



Special Article - Koreans in France and Asia promote holding World EXPO 2030 in Busan
Special Feature - President Yoon Suk-yeol visits Spain and holds meeting with Koreans living there
Newsworthy Topic - Park Il-kyung, benefactor of homeless Koreans in Philippines, has aided 172 people over 6 years



‘Joining hands’ to meet needs of overseas Korean community

It has been such a long time. I race along in my car through the rain, driving to Jeonju, North Jeolla Province, to meet teachers who work in Korean language schools. I wonder if we'll have another of those delightful sessions, sharing our stories and thoroughly enjoying ourselves. My heart is fluttering with excitement already. It rained one fateful summer day -- just like it is raining today -- when I was first invited to teach Korean language school teachers.

I'd been instructing the teaching staff at overseas universities in the summer of 2005, when I received a phone call. I was a professor with little hands-on experience who'd been invited to a training session for Korean language school teachers in South America in the fall. The request had been that I do a short orientation session to prepare. When I finally arrived at an office, an executive member of the foundation that was hosting the training -- obviously experienced and very sharp -- stared at me over his spectacles. That was the beginning of a long series of meetings with Korean teachers overseas.

The result was that I grew to have an understanding of what was needed in the field, and I began working as an instructor for overseas Korean teachers all over the world. In addition, I was granted an opportunity to participate in the development of Korean language school learning material that would be issued by the South Korean government. By the time my research year (2008) ended, I was able to publish learning material for teens that I had felt a personal fondness for.

As I drive along in the rain again, thinking back to how all this had begun and the profound connections I'd formed in the field, I'm



Lee Hae-young,
president of the King Sejong Institute Foundation
(professor at the Graduate School of International
Studies of Ewha Womans University)

reminded of the lives of the overseas Korean teachers. Considerations over the role of the King Sejong Institute Foundation have deepened in my mind after I became the president. In July 2022, the expertise of the Overseas Koreans Foundation and the King Sejong Institute Foundation joined hands and bore fruit. That precious fruit is the “Studykorean with KSI” project, something that only came about two years after a memorandum of understanding was signing.

Perhaps Korean language schools now stand on the cusp of change. There are fewer of these schools now due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but we haven't forgotten what role they must play. Korean

language schools must maintain Korean language and Korean culture education, as they will form the identity and heritage of overseas Korean children and teens.

I also hope that through the cooperation of the King Sejong Institute, their parents and friends may satisfy their curiosity and love for Korean heritage. Hopefully, this collaboration between the two foundations will expand the possibilities for the overseas Korean community and the Korean language school faculty. The King Sejong Institute Foundation must provide active support for the Korean language programs of the Overseas Koreans Foundation for this to happen.

I arrive at the lecture hall I've yearned to see again for so long and find that the heavy rain has stopped. The sky has cleared, and as I gaze up at it, I look forward to the meaningful and progressive results of the partnership between the Overseas Koreans Foundation and the King Sejong Institute Foundation. [창]



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

Koreans in France and Asia promote holding World EXPO 2030 in Busan

Expo resolution conference held in Paris, general assembly meeting in Philippines



“We Koreans in France will do what we can to help.” Banners with this slogan were put up in various parts of Paris and at the Korean Embassy on the evening of June 21. The France Korean Association (President Song An-shik) held the French Korean Expo Resolution Conference that day to support the holding of the World EXPO 2030 in Busan. Present were 100 Koreans,

including South Korean Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, Busan Mayor Park Hyeong-joon, Chey Tae-won (SK Group chairman, civilian head of the Busan EXPO Retention Committee, and president of the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry), Korean Ambassador to France Yoo Dae-jong and presidents of French Korean associations, as well as other Koreans hailing from various parts of France.

The France Korean Association held this conference following a Korean government delegation’s participation in the 170th general assembly meeting on June 20-21 of the Bureau International des Expositions in order to compete for hosting the World EXPO 2030. The Korean government’s delegation also came to the conference after successfully participating in the second round of presentations that morning in Paris.

Event held same day as government delegation’s presentation at BIE’s general assembly meeting

The event consisted of a welcoming speech by Prime Minister Han, celebratory speeches by Mayor Park and Chairperson Chey, and a report on the progress regarding the expo from Park Jung-wook, the secretary-general of the Busan EXPO Retention Committee, as well as other speeches. This was followed by multiple video relay messages promising support for the cause from the Korean community in France, promises from the senior leadership of French Korean associations and “pungmulnori” performances (Korean folk music and dance). Participants also broke open a confetti ball, wishing for the undertaking to be successful.

“Seeing the words ‘We will do what we can to help’ on those banners makes me think we are already 90 percent of the way there already, and that the expo is all but certain to be held in Busan,” Han said in his speech. “Please contribute so that we can show the entire world in 2030 how much Busan has changed and how much we are doing to help other countries.”

He also delivered his thanks, saying, “It was thanks to the Korean community in France that our presentation today went so well.”

Mayor Park said in his speech: “We need your help, as we must gain the support of each of the 170 or so member states of the BIE that have voting rights. Korea’s global hub is currently centered in Seoul. If we can get the expo to be held in Busan in 2030, it will provide a very important catalyst for growth.

“If the Korean community in France can help us by utilizing their networks to gather support, we will make sure that the expo can be held in Busan. The encouragement I see on those banners really makes me believe this will come



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to pass.”

Jung Gwang-il, project managing director at the Overseas Koreans Foundation, was also present at the event.

“Koreans in France have really come together, determined to ensure that the expo is held in Busan,” he said. “Various Korean organizations all over the world, including Korean associations, chambers of commerce, Korean language schools and Korean adoptee associations, will also join in actively to promote this cause.”

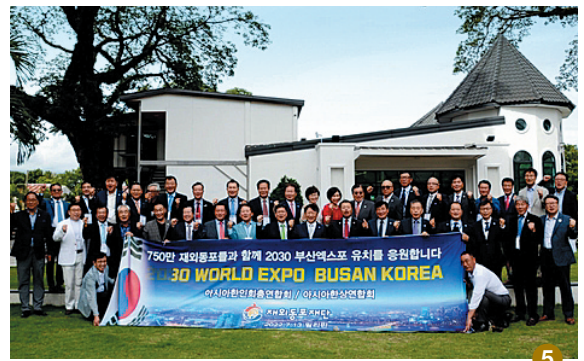
Meanwhile, the Asia Federation of Korean Associations (President Yoon Heui) also held a general assembly meeting at Hotel Seoul Clark in the Philippines on July 13, gathering their resolve with the message, “We support the holding of the World EXPO 2030 in Busan with the community of 7.5 million overseas Koreans all over the world.” This organization is a unified body comprising Korean associations and Korean businesses in 22 Asian countries.

“The senior leadership, Korean association presidents and various guests numbered nearly 100 people,” Kim Kyo-shik, the secretary-general, said. “We all gathered together in agreement to participate actively in support of the holding of the expo in Busan.”

If successfully held in Busan, the expo will represent an economic boon worth 61 trillion won and create 500,000 jobs

The World EXPO is one of the world’s three biggest events, along with the Olympics and the World Cup. The BIE has approved two types of expos: the World Expo (registered) and the International Expo (acknowledged). The expo held in Yeosu, South Jeolla Province, in 2012 was an International Expo. The World Expo, which is far greater in scale, is held every five years and lasts six months, with countries from all over the world participating.

If the 2030 World EXPO is held in Busan, the resulting economic impact will be worth 61 trillion won (US\$46.8 billion), with 43 trillion won of resulting



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production and 18 trillion won of generated added value, and around 500,000 new jobs are expected to be created. In addition, the process of ensuring that the event is held in Busan is connected with standing issues in the region involving the Gadeok New Airport, the North Port Redevelopment Project in Busan and the relocation of the 55th Supply Depot of the U.S. Armed Forces in Korea to the city outskirts. The event is expected to contribute greatly to regional development as a result. Having an accessible international airport is a favorable condition for the retention of the expo, which is expected to attract more than 50 million visitors.

The BIE will hold its general assembly in November 2023 and after votes from its 170 member states, the final location of the 2030 World EXPO will be determined. Besides South Korea (Busan), China (Zhengzhou), Italy (Rome), Spain (Barcelona) and France (Paris) are also lobbying fiercely for the honor. [2]

- 1 The French Korean Expo Resolution Conference is held at the Korean Embassy in France on the evening of June 21. Members of the Korean government delegation, including Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, Busan Mayor Park Hyeong-joon and Chey Tae-won (chairperson of SK Group, civilian head of the Busan EXPO Retention Committee, and president of the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry), in addition to Korean Ambassador to France Yoo Dae-jong and presidents of French Korean associations, break open a confetti ball for good luck. (Photo courtesy of the city of Busan)
- 2 The France Korean Association and Koreans belonging to various Korean associations throughout France are gathered at the French Korean Expo Resolution Conference held at the Korean Embassy in Paris to support the hosting of the 2030 World EXPO in Busan. (Photo courtesy of the city of Busan).
- 3 Busan Mayor Park Hyeong-joon thanks the Korean community in France for supporting the cause at the French Korean Expo Resolution Conference held at the Korean Embassy in Paris. (Photo courtesy of the city of Busan).
- 4 Jung Gwang-il, project managing director at the Overseas Koreans Foundation (R); Lee Jang-seok, president of the Korean Language School Council of France (L); and Korean Ambassador to France Yoo Dae-jong pose for a photo at the conference.
- 5 The president and senior leadership of the Asia Federation of Korean Associations meet on July 13 in Clark, the Philippines, to support the hosting of the World Expo 2030 in Busan.

President Yoon Suk-yeol visits Spain and holds meeting with Koreans living there

It has been 15 years since Korean president held such a meeting; ‘I’d like to build a new Korea with you all’

President Yoon Suk-yeol, who visited Madrid for the 2022 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Summit on June 29, met with Korean residents of the country and promised them support, saying, “I’d like to build a new Korea with you all.”

Yoon held a meeting with Korean residents in Spain at the Mandarin Oriental Ritz in the Spanish capital the same day.

“I shall pay attention to the difficulties faced by overseas Koreans and revise the laws and systems to fit the needs of the day,” Yoon emphasized repeatedly. “I’ll do my best to provide digital administrative services for overseas Koreans that will be easier to use for Koreans abroad and support the education of younger generations of overseas Koreans so that they may become global talent while remembering their roots.”

Yoon also recalled the past history of the Korean community in Spain. “This community has its roots in the brave spirit of challenge,” he said. “The Koreans here began work as taekwondo teachers and chicken sexers; their expansion to the Canary Islands was made possible by their labor on deep-sea fishing vessels that traveled far and wide.

“Their courage and bravery inspired the Koreans who

came after them, and created a Korean community that didn’t fear progressive change. The Korean community in Spain only shone brighter in the face of adversity. They did not turn away from neighbors beset with difficulties, helping each other whenever they could. Those of us in Korea were greatly moved by this, and I’d like to applaud your teamwork.

“You are precious citizens of Korea wherever you may live. I shall put your lives and safety before anything else. Please continue as you are doing now, working together for the good of your country and your community.”

‘Establishment of overseas Korean services and lowering of the required age for multiple citizenship were election promises’: Yoon

One of the Koreans present requested that the age requirement for multiple citizenship for overseas Koreans be lowered to make dual citizenship easier.

In response, Yoon said: “The establishment of an overseas Korean services and lowering of the required age for multiple citizenship were my election promises. I wasn’t aware that the process for acquiring multiple citizenships was so complicated. I will look into it and see what I can do.”

The Grupo Vocal Millennium, a Spanish choir founded in 1999, sang Korean songs at the session, drawing the attention of many. Though they are a foreign choir composed of foreign singers, they sang Korean songs with accurate pronunciation. Lim Jae-sik, head of the choir, showed tears in his eyes when the choir sang “Our Hope” after “Barley Field” and “Miryang Arirang,” and Yoon and his wife were also moved to tears.





It was the first time in 15 years that a Korean president held a meeting with the Korean residents of Spain. Heads of Korean associations and other Koreans from Madrid, Barcelona, the Canary Islands and even Las Palmas, numbering around 120 people, came to the meeting to see Yoon and his wife.

First lady Kim Keon-hee visits Korean Cultural Center in Spain and Korean grocery store

First lady Kim Keon-hee was also present at the meeting. She wore her hair up and donned a black jacket, as well as a dark green, “hanbok-style” satin dress at the event. Kim visited the Korean Cultural Center in Spain, founded 11 years ago, on June 28. As the only wife of an incumbent president to have done so, she viewed a hanbok exhibition and went to a Korean teaching center. Kim mentioned how Korean culture was gaining the spotlight in Spain, a country that had produced virtuosos, such as Pablo Picasso and Antoni Gaudí, and encouraged the employees of the cultural center, describing them as patriots.

On June 30, the last day of the couple’s visit to Spain, she also visited a Korean grocery store in Mercado Maravillas. There she met with a couple that had run the store for 33 years and thanked them, saying, “The efforts of first-generation Koreans like you serve as a sturdy bridge connecting Korea and Spain.”

President Yoon tackles 16 different diplomatic tasks during his first overseas visit, also his debut in multilateral diplomacy

President Yoon, on the other hand, handled 16 different events during the five days he spent in Spain, including the NATO summit. It was his first overseas visit since his inauguration on March 10 and his debut in multilateral diplomacy. In addition to taking part in the first Korea-U.S.-Japan summit in four years and nine months, he met in bilateral talks with the leaders of

Australia, the Netherlands, France, Poland, Denmark, Canada, the Czech Republic and the UK.

Present at the Korea-U.S.-Japan summit were U.S. President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. They discussed the restoration of a system for trilateral cooperation to defend against the increasing military threat of North Korea. Though the Korea-Japan summit was officially canceled, there were multiple meetings with Kishida that showed the desire to restore relations between the countries. At the consecutive bilateral talks, Yoon utilized sales diplomacy that focused on different points for each country. 🇺🇸🇯🇵

- 1 President Yoon Suk-yeol (C) and his wife, Kim Keon-hee, shake hands with participants of the meeting on June 28 with Korean residents in Spain at the Mandarin Oriental Ritz in Madrid.
- 2 Kim Keon-hee, first lady of Korea, visits the Korean Cultural Center in Madrid on June 28 and poses for a photo with the staff.
- 3 President Yoon and his wife salute the national flag at the meeting with Korean residents in Spain at the Mandarin Oriental Ritz in Madrid.
- 4 President Yoon gives an encouraging speech at the meeting with Korean residents in Spain at the Mandarin Oriental Ritz in Madrid.
- 5 President Yoon (L) speaks with U.S. President Joe Biden (C) and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (R) at the Korea-U.S.-Japan summit held at the IFEMA Convention Center in Madrid, Spain, on June 29.

Park Il-kyung, benefactor of homeless Koreans in Philippines, has aided 172 people over 6 years

Running Korean Care Shelter, he sends those rescued to Overseas Korean Rescue Team

Choi (68), a Korean living in the Philippines, was finally able to return to his home country on May 22. He worked in the Philippines 12 years ago in the construction industry, running a flourishing business, but he became homeless after bankruptcy. Choi had become an illegal immigrant with poor health and no family or connections left in Korea. Park Il-kyung, president of SY Industrial, helped to arrange a flight for the man to return to Korea.

Park has been helping homeless Koreans in the Philippines who have, like Choi, suffered bankruptcies or are addicted to drugs and gambling. He has run the Korean Care Shelter in the Philippines since 2016, safely returning 172 individuals to their home country.

“There are many here who failed to be successful in the Philippines and live as homeless individuals because they are too ashamed to go back,” Park said. “I will continue to help them return safely home.”

In a recent interview at the Conrad Manila Hotel in the Philippines, Park said: “At first I helped out a few homeless Koreans here on my own. Then, in 2016, I partnered with my church, the New Life Church, as well as Share Sarangbat in Korea, to found the Korean Care Shelter. I’ve been running the shelter ever since.”

He began aiding homeless Koreans after helping a Korean in his 70s who’d suffered bankruptcy during the Korean foreign exchange crisis of 1997 return to Korea with Lee Hyuk, ambassador to the Philippines at the time. Most of the homeless are illegal immigrants, and as such, they are unable to return to Korea even if they wish to because of the large fines they owe the government of the Philippines. Men are also swindled by brokers promising to send them home and fall into even deeper debt.

“Though they are no longer active, there were once almost 30 such brokers,” Park said. “The problem was very serious. I was able to rescue Koreans here thanks to the help of the Overseas Korean Rescue Team and

Lee Hyuk, former ambassador to the Philippines.”

Lee wrote a letter to the head of the Bureau of Immigration in the Philippines requesting that the homeless be sent back and created a way for them to be deported without the fines. In addition, the help of Share Sarangbat, located on Ganghwa Island, Korea, was enlisted in order to give the homeless a place to stay after returning to Korea. Kwon Tae-il, a pastor who is a member of Share Sarangbat, runs the Overseas Korean Rescue Team.

‘I am saddened by the greater number of homeless generated by the COVID-19 pandemic. ... I will continue to help them’

“Sending one person back gave me courage to do more,” Park said. “I went to Pastor Kwon Tae-il and asked him to care for the homeless that I’d send back to Korea. The agreement was that Share Sarangbat provide 50 percent of the funding, and that I would pay the rest. And that brings us to where we are today.”

Park invites overseas Koreans with no place to go to his shelter, providing them with three months of room and board, then sending documents to the embassy to apply for an illegal immigrant status exemption. Then he buys them a flight ticket home. Park has been doing this for six years now.

“There are many more homeless now with the COVID-19 pandemic,” he said. “We can’t accommodate all of them in the shelter, so we also created a





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The Manila branch of World-OKTA Asia, which was the first Asian branch of the organization (established Oct. 5, 1991), planned for its 30th anniversary celebration last year. It was delayed a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, and was held in the 31st year of its establishment instead. The event, titled “Meeting of Branch Heads and Senior Leadership in Asia,” was held at the Conrad Manila hotel from May 26-28. [\[장\]](#)

temporary shelter in April 2020 to provide food and lodging.”

Park, who hails from Uiseong, North Gyeongsang Province, came to the Philippines as the head of the Philippine branch of Doosan Industries in 1984, when he was 33. After quitting his job, he settled down in the country and founded the overseas trade and plastic manufacturing company SY Industrial. He spends much of his time on business trips abroad to purchase potatoes, corn and other items, and exports them from the United States to China, from Indonesia to the Philippines and from Australia to the Philippines but still finds time to actively help homeless Koreans.

Formerly the president of the United Korean Community Association in the Philippines and the fifth president of the Manila branch of the World Federation of Overseas Korean Traders Association (World-OKTA), he is regarded as a “benevolent businessman” and “invisible hand” by the overseas Korean community because of his efforts for harmony and conflict resolution.

- 1 Park Il-kyung, who runs the Korean Care center in the Philippines (C, front row) and some volunteers
- 2 Park Il-kyung, president of SY Industrial in the Philippines
- 3 Participants of the 30th anniversary of the Manila branch of World-OKTA, held in May last year
- 4 The Korean Care Center, being operated in Manila, the Philippines



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Second-generation Korean Argentines paint ‘Korean murals’ in Koreatown

‘Refreshing makeover’ was organized by local Korean Saturday School and sponsored by local government bodies



Participants give a performance after drawing murals on the walls of the Ruperto Godoy district, filled with Korean restaurants and other businesses, in Buenos Aires.

A side street lined with Korean restaurants in Buenos Aires is given a beautiful makeover with a mural painted by Korean Argentine children.

Second-generation Korean Argentines have adorned streets in the capital of Buenos Aires, filled with Korean restaurants, with Korean murals, drawing the public’s attention.

“Around 50 Korean Argentines aged 6-17 years old, 24 teachers and school parents went to streets in Ruperto Godoy, an area of small streets selling Korean food,” Jung Deok-ju, a teacher in a Korean language school in Buenos Aires, said June 29. “There they painted things like the South Korean flag and rainbows as murals on the walls.”

Jung is a foreign correspondent for Korean Net, which is a service operated by the Overseas Koreans Foundation.

The mural event, under the theme “A Shared World,” was organized by the Korean Saturday School of Argentina (principal Lee Young-mi) and funded by the Gobierno de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires (a multicultural affairs bureau), as well as the Ward 7 Office. Jung explained that students were taught that responsibility and taking action are key components to enjoying one’s precious rights and benefits in Argentina, just as they are in Korea.

The streets that the students painted lie within the Avellaneda area, which has a large concentration of Korean wholesalers and retailers. There are also approximately 10 restaurants operated by Koreans, selling Korean food, Chinese food, Japanese food and

even bread. Recently, the region has been popular with locals who love Korean culture and want to try Korean food.

The students drew many things on the walls, including the motto “A Shared World” in Korean, the South Korean flag, a huge rainbow, multicolored flowers, yellow stars and blue hearts. They each chose a color they liked and made handprints on the walls, in addition to leaving their names or initials.

The event was attended by Baek Chang-gi (president of a local Korean association), Kim Jin-gwang (chairman of the board of a Korean school in the region) and Mercedes Barbara (director general of Gobierno de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires), who provided encouragement at the event.

“I took part with my children in this event because I want them to feel proud of their Korean heritage even though they live in Argentina and want them to learn to get along with other kids through the experience,” said Catalina Cho, who has children aged 11, 8 and 6.

Principal Lee Young-mi of the Korean Saturday School of Argentina said, “I hope that everyone who passes these murals will feel happiness in their hearts.”

“The walls were shabby before, but the murals have transformed them,” Istella, a resident of the neighborhood, said. “The small street doesn’t feel the same, and I can feel a new energy here.” 장

New Zealander with special love for South Korean flag: 'It encompasses many deep concepts about the universe'

Adrian, son of Korean War veteran, has owned a South Korean flag for 20 years

There is a New Zealander who loves the South Korean flag more than South Korean citizens themselves. In the "News from foreign correspondents" section of the Korean Net website (www.korean.net), Park Chun-tae (head of the Hangeul Globalization Movement in New Zealand) identifies this person as Adrian, who lives in Cashmere, outside Christchurch, on the South Island of New Zealand.

Not only has he possessed a South Korean flag for 20 years, he is also a genuine fan of the flag and uses it in a variety of ways. Adrian, who rents out his home to Koreans, Chinese and Japanese, also puts up the corresponding national flag on a flag post he installed in the garden in front of the house whenever there is a national holiday or event.

He flies the Korean flag on Seol, Chuseok, National Liberation Day, Hangeul Proclamation Day and other Korean holidays. He also puts up the flag when Koreans hold a party at his house. Realizing that his flag was smaller than normal, he even visited South Korea in 2012 to purchase a larger size.

What drives his love of the South Korean flag? He first saw the flag in a movie in 1970. He recalls that at first sight, he thought the red and blue in the flag represented North and South Korea.

New Zealand sent around 6,000 soldiers to the Korean War in 1950, and Adrian's father was among them; this led Adrian to think that the divided pattern on the flag represented the two separated countries.

"The 50 stars in the American flag represent the 50 states, but the South Korean flag has a much deeper meaning," Adrian explained. "I was enchanted by its elegant design and the diversity in its meaning. The world is symbolized in the (the circle in the center called the Taeguk), then there are the trigrams in the corners, which have a variety of meanings. I found them very appealing. In addition, the white background represents the white-clad folk. I loved that symbolism as well." White-clad folk is a term used to refer to the Korean people, derived from their love of white clothes.

Another reason that he fell in love with the flag was seeing the Taegukgi wave created by the Korean supporters at the Fifa 2002 World Cup co-hosted by South Korea and Japan.



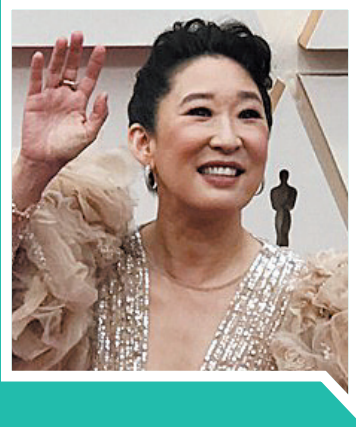
Adrian, who lives in Christchurch, New Zealand



The South Korean flag and traditional Korean lanterns hung up for a Korea Day event in Christchurch on Nov. 27, 2021.

"The Koreans in New Zealand watching the game on TV also did that performance at the time, and I found it very touching. The flag not only served to unite them, but it also fired up their patriotic spirit," he said. 🇰🇷

GLOBAL KOREAN



Korean star actress Sandra Oh set to receive Order of Canada Second Korean ever to receive the honor 'for her accomplishments in the film industry'

Korean actress Sandra Oh (also known by her Korean name, Miju) will be awarded the Order of Canada. According to the website of the governor general of Canada and various local press, such as The Canadian Press, Governor General Mary Simon recently announced a list of recipients for the Order of Canada, comprising notable individuals in culture and the arts, academics, politics and sports. Oh was selected as a winner for culture and the arts. The Order of Canada has three levels: Companion, Officer and Member. Sandra Oh will be assigned the Officer level.

With dual citizenship in both Canada and the United States, she was selected as a recipient for her contributions to the film industry. She is the second Korean recipient after Jeong Yeong-seop, a professor of genetic engineering at the University of Montreal.

Oh was born to economist Oh Joon-soo and biochemist Jeon Young-nam in Ottawa, and nurtured her dream of becoming an actor by participating in plays and musicals during her school days. After graduating from the National Theatre School, she landed her first lead role in the movie "Double Happiness" (1994).

She grew famous after she was selected for the 1997 TV series "The Diary of Evelyn Lau," ousting nearly a thousand other competing auditionees. In 1994 and 1999, Oh won the Genie Award for Best Actress, regarded as "Canada's Oscars." She rose to stardom with her role as a Korean American doctor in 2005 in the American TV series "Grey's Anatomy." She became the first Asian to receive the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress-Television Series Drama for her role as Eve Polastri in "Killing Eve."

Also mentioned as one of the "50 Most Beautiful" by People magazine, she took the lead role in "Umma," a Hollywood horror film that premiered this year. The Order of Canada was created by Queen Elizabeth II, based on the advice of Canadian Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson, and launched on the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Confederation. The insignias are delivered by the governor general serving as a proxy for Elizabeth II in the capital of Ottawa.

Korean Polish author: 'Returning looted cultural artifacts is essential for true reconciliation'

Jina Nam publishes 'Cultural Artifact Repatriation: Symbolic Diplomacy' in English

"Returning cultural assets stolen during the periods of colonialism and war are essential for reparations regarding destructive past acts, healing and the creation of collaborative relationships between countries involved."

Jina Nam (28), who recently published an English book titled "Cultural Artifact Repatriation: Symbolic Diplomacy," said in an interview, "I wrote the book because I wanted to make sure people knew that returning stolen cultural assets is an essential step in forgetting the painful history of the past and forming future relations based on equality."

Nam is the daughter of Nam Jong-seok, the president of the Poland Korean Federation of Korean Associations. She is a second-generation Korean who grew up in Poland. Her identity was a confusing issue for her during her youth, and she applied for a scholarship from the Overseas Koreans Foundation so that she could experience her mother country. After graduating from the Department of Psychology in Seoul National University, she completed a master's program at Yonsei University's Graduate School of International Studies.



“In the course of learning about my roots, I grew interested in cultural assets,” she said. “I was surprised to learn about the many artifacts that were stolen from us. I wanted to write about why it was only right that such artifacts be returned, and what the positive impact of such repatriation would be.”

The book, published with the support of the Cultural Heritage Restoration Foundation, deals with the history of cultural artifact theft, cases where the return of such artifacts impacted diplomacy, the increased interest in cultural assets after World War II, and the impact of international organizations, nongovernment organizations, businesses, overseas Koreans, etc., on the repatriation of cultural artifacts.

Nam stated that the countries responsible for stealing the greatest number of cultural artifacts from Korea were Japan (44 percent), the U.S. (25 percent), China (6 percent), the United Kingdom (4 percent) and France (3 percent). As the majority of such thefts and subsequent repatriations were mostly found among the world powers, she published the book in English first and made it available for purchase through major online booksellers. A Korean version is also set to be published in the second half of the year.

Cho and Choi expand Korean influence in Canadian political circles Raymond Sung Joon Cho and Stan Sung Hoon Choi, members of the Provincial Parliament of Ontario, remain in office as minister and vice minister of Ontario, respectively

Two Korean politicians who have important roles in Canadian politics and have worked to expand the influence of the Korean community have fallen under the limelight. According to the Korean community in Canada, Doug Ford, the premier of Ontario, reappointed Raymond Sung Joon Cho (86) and Stan Sung Hoon Choi (44) as minister for seniors and accessibility and vice minister of transport, respectively.

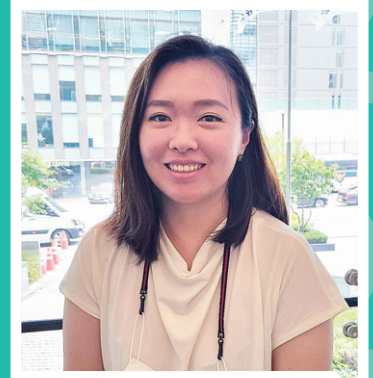
The province of Ontario, containing the capital of Ottawa, as well as Toronto, is the largest local government entity in Canada with a population of 14.5 million. The two men have worked together since Ford’s first term began in 2018. These two, coined the “Cho duumvirate” by the Korean community in Ontario, were reelected in the general elections held June 2 in Scarborough North and Willowdale, North York, respectively.

“Premier Ford and the 30 members of the cabinet were sworn in by Elizabeth Dowdeswell, lieutenant governor of Ontario, at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario on June 24 and immediately got to work,” Cho said on social media.

Seniors and Accessibility Minister Cho has a record of winning eleven elections in a row, being elected a provincial parliament member three times and a city councillor of Toronto eight times in past general elections. As the first Korean Canadian politician, the oldest politician and the most elected politician, he has left a mark on the history of Korean immigration to North America.

He began his journey as a politician after being elected as city councillor of Toronto in 1991 and represented Scarborough North for 31 years. After studying English at the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, he immigrated to Canada in 1967, where he did odd jobs that included being a dishwasher, cleaner and miner before entering the Graduate School of Toronto University and starting a doctorate course on social welfare education.

Transport Vice Minister Choi is a second-generation Korean Canadian who recalls the tough lives led by his parents. He has done his best to care for immigrants, especially those with ordinary backgrounds. He has worked in real estate in the past and was a master of ceremonies for large events in the Korean community, such as the Peace Marathon and the Korean Harvest Festival. 🇰🇷



Dr. Ivan Park, venerable Koryo-saram scientist from Kazakhstan, receives national recognition

Scientist awarded Parasat Medal from president for his great contribution to engineering and natural sciences

Dr. Ivan Park (92), a venerable Koryo-saram scientist from Kazakhstan, received national recognition for his contribution to the country's advances in science. According to the Overseas Koreans Foundation and local press, Dr. Park received the Parasat Medal on June 1 from the president of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. The Parasat Medal, which means the aristocrat medal, was created by the Kazakhstani government in 1993 in accordance with a presidential order, and is awarded to meritorious individuals in the fields of science, politics, art and social sciences.

Park, born in 1930 to parents from North Korea in Primosky Krai, was forced to migrate with his parents to Atyrau, Kazakhstan, in 1937 (he was 7 at the time) because of an order issued by the dictator Joseph Stalin. His accomplishments as a scientist and engineer in Kazakhstan despite the limited resources he had available are impressive.

After graduating from the Departments of Physics and Mathematics of the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University with excellent grades in 1954, he acquired a master's degree and Ph.D. in mathematics at Moscow University in 1960 and 1980, respectively, after which he worked as a researcher in the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union. He was also head of the master's and Ph.D. conferment committee of his alma mater, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, as well as a member of the Kazakhstan Academy of Sciences .

Park is an expert in computer processing and is regarded to have made great advances in fields that include computer calculations, data processing and info-communications. He was also a leading researcher in the development of devices for the military and astronautics use and possesses around 20 related patents in various countries, including the United States and Germany. He has also written approximately 170 papers and published seven short books so far.

Park: Korea must make good use of Koryo-saram resources in basic sciences

As a scientist, Park has also taken part in many international activities outside the realm of research and development. In 1991,




Dr. Ivan Park



The Parasat Medal, which Dr. Park recently received

he founded the Association of Scientific and Technical Societies CIS Koreans in Kazakhstan, of which he was the president for 24 years (up to 2014). He is now an honorary president of the association. The Koryo-saram scientists of various fields that are members of this association are regarded as the future of Kazakhstan, and their research accomplishments are acknowledged worldwide. After becoming an officially recognized scientist of Kazakhstan in 1995, he received the Dongbaek Medal of South Korea's Order of Civil Merit in 2004. He was also an advisory member for the National Unification Advisory Council, an organization of which the Korean president has direct oversight. He is currently the president of the veteran's committee of a local Koryo-saram association.

"The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Russia are very well-developed in the basic sciences," Park said during an interview with Korean journalists in 2005, "If this is combined with the technology that Korea possesses, the result could be something at the very top level of technological advancement. Korea must be aware that Koryo-saram play the key role in that and must make use of them.

"As a first-generation Koryo-saram, I always emphasize education for future generations of Koryo-saram," he is known to have often said. "It is my hope that our experiences will be a foundation for future generations to spread their wings in various fields." 

First Korean chess grandmaster: 'I'd like to represent Korea given the opportunity'

Christopher Woojin Yoo won grandmaster title at age of 14 last year

An unusual sight greeted viewers of the naming ceremony of the 2022 Chess Olympiad National Team hosted by the Korea Chess Federation in May. The chess grandmaster (GM) and Korean American professional chess player Christopher Woojin Yoo (16) played a simultaneous exhibition against 30 Korean players. A simul is a style of competition in which a skilled player faces multiple less skilled players at the same time.

The title of grandmaster is awarded to chess players who rank within the top 1 percent of chess players in tournaments hosted by the likes of the world chess organization FIDE and others. To become a grandmaster, a player must attain an Elo rating of 2,500 or greater and achieve three strong results in high-level international tournaments.

According to the Korea Chess Federation, Yoo was the first Korean player to earn this title. Having visited Korea with his parents for the first time in approximately three years, he said in a recent online interview: "I'm a little saddened by the fact that the interest in chess isn't as great in Korea as in the U.S. or Europe. But I hope that this event will help increase its popularity here."

Yoo was born in California, and it was largely due to his family that he was exposed to chess. His mother, Park Jeong-heui, a professor of the Korean language at Berkeley University, suggested to Yoo when he was in first grade in 2013 that he try learning chess as an after-school activity. The fact that his father, Yoo Young-gyu, a former software engineer and currently Yoo's manager, was a long-time chess fan and also contributed to young Yoo's foray into chess.

"At first we suggested it as a hobby." Park said. "Our son showed a far greater interest than we expected, however, and when he won a tournament in California after about a year since he first started, we knew he had talent. After considerable thought, we decided to homeschool him and let him slowly prepare for regional tournaments and the like. Professional players usually begin learning at the age of 4 or 5, and we were quite worried that he might have started too late."



Christopher Woojin Yoo, the first Korean chess player to acquire the grandmaster title

'I hope I can contribute to increasing the popularity of chess in Korea': Christopher Yoo

To their relief, Yoo won the 2017 North American Youth Championship followed by regional tournaments in 2018, quickly showing his aptitude. Last December, he became a grandmaster at the age of 14 years and 11 months. In the recent American Continental Chess Championship hosted in El Salvador, he won a silver medal and qualified for the World Chess Championship 2023.

Though Yoo took part in many tournaments, he emphasized that the recent game in Korea was unique.

"It was a rare opportunity to face 30 people all at once," he said. "I also played against Kwon Se-hyun, a member of the Korean national chess team, afterwards. It was fascinating.

"Chess has the appeal of both art and geometry, and there are an unlimited number of plays you can make," he added with a laugh. "And more than anything, winning often is what makes chess fun for me. I will do my best to obtain good results at next year's World Chess Championship and given the chance I'd like to represent Korea one day." 장

Korean War veterans' commemorative ceremony held in South Africa

Participants gathered to remember the sacrifice of war veterans despite cold weather

A ceremony to commemorate veterans of the Korean War was held in South Africa on June 22. The ceremony at the South African Air Force Museum in Bay Hills, Pretoria, was attended by about 70 people, including officers from the United States, Turkey, Thailand and other countries that took part in the war, in addition to representatives of the Korean War Veterans Association of South Africa, the Korean Embassy in South Africa and Korean associations. Armed soldiers stood guard outside the venue.

South Africa, located in the southern hemisphere, was experiencing winter weather at the time. The strong winds that day made it even colder, but the ceremony was held regardless, amid the prayers of an army chaplain and the sound of trumpets. Participants offered flowers to the dead and celebrated their sacrifice.

The 2 Squadron SAAF (South African Air Force) sent 826 airmen to participate in the Korean War, and 36 of them died during battle or from accidents. Because most of the casualties were air force pilots, the losses suffered by the South African Air Force at the time were very heavy.


After the ceremony, participants went to the Air Force Base Swartkop, the world's second-oldest air force base (established in 1921), and ate in the officers' dining hall.

Dirk Louw, president of the Korean War Veterans Association of South Africa, named each of those who died during the war at the meal, saying: "Their sacrifice was not in vain; these soldiers fought to ensure tomorrow existed for Korea. It has been 72 years since the war, but Koreans still have



not forgotten to be grateful to the countries who took part."

Lee Byung-cheol, military attaché of the Korean Embassy in South Africa, offered Pete Piser (91), the only one of the five surviving veterans who came to the event, a gift and offered scholarships to the descendants of other veterans.

Present at the event for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic were Brig. Gen. N. E. Neshbambe and many other active soldiers representing the South African Air Force. 

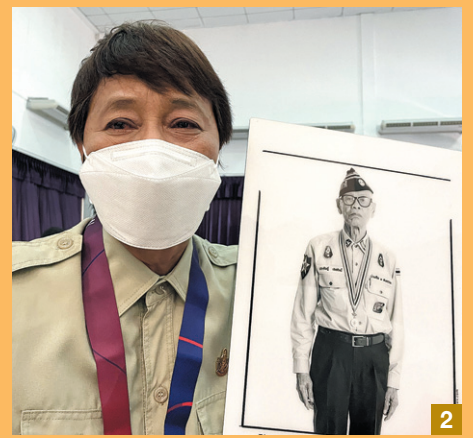
Kim Seong-jin,
Yonhap News Agency's correspondent to
Johannesburg, South Africa

1 A commemorative ceremony for veterans of the Korean War is held in front of the South African Air Force Museum in Pretoria on June 22.

2 Dirk Louw, president of the Korean War Veterans Association of South Africa (L), and Choi Bong-gyu, minister of the Korean Embassy in South Africa, give a silent tribute inside the museum after offering flowers to those who died during the Korean War.

First Korean War commemoration in Thailand in 3 years: 'We'll never forget the sacrifices of war veterans'

Event suspended for 2 years due to COVID-19



An event commemorating the Korean War was held in Thailand, the first time in three years. The Korean Embassy in Thailand and the Korean Cultural Center in Thailand hosted the event to commemorate veterans of the Korean War at the 21st Infantry Regiment Headquarters in Chon Buri, Thailand. Present were 15 surviving veterans, 22 diplomatic delegations from 22 countries that participated in the war and officials from the government of Thailand, as well as the Thailand Army, making for a total of around 200 participants. The 21st Infantry Regiment was Thailand's military force that participated in the Korean War.

This annual event was canceled the past two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Moon Seung-hyun, the Korean ambassador to Thailand, offered flowers at the monument and then delivered peace medals to 13 descendants of Korean War veterans.

"The South Korean government and its people have not forgotten that it was the

sacrifice of these veterans that South Korea is now ranked within the top 10 economic powers," Moon said in his memorial address. "It is my hope that the 21st Infantry Regiment, which was created for participation in the Korean War, will continue its noble spirit and continue to contribute to even greater friendly relations between Korea and Thailand."

Moon and other officials of the embassy offered ginseng chicken soup ("samgyetang") they'd made themselves to the war veterans to express their thanks. There were Korean and Thai traditional dance performances at the event in addition to a taekwondo demonstration. Panitan Rutsin (61), the daughter of a war veteran, Pradit Rutsin, shed tears as she watched a video of the soldiers that played on the stage.

"My father came to this event every year, but he passed away a year ago at 94 years of age," Panitan said. "I had to come alone this year. I miss him so much after seeing

that video of him."

She explained that her father had been dispatched twice during the Korean War, serving there for around a year, and that he'd also taken part in the Battle of Pork Chop Hill, which served as an example of Thai bravery on the central front.

Thailand was the very first country in Asia to decide to participate in the Korean War, dispatching 6,326 army, navy and air force soldiers. According to the Korean Embassy in Thailand, around 120 of the veterans who took part are still alive today. [\[F\]](#)

Kim Nam-gwon,
Yonhap News Agency correspondent in
Bangkok, Thailand

1 Moon Seung-hyun (6th from L in front row), Korean ambassador to Thailand, and diplomatic delegations of participating states pose for a photo after offering flowers to a monument erected in honor of the war veterans in Chon Buri, Thailand, on June 24.

2 Panitan Rutsin (61), a participant of the event, cries as she holds a photo of her father, a veteran of the Korean War, who passed away last year.

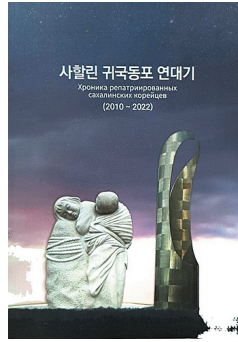
‘Chronicles of Returning Koreans,’ book introducing history of Koreans from Sakhalin who settled in Korea, is published

Book documents the movement for greater rights of 4,500 people that returned to Korea

The National Sakhalin Returnee Association (President Kwon Kyeong-seok) recently published “The Chronicles of Returning Koreans,” a book detailing the history of Koreans from Sakhalin who returned permanently to Korea. During Japanese colonialism, over 50,000 Koreans were forcibly taken to Sakhalin to work in coal mines, armament factories and other places, and were left behind after the fall of the Japanese Empire, unable to return to their mother country.

The governments of Korea and Japan agreed to cooperate for the return of Koreans in Sakhalin in 1994, leading to around 4,000 returnees (first-generation and second-generation Koreans from Sakhalin) successfully coming back to Korea. They settled in 19 cities and districts, including Seoul, Incheon, Ansan, Gimpo, Paju and Busan, and 2,800 of them are still alive today.

“We formed the association to bring together the 25 groups of Koreans from Sakhalin all over the country, helping such returnees acclimatize and protect their rights,” Kwon said.



yet.”

The book, which has around 360 pages filled with approximately 500 photos, contains an introduction on the association, the Sakhalin groups in each region, the meetings that took place every three months, activities for greater rights, such as National Assembly protests and constitutional petitions, celebrations of various anniversaries and the history of the Sakhalin Koreans.

In celebration of 30 years of diplomatic relations between Korea and Kazakhstan, Anton Chekhov’s play “The Seagull” is performed in Seoul

Co-directed by Kang Tae-sik and Kim Chun-kyeong, the play will be performed for four days at Cotton Hall in Daehangno

“The Seagull,” a play by Russian playwright Anton Chekhov, was performed in celebration of 30 years of Korea-Kazakhstan diplomatic relations in Seoul. The play, produced by the Play Association Co. and the State Republican Korean Theater of Musical Comedy (located in Kazakhstan), welcomed viewers from June 23-26 at the Cotton Hall of Dongduk Women’s University’s Performing Arts Center. The play was jointly directed by Kang Tae-sik and Kim Chun-kyeong.

Among the cast were many actors from the State Republican Korean Theater of Musical Comedy, including Constantine Park (Kosja), Victoria Kim (Nina), Najuejuida Kim (Arkadina), Edward Park (Dorn), Georgi Yoon (Sorin), Sergei Kim (Medvendenko) and Alexer Mahripirov



A poster for the play “The Seagull,” performed in Seoul in celebration of 30 years of Korea-Kazakhstan diplomatic relations. (Photo courtesy of the Play Association Co.)

(Shamrayev). Among the actors from Korea were Yoon Seok-min and Jin Seong-woong, who both played the role of Yakov in the play.

“The Seagull” is the first of Chekhov’s four major plays. It is a tragedy that deals with the love, treachery and downfall of various characters as they occur by the side of a broad lake, in a peaceful garden. The play utilizes the ironies of life and the baseness of the characters to accurately portray the meaner side of human nature.

““The Seagull” is one of the most famous classic plays,” Kang said. “It can easily be said to be the best among Chekhov’s amazing works. It has now

become an important element of the history of our performances as well.”

Initiative from White House describes KAC video as good example of 'anti-hate crime campaign'

The Korean American Coalition (KAC) (President Eunice Song), a group that works to further the rights of Koreans born in the United States, formed a partnership with Asian Americans Advancing Justice in Los Angeles last year and has been in charge of the Korean training for the "Bystander Intervention Training to Stop Asian Hate and Xenophobic Harassment." Accordingly, the KAC has been translating its lecture material into Korean, hiring Korean instructors and performing training for them every month.

The purpose of this project is to utilize regular training, as well as online and offline campaigns, to alert the Korean community of Asian hate crimes. It will also teach people how to safely deal with such crimes, how to report them, what they must do as witnesses and other



A poster for bystander intervention training for the prevention of Asian hate and xenophobic harassment.

important information, and allow the spread of such information throughout the community without language or technical impediments. The bystander intervention training, which was only provided in English before, is now being performed in Korean 1-2 times per month, allowing Koreans in the U.S. who didn't have the opportunity to learn because of language barriers to participate.

The KAC has recently distributed a video it created with the support of the Overseas Koreans Foundation among the Korean community and also uploaded it online. According to the OKF, the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI) described the video as a great example of a video for hate-crime prevention to other Asian communities.

Korean community showers compassion on Mexican school that Korean nuns have devoted themselves to for 30 years

Free boarding school Escuela Villa de las Niñas Chalco receives 70 million-won donation and supplies

The Korean community recently turned its benevolent attention to a free boarding school that Korean nuns in Mexico have operated for 30 years. According to the Mexican Korean Association (President Um Ki-woong), the Korean associations in Mexico visited Escuela Villa de las Niñas Chalco with representatives from the Korean Embassy on June 8 and donated 1.15 million pesos (US\$56,459), as well as other goods. The goods donated were items often used by the students, including fabric, underwear, shorts, jackets, leggings, coffee mix, face masks and at-home COVID-19 diagnostic tests.

The boarding school is an established middle and high school that has been operated by the Korean nuns for three decades. About 3,300 female



The group that visited Escuela Villa de las Niñas Chalco, a boarding school operated by Korean nuns, delivers their donations and supplies and poses for a photo.

students live in dorms inside the school, and all classes, including room and board, are provided free of cost. Only female students with no family or from low-income bracket families with three or more children are accepted, with a high level of competition to enter. The students welcomed the visitors by singing Korean songs, as well as performing the Korean fan dance and traditional Mexican dances.

"The number of donations has decreased greatly recently due to the COVID-19 pandemic," Mother Jung Mal-ji, who has devoted her life to the operation of the school since its establishment, said. "I'm very thankful for this kind of help."

Jinjuseong Fortress and Chokseoknu Pavilion

Retaining painful history of Japanese invasion of Korea in 1592

Jinjuseong Fortress (historical site no. 118), which has served as a silent witness to the history of Jinju, South Gyeongsang Province, is a small fortress next to the Nam River. It has a height of 5-8 meters and a wall that stretches 1,760 m. Jinjuseong Fortress, which has been turned into a historical park, was the site of two large battles during the Japanese invasion of Korea in 1592.

This fortress, which is presumed to have first been built during the Three Kingdoms period, was originally an earthen fortress. In the fifth year of the reign of U of Goryeo (1379) near the end of the Goryeo era, Kim Jung-gwang, Jinju's minister, rebuilt it as a stone fortress to defend against the numerous invasions by Japanese raiders. Then, in the 24th year of Seonjo of Joseon (1591), the "gwanchalsa" (governor) of Gyeongsang Province, Kim Soo, built the outer wall.

The Japanese invaded the following year, and in October of that year, the minister of Jinju and Gen. Kim Si-min (1554-1592) defeated approximately 20,000 Japanese soldiers with only about 3,800 soldiers. The Siege of Jinju, considered one of the three major sieges of the Japanese invasion of Korea in 1592, contributed greatly to preventing Japanese progress into Honam, a breadbasket region.

Eight months later, in June 1593, 10,000 Japanese troops invaded Jinjuseong Fortress once more. Civilians, soldiers and government authorities did their best to fight them off, but they were all killed in the battle, and Jinjuseong Fortress fell to the enemy. The Japanese forces are known to have celebrated with alcohol in Chokseoknu Pavilion following their victory, and there the "righteous courtesan" Nongae performed the sacrificial assassination of a Japanese general by holding him in her arms and jumping into the Nam River.

This is the painful past of Jinjuseong Fortress, which has been designated by the Korea Tourism Organization and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism as one of the 100 Tourist Locations of Korea eight times. Chokseoknu Pavilion, located within the fortress, was mentioned as one of CNN's "50 beautiful places to visit in South Korea" in 2012.



Site of heated battles with Japanese forces

The front gate of Jinjuseong Fortress, called Gongbuk Gate, leads into the fortress. Inside it is a well-maintained grassy park and a statue of Gen. Kim Si-min. "Gongbuk" means to "offer up a prayer with both hands toward the king, who resides in the north." The gate stands where people once did this very thing whenever there was a significant event in the country.

The statue, which was unveiled on Jan. 1, 2000, stands 7 meters tall and is the guardian statue of the fortress. A memorial stone in front of the statue reads: "He passed the military service examination in 1578. He attended the military training agency (Hullyeonwon) and served as a justice of Gungishi (government office in charge of manufacturing military supplies) before becoming a judge in Jinju in 1591. When the Japanese invaded in April 1592 and the minister died of an illness, he took the minister's place, guiding the people of the fortress and renovating the fortress and its pond.

"He inspected the available weapons and formed a military, leading his soldiers to victory in Sacheon, Goseong, Jinhae, Jirye and Geumsan. This led to his promotion to minister. In the same year, he defeated a Japanese force of 20,000 that invaded on Oct. 5 with only 3,800 soldiers after a fierce battle that lasted six days; this battle was later called the Siege of Jinju. He, however, took an arrow to the forehead. He was later named the Byungma Jeoldosa (a rank of military commander) of Gyeongwoodo but died at the age of 39 on his sickbed, worrying about the fate of his country even in that state."

Following the outer wall on the left side, one can come across the Monument to Gen. Kim Simin (Tangible Cultural Property No. 1 of Gyeongnam), as well as the Jeongchungdan Monument at Chokseok Plaza, erected to commemorate the loyalty and wartime accomplishments of individuals, such as Kim Cheon-il, Choi Gyeong-heui and Hwang Jin. Next to them stands the Altar to Patriotic Martyrs of Jinjuseong Battle, celebrating the brave deaths of 70,000 civilians, soldiers and government officials who fell during a bloody battle.



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Moving downward toward the Nam River from this altar is Chokseoknu Pavilion (Cultural Property No. 8 of Gyeongnam), regarded as the greatest scenic spot in all of South Gyeongsang Province. After being erected in the 28th year of Gojong of Goryeo (1241), it was repaired and restored multiple times. Its name means, “It stands tall in the middle of a river.” During wartime, it was used as a command post, and during peacetime, it was a gathering place for poets, calligraphers and painters. Measuring 5 kan in the front (about 10 meters) and 4 kan on the side, this tower with a “paljak” roof was once used as a site for national examinations.

Chokseoknu Pavilion, which burned down during the Japanese invasion of Korea in 1592, was designated as National Treasure No. 276 in 1948. However, it burned down once again during the Korean War and was later restored in 1960. A cool breeze always blows on Chokseoknu Pavilion, where tablets of poetry by individuals, including Yi Hwang (pen name Toegy), Kim Seong-il (pen name Hakbong), Shin Yoo-han (pen name Cheongcheon) and Hwang Hyun (pen name Maecheon), are on display.

Wonderful night scenery where water and lighting meld

Using the stone door in Chokseoknu Pavilion to leave the fortress, one comes across Uiam Rock (Natural Monument No. 235 of Gyeongnam), where Nongae jumped into the Nam River with a Japanese general in her arms. The rock juts out above the river, which was once described as having water “bluer than the kidney bean flower.” On its western side the name Uiam is carved in Chinese characters, engraved by Jeong Dae-ryoung on the seventh year of Injo of Joseon (1629). Perhaps because this was the site of Nongae’s death, the stone feels just as large and imposing as the cliff that supports Chokseoknu Pavilion.

Next to Chokseoknu Pavilion is Uigisa Shrine (Cultural Property No. 7 of Gyeongnam), which houses the portrait and ancestral tablet of Nongae. Another of Jinjuseong Fortress’ charms is the night scenery. When the day grows dark, one can stand in the central square opposite Jinjuseong Fortress to see a magnificent view of the wall of Jinjuseong Fortress and Chokseoknu Pavilion beautifully lit. The eaves of Chokseoknu Pavilion, extending over the Nam River, rippling in the breeze, boast a noticeable beauty and grace. The lights transform the fortress, and walking inside it, following the lit paths, is a worthwhile activity. This site of fierce past battles against Japanese forces is a lonely peace, and the waters of the Nam River appear to run deep. 🌃



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- 1 A view of Jinjuseong Fortress and the Nam River
- 2 The interior of Jinjuseong Fortress
- 3 Gongbukmun Gate, the main gate of Jinjuseong Fortress
- 4 The statue of General Kim Si-min in Jinjuseong Fortress
- 5 A night view of Jinjuseong Fortress and Chokseoknu Pavilion
- 6 A portrait of Nongae inside Uigisa Shrine, located next to Chokseoknu Pavilion

OKF earns financial program assessment rating of ‘excellent’ for 2021

For the first time in five years, the Overseas Koreans Foundation received a rating of “excellent” from the 2021 Financial Program Assessment, performed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and confirmed by the Ministry of Strategy and Finance. This assessment is a system created in 2005. It allows government departments that execute financial programs to perform autonomous evaluations, the results of which are inspected by the Ministry of Strategy and Finance and used for budgeting for various programs and institutions. The system aspires to manage finances in a performance-driven manner.

In the assessment, the OKF was acknowledged for its excellent project accomplishments despite the difficulties created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Points were also acquired for its level of contribution to



A view of the Overseas Koreans Foundation headquarters building on Jeju Island.

social value, efforts to reduce spending and increase efficiency and results regarding the operation of an information system, as well as the improvement of work processes and various services. This led to the foundation receiving 102.4 points, the highest score among the 34 financial projects under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

“These results are thanks to the consistent efforts of the executives and employees,” Overseas Koreans Foundation President Kim Seong-gon said. “We will continue to take the

lead in implementing our new government’s innovative policies regarding public institutions to increase our financial integrity, doing our best for the end goal of mutual growth for both Korea and the 7.32 million overseas Koreans out there.”

OKF provides overseas job opportunities to 60 young adults through ‘Korean business internships’

The Overseas Koreans Foundation will be providing overseas Korean business internship opportunities to 60 Korean young adults. This program provides opportunities to Korean young adults to experience work abroad and expand overseas, and Korean businesses with a chance to work with excellent Korean talent.

The foundation has selected overseas Korean businesses with over US\$1 million in yearly sales and 10 or more employees that are interested in hiring full-time employees. Interns were sought in the trade, administration, marketing, design and IT fields, and those selected will be dispatched to the relevant overseas companies for six months.

The businesses performed an initial examination of applications for young adults who signed up through an earlier announcement between June 30 and July 7, followed by remote interviews and face-to-face interviews in Korea between July 12-21. The selected interns will receive training in Korea between Aug. 2-5 and then be sent out one by one starting at the end of August.



The Overseas Koreans Foundation provides Korean young adults with internship opportunities at overseas Korean businesses.

The OKF will provide each intern with insurance coverage for their prolonged overseas stay and living expenses that amount to 1.1 million won per month for six months. Young adults in need of additional jobseeking aid, such as those who are basic livelihood security recipients, have disabilities, are the breadwinners of their families or are part of a multicultural family, will be provided an additional 20 percent living expense each month. After the internship ends and if the interns are hired overseas, the foundation will also provide a round-trip ticket to Korea. The businesses are only required to provide monthly pay of US\$600 to the interns.

“This program is meant to help competitive and talented young adults find jobs abroad, helping the Korean people expand overseas in the financial world,” a representative of the foundation said.

“Working in a Korean business that has adapted to the local environment will help them learn to adapt overseas and teach them a more global outlook.”

OKF jointly forms Korean language education website with King Sejong Institute

The Overseas Koreans Foundation, together with the King Sejong Institute Foundation, created an online Korean language learning site (study.korean.net/ksi) for Koreans residing in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Japan. The site opened June 5.

The two institutions created the website in order to effectively respond to the demand for Korean language learning developed for learners in the CIS and Japan, who have weak Korean skills. The website, named Studykorean with KSI, provides all its content translated into local languages (Japanese and Russian).

The various historical and cultural content the OKF possesses, along with the King Sejong Institute Foundation's online Korean language



The front page of the Overseas Koreans Foundation and King Sejong Institute Foundation's online Korean language learning website.

curriculum (introductory and elementary levels of its cyber Korean language program), will help these overseas Koreans hone their language skills and increase their understanding of the Korean nation.

"I hope that this collaborative project between the two institutions will contribute to the vitalization of Korean education in the Korean communities of Japan and the CIS region," OKF President Kim Seong-gon said.

After signing a memorandum of understanding in October 2020 for the support of Korean language and cultural education for younger generations of

Koreans, as well as foreigners, the two institutions have been working to discover new joint projects and collaborate regarding Korean language learning.

Overseas Koreans Foundation's Book Recommendations



'A Secret Note Written on the Plane'

Lim Jeong-jin / Green Apple

There are approximately 200,000 Korean adoptees living overseas. The majority of these adoptees were adopted by parents in the United States and Europe following the Korean War. Though they were sent away in hopes of securing better lives for them, their lives were far from easy. They constantly yearned for their mother country and their real parents, and an identity crisis plagued them. "A Secret Note Written on the Plane" is a collection of six short stories based on the actual accounts of overseas Korean adoptees. The novel describes the fear and longing these children were forced to face on their own, children who could not even speak the Korean language. Children are no longer sent away to be adopted so that they may have better futures. Today, Korea has started off on the path toward becoming a multicultural society. We must stop the discriminatory glances given to these adoptees and encourage them while also helping them discover their identities through continued communication and harmony. This book provides readers with an opportunity to sympathize with the adoptees and learn why it is necessary to get to know them better.



'Knock Knock, I Wanted to See You'

Kim Kyeong-heui / Bookk

"Knock Knock, I Wanted to See You" is an essay collection that contains the stories of elderly overseas Koreans who have repatriated to Korea from Sakhalin, Russia. Gatherings organized with the support of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism in 2021 to allow them to talk about their lives have now taken the form of this published essay collection. The five repatriated overseas Koreans in this book have returned to their mother country and learned Korean so that they could share their histories. And these histories are varied indeed. You'll find stories of longing for a father buried in Sakhalin, of an overseas Korean born in Sakhalin prior to Korean independence who has a daughter in Russia and other individuals as well. The essays are not simple stories; They paint in realistic detail their painful lives and the history of the times, accompanied by photos brought back from Sakhalin. The essays and pictures in this book allow readers to dwell on what it really means to live as a Korean.





Republic of Korean Residents Union in Japan holds jamboree and cultural exploration for cultivation of Korean identity among youths

The Republic of Korean Residents Union in Japan (Mindan) will hold “jamboree” and “cultural exploration” events in August for the strengthening of the Korean identity among Korean youths living in Japan. The jamboree, in which around 200 elementary schoolers from all over Japan will be participating, will be held at the National Nature House for Youth in Ina, Nagano Prefecture, from Aug. 2-5. Participants will learn the Korean language, as well as Korean culture, in addition to forging friendships with the other students from various regions of Japan. The “Cultural Exploration School” event, in which around 100 people will participate, will take place at the Grand Prince Hotel in Hiroshima, Hiroshima Prefecture. There will be two separate events, one for middle schoolers and one for high schoolers, held from Aug. 17-20 and Aug. 21-25, respectively. Participating students will attend Korean classes and learn about the history of past Korea-Japan exchanges (such as the Joseon Tongsinssa), as well as that of Koreans living in Japan.

Celebrating Patriots Movement in Canada publishes sixth book, casting spotlight on freedom fighters

The Celebrating Patriots Movement in Canada (President Kim Dae-uk) has published its sixth book on Korean independence activists, “Tales of Patriots” (Shinserim Publishing). The book describes the activities of six individuals: the resistance poet Yi Yuksa, the linguist and freedom fighter Ju Si-gyeong, anarchist freedom fighter Baek Jeong-gi, historian Kye Pong-u, Na Woon-gyu (director responsible for the illustrious movie “Arirang”) and Kim Ransa (independence activist and teacher of Yu Gwansun, organizer of the March 1st Movement against Japanese rule). The Celebrating Patriots Movement, founded 12 years ago, began its “Tales of Patriots” series in 2014 and has been publishing one book each year, casting a spotlight on Korean freedom fighters since 2018.



Bo Seo, Australian Korean winner of World Universities Debating Championship, publishes ‘Good Arguments’

Bo Seo (28), who is a world champion debater and an Australian Korean, has recently published a book titled “Good Arguments” that teaches debating techniques. According to the Korean Herald, a press agency in Australia, Seo immigrated to Australia when he was 10. He overcame a difficult language barrier, having had no knowledge of English at the time, and describes in his book the experiences that led to his winning the World Universities Debating Championship, in addition to his debating techniques. The book became a No. 1 bestseller in the category of English studies for elementary and middle school children on the Amazon retail service in Australia as soon as it was released. Seo participated in the World Universities Debating Championship in 2013 as a student of Barker College (a prestigious private high school in Australia) and took first place, after which he became known as a “master debater.” After this, he received an early entrance to Harvard on a full scholarship, where he studied political science.

Koryo Museum of Art in Kyoto holds exhibition titled ‘Our Neighbor, Korea (Joseon), as Seen Through Picture Books’

The Koryo Museum, located in Koreatown in the Shinjuku quarter of Tokyo, Japan, will be holding an exhibition titled “Our Neighbor, Korea (Joseon), as Seen Through Picture Books.” This exhibition is hosted by the Learning about Korea Through Picture Books Club and will run from Sept. 7 to Jan. 29, 2023. This exhibition seeks to showcase the works of Korean and Korean Japanese authors of global renown through their picture books, helping viewers understand Korean literature better in the process. There will be approximately 200 picture books on display, including ones by Suzy Lee, winner of the Hans Christian Andersen Award (often described as the Nobel Prize of children’s literature), Baek Hee-na, author of the global bestseller “Cloud Bread,” and Japanese Korean Hong Young-woo, author of “Hong Gil-dong.”



Young Korean classical musicians from UK and Hungary participate in group performance in London

Young overseas Koreans from music schools in the United Kingdom and Hungary have gathered in London, a hub of the classical music industry, to perform together. According to the Korean Cultural Center in the UK, classical musicians from both countries performed at St. James Church at Piccadilly Circus in central London on June 16. Pianist Lee Hyun-kyung from the Franz Liszt Academy of Music played “Claire Du Lune,” the third movement of “Suite bergamasque” by Claude Debussy, as well as “Musica ricercata No. 7” by the Hungarian composer György Ligeti. This was followed by Debussy’s “Sonata for Flute, Viola and Harp” and “Arirang” performed by Rebecca Park, Choi Suji and Ian Lim from London’s Royal College of Music.

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

Multiculturalism and Koryo-saram residing in Korea

It is said that Korea is already well on its way to becoming a multicultural society. One of the largest contributors to this change are Koryo-saram from Europe and Asia. The number of Koryo-saram entering Korea increased rapidly each year up to 2019, which was the point when entry into Korea became more difficult due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, there is a community of around 80,000 Koryo-saram within Korea. With looser immigration regulations and an increase in interest in moving to Korea (which stalled for a while), coupled with the political and economic instability of the countries in the former Soviet Union, it is expected that more Koryo-saram will be immigrating to Korea at a faster rate.

Koryo-saram possess a peculiar duality in that they are classified as foreigners but are ethnically Korean. According to the Act on the Immigration and Legal Status of Overseas Koreans, they are also clearly overseas Koreans. Local government bodies, however, regard such Koryo-saram with a focus on multiculturalism, treating them as foreign immigrant workers.

This is also true in the city of Ansan, Gyeonggi Province, which has a robust multicultural infrastructure thanks to the many foreigners that live there. Overseas Koreans are simply pushed into the same category as multicultural issues and are included in the same social integration programs that focus on foreign immigrants who have married Koreans or are foreign laborers.

According to statistics from Ansan, around 84,000 foreigners lived in the city as of June this year. Among them, 45,000 are ethnic Koreans from China and 18,000 are Koryo-saram, which means 63,000 are ethnically Koreans. Seventy-five percent of the individuals that have been included in multicultural and foreigner policies, taken to be foreigners, were in fact Koreans. That is why overseas Korean issues seldom are in the spotlight.

Though the overseas Korean policies of our government are improving little by little, the focus still seems to be on issues regarding industrial foreign laborers. H2 and F4 visas are still being



Kim Seung Yok,
president of the Koryo-saram Mirr Foundation

used to control immigration and the right to work.


The Overseas Koreans Foundation, which serves as the window of civil complaints for 7.5 million overseas Koreans, has been performing its role faithfully, but the organization is not big enough to resolve all their difficulties. In addition, the problems that the 1 million overseas Koreans residing in Korea currently face have only just started receiving attention.

Policies meant for foreign laborers are not equipped to handle the matters of the special historical and cultural backgrounds and cultural identities of Koryo-saram; meanwhile, the multicultural policies of local government bodies focus on the acclimatization of foreign women who have

married and immigrated to Korea. Sadly, the government's overseas Korean policies have also neglected overseas Koreans living in Korea.

When Koryo-saram, who typically work low-paying, strenuous jobs, are asked if working in Korea is difficult, their response is generally surprising: They say the work is doable. When asked what they do find difficult, they respond that though they are Koryo-saram, they are regarded as Uzbeks and Russians, which makes them angry and causes them to despair.

The Koryo-saram call themselves “Корейцы” and regard themselves as such. Though they were born in Central Asia and Russia, their birth certificates and passports describe them as Koreans.

We can hope for no proper solution by only applying the standards meant for overseas laborers or multicultural issues to those who have lived in Europe and Asia for 160 years while maintaining their Korean identity. Because the issue regarding the overseas Koreans residing in Korea, including Koryo-saram, is an ambiguous one, no proper policy has been implemented for them even to this day. We must give serious thought as to what future conflicts Koryo-saram youths may face in the course of their social integration as they grow up in our current Korean society. 

Taking applications for YTN cable boxes that allow overseas transmission of Korean news broadcasts



The Overseas Koreans Foundation, in collaboration with the round-the-clock news channel YTN, is giving out YTN cable boxes that allow for the transmission of Korean news broadcasts overseas. The purpose of this project is to build rapport between overseas Koreans and their mother country, create mutual understanding and communication, and boost knowledge of the Korean language. The applications will be open to those in the Korean community in North America in the third quarter of 2022. Please feel free to apply if interested.

1. Eligible applicants

Korean associations, Korean language schools and other Korean organizations (as well as official overseas Korean residences)

Other organizations that contribute to the spread of Korean Wave culture

2. Articles provided

YTN-exclusive cable boxes and related accessories (overseas shipping costs covered)

* What are YTN-exclusive cable boxes?

- Devices capable of receiving live YTN broadcasts over the internet
- An internet connection must be available for installation and use (wired LAN, wireless Wi-Fi). The internet connection speed must be 2 Mbps or greater for stable high-definition streaming.

3. How to apply

(1) Organizations looking to apply may fill out and submit an application form

*Applications are open from July to September 2022

(2) Applicants are reviewed by the Overseas Koreans Foundation and YTN prior to selection

(3) Organizations that have received the cable box must fill out and submit a Cable Box Receipt and Installation Form within 10 days of receipt of the cable box

4. Submissions and inquiries

YTN Global Center Platform Service Team: Email global@ytn.co.kr

Phone: +82-2-398-8671~3

Refer to announcement on the Overseas Koreans website for more details

(https://www.korean.net/portal/customer/pg_notice.do?srCategoryId=3265&mode=view&articleNo=1001065837#/list)

Upcoming plans for Overseas Koreans Foundation executives in June 2022

President Kim Seong-gon

June 15: Special lecture for newly assigned employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with diplomatic and consular duties

June 23: Meeting with the Korean Business Advisory Committee

June 26: Commemorative performance for the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Korea-Kazakhstan diplomatic relations

June 29: Banquet for the Overseas Koreans Journalists Association symposium (presider)



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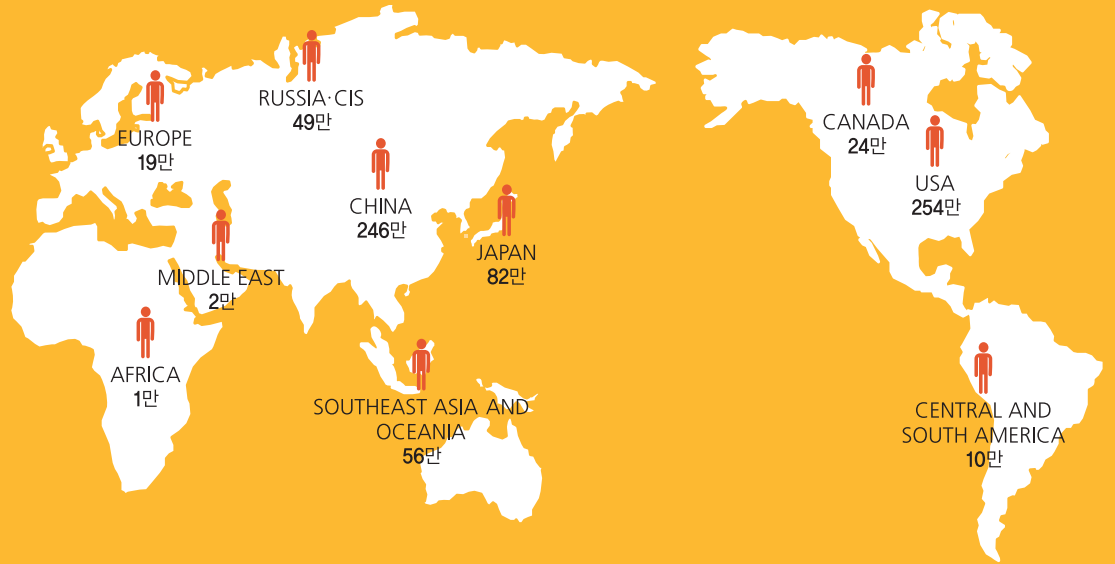


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