



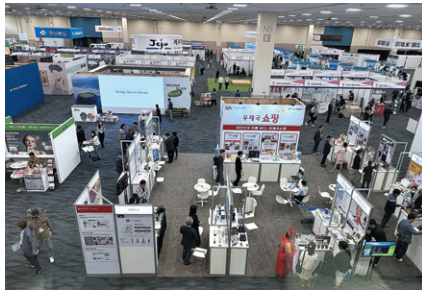
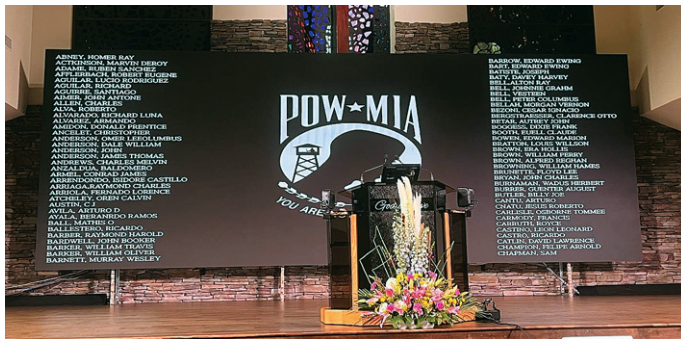
Special Article - 2023 World Korean Business Convention achieves record-breaking results: US\$570 million in export consultations

Special Feature - Overseas Korean population decreased from 7.32 million to 7.08 million in 2 years

First lady Kim Keon Hee invited Korean Women Residents Union in Japan for tea party; 'strengthening Korea-Japan cooperation'

Newsworthy Topic - James Ahn, president of LA Korean American Association, helps Koreans in Ukraine: 'I feel a great sense of compatriotism'

Korean War missing in action memorial event in Houston; 'sacrifices must be remembered'



Opening speech of 2023 Global Korean Politicians Forum



Yonah Martin,
president of the Global Korean Politicians Council

Hello everyone. As chair and on behalf of the executive of the council, welcome to the 9th Global Korean Politicians Forum (GKPC)!

Let me take a moment to acknowledge a true champion who is also a member of the executive of the GKPC, Mark Keam, who valiantly overcame near insurmountable health challenges and is here with us today.

Also, I would like to thank the leadership and dedication of the Overseas Koreans Cooperation Center and the dedicated staff who worked behind the scenes to ensure the success of this year's forum. This would not have been possible without all of you.

The growth of Korean culture, such as K-pop, K-drama and K-food, has become a source of pride for overseas Koreans, and I believe that the Overseas Koreans Agency is a significant development and step forward to listen to the voices of the more than 7 million people in the Korean diaspora, and for Korea and overseas Koreans to grow together.

Launched in 2007 to connect politicians of Korean descent, our Global Korean Politicians Council has continued to grow and evolve for more than a decade. This year's attendance of more than 70 participants is proof of this growth.

As a council, we have much to celebrate since we last saw one another at the sixth term election of MP Melissa Lee of New Zealand, the historic election of Sylvia Luke as the 16th lieutenant governor of Hawaii, the promotion of MPP Stan Cho to the minister of long-term care in the province of Ontario, Canada, and the winners of several other reelections and first-time elections! You know who you are! Congratulations!

And most importantly for all of us, 2023 is also the 70th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. We must never forget all those who served and sacrificed their lives during the war so that today's Korea can stand proudly among the strongest economies of the world.

During the forum, I hope that you can share your insights on the role of politicians and leaders of Korean descent around the world, and ways for future generations to grow into deep-rooted trees that thrive in their respective countries while also feeling deep pride in their Korean ethnicity. This K-spirit and pride in our shared Korean history, heritage and culture will strengthen our network and empower us to be the bridge between Korea and our respective nations.

Our network is indeed our net worth. Thank you.





02 Preface	Opening speech of 2023 Global Korean Politicians Forum Yonah Martin, president of the Global Korean Politicians Council
04 Special Article	2023 World Korean Business Convention achieves record-breaking results: US\$570 million in export consultations
06 Special Feature	Overseas Korean population decreased from 7.32 million to 7.08 million in 2 years First lady Kim Keon Hee invited Korean Women Residents Union in Japan for tea party; 'strengthening Korea-Japan cooperation'
08 Newsworthy Topic	James Ahn, president of LA Korean American Association, helps Koreans in Ukraine: 'I feel a great sense of compatriotism' Korean War missing in action memorial event in Houston; 'sacrifices must be remembered'
10 The Korean Connection	Hangeul Day celebrated across U.S.; LA City Council establishes Hangeul Day Hanbok Day held in U.S.; Andy Kim 'encouraged by efforts to find tradition'
12 Global Koreans	Executive Director Park Jong-beom elected new president of World-OKTA Kim Hyun-tae, CEO of hotel in Japan, elected second president of Overseas Korean Hotel Association Hyun Deok-soo, new chairman of Russia-CIS Assembly of Korean Associations, says, 'We will achieve harmony between overseas Koreans and Koryo-saram'
14 Meritorious Compatriots	Kim Han-yong, former president of Korean Chamber of Business in Vietnam, receives Dongbaek Medal
15 Next Generational Focus	Korean professor Moon Eui-jung develops cancer treatment using Flash radiation
16 Global Correspondence	Japan sees light of modern industrial heritage but ignores shadows
18 Compatriot News	NAOCK launch ceremony on Dec. 17; Kim Ho-rim inaugurated first president (3 other pieces included)
20 Cultural Heritage	Magnificent mountains, jewel-like hermitages; Inner Seorak and Oseam Temples and hermitages on Seorak Mountain, most famous mountain in Korea
22 OKA News	OKA-VANK sends video to overseas Koreans promoting Korea as 'world's 10th-largest economy' (2 other pieces included)
24 Compatriot Calendar	Korea Paper Culture Foundation & Shenyang Korean International School sign business agreement to 'nurture next generation of overseas Koreans' (3 other pieces included)
25 Column	How to foster Korean identity in next generation of Korean Japanese Lim Young-un, president of Korea Society of Overseas Koreans
26 Foundation Announcements	2023 World Korean Next Generation Congress and 2023 Korean Festival-THE NEXT to be held in Korea

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This magazine can also be viewed at <http://webzine.korean.net>



1

2023 World Korean Business Convention achieves record-breaking results: US\$570 million in export consultations

More than 7,800 entrepreneurs from 31 countries participated in first event to be held overseas

The 21st World Korean Business Convention, the first event of its kind to be held overseas by the Overseas Koreans Agency, has concluded with record-breaking results. Held at the Anaheim Convention Center in Orange County, California, from Oct. 11-14 under the theme of “Together with the U.S.-Korea Business Alliance, We Become a Bigger Us,” the event achieved a variety of accomplishments, including the largest number of Korean entrepreneurs participating, the first participation by a large Korean company and the largest export consultation value.

A record-breaking 7,825 entrepreneurs from 31 countries participated in the event, and the scale was expanded with the first participation of Korean

conglomerates, such as Samsung Electronics, Hyundai Motor Company, Posco and E-Mart. In addition, 15 local governments, including Incheon, Jeonbuk, Gyeongbuk, Gyeongnam and Jeju, joined, and the participating industries were diversified from trade and commerce to the finance, environment, culture and smart sectors. A total of 535 companies and local governments operated 650 exhibition booths, and through one-on-one business meetings and the Business Consultation Program, 17,200 meetings were held, resulting in record-breaking export consultations worth US\$572.6 million.

First participation of large domestic company
Success of business meetings, investment forums, startup contests

Local entrepreneurs and organizations, such as the U.S. Small Business

Development Center, and six state chambers of commerce in Los Angeles, Anaheim, New York and Arkansas also participated in the event and discussed expanding business exchanges with Korean companies and organizations. Despite the difficult environment of holding the event overseas for the first time, the diversity of business programs was well received by the participants.

At the Leading CEO Forum, Ko Seok-hwa, chairman emeritus of the Bank of Hope; Moon Dae-dong, chairman of Sammun Group; and Park Jong-beom, chairman of Youngsan Group, shared their successful know-how and management philosophies with the participants on the topics of “Attitude Determines Your Social Position,” “Overseas Korean Entrepreneurs Embracing the World” and “Challenging the World, Investing in the Future, and Contributing to Society,” respectively. In addition, a Capital Investment Forum, Startup Competition and Young Business Leaders Forum were held.

The event also saw a number of collaborations between Korean organizations and overseas compatriot organizations. MOUs were signed between the Small Business Market Promotion Agency and the Korean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the National Fisheries Cooperative Association and the LA Chapter of the Global Korean Trade Association, and the Yangsan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Orange County Korean Chamber of Commerce, expanding their networks.

Commissioner of OKA: ‘Leaving a positive precedent for overseas events with biggest achievement ever’

“We have achieved the biggest results ever by expanding the outreach of the Korean business network and laying the foundation for Korean SMEs to explore overseas markets, leaving a positive precedent for future overseas events,” Lee Key-cheol, commissioner of the OKA, said. “We will continue to support Korean SMEs so that business consultations can lead to practical contracts.”

Starting this year, World Korean Commerce Convention will be known as World Korean Business Convention

In July, the OKA changed the name of the World Korean Commerce Convention to the World Korean Business Convention. The steering committee of the event, which is chaired by the OKA, met on July 21 and decided to change the name of the 21st World Korean Commerce Convention.

In the early days of the event, which was named Hansang (韓商, Korean Commerce) after the Chinese word for business (華商), it was centered on trade and commerce, but in recent years, the participating industries have diversified to include manufacturing, the fourth industrial revolution, information technology, finance and cultural industries, and opinions have consistently been raised that a name change is necessary.

“As the competition is a win-win event where not only compatriots and domestic companies participate but also overseas local companies, we have changed the name to a more comprehensive and future-oriented name that fits the global era,” the Hansang Convention Steering Committee said.

However, this year’s event will also be known as the World Korean Commerce Convention for those who are familiar with the name Hansang. [한]



- 1 Participants cut the ribbon to mark the opening of the 21st World Korean Business Convention at the Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, California, on Oct. 11.
- 2 Participants pose for a photo during the opening press conference of the 21st World Korean Business Convention at the Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, California, on Oct. 11. From left to right, KISS Group Director Peter Won, World Korean Business Convention Chairman Ha Gi-hwan, OKA Commissioner Lee Key-cheol, Organizing Committee Chairman Hwang Byung-gu and Operations Director Noh Sang-il.
- 3 The company exhibition area at the 21st World Korean Business Convention
- 4 OKA Commissioner Lee Key-cheol delivers a farewell speech at the closing ceremony of the 21st World Korean Business Convention

Overseas Korean population decreased from 7.32 million to 7.08 million in 2 years

Number of people returning home increased due to COVID-19; 99% of decrease was in China

The population of overseas Koreans decreased by 3.3 percent (about 243,000 people) to 7.08 million compared with 7.32 million two years ago. The Overseas Koreans Agency (OKA) recently released the 2023 Status of Overseas Koreans (as of the end of 2022), which explains this status. Every odd-numbered year, the OKA checks the status of the overseas Korean population through diplomatic missions.

The status is estimated from official statistics and embassy surveys, including census and immigration data; civil service data, such as the Overseas Koreans Registration; and data from compatriot organizations. According to the data, there are 7,081,510 overseas Koreans residing in 181 countries.

Among them, there are 2,467,969 Koreans residing abroad and 4,613,541 Koreans with foreign nationality, which shows a decrease of 1.73 percent, or 43,552 people, and 4.15 percent, or 200,081 people, respectively, compared with the previous statistics. Among Koreans residing abroad, the number of international students was 151,116, a decrease of 20,227, or 11.8 percent, compared with two years ago, showing the largest decrease per category.

By country, the number of compatriots in China decreased by 240,695, which is 98.8 percent of the total decrease, as the number of people returning home increased due to the economic downturn during COVID-19. Additionally, due to the impact of the Russo-Ukrainian War, the number of overseas Koreans in Europe, including Russia and Ukraine, decreased by 20,907. On the other hand, the population in the South Asia-Pacific region increased by 31,070 people (6.35 percent), Central and South America by 12,462 people (13.8 percent), and Asia and the Middle East by 1,544 people (5.54 percent) due to the improving COVID-19 situation.

2023 Current Status of Overseas Koreans by Residency Status

Category	Total (persons)	Increase (persons)	Decrease/Increase (persons) Percentage (%)
Overseas Koreans			
Permanent residents	1,023,011	4,966	0.48
General residents	1,293,842	-28,291	-2.13
International students	151,116	-20,227	-11.80
Total	2,467,969	-43,552	-1.73
Foreign nationals (Citizens)	4,613,541	-200,081	-4.15

2023 Overseas Koreans by Region of Residence

Category	Total (persons) (Total percentage)	Increase (persons)	Decrease/Increase (persons) Percentage (%)
Northeast Asia	2,911,845 (41.12)	-257,442	-8.12
South Asia Pacific	520,490 (7.35)	31,070	6.35
North America	2,862,781 (40.43)	-8,360	-0.29
Central & South America	102,751 (1.45)	12,462	13.8
Europe	654,249 (9.24)	-22,907	3.38
Africa and Middle East	29,394 (0.42)	1,544	5.54

The top 10 countries with the largest number of Koreans residing abroad are the United States (2,615,419 people), China (2,109,727 people), Japan (802,118 people), Canada (247,362 people), Vietnam (178,122 people), Uzbekistan (174,490 people), Australia (159,771 people), Russia (124,811 people), Kazakhstan (121,130 people) and Germany (49,683 people). Vietnam, which was ranked eighth in the previous survey, rose three ranks to fifth, with an increase of 21,792 people. Russia fell two ranks from sixth to eighth with a decrease of 43,715 people due to the continuing war.

The 2023 Status of Overseas Koreans will be published as a booklet and distributed to major government agencies, universities, research institutes, public libraries and media organizations. It is hoped that it will be widely used as basic data not only for government policymaking but also for citizens' overseas travel and companies' overseas expansions. [창](#)

First lady Kim Keon Hee invited Korean Women Residents Union in Japan for tea party; ‘strengthening Korea-Japan cooperation’

Yoo Dae-young, chairman of central headquarters, “I can feel first-hand that Japan’s becoming more favorable toward Korea”

President Yoon Suk Yeol’s wife, Kim Keon Hee, invited executives of the Korean Women Residents Union in Japan to the President’s Office in Yongsan, Seoul, for a tea party on Oct. 11 to encourage their activities. Founded in 1949, the association is comprised of Korean women living in Japan. Currently, there are 100,000 active members in the central headquarters and 44 local headquarters. The association met with then President Park Geun-hye in 2014.

According to the president’s office, Kim met with the association’s executives, who visited Korea for a study trip to their home country, and encouraged them to keep up their activities. She also asked them to continue to revitalize Korea-Japan exchanges.

“As the daughter and mother of Korea, I thank you for working hard to promote our compatriot communities and exchanges between Korea and Japan,” Kim said at the tea party. “Korea and Japan have historically grown by both competing against and cooperating with each other. Please continue to pay attention so that the two countries can strengthen the bond of cooperation and have greater power in international society. I will do my best to help our compatriots, including Korean residents in Japan, so that you can work with greater pride and confidence.”


Attendees introduced various activities that could foster the friendship between Korea and Japan, such as Korean language lectures in Japan, cooking classes for Korean cuisine, a traditional kimchi-making experience and festivals for regional exchanges.

“Recently, Korea-Japan exchanges have become more active in various fields, and I can feel first-hand that Japan’s becoming more favorable toward Korea,” said Yoo Dae-young, president of the central headquarters of the association.

Hiroshima prefectural headquarters Chairman Cho Hyun-ja said,



“I felt great courage and comfort” about the first joint visit by Korean and Japanese leaders to the memorial to Korean atomic bomb victims at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park during the Group of 7 summit last May.

“The joint visit was President Yoon’s decision to provide strength to you by reestablishing Korea-Japan relations,” Kim said. 

1 First lady Kim Keon Hee listens to remarks on her activities in the association by Choi Geum-bun, adviser to the organization’s Tokyo headquarters and president of the central headquarters, at a tea party on Oct. 11.

2 First lady Kim Keon Hee takes a photo with the attendees after the tea party on Oct. 11.

James Ahn, president of LA Korean American Association, helps Koreans in Ukraine: ‘I feel a great sense of compatriotism’

Raised US\$200,000 to help Ukraine; first second-generation Korean American and youngest president in history

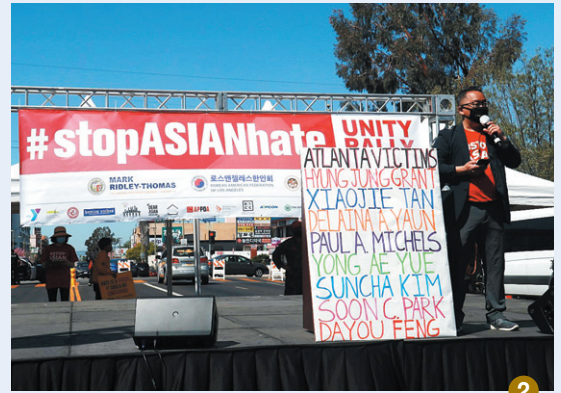
“I didn’t hesitate for a second to help those and nurture hope for those who had been displaced by the war and were facing a bleak reality. I felt a great sense of compatriotism while helping the Koryo people,” James Ahn, 43, president of the Korean American Association of Los Angeles (KAALA), said in a media interview on Oct. 5, after attending the 2023 World Congress of Korean Association Presidents at Lotte Hotel World in Jamsil, Seoul.

As soon as Ahn heard that Koreans were fleeing the war between Ukraine and Russia in February last year, he and the Hwarang Youth Foundation launched a fundraising campaign among the Korean community. Within a month, they raised US\$65,000 and sent it to Korean refugees in Moldova, a neighboring country of Ukraine. After this, he continued to raise money, and in April this year, he traveled to Ukraine himself to support the Koryo community and the Korean School, Jungsuri.

“The Koryo-saram refugees, who fled with nothing, had no money to eat or sleep while they went through the procedures to go to South Korea or a third country,” said Ahn, adding that \$200,000 has been donated so far. “The money has reached the refugees with the aid of Korean missionaries in the area.”

He then spoke about how the need to help provided him with the courage to visit a place at war. “Park Yoon-sook, the president of the Hwarang Youth Foundation, and I were initially pondering how we could help and eventually agreed that I needed to go to the site so that the donations could be used where they were needed, so I booked a flight immediately,” he said. “I also needed to be able to tell the situation accurately to the Korean people who had come together and donated money to help others.

“All the Koryo people I met at the refuge were elderly, women and children. The younger men had gone to the battlefields, and those in the shelter paced back and forth, not knowing if they were alive or dead,” Ahn said in sympathy. “I was overjoyed when I heard that a



widowed Koryo woman who had escaped with her two middle school-aged daughters had been given airfare and had found safety in the Korean city of Gwangju.”

Helping Korean Americans in Los Angeles receive government aid during COVID-19

A former restaurant owner in Los Angeles, Ahn began serving on the board in 2018 and was elected president for two years in 2021 and reelected last year. He is the first second-generation Korean American president in the KAALA’s history and also the youngest.

“The role of a Korean Association is to create a space for second-generation Koreans who have established themselves in mainstream society to serve the Korean community,” he said.

Ahn also served as a mediator to ensure that local Koreans affected by the pandemic received proper support from the government.

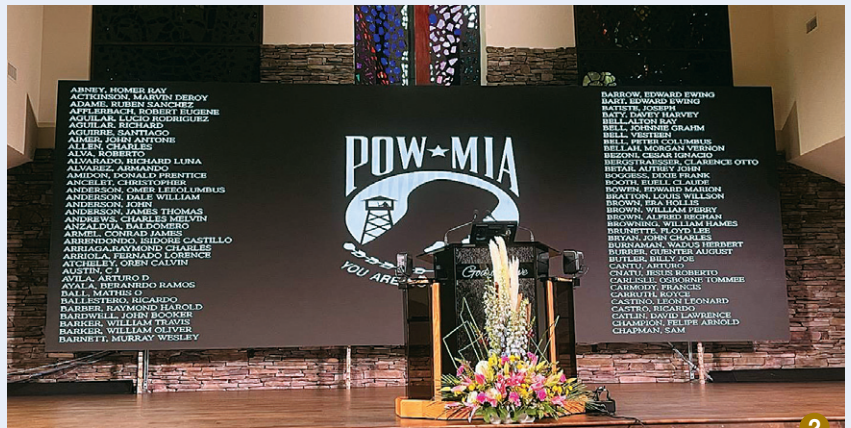
“My greatest reward is that the Korean Association has become a strong pillar of the Korean community,” he said, noting that the government has provided more than \$60 million in assistance to Koreans. 🇺🇸

1 LA Korean American Association President James Ahn speaks to the media.

2 Ahn speaks at a rally calling for an end to Asian hate crimes in Koreatown, Los Angeles, on March 27, 2021.

Korean War missing in action memorial event in Houston; ‘sacrifices must be remembered’

Co-hosted by Korean American Church Federation and Pastors’ Association; first event to commemorate MIA



A ceremony was held to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the U.S.-ROK alliance in Houston, Texas, on Oct. 22 and to remember those who went missing in action (MIA) during the Korean War.

The “Korean War MIA Memorial Service,” co-hosted by the Houston Korean American Church Federation and Pastoral Association and sponsored by the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Houston, was held at 4 p.m. at the Korean Central Presbyterian Church of Houston.

Although there have been several memorial services for surviving Korean War veterans in the U.S. or for those whose remains have been identified, this is the first time those who went MIA during the Korean War have been commemorated, according to the Consulate General in Houston.

While it is assumed that the missing were either killed in action during the Korean War or captured and subsequently killed by North Korea, their remains have never been identified, and thus they are listed as MIA. There are currently an estimated 7,500 U.S. service members missing in action from the Korean War, with about 2,300 from Texas, the Consulate General said.


About 100 people attended the memorial, including Texas National Guard Brig. Gen. E.A. Buddy Grantham and Houston Military Affairs Committee President Eugene Tulich, as well as

Korean War veterans and their family members.

“Korea will never forget the noble sacrifices and dedication of the veterans,” said Lee Jae-ho, senior pastor of the Korean Central Presbyterian Church.

Consul General Chung Young-ho said, “As important as the surviving veterans are, it is equally important to remember and express our gratitude to those who are missing in action, the heroes who never returned, and to comfort their families.”

Fred Lash, executive director of the Korean War Veterans Association, said in a video message, “We hope that the repatriation of American military remains, which has been suspended due to North Korea’s non-cooperation, will resume as soon as possible.”

During the ceremony, a list of those MIA from the Korean War from Texas was displayed on a large screen, and five Korean War veterans took turns calling out the names of the missing, praying that their remains would be returned to their families. 

1 Chung Young-ho, consul general of the Republic of Korea in Houston (front row, C), and Korean War veterans pay their respects to those missing in action during a ceremony to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Korean War in Houston, Texas, on Oct. 22.

2 A list of missing persons posted during the “Korean War MIA Memorial Service” in Houston, Texas

Hangeul Day celebrated across U.S.; LA City Council establishes Hangeul Day

LA City College installs statue of King Sejong on campus

Los Angeles City College (LACC, President Amanuel Gebru) and the city of Los Angeles held an event to commemorate Hangeul Day on Oct. 9. Four days earlier, LACC held an unveiling ceremony at the entrance to Jefferson Hall, becoming the first public university in the United States to install a statue of King Sejong the Great.

Along with the unveiling, Korean language students and faculty were introduced to King Sejong, who created the Korean alphabet. The university reportedly has more than 1,000 Korean language students.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez; LA Consul General Kim Young-wan; Yi Seok, the grandson of King Gojong of the Korean Empire; and Imperial Family Companies CEO Andrew Lee (Korean name Sang-min Lee), a second-generation Korean American businessman who is his adopted son and designated imperial heir. The statue of King Sejong the Great was funded by donations to the LACC from the imperial prince, Yi, and his heir, Andrew Lee.

At 10 a.m. on Oct. 6, the Los Angeles City Council adopted a resolution proclaiming Oct. 9 as Hangeul Day. The resolution was introduced by Councillor John Lee, who is Korean American. The city of Los Angeles will now celebrate Hangeul Day on Oct. 9 every year.

On Oct. 7, the Korean Language Promotion Foundation (Director Monica Ryu) held an event at Madang Mall in LA's Koreatown to write English names in Hangeul for non-Korean and English-speaking second and third generations.

"We organized the event to promote Hangeul to the locals," Ryu said. "I hope that they will feel the beauty and practicality of Hangeul by seeing their names written in brush calligraphy."



An unveiling ceremony is held for a statue of King Sejong the Great on the campus of Los Angeles City College in the United States on Oct. 5. (Photo provided by The Korea Times)



A scene from the proclamation of Korean Alphabet Day at the city library in Milpitas, California, on Oct. 1

Hangeul Day celebrated for 11th year in Silicon Valley's Milpitas

The city of Milpitas, located in Silicon Valley, California, also celebrated its love for Hangeul for the 11th year. On Oct. 1, the city of Milpitas celebrated the 580th anniversary of the creation of Hangeul with a ceremony at the city library auditorium, declaring it Korean Alphabet Day (Hangeul Day) and hosting Korean cultural activities, according to the Korean Language Education Foundation (Director Koo Eun-hee), a group of Hangeul instructors in the Americas.

The ceremony was attended online and offline by around 120 people, including Vice Mayor Evelyn Chua, Santa Clara Vice Mayor Kevin Park, heads of Korean associations, members of the foundation's youth volunteer group Kayak and parents. On this day, Vice Mayor Chua proclaimed Korean Alphabet Day and presented a proclamation from the

city and City Council to the Korean Language Education Foundation. Following the ceremony, Korean school students performed Korean nursery rhymes and a royal "hanbok" fashion show. In addition, Wee Jae-gook, the first director of the Korean Language Education Foundation, read the preface to the Hunminjeongeum, and Lee Hyun-wook and Lee Kyung did a demonstration by writing the word Hangeul and their names on the Hunminjeongeum preface printed on "hanji" paper. The event was followed by Korean cultural experience events, which included writing Hangeul, as well as playing "ttakji" games, "jaeki" games and "tuho" toss.

Meanwhile, the Santa Clara City Council in the Silicon Valley region also proclaimed Hangeul Day on Oct. 10 to honor the language of the Korean people and presented the proclamation to the Korean Language Education Foundation. 🇰🇷

Hanbok Day held in U.S.; Andy Kim ‘encouraged by efforts to find tradition’

Senate candidate Andy Kim and incumbent Menendez make ‘love call’ to Korean American community



1 Mayor Mark Zinna (C) of Tenafly, New Jersey, dressed in “hanbok,” attends a ceremony to celebrate Hanbok Day in Fort Lee, New Jersey, Oct. 14, 2018.

2 A Hanbok Day ceremony is held in Fort Lee, New Jersey.

A ceremony was held Oct. 14 in Fort Lee, the economic and cultural center of the U.S. state of New Jersey, ahead of Hanbok Day on Oct. 21, which celebrates traditional Korean clothing. New Jersey was the first U.S. state to adopt and proclaim a resolution to celebrate Hanbok Day last year.

Despite heavy rain in the morning, hundreds of Korean community members and locals attended the ceremony. Several local politicians also sent congratulatory remarks or attended the ceremony. Notably, both Sen. Bob Menendez and Congressman Andy Kim, who are in a competitive race for the U.S. Senate next year, sent congratulatory remarks.


Kim emphasized his identity based on his Korean heritage.

“The efforts to connect the Korean American community to its heritage are so inspiring,” he said, citing the AAYC, a youth organization that was instrumental in getting Hanbok Day declared a state holiday in New Jersey.

A self-described “son of Korean immigrants,” he said, “I am honored to be the first Asian American congressman to represent New Jersey and one of only four Korean Americans in the House of Representatives. I look forward to continuing to work with the diverse and accomplished Korean American community.”

Kim’s congratulatory remarks, which emphasized his Korean heritage, may also be related to the nature of the Senate race. Kim’s southern New Jersey district, where he has served three terms, has a single-digit percentage of Asian voters. Some of Kim’s opponents in the district have used the fact that he is Korean as a negative. However, senatorial districts are much larger than those in the House, which increases the influence of Asian voters, including those of Korean descent. Sen. Menendez, Kim’s opponent, also made a point of reaching out to the Korean American community by delivering a congratulatory speech.

Hanbok Day celebrations abroad have drawn increasing attention in Korea. A “hanbok” fashion show held to commemorate the day featured actual hanbok worn by the male and female protagonists of the popular drama “The Red Sleeve,” set in the Joseon era, which garnered double-digit ratings early last year. In addition, students from the National High School of Traditional Arts performed to the applause of the audience.

AAYC President Brian Jeon, who led the effort to establish Hanbok Day in New Jersey, said, “We will spread the movement to celebrate Korean hanbok not only in New Jersey but also in other parts of the country.” 

GLOBAL KOREAN



Executive Director Park Jong-beom elected new president of World-OKTA 'World-OKTA will take lead in development of motherland amid global economic crisis'

Park Jong-beom (66), executive director of the World Federation of Overseas Korean Traders Association (World-OKTA), has been elected the new chairman to lead the largest economic organization for overseas Koreans, with branches in 146 cities in 67 countries. World-OKTA held a board meeting at the Suwon Convention Center in Gyeonggi Province on Oct. 26 to elect Park as its 22nd chairman. He received 256 votes, beating Kwon Young-hyun, who got 36 votes, by 220 votes to become the new chairman.

"It is time for World-OKTA to join forces to lead the development of its home country in the face of global economic crises, such as war, COVID-19 and climate change," Park said right after his victory. "We will return to the spirit of the early days and foster it as a group with strong organizational power through communication and harmony." He pledged to "take the lead for a second leap forward" under the slogan of "Leadership of Serving and Service" through election promotional materials.

Park founded Europe's largest Korean traders group in Vienna, Austria, in 1999, which has more than 30 affiliates in 20 countries, including Europe, Russia and China, and generates nearly US\$760 million in sales through trade.

He was president of the Austrian Korean Society, vice chairman of the Korea-Austria Friendship Association, president of the European Assembly of Korean Associations and vice chairman of the European, Middle East and African Regional Conferences of The Peaceful Unification Advisory Council. He was awarded the Peony Medal of the Order of Civil Merit and received the 21st Century Chang Po-go Award from the Chang Po-go Global Foundation. Park began his presidency on Nov. 1, and his term will last two years.

Kim Hyun-tae, CEO of hotel in Japan, elected second president of Overseas Korean Hotel Association 'We will actively promote overseas advancement of hotel workers in Korea'

The Overseas Korean Hotel Association (OKHA, President Jung Young-sam) elected Kim Hyun-tae (66), head of the Benikea Carlton Hotel in Fukuoka, Japan, as the second president of the association. OKHA was founded in 2017 by hotel managers from the Trades Committee under World-OKTA. Currently, more than 3,000 overseas Korean hotels and 1,500 related companies around the world are its members.

Kim, the association's senior vice chairman, was selected as the chairman at the 5th OKHA Regular General Assembly held at the Industry Hills Pacific Palms Resort in Los Angeles on Oct. 13. After graduating from Kyung Hee University's Department of Hotel Management, he joined Lotte Hotel in 1983, then worked at the Hilton Hotel and served as the general manager of the Ramada Hotel. Later he studied in Japan and obtained a master's degree in service marketing from Senshu University in Tokyo and a doctoral degree in international service



marketing from Kyungwon University. In Japan, after serving as the general manager of the IP City Hotel, he acquired the current hotel in 2013 and is now managing his own hotel business.

“We will actively promote the establishment of a cooperative network with domestic and foreign industries and the overseas advancement of Korean hotel workers,” Chairman Kim said. “We will strive further to enhance the rights and status of Korean hotel managers.”

Hyun Deok-soo, new chairman of Russia·CIS Assembly of Korean Associations, says, ‘We will achieve harmony between overseas Koreans and Koryo-saram’

Runs real estate business in Moscow and Sakhalin; holds post concurrently with office of Chairman of Korean International Congress

“Overseas Koreans and Koryo-saram share their roots as Korean people. There have been some conflicts in the past, but we will do our best to achieve harmony and integration in the future.”

Hyun Deok-soo (64), chairman of Sakhalin Korea, told the media at Lotte Hotel World in Songpa Ward, Seoul, on Oct. 6, “As I have become the chairman of both Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), I will communicate with the two sides and foster a tolerant and embracing relationship between them.”

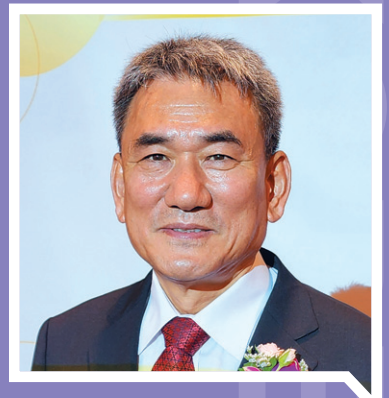
Hyun, who visited Korea to participate in the 2023 World Korean Chairman’s Convention, was elected the new chairman by beating Chairman Kim Ki-soo of the Kyrgyzstan Korean Association at the assembly’s general meeting held two days before. The term will be for two years, starting in January next year.

In September, Hyun also took office as the third chairman of the Korean International Congress (KIC), a two-year term, and has been busy ever since. KIC, formerly the Korean Information Center, is a nonprofit private organization consisting of former and current Korean association chairmen.

Currently, there are 15,000 overseas Koreans living in Sakhalin, most of whom are Koryo-saram, and 150 to 200 Koreans have settled for business-related reasons. Hyun, who has lived in Sakhalin for more than 30 years, said that some of Sakhalin’s overseas Koreans say that their treatment is relatively poor because the Korean government’s policy is mainly focused on Koryo-saram.

“Except for the Sakhalin Korean Association, all Korean-related organizations can be considered organizations for Koryo-saram,” Hyun said. “There were once conflicts between overseas Koreans and Koryo-saram organizations, but they have been settled to some extent. We want to foster a smoother and more harmonious relationship.”

Hyun, who turned to the Russian region while running a business processing and distributing seafood in the United States and Japan, established the SSD Group in 1992, immediately after the collapse of the Soviet Union, which works in the fields of apartment construction, real estate development and hotel construction. Every year, Hyun travels between Sakhalin (six months), Moscow (three months) and Korea (three months) to manage his business. Currently, SSD Group’s annual sales amount to US\$100 million. 🇰🇷



Kim Han-yong, former president of Korean Chamber of Business in Vietnam, receives Dongbaek Medal

Korean Embassy, ‘He brought compatriots together and actively supported Korean companies’

The Korean Embassy in Vietnam (Ambassador Choi Young-sam) presented Kim Han-yong, former chairman of the Korean Chamber of Business in Vietnam (KOCHAM), with the Dongbaek Medal of the Order of Civil Merit on Oct. 10. According to the embassy, during his tenure, Kim actively requested support from the Vietnamese government to minimize the damage to the Korean community and Korean businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also actively engaged in social contribution activities alongside Korean companies in Vietnam, including providing scholarships to 539 local students.

In addition, the embassy communicated that he was recognized for his role in raising voter turnout during the 20th presidential election last year, as well as for his contributions to the unity of the Korean Vietnamese community due to the high level of trust in him.

“I will continue to do the best I can to contribute to the unity and development of the Korean community,” Kim said.

This past July, the Overseas Koreans Agency went through a verification process to release via its website a list of 87 individuals, including organizations, who will receive government medals on Oct. 5 to mark the 17th World Korean Day. 🇰🇷



Choi Young-sam (L), ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Vietnam, poses for a photo with Kim Han-yong, former chairman of KOCHAM, after handing him the Dongbaek Medal of the Order of Civil Merit at the embassy on Oct. 10.



Korean professor Moon Eui-jung develops cancer treatment using Flash radiation

Professor of oncology at University of Oxford; researching mechanisms of cancer cell death

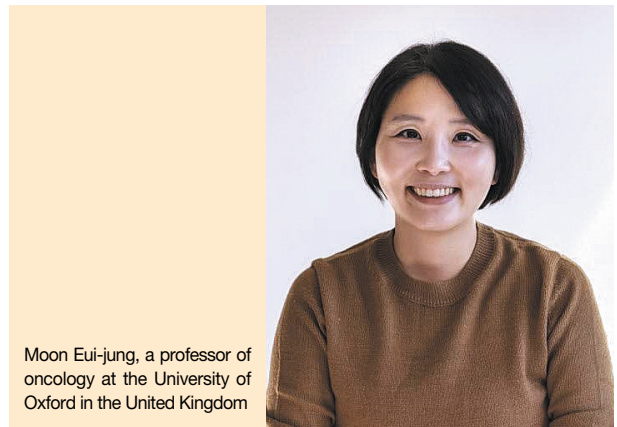
“We are studying the effects of ferroptosis (iron-dependent cell death), which can specifically treat cancer cells while minimizing damage to normal tissue, while also developing treatments for non-small cell lung cancer, which displays resistance to chemotherapy.”

Professor Moon Eui-jung, 43, of the Department of Oncology at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom is one of the world’s leading authorities on radiation biology and radiation oncology research. At this university, she is using Flash radiation, an ultra-fast radiation therapy method, to investigate the relationship between ferroptosis, a novel cancer cell death mechanism (the basic principle that drives the physiological behavior of living organisms), heavy particles and Flash radiation. Professor Lee Yik-jae at the Department of Radiation Oncology at Gangnam Severance Hospital in Seoul and professor Jung Young-tae at the Department of New Biology at the Daegu Gyeongbuk Institute of Science and Technology are also participating in this research. The project was selected for the Ministry of Health and Welfare’s Global Cooperation Support Project this year.

Moon is visiting Korea and, in a press interview on Oct. 11, said: “Flash radiation is an emerging field that is gaining global attention because it delivers radiation energy in a short period of time (milliseconds), which has the same cell-killing effect on cancer cells as conventional radiation, while providing significantly greater protection for normal tissues from toxicity than conventional radiation.”

Moon joined the Department of Radiation Oncology at Stanford University in the United States as a postdoctoral fellow and research scientist before becoming a group leader in the Department of Oncology at the University of Oxford in March 2021. She conducts research, teaches graduate students, and supervises MSc and Ph.D. students.

“The cells that make up our bodies divide and grow, but they also undergo programmed cell death that is tightly regulated to



Moon Eui-jung, a professor of oncology at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom

maintain homeostasis,” she explained. “Ferroptosis is a process in which the oxidation of lipids in the cell membrane, particularly polyunsaturated fatty acids, is amplified and leads to toxicity.”

Ferroptosis is different from other known cell death mechanisms and is particularly effective in selectively killing cancer cells that are resistant to chemotherapy, as well as cancer cells displaying metastasis.

“We are conducting biological studies to understand which genes specifically trigger ferroptosis in cancer cells and how it progresses, with the goal of developing targeted therapies and using these genes as markers for patient selection,” revealed Moon, who is also researching the microenvironment of cancer and the regulation of cancer metastasis and metabolism due to tumor hypoxia.

After graduating from Ewha Womans University with a bachelor’s degree in biology, she spent a year as a research fellow at the National Cancer Center before completing her Ph.D. in radiation oncology at Duke University and a postdoctoral fellowship in radiation oncology at Stanford University. Moon’s husband, Dr. Jihyung Lee, is a venture capitalist in Silicon Valley and Korea. 🇰🇷

Japan sees light of modern industrial heritage but ignores shadows

‘Meiji industrial heritage’ includes warships but still fails to account for forced labor of Koreans

I visited the Izu Peninsula in Shizuoka Prefecture, located to the west of Tokyo, and stopped in Izunokuni in late September of this year. This city, whose name is unfamiliar to most, is home to the Nirayama Reverberatory Furnace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Nirayama is a place name, and a reverberatory furnace is a furnace used to smelt ore or melt metal.

Completed in November 1857, the Nirayama Reverberatory Furnace now consists of two buildings standing at right angles to each other. Each is topped by two elongated chimneys, and the total height is approximately 15.7 meters. Cannons were made at the furnace, and the finished products were transported along the adjacent river. The furnace’s use seems to have been very short-lived. According to data published by the city of Izunokuni, the last time it produced cannons was in 1860.

The reason we went to Nirayama Reverberatory Furnace is because it is part of the World Heritage Site of the “Industrialization Heritage of Meiji Japan.” The site consists of 23 heavy industry-related facilities built in Japan between the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It includes the Hashima, also known as Gunkanjima, coal mine in Nagasaki Prefecture, Kyushu, a site of the forced labor of

Koreans.

When Japan registered the “Industrial Heritage of Meiji Japan” as a World Heritage Site in 2015, it stated, “In the 1940s, at some facilities, a large number of Koreans and people from other countries were mobilized against their will and forced to work under harsh conditions” and “The Japanese government is prepared to include appropriate measures to honor the victims, including the establishment of an information center.”

However, the Japanese government has been criticized for locating the Industrial Heritage Information Center in Tokyo, rather than in Nagasaki Prefecture and for not making it clear that wartime discrimination or human rights violations against Koreans occurred.

Adding facts about Korean victimization? Not even possible to view exhibition

While the Nirayama Reverberatory Furnace operated during the late Joseon period of Korean history and thus could be said to have nothing to do with the forced labor of Koreans, I was curious about the overall explanation of Meiji Japan’s industrialization legacy. What I found was in line with my expectations. Only the “bright side” of



1 A signboard at the Tokyo Industrial Heritage Information Center, which has been criticized for distorting the history of the forced mobilization of Koreans on Gunkanjima



2 Gunkanjima in Nagasaki Prefecture, Japan



3



4

3 A view of the Nirayama Reverberatory Furnace on the Izu Peninsula in Shizuoka Prefecture, central Honshu, Japan, on Sept. 30
4 A signboard for the UNESCO World Heritage Site "Industrialization Heritage of Meiji Japan," erected next to the Nirayama Reverberatory Furnace

the modern industrial heritage was emphasized, and the "dark side" was barely touched upon.

The information board next to the reverberatory furnace only contained positive values, such as "Japan was the first non-Western country to embrace the wave of the Industrial Revolution, achieving industrialization with its own hands in a short period of about 50 years" and "a group of heritage sites that testify to a rare phase of industrialization in world history."

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee, which in 2021 expressed "strong regret" that Japan had not implemented the measures related to forced labor for Koreans that it had promised when inscribing the site as a "heritage of industrialization in Meiji Japan," assessed that the government had taken "some additional steps" at its September meeting this year. However, the committee "emphasizes the importance of continuing to fulfill one's own commitments" and ordered the Japanese government to conduct further research and data collection, including new testimonies, and to continue its dialogue with relevant parties.

Some Japanese media commented on the outcome, emphasizing that the Japanese's actions had changed the attitude of the World Heritage Committee and analyzed that the improvement of relations between Japan and South Korea had been impacted. The conservative-leaning Sankei Shimbun reported that the Industrial Heritage Information Center added to its exhibit the fact that 44 people, including 15 believed to be Koreans, died in coal mine accidents on Gunkanjima between September 1941 and August 1945. It also reported that the exhibition showed a video documenting the work and sanitary conditions in the mines during the Pacific War, and that it displayed replicas of 40 pay envelopes received by workers from the Korean Peninsula who worked at

shipyards in Hyogo Prefecture, near Osaka.

However, the Hyogo prefectural shipyards, where the workers are said to have received pay envelopes, are not a part of the "legacy of Meiji Japan's industrialization." Furthermore, the addition to the exhibit of "Korean deaths on the warship islands" that Sankei reported on does not support the idea that Koreans were forced into labor against their will. Instead, it only reinforces the right-wing narrative that Koreans were treated similarly to Japanese under Japanese rule.

Furthermore, the Tokyo Industrial Heritage Information Center, where the content of the exhibit is kept, has not been accepting reservations since Sept. 25.

"We are adjusting the reservation system," a spokesperson for the center told the media, "so even if you come in person, you won't be able to see the exhibition. It's not a problem with the exhibits inside. We will announce on our website when we will resume viewing."

Japan's progressive press: 'Don't be restricted by your own historical viewpoint'

The liberal-leaning Tokyo Shimbun, on the other hand, offered a cautionary tale in an Oct. 2 editorial worth contemplating. On the World Heritage Committee's decision in September, it said, "It did not mean that it approved of Japan's response but rather that it would keep an eye on its future response. If you are limited to your own view of history, you will not gain international understanding. The Japanese government should make efforts to sincerely explain and continue the dialogue." 정

Park Sang-hyun, correspondent,
Yonhap News Agency, Tokyo, Japan

NAOCK launch ceremony on Dec. 17; Kim Ho-rim inaugurated first president

The National Association of Chinese Koreans (President Kim Ho-rim), an organization of compatriots from China residing in Korea, will hold an inauguration ceremony at the SK Leaders View building in Yeongdeungpo Ward in Seoul on Dec. 17. This is the first event held by the association, which was founded as the National Federation of Koreans (NFK) in 2003 by compatriots who recovered their Korean nationality and later changed its name to the current one.

The NFK, led by first-generation compatriots, has been working for 20 years for the lives and rights of compatriots from China who have taken root in Korea. Recently, as internal voices called for generational reform, the name of the organization was changed with the aim of strengthening exchanges and cooperation among compatriots scattered across the country. The launch ceremony will also be the inaugural ceremony of the first president, Kim Ho-rim. President Kim was unanimously elected to his position in an election at the end of July in which presidents of all local branches participated.



Kim Ho-rim, the first president of the National Association of Chinese Koreans

Refugee Koreans in Gwangju return to Ukraine due to prolonged war

Some Ukrainian refugees who had been living in the Koryo-saram Village in Gwangju began to return to their home country as the war has been prolonged. According to the Koryo-saram Village, Ukrainian refugee Eric Park (72) recently left the village, where he had stayed for the past 1 1/2 years, to return to his hometown in Ukraine. As there is no sign of the war ending, Park announced to those around him that he would rather die in his hometown and returned to Ukraine.

The news that his hometown of Mykolaiv, southern Ukraine, had been restored also encouraged his decision. When the war broke out, he passed through Poland with his wife and arrived at the Gwangju Koryo-saram Village in April last year. The couple suffered from extreme homesickness afterward. Park's wife left South Korea before her husband to travel to her eldest daughter's residence in Germany, which is at least a little closer to Ukraine.

It is reported that his wife will also return to Ukraine with Park. The Koryo-saram Village thinks that seven refugees, including Park and his wife, have recently returned to Ukraine one after another. Since the village does not know the circumstances of all refugees, the



A refugee from Ukraine cultivates vegetables at a cooperative farm in the Koryo-saram Village in Gwangju.

number of those who have returned home may be higher.

From the outbreak of war in February 2022 to July 2023, Koryo-saram Village helped 876 Ukrainian refugees escape to Korea, including compatriots and their families with connections to Gwangju.

Korean Association in Myanmar thanks Myanmar citizen who contributed to arrest of Aung San terrorist

To mark the 40th anniversary of the Aung San terrorist attack, the Korean Association in Myanmar (KAM) presented letters of appreciation to the Myanmar citizen who contributed to the arrest of the terrorist at the time. On Oct. 10, the KAM presented a letter of appreciation to local resident Do Ye Ye (80), who helped apprehend the terrorist at a Korean restaurant in Yangon, the largest city.

The Aung San terrorist attack was an incident committed by North Korea at the Aung San Mausoleum in Yangon, Myanmar, on Oct. 9, 1983. A bomb planted by North Korean agents ahead of then President Chun Doo-hwan's visit exploded, killing 21 people, including Deputy Prime Minister Seo Seok-joon, South Korean government officials and reporters, and dozens more were injured.

At that time, the North Korean terrorists escaped in two groups.



Do Ye Ye (C), who helped apprehend the culprit behind the Aung San terrorist attack, receives a letter of appreciation.

Shin Ki-cheol and Kang Min-cheol were killed or arrested during a confrontation with the police, and Kim Jin-su was arrested while fleeing due to reports and interventions by Myanmar people.

"It was an incident 40 years ago, but I remember it clearly," said Do Ye Ye, who lived with her husband in a village along the Yangon River. "The news of the Oct. 9 terrorist attack was also spread in our village.

The next day, around 9 p.m., I heard a loud noise at the entrance of my neighborhood, and despite my husband telling me not to go, I went outside and saw (Kim Jin-su) moving in the river," she said.

Jeon Seong-ho, honorary president of the KAM, emphasized, "It has been 40 years since the terrorist incident, and Koreans around the world should not forget the terrible event and be alert to prevent such a thing from happening again."

Association of Korean Nuns in Rome holds event commemorating 20th anniversary

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Association of Korean Nuns in Rome (Chairman Kim Hye-yoon), the capital of Italy and center of Catholicism in the world. The Korean Embassy to the Vatican, in collaboration with the association, held a commemorative Mass and celebratory reception at the Korean Theological Seminary Cathedral in Rome on Oct. 22. The Mass was celebrated by Chung Soon-taek, archbishop of Seoul, who is in Rome to attend a synod.

About 100 people, including Korean nuns from the association, foreign religious figures and Korean priests, attended the event. The association was launched in 2003 through the efforts of its first president, Sister Jang Hyang-ju Auxilia (Salesian Sisters), as the number of Korean nuns studying abroad in Rome increased. Currently, Sister Beatrix Kim Hye-yoon (Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary in Mirinae), who works in the Vatican's Ministry of Clergy, serves as the president. Ninety-nine Korean nuns are currently residing in Italy.

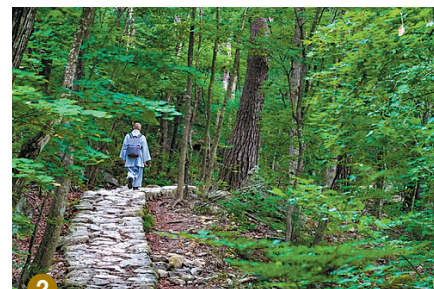
"In the past, we were passively educated and were in the position



Attendees take a photo during the event commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Association of Korean Nuns in Rome.

of beneficiaries but now we have switched to the position where we teach and take care of others," Chairman Kim Hye-yoon said. "Our responsibility has increased accordingly. Today's event became an opportunity to pledge to fulfill that responsibility faithfully."

Archbishop Jeong Soon-taek said: "I heard both directly and indirectly that Korean nuns are working three to five times harder than nuns from other countries. The contribution and service of each sister play a big role in the church as a whole."



Magnificent mountains, jewel-like hermitages; Inner Seorak and Oseam

Temples and hermitages on Seorak Mountain, most famous mountain in Korea

Manhae Han Yong-un (1879-1944), a Buddhist reformer, independence activist and poet, was meditating in the middle of the night in December 1917, about 10 years after becoming a monk, at Oseam, Inner Seorak, in Inje, Gangwon Province, when he heard an object falling in the wind making a loud noise. It is said that he attained enlightenment in that moment.

Oseam, a hermitage of Baekdam Temple, a renowned temple of one of the most famous mountains in South Korea -- Seorak Mountain -- is located deep in the forest, about 6 kilometers farther in than Baekdam Temple. Oseam is right below Madeung Pass, which leads to Dinosaur Ridge, the highest peak in Korea, and looks out at Yongajang Fortress and Mangyeongdae, which exude a majestic spirit.

Baekdam Temple and Oseam were Manhae's spiritual hometown. Born in Hongseong, South Chungcheong Province, in 1879, when Joseon's national fortunes were declining, Manhae entered Seorak Mountain at the age of 17 and worked as a servant at Oseam. After becoming a monk at Baekdam Temple in 1905, he published "Joseon Buddhist Theism" in 1910, a book on Buddhist

reformist theory still famous today. Manhae, who was also one of the leaders of the March 1st Movement, was incorruptible. He scolded pro-Japanese traitors, such as Choi Nam-seon, poured feces over his comrades of the independence movement who were acting weak in prison and turned his house north, saying he did not want to face the governor-general office building of the Japanese Empire in the south.

Oseam, where historical giants such as Manhae Han Yong-un stayed

There were more historical figures who stayed at Oseam before Manhae. Maewoldang Kim Si-seup (1435-1493), who was one of the royal officials who abandoned his government post and turned his back on the world when King Sejo usurped the throne in the early Joseon Dynasty, is known to have stayed at Oseam for a long time, starting around 1455.

Yulgok Yi-I (1536-1584), who wrote a biography of Kim Si-seup, commented that "He was highly reputable from an early age, but he fled the world overnight and revered Confucianism in his heart and

followed Buddhism in his actions.” Kim Si-seup, who was recognized as a genius by King Sejong at the age of 5, was called the O-se (5-year-old) Prodigy, and there is a theory that the name of Oseam originated from him.

Zen Master Bo-u (1509-1565), who led a temporary revival of Buddhism during the Joseon Dynasty that suppressed Buddhism with its policies, also practiced meditation at Oseam. Although numerous great figures stayed or passed through Oseam, which was founded by Master Jajang during the Silla Dynasty, this hermitage hidden deep in the mountains became widely known to the modern public only after the children’s writer Jeong Chae-bong’s fairy tale “Oseam” and its animation became popular.

Dinosaur Ridge attracts hikers; Bongjeongam, a symbol of earnestness

Oseam is located in the middle of the road from Baekdam Temple to Madeung Pass. Seorak Mountain’s Dinosaur Ridge, which fascinates hikers, refers to the rugged 5-km-long ridge that extends from Madeung Pass, the watershed dividing Inner and Outer Seorak, to Meulmi Pass. Rough and sharp rocky peaks that resemble dinosaur spines rise vertically, making the ridge difficult to climb for inexperienced hikers. The view from the top of this ridge is so majestic that it is incomparable to any other place, and climbing the mountain is considered a “romantic dream” for mountaineers.

Bongjeongam, one of the five major Jeokmyeol Treasure Palaces that enshrine the Sakyamuni’s relics, is located at the highest point among domestic temples (1,244 meters above sea level). Bongjeongam, located in the mountains where Dinosaur Ridge and Yongahjang Fortress were built, can be reached directly from Baekdam Temple or via Oseam, but the steep slope makes the hike very difficult. Perhaps the more difficult a place is to reach, the stronger one’s determination becomes to reach it. There are many

Buddhists who say Bongjeongam is a pilgrimage site that one must visit at least once in their lifetime.


Three treasures of Seorak Mountain: Baekdam Temple, Oseam, Bongjeongam

Baekdam Temple is the main temple that oversees Oseam and Bongjeongam. Among the hermitages that belong to Baekdam Temple, Yeongsiam is also a must-see attraction in Inner Seorak. It was founded by Kim Chang-heup (1653-1722), revered as the greatest scholar of the late Joseon Dynasty, and is a place where he pledged eternal seclusion. The name Yeongsi refers to an arrow that leaves the bowstring and never returns. The Buddhist prayers flowing from Yeongsiam resound in Seorak in a profound way, as if making a traveler stop, sit on the veranda of a temple, and listen to the sound of the wind blowing in the air.

Due to Baekdam Temple, Oseam Temple and Bongjeongam Temple, people religiously believe that Seorak Mountain possesses Three Treasures. The Three Jewels refer to the Buddha, the Buddha’s teachings and the monks who follow the teachings: the Sangha. Baekdam Temple is home to Kibon Seonwon, an educational institution for monks of the Jogye Order. The Seonwon, together with the Buddhist Jinsin Relics and Oseam’s Tripitaka Koreana, constitutes the Three Treasures.

Suryeomdong Valley, which flows before Yeongsiam, passes the front of Baekdam Temple into Baekdam Valley. The wooden Amitabha Buddha; Susim Bridge, spanning across Baekdam Valley; and Manhae Memorial Hall are treasures of Baekdam Temple that would be a shame to miss.

Until about 30 years ago, Baekdam Temple was a place of spiritual practice that was difficult for the public to find because it is in a remote area, 8 km away from the valley entrance. The number of visitors to Baekdam Temple has increased significantly since the

late former President Chun Doo-hwan and his wife lived in political exile there for three years, starting in 1988, and the name of this temple became known nationwide. Afterward, shuttle buses began to connect the temple with the outer world, and a recent pedestrian hiking path and asphalt roads were paved, making the journey easier. 



- 1 Oseam, located in Inner Seorak of Inje, Gangwon Province
- 2 The road from Baekdam Temple to Oseam
- 3 A bust of Han Yong-un and his poem monument in front of Oseam
- 4 Red leaves on Seorak Mountain’s Dinosaur Ridge and Yongajang Fortress

OKA-VANK sends video to overseas Koreans promoting Korea as ‘world’s 10th-largest economy’

The Overseas Koreans Agency (OKA) and VANK, an online diplomatic mission, produced a video promoting Korea’s development and recently distributed it to overseas Koreans around the world. The video, titled “Have you heard of this country? Its development is included in textbooks around the world,” is intended to promote Korea to Koreans living abroad and to the next generation.

The video, which is 5 minutes and 10 seconds long, was produced as part of the memorandum of understanding signed between VANK and the OKA (Director Lee Key-cheol) last September to develop the “Campaign to promote proud Korea to the world with the next generation of overseas Koreans.”

“In 1960, Korea had a per capita income of only \$67, but in 2019,



The first scene of the video produced by VANK and the OKA and distributed on social media

it had grown to \$30,000, becoming the first country that experienced colonialism to reach the mark,” the video states. “It grew to the world’s 10th-largest economy in 2023 and is the only country among 80 countries that gained independence after World War II to achieve both European Union-level economic growth and democracy, and the only country that achieved what Western industrial countries achieved over 300 years in just half a century.”

The video introduces examples of Korean pop culture stars appearing as cover models in media around the world, including in the United States, Europe and Asia, and shows that the number of people around the world who are passionate about Korean pop culture will reach 170 million in 2023 and that there are 7.5 million Koreans living overseas.

‘60th anniversary photo exhibition of Korean workers dispatched to Germany’ held for contributing to modernization of country

The Overseas Koreans Agency (OKA) held a photo exhibition to commemorate the efforts of workers dispatched to Germany who contributed to the modernization of the Korean economy. The OKA held a photo exhibition titled “60th anniversary photo exhibition of Korean workers dispatched to Germany” at Chunchu Hall inside the Blue House from Oct. 5 to 9.

The Korean government dispatched 7,936 miners to Germany between Dec. 21, 1963, and Dec. 31, 1977, and 11,057 nurses between Jan. 29, 1966, and Dec. 31, 1977. The foreign currency these workers sent back to Korea at the time is widely considered to be the seed money that the country used for its industrialization.

The photo exhibition introduced photos and videos that illuminated the background of the dispatch, the working environment and the lives of the miners with the help of the Korean Association of Miners, Nurses and Nursing Assistants Dispatched to Germany, the National Museum of Korean History and the Museum of Korean Emigration History.



The tape is cut at the opening ceremony of the “60th anniversary photo exhibition of Korean workers dispatched to Germany” at Chunchu Hall inside the Blue House on Oct. 5.

“This is an exhibition prepared to enhance the public’s understanding of the workers dispatched to Germany and to create an environment where those who have devoted themselves to the development of Korea can be respected and honored,” an OKA official said.

Contactless & digital identity verification service to be created for overseas Koreans

The Overseas Koreans Agency is promoting the introduction of a contactless, digital identity verification program to improve services for overseas Koreans as one of the government's national tasks.

The OKA signed a business agreement with the Korea Internet & Security Agency (President Lee Won-tae) on Nov. 2.

Until now, in order for overseas Koreans to use domestic civil and other services abroad, they had to go through the inconvenience of maintaining an unnecessary domestic mobile phone subscription or domestic credit card or visiting a distant embassy abroad. To access digital services, mobile phone authentication, credit card authentication, i-PIN and an electronic signature certificate are required for identity verification, but these are only suitable for Koreans living in Korea.

Approximately 80,000 overseas Koreans visit embassies around the world every year, and the social costs reach approximately US\$7.5 million from the use of transportation and lodging, as well as maintenance costs for domestic mobile phone subscriptions.

According to this business agreement, the two organizations decided to work together to establish and operate the Overseas Korean Authentication Center (temporary title), establish laws and



Lee Key-cheol (R), head of the Overseas Koreans Agency, and Lee Won-tae of the Korea Internet & Security Agency pose for the camera after signing an agreement to introduce a contactless identity verification service for overseas Koreans at the conference room of the Overseas Koreans Agency in Yeonsu Ward, Incheon, on Nov. 2.

systems for contactless identity verification of overseas Koreans, and improve the stability and reliability of identity verification methods. The OKA is continuing to consult the Ministry of Science and ICT, which is in charge of the Electronic Signature Act. They are also working toward the introduction of identity verification using electronic passports and private electronic authentication apps, such as the ones provided by Kakao and Naver.

OKA Movie Recommendations

'Free Chol Soo Lee'

Directed by Julie Ha and Eugene Yi/Produced by Chol Soo Lee Documentary LLC.

Bang! Bang! Bang! On June 3, 1973, a Chinese gang member was shot and killed in the middle of the streets of Chinatown in San Francisco. Five days later, a young Asian man is arrested as a murder suspect. He was a 21-year-old Korean immigrant named Chol Soo Lee. He was sentenced to life in prison based on the testimony of white witnesses who could not distinguish between Asians, and he was immediately imprisoned in the most violent prison in California. This incident that was almost forgotten is brought to the surface again through an in-depth report by a reporter. Kyeong-won Lee, the first Korean American reporter working for a mainstream American newspaper, accidentally encounters

Chol Soo Lee's case while covering Chinatown and exposes his flawed trial process. As Chol Soo Lee's unfair story becomes publicized, the Korean immigrant community and religious community are in an uproar, demanding a retrial and starting a movement to save Chol Soo Lee's life. While the "Free Chol Soo Lee" movement was spreading rapidly, shaking up the Asian American community, Chol Soo Lee, who was in prison, committed a real murder while trying to protect himself from a gang attack. This is a film that realistically depicts the 10-year trial with twists and turns and the dramatic transformation of the rest of Chol Soo Lee's life that no one expected.





Korea Paper Culture Foundation & Shenyang Korean International School sign business agreement to 'nurture next generation of overseas Koreans' The Korea Paper Culture Foundation and the World Origami Federation (Chairman Noh Young-hye) informed the press on Oct. 5 that they signed a memorandum of understanding to revitalize creativity, art and character education with the Shenyang Korean International School (Principal Kim Sang-heon) in China to foster the next generation of overseas Koreans. The Shenyang Korean International School, located in Shenyang, the capital of Liaoning Province, China, is a certified overseas educational institution recognized by the Ministry of Education of Korea that operates all curriculums, including for kindergarten and elementary, middle and high schools. The two organizations will collaborate in the visits and exchanges of human and material resources for their mutual development, planning programs to enhance capabilities and expertise, joint use of educational content and equipment, and the support and exchange of creative and arts programs.

World-OKTA Brisbane branch helps companies in Daejeon expand into Australia The Brisbane branch of the World Federation of Overseas Korean Traders Associations (World-OKTA) (Chairman Jeong Sang-gook) is taking the lead in helping companies in the Daejeon area advance into Australia, including Brisbane. Lee Dong-wan, secretary general of the Brisbane branch, said on social media that "the branch held a meeting with the Daejeon Economic Mission in Brisbane on Oct. 13." At the meeting, it was decided to continue cooperation in various areas, including exploring import and export opportunities between Daejeon and Brisbane companies, meeting with companies interested in overseas investment and building a network with startups in Queensland. Daejeon Mayor Lee Jang-woo, Daejeon Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chairman Jeong Tae-hee and Daejeon Job Economic Promotion Agency Director Baek Woon-kyo, as well as representatives from 20 companies in the Daejeon area, including Gyeryong Construction Co., attended the meeting.



Armed Forces Day commemoration event in Hawaii; 'We must protect peace and prosperity' The Consulate General of Korea in Honolulu held an event commemorating the national holiday of Armed Forces Day at the Pacific Club in Honolulu, Hawaii, on Oct. 2. About 300 people attended the event, including Hawaii Gov. Josh Green, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Commander John Aquilino, Hawaii Lt. Gov. Sylvia Rourke, the diplomatic corps stationed in Honolulu, Korean War veterans, descendants of independence fighters and Korean compatriots. After proposing a moment of silence for the victims of the Maui wildfires, Consul General Lee Seoyoung said, "The reason Korea has become the world's 10th-largest economic powerhouse and democratic nation is because it has maintained peace and achieved prosperity through stability based on the ROK-US alliance for the past 70 years" and expressed his gratitude to war veterans and others. Gov. Josh Green said: "The trust between Hawaii and Korea shines even brighter in difficult times. I am sincerely grateful to the Korean government and the Korean community for their generous support in response to the recent Maui wildfires."

'Korean compatriots gather together'; Oullim Hanmadang opens in Ansan A festival for Koryo-saram to gather from their scattered places in Korea was held. The incorporated association Neomeo supporting Koryo-saram joined forces with the Korean Association of Koryo-saram, Ansan Koryo-saram Cultural Center and Incheon Koryo-saram Cultural Center to organize the Oullim Hanmadang festival on Oct. 29 on the outdoor stage of Ansan Arts Center in Ansan, Gyeonggi Province. This is one of the 7th Koryo Arirang events commemorating the forced migration of Koryo-saram and the history of the anti-Japanese independence movement. A commemorative ceremony and discussion were held earlier on Sept. 22. Various programs were prepared, including a group performance depicting the forced migration of Koryo-saram, a drawing contest and a talent competition. An exhibition was also held introducing the history of forced migration of Koryo-saram and migration of Koreans, and teenagers representing the Koryo-saram community were in charge of providing a guided tour and commentary.



We introduce events of compatriot organizations, such as Korean associations and Korean language schools. Please share your news via this email: okaspokesperson@korea.kr

How to foster Korean identity in next generation of Korean Japanese



Lim Young-un,
president of Korea Society of Overseas Koreans

The number of Koreans living in Japan is estimated to be around 800,000, as of 2023, according to the Overseas Koreans Agency (OKA). Add to these the estimated 300,000 “doubles” (children born to Korean and Japanese parents) with Korean roots, and the total number is around 1 million. However, since the liberation from Japan in 1945, the number of Korean Japanese has been falling, with a decrease in the number of young people due to the declining birthrate and aging population, and the weakening of identity as the next generation enters mainstream society, as well as the growing diversification of the Korean community in Japan, leading to identity cultivation for Korean Japanese emerging as a key issue.

While naturalization in Japan was once seen as a loss of ethnic identity and many Koreans retained their Korean nationality, this has changed in recent years. Fukuoka Yasunori and Kim Young-su (1997) and Yamawaki Keizo (1999) predicted that the identity of the next generation of overseas Koreans will evolve into “naturalization-oriented,” “quasi-Japanese” and “Korean Japanese”.

In August, I visited Osaka to understand the current state of identity when it comes to the next generation of Korean Japanese and to explore ways to foster this identity. The results showed that the most important way to foster the next generation’s identity is to provide more opportunities and places to encounter Korean language, history and culture.

Looking into more detail, the following are ways to foster the identity of the next generation of Koreans in Japan.

First, reawakening and cultivating a sense of identity through hands-on experiences with the history of Koreans in Japan.

“How the Korean community in Japan will utilize the power of the Korean Wave to surpass the discrimination and exclusion of traditional Japanese society is the key to fostering the next generation’s identity,” said Koh Jung-ja, the museum manager of the Osaka Korea Town Museum. “In the past, first-generation Koreans expressed their identity and confronted discrimination in


Japanese society, while second- and third-generation Koreans have tried to restore their weakened identity. However, Koreans of the third generation and beyond have recently formed a culture that is largely unconstrained by conventional thinking. The Osaka Korea Town Museum is a place for the next generation of Korean Japanese to affirm their history and existence.”

Second, on fostering a sense of identity through cultural festivals and exchanges involving Koreans in Japan, Park Chung-hong, director of the Osaka Wasso Cultural Exchange Association, said: “It is important for the next generation of Korean Japanese to know their roots and understand their language and culture. Nationality may change, but ethnic elements, such as roots, language and culture, are immutable and can be sustained through hard work. I took the position as chair of the Wasso festival in hopes that the next generation of Korean Japanese, even if their nationality is Japanese, will recognize their Korean roots and culture through the festival.”

Third, a plan to build a network of next-generation youth and foster identity through exchanges by utilizing the popularity of “hallyu” culture in Japan.

“The popularity of hallyu culture in Japan is beyond imagining, to the extent that Korea itself has become the cultural content,” said Park Chong-seok, CEO of the Osaka Hotel Naniwa. “Since the flow of culture is not one-way but two-way, it is necessary to expand cultural exchanges between Korean and Japanese youth while the Korean Wave is trending worldwide through the establishment of a platform for the next generation of Koreans in Japan.”

In 2022, the Overseas Korean Foundation surveyed the next generation of overseas Koreans about what it takes to live with Korean roots, and the responses were 23.4 percent have a command of the Korean language, 20.9 percent study Korean history, 18.8 percent acquire Korean culture, 17.9 percent use their Korean names, 16.4 percent maintain their nationality and 2.5 percent marry a Korean. An analysis of the difference between Korean language proficiency and participation in Korean organizations also showed that the higher the level of participation in Korean organizations, the greater the strength of ethnic identity.

This suggests that the experience of receiving Korean language education and participating in Korean organization activities has a positive effect on identity formation and recognition of one’s roots and has the effect of fostering identity. In conclusion, measures to foster the identity of the next generation of Korean Japanese can be summarized as activating language, history and cultural education, providing venues and opportunities for Korean Wave and cultural festivals, and strengthening solidarity with the motherland by supporting the establishment of mutual networks between Korea and Japan. 



2023 World Korean Next Generation Congress and 2023 Korean Festival-THE NEXT to be held in Korea



The Overseas Koreans Agency (OKA) will host the 2023 World Korean Next Generation Congress at the Grand Hyatt Seoul Hotel in Yongsan Ward in Seoul from Nov. 28 to Dec. 2. The congress aims to foster the Korean identity of the next generation of Koreans, discuss and debate ways to enter the local mainstream society, and enhance capabilities for the joint development of Korea and overseas Korean communities. The event will be attended by 91 next-generation Koreans (21 countries) aged between 25 and 45 who were nominated by Korean agencies abroad. During the congress, various programs will be held, including the enhanced understanding of overseas Korean policies, the sharing of information and experiences related to entering mainstream society, and contributions toward building and revitalizing the global Korean network.

The OKA will also host the 2023 Korean Festival-THE NEXT on Nov. 29 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the KBS Annex Public Hall in Yeouido, Seoul. The festival is a special performance that invites the next generation of overseas Koreans who are becoming global leaders in the world and reminds them of their Korean identity. The festival will be recorded and broadcast on Dec. 9 from 11:10 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. on KBS 1TV and KBS World.

OKA Commissioner's Activities

- Nov. 2: Attended a business agreement ceremony with the Korea Internet & Security Agency (KISA)
- Nov. 13: Attended the Global Korean Politicians Forum
- Nov. 28: Attended the World Korean Next Generation Congress



750만 재외동포와 대한민국이 하나로 통하는 첫 번째 온라인 세상 코리아넷

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



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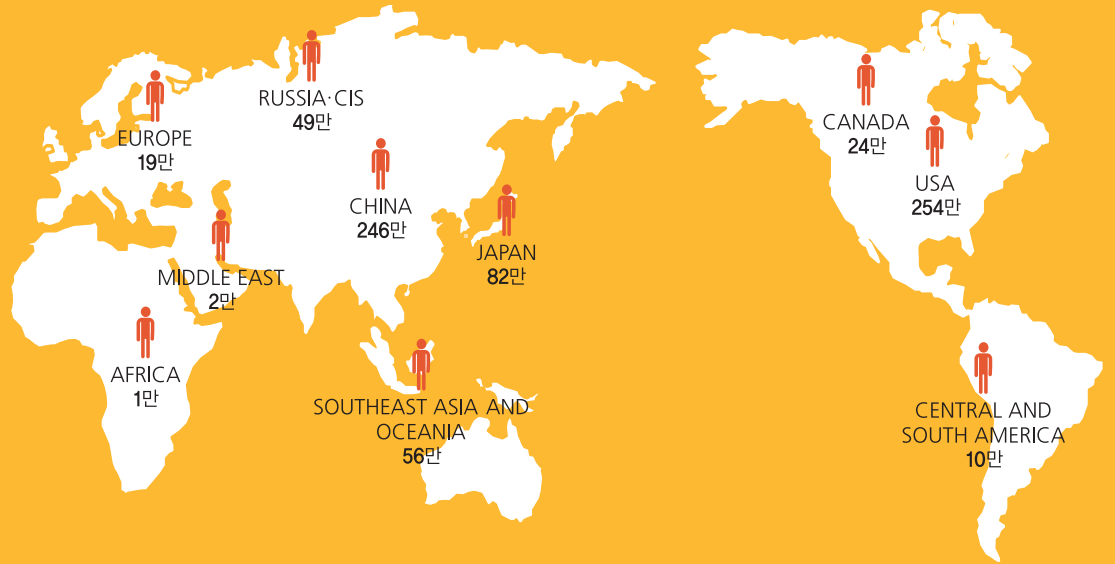


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