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Special Feature - 'We will take lead in becoming bridges between Korea and our countries of residence':

Koryo-saram journalists visiting mother country

Overseas Koreans Foundation holds forum on 'Overseas Koreans Policy and Methods for Fostering Younger Generations'

Newsworthy Topic - Various festivals take place around the world for Kimchi Day





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All four Korean American U.S. representatives, including Michelle Steel, to serve consecutive terms

One elected for 3rd consecutive time, three elected for 2nd time; great things expected from them with regard to Korea-U.S. relations

Four Korean American U.S. representatives who ran in the midterm elections on Nov. 8 all succeeded in securing themselves another term. After counting the ballots, it was revealed that Andy Kim (40, Democratic Party, New Jersey) had been elected for a third term, while Marilyn Strickland (59, Democratic Party, Washington), Young Kim (59, Republican Party, California) and Michelle Park Steel (67, Republican Party, California) had been reelected. The Korean community forecasts they will enhance “Korean power” in the central political scene of the United States.

Andy Kim succeeds in second reelection, a first since former U.S. Rep. Jay Chang Joon Kim

Andy Kim’s election for a third term was especially meaningful as he won against Bob Healey from the Republican Party in New Jersey’s 3rd Congressional District, a region dominated by the Republican Party. Kim, who is a second-generation Korean American, won by a narrow margin against Thomas Charles MacArthur, who was an incumbent U.S. representative at the time, in November 2018. This marked his entry into U.S. Congress, and he has won two more elections since. It is the first time that a Korean American U.S. state representative has been elected for a third term since Jay Chang Joon Kim’s election in 1996, 26 years ago.

Andy Kim is a security expert who previously worked in the National Security Council. He continued to use his expertise in his activities in the House of Representatives’ military and foreign affairs committees after his first election. He is regarded as a prime example of the American dream; one of the “Obama Kids,” who were part of the Barack Obama administration; and an expert on the Middle East.

Immediately after the 2021 United States Capitol Riot, he was filmed quietly throwing away garbage on his own, which boosted his popularity nationally. He is now



a prominent figure in government and is expected to forge new paths no Korean American politician has tread before as he grows his influence in Washington.

In a statement distributed to regional media immediately after his reelection, he said, regarding his future goals, “I hope to lower medical care costs, put investments in infrastructure on the right track, and continue working as a politician with roots in volunteering and courtesy. Our future is bright. I will represent my constituency in a spirit of modesty and volunteering.”

Marilyn Strickland (also known by her Korean name Sun-ja) and Young Kim will take part in lively legislative activities in the following sessions as reelected female U.S. representatives. In her legislative activities, Strickland emphasized that she was the first Korean and African American female to represent the state of Washington.

“My goal as a politician is to make the voices of Korean Americans heard in U.S. society,” she said about her reelection. “I hope to help more Americans understand Korean culture and history.” Regarding her identity as a woman of both Korean and African American descent, she said: “I don’t choose any side. I am my mother’s daughter, and my father’s as well.” Strickland was born to an African American soldier who took part in the Korean War and a Korean mother.

Young Kim worked as an aide of the pro-Korean Edward Randall Royce, a former U.S. representative, for over 20 years, building up her political acumen. After joining the U.S. Congress, she was active in the House Foreign Affairs



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Committee as she took the lead in the revival of the US-ROK Interparliamentary Exchange. She is expected to continue to play a key role in Korea-U.S. relations in the future. Born in Incheon, she spent her childhood in Seoul and moved to Guam in 1975 with her family, where she attended middle and high school. She then moved to California after she began attending the University of Southern California.

Young Kim pursues 'inclusion of Koreans in America when separated families in North and South Korea are reunited'

"Voters seem to have recognized what I've been doing for the past two years," she said after her reelection. "Residents have a lot of complaints, what with inflation as high as it has ever been in the past 40 years, rising gas prices and the high crime rate in Orange County. We've introduced bills with such problems in mind, and we're working on them one by one," Young Kim said.

She has already proposed a bill that requests the U.S. Department of State appoint a human rights envoy to North Korea and include Koreans in America

in the reunification of separated families in North and South Korea. She will be placing a focus on making the contents of this bill a reality during her upcoming term.

Steel, who ran for California's 45th Congressional District, managed to secure reelection by defeating the Democratic Party's Jay Chen. Steel, born in 1955 in Seoul, immigrated to the U.S. in 1976 with her family. After the Los Angeles riots of 1992, which greatly affected the livelihoods of Koreans, she resolved to become a politician.

She ran as a Republican Party representative in California, long regarded as Democratic territory. She has won six elections since 2006, including the recent one, earning her the nickname "election queen" inside the Korean community.

"I thank the voters who placed their trust in me," she said after her reelection. "I will continue to work so that the American dream can be protected for working families."

With regard to the role of Korean American representatives, she said: "I believe we can connect South Korea and the U.S., like diplomats do. Hopefully, this will lead to an even stronger alliance between the two countries." 장

1 The four United States representatives who were successfully reelected on Nov. 8 (from L to R): Michelle Park Steel, Marilyn Strickland, Young Kim and Andy Kim

2 U.S. Rep. Andy Kim (C) gives his thoughts on being elected for a third term at a hotel in Washington, D.C.

3 U.S. Rep. Young Kim thanks her supporters for her reelection.

4 U.S. Rep. Marilyn Strickland (4th from L) thanks her supporters for her reelection.

'We will take lead in becoming bridges between Korea and our countries of residence': Koryo-saram journalists visiting mother country

Six from Russia and CIS participated in OKF training

"I was able to understand my mother country more deeply and also learn practical lessons about news coverage. I will work with a sense of duty to become a bridge linking my country of residence to South Korea."

Six Koryo-saram journalists from Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States who took part in the monthlong Overseas Korean Invitational Training for Journalists hosted by the Overseas Koreans Foundation took part in a completion ceremony on Dec. 8 at Ferrum Tower, Jung Ward, Seoul. They stated that one of the best lessons they'd learned through the program was an "avid hunger for the truth as journalists."

The foundation invited six Koryo-saram journalists from Russia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, and trained them starting from Nov. 11 to Dec. 8. The Koryo-saram journalists were taught practical skills regarding writing, photography and video editing, and also taught theoretical subjects, such as journalism.

They took a cultural tour of Seoul by visiting the Blue House, N Seoul Tower on Mount Nam and Gwanghwamun, and also visited Jeonju Hanok Village to experience traditional culture.

Svetlana Tian (41) and Bajohra Artjom (21) from the Koryo-saram Newspaper, and Heo Uma (20) from Korea Media Research in Kazakhstan were given a week of practical journalism training by Yonhap News Agency. They visited Ddetgol in Ansan, Gyeonggi Province; Hambak Village in Yeonsu Ward, Incheon; and Koryoin Village in Gwangju to cover the lives of Koryo-saram who had settled in South Korea.

"I was impressed that the veracity of the news sources was the first priority," said Tian, who is accredited by the National Assembly. "I watched as information was written up in an article in such a way that preserved objectivity and respected the readers' right to know, and that taught me again how I should approach my job."



Overseas Korean journalists from Russia and the CIS region who were trained for a month in South Korea through a program hosted by the Overseas Koreans Foundation take part in a completion ceremony on Dec. 8 and take a photo with President Kim Seong-gon (C).

'I will become praiseworthy journalist': descendant of Korean independence activist Kim Kyung-chun


Heo, who is also the maternal great-great-granddaughter of the late Gen. Kim Kyung-chun, who won many battles in the armed resistance against Imperial Japan in Siberia, said: "I felt very proud when I saw that the museum in Koryoin Village honors the deeds of our ancestors. I will become a praiseworthy journalist as the descendent of an independence fighter."

"Two Koryo-saram died in the Itaewon incident, which was saddening," said Artjom,

a fourth-generation Koryo-saram. "I thought about ways to console the bereaved and what the press should cover in order to prevent such a thing from happening again. I'm currently collecting news in the form of video, and learning the proper mechanisms of broadcasting through this tour, which has helped me greatly."

The Koryo-saram journalists each selected their own project during the training and conducted independent interviews. Lee Bok-soon (46), a reporter at Sakhalin Korean Broadcasting, introduced a video he'd made of Nonhyeon-dong, Namdong Ward, Incheon, where Koreans from Sakhalin, who had returned permanently to Korea, reside.

"Though the government allows them to live happy lives through its care, many of them were restricted from bringing their families," Lee said. "From the way they missed their families, I felt the unending pain of parting."

"As the saying goes, 'Nothing is complete unless you put it in final shape.' The role of the overseas Korean press is important in connecting the 7.3 million overseas Koreans scattered throughout the world," said Kim Seong-gon, president of the Overseas Koreans Foundation. "We will continue to provide training for journalists and other programs to create a healthier overseas Korean community." 

Overseas Koreans Foundation holds forum on ‘Overseas Koreans Policy and Methods for Fostering Younger Generations’

Held at Members’ Office Building of National Assembly in celebration of 60 years of diplomatic relations between South Korea and Israel



A poster for the “Amity Forum for 60-Year Anniversary of ROK-Israel Diplomatic Relations”

The Overseas Koreans Foundation (President Kim Seong-gon) held a forum on the topic “Overseas Koreans Policy and Methods for Fostering Younger Generations” at 2 p.m. on Dec. 1 at Private Conference Room 1 in the Members’ Office Building in Yeouido, Seoul. This forum, which was held in celebration of the 60th anniversary of ROK-Israel diplomatic relations, was also attended by the Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee of the National Assembly of Korea and the Israel Embassy in South Korea.

At the forum, Akiva Tor, Israel’s ambassador to South Korea, gave a keynote speech titled “Israel’s Jewish Diaspora Policy and the Israeli Invitational Program for Jewish Youth.” Kim Seong-gon, the second speaker at the forum, spoke on “Future Tasks for South Korean Policies Regarding Overseas Koreans and Methods of Educating Younger Generations.”

In a panel discussion that followed, which was chaired by Lim Eun-jung (head of the Institute of Korean Education & Culture in Kongju National University), the following individuals took part: Choi Yeong-cheol (professor at Sungkyunkwan University and an expert on Israel), Hong In-hwa (doctorate holder from Chonnam National University), Kim Kyeong-jun (Ph.D. holder from the National Youth Policy Institute and an expert on youth) and Kim Yong-dae (permanent director of the Korean Youth Foundation).

“Israel has successfully run various programs for overseas Jewish youth to help them establish their Jewish identity and form amicable relations with Israel, setting a great example for other countries,” President Kim Seong-gon said. “I

hope that this forum will be a meaningful event where we discuss Korea’s policies toward overseas Korean youth and methods for business growth through these examples.”

The Overseas Koreans Foundation has selected the “cultivation of the Korean identity and pride in overseas Korean youth” as a key task for the institution and has been actively pursuing various yearly programs, including the Future Leaders’ Conference, invitational training programs for overseas Korean youth and scholarship programs for overseas Koreans. [\[창\]](#)



An annual invitational training program for overseas Korean youth is held by the Overseas Koreans Foundation.

Various festivals take place around the world for Kimchi Day

Events, sponsored by OKF and others, happening in 22 major cities

In celebration of the third Kimchi Day on Nov. 22, overseas Koreans around the globe have created kimchi-making events, exhibitions, cooking contests and various other events to promote the Korean dish.

According to the Overseas Koreans Foundation and other sources, Koreans in 22 major cities around the world held Kimchi Day celebrations under the name of “K-Kimchi World Coalition.” The Overseas Koreans Foundation, Korean diplomatic offices and other organizations sponsored these events.

The “K-Kimchi World Coalition” went beyond simple “gimjang” (making kimchi) gatherings between Koreans, with locals invited for them to learn about kimchi and how to make it. The goal of the events was to transcend the boundaries of ethnicity and race, and promote amity. This equates to a civilian diplomatic effort, emphasizing that kimchi originated in Korea and seeking to turn kimchi into a global dish.

Koreans in Washington, D.C., invited Korean adoptees and women who married internationally to their kimchi event on Nov. 19. They also prepared traditional Korean games and “hanbok” (traditional Korean clothing) contests to allow people to experience Korean culture and the love of the Korean people. The

Korean Association of Detroit held a kimchi festival on Nov. 12 with the slogan, “Love for Kimchi, Love for People.” Programs, including “samulnori” performances, kimchi making and a banquet, were prepared.

Koreans in Frankfurt, Germany, also held a similar festival, using 1 ton of locally produced lettuce in the process. Locals selected to participate in the event were taught the entire process of making kimchi, including how to pickle the lettuce in salt water and season it. Koreans in Berlin held a “Unification of North and South Kimchi Event” on Nov. 20, as Berlin symbolizes the reunification of Germany. They created both South and North Korean versions of kimchi and allowed participants to taste it.

In Osaka, a popular Japanese YouTube channel by the name of People Living in Osaka TV held a special livestream of a kimchi festival. In Tianjin, China, multicultural families were invited to make kimchi and “bossam” (a boiled pork dish) together. A women’s society of female volunteers in Argentina held a similar event on Nov. 20, in tandem with the Korean Day event. As this event involves nearly 100,000 participants, their goal was to promote Kimchi Day actively prior to its establishment.

‘Kimchi is a soul food’; praise for kimchi abounds in U.S. Congress

The Library of Congress, from which the U.S. Capitol is visible, was filled with the smell of kimchi on Dec. 6. In the second floor members’ room, which was used exclusively by U.S. representatives in the past, the first Kimchi Day event in the history of Congress was held.





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On display at the entrance were kimchi products being sold in the U.S., including sliced kimchi, “chonggak” kimchi, young radish kimchi and kimchi made with whole lettuce heads. Next to them were displayed lettuce, red pepper powder, coarse-grained salt, fish sauce, ginger and other ingredients used to make kimchi. In one corner, participants could watch fresh kimchi being made on the spot.

At the podium in the center, U.S. representatives who supported the proposal to the House of Representatives to honor Kimchi Day, made in July, praised kimchi. They also stated the need to establish a Kimchi Day. Their plan is to pass a resolution during the last meeting of December.

U.S. Rep. Judy Chu (Democratic Party, California), chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, was the first to speak.

“The establishment of Kimchi Day will not only emphasize the growing nationwide popularity of kimchi but is also greatly meaningful in that it will highlight the contribution of Korean Americans to this nation,” she said. “Many states, such as Virginia, Maryland, New York, California, Washington D.C. and Georgia, have already declared a Kimchi Day. It’s time for the entire U.S. to follow suit.”

“Kimchi is part of our nation and our society and a legacy,” Korean American U.S. Rep. Andy Kim (Democratic Party, New Jersey) said. “This applies not only to Korean Americans but all Americans at large. We’re here to support our culture and state the fact that we belong to this nation as Americans.”

Highest kimchi exports to U.S. on record reached

According to the Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of South Korea, such activities have increased kimchi exports to the U.S. from January to November this year to US\$26.7 million, which was 1.7 percent more than last year’s record. This was the highest recorded figure in history. In terms of weight, the kimchi exported came to 7,881 tons, which was 9.2 percent more than the exports over the same period last year. The yearly exports of kimchi to the U.S. have increased consistently: from \$9 million in



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2018 to \$14.8 million in 2019, \$23 million in 2020 and \$28.2 million last year.

There is a special reason that Nov. 22 was selected as Kimchi Day in Korea. Each of the ingredients (“11” stands for “each one”) has a total of 22 beneficial effects, including enhanced immune response; virus suppression; anti-oxidation; prevention of constipation, enteritis and colorectal cancer; lowering of cholesterol and prevention of arteriosclerosis; weight loss; and anti-cancer effects.

After the Kimchi Association of Korea declared Kimchi Day on Nov. 22, the National Assembly declared it an official anniversary in February 2020, pursuant to the Kimchi Industry Promotion Act. Kimchi Day is the only instance of a national anniversary being designated for food. [한]

- 1 U.S. Rep. Andy Kim speaks at the Kimchi Day event at the Library of Congress on Dec. 6.
- 2 U.S. representatives participating in the Kimchi Day event at the Library of Congress put food made with kimchi on their plates.
- 3 People make kimchi at a festival for the side dish held by the Washington committee of the K-Kimchi World Coalition in Fairfax County, Virginia, on Nov. 19.
- 4 Posters for kimchi festivals held worldwide in celebration of the third Kimchi Day

Seoul Street created in center of Chile's capital; 'Long-cherished dream project has come true'

Prime Minister Han Duck-soo visited site earlier in October to unveil sculpture

A Seoul Street has been created in the center of Santiago, the capital of the South American country of Chile. The Korean Embassy in Chile (Ambassador Hwang Gyeong-tae) held an official opening ceremony for the street in Patronato, an old commercial district in Recoleta, on Nov. 11. The street, which was named in celebration of 60 years of diplomatic relations between Korean and Chile, is in a district where around 300 Korean shops selling food, miscellaneous goods, clothing, textiles, fabrics and other items are located.

The overseas Koreans there wished to give the area a premium branding, and Hwang delivered this message to Recoleta Mayor Daniel Jadue in February. Discussions followed, after which an ordinance to change the name of the street was passed on Aug. 24.

Koreans aided the locals greatly by giving out masks and other supplies when Santiago was facing difficulties from the COVID-19 pandemic, and this was known to have had a great impact on getting the approval of the residents.

"This has been a long-cherished goal in the 52 years of Korean immigration to Chile," Hwang said. "I expect this will help spread the Korean Wave and vitalize Korean business here." A "samulnori" performance from the North Jeolla Province Gugak Center was also included in the event, attracting much attention from the residents.

Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, during his trip to Chile, Uruguay and Argentina, came to the Sheraton Hotel in Santiago on Oct. 11 to hold a banquet for overseas Koreans and public relations and sales representatives, and unveiled a Seoul Street sculpture.

During the visit to Chile, a country close to the South Pole, Han made a video call to Ahn Jae-woo, head of research at King Sejong Station.

"Based on the data that we've gathered here for the past 35 years, we've been observing worldwide climate change, such as global warming," Ahn said.

Han replied, "I'd like to encourage everyone at the station to continue to operate as well as they've done so far and become a leading research output in the South Pole." 🇰🇷



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1 Hwang Gyeong-tae (4th from L), the Korean ambassador to Chile, Recoleta Mayor Daniel Jadue (3rd from L) and others pose for a photo at the official declaration ceremony of Seoul Street in Santiago on Nov. 11.

2 Prime Minister Han Duck-soo (3rd from L) claps with other participants after holding a banquet and conference for overseas Koreans and press representatives at the Sheraton Hotel in Santiago, where he unveiled a Seoul Street sculpture, on Oct. 11.

Korean adoptee chef Park San-Ho leads Korean food fever in Belgium

He operates Korean restaurant and Korean side dish workshop

As interest in Korean food in Belgium is rising through K-pop and K-dramas, a Korean chef who is leading the local Korean food craze has received much attention. This man is San-Ho Park Correwyn (52), who was found at the entrance of Aeriwon Orphanage on Feb. 18, 1973, and adopted six months later in Belgium through Holt Children's Services.

When he visited Korea in 2018, he went to multiple relevant institutions and met with the press, among other efforts, in an attempt to find his parents. He currently operates Table d'Ho, a Korean restaurant in Belgium. He has been working actively to spread knowledge about Korean food through press interviews and the like.

Go So-yeong, an overseas correspondent for the Korean Foundation for International Cultural Exchange active in Belgium, recently shed light on Park's passion for Korean food. According to Go, Park is the vice president of the Adoptee Association of Belgium and operates the Korean restaurant he founded, Table d'Ho, in the second-largest city of Belgium -- Antwerp.

This restaurant is currently proving to be hugely popular to Korean food aficionados in the country. Some reviews of the restaurant state, "The food is made with love and delicious" and "It's a fabulous experience. The food is great, and there's lots of it."

He has sought his roots since 2018; 'Curbed his disappointment by promoting Korean food'

Before he founded his Korean restaurant, he operated a Korean food truck where he sold "gimbap," "tteokbokki" and other snacks. Local press ran articles on him multiple times then. He also opened



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a Korean side dish workshop utilizing Korea's traditional sauces.

"I wasn't able to find my roots, but at least I can promote Korean food," Park said.

He recently opened a Korean goods shop, Shop d'Ho, in the center of Antwerpen-Centraal. There, he not only sells snacks, food and K-pop merchandise, but various other Korean products, such as Korean cosmetics. Go reported that consumption of Korean culture-related products is on the rise.

Knack Focus, a popular magazine in Belgium, recently conducted an interview with Park in a weekend issue, asking, "What made Korean food so popular?"

"Like Chinese food, Thai food, Vietnamese food and Japanese food were in the past, Korean food is now very popular," the magazine stated. "This passion for Korean culture started in California, where many Korean immigrants live, and impacted countries across the Atlantic. The rise in popularity of Korean food happened in a peculiar way, through Korean culture."

The article then described the group BTS, "Squid Game" and other K-dramas, Bong Joon-ho's Oscar-winning movie "Parasite" and other cultural phenomena as being responsible for leading the popularity of Korean food. 

- 1 Chef Park San-Ho (R) holds a Korean side dish workshop in Antwerp, Belgium.
- 2 A popular magazine in Belgium, Knack Focus, which covered Park San-Ho
- 3 Park San-Ho, who's been looking for his biological parents since 2018

GLOBAL KOREAN



NCSOFT President Yoon Song-ye, Min Jin Lee and others win awards from Council of Korean Americans

Lucy Koh, U.S. Court of Appeals judge, and Africa Yoon, a Cameroon American, also received awards

The following people have received awards from a Korean organization in the United States: Yoon Song-ye (47), president of NCSOFT; Korean American author Min Jin Lee (54); Lucy Koh (54, Korean name Koh Hae-ran), judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit; and Africa Yoon (44), CEO of Blackyoonicorn.

According to the Council of Korean Americans (CKA), the giver of the awards, these awards are offered to those who have contributed to U.S. society and raised the status of Koreans in the country. The award ceremony was held at the Conrad hotel in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 19.

Yoon Song-ye received the Empower Award, an award offered to individuals in the community for their excellent leadership and volunteering spirit. Based on her 22-year career in the high-tech, media and entertainment industries, she achieved remarkable results and was cited as an unending source of inspiration to young Asian Americans and experts. She is currently the chief strategy officer (CSO) at NCSOFT, the CEO of NC West Holdings and the president of the NC Cultural Foundation.

Min Jin Lee, who wrote the novel “Pachinko,” was regarded as having raised the voice and influence of the Korean community and given the “Voice & Leadership Award.” The committee deemed that Lee’s work showed the viewpoints of Asian Americans and greatly influenced the way we challenge the unseen issues in a community.

Koh was given the “Trailblazer Award,” an award offered to pioneers. She was considered a person who paved a path for Asian women to become leaders in American society. Koh was the first female Korean judge in a federal court, the first Korean judge in a federal district court and the first Asian judge in the California Northern District Court.

Africa Yoon is a Cameroon American who married a Korean American. She received the Embrace Unity Award, an award offered to people who have helped bring together people of different races and ethnicities.

Yoon is an author, TV host and social activist who works to solve issues regarding education, poverty and racial discrimination. She leads a cultural entertainment company, Blackyoonicorn, which focuses on promoting South Korea. She also operates a Korean food online community called Korean Cooking Friends.

Rep. Samuel Park selected as Democratic Party representative in House of Representatives in Georgia

As second-generation Korean American, he is first Asian party representative

A second-generation Korean American, Samuel Park (37), was selected as the Democratic Party representative in the House of Representatives in the U.S. state of Georgia. According to Park’s Twitter feed and local Korean press, the Democratic Party in the House of Representatives in Georgia selected Park to be their party representative for 2023 and 2024 on Nov. 23.

“I’m proud and honored to be the first Asian to receive this post in the history of the House



in the state of Georgia,” he said. “I’d like to thank them for trusting and supporting me.”

Park is a former lawyer who studied at the University of Georgia and the law school at the same college before acquiring a master’s in law at American University. He will be leading the state assembly’s legislative activities and helping the U.S. representatives of the Democratic Party, who are a minority party, to understand the details of bills and resolutions in more depth.

He was elected for the first time as a U.S. representative in 2016, drawing much attention. He has won four elections in a row up to the midterm elections on Dec. 8. He explained that his mother’s diagnosis with terminal cancer in 2014 caused him to jump into politics.

“During my mother’s struggle against cancer, I realized that staying healthy is a matter of life and death,” Park said in a past interview. “I needed to fight so that all Georgians could receive medical services.”

“The Will,” book containing testimony of Lee Heui-pal, activist for return of Koreans from Sakhalin, is published

Contains records of activities in Korea and Japan for resolution of compulsory draft issue

A book titled “The Will,” containing the testimony of Lee Heui-pal (1923-2020), an activist who worked hard to resolve issues for Koreans left in Sakhalin in the old Soviet Union after the fall of Imperial Japan, and other information, was recently released through Poom Books. The Japanese Sigeru Nagashima recorded and organized the oral statements from Lee and other information from a period of 10 years of Lee’s life. Nagashima has been a leader in the research of forcibly drafted Koreans during the Japanese Imperialism Period.


Lee crossed over to Sakhalin in 1943 and worked in a coal mine until Korea gained independence. After the Soviet Union took control of Sakhalin following the fall of Imperial Japan, most Koreans and Japanese living in Sakhalin were forced to stay.

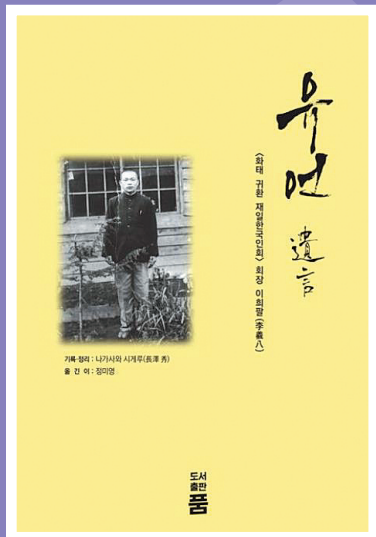
As relations between the Soviet Union and Japan normalized in 1956 and Japanese were sent back, a few Koreans who were married to Japanese wives were also allowed to return. A few of these individuals founded the Association of Hwatae Returnee Koreans in Japan (“Hwatae” being a Korean transliteration of “Sakhalin” pronounced in Japanese), and Lee became the president.

Lee was a postman between Koreans in Sakhalin and their families in Korea, and drafted a list of those wishing to return, submitting the list to the Korean and Japanese governments. He even took his case to the courts against the Japanese government, demanding action for their return.

“The Will” describes how Lee, born in Yeongyang County, North Gyeongsang Province, in 1923, crossed over to Sakhalin, worked in the mines, entered his second marriage with a Japanese woman and formed the Hwatae Returnee Koreans in Japan. It also describes his activities within the organization.

The book also introduces documents requesting the Japanese government help Koreans left in Sakhalin return to Korea, as well as early figures who took part in the activism.

“This book describes the Koreans in Sakhalin and their fervent efforts to return to their motherland,” said a representative of the Global Korean Solidarity (KIN), which ran a fundraiser to publish the book. “It will be a great aid in Korean history research.” 



Overseas Korean filmmaker Yōichi Sai, known for ‘All Under the Moon,’ passes away

Winner of Japanese Academy Award for Best Director in 2005 was 73



Yōichi Sai, a Korean Japanese filmmaker


Yōichi Sai (Choe Yang-il), an overseas Korean director known for his vivid portrayal of overseas Koreans in movies like “Blood and Bones” and “All Under the Moon,” died on Nov. 27 at 73 years of age. Kyodo News and other Japanese press agencies reported that Sai passed away from bladder cancer in his home in Tokyo.

Sai was born to a Korean Japanese father and a Japanese mother in Nagano Prefecture in 1949. He graduated from Tokyo Korean Junior & Senior High School and began his career in the film industry afterward. Sai built up his field experience by taking direction lessons as the assistant director for “In the Realm of the Senses,” directed by Nagisa Ōshima (a filmmaker regarded as the flag bearer for new wave film in Japan). He later debuted in 1983 through “Mosquito on the 10th Floor” and went on to make over 10 movies, including “All Under the Moon” (1993), “Marks” (1995) and “Blood and Bones” (2004), establishing himself as a renowned filmmaker in Japan. His movies, which provide a chilling view of the fringes of society and cold-hearted people, are regarded as masterpieces of Japanese realism.

After his debut work, “Mosquito on the 10th Floor,” was introduced at the Venice Film Festival, his movies consistently gained international recognition. He is best known for “All Under the Moon,” which he directed in 1993, which was adapted from the novel “Taxi Kwangjogok” by another overseas Korean living in Japan, Yang Suk-il. The movie provided a serious but comical portrayal of the varied lives of the lower classes of Japanese society. For example, the movie details how a young Korean Japanese taxi driver in Tokyo falls in love with a Filipino.

Takeshi Kitano, a popular Japanese actor and filmmaker, was featured in the 2004 movie “Blood and Bones.” In it, Sai told the tale of the life of a man who moved from Jeju Island to Osaka, Japan, dreaming of success, posing philosophical questions about humans and family relationships.

In 2007 he directed the first Korean film “Soo,” starring Ji Jin-he and Kang Sung-yeon. Perhaps because he was a Korean Japanese, he created many movies that provided insight into how foreigners saw Japanese society. A retrospective exhibition of his works was also held in 2011 at the International Film Festival Rotterdam.

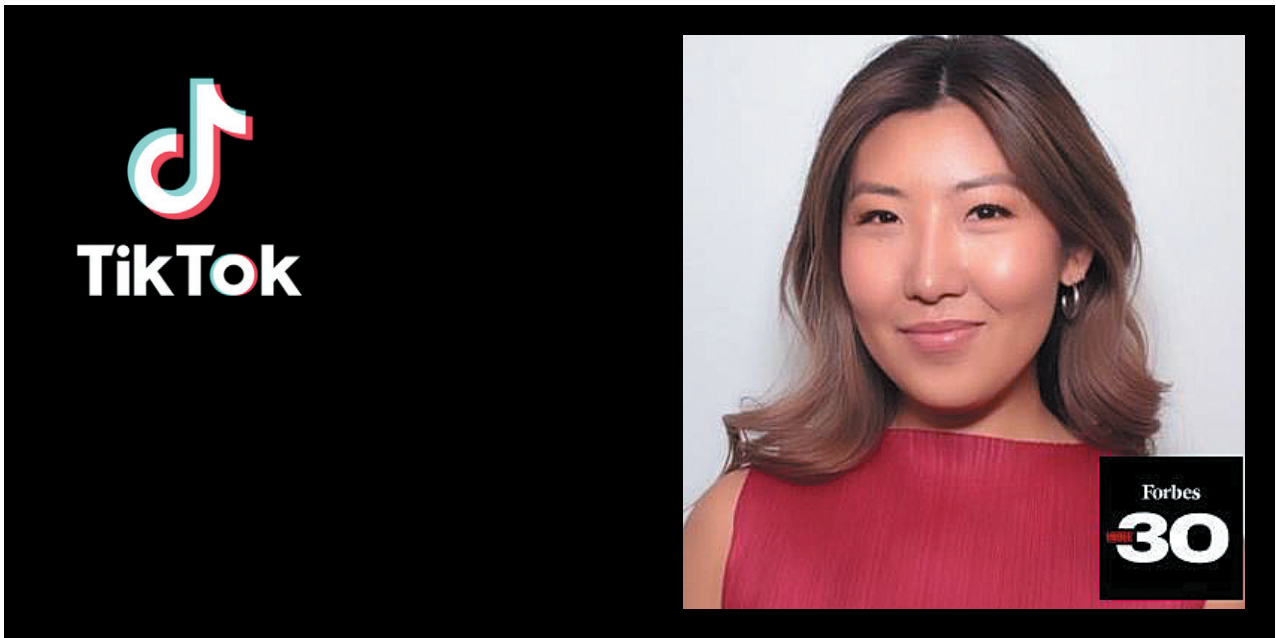
Sai, who was the president of the Directors Guild of Japan for 18 years, starting in 2004, worked hard to ensure that directors could retain copyrights to their works and support freedom of expression. He received the Japanese Academy Award for Best Director for “Blood and Bones” in 2005. 



Yōichi Sai (C), participating in the “ABC Short Film” press conference at the 13th Busan International Film Festival, poses for a photo with other filmmakers on Oct. 6, 2008.

Korean American Jenny Kim selected for 30 Under 30 In Social Media 2023 by Forbes

She contributed to collaboration with partner companies as entertainment publishers lead, North America at TikTok



Jenny Kim (27, Korean name: Kim Su-hyeon), a Korean American, was recently selected by Forbes Magazine for its 30 Under 30 In Social Media 2023.

According to the Forbes website and the Korea Daily, Kim currently works as an entertainment publishers lead for North America in Los Angeles, California, on the video-sharing platform TikTok.

Forbes made the selection based on the fact that she contributed to TikTok's collaboration with major entertainment companies with over 1 billion monthly users each, such as Netflix, NBC Universal and Disney. Kim is the only Korean on the list.

Forbes also said the selection was based on her achievements in collaborating with Billboard, the Grammy Awards and the Emmy Awards, and also in drawing new users to the platform.

Kim majored in communication at the University of Southern California, after which she began working at Facebook. She later joined TikTok in 2019. She participated in the Forbes awards ceremony on Dec. 15.

"She was the student president during high school. She was always full of energy and showed great leadership skills from a young age," said Mike Kim, Kim's father. "I'm proud of her for receiving such an important distinction at a young age and very touched." 🙌

Jenny Kim, who was selected for 30 Under 30 In Social Media 2023 by Forbes (Photo courtesy of Forbes)

‘Special meal’ prepared for families of veterans of Korean War and Korean adoptees in Luxembourg

Korean food event hosted by private organization in celebration of 60th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations

“When my father was alive, he used to tell me about the Korean women who would share their food freely even in wartime.”

A Korean banquet was prepared at a banquet hall in Luxembourg on Nov. 5. Denise Buchholz (60) said she hadn’t eaten Korean food in a long time. She recalled the stories that her father, Gilbert Buchholz (1928-2012), a veteran of the Korean War, used to tell her.

“My father never spoke of the things he experienced in wartime. But he did often mention the kindness of Koreans,” she said, smiling. “We’d tell him that he’d be forgotten as time went by, but he’d always laugh and respond that Koreans never would. I’m extremely grateful to Korea for remembering veterans of the war like my father, even now.”

Luxembourg, which is 1.4 times the size of Jeju Island, had a population of around 200,000 at the time of the Korean War. Even so, the country sent around 100 soldiers to the faraway country, with the soldiers composed entirely of volunteers. Though they were a small group, an official of the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs stated that Luxembourg sent the largest proportion of their population out of all countries that took part in the war.

Luxembourg created a platoon of 48 soldiers on Oct. 1, 1950, and sent them to be part of the First Company of the Belgian battalion. The Bel-Lux Battalion finished their training in a territory that was geographically similar to South Korea and left Antwerp, Belgium, on Dec. 18. The battalion reached Busan, South Korea, on Jan. 31, 1951.

The Luxembourg platoon consisted of the 1st Luxembourgish Detachment (active from Jan. 31 - Aug. 25, 1951) and the 2nd Luxembourgish Detachment (active from March 28, 1952 - Jan. 7, 1953). They accomplished much during the Battle of Haktang-ni and the Battle of Jatgol, which took place in what is Cheorwon today. Two soldiers were killed and 13 wounded. Much time has passed since then, and only three of the veterans are still alive.

Around 100 locals participated, including around 10 Korean adoptees; Korean food ran out quickly

The banquet was part of the Korea Weekend event hosted by a private organization to promote Korean food to the locals and thank



the veterans of the Korean War, as well as their families, in celebration of 60 years of diplomatic relations between South Korea and Luxembourg.

The event was jointly planned by the local organization Les Amis de la Corée, the Korean Food Promotion Institution (Chairperson Yim Kyung-sook) and the Korean headquarters of Coree’graphie, a cultural organization selected for a national overseas exchange program. About 100 locals, who applied in advance, took part in the event. There were also some families of the war veterans, including Buchholz. According to the hosts, the three surviving Korean War veterans, who were also invited, were unable to participate due to health issues.

The banquet consisted of mung-bean pancakes, kimchi, bulgogi, stir-fried spicy pork, mushroom pancakes, “japchae,” seasoned vegetables and cooked rice. Although the event venue was filled with spicy smells, the food disappeared very quickly.

There was even a participant who ate multiple helpings of fresh kimchi without rice, comparing it to a spicy salad. The locals, who had little opportunity to eat traditional Korean food before, greatly



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appreciated the desserts that had been prepared as well: omija tea, persimmon punch, traditional Korean sweets and red bean jelly.

There were more special guests at this banquet: Korean adoptees who'd been raised in Luxembourg. Only about 10 took part, but hundreds of Koreans have been adopted and brought to Luxembourg since the 1980s.

"My adoptive parents wanted to adopt a baby from India at first," said Veronique Miheui Wilhelm (Korean name: Jung Mi-heui), who says she was adopted at 4 months old in 1987 by her current family. "They had to wait multiple years for that, but Korean children were readily available for adoption."

That meant there were many Korean infants awaiting adoption at the time. Her brother, who is another adopted child, is also Korean. Wilhelm said she is operating a nonprofit organization to help Korean adoptees in Luxembourg connect.

"I had difficulties coming to terms with my identity as a child, but now I am proud to be both a Luxembourger and a Korean," she said.

Les Amis de la Coree intends for this banquet to be the starting point of many more programs, including a fermented food workshop hosted by the chairperson of the Korean Food Promotion Institution, Yim Kyung-sook, a Korean cooking experience for high school students in the country, and a dinner workshop using kimchi. (Jung Bit-na, Yonhap News Agency correspondent in Brussels) 🇰🇷



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1 Participants of the Korea Weekend opening event put Korean food on their plates on Nov. 5.

2 A banquet is held as part of the Korea Weekend event in Luxembourg.

3 Yim Kyung-sook (L), chairperson of the Korean Food Promotion Institution, offers a gift to Denise Buchholz (C) and her sister, who are family members of a veteran of the Korean War, at the event.

4 Veronique Miheui Wilhelm (2nd from R), Korean adoptees and their families smile for the camera at the Korea Weekend opening event in Luxembourg.

'In repayment for American soldier's sacrifice in Korean War,' Korean Americans donate scholarship money for young students

Heritage Committee for Korean War will annually donate US\$2,000 each to 10 people

A Korean American organization, in repayment for the sacrifice of American soldiers who took part in the Korean War, will provide scholarship money to their descendants. The Heritage Committee for the Korean War (Chairperson Noh Myeong-soo), which established the OC Korean War Memorial at Hillcrest Park, Fullerton, California, last year, recently held a meeting and declared on Nov. 10 that they would organize a scholarship fund using the funds remaining after the monument's creation that amounted to some US\$400,000.

"We will be choosing 10 descendants of Korean War veterans starting next year and giving them approximately \$2,000 each," Park Yun-sook (president of the Hwarang Youth Foundation), who will head the scholarship committee, said in a phone call with the press.

At the time of the establishment of the monument, Koreans from 50 states, in addition to philanthropists from South Korea, pitched in to gather \$1.6 million. Around \$1.2 million was used to create the monument.

Students for the scholarships will be selected through the



The Korean War Memorial in Hillcrest Park, Fullerton, Orange County, California

recommendation of local veterans' institutions and similar organizations, and the actual money will be delivered either on June 25 (the date the Korean War began) or on Veterans Day in the U.S. (Nov. 11).

"Countless American soldiers took part in the Korean War and helped protect South Korea," Noh said. "We've decided to create this scholarship program for their descendants to continue to remember their dedication and sacrifice, and repay them for it. In anticipation of the funds running out, we're considering methods of

acquiring additional funding."

Members of the Heritage Committee for the Korean War include Sukhee Kang (former mayor of Irvine), Park Dong-woo (former member of the National Council on Disability who was the secretary general of the committee), Ahn Young-dae (former president of the Orange County Korean Association) and Bae Gi-ho (former vice chairperson of the committee and senior vice president of the Christian Elders Association of Orange County).

Federation of Korean Businesses in Africa and Middle East and United Korean Association in Africa & Middle East open symposium on sharing business strategies

The Federation of Korean Businesses in Africa and the Middle East and the United Korean Association in Africa & Middle East held a symposium at the National Assembly and shared their foreign business strategies. This symposium was held Nov. 4 at the second press conference room of the Members' Office Building in Yeongdeungpo, Seoul, under the heading, "The Current State of Business Expansion to Africa and the Middle East and its Problems."

This event was jointly hosted by the aforementioned organizations, as well as the office of National Assembly Rep. Lim Jong-seong, and sponsored by the Overseas Koreans Foundation and the Korea-Africa Foundation. Yeo Woon-ki, president of the Korea-Africa Foundation, gave a keynote speech, while Kim Chae-soo (president of the Federation of Korean Businesses in Africa and the Middle East), Lee So-hyeon (secretary general of the Federation of Korean Businesses in Africa and the Middle East) and Jin Yoon-seok (head of the Youth Council of the Federation of Korean Businesses in Africa and the Middle East) participated as panel speakers.

"The answers I arrived at through years of business overseas were sustainability and patience," said Kim Chae-soo, who is also a branch head of the World Federation of Overseas Korean Traders Association (Gaborone, Botswana). "In order to promote any project or product, it's important not to give up. Even if you have finished everything as planned, it's best to continue marketing quietly as you wait for the results."

The United Korean Association in Africa & Middle East was established in 2008 and has served as a hub of exchanges for Koreans in Africa and the Middle East. In 2016, according to a popular sentiment that a separate hub for Korean business was required, the Federation of Korean Businesses in Africa and the Middle East was formed separately.



A poster for the symposium hosted by the Federation of Korean Businesses in Africa and the Middle East and the United Korean Association in Africa & Middle East

New South Wales announces Korean garden to be created in Sydney

Biggest Korean park in world to be 13,500 square meters

A Korean garden is to be created inside Sydney Olympic Park, a suburb 643,000 square meters in size that was created for the 2000 Summer Olympics.

Top News, a Korean news outlet in Australia, quoted an announcement from Anthony Roberts, the minister for planning for New South Wales, and reported that “A Korea-Australia Amity Park will be built inside Sydney Olympic Park.”

“This garden will be the biggest and most beautiful Korean garden in the world,” Roberts said. “We will use state funding to create it, and we will soon be conducting a feasibility study with the Sydney Olympic Park Authority (SOPA).”

The garden will be around 13,500 square meters and located inside the SOPA grounds.

Roberts made this announcement recently while participating in a “Korea-Australia community night of friendship” hosted by the Australia Korea Community (President: Ok Sang-doo) at Strathfield Golf Club.



Members of the Australia Korea Community, along with Anthony Roberts (5th from R), minister for planning of New South Wales, pose for a photo. (Photo courtesy of Top News)

The Australia Korea Community has been preparing for this event by forming a Korea-Australia Amity Park Establishment Committee and communicating with SOPA. The committee requested the services of Kim Sujin, an architect and a Korean immigrant, as well as the firm Architecture Saville Isaacs, of which he is the senior chief.

Kim Eui-jin, ethnic Korean businessman, donates 670 rare books to OKF

Books to be utilized as reference material for Chinese-Korean language research

Rare books that contain the history of the Korean language as used by Chinese Koreans were revealed. On Nov. 15, the Overseas Koreans Foundation held a “Book Donation Ceremony by Kim Eui-jin, Honorary President of the Association of Ethnic Korean Businesspeople in Beijing” at its headquarters in Seogwipo, Jeju Island.

Kim donated 670 books published locally in Korean on subjects, such as the humanities, society, economics and culture, in order to contribute to the social research regarding ethnic Koreans living in China. Most of these books are rare volumes that he collected since 1950, and included collections of papers, books of ethnic-Korean vocabulary expressions and other texts with high research value, which offered insight into the history of language as used by ethnic Koreans in China. These books will be kept in the foundation’s reference room and will be utilized for research regarding the ethnic-Korean language, among other things.

Kim, who founded the Association of Ethnic Korean Businesspeople in Beijing, received a citation from the president in 2018 for his contributions to the Korean Chinese Community.

“Ethnic Koreans living in China have been an essential element in the improvement of Korea-China relations during the 30 years of diplomacy between the countries,” said OKF President Kim Seong-gon. “We are grateful for his donation of valuable material that will help us gain more insights into the modern history of Korean Chinese.”



The “Book Donation Ceremony by Kim Eui-jin, Honorary President of the Association of Ethnic Korean Businesspeople in Beijing” is held at the Overseas Koreans Foundation headquarters on Jeju Island, with OKF President Kim Seong-gon (L) and Kim Eui-jin (R), honorary president of the Association of Ethnic Korean Businesspeople in Beijing, in attendance.

“I’ve collected these books all my life out of a sense of duty toward my people. I’m happy that everyone will have access to the books through the Overseas Koreans Foundation,” Kim Eui-jin said. “If any texts are needed to provide information about ethnic Koreans in China, I will do my best to find them.”

Sudeok Temple and Sudeok Yeogwan in Yesan County

The beauty of Mount Deoksung.

Sudeok Temple, a temple located on the southern slopes of Mount Deoksung in Deoksan-myeon, Yesan County, South Chungcheong Province, South Korea, is an ever-popular location for travelers all year long. There is plenty to see and to talk about, including the simplistic yet dignified Daeungjeon Hall, the storied Sudeok Yeogwan, once used by artists, and the mountain cottage and hermitage once frequented by senior monks.

Sudeok Yeogwan, filled with traces of artists

Past the Ilju Gate of Sudeok Temple, the first thing that comes into view is not a temple but a thatched house. This house, which bears a sign that reads “Sudeok Yeogwan,” is storied with the past of artists that are symbolic of the modern history of Korea. Kim Il-yeop and Na Hye-seok, who were both born in 1896, were “modern women” who defined an era.

But perhaps they were too far ahead of the times; the world didn’t seem capable of understanding them. Kim Il-yeop, who was a journalist and a writer, experienced multiple relationships and break-ups before joining Sudeok Temple in 1933. It was four years afterward that Na Hye-seok, the first Korean feminist painter, came to see her.

She requested Mangong, a Buddhist monk at the temple, join the priesthood through Kim Il-yeop, but Mangong refused outright,

saying she was “not fit for a monk’s life.” Na Hye-seok wasn’t able to give up on this goal entirely, remaining in Sudeok Yeogwan, painting and teaching how to draw. Then the painter Yi Eungro (pen name: Go-am) came to see Na Hye-seok at Sudeok Yeogwan. Yi Eungro, having learned art from Na Hye-seok, purchased the house in 1944 after Na Hye-seok left.

He painted the beautiful scenery of Sudeok Temple while staying there. In 1959, he left his wife at Sudeok Yeogwan and traveled to Paris with his lover. After he was imprisoned in 1967 during the East-Berlin Affair, he returned to Sudeok Yeogwan for the first time. His former wife, who had remained at Sudeok Yeogwan, is said to have cared for him lovingly upon his return.

The petroglyphs on the rocks behind the building were made by Yi Eungro at this time. They are glyphs that also resemble humans, displaying a dynamism in their shape. Leaving only these glyphs behind, he left for Paris once more.

Daeungjeon Hall of Sudeok Temple, filled with a restrained dignity

Past Sudeok Yeogwan, Geumgang Gate and Sacheonwang Gate, one sees the Mangong Memorial on the right and a seven-story stone pagoda on the left, created by Mangong the monk. Sudeok Temple is a Baekje-era temple and was home to Kyong Ho



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Seonsa, who created a sensation in Korean Buddhism, as well as Mangong, who continued in his steps and led a revival of Korean Buddhism.

It is also one of the five major learning institutions of the Jogye Order, complete with a seonwon and a sangha university. Past the Hwanghajungru Pavilion, where a Buddhist museum is located, and going up some stairs, Daeungjeon Hall comes into view beyond a couple of towers.

This Daeungjeon Hall, which was built at the time of Chungnyeol of Goryeo (1308), is considered one of South Korea's most symbolic wooden constructions, along with the Geungnakjeon Hall of Bongjeong Temple and the Muryangsujeon Hall of Buseoksa. It is not ornate, but there is a steadfastness and restrained dignity about the building. The real charm of Daeungjeon Hall is in its gambrel roof -- a type of roof that exists only in the front and back of a building. It is the simplest form of a traditional tiled roof. The gambrel roof of Daeungjeon Hall, powerfully supported by round columns, is plain but sturdy. The pillars, with their colorful paintwork coming off, reveal the deeply embedded wooden grain and allow visitors to feel the passage of the past 700 years.

Mount Deoksung, imbued with traces of high monks

When visiting Sudeok Temple, one mustn't forget Mount Deoksung, which rises behind Daeungjeon Hall. The hermitages and stone Buddha statues scattered throughout the mountains are a vigorous reminder of the high monks that once frequented them. A hiking trail begins past the Bodhisattva rock to the left of Daeungjeon Hall. This path, which leads to a mountain hermitage called Jeonghye Temple, contains 1,080 stone steps placed by Byeokcho, the second chief monk of Sudeok Temple. These stairs symbolize that the 108 afflictions of humanity must be relinquished 10 times.

Heading up the stairs following clear trickling water, one comes across a stone Buddha, which

is a reproduction of the Stone Buddhas in Four Directions found in Hwajeon-ri, Yesan, in 1983, the only one of its kind from the Baekje period. The four faces are of Bhaisajyaguru, the Amitabha Buddha, the Gautama Buddha and the Maitreya Buddha.

Climbing up another long flight of stairs, one can reach a thatched house midway up the mountain slope. This is Sorim House, where Mangong used to stay. The Sorim House, Hyangukgak Hermitage, Jeonghye Temple and the Standing Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva can all be credited to him.

Near Hyangukgak Hermitage, which was built by Mangong, is a gigantic stone Buddha that overlooks Sudeok Temple. It is the Standing Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva, created by Mangong in 1924. Crafted from natural stone, it is 7.58 meters high. Right above Mangong Tower, built to honor him, is Jeonghye Temple. Jeonghye Temple is a branch temple of Sudeok Temple, where Mangong wrote his commentaries and fueled the growth of Korean Buddhism.

It is a key seonwon in Korea where dozens of monks still train every season. Jeonghye Temple, standing on a steep slope, is regarded as the spot with the best view in all of Mount Deoksung. It takes around 40 minutes to climb up the stairs from Daeungjeon Hall to Jeonghye Temple, 15 minutes more than the time to the peak, 495 meters above sea level. There is a fantastic view to be enjoyed here. The entirety of the broad Yedang plains can be seen, as well as Anmyeon Island and Cheonsu Bay in the distance. Below are the roofs of the Sudeok Temple buildings, resembling tiny, distant dots. Returning to Daeungjeon Hall after a break on the peak, the sun sets on the horizon. ☺



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- 1 Sudeok Yeogwan, past the Ilju Gate of Sudeok Temple
 - 2 The petroglyphs of Yi Eungro are seen in the backyard of Sudeok Yeogwan.
 - 3 Daeungjeon Hall at Sudeok Temple is visible in the center.
 - 4 The Standing Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva of Mount Deoksung, created by Mangong

Expert seminar held for creation of archive for all overseas Korean records

The Overseas Koreans Foundation held an expert seminar on Nov. 18 to form a unified archive of records related to overseas Koreans, which are currently scattered throughout various institutions. The foundation has been working on the creation of an archive to collect and protect overseas Korean records, which are disappearing after 120 years of Korean immigration history worldwide.

This seminar, which was held at the Overseas Koreans Foundation headquarters in Seogwipo, Jeju Island, inspected similar cases from public institutions and sought ways to collaborate. The record maintenance personnel of 11 institutions, including the Independence Hall of Korea, National Gugak Center, National Assembly Archives, Government Employees Pension Service, Military Manpower Administration, Jeju 4.3 Peace Foundation, Jeungpyeong Archives, Seoul Metropolitan Archives, National Center for the Right of the Child, Korea Democracy Foundation and the Korean Studies Institute.

Participants agreed that a stable budget and organization were required to form and utilize such an archive, and that the role of the

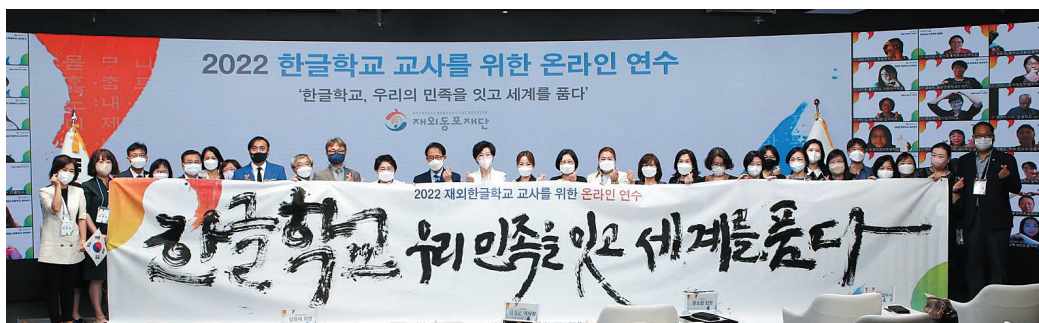


A public institution expert seminar for the formation of an archive for overseas Korean records is held on Jeju Island.

new overseas Korean service to be established would be of great importance.

“In order to speed up the collection and usage of overseas Korean records, which are vanishing rapidly, collaborations between relevant institutions are very important,” Lee Young-geun, director of planning, said. “We will strive to expand collaborations for the sharing of knowledge and creation of the archive.”

Overseas Koreans Foundation establishes Korean language teaching cyber courses



Participants of the “2022 Online Training Program for Korean Language Teachers,” held by the Overseas Koreans Foundation in August, pose for a group photo.

In order to help Korean language teachers in various countries acquire teaching licenses, the Overseas Koreans Foundation established courses for third-year transferees at Kyung Hee Cyber University, The Cyber University of Korea, Digital Seoul Culture Arts University, Cyber Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Sejong Cyber University, Wonkwang Digital University and Korea Soongsil

Cyber University. Benefits, including tuition discounts, will be given to 120 selected students. Those who complete the course will qualify to apply for a level 2 teaching license from the National Institute of Korean Language, in addition to receiving their bachelor’s degrees. Details are available at the following URL: mstudy.korean.net.

Choe Yerin, a Korean American student, wins grand prize in ‘Hangeul Proclamation Day Online Poetry Contest’

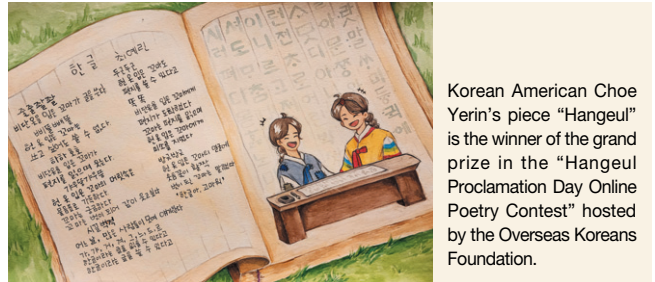
The Overseas Koreans Foundation held the “Hangeul Proclamation Day Online Poetry Contest” for the first time this year and stated on Nov. 25 that the Korean American student Choe Yerin (14) was selected as the winner of the grand prize.

This contest, which targeted overseas Korean youth and sought to focus on the importance and beauty of the Korean language, amassed approximately 2,800 submissions from 191 Korean language schools from 52 countries.

The foundation selected 103 pieces sent by students from 61 schools in 27 places, including the United States, the Philippines and Turkey, as the winners.

Choe, who is a student attending the Praise Korean Cultural Community Center, was given the grand prize for her great portrayal of two children, one wearing silk clothing and the other rags, who became friends through the Korean language.

“The pictures and poetry portray the importance of the language hidden in facets of everyday life. This gave the piece a quiet



Korean American Choe Yerin’s piece “Hangeul” is the winner of the grand prize in the “Hangeul Proclamation Day Online Poetry Contest” hosted by the Overseas Koreans Foundation.

poignancy,” the committee said.

Kim Seong-gon, president of the foundation, said, “We will provide active support to Korean language schools so that overseas Korean youth will not lose their love of Hangeul and their passion for learning.”

The winning pieces were revealed on Study Korean (mstudy.korean.net), an overseas Korean learning website, on Dec. 9.

Overseas Koreans Foundation’s Book Recommendations



‘Living in Japan’

Lee Hong-mae / Bookorea

The history of Koreans living in China has now far exceeded 150 years. Records about them as a group have been left as administrative texts and preserved, but there haven’t been many records that look into their individual lives. A book has been published that describes life in China and Japan from the perspective of an overseas Korean who has lived as a journalist and an immigrant. The author has closely observed the realities of life in Korea, Japan and China, and described the joys and sorrows of everyday life in the book. In addition, the book contains interviews of overseas Korean community leaders that are not well known, as well as professor Masuo Omura and Sumie Ikeda, who have researched marginal literature. Experience the life of overseas Koreans, a subject both familiar and strange, through the essay genre and partake in the author’s world and emotions.



‘To Hurt Humanity’

Park Jeong-eun / Hanbit Biz

Park Jeong-eun has been teaching students in America for 10 years, asking and answering questions about humanity. She recently published this book, which describes the events of the past three years, which laid bare the weaknesses of modern society, through the eyes of a nun and a scholar. Through this book, she poses questions about what it means to be human through marginalized people who lived in America as Asian women and foreigners, as well as the alienation that occurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic, seemingly in contrast to the abundance of modern society. Readers of the book can peek into the outward appearance and hearts of humans in a modernized society reaching perfection in terms of technology and consider what values we should hold most dear.





Winning entries of Overseas Korean Children's Picture Diary contest exhibited at National Assembly

The International Korean Education Foundation displayed the winning works of the 2022 Overseas Korean Children's Korean Picture Diary Contest at the Members' Office Building of the National Assembly in Yeouido, Seoul, from Nov. 7-20. These works, created by children from 14 countries, including China, Paraguay and Spain, were awarded the Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Education Award, the Head of National Assembly Education Committee Award and the President of International Korean Education Foundation Award, among others. "These works contain the honest feelings and love for the Korean language and Korean history of overseas Korean children," said Lim Young-dam, president of the International Korean Education Foundation. The winning submissions can be viewed at the institution's website as well (www.ikefkids.kr).

Special exhibit for 5th anniversary of registration of Joseon Tongsinosa with UNESCO held in Osaka

The Korean Cultural Center in Osaka, in celebration of the fifth anniversary of the registration of the Joseon Tongsinosa as a UNESCO Memory of the World, held a special exhibit from Nov. 24 to Dec. 3. It introduced the Tongsinosa's records of its 12 visits to Japan between 1607 and 1811. The exhibit showcases drawings of the Tongsinosa's actions for amicable relations between the two countries; relevant relics, such as books; the pictures of activities of civic groups; and other interesting information. On Nov. 26, Kenichi Osawa, the head of the Osaka Museum of History, representatives of civic groups and other people took part in a symposium introducing the significance of the activities of the Joseon Tongsinosa.



'Singing of angels on Christmas'; Koryo-saram Children's Choir gives performance in Gwangju

The Koryo-saram Children's Choir of the Koryoin Village in Gwangsan Ward, Gwangju, headed by Kim Hye-sook, performed its second regular performance at Geumho Art Hall of the U-Square Culture Centre in Gwangju on Dec. 7. The theme of the performance was the singing of angels on Christmas and consisted of a varied lineup, including Christmas carols, Russian and Korean folk songs, children's songs and musical ensembles. Kim Mi-ok, the art director at Felice Soloist, emceed for the event, while special guests included the mezzo-sopranos Kang yang-eun and Shin Eun-jung, the bass vocalist Kim Il-dong, the soprano Jang Heui-jung, baritones Kim Chi-young and Song Tae-wang, and the pianist Kim Eun-hee. This choir, which was founded in 2017, consists of 25 members, including Koryo-saram children from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Russia, as well as Koryo-saram refugees from Ukraine. They have performed around 70 times at various festivals and cultural events, presenting Koryo-saram lyricism to South Koreans.

'Very important tips for safe travel in Cambodia'; Korean association places leaflets in restaurants and other locations

Leaflets providing information for safe travel in Cambodia have been placed in major facilities and locations in the country. The Korean Association of Cambodia (President Jung Myung-gyu) recently stated they had created 20,000 copies of a "Safe Cambodian Travel Tips" leaflet and placed them in locations often used by visitors. The leaflets, created with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of South Korea and the local embassy, contain a map of the Phnom Penh region, as well as contact information for the Korean Embassy, hospitals, local police and other important places. The QR code for the 24-hour Overseas Korean Safety Support Team (lead by Jeon Beom-bae), operated independently by the Korean association, was also included. The QR code links to a public chat room where people can receive real-time assistance. The leaflets also contain detailed information about the major types of crimes in Cambodia, including drug-related crimes, as well as warnings, and actions to take in the event of an accident.



Hanpoong Festival, largest festival for Koreans in Shanghai

The greatest Korean festival in Shanghai, China, the Hanpoong Festival, took the form of a film festival and a flea market this year. The Korea Chamber of Commerce in China and Gong-gam (a Korean women's network) held the festival for 2022 under the title "30 years of Korea-China relations: a Hanpoong Festival connected through movies" on Nov. 12 on the first and second floors of Alegre, Jinhui Nan Lu. This year's festival focused on consoling the Koreans of Shanghai, who have been struggling with the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The film festival, which was held under the slogan "History Is History Only When Remembered," showed the movies "KOKO SunYi" and "Sewing Sisters." The flea market consisted of around 20 booths. Products offered at the booths included fall and winter clothing, healthy foods, kitchen utensils, small electronic appliances, books, pu'er tea and cosmetics.

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

Korean speaking contest held in Sakhalin themed around ‘intangible cultural heritages’

Contest of talented individuals who will lead future amity between South Korean and Russia

The Korean Speaking Contest, a long tradition of Sakhalin State University in Russia, was held in November. This contest has been held annually for over 20 years now, and this year’s theme was intangible cultural heritages since Russia declared 2022 to be the year of the intangible cultural heritages of ethnic groups that lived in the country.

The contest was split into middle school, high school and college levels. Middle school participants selected “gimjang,” “ganggangsulae” and “talchum” as Korean intangible cultural heritage and recited a poem aloud. Twenty-four middle school students took part, and the judges took into account their Korean pronunciation, attitude and creativity, among other factors, for a fair judging process.

The high school and university student levels were given time to not only present their essays but also to ask the judges questions. The participants approached the subject matter through old sayings, Korean food, Korean culture and traditional songs. The scores they received for answering questions were also counted in the review. The participants used PowerPoint slides for their presentation, reading their poems while music played in the background. They also showed off a traditional dance.

“This contest has been growing every year, and people from other regions, not just Sakhalin, are showing an interest,” Im Elbiral, dean of the Institute of Philology, History and Oriental Studies, said. “This event is even listed by the Department of Education of the Sakhalin Province.”

Ayana Urmanvekova, a middle school participant, described her introduction to the Korean language.



Ri Bok Sun,
journalist for Korean Language
Broadcasting, Sakhalin


“I started learning the Korean language because of my love of Korean culture, K-pop and dramas,” she said.

Anastasia Gregoryeva, a sophomore studying the Korean language at Sakhalin State University, said: “I presented an essay regarding how I was introduced to Korean culture. I am not Korean in descent; my mother was a Nivkh, and my father is Russian. My mother, who knew Koreans in Sakhalin, was familiar with Korean culture and introduced me to Korean traditions and culture.”

The highest honors went to Ju Constantine from the Kholmok Korean Language School, who wrote an essay on a Korean saying that means “You can only see as much as you know.” The judges rated this essay highly for its depth. He also won two awards at a recent KBS Hanminjok Radio contest. Ju hopes to study medicine in Korea.

The Korean Speaking Contest has been hosted yearly by the Sakhalin government, the Consulate of the Republic of Korea in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, and the Institute of Philology, History and Oriental Studies of Sakhalin State University.

“Korea and Russia have a long history of friendly relations, and their relationship is a very crucial and collaborative one,” Park Sang-tae, head of the Consulate of the Republic of Korea in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, said. “Learners of the Korean language are precious individuals who will maintain future Korea-Russia relations and assets that will serve as bridges between the countries.”

Anastasia Kikteva, the minister of education of Sakhalin, said, “I am happy that Sakhalin youth continue to become interested in Korean culture, education and art.” 



Taking applications for budgetary support for establishment of Korean community centers in 2023



The Overseas Koreans Foundation is taking budget support applications from Dec. 15 to Jan. 20 (open to applicants globally) for the building of Korean community centers that serve as central hubs for overseas Korean communities. Acceptable support requests include the building, purchase, repair, extension and remodeling of Korean community centers. Over 50 percent of the required budget must be provided by the relevant Korean community, and the project must be completed within 2023. The application forms may be submitted via

<https://www.korean.net/portal/index.do> and to the relevant diplomatic office. Applications made for private property, for profit or the repayment of debt, projects undertaken by disreputable organizations, projects with less than 50 percent of self funding and those that have not been reviewed by the relevant diplomatic office will be excluded. To learn more, please check the OKF website (https://www.okf.or.kr/homepage/business/business_notice.do?mode=view&articleNo=1001214336&article.offset=0&articleLimit=10#/list).

Schedules of Overseas Koreans Foundation executives in December 2022

President Kim Seong-gon

Dec. 1: Amity forum for the 60th anniversary of ROK-Israel diplomatic relations

Dec. 8: Completion ceremony and farewell banquet for Overseas Korean Invitational Training for Journalists

Dec. 15: End-of-year care package delivery ceremony for permanently returning Koreans from Sakhalin



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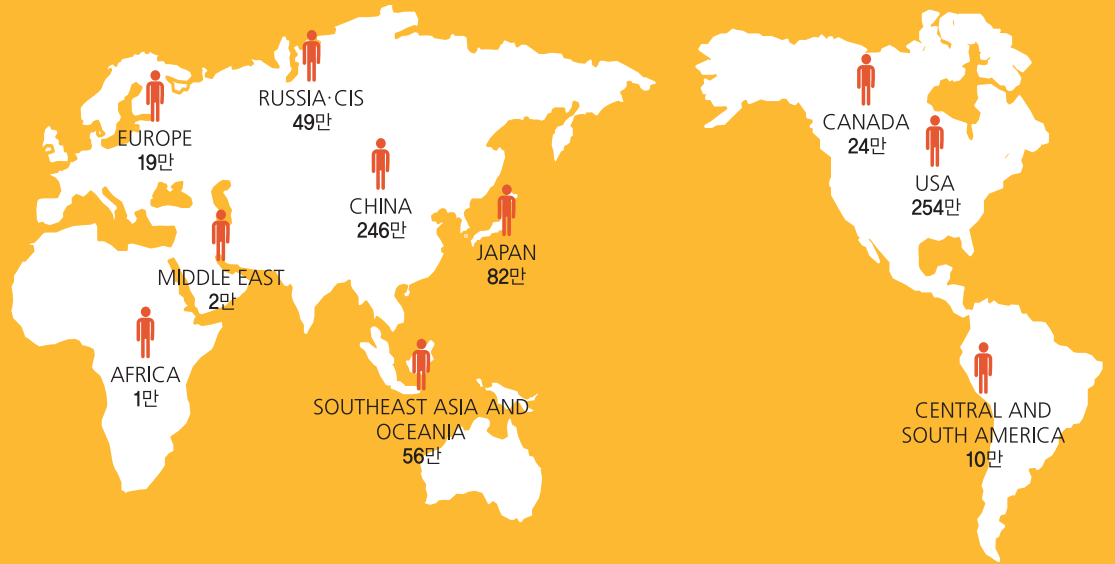


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