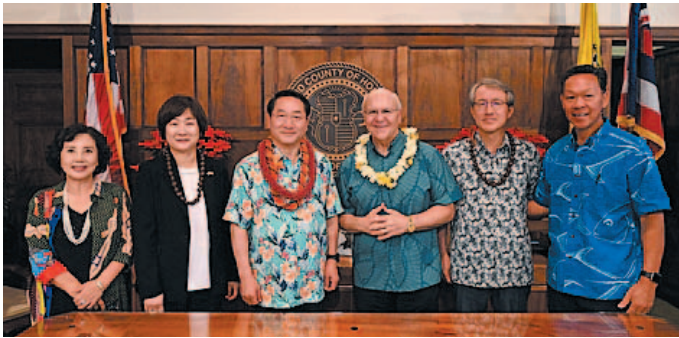


01
2023

재외동포의



Special Article - Celebrating 120 years of Korean immigration in Hawaii; Honolulu declares 'Incheon Day'
Special Feature - New presidents selected for various Korean associations throughout world
Their terms began on first day of new year
Newsworthy Topic - Sylvia J. Luke is Korean lieutenant governor of Hawaii



New Year's greetings from OKF President Kim Seong-gon



Respected 7.3 million overseas Koreans around the world! It is now 2023, the Year of the Rabbit.

I wish you all good health and happiness.

Over the last year, the world has slowly made its way back to normalcy despite the pain caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the uncertain economy, the war in Ukraine and other factors still plague society. As we have all overcome many hardships in the past and achieved growth, I hope that we can overcome our current crises and attain even more growth in this new year.

In October of last year, our government officially announced the establishment of an overseas Korean service, and relevant bills have been submitted to the National Assembly. In the new year, I expect that support policies for overseas Koreans will be enhanced with the establishment of this dedicated entity for overseas Koreans. I would like to deeply thank all of you who have supported the Overseas Koreans Foundation for the past 25 years.

For the first time in the history of our foundation, the World Korean Business Convention will be held overseas -- in Orange County, California. As South Korea has joined the ranks of advanced countries, it is time for Korean businesses to also become global entities who contribute to the prosperity of humanity. We will work to ensure that the Overseas Korean Education & Culture Center, which is to be built within the Siheung Campus of Seoul National University, will be completed without delay. As the generational shift is rapidly occurring within the overseas Korean community, the education of younger generations has become the most important facet of our operations.


Korean culture and Korean businesses, such as K-pop, K-food and K-beauty, have been spreading further. If the world loves Korean culture so much, how can we be lax with it ourselves?

The dissemination of Korean language education and an understanding of our history are essential for any global Korean.

What is saddening, however, is the separation between the North and the South that shows no sign of ending, as well as the internal conflicts that we have. Who would respect us if we speak of world peace and coexistence to the outside world while being divided ourselves? It is my hope that in the new year, we may avoid extreme confrontation through love and understanding, and create a beautiful world where we may all exist in harmony.

I wish you all good health and joy for your families and at the workplace.

The foundation will continue to focus on heeding the voices of the overseas Koreans.

Thank you. 





- 02 Preface Celebrating 120 years of Korean immigration in Hawaii; Honolulu declares 'Incheon Day'
- 04 Special Article New Year's greetings from OKF President Kim Seong-gon
- 06 Special Feature New presidents selected for various Korean associations throughout world
Their terms began on first day of new year
- 08 Newsworthy Topic Sylvia J. Luke is Korean lieutenant governor of Hawaii
- 10 The Korean Connection Korean Cultural Center in Japan holds exhibition for Takumi Fujimoto, who 'loved Korea for 50 years'
- 12 Global Koreans First female Korean Irvine councilor reelected as vice mayor
Dari Awards names Heo Su-jin, who adapted 'Pachinko' for the screen, as person of the year
Younghi Pagh-Paan, Korean composer living in Germany, selected as first honorary member of Deutscher Musikrat
- 14 Meritorious Compatriots South Korean politician Yoo Jae-geon, defendant of Korean American Chol Soo Lee, passes away
- 15 Next Generational Focus Korean American Hannah Kim becomes adviser for White House chief of staff
- 16 Global Correspondence Happy New Year with K-pop, New York's New Year's celebration finally returns after 3 years
- 18 Compatriot News Steven Koh, honorary president of World-OKTA, continues 18-year streak of donating US\$100,000 annually (3 other pieces included)
- 20 Cultural Heritage Ondalsan Fortress in Danyang, a fierce battleground of Three Kingdoms
Very well-preserved structure provides excellent views of Sobaek Mountain, Namhan River
- 22 OKF News 2023 budget for OKF confirmed; focus on nurturing overseas Korean talent by expanding projects for younger Koreans abroad (2 other pieces included)
- 24 Compatriot Calendar Adviser Oh Jin-ha elected Sakhalin Korean Association president (4 other pieces included)
- 25 Foundation Announcements OKF's 2023 'demand survey for support projects regarding activities of organizations related to overseas Koreans' to begin



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Celebrating 120 years of Korean immigration in Hawaii; Honolulu declares 'Incheon Day'

'We respect Koreans who contributed to development of region,' Honolulu mayor

An event celebrating 120 years of Korean immigration was held in Hawaii, the destination of the first group of Korean immigrants who headed overseas. The city of Incheon held a 120th anniversary celebration and performance at Hawaii Theatre in Honolulu on Dec. 22.

At the event, a total of approximately 1,300 people, including Yoo Jeong-bok, mayor of Incheon; Sylvia J. Luke, lieutenant governor of Hawaii; and Rick Blangiardi, mayor of Honolulu, participated.

"I admire the 5,500 Koreans who live here for their many contributions to the region," Blangiardi said. "The city of Honolulu today declares Dec. 22 as 'Incheon Day.'"

Yoo said, "Overseas Koreans have worked to develop the Korean community with their blood, sweat and tears. Incheon will prepare for an even brighter future based on our proud history."

Luke, the first Korean in the United States to be elected lieutenant governor, spoke on stage about the meaning of the day.

"One hundred twenty years ago, on Dec. 22, 1902, Koreans who left Incheon arrived here," she said. "Most of them were born in Incheon. I am very grateful that Incheon is aware of the importance of history like this. I immigrated to this place in between the first and second generations of immigrants. The first generation has toiled with very difficult jobs. It was thanks to their efforts that I was able to have the courage to come to Hawaii."

'I will visit Incheon with my wife,' says Hawaii governor

The Incheon Metropolitan City Dance Theater showcased Korean traditional dance and creative dance in eight works to fervent applause from the local audience.

Hawaii Gov. Josh Green, who met Yoo that day, rated



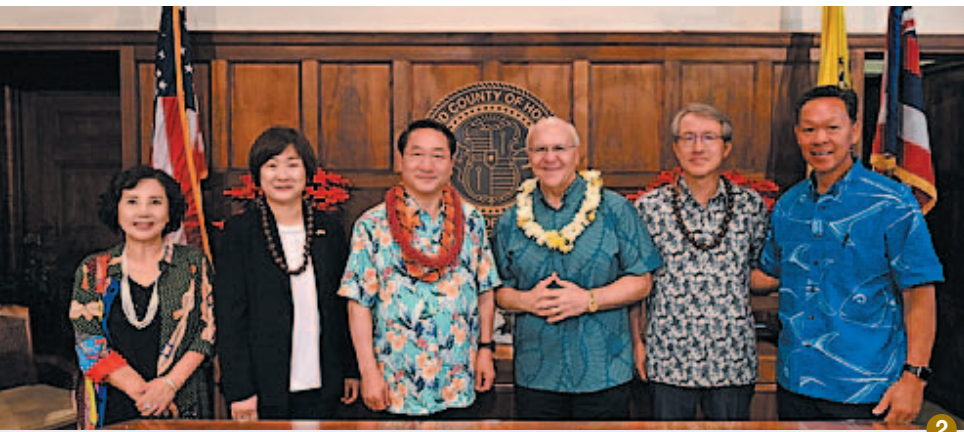
the significance of the 120th anniversary highly and promised to visit Incheon with his wife.

At the celebratory banquet, which was held at a hotel in Honolulu on the afternoon of Dec. 20, two days prior, Korean Americans expressed their pride in their history in this new land. The banquet was hosted by the city of Incheon and local Korean American groups.

From the very first group of Korean immigrants who left from Jemulpo, Incheon, on Dec. 22, 1902, on the RMS Gaelic, up till 1905, around 7,400 Koreans headed to Hawaii. The early immigrants did hard labor in the sugar cane farms as they worked to create a foundation for their survival.

The Koreans in Hawaii all agreed that it was the dedication of this first generation that allowed the Korean community to grow to the point it has now. Byeon Hwi-jang (67), who moved to Hawaii in 1979, said, "I believe we are enjoying the fruits of the labor of the people who came to Hawaii before we did. They made the foundation that allowed Koreans to settle down here in Hawaii."

Among the descendants of Korean immigrants are Lt. Gov. Luke, Harry Kim (former mayor of Hawaii County) and Ronald Moon (former Supreme Court chief justice of Hawaii). All of these individuals rose to their positions for the first time in the history of Korean immigration to the U.S., boosting the status of Koreans in the country.



- 1 A celebration for the 120th anniversary of Korean immigration is held at the Hawaii Theater in Honolulu, Hawaii, on Dec. 22, 2022.
- 2 Incheon Mayor Yoo Jeong-bok (3rd from L) and Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi (4th from L) meet at Honolulu City Hall on Dec. 21, 2022, to promise to enhance exchanges and cooperation.
- 3 The 120th anniversary banquet is held at a hotel in Honolulu on Dec. 20, 2022.
- 4 A tape cutting ceremony for "From Jemulpo to Hawaii, and back to Incheon," a photo exhibition, is held in Honolulu on Dec. 20, 2022.

Photo and art exhibit held to showcase Korean immigration history

In downtown Honolulu on the same day, a photo exhibition titled "From Jemulpo to Hawaii, and back to Incheon" was held, celebrating the significance of the 120 years of history. This exhibition, which was hosted by Incheon, included around 100 photos and videos regarding immigration history, including the journey of the first group of Korean immigrants.

The "International Art Exchange Exhibition for the Incheon & Hawaii Disaporas" also opened at the Downtown Art Center in Honolulu on Dec. 15. It was hosted by the Incheon branch of the Korean Fine Arts Association and the Korean Artists Association of Hawaii. The artists of the two cities held the exhibition to celebrate Korean immigration history and enhance exchanges through cultural diversity and acceptance.

The Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs named Ahn Hyung-kyung and Lee Won-soon, who led the independence movement and the consolidation of the Korean community in Hawaii, as the "Independence Activists of January 2023." This was done to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the arrival of the first Korean immigrants to Hawaii.

Ahn, born in Seoul in 1881, applied to immigrate as a laborer to Hawaii in 1905 and arrived in May that year. In April 1909, he was selected as the president of the Wahiawa General Assembly of the Korean National Association. In July 1910, he sent a letter to the Japanese emperor protesting

against the invasion of Korea with regional representatives of Hawaii. When the freedom fighter Rhee Syng-man settled down in Hawaii in 1913 and began his publishing, as well as religious and educational projects, Ahn aided him in bringing the Korean community together and supporting the independence movement, including the issuance of the Pacific Magazine and the Korean Church Magazine.

Lee Won-soon, born in Seoul in 1893, sought asylum in Hawaii after graduating from Posung College in 1914. In Hawaii, he joined the Korean National Independence League, formed in 1919 to raise funds for the independence movement, as well as for publishing, diplomacy, Korean education and other aspects of the independence movement against Japan. He joined the Korean Compatriots Association (centered around Rhee), and worked for diplomacy and the raising of funds for the independence movement. He worked as the chief editor of the The Korean Pacific Weekly, which served as the mouthpiece of the association, promoting the movement and supporting the Korean provisional government. [참]



New presidents selected for various Korean associations throughout world

Their terms began on first day of new year

Seo Dae-young in Hawaii, Kim Han-il in San Francisco, James Ahn in Los Angeles

Korean associations around the world held general assembly meetings at the end of last year and selected new presidents to lead them. In the United States, overseas Korean press reported that Seo Dae-young (Hawaii), Kim Han-il (San Francisco), James Ahn (Los Angeles), Cho Bong-nam (Orange County, California), Lee Seok-chang (Tacoma, Washington), James Kim (Philadelphia) and Kwon Jeong-heui (Detroit) had each been selected. The presidents began their two-year terms on Jan. 1, 2023.

Seo Dae-young, the 25th president of the United Korean Associates of Hawaii, was born in Daejeon. He finished middle school before moving to Hawaii. He studied law at the University of Hawaii, after which he worked as a lawyer for 20 years before becoming the head of the association. "I will infuse the association with youth," he said.

Kim Han-il, the 32nd president of the Korean American Community Center of San Francisco & Bay Area, is the head of the Jin Duck & Kyung Sik Kim Foundation, which publicizes the issues surrounding Dokdo and the comfort women victimized by Japan. This foundation was created by five siblings, using the inheritance left behind by Kim's parents -- individuals who were active donors and volunteers in the Korean community. He immigrated at the age of 17 and operates a large dental clinic in Silicon Valley. He has donated US\$1 million to the establishment of the Korean American Community Center of San Francisco & Bay Area. "I will make sure our association benefits the Koreans," he said.

James Ahn, president of the Korean American Federation of Los Angeles, was the sole candidate and became the 36th president in the new year, continuing to hold the presidency since the last term.

Cho Bong-nam, president of the Korean American Federation of Orange County, was president of a local Korean Chamber of Commerce and the Korean

American Foundation. Orange County has been selected as the first overseas location of the World Korean Business Convention, which will be held in October this year.

"Our city, which belongs to the constituencies of the Korean American politicians Young Kim and Michelle Steel, has a population of 300,000," Cho said. "It is a long way to the Korean Consulate General in LA, so I will seek to establish a branch for Koreans in the region."

Lee Seok-chang in Tacoma, James Kim in Philadelphia, Kwon Jeong-heui in Detroit

Lee Seok-chang, president of the Tacoma Korean American Association, will continue in his father's steps, who was the second president of the association (Lee Myeong-gyu). "I will do my best to work for Koreans," said Lee, who worked as an official at the Federal Aviation Agency for a long time.

James Kim is the new president of the Korean association in Philadelphia, a city once home to the Korean American physician Seo Jae-pil. Kim worked in insurance for a long time, maintaining a close relationship with Koreans. He also was once a director of the Korean association. "I will work for the amity, harmony, and enhanced rights and interests of the Koreans," he said.

Kwon Jeong-heui, the 40th president of the Korean Association of Detroit, hails from Yesan, South Chungcheong Province. She graduated from Sangmyung University and studied at the University of Oklahoma, where she married an American man. She worked at Comerica Bank for 23 years, then was scouted by Flagstar Bank, where she now works as a vice president and the senior regulation compliance analyst. She was vice president of a local Korean association in the past and is also the president of the Korean American Women's Association.

Shin Young-moo in China, Kim Jong-hwa in Malaysia, Park Jae-yong in Singapore, Park Ho-seon in Mongolia

Korean associations in China, Malaysia, Singapore and Mongolia also selected new presidents at the end of last year through general assembly meetings. In these regions, Shin Young-moo, Kim Jong-hwa, Park Jae-yong and Park Ho-seon were elected, respectively.

Shin Young-moo, who was the only candidate for the position of 12th president of the Federation of Korean Associations in China (representing Korean associations in 67 Chinese cities and six regional associations), runs an automobile parts company in Yancheng, Jiangsu. "I will stand for the rights



The 11 new presidents of Korean associations (from L to R): Seo Dae-young (Hawaii), Kim Han-il (San Francisco), James Ahn (Los Angeles), Cho Bong-nam (Orange County), Lee Seok-chang (Tacoma), James Kim (Philadelphia), Kwon Jeong-heui (Detroit), Shin Young-moo (China), Kim Jong-hwa (Malaysia), Park Jae-yong (Singapore) and Park Ho-seon (Mongolia).

and interests of Koreans living in China and work for the improvement of the Korean community,” Shin said. He made election promises that included “overcoming dangers through cooperation and coexistence,” “enhanced regional networks” and “budget allocation for Korean language schools.”

Kim Jong-hwa of Malaysia was previously the vice president of a Korean association and the chairman of the board at a Korea International School. He moved to China in 1999 as a resident employee of Daewoo. After he quit, he settled down and founded a trade company by the name of Everchem. Kim made promises to aid Koreans in need, improve the utilization of a cyber Korean community center, create a platform for second-generation Korean Chinese and publish a Korean history book, among other tasks, under the mottoes of a “better Korean association” and “the best and most beloved Korean association.”

Park Jae-yong, president of the Korea Association in Singapore, was the vice president before being elected as the sole candidate. He was the president of the Korea International School in Singapore, the chair of the Next Generation Committee of World Federation of Overseas Korean Traders Association (World-OKTA), as well as its vice president, and an overseas adviser for the National Unification Advisory Council.

Park Ho-seon of the Korean Association of Mongolia was reelected as president. “The association will do its job well, leading the development of the Korean community in Mongolia,” he said. 🇰🇷

Sylvia J. Luke is Korean lieutenant governor of Hawaii

‘I’m honored as a politician of Korean descent’



Sylvia J. Luke (55, Korean name Jang Eun-jeong), who was elected the lieutenant governor of Hawaii in the off-year elections on Nov. 8, said in a press interview on Dec. 22, “The wish for a better life guided immigrants like me to our success.”

She represents the Democratic Party in Hawaii and won by a landslide with 206,479 votes (67.22 percent) over the Republican Party candidate Seaula Jr. Tupai (100,707 votes). Her inauguration ceremony was held at the Blaisdell Center in Hawaii on Dec. 5.

Luke, who was born in Seoul but immigrated to Hawaii with her family when she was 10, was elected a U.S. representative in the 26th district in 1998, beginning her political career. She continued to win elections until 2013. After that, she moved to the 25th district where she was active in the same capacity.

Her election as lieutenant governor is meaningful in that Hawaii was the destination of the first group of Korean immigrants who took the RMS Gaelic from

Jemulpo Harbor in Incheon on Dec. 22, 1902 -- 120 years ago. She also has held other posts, including the vice chair of multiple committees, the chair of the Select Committee on War Preparedness and the chair of the Finance Committee.

Luke was interviewed in Hawaii in celebration of the 120 years of Korean immigration overseas. What follows are the questions and answers from the interview.

How do you feel, being the first Korean lieutenant governor in the U.S.?

I was chair of the Finance Committee for 10 years as a U.S. representative. I know how the state government works, and my experiences have been a great aid in seeking change as I hold my post as lieutenant governor. I am Hawaii’s third female lieutenant governor, and the first Korean politician to hold a lieutenant governor post in the entire country, and I feel honored by this.

How did you end up in politics in Hawaii, as an immigrant?

My father traded in Asian foods and such, and came to Hawaii before the rest of the family did. In 1977, the entire family came to Hawaii. I worked as a



lawyer, then ran for U.S. representative, wishing to contribute to running the state. I was elected in 1998. I quit my activities as a lawyer this year after beginning to run for lieutenant governor.

What does 120 years of Korean immigration mean to you?

Luckily enough, I received an opportunity to work in the legislative branch of government on the 100th year since Koreans first immigrated to Hawaii. I believe that Koreans have contributed hugely to the world at large, not just Hawaii. The story of Korean immigrants to Hawaii matters a lot in terms of the diversity and expandability of the island community. Korean culture has become deeply embedded in Hawaii and is welcomed by many. I am honored to be able to celebrate this important immigration history at the 120th anniversary event.

Could you tell us about how Koreans succeeded in Hawaii, and why they were able to do so?

There have been many notable Korean figures in Hawaii, including Ronald Moon (Korean name Moon Dae-yang), the first Korean to become a Supreme Court chief justice in the entire history of Korean immigration to the U.S.



Koreans have been superintendents of education and chiefs of police in Hawaii. Some have been members of the state assembly. I am happy to be one of the successful Koreans in Hawaii. Korean immigrants, like all immigrants, wanted better lives for themselves and their families. I believe this was what drove the success of immigrants, such as myself. Like many immigrants who came to Hawaii, my parents came to Honolulu seeking better opportunities.

What do you think of South Korea today?

I am one of a group of Korean politicians who have come from overseas. We meet once a year to discuss the relations between Korea and our countries of residence, among other things. We are especially interested in Korea's diplomatic relations and hold many discussions regarding the effect that the unification of the Korean Peninsula will have, among other things. In addition, I plan to make a high-speed communications network like the one in Korea, one of my highest priorities. I believe high-speed communication will expand opportunities for education and bring about innovations in health care and other fields. 🇺🇸

1 Sylvia J. Luke, lieutenant governor of Hawaii, wears flowers around her neck after winning the off-year elections on Nov. 8, 2022.

2 Sylvia J. Luke (L) stands on her inauguration stage on Dec. 5, 2022. The person in the center, holding a Bible, is her husband.

3-4 Sylvia J. Luke, lieutenant governor of Hawaii, holds a press interview.

Korean Cultural Center in Japan holds exhibition for Takumi Fujimoto, who ‘loved Korea for 50 years’

Around 70 photos of Korean food culture put on display, including of ‘gimjang’ and Pimatgol

“Many things are vanishing from Korean society due to development. One of them is the beloved food culture. I’ve been taking pictures so this food culture is not forgotten.”

Takumi Fujimoto (73), who opened an exhibition on the first floor of the Korean Cultural Center in Japan (Gallery M1, first floor), located in Shinjuku, Tokyo, is a Japanese photographer who loves South Korea and has taken pictures of everyday life and scenery in the country for the past 50 years.

He introduced himself in an email interview with the press on Dec. 6 last year, in which he described the exhibition as “an exhibition that shows the food culture of Korea that is now being forgotten, like the traditional and countryside markets.”

The exhibition, which is being held from Dec. 5 last year to Jan. 31, has around 70 pictures of everyday Korean food culture -- photos of marketplaces, restaurants, snack bars and “gimjang” -- in locations like Danyang, Mokpo, Tongyeong and Pyeongchang. During the exhibition, participants are able to experience making red pepper paste, a traditional Korean condiment, as well as creating packages with wrapping cloths.

Fujimoto is a self-taught photographer who visited Korea for the

first time with a camera when he was 21.

“My father revered Muneyoshi Yanagi, who founded a folk art movement in Joseon during the Japanese occupation, and Takumi Asakawa, who dedicated himself to Korea’s reforestation and research of Korean pottery. As a result, ‘Takimu’ is part of my name,” he said.

Snapped photos of scenery and everyday life on over 100 visits to Korea

“In my first visit to Korea, I followed in the steps of Takumi Asakawa and traveled around the country,” Fujimoto said. “I was taken with the beauty of the country and the gentleness of the people, and from that point on, I fell in love with the country.” He has visited Korea over 100 times over the past century, taking various pictures with his camera.

Fujimoto also displayed scenes of Pimatgol in Jongno, Seoul, at the current exhibition. “The term Pimatgol refers to alleyways where commoners could take refuge to avoid encountering high-ranking officials and the nobility who rode on horses in the streets,” he said. “The alleys were filled with restaurants for commoners, but only



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signboards now remain as a result of urban development.”

Fujimoto recalled: “I’ve noticed many things have been disappearing from the country over my 50 years of photographing here. It occurred to me that places that are popular now might one day vanish as well, which spurred me to continue taking pictures. They have now become a historical record of sorts.”

Donated around 46,000 photos in 2011 to National Folk Museum of Korea

In 2011, he donated 46,377 film and digital photos he’d taken in Korea to the National Folk Museum of Korea, allowing Koreans to see how a Japanese person viewed the country. In addition, thanks to his photos detailing the activities of Genkichi Hanai, who ran a hospital on Sorok Island during the Japanese colonial period and dedicated himself to treating leprosy patients, he received the 39th Domon Ken Award from the Mainichi Shimbun newspaper in 2020.

Fujimoto also published a series titled “Joseon Tongsinsa’s role in creating friendly relations” in the Korean Residents Union in Japan’s organizational paper.

“The two countries have been at odds in the past, but they have maintained good relations for much longer,” Fujimoto said. “I will

continue to take my photos for as long as possible, hoping that they will help encourage exchanges between the countries.”

Another site of Korean food culture that Fujimoto loves is Jagalchi Market in Busan. He says he receives inspiration and energy from the lively market. The Korean Cultural Center in Japan previously opened the “Sights of Korean food culture” exhibition, featuring Fujimoto’s photos last year from July 29 to Aug. 31.

He has been taking photos of Jagalchi Market since the 1970s. In a press interview at the time, he expressed his disappointment by saying, “Big buildings have appeared in Jagalchi Market, and it isn’t the same as it was in the 1970s.” 📷

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- 1 A picture of Insa-dong, Jongno Ward, Seoul in 1970 (Takumi Fujimoto)
 - 2 A picture of a rural scene from 1970 (Takumi Fujimoto)
 - 3 The Japanese photographer Takumi Fujimoto, who has been taking photos of Korean scenes and everyday life for the past 50 years
 - 4 A poster for the exhibition "A Korean Food Culture Journey," being held at the Korean Cultural Center in Japan until Jan. 31, 2023
 - 5 Takumi Fujimoto explains his photographs at the Korean Cultural Center in Japan in Tokyo on April 14, 2022.

GLOBAL KOREAN



First female Korean Irvine councilor reelected as vice mayor Tammy Kim: 'I will work diligently for the community'

Vice Mayor Tammy Kim, the first Korean woman to be elected as city councilor in Irvine, California, was reelected in the midterm elections on Nov. 8. She was also recently reelected for the post of vice mayor.

Korean press in the United States reported on Jan. 19: "Kim was recently elected vice mayor and began her one-year term. Not only was she elected as city councilor in December 2020, she is now serving her second term as vice mayor."

Irvine selects its mayor by direct vote from the residents, and the vice mayor through votes by the city councilors. "I will work diligently and with dedication for the community," Kim said.

Kim, who was born in Korea and immigrated to the U.S. with her parents when she was 1, was previously the president of the Korean American Center in Orange County, one of the largest Korean American nonprofits in the county.

She contributed to the establishment of a King Sejong Institute in Irvine to educate young Koreans and even held the post of president of the institute for a short period. She ran for city councilor in 2020 and became the first Korean woman to be elected. She took an active part in the city's designation of Oct. 9 as Hangeul Day.

She is the first Korean director of the League of California Cities, as well as a director of the Southern California Association of Governments.

Dari Awards names Heo Su-jin, who adapted 'Pachinko' for the screen, as person of the year Awards ceremony took place in December at the Korean Cultural Center in LA

The 17th Dari Awards named Heo Su-jin, the chief producer and dramatizer of the Apple TV+ series "Pachinko," as its person of the year.

The Korean Cultural Center in Los Angeles (director Jung Sang-won) and the LA center of the Korea Creative Content Agency (director Ju Seong-ho) stated on Dec. 12 that they'd named her as the Dari Awards Person of the Year and held an awards ceremony at the Korean Cultural Center.

Heo was only able to participate remotely, in which she gave an acceptance speech. "Dari" means "bridge," referring to the act of connecting Korea and the United States through exchanges in the content industry.

Heo is the writer who adapted Min Jin Lee's bestselling novel "Pachinko" into the Apple TV+ series of the same name. This series was selected by the American Film Institute as one of the best TV dramas of the year.

"Pachinko" describes the story of a Korean immigrant family that travels between Korea, Japan and the U.S. after the period of Japanese imperialism.



Webtoon Entertainment was named the Dari Corporation of the Year, and Live Nation was awarded the Best Business Partnership. Award recipients were given commendations from the Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of South Korea.

Younghi Pagh-Paan, Korean composer living in Germany, selected as first honorary member of Deutscher Musikrat

Acknowledged for contributions to German music on her 77th birthday

The Korean composer Younghi Pagh-Paan (77) is now the first Korean to become an honorary member of the Deutscher Musikrat (DMR).

According to Dr. Noh Yoo-kyoung, who lectures at the Universitat zu Koln, and the DMR website, the members of the DMR in Berlin named her as an honorary member at the end of last year in recognition of her contributions to German music.

DMR, founded in 1953, is the largest cultural institution in Germany and is funded by Germany's President Frank-Walter Steinmeier. Honorary members are selected through a general assembly meeting, according to a recommendation from the standing committee.

Other than Pagh-Paan, there are 50 honorary members, including Gerhart Baum (former federal minister of the interior), Theo Geissler (from the music magazine Neue Musik-Zeitung), and Walter-Wolfgang Sparrer (president of the Isang Yun International Society and known as the guardian of Isang Yun).

The delivery ceremony for the honorary membership certificate was held on a stage in Plantage 13 in Bremen, the city where Pagh-Paan lives, on Dec. 3. Ulrike Liedtke, vice president of the DMR, handed her the certificate at the "Portrait Concert" held by Pagh-Paan's pupils and friends in honor of her 77th birthday.

"I've been composing music from my heart for a long time. Please listen to it with your hearts," she said to the audience, according to Dr. Noh Yoo-kyoung, who was present at the concert.

Pagh-Paan was born in Cheongju. After graduating from a Seoul National University graduate school, she was selected for a scholarship from the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (a first for any Korean) and left to study in Germany in 1974.

In 1980, she was the first woman to be invited to the dream stage of the Donaueschingen Festival, and in 1994, she was the first woman in any German-speaking country to become a full professor of a music university (the University of the Arts Bremen). She even served as the vice president of this university before retiring in 2011.

In 2020, she was the first female Asian to receive the "GroBer Kunstpreis Berlin," the most prestigious art award in Germany that is given every six years. In the European region, she is considered to have established herself as "a second Isang Yun." The Korean Cultural Center in Germany established an "International Younghi Pagh-Paan Composer's Award" in her honor. 🇰🇷



South Korean politician Yoo Jae-geon, defendant of Korean American Chol Soo Lee, passes away

Published book 'Songs Sung Together,' describing events of 2009

South Korean politician Yoo Jae-geon (pen name Hyecheon), who proved the innocence of a Korean American falsely accused of murder while studying in the United States, passed away from old age at Samsung Medical Center on Dec. 1. He was 85 years old.

Born in Seoul, he attended Kyunggi High School, as well as the Department of Political Science & International Studies at Yonsei University, before leaving to study in the U.S., where he received a doctor of law degree at the University of California in 1977. From 1977-1989, he worked as a federal community lawyer in the U.S., and from 1982-1990, he operated a law firm.

Yoo became involved in Chol Soo Lee's case in 1977, when he was studying for the bar. Lee was arrested as a suspect in the case of the killing of a gang leader in Chinatown in San Francisco in June 1973. He was sentenced to life in prison for first degree murder. In 1977, while serving his sentence, he received a death sentence in a separate trial for allegations of murdering a white gang member who tried to kill him.

But as an Asian youth group in San Francisco began to lobby for his innocence, the Sacramento Union reporter Lee Kyeon-won delved into the truth of the case with Yoo, bringing about a turning point.

After an interview with Lee, Yoo became certain that the first case had been wrongly handled. In 1977, he formed the Chol Soo Lee Defense Committee, after which he scoured trial records to prove that Lee had been a victim of seven unconstitutional trial procedures.

This case was aided by Lee Kyeon-won's expose and the participation of the Asian community centered around San Francisco, including the third-generation Japanese American Ranko Yamada. The prestigious American human rights lawyer Leonard Weinglass took up Lee's defense for free, and Koreans living in America placed in similar straits to Lee's own collected



Former member of the National Assembly Yoo Jae-geon, who recently passed away



Chol Soo Lee (L), who was arrested on charges of murdering a gang leader in the United States and sentenced to death, reunites with Yoo Jae-geon after 17 years on April 6, 2007, in Los Angeles. Yoo had previously lobbied for Chol's innocence for six years. On the right is Byeon Hong-jin, former editor-in-chief of The Korea Times.

US\$200,000 in donations. In this way, this case served to bring the minority groups living in the U.S. together.


On Sept. 3, 1982, Lee was finally declared innocent. The second trial that had resulted in his death sentence was also annulled in 1983, and Lee was released from prison. This case was recorded as the first combined victory of minority groups in the history of the U.S. Yoo recorded the details of this case in his book "Songs Sung Together," published in 2009.

After returning to Korea in 1990, he hosted the "MBC Current Affairs Debate" until 1993. He also hosted the "KBS 1TV Night Debate" from 1993-1995. Through the suggestion of Lee Jong-chan, former head of the National Intelligence Service and a fellow student of Kyunggi High School, he joined the National Congress for New Politics in 1995, where he was named external vice president of the party.

Yoo was viewed as a promising candidate for the nationwide constituency during the 15th general election in 1996, but he ran for a regional constituency (Seongbuk-gap, Seoul) and was elected. He was greatly trusted by Kim Dae-jung, serving as his top aide in the party from 1997-

1999. Yoo was also Kim's aide when he was later elected as president of South Korea.

Yoo ran for the same constituency in the 16th general election in 2000 as a candidate of the Democratic Party and was elected. In 2003, he joined the Uri Party. He was elected as a lawmaker for the third time in the 17th general election in 2004. He was also the president of Hostelling International Korea, as well as the Korea National Federation of UNESCO Clubs & Associations in 2009.

In recognition of his formation of a student volunteer army with his college friend Yi Man-sop (1932-2015) in 1956, when the Soviet Union attacked Hungary (Yoo was in his first year of college at the time), he received the Hungarian Cross of Merit in 2006. 

Korean American Hannah Kim becomes adviser for White House chief of staff

Former deputy assistant secretary for health care 'will contribute to enhancing ROK-US relations'

Korean American Hannah Kim (39, Korean name: Kim Ye-jin), former deputy assistant secretary for health care in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, was selected as the policy adviser for Asian Pacific Americans under the White House chief of staff.


"I will be working as the policy adviser for Asian Pacific Americans under the White House chief of staff starting Jan. 2," Kim told Korean press recently. "I will be cooperating with the Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community to advance the president's agenda and provide advice on domestic and foreign policies that will have an impact on this community. I am happy to be able to contribute to the enhancement of ROK-US relations and raising the status of Koreans."

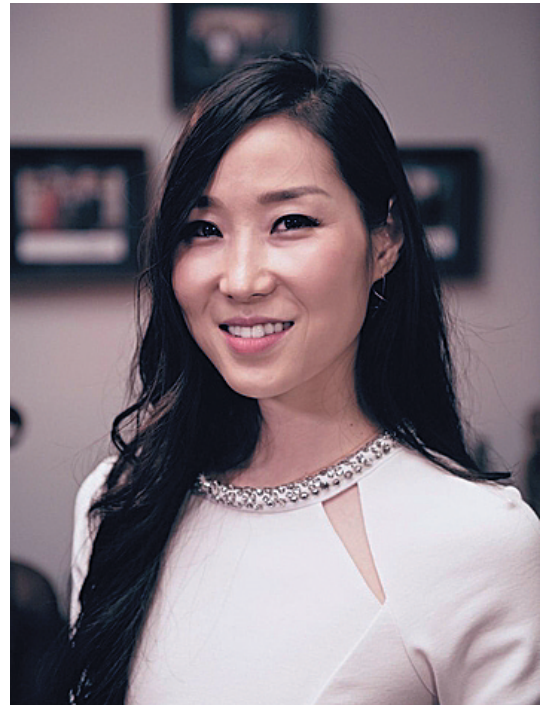
In the United States, there are currently 24 million Asian Americans, as well as 1.6 million native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. The Asian American community grew by over 35 percent over the past 10 years, showing a rapid growth rate.

Kim had been the deputy assistant secretary for health care in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs since July 2021. From July to December last year, she was a strategic adviser for the COVID Public Education Campaign. Kim was a senior aide to U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel, who was a pro-Korean representative that served in office from 2009-2016. She focused on projects that showed appreciation for veterans of the Korean War and mourned their losses.

She contributed to the designation of a commemorative day for veterans of the Korean War and founded Remember727, a group of Korean immigrant youth dedicated to honoring Korean War veterans and holding candlelight vigils for peace.

She visited 26 countries around the world for four months, starting in January 2017, meeting around 200 Korean War veterans and thanking them. She also met veterans throughout the 50 states of the U.S. and offered flowers to veterans' memorials in 70 cities.

She immigrated to the U.S. when she was 6. After attending elementary, middle and high school in the country, she returned to Korea where she majored in English at Seoul National University. She then studied at the UCLA Anderson School of Management before acquiring her master's degree at the George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management. 



Hannah Kim, the new policy adviser for Asian Pacific Americans under the White House chief of staff





Happy New Year with K-pop, New York's New Year's celebration finally returns after 3 years

With COVID-19 regulations removed, 1 million celebrators gathered despite rain

The New Year's Eve festival in New York recovered its original glory for the first time in three years. K-pop stars performed to celebrate the occasion, showing how much growth K-pop has achieved over the years. For the past two years, the Times Square Ball Drop in New York had been under the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic. But this year, it was held normally without any restrictions.

Rain fell intermittently, accompanied by thick fog, starting on the morning of Dec. 31, 2022. But that didn't stop the 1 million tourists and citizens out to enjoy the world's most famous New Year's celebration. A cold wave that had overtaken the Christmas holiday the previous week had faded away, and the temperature had risen to above 10 C.

Celebrators began streaming into the site to find a good spot in the early afternoon, filling up the Times Square area. As the rain intensified around 8 p.m., they put on raincoats, waterproof jackets

and hats as they stood their ground.

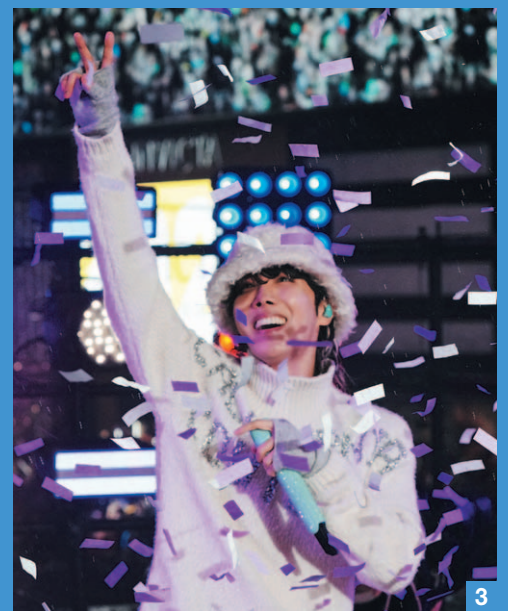
The New York Police Department kept traffic throughout Midtown Manhattan, keeping tight security by performing body checks at key checkpoints. But there were no regulations regarding COVID-19. In contrast, on the last day of 2020, those who had worked on the front lines of the pandemic, such as doctors, nurses and deliverymen, were invited to a private event. And in 2021, the number of celebrators was limited to 15,000, and all participants were required to be vaccinated and to wear masks.

J-hope of BTS performs in Times Square TXT gives New Year's performance in LA

A star-studded lineup of artists that performed prior to the New Year's countdown included two entire teams of K-pop artists. One such star, J-hope, returned to ABC's "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve" for the first time in three years.



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J-hope was ushered to the stage by the host of the festival and media personality Ryan Seacrest, and amid the intensifying rain, he sang “=,” “Chicken Noodle Soup” and “Butter” as the crowd went wild.

Fans waved inflated green sticks in the air and raised Korean signs that read, “We love you,” welcoming j-hope as a solo artist rather than as a member of BTS. This was the third time a Korean artist has performed on the Times Square New Year’s stage, following Psy in 2012 and BTS in 2019.

Prior to j-hope, Tomorrow X Together (TXT) performed on the Disneyland stage in Los Angeles on the same TV show to much applause. This program was held live, switching between various locations in the United States.

‘Auld Lang Syne’ and ‘New York, New York’ play as participants celebrate New Year

The New Year’s programs of ABC and other major broadcasting companies featured prestigious pop stars, including Duran Duran, New Edition, Jax, Wiz Khalifa, Halle Bailey, Ellie Goulding, Usher, Ava Max and Patti LaBelle.

After all the performances were over, a 60-second countdown began for the end of 2022 and start of 2023. The crystal ball installed on the 26th floor rooftop of the One Times Square building, with a diameter of 3.7 meters, was slowly lowered in time with the countdown, and the excitement reached its peak.

When the crystal ball, decorated with approximately 2,600 Waterford triangular crystal panels and 32,000 LED lights, reached the bottom, the sign that read “2022” changed to “2023.” In addition, 1 ton of confetti was released into the air.

As “Auld Lang Syne” and Frank Sinatra’s “New York, New York” played in turn, the participants shouted “Happy New Year,” and hugged and kissed each other. 🎉

Kang Geon-taek, New York correspondent for Yonhap News Agency



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- 1 Participants get ready to celebrate the New Year in Times Square, New York, on Dec. 31, 2022.
- 2 Police maintain control in Times Square as thick rain falls.
- 3 J-hope of BTS performs for the New Year’s festival in Times Square.
- 4 J-hope of BTS gestures to the audience, with emcee Ryan Seacrest standing beside him, on the main stage of the celebration.
- 5 A screen in Times Square displays the time and indicates the start of the new year.

Steven Koh, honorary president of World-OKTA, continues 18-year streak of donating US\$100,000 annually

To be provided to 20 nonprofits; Koh Charitable Foundation founded with \$5 million in 2004

Steven Koh (77), honorary president of the Bank of Hope (a top Korean American bank), as well as the World Federation of Overseas Korean Traders Association (World-OKTA), donated US\$100,000 again last year.

Ever since Koh founded the Koh Charitable Foundation in 2004 using \$5 million of his private funds, he has donated \$100,000 every year for 18 years.

Last year, he provided support not only for the underprivileged but for organizations that support developing nations as well. Twenty organizations were given funds ranging from \$1,000 to \$20,000.

"This year, I've newly selected organizations that provide support to Third World countries, which suffered relatively more from the lengthening COVID-19 pandemic," Koh said on Dec. 21 in a phone call with the press. "I hope that these donations will serve as a small but substantial hope for the underprivileged in Third World countries whose survival is threatened."

Recipients of his donations include the following organizations: the Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE), an emergency relief institution founded by the Hollywood actor and director Sean Penn; PIME Missionaries, which run special projects to provide clean water,

electricity and other necessities for survival to Third World countries; and Worldwide Orphans, which helps children overcome the trauma of conflict, disaster and poverty.

Koh, who was born in Busan, studied business administration at Yonsei University and joined Yonhap Steel, a newly founded steel company at the time, where he learned sales and trade. In 1971, his third year of working at Yonhap Steel, he immigrated to the United States and founded a steel company of his own, the Pacific Steel Corp.

In May, he published "A Lonely Challenge, Beyond the American Dream" (JEL Corp.) in Korea.



Steven Koh, honorary president of World-OKTA and the Bank of Hope, a Korean American bank

Short film about 120 years of Korean immigration history in the U.S., 'Songs of Love from Hawaii,' shown in Incheon

Directed by Korean Hawaiian Lee Jin-young, with plans to submit it to international documentary festival

"Songs of Love from Hawaii-Their Footsteps," a short musical film containing the 120 years of Korean immigration history to the United States, has been gathering attention.

The movie, with a running time of 13 minutes, has been on display in a second-floor display room of the Incheon City Museum (director Yoo Dong-hyeon) since Dec. 15. This museum will be showing this movie until Feb. 5, as part of "Pyeongdo," an exhibition that celebrates 120 years of official Korean immigration to the U.S.

"I often see people crying after seeing the movie," director Yoo said. "It allows people to deeply empathize, both visually and spatially, with these 120 years."



The short film "Songs of Love from Hawaii" is displayed on the second floor of the Incheon City Museum.

"Songs of Love from Hawaii-Their Footsteps" was directed by an overseas Korean living in Hawaii, Lee Jin-young. He was the director of a documentary film also about Korean immigration to the U.S., "Words of Wisdom From the Rainbow State."

"In 'Words of Wisdom From the Rainbow State,' I tried to be as factual as possible about Korean immigration," he said in a phone call with the press. "In this second film, I wanted to use the emotional language of music to record the shining footsteps of the Korean diaspora."

The week before it was shown in Incheon, a preview of the film was held on a Korean Navy ship with cadets in attendance.

Korean associations all over world to support exports of agricultural and fishery products from mother country

World Assembly of Korean Associations and aT sign relevant work agreement

Korean associations all over the world have agreed to expand the exports of South Korea's agricultural and fishery products. The World Assembly of Korean Associations (President Shim Sang-man) signed a memorandum of understanding for the "expansion of low-carbon eating campaigns and exports of Korean agricultural and fishery products" with the Korea Agro-Fisheries & Food Trade Corp. (President Kim Chun-jin) on Nov. 30 last year.

Accordingly, businesses and Korean associations around the world will actively cooperate to promote and expand the exports of Korean agricultural and food products.

The World Assembly of Korean Associations, founded in October last year, represents around 500 Korean associations from around the world. Its members consist of the presidents of these associations. It was founded to pursue increased status for Koreans all around the world and contribute to the development of the Korean community by expanding various collaborative efforts with South Korea.

The World Assembly of Korean Associations declared at a first founding

anniversary workshop held at the Songdo Convensia Convention Center in Incheon on Oct. 7 that they would create a global platform for the joint prosperity of humanity and Koreans worldwide.

President Shim and Yoo Je-heon, the president of the Association of Korean Residents in Europe, announced at the ceremony that they would be establishing a worldwide Korean association network, vitalizing public diplomacy activities for the enhancement of Korean associations' capabilities, as well as research and foreign cooperation, to handle the long-standing wishes of the overseas Korean community.



President Shim Sang-man of the World Assembly of Korean Associations (L) and President Kim Chun-jin of the Korea Agro-Fisheries & Food Trade Corp. (aT) take a photograph on Nov. 31, 2022, after signing a memorandum of understanding regarding the "expansion of low-carbon eating campaigns and exports of Korean agricultural and fishery products."

Yoon Jin-hee of 'Kim's Convenience' selected as PR ambassador to celebrate 60 years of ROK-Canada diplomacy

Kim Yuna, gold medal winner at Vancouver Winter Olympics, named honorary ambassador

The South Korean Embassy in Canada revealed on Dec. 12 that the Korean Canadian actress Yoon Jin-hee, who appeared in the sitcom "Kim's Convenience," had been selected as a publicity ambassador in celebration of 60 years of diplomatic relations between South Korea and Canada.

"Kim's Convenience," produced by the CBC in Canada, was so popular that an international petition appeared to continue the program after it ended last year. In the sitcom, which deals with the story of a Korean immigrant family, Yoon played the part of Mrs. Yong-mi Kim.

"Yoon's journey in Canada was a ray of hope to the Korean immigrants living in Canada," Lim Woong-soon, the ambassador of South Korea to Canada, said. "We're honored to be able to name her as a publicity ambassador in celebration of the 60 years of relations between the two countries. She is a symbol of the personal interchanges between the countries."

"I'm learning the Korean language so that I don't forget Korea, where my parents were born and raised," Yoon said. "It is a very meaningful thing for me that my activities help bring the countries together."

On the same day, the South Korean Embassy in Canada also selected

the "Figure Queen" Kim Yuna, who won the gold medal at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver in 2010, as the honorary ambassador of the 60th anniversary.

The embassy stated in their press release that Kim would be taking part in various activities to promote the friendship between Canada and South Korea for the next year. The appointment ceremony was held in the Canadian Embassy in South Korea, located in Jung Ward, Seoul.

"I feel a personal connection to Canada," Kim said, according to the embassy. "I trained for a long time in the country while I was an athlete, and it's also where I won my Olympic gold medal."

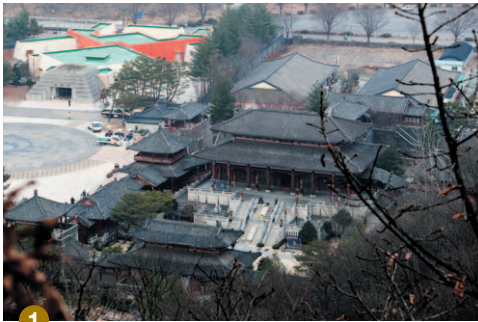
South Korea and Canada established diplomatic relations in 1963, and this year marks the 60th anniversary.



Yoon Jin-hee of "Kim's Convenience" fame, who was selected as a publicity ambassador in celebration of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between South Korea and Canada

Ondalsan Fortress in Danyang, a fierce battleground of Three Kingdoms

Very well-preserved structure provides excellent views of Sobaek Mountain, Namhan River



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- 1 The Ondal Tourist Area in Danyang, where the Ondaldong Cave, the Ondal Exhibition Hall and a drama filming set are located
- 2 The northern wall of Ondalsan Fortress, where a drain is visible in the wall
- 3 A statue of Gen. Ondal, situated in the Ondal Tourist Area
- 4 A view of the wall of Ondalsan Fortress in Danyang and the Namhan River

South Korea has so many mountain fortresses it is sometimes referred to as “the country of mountain fortresses.” South of the central region alone, there are around 1,200 fortress sites. Ondalsan Fortress, in Ha-ri, Yeongchun-myeon, Danyang County, North Chungcheong Province, is one of the best preserved of these locations and also offers beautiful views.

Ondalsan Fortress is known as the place where Gen. Ondal (? - A.D. 590) met his demise, the site of fierce territorial battles between the Three Kingdoms -- Goguryeo, Silla and Baekje. According to oral accounts, Ondal was a fool who married Princess Pyeonggang, daughter of Pyeongwon of Goguryeo. He diligently applied himself to learning and the martial arts, later becoming a brave general.

Ondalsan Fortress is located on a site that features both a mountain and a river. From atop the fortress, one can view the blue Namhan River flowing around it in a broad arc. Above are the peaks of Sobaek Mountain, seemingly overlapping each other.

Danyang has long been known for its fantastic scenery; as a case in point, well-known tourist spots have been dubbed the “Eight Views of Danyang.” These comprise Dodam Sam Peak, Seok Gate, Gudam Peak, Oksun Peak, Sangseon Rock, Haseon Rock, Jeongseon Valley and Sain Cliff. There is a second set of “Eight Views of Danyang,” which refer to the Buk Wall, Geumsu Mountain, Chilseong Cliff, Ilgwang Cave, Jungnyeong Falls, Ondalsan Fortress, Dariansan Bridge and the Gubongpalmun (nine peaks and eight gates).

The Juk-ryeong Hill Old Trail, which has run from Yeongnam to Gyeonggi and Chungcheong since the era of the Three Kingdoms, and the Sobaek Mountain Jarak Trail, which provides an unmatched view of the imposing Sobaek Mountain, are also scenic spots that can't be left out. Even with all these beautiful locations, the view from Ondalsan Fortress provides a refreshing pleasure like no other.

Ondalsan Fortress was not built as an observatory, of course. It was built over a cliff near the southern shore of the Namhan River for the purpose of establishing dominance over the land, and the scenic beauty was a natural consequence.

Where Three Kingdoms fought tooth and nail

In the era of the Three Kingdoms, Goguryeo, Silla and Baekje fought fiercely over the Namhan River, which was located in a border region. The North Chungcheong Province, including Danyang, was a border region where the edges of all three kingdoms met. This led to increased hostilities. Ondalsan Fortress was also a location that had been conquered multiple times as they vied with one another.



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Ondalsan Fortress is located at the end of a steep path, 30 minutes by foot from the Ondal Tourist Area. The area, which was created based on the story of Gen. Ondal and Princess Pyeonggang, contains the Ondaldong Cave, the Ondal Exhibition Hall, a drama filming set and other attractions.

The sloping path is filled with wooden stairs from beginning to end, making the trip a breeze. The left side of the path, which does not overlook the Namhan River like the right side, falls off into a steep cliff. The path was probably very narrow before the stairs were made.

When the sheer cliff causes dizziness, the blood spilt around 1,500 years ago by soldiers attempting to conquer this key location and the sweat shed by the residents who built the fortress seem all the more precious. The steep path that leads to Ondalsan Fortress bore witness to the life and death of many ancestors.

The fortress, built with great balance and strength, has an aesthetic quality about it despite its military nature. Despite its age, it is generally well preserved with the exception of about 100 meters of damage on the western side. This is owing to its sturdy construction.

The walls, made with relatively thin (5-15 centimeters in thickness) and shapely stones, sport a vintage charm. The stones used to construct the fortress are 70 cm across and 40 cm high. Ondalsan Fortress is a “toeme type” stone fortress built on top of a mountain 427 m above sea level. It is 683 m in circumference, which is not a small size. A toeme type fortress is one that wraps around the peak

of a mountain.

There are three gates, one each in the east, south and north. The eastern gate has a curved shape due to the topography, a design rarely found among Korea's old fortresses. At the northern gate are fortifications jutting out from parts of the wall, created to defend against enemy attacks.

Known as place where ‘Ondal the Fool’ died

Ondalsan Fortress has a high elevation toward the south and a lower one toward the north. Close to the northern gate, which has the lowest elevation, there is a drain that lets out water from inside the fortress. Records describe a well having been inside the fortress as well, but research teams have not yet located it.

Ondal, who was a general of Goguryeo, attacked Adan Fortress in order to recover Jungnyeong Pass and Gyeribnyeong, which had been conquered by Baekje, then taken back by Silla. “Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms” states he was killed under the fortress walls while fighting the Silla army. There have been claims that Adan Fortress was actually Ahasan Fortress, near Gwangnaru, Seoul, but the most compelling theory is that it was located in Yeongchun-myeon, Danyang. As Ondalsan Fortress is located in Yeongchun-myeon, it is currently believed to have been the site of Ondal's death.

There is another legend about Gen. Ondal in Yeongchun-myeon -- the port in Sang-ri, Yeongchun-myeon, is regarded as the site of his funeral. As the story goes, Ondal's coffin refused to be moved during his funeral and only did so when Princess Pyeonggang touched it.

The exact date Ondalsan Fortress was built is unknown. It is assumed, however, that it had lost all function as a fortress by the Joseon period since Danyang was at the heart of the Joseon territory at the time. A fortress located so deep within the country would not have had much significance as a defensive fortress.

Ondalsan Fortress is well worth the effort of visiting. It is regarded as one of Korea's greatest fortresses, along with Samnyeon San Fortress, in Boeun, North Chungcheong Province, and Gyeonhwonsan Fortress in Sangju, North Gyeongsang Province. Among them, Ondalsan Fortress is the one that has the most scenic views and possesses an intrinsic beauty in the construction. 장

2023 budget for OKF confirmed; focus on nurturing overseas Korean talent by expanding projects for younger Koreans abroad

The 2023 budget for the Overseas Koreans Foundation was finalized at 63.05 billion won. The budget for educating the youth was increased by 720 million won, in consideration of the generational shift occurring in the overseas Korean community.

Projects for the overseas Korean community in 2023, such as support for Korean associations, educational projects, and investigation and research projects, are similar to those last year.

“The budget was created in consideration of innovations in public institutions being performed by the new administration and the establishment of an overseas Korean service,” a representative from the foundation said.



The Overseas Koreans Foundation headquarters on Jeju Island

OKF delivers care packages to 3,000 repatriated Koreans from Sakhalin

Rice and other necessities delivered since 1998

The Overseas Koreans Foundation, in celebration of the end of the year, delivered care packages to 3,000 permanently repatriated Koreans from Sakhalin, who live in various regions of South Korea, on Dec. 15.

President Kim Seong-gon, as well as executives and employees of the foundation, visited Gohyang Village in Ansan, Gyeonggi Province, the Southeast Sakhalin Center in Incheon, and similar places to look around the facilities and hand out gifts, containing basic necessities and health supplements.

“I hope that our small gifts will serve as a small consolation and aid as you spend your later years here,” President Kim said. Joo Hun-chun, the chief of Gohyang Village, said, “We are grateful for these gifts, filled with the love of our mother country.”

There are around 30,000 Koreans living in Sakhalin, as Koreans were forcibly conscripted to the coal mines and military facilities there during the Japanese occupation and were unable to return



Kim Seong-gon (C), president of the Overseas Koreans Foundation, and executives and employees visit repatriated Koreans from Sakhalin in Gohyang Village in Ansan, Gyeonggi Province, on Dec. 15, 2022.

after the war ended in 1945. Some of them have returned to Korea thanks to Korea and Japan's permanent repatriation project for Koreans in Sakhalin that began in 1994. They now live in cities that include Incheon, Ansan, Paju, Busan and Namyangju.

The foundation has been donating rice and other necessities to these overseas Koreans yearly since 1998.

OKF set to aid repatriated multicultural children from Vietnam

At most 20,000 placed in welfare blind spot

The Overseas Koreans Foundation stated on Jan. 3 it will launch a “Korean-Vietnamese Multicultural Children Support Project” to help Vietnamese women who return to their home country with their children after divorcing Korean men. According to statistics from the National Statistical Office, as of the end of 2017, there were 92,414 international marriages between Koreans and Vietnamese. Of these marriages, 18,324 have ended in divorce, and 87 percent of the Vietnamese women have returned to their home country.

The foundation is aware of at most 20,000 multicultural children who returned to Vietnam with their mothers. Most of them have visa waivers and extend their periods of stay every three to six months as they have a Korean nationality or have temporary permits that last them one to three years. Because their legal status is uncertain, they cannot receive health insurance or educational benefits they are entitled to as Koreans and cannot receive regular school education in Vietnam either.

For these reasons, the foundation will be launching a project to



Park Hang-seo (C, in white shirt) takes a picture with participants of his “Park Hang-seo’s Korean-Vietnamese Multicultural Soccer Class for Children” in Can Tho, Vietnam.

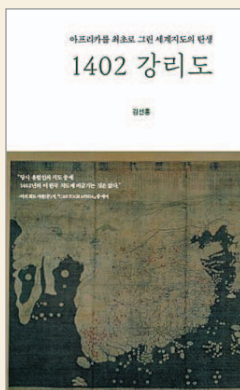
create a system to guarantee the basic rights of Korean-Vietnamese multicultural children. This will also help establish their sense of identity and boost their sense of pride. The Korea-Vietnam Care Center and the UN Center for United Nations Human Rights Policy, located in Can Tho, a city with many Vietnamese women who have returned from Korea after divorce, will receive support for their projects.

In addition, private organizations will be able to provide care services that guarantee the basic rights of Korean-Vietnamese children, legal counsel and rescue activities, Korean education (e.g. Korean language camps), a guardian network for such children and other aid.

The foundation will take applications from private organizations that wish to apply until Jan. 22 through the Korean Net website (www.korean.net).

“Such multicultural children belong neither to Vietnam nor Korea, and are in a welfare blind spot,” a foundation representative said. “We will continue to support them so that they can become talented individuals who can connect the two countries.”

Overseas Koreans Foundation’s Book Recommendations



‘1403 Gangnido’

Kim Seon-heung / Four-Leaf Clover Publishing

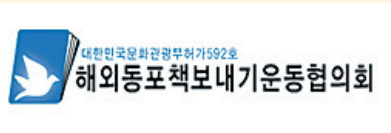
The Honil Gangni Yeokdae Gukdo Ji Do is a colored world map created in 1402, during the early Joseon period, by the civil officials Yi Hoe, Kim Sa-hyeong and Yi Mu. The map includes Asia, Europe and Africa. After this map was rediscovered in Kyoto, Japan, in the early 20th century, it has become the object of much praise and research. A combined effort between multiple countries to research the map has been ongoing for a while, but the mother country that produced the map has remained relatively silent. The newly released book that set out to break that silence, “1403 Gangnido: the First World Map That Drew Africa,” is about the 17 years of research on the map not by a geographer but by former diplomat Kim Seon-heung. This book requests that Gangnido be seen with new eyes and imparts more meaning to it than a simple map. Readers are invited to study this special map with new eyes.





Adviser Oh Jin-ha elected Sakhalin Korean Association president Oh Jin-ha (70) was selected as the president of the Sakhalin Korean Association. According to New Korea News, a local paper, Oh defeated two other candidates in a vote held at the Korean Cultural Center in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. “We will continue to take an active stance in succeeding and disseminating Korean and the Korean culture,” said Oh, who has been an adviser for the association since 2011. “We will also move forward to bring health checks and treatment for not only first-generation but also for second-generation and third-generation participants.” Oh named the previous president, Park Soon-ok, as the vice president. After graduating from Irkutsk State University, Oh took an advanced training process for leaders of companies and institutions in Moscow. He started working for a company that produced fly ash bricks and worked his way up to factory manager, taking the position when he was 39. He continued to work for 15 more years. He was selected as a member of the Sakhalin Oblast Duma and contributed to the creation of a Korean consular office in Sakhalin in 2007.

Global Korean Solidarity distributes Korean calendars with lunar dates to overseas Koreans in Sakhalin The Global Korean Solidarity (KIN) recently created and distributed calendars with lunar dates for Koreans living in Sakhalin, Russia, who have adhered to seasonal customs and traditions. KIN named the calendar “One-of-a-Kind Calendar 2023.” Funded by donations, 3,300 copies were printed. The calendar displays Korean national holidays, including Seol, Chuseok and Korean food days, as well as lunar calendar days often mentioned in everyday life, such as Days without Evil. Russian commentary was added for overseas Koreans who can’t read the language, and the translation and review was performed with the help of the Sakhalin branch office of the ROK consulate general in Vladivostok. The Overseas Koreans Foundation and Nonghyup Life Insurance Co., Ltd. funded the creation and distribution of the calendars.



Association for Sending Books to Overseas Koreans donates 3,000 books to Chicago and other locations The Association for Sending Books to Overseas Koreans (President Son Seok-woo) sent 3,000 books written in Korean to a public library in Cincinnati, Ohio, and a Montessori high school in the Chicago area, consisting of children’s books, history books and other kinds of books. “Korean books are the soul of South Korea for young overseas Koreans,” said President Son Seok-woo in the send-off ceremony. “I hope this will serve as a small gift for Christmas.”

Health consultations for Koreans in South Africa Health consultations for Koreans living in South Africa were held at a Korean church in Johannesburg from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 6. According to the South Africa Korean Association (President Jeon So-young), treatment and consultations were hosted by the Korean Christian Medical & Dental Association, the Rosetta Hall Memorial Society and the Future Africa Foundation. Koreans living in other African regions, not only those in Africa, were included in the consultations.



Hanoi Korean Association in Vietnam publishes ‘30-Year History of ROK-Vietnam Diplomatic Relations’ The Hanoi Korean Association (President Jang Eun-sook) recently published a book titled “The 30-Year History of ROK-Vietnam Diplomatic Relations.” This book, subtitled “The history of Koreans in Vietnam, in an age of pioneering and harmony,” was written by Koreans with 30 years of first-hand experience living in Vietnam ever since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1992. The book consists of five chapters: development history of Koreans in Vietnam by era, development history of diplomacy, economy, culture, education and religion, development history of the Hanoi Korean Association and other institutions, a life story in Hanoi and stories of successful Korean business expansion. South Korea is currently one of Vietnam’s top three trade partners, with over 70 trillion won invested. The Korean community of Vietnam has grown to around 150,000 people. The publishing party was held on the 29th floor of the Grand Plaza Hotel in Vietnam on Jan. 12.

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

OKF's 2023 'demand survey for support projects regarding activities of organizations related to overseas Koreans' to begin



The foundation's "demand survey for support projects regarding activities of organizations related to overseas Koreans" will now begin. Candidates for support are projects by Korean private organizations, such as nongovernmental organizations, for the following: the vitalization of overseas Korean-related exchanges or extension of interests of overseas Koreans, projects for the vitalization of exchanges

and harmony between Chinese Koreans in Korea or between Russian/CIS Koreans, and projects for the improvement of the Korean identity for young overseas Koreans residing in South Korea. Applications can be made online through the Korean Net website (www.korean.net) until Feb. 16.

Please see the announcement on the Overseas Koreans Foundation's website to learn more.

Schedules of Overseas Koreans Foundation executives in JANUARY 2023

President Kim Seong-gon

Jan. 5: Meeting with Choi Won-sik, former president of the Australian Korean Association

Jan. 6-18: Trips to Japan and the United States

Jan. 19: Meeting with Katsutoshi Takeda, consul general of Japan, on Jeju Island

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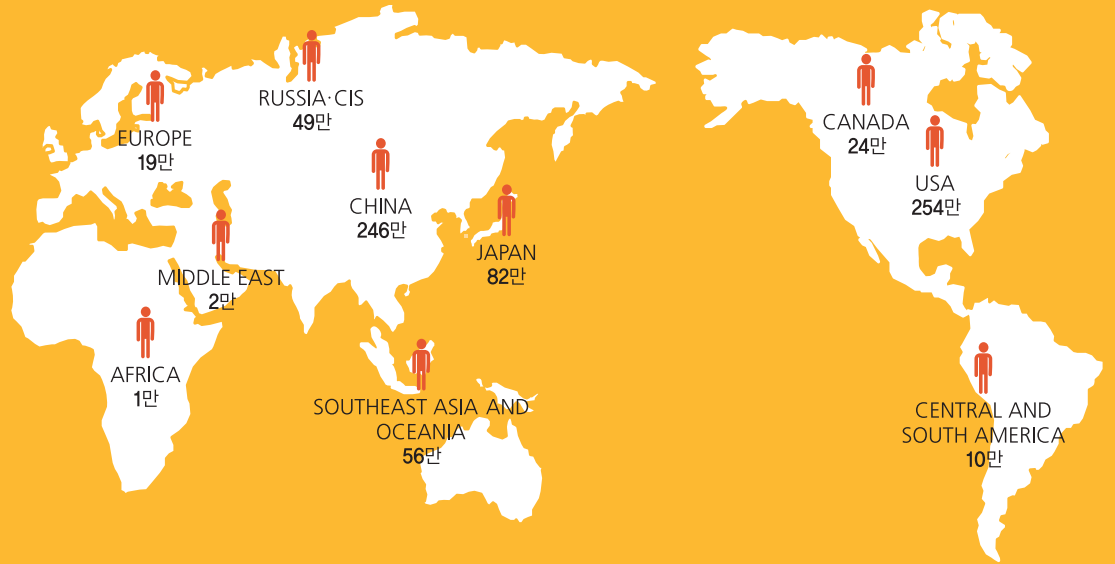


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