent search, the grandchild of the foreigner George S. McCune who contributed to the independence movement was also found. McCune entered Korea in 1905 as a missionary and contributed funds to

students participating in the March 1st Movement in 1919.

The ministry will confer the medals to the four direct descendants on Hawaiian soil on National Liberation Day. In addition, they will be registered as patriot families, and be provided with monetary compensation and other benefits.

Oleg Li, Kazakhstani Koryo-saram and veteran actor/director, wins national medal

Acknowledged for his contributions to development of culture and arts, while acting vigorously at local Korean Theater for half-century

Oleg Shafronovich Li, a Koryo-saram and veteran actor-cum-director who is active in the Central Asian country of Kazakhstan, was acknowledged for his contributions to culture and arts in the country. He was recognized with the Barys II award by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on May 4.

According to the Overseas Koreans Foundation and local press, Li turned 80 years old the same day and received the medal from Erbolat Dossaev, the mayor of Almaty, who stood in for the president.

“The president was impressed by your special contribution; you devoted your entire life to the performing arts,” Dossaev said. “Your unrivaled talent and altruistic spirit greatly contributed to allowing Kazakhstani plays to become the best.”

Li expressed his thanks upon receiving the award.

“I accept this award with gratitude for all the staff and managing members of the Korean Theater of the State Republican Academic Korean Theater of Musical Comedy,” he said. “There was a terrible year in our history, 1937, when Koryo-saram were forced to migrate here from Primorsky Krai under the regime of Joseph Stalin. The people of Kazakhstan accepted us and shared what little food they had with us, and I am always grateful for that.”

Li, who was named an “honorary artist” for his contributions to the performing arts in Kazakhstan, was born on May 4, 1942, in Namangan, Uzbekistan. After graduating from Tashkent State Technical University in 1969, he worked in a related field. After a coincidental visit to a theater in Almaty in 1971, he fell in love with acting and chose an alternative career path.



He moved to Kazakhstan in 1975 and graduated from the Acting Department of the Kurmangazy Kazakh National Conservatory, after which he worked as an actor and director at the Korean Theater (a theater formed by local Koryo-saram). He has been the senior director there since 1996.

Li has appeared in 40 or so plays, movies, TV series and other works, and made an impression on many viewers through his realistic and memorable acting, making him very popular with local audiences. The Korean Theater, where he works as senior director, not only has served as a place for many who were part of the Koryo-saram diaspora to earn a living but is also a popular place to visit for Kazakhstani with an interest in Koryo-saram art and culture.

The Korean Theater was established in Vladivostok, Russia, in Sept. 9, 1932. It was the first overseas theater to focus on using the Korean language and represents the peak of the Koryo-saram performing arts overseas. It will celebrate its 90th anniversary this year. The theater was moved to Ushtobe, Kazakhstan, after Koryo-saram were pushed out of Primorsky Krai in 1937 by Stalin and forced to

immigrate to Central Asia. It became the national theater for music and comedy in 1968 and relocated to Almaty, where it has continued to thrive to this day. Former President Moon Jae-in visited the theater in April 2019. [\[참\]](#)

1 Oleg Shafronovich Li, veteran actor and director in Kazakhstan.

2 A photo of the Korean Theater, located in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Korean immersive content experience exhibition opens in New York

Hosted by Korea Creative Content Agency, the exhibition is accompanied by meetings with relevant U.S. industries

A virtual reality (VR) headset is placed in the center of the exhibit. Putting it on and sitting down reveals the members of BTS, who sing their hit song “DNA.” When you look up, there is starlight cascading down from the night sky, reminiscent of an actual concert, while laser shows unfold on both sides and below.

The various special effects that began at the BTS members’ feet spread in all directions, coming to surround the viewers, and it makes you feel like you’re on the same stage as the greatest K-pop stars.

This exhibition, which allows you to experience a BTS performance in VR, was set up at Chelsea Industrial in Manhattan, New York, on May 3. This content, using VR, augmented reality (AR), projection mapping and other technologies to create an immersive, realistic experience, is part of the “Korea: Cubically Imagined” exhibition.

The event, hosted by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and the Korea Creative Content Agency, features 16 pieces of immersive content, including those based on a BTS online concert and Bong Joon-ho’s film “Parasite.”

As the culture of the Korean Wave has gained traction, many Americans showed profound interest in the event. Reservations for the exhibition, set to run until May 14, sold out in 30 minutes after they were made available. The event was then moved to the Korean Cultural Center in Washington, D.C., where it continued until June 9.

The exhibition was covered by the press and included content that allowed people to experience the iconic house in “Parasite,”



including its living room and its basement, as well as the semi-basement house that the protagonists of the movie lived in. Besides hugely popular works, there was also content created by Korean artists, media art groups and the National Museum of Korea.

D’strict, who made waves with its work “Waterfall” (a rendition of a giant waterfall displayed in Times Square), exhibited three works, including one titled “Jungle.” Design Silver Fish also revealed three projects, including “Dynamic Seoul,” which showcased the night streets and Korean signs of Seoul.

The National Museum of Korea showed Jeongjo of Joseon’s procession arriving in Hwaseong and the four seasons of Geumgangsan Mountain through a panorama screen. There was also “Jeong Jung Dong Sequence,” which is a work by

professor Yeseung Lee of Korea University that combines traditional Oriental art with modern 3-D content, and “Beyond the Scene,” a media art project that reinterprets the choreography of BTS.

The Korea Creative Content Agency used this exhibition to hold a meeting on May 5 with Korean immersive content companies, creators and people from relevant U.S. industries at Onyx Studio in New York to support the promotion and exports of Korean content. [창](#)

Kang Geon-taek,
New York correspondent for Yonhap News

- 1 New Yorkers experience a BTS concert in virtual reality.
- 2 New Yorkers look at Seoul’s night streets rendered as media art.
- 3 Jeongjo of Joseon’s procession arrives in Hwaseong, which is displayed at Chelsea Industrial in New York.

HANIN to be held in Incheon from Oct. 4-7

The 2022 HANIN will be held at the Songdo Convensia Convention Center in Incheon (Mayor Park Nam-choon) from Oct. 4-7. The Overseas Korean Foundation (President Kim Seong-gon) held a three-day management committee meeting for this year's HANIN from May 4-6 in Mexico City before announcing the date.

This year's HANIN will celebrate 120 years of the history of Korean immigration to the United States, which began with the very first group of immigrants that left Jemulpo Harbor in Incheon, 30 kilometers west of Seoul, and arrived at Honolulu Harbor, Hawaii, on Jan. 13, 1903, in addition to the 16th Korean Day (Oct. 5). The heads of Korean associations from all over the world will participate in the conference, both in person and virtually.

The management committee meeting was attended by President



Participants of the HANIN management committee meeting in Mexico City pose for a photo.

Yoo Je-heon of the Association of Korean Residents in Europe, who is also co-chair of this year's conference; Yoo Young-joon, president of the Association of Korean Residents Latin America; presidents of Korean federations in each continent; and presidents of regional groups.

"This year's HANIN is meaningful in that it is being held in Incheon, the city where overseas immigration from Korea officially began," Kim said. "I'd like to ask for participation and interest from the presidents of Korean associations and overseas Koreans worldwide."

The Overseas Koreans Foundation signed a memorandum of understanding with the city of Incheon at the Museum of Korea Emigration History in Wolmido, Jung Ward, on Dec. 20, 2021, to the effect that the 2022 Korean Festival and HANIN will be held in the city.

OKF supports dreams of college students on Jeju wanting to work overseas

The Overseas Koreans Foundation (President Kim Seong-gon), headquartered on Jeju Island, will support the university students of the region so that they can take their dreams overseas. The foundation signed a memorandum of understanding with Jeju National University (President Kim Il-hwan) on May 30, agreeing to cooperate for the nurturing of global youth talent.

According to the MOU, the foundation will cooperate with the Jeju National University Employment Center to create internship programs for Jeju youth in overseas Korean businesses all over the world. Job mentoring will also be offered for the youth in the region to help them find employment and careers.

In order to nurture global talent among Korean youth, the foundation is also utilizing its network of Korean businesspeople all over the world to provide overseas internship opportunities through the Korean Business Youth Recruitment Internship program.

"We will do all we can so that the talented youth of Jeju may spread their dreams worldwide," Kim promised.



President Kim Seong-gon of the Overseas Koreans Foundation (L) and Kim Il-hwan, president of Jeju National University, stand for a photo after signing a memorandum of understanding.

OKF's 11th college volunteer group holds cultural campaign for Jeju 'haenyeo'

The Overseas Koreans Foundation, together with its 11th college volunteer group (OKFriends), held a cultural campaign promoting "haenyeo," female divers on Jeju Island who make a living by harvesting seafood from the ocean, and UNESCO World Heritages on May 28 and 29 near Gosan-ri, Hangyeong-myeon, Jeju Island.

The traditional dancer Ko Chun-shik and the female divers of the Gosan fishing village society participated in the campaign, allowing the foundation to teach the multinational college students of OKFriends about the Jeju female divers, as well as the historical and emotional significance of their dances and work songs.

The foundation also provided the services of a professional tour guide, along with a trip through the Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark (Chagwido Island, Suwolbong Mountain, Sanbang Mountain and the Yongmeori Coast Path), reminding the students of Jeju's value as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and launched campaigns for "plogging" (jogging while picking up trash along the shore) and environmental protection involving marine enthusiasts.



The 11th OKFriends student group, which participated in a promotional campaign for Jeju "haenyeo" and the UNESCO Global Geopark on Jeju Island.

OKF President Kim Seong-gon meets with Korean Cuban Descendants Association and others

Kim Seong-gon, the president of the Overseas Koreans Foundation, visited Cuba on May 2-3 and held a meeting with the Korean Cuban Descendants Association, ArtCor (a Korean culture club) and others.

Kim visited Club Martiano Amistad Cuba Corea, which will soon relocate to a new building, for a tour of its facilities and held meetings with staff of the Korean Cuban Descendants Association (President Antonio Kim) and the Latin American and Caribbean Council of the National Unification Advisory Council (President Park Rae-gon).

At the meeting, Kim listened to updates and suggestions from those of Korean descent and took part in a discussion regarding ways to improve the Korean Cuban Descendants Association, as well as the community of those of Korean descent. He also participated in a meeting with the executives of ArtCor, the biggest Korean culture club in Cuba, with around 5,000 members, to exchange opinions regarding methods of expanding cultural exchanges between the countries through the Korean Wave.

“2021 was the 100th anniversary of Korean immigration history in Cuba, but I was unable to visit the country then due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” Kim said. “I hope that this visit will provide an opportunity to generate active interest in the community of those of Korean descent living in Cuba and become the starting point for cultural exchanges between the two countries by means of the Korean Wave inside Cuba.”



Kim Seong-gon (3rd from L, front row), president of the Overseas Koreans Foundation, poses with members of the Korean Cuban Descendants Association.

Overseas Koreans Foundation's Book Recommendations



'Voice of the Wind'

Kim Chang-saeng / Bom

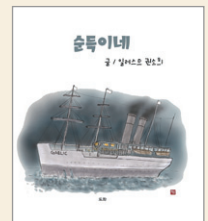
The author is a second-generation Korean Japanese who has seen firsthand the pain of the first generation of Korean immigrants from Jeju to Japan, who crossed over to the country during the hellish Japanese occupation of Korea. The author returned to her parent's birthplace, Jeju Island, determined to die in her motherland, and writes simply of the history of the island and her life there. "Voice of the Wind" describes the lives of the people of Jeju, who escaped from Japan to avoid the Jeju April 3 Incident. In the book, she describes with great emotion how two twin sisters were forced to fend for themselves in a strange land where they didn't even speak the language, telling of their struggle and homesickness. This gives us a peek into the lives of the first-generation Korean Japanese, who were forbidden from returning to Korea, and how the Korean society in Japan formed at a later date.



'Soondeuki's'

Kwon So-heui / Dohwa Publishing

The book describes at a level suitable for children how Koreans moved to Hawaii during the difficult early 1900s and worked as laborers on sugarcane farms. It provides a close look at how the immigrants were left with little choice but to immigrate, and how difficult the process was. We must remember the stories of the early immigrants, who never forgot about their homeland despite the difficult circumstances and forged new lives for themselves. The author sought to aid growing Korean children who live overseas to help them find their roots and identities. One's identity begins with one's perception of one's self. It is the author's hope that the stories of the first-generation Koreans and their history will make them proud of their roots and strongly identify as Koreans.





Korean Association of Sakhalin opens community center for first-generation Koreans in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk

A community center for first-generation Korean immigrants in Sakhalin, Russia, opened its doors. "It will also serve as a space for around 500 elderly Koreans to gather, relax and engage in fun activities, such as singing classes," the Korean Association of Sakhalin (President Park Soon-ok) said May 14. The center is located in the Korean Cultural Center of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, the provincial capital of Sakhalin. The association has furnished the center with conference desks, massage chairs, sofas and other items, and will start operating it in earnest in June. A Korean youth group will be in charge of the events that take place there, as well as the provision of services to the elderly users. According to the Korean Association of Sakhalin, around 30,000 Koreans currently live in Sakhalin. The first generation of Korean residents there have a painful history: They were forcibly conscripted during the Japanese colonial period, brought to Sakhalin and left with no way of returning to their motherland after Korea attained independence.

Sign put up at Roanoke College in Virginia to commemorate independence fighter Kim Kyu-sik

A sign was put up to commemorate independence fighter Kim Kyu-sik at Roanoke College in Virginia. According to the college website, the Virginia state government selected Kim as a key historic figure of the Asia Pacific on May 25 and put up the commemorative sign at the college, which was where he once studied. The sign features his Romanized name, KIM KYUSIK, the years of his life and a short description of his life as an independence fighter. Having lost his parents at a young age, Kim graduated with a bachelor's degree from Roanoke College with the help of missionary Horace Underwood and went on to complete a master's program at Princeton University. After returning to Korea, he utilized his excellent English skills to participate in the Paris Peace Conference of 1919 and criticize the Japanese invasion of Korea. He joined Kim Gu, Rhee Syng-man and others as an independence activist for the Provisional Government of Korea.



Association of Korean Professors in Brazil founded

The Association of Korean Professors in Brazil, comprising Korean professors active in the universities in the country, was founded on May 26. The newly founded association held its first meeting at the Consulate General of Korea in São Paulo and discussed major initiatives, including support for Korea-Brazil cooperation, the mentoring of Korean youths, academic interchanges between the two countries, industry-university research and development, and the execution of projects. Professors of various fields, including aerospace, medicine, biotechnology, chemical engineering, molecular biology, math, journalism, linguistics, business administration and literature, participated in the meeting. "We will work to create a foundation for the development of the Korean community and the expansion of collaborations between Korea and Brazil," professor Lee Jung-pyo, selected as the first president (University of Brasilia/aerospace), said.

Koryo Museum of Art in Kyoto holds Joseon Tongsinsa exhibit on 20th anniversary

The Koryo Museum of Art in Koreatown, Tokyo, is holding a Joseon Tongsinsa exhibit for its 20th anniversary. The exhibit, running from May 7 to Sept. 4, will feature the theme "Years of Peaceful Neighborly Relations" and will introduce the history of the Joseon Tongsinsa (goodwill missions sent intermittently, at the request of the resident Japanese authority, by the Joseon Dynasty in Korea to Japan) and various relevant artifacts, including books and drawings. There will also be a model of an actual Joseon Tongsinsa procession on display. The museum, which opened its doors in the area known as Okubo, Shinjuku, Tokyo, in 2001, has continued to hold exhibitions, community lectures and movie/documentary showings, to correctly educate the public regarding the history of Korea-Japan relations. The Joseon Tongsinsa envoys began when the Tokugawa shogunate, which took power in Japan after the death of Toyotomi Hideyoshi -- who was responsible for the Japanese invasion of Korea in 1592 -- desired the restoration of relations with Joseon.



Koryo-saram organizations work with Korean Red Cross to provide support to Ukrainian refugees

Neomeo (President Shin Eun-cheol), the Koryo-saram Association (President Roh Song-dal) and other organizations in Korea providing support to Koryo-saram signed a memorandum of understanding with the Korean Red Cross (President Shin Heui-young) on May 9 for the support of Ukrainian refugees entering Korea. Both sides will perform analyses of necessary support through field studies, providing livelihood/medical support and psychological consultations, performing administrative tasks regarding donations, and delivering donations for Koryo-saram and others who have escaped from Ukraine and entered Korea. "We will provide timely and efficient support to make sure that the refugees can quickly acclimate to their new home," Lee Sang-cheon, secretary general of the Korean Red Cross, said. According to Koryo-saram organizations in Korea, there are currently around 700 Koryo-saram war refugees from Ukraine who have come to Korea in search of sanctuary. Data also indicates that over 1,000 more Koryo-saram wish to move to Korea as well.

Provides updates on events held by overseas Korean organizations (Korean associations, Korean language schools, etc.). If you have news you'd like widely shared, please submit it to prc@okf.or.kr

30 years in Ukraine

I began my overseas studies in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, in 1992. Five years later, I received my Ph.D. from Kyiv University and was summoned by the university's Asian languages dean not long after. The request I received was that there were literature courses for Chinese, Japanese and Turkish in the Asian languages department and that my help was needed to establish a course for literature in the Korean language. I agreed without a single moment of hesitation, and I teach Korean literature and comparative literature there to this day.

In the beginning, I was just a clueless and fearless young man in his 30s. I stayed up till 3-4 a.m. every night coming up with lesson plans. I received Korean textbooks through an acquaintance and typed up the content without even getting permission before printing them out and giving them to the students. Around 30 students joined the Korean literature course between 1997 and 1998. I felt proud whenever I saw them go on to become professors, diplomats, businessmen, and public officials in Korea and Ukraine.

Up until 2000, Kyiv University accepted around 30 students for Chinese literature, 20 students for Japanese literature, 20 students for Turkish literature and 10 students for Korean literature every year. In 2003, I cooperated with students to translate Korean short stories and poems into Ukrainian, and publish them through a university publisher. Afterward, I was provided with textbooks, dictionaries, books for research and other materials through the Korean Embassy in the country, the Korea Foundation, the Academy of Korean Studies and other entities, and compiled a Korean-Ukrainian dictionary.

The Korean literature course was unnoticeable at best compared with the Japanese and Chinese literature classes, even until 2010. We were even outclassed by the Turkish literature course.

Then came the extreme popularity of Psy's "Gangnam Style" in 2012-2013, as well as many other K-pop artists. This changed the number of students enrolling in my course considerably. The number of students soon became similar to those in the Japanese



Kim Seok-won,
professor at Kyiv University

literature course, and in 2020, there were actually more students in my course. It's not an easy thing to study Korean literature, but the students here could dream of working at global Korean companies like Samsung, Hyundai Motors and LG. This interested them greatly, along with the fact that they would be able to get a closer look at the globally popular fields of K-pop, K-dramas, K-movies, K-beauty and K-food.

Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24 this year. This marked the start of the current war. Millions of people, including myself, became refugees, and soldiers from both countries are dying by the dozens and hundreds every day. Kyiv University closed down for the month of March, but on April

1, the president of the university gave the instruction for online classes to resume.

Classes resumed online in May. I held a remote class via Zoom not only for students from countries near Ukraine, such as Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary, but also from countries farther away, such as Spain, France, Germany and Finland. It encourages me that students are willing to learn Korean literature despite the ongoing war.

I also have a deep interest in Koryo-saram residing in Ukraine. I have been interested in this topic since I joined a research project regarding Koryo-saram residing in the Soviet orbit with professor Lim Young-sang of the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. It is estimated that there are around 500,000 Koryo-saram living in the Russian region. Many reside in Russia (100,000), Kazakhstan (80,000) and Uzbekistan (180,000). Around 20,000 to 30,000 are also known to reside in Ukraine.

Many of the first- and second-generation Koryo-saram have passed away now due to old age, leaving only a very small number remaining. I am currently collecting information to write a book about Koryo-saram living in Ukraine. I mean to collect the histories of not only famous individuals but ordinary people who, by some cruel joke of fate, were forced to stay in Ukraine and add them to historical records for posterity. 📖

Apply for 2022 Online Training for Overseas Youth and College Students

2022 재외동포 청소년 모국연수 ONLINE
OKFriends Teens Camp On-line

okfteenscamp.com
한국의 문화, 역사, 전통, 언어, 미래에 대한 흥미롭고 유익한 프로그램

대상/기간
재외동포 청소년 1,000명 / 대한민국 청소년 1,000명 (+선착순)

참가대상
만 14세부터 만 18세까지 (2022.7.1 기준)
: 2022년 7월 2일 출생일부터 2022년 7월 1일 출생일까지

연수기간
1기 : 2022년 7월 1일 ~ 7월 31일
2기 : 2022년 8월 1일 ~ 8월 31일
3기 : 2022년 9월 1일 ~ 9월 30일
4기 : 2022년 10월 1일 ~ 10월 31일
※ 11월 중, 평화 평화시를 개최하여, 평화 평가 및 시상 예정

연수내용
한국의 문화, 역사, 전통, 그리고 미래에 대한 흥미롭고 유익한 이야기를 담은 콘텐츠를 온라인 웹사이트를 통해 시청

신청기간
8월 1일(수)부터 8월 30일(목)까지 (선착순 마감)

신청방법
공식 홈페이지 okfteenscamp.com 에서 신청

참가혜택
1. 재외동포 청소년
● 2023 오프라인 연수 신청시, 우선 선발
● 2023 오프라인 연수 참가시, 항공료 추가 지원
2. 국내 청소년
● 2023 오프라인 연수 신청시, 우선 선발
● 한류스타 콘서트 티켓, 견학비용 등 특별한 상품 제공

상담/문의 2022 재외동포 청소년 모국연수 온라인 [운영사무국]
Email : okfteenscamp@gmail.com
Tel : 82-2-2138-2420

Register for 20th World Korean Business Convention (Application period ends Aug. 31)

제20차 세계한상대회
사전등록이 시작됩니다!

2022년 11월 1일(화) ~ 11월 3일(목)
한상넷 (www.hansang.net)
+82-2-3415-0051

The Overseas Koreans Foundation will be starting the preregistration process for the 20th World Korean Business Convention, set to take place at the Ulsan Exhibition and Convention Center in Ulsan from Nov. 1 to 3. The slogan for this year is “20 Years of Great Korean Business: Embracing the World.”

Those interested can preregister at www.hansang.net until Aug. 31. Registrations will also be accepted for corporate exhibit booths and one-on-one business meetings.

This year’s convention will be comprised of corporate exhibitions, one-on-one business meetings, startup pitch sessions, a leading CEO forum, a Korean business forum, a forum for young business leaders, a Korean business networking event, a seminar for professionals, internship interviews conducted on-site for the creation of jobs for young adults in Korean business, and the Korean business and youth online talk concert.

Inquiries regarding the event can be made to the secretariat (+82-2-3415-0051~52) or to the World Korean Business Convention account via KakaoTalk messenger.

“The participants of this year’s convention can expect to reap business results leading into next year’s convention in Orange County,” Kim Seong-gon, president of the OKF, said. “I would like to ask for the participation of Korean businesses around the world, as well as in Korea.”

The Overseas Koreans Foundation will be taking applications for the 2022 Online Training for Overseas Youth and College Students for one month, from June 1 to 30. The online training schedule, requirements for applications, the maximum number of applicants and other details are available through the announcements on the OKF website: (<https://www.okf.or.kr/homepage/customer/notice.do?mode=view&articleNo=1001027901&article.offset=0&articleLimit=10#/list>).

Upcoming plans for OKF executives in May 2022

President Kim Seong-gon

- May 10: Inauguration ceremony of the 13th president (Yoon Suk-yeol)
Inspection of Business Conference
- May 11: Reception for overseas Koreans in celebration of President Yoon’s inauguration

- May 12: YBLM City Forum opening ceremony
- May 14-17: Business trip to the United States
- May 30: MOU signing ceremony between the Overseas Koreans Foundation and Jeju University



750만 재외동포와 대한민국이 하나로 통하는 첫 번째 온라인 세상 코리아넷

코리아넷 회원에 가입하시면 재외동포 민원, 재외동포 단체,
재단 지원사업 등 관련 정보를 만나실 수 있습니다.



재외동포
민원



재외동포
지원 사업

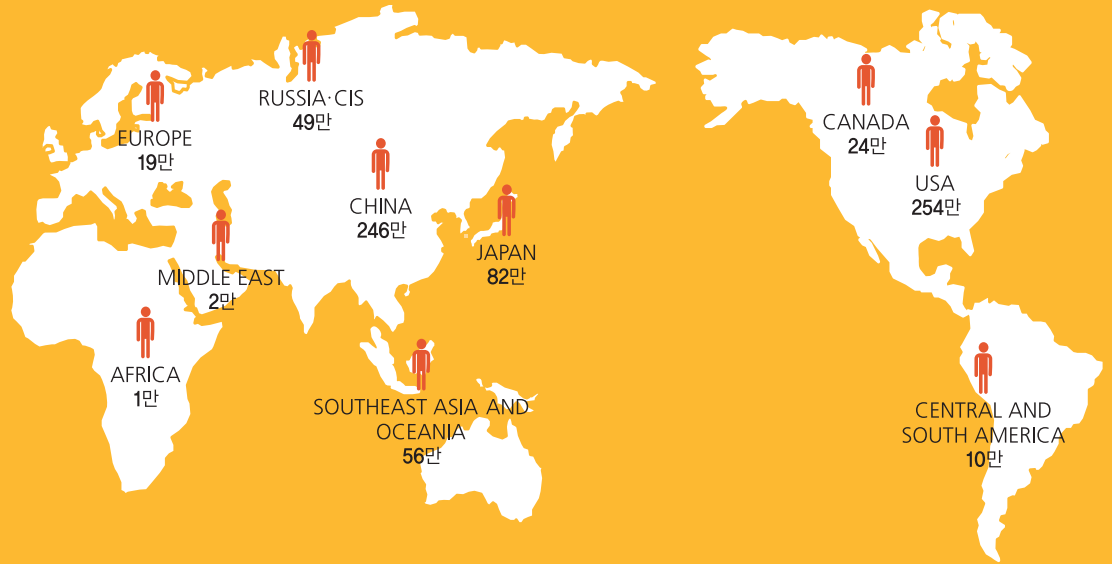


단체 홈페이지
제작
및 운영지원



재외동포
뉴스





세계 시민과 함께

한민족 공동체를
구현하는

글로벌 플랫폼 기관

재외동포재단, 세계 750만 재외동포와 함께 밝은 내일을 만들어 갑니다

재외동포재단은 재외동포들이 거주국에서 민족정체성을 유지하고, 스스로의 권익과 지위를 향상시키며, 역량을 결집하여 모국과 함께 성장할 수 있도록 지원하고 있습니다.

