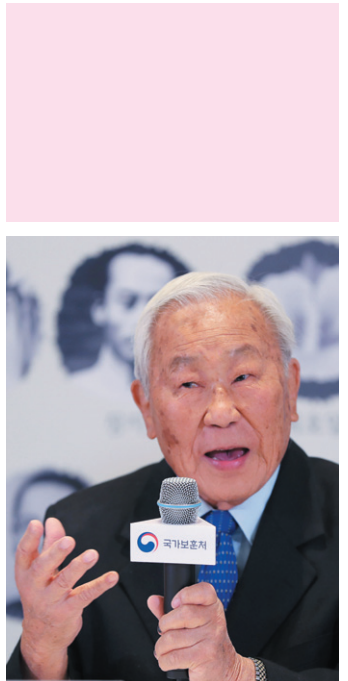




- Special Article 1 - Overseas Koreans make various requests to 20th President-elect Yoon Suk-youl
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Korean language school teachers aren't so different from trees planted on Arbor Day



Chang So-won,

director general of the National Institute of Korean Language and professor of the Department of Korean Language and Literature at Seoul National University

I took my first international flight in the summer of 1986. Before I left, I had to pass a linguistics test that was required of all students studying overseas at the time (meant to prevent South Korea's foreign currency from being wasted) and also receive a basic briefing to arm me against propaganda from North Korea.

Nowadays such a flight would take around 10 hours. My flight, however, left Gimpo International Airport and had a layover at Tokyo International Airport in Japan for a few hours, followed by another few hours spent at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport in the United States. I arrived at the airport in Paris after nearly 30 hours.

The economy seats back then were just as narrow as they are now, and I sat sandwiched between people to both sides. There was a young international student couple seated in front of me. They had received free tickets on the condition of taking five adopted children to France with them. The couple laughed as they explained to me that they were supposed to actually take six children in order to get two free tickets, but that one of the children had fallen ill.

I didn't think it likely that a newlywed couple would be able to control five children on such a long flight. The people seated around them seemed to think the same. One person picked up an infant from the group and fed it, while another person changed the baby's diaper. Naturally, I ended up taking caring of a girl about 3 or 4 years old who was seated next to me. When meal time arrived, and we were each handed our in-flight meals, the couple both spoke to me at the same time.

"You shouldn't let her eat all of that. These children were raised in an orphanage, so they've never eaten large amounts at once before."

I was taken aback at this. "Surely she'll understand what they're saying!" I thought. I was right. Moments later I witnessed tears dripping from the girl's eyes.

As an international student I taught children the Korean language at the Ecole Coreenne de Paris (Korean School of Paris). Most of the children attending the school then were children of diplomats or sojourning employees, while the rest were adopted. This was when I first learned that adopted children slowly lose their Korean skills. There being no other appropriate teaching material at the time, I procured Korean language textbooks used in Korean schools and used them to

teach my classes. I seem to recall opening to the first page of one of these textbooks -- it began with a song about a puppy named Baduki -- and wondering if these children would understand how the dog had gotten its name.


It seemed Korean language education was my fate. My life after returning to Korea continued to revolve around it. Given that the Korean Wave had begun in earnest at the time, I wrote Korean learning materials for college students in India and Poland. Then while staying on as a visiting scholar at the University of California in Los Angeles, the LA Korean Cultural Center requested me to perform an inspection of the Korean language education operations that later served as the foundation for the King Sejong Institute. I also gave a special lecture at a special workshop of the National Association for Korean Schools in Southern California. I created learning material that used Korean Wave content to teach the Korean language, which was then broadcast worldwide through YTN World, a news channel. I also operated an online training curriculum for Korean language teachers, which thousands of people completed.

My relationship with Korean language schools resumed when the head of educational support from the Overseas Koreans Foundation came to see me at Seoul National University. The request was for me to run a customized short-term training curriculum for Korean language school teachers, and I complied. I also organized educational material produced by Study Korean, in addition to suggesting a Korean language school certification process and operating it myself.

I am now the director general of the National Institute of Korean Language and carrying out the work that I've very much wanted to do: certifying overseas teachers of the Korean language as "K Teachers" in the official capacity of the National Institute of Korean Language. Previously, Level 3 teaching licenses could only be acquired after completing a Korean language teaching curriculum and taking the Test of Teaching Korean as a Foreign Language in Korea. This new system allows teachers to instead study online for a certain period and undergo an examination to receive equivalent certification from the Korean government.

Just as most English teachers in Korea are Koreans who majored in English education in college, I believe that Korean education overseas should now be performed by foreigners and permanent residents overseas. This can allow for more methodical Korean education that better suits the needs of each country and has greater longevity.

With such an aim in mind, the Overseas Koreans Foundation and the National Institute of Korean Language signed a business agreement to enable collaboration for the reinforcement of Korean language education for overseas Koreans. Korean language teachers in any country in the world can now have access to education provided by Korea. They will also be able to work with confidence as Korean teachers certified by the Korean government.

Just as trees planted on Arbor Day will one day form a vast forest, it is my hope that this agreement between the two institutions will serve as a strong foundation for the global spread of the Korean language - coloring the world green with a lingual forest of its own. 



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

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

Overseas Koreans make various requests to 20th President-elect Yoon Suk-yeol 'Advance rights and interests of overseas Koreans, and carry out pledge to establish Overseas Korean Services'

Yoon Suk-yeol of the People Power Party was elected in the 20th presidential election, which took place March 9. Overseas Koreans all over the world sent various requests and entreaties his way, including the unification of the people, the improvement of the country, the enhancement of national security and balanced diplomacy, the expansion of the rights and interests of overseas Koreans, and the creation of an Overseas Korean Services as per his election pledges. We collected the many messages sent by overseas Koreans of each major region with the Yoon administration soon to take office.

United States

Choi Kang-cheol, vice chairperson of the U.S. Council of the National Unification Advisory Council: "The elections have given rise to severe confrontation and enmity between different ideologies, regions and generations. I am concerned that our country may run aground amid extreme division. Governance and unification will matter most in such a situation. The ruling and opposition parties must collaborate regarding various issues both inside and outside the country."

Charles Yoon, president of the Korean American Association of Greater New York: "More efforts must be made toward furthering the rights and interests of overseas Koreans. The pledge was to create an Overseas Korean Services. I take this to mean that policies for overseas Koreans that have depth are on the way. I hope that this promise will be kept."

Kim Dong-seok, president of the Korean American Grassroots Conference: "The globe is reeling from the war in Ukraine. I hope that the new president-elect will put forth diplomatic and security policies that will gain bipartisan support. Value-based principles must be erected after that."

Kim Dong-chan, chairman of the Korean American Civic Empowerment: "From a policy-level perspective, creating a good relationship with the U.S. is important. As Korea is now regarded as one of the advanced countries, the U.S.-Korea alliance must progress from a largely military alliance to a value-sharing one. It is also necessary to support the nurturing of Korean experts who can exert influence on U.S. society through public diplomacy."

Greater China

Park Ki-rak, president of the Beijing Korean Association: "The relationship between Korea and China, both geographically and economically, is not competitive in nature; it is complementary. I request that the new government, instead of leaning too much towards the U.S. or China, engages in pragmatic diplomacy and acts as a bridge between China, North Korea and the U.S."

Hwang Sang-wook, president of the Shenyang Korean Association: "I'd like to request that the new government take an active stance towards bettering the Korea-China relationship. The relationship worsened with the THAAD controversy, and Korean businesses and local businessmen have suffered for it. I would like to request that, to show consideration and provide support for multicultural families with Korean citizenship, one consul branch office be set up in each of the three northeastern provinces (Liaoning, Jilin, Heilongjiang). The diplomatic offices of Korea in the three provinces are currently the consulate general in Shenyang and the branch office in Dalian, both in Liaoning province."

Cho Seong-geon, president of the Korean Residents Association Hong Kong: "I request that the nation be united through acceptance by opposing parties and be improved. The higher the status of one's mother country, the more proud





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we overseas Koreans can be. It is my hope the new president-elect will strive to further our national prestige.”

Japan

Yeo Geon-yi, head of the central headquarters of the Republic of Korean Residents Union in Japan: “I hope that the greatest possible efforts be put in to the restoration of Korea-Japan relations, which are at an all-time low. Worsening relations between the two countries are not only an issue for the countries involved. It also has to do with ensuring safety in Southeast Asia, and a life-and-death matter for Koreans living in Japan. The differences regarding historical issues must be overcome early, and the mutual distrust that has built up over time must quickly be resolved.”

Kim Dae-ha of KITA/KOBA (head of Nongshim Japan): “Korean businessmen operating a business in Japan have high stakes in the improvement of Korea-Japan relations. If the new government can provide new impetus to the improvement of said relations, the business cooperation between corporations of both countries will grow more actively and civilian cultural interchanges will grow. I am sure that such changes will allow new future-oriented relations to form.”

Gu Cheol, president of the Federation of Korean Associations Japan: “There are many historical issues to be overcome between Korea and Japan, but the solution that we’ve wanted from every new administration hasn’t been forthcoming. Politics are important, of course, but I ask that the pain of overseas Koreans living in Japan be considered. I hope that, like in the time of Kim Dae-jung and Keizō Obuchi, a generous pact be created to allow both countries to head in the right direction.”

Europe

Park Seon-yu, president of the German Federation of Korean Associations and head of the North European Council of the NUAC: “I ask that the Yoon administration plan for the future and build a foundation for politics that will affect a great union of the people, governance of ruling and opposing parties, and peace on the Korean Peninsula. We can and should learn lessons from the coalition government in Germany.”


Jang Do-soon, president of the U.K. Council of the NUAC: “I ask that the president-elect seek consolidation and carry out his pledges regarding fairness and common sense. Divisions must not be created among the people for any

reason. Korea has made much progress, and the Korean Wave is having a big impact on the world, creating much global attention. Many objectionable things have come up during this year’s elections, however.”

Song An-shik, president of the France Korean Association: “Though security issues are paramount, I’d like for systems, such as online voting and postal voting, to be considered in order to allow more overseas Koreans to take part in their mother country’s elections.”

Middle East/Africa

Kim In-soon, president of the Iran Korean Association: “Quite a few businesses have expanded to the Middle East. I would appreciate it if support measures could be implemented for the businesses that can bring in foreign currency and become a medium for diplomacy.”

Jeon So-young, president of the South Africa Korean Association: “This year marks 30 years of diplomatic relations between South Africa and Korea. It is my hope the good relations will continue and that the president-elect be someone that we overseas presidents can be proud of.” 

1 A voter, accompanied by her child, votes at the Los Angeles consulate general polling station on Feb. 23.

2 An overseas Korean casts a vote at the Korea Embassy in Beijing, China, on Feb. 23, the first day of overseas voting for the 20th presidential election.

3 Voters stand in line to receive ballots at a polling station set up in the Korean Embassy in Paris, France, on Feb. 23, the first day of overseas voting for the 20th presidential election.

4 President-elect Yoon Suk-yeol poses with a bouquet in the early morning of March 10 in the People Power Party ballot-counting room during the 20th presidential election (National Assembly Library, Yeouido, Seoul).

5 President-elect Yoon poses for a photo holding an election certificate from the National Election Commission at the disbanding ceremony of the election polling headquarters on March 10 in the National Assembly Library (Yeouido, Seoul).

Compatriot community demands newly elected gov't uphold pledge, create Overseas Korean Services Issues with dual citizenship/military service for those born to multiple nationalities must be resolved



With the successful election of Yoon Suk-yeol of the People Power Party in the 20th presidential election, interest has grown regarding the policies of the newly elected government that pertain to overseas Koreans.

During his election campaign, Yoon pledged to create an Overseas Korean Services, something long sought by the compatriot society at large, with attention from overseas Koreans bound to be high.

“We have always requested the creation of an Overseas Korean Services for the unification of administrative tasks related to overseas Koreans, currently scattered throughout various government departments,” said Shim Sang-man, president of the World Assembly of Korean Associations. “We hope that this time it will come to pass.”

Lim Chae-wan, standing representative of Peace Asia, said: “We live in the era of the ‘demographic cliff,’ where our population will fall to 39 million by 2067. The 7.32 million overseas Koreans are a valuable asset. Overseas Koreans living in Korea, which number close to a million now, will continue to increase. This only accentuates the need for a dedicated institution.”

Over the years, the heads of the Korean societies worldwide have come together at the yearly HANIN

(referring to overseas Koreans) meetings in order to appeal for the creation of an Overseas Korean Services and deliver proposals to the government and National Assembly, as well as other institutions.

‘Overseas Korean Services must act as dedicated institution for Korean policy abroad’

Work related to overseas Koreans is currently scattered across various government departments, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (overseas Korean support), Ministry of Justice (immigration and legal status), Ministry of Education (educational support for overseas Koreans), Military Manpower Administration (military management) and National Tax Service (taxes). The need for an optimized system has long been raised.

“It will be beneficial to create an Overseas Korean Services separate from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to absorb the duties of the Overseas Koreans Foundation,” Yoon said as one of his election pledges. “This will allow for the optimization of the broad networks of diplomatic offices.”

He described the Overseas Korean Services as serving as a single institution that can conveniently deal with civil complaints from overseas Koreans, while also increasing overseas Koreans’ voting participation, improving the systems for various taxes for overseas Koreans and better requirements for residence in Korea, enhancing the systems to support overseas Korean schools and Korean language schools, evaluating relaxed requirements for dual nationality and expanding support for overseas Korean adoptees, among other tasks.



The discussion over the establishment of the Overseas Korean Services has been ongoing in political circles, and a bill was also proposed. No actual progress has been made so far, however.

“The Overseas Korean Services must be a responsible institution that can systematically and comprehensively create and execute policies for the coexistence and growth of the general compatriot community, as well as the nation of Korea,” Shim said.

James Ahn, president of the Korean American Federation of Los Angeles, said, “As Yoon made it a part of his pledges, I hope he will become the first president who truly answers the need of our community.”

‘Mail-in voting must be implemented to increase overseas voting rate’

The overseas voting system, introduced during the 19th general elections in 2012, was revised multiple times to improve the convenience of reporting, applying and voting for overseas voters. This, however, did not lead to improvements in the voting method.

As overseas voting currently stands, voters living in foreign countries must visit diplomatic offices in their country of residence twice: once for registration and once to cast their ballot.

Election Day is a temporary holiday in Korea but not in other countries. Voters must put their daily livelihoods on hold and travel long distances by car or plane to vote.

The overseas Korean community, as a result, has long called for mail-in voting and online voting, which have been implemented in certain advanced countries.

“There are about 2.1 million qualified voters overseas,” Shim said. “Only 220,000 registered for the elections this year, while only 160,000 actually voted. The elections thus far prove that our current system of voting in diplomatic offices is ineffective in increasing voter participation.”

“A single state in the U.S. or province in China can be larger than our entire country,” Yoon said. “From the perspective of guaranteeing the right to vote for overseas Koreans according to the Constitution, we must improve the current systems -- through the implementation of mail-in voting, for example -- for Koreans living far away.”

‘Retention of overseas Korean talent must be achieved through expansion of dual citizenship’

“The age requirement for dual nationality for returning overseas Koreans must be lowered from 65 years to 60,” Kim Young-geun, president of the World Korean

Network, said in an appeal to Yoon.

He believes the age requirement for dual nationalities must be lowered in order to allow overseas Koreans returning to Korea after a long residence overseas (and gaining foreign citizenship) to seek coexistence and work in Korea.

The National Assembly, through an amendment of the Nationality Act in 2011, permitted the acquisition of dual citizenship for overseas Koreans 65 years and older on condition of a vow not to exercise their foreign nationality rights in Korea. The age restriction was created at the time out of concerns that granting dual citizenship to overseas Koreans at an age capable of economic activities would reduce jobs for local citizens.

Overseas Koreans, however, have incessantly requested that the age requirement be lowered as the retention of overseas Korean talent has been limited as those 65 years and older are past the retirement age.

“Those born with dual citizenship are often placed at a disadvantage when being hired as officials, soldiers, etc., in Korea and face difficulties when visiting Korea,” Yoon said. “Such issues contribute to a failure to keep global talent in Korea, instead encouraging second-generation overseas Koreans to give up their Korean citizenship.”

In addition, he explained that as current policies focus on preventing people from abusing their dual citizenship status, many overseas Koreans are hindered for no good reason, adding, “I will implement an improvement to the law soon.” [창]

1 Overseas Korean policies announced by the People’s Power Party during the 20th presidential election.

2 20th President-elect Yoon Seok-youl holds a press conference.

3 The 121st Overseas Koreans Forum is held in the Eroom Center in Yeouido, Seoul, to find a solution for the era of the “demographic cliff.”

4 An overseas Korean policy forum for the discussion of expanded political rights, hosted by the Center for Research on Overseas Korean Issues.

Koreans all over the world supporting Ukrainian refugees

Korean organizations also help Koryo-saram and refugees who have lost their homes and fled their country

Koreans all over the world are actively taking part in helping refugees who have lost their homes and those who have fled their country because of the war in Ukraine.

According to compatriot newspapers and societies, compatriot communities in various countries have begun fundraising campaigns to send emergency funds and collecting relief goods to send as aid. The relief supports the Koryo-saram (ethnic Koreans living in post-Soviet states) in Ukraine who have lost their homes because of Russian bombings, as well as those who have fled the country.

Korean societies, volunteer organizations, National Unification Advisory Council branches and next generation organizations in various countries are contributing

The Korean American Federation of Los Angeles (President James Ahn) and the Hwarang Youth Foundation (President Park Yun-sook) delivered US\$500 each to 10 Koryo-saram households still living in Ukraine. This money is the first in a series of support fund contributions. One thousand kilograms of potatoes were also sent to Koryo-saram and local students living in school dormitories.

Additionally, \$5,000 was also sent to a Koryo-saram school (Principal Jung Soo-ri) in refugee support to help the remaining families travel to Korea. The two institutions will soon send a second wave of support money (\$500 each to 40 households).

The Asian American Youth Council (AAYC) (CEO Brian Jon) visited the Ukraine Embassy in Korea at the end of March to contribute 10 million won (US\$8,082) in relief contributions. Many took part in the AAYC's fundraising campaign, including the Korean-American Association of New Jersey, the Free Turkeys KO-AM Foundation and Paul Kim, a city councilor of Palisades Park, NJ.

The Korean-American religious circles in California have formed the Help Ukraine HQ (jointly represented by Revs. Song Jeong-myeong and Han Ki-hong) and are engaging in a fundraiser for victims of the war. Their campaign will



continue till the end of April, and the collected money sent to a relevant organization in early May.

The New Jersey branch of the Global Children Foundation (President Won Hye-kyung) held a "Bazaar for Child Victims of War in Ukraine" at the DoubleTree Hotel in Fort Lee, NJ. All proceeds of this bazaar will be spent as relief funds for child refugees in Ukraine.

Members of the National Unification Advisory Council in various countries are also making a united effort. The Toronto Council in Canada (President Kim Yeon-soo) quickly gathered 4,226 relief items in seven categories, including sleeping bags, masks and medical supplies, along with its advisory committee members, and delivered the collected items to a cathedral of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine in Toronto. This cathedral is currently functioning as a middleman, sending relief supplies to victims of the war in Ukraine.

The Council of Central and Eastern Europe (President Jung Jong-wan) sent provisions worth \$40,000 to a relief institution of the Polish government in March. This was followed by another shipment of provisions and basic medical supplies worth \$47,000 to missionaries working near the borders of Ukraine.

The Council of European, Middle Eastern and African Regions (Vice-chairperson Kim Jeom-bae) also gathered funds from members of its advisory committee. It will provide provisions and medical supplies worth \$45,000.

The Federation of Korean Germans and other Korean organizations in Germany also visited the consulate general of Ukraine in Düsseldorf to donate 2,440 euro



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(\$2,641) worth of emergency relief funds.

“People in Ukraine continue to suffer many hardships due to Russia’s invasion,” President Düsing Krems, who took the donation, said. “We are very grateful for these funds raised by Koreans living in Germany.”

The Korean Association in the Czech Republic (President Kim Myeong-heui) also urgently gathered funds and delivered a donation of 30,000 koruna (\$1,332) and 5,000 containers of probiotics to the local Red Cross. The association plans to hold a fundraising event and send further donations.

Koryo-saram refugees enter Korea thanks to support from Korean organizations. Relief for Koryo-saram compatriots urgently requested

Around 250 Koryo-saram from Ukraine are currently living in Koryoin Village in Gwangsan Ward, Gwangju. The village has held events to help Koryo-saram in Ukraine since the early days of the war. Recently, it raised enough funds to give Koryo-saram refugee families in neighboring countries the opportunity to travel back to Korea.

The granddaughter of Nam Lousia, a resident of Koryoin Village, was allowed to fly to Korea through Hungary on March 14. This was the first such instance, followed by 16 more people on March 30.

On April 5-6, a total of 29 Koryo-saram, including women, senior citizens and children, were allowed to travel back to Korea from Romania and Poland, where they’d taken refuge.

“We will continue to help every last one of our compatriots who wish to come to Korea,” said Shin Jo-ya, the representative of Koryoin Village who raised around 30 million won in donations. “Around 100 more will travel to Korea in the future.”

Neomeo, a support organization for Koryo-saram, and the Koryo-saram Cultural Center in Ansan published a statement March 29.

“Many Koryo-saram compatriots who have taken refuge in neighboring countries like Poland and Romania are currently facing difficulties with visa applications because they weren’t able to bring passports or identification papers with them,” the statement read. “Even if they are permitted to travel to Korea, they have left all their belongings behind and will be hard put to even maintain a basic living. The Korean government must simplify the immigration procedures even more for Koryo-saram refugees seeking to return to Korea. “

“Defenseless victims of the war in Ukraine must be provided relief in the form of lodging, food, medical support and other necessities. We ask that Koryo-saram who have returned to Korea be provided temporary lodging and medical supplies, and that their children may be allowed to attend school. Our plea is for Korea to

provide active support for their sojourn in Korea, as well as humanitarian relief.”

The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has simplified the visa issuance procedures for compatriots in Ukraine and their families until the situation in Ukraine is stabilized.

“There are 1,000 Koryo-saram refugees in Poland alone,” National Assembly Rep. Lee Kwang-jae, who is also the head of the Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee, emphasized. “We currently need a means of humanitarian support capable of accommodating the Koryo-saram refugees.” [\[장\]](#)

1 Anita, a Koryo-saram who traveled to Incheon International Airport by means of Hungary after escaping from Ukraine, has a touching reunion with her grandmother, Nam Lousia, on March 22 at the airport.

2 A fundraising campaign run by the Korean American Federation of Los Angeles.

3 Advisory committee members of the National Unification Advisory Council pose for a photo at a Ukrainian cathedral in Toronto where they donated relief supplies.

4 The AAYC recently visited the Ukraine Embassy in Korea and delivered 10 million won in donations.

5 Koryoin Village in Gwangju engages in fundraising activities to help Koryo-saram compatriots who have taken refuge in countries neighboring Ukraine.

National Memorial of Korean Provisional Government opens Independence Movement Day

Located behind Seodaemun Prison in Seoul, it highlights provisional government's establishment and activities



The National Memorial of the Korean Provisional Government, which features comprehensive exhibits on the creation, activities and other aspects of the Korean Provisional Government, officially opened its doors March 1.

"We have opened the doors of the National Memorial of the Korean Provisional Government, which was built to cast light on the proud spirit of independence and republican democracy of the Korean Provisional Government and pass it down to future generations," the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs said on the 103rd anniversary of Independence Movement Day.

The memorial was completed 4 1/2 years after President Moon Jae-in revealed his plans for its construction at the National Liberation Day commemoration ceremony in 2017, the first year of his presidency.

The memorial has collected everything pertaining to the provisional government in one place, starting from its inception in 1919 in Shanghai, China -- after Korea lost its sovereignty to Japan and spanning all its activities, including the fierce struggle for independence -- to the establishment of the Korean government in 1948.

Entire process from provincial to official government at a glance

Up until now, there have not been many places that allowed Koreans to view and experience the history of their nation's independence and liberation. After Japanese

oppression intensified following the loss of national sovereignty and the March 1st Movement in 1919, the struggle against Japan became difficult to carry out on Korean soil. Most of the activities were moved overseas to countries like China. Most of the notable locations of the independence movement were also in China. Though there is a domestic exhibit regarding the provisional government in the Independence Hall of Korea in Cheonan, South Chungcheong Province, it is hardly complete.

For this reason, organizations connected to the independence movement, historians and experts have long sought the creation of a memorial that provides a full account of the struggle and efforts of our people for sovereignty. The National Memorial of the Korean Provisional Government represents the realization of such desires.

It was originally planned to open last year on the date of the return of key figures of the provisional government (Nov. 23), but it was delayed because of the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The memorial is a building (four floors above ground, three below) that occupies the site of the old Seodaemun Ward Council in Hyeonjeo-dong, Seodaemun Ward, Seoul, which skirts Mount An. The building has a total floor area of 9,703 square meters. Seodaemun Prison, where many freedom fighters were imprisoned and tortured during the Japanese occupation, is fully visible from the site.

The rooftop garden provides a view of the red-bricked Seodaemun Prison History Hall, where our freedom fighters were kept and tortured, while in the distance lies Seodaemun Independence Park, containing Dongnimmun Gate -- a symbol of the independence movement. To the left, Mount Inwang is visible, while to the front, Mount Nam lies in the distance. The spot provides a view of the sorrow of a ruined people and the prosperous state of the country today.

The National Memorial of the Korean Provisional Government provides exhibits regarding the detailed activities and records of the provisional government. A condensed video summarizes the heated first meeting of the Provisional Assembly that began on the night of April 10, 1919, and ended with the establishment of the provisional government on the following day. The meeting lasted twelve hours.

Everything from the provisional government's first draft of the Principles and Plans for National Reconstruction to the declaration of war against Japan and Japan's surrender documents are on display. A span of 27 years, beginning on April 11, 1919, and including the provisional government's armed struggle against Japan (and diplomatic activities) as it sought independence and a nation owned by its people, can also be witnessed at the memorial.



Over 7,200 artifacts on display, illustrating the lives of overseas Koreans

Three permanent exhibits and one special exhibit showcase around 1,000 items related to the provisional government, ranging from the March 1st Movement in 1919 to the present. Some of the 7,200 artifacts collected and held by the memorial, as well as items rented from other institutions, such as the Independence Hall of Korea, were exhibited first.

The permanent exhibits have three themes: “From Kingdom of Monarch to Republic of the People,” “Korean Provisional Government and People of Korea” and “From Korean Provisional Government to the Government of the Republic of Korea.” The exhibits describe the March 1st Movement -- which provided the impetus for the establishment of the provisional government -- as well as the series of activities that led to the establishment of the Korean government, which continued the legal tradition of the provincial one.

The exhibits feature items, photos, documents and videos of the March 1st Movement -- the beginning of the provincial government -- as well as the process of the provincial government’s creation and the major activities of the provincial government, spanning the fields of culture, education, diplomacy, military and administration.

Notable items in the collection include the Report on the Establishment of the Korean Independence Army General Headquarters, which details, among other things, the establishment of the independence army, its composition and its relationship with China, and the Pulemyot Maxima PM1910, one of the major weapons of the army. These two items were revealed for the first time to the public at the memorial.

The special exhibit hall on the first floor will showcase a special opening exhibit titled “The Return of the Korean Provisional Government” until June 26.

The exhibit shows the uniform and bag used by Kim Boong-joon (1888-1950), who was a provisional government cabinet member, the first official telegram of the Korean government, and posters of the president, vice president and early cabinet.

The second permanent exhibit hall on the third floor is titled “Korean Provisional Government and People of Korea,” and focuses on the lives of the families and comrades of the provincial government, as well as overseas Koreans, foreigners and others who aided the government.

Besides the exhibits, there is a symbolic wall, called the “Wave of History,” in the square on the ground floor, as well as a video on the third floor, titled “4,000km

Traveled That One Day, They Might Return.” The symbolic wall can also be viewed in augmented reality using phones.

“We seek to apply an independent perspective to Korean history, leading from the fall of the Daehan Jeguk to the establishment of the next government,” a worker at the memorial said. “We also want to study the roots and spirit of our country with a focus on the succession of legitimacy from the provisional government to the Korean government, and from the Provisional Assembly to the National Assembly.”

The memorial opened to the public March 2. The opening hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and entry is free. The memorial is closed Mondays. [\[장\]](#)

- 1 A view of the National Memorial of the Korean Provisional Government.
- 2 Citizens view exhibits at the National Memorial of the Korean Provisional Government in Hyeonjeo-dong, Seodaemun Ward, Seoul.
- 3 The National Memorial of the Korean Provisional Government, which provides a comprehensive exhibit of historical records related to the creation and activities of the provisional government.
- 4 Citizens view the interior of the memorial.
- 5 A view of the government office building of the provisional government, which was built in the Shanghai French Concession, as exhibited in a permanent exhibition hall of the memorial.



First anniversary of shootings in Atlanta, U.S., in which four Koreans were killed

‘They were targeted for being Asians. Hate crimes must stop’

A local commemorative ceremony was held on the first anniversary of the deaths of eight people, including four Korean women, who were killed in shootings in Atlanta, Georgia, the United States. Human rights organizations and civic groups came together in downtown Atlanta on March 16 to hold the ceremony around the theme of “Stop Asian Hate.”

Around 250 people participated in the event, among which were the families of the victims, including Robert Peterson, the son of Korean American Yong Ae Yu (one of the victims), and the ex-husband of another Chinese American victim, Xiaojie Tan.

“My mother was the embodiment of American history,” Peterson said. “She married an African American soldier and had me at a time when interracial marriages were not common.”

He also called for an end to hate crimes, saying: “She was not only my mother but also my best friend. She was targeted by a stranger simply because she was Asian.”

“The malicious violence shocked every one of us,” Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens said. “People’s ordinary routines should not be

threatened with such dangers.”

The emergency planning committee of the Korean American Association of Greater Atlanta also held a commemorative ceremony that day. Erika Moritsugu, the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) senior liaison at the White House, met with a member of the committee to deliver a statement from President Joe Biden describing his determination to stop the spread of hate crimes.

In addition to many Korean Americans, U.S. Rep. Carolyn Bourdeaux, Georgia state Sen. Michelle Au and Georgia state Rep. Samuel Park visited the memorial altar to offer flowers and a silent tribute. U.S. Sens. Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock from Georgia sent their condolences through a video.

“We are grateful to everyone who participated in this commemoration of the victims of the shocking shootings that took place a year ago,” Kim Baek-gyu, head of the emergency planning committee, said. “We must take measures to make sure such a tragedy is never repeated.”

Biden states resolve to eradicate hate crimes to Korean American emergency planning committee

President Joe Biden, in a statement delivered to the emergency planning committee, pointed out that the incident a year ago was a stark reminder that anti-Asian violence and discrimination were taking deep root in the U.S.

“These terrible murders shocked communities all over the United States and emphasized how much effort we must put in to fight the widespread gun violence that enables racism, misogyny, hate of all kinds and this kind of extremism,” he said.

He paid his respects to the victims, their families and the communities of Atlanta, who evinced a surprising amount of resilience in the face of such a tragedy, adding that though the victims can’t ever be brought back, their sacrifice will allow the country to combat anti-Asian and gender-based violence -- a long-standing malady present in the nation.

“This tragedy serves to remind us of the widespread gun violence in our country,” Biden said. “Our administration has taken more measures than any that came before it to reduce gun violence, but it is not enough. The United States Congress must take action.”

Commemorative ceremony held at ‘Comfort Women’ Memorial in Atlanta

On March 12, four days before the anniversary of the deaths of the shooting victims, locals and Korean Americans came together to hold a different commemorative ceremony.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAAJ) in Atlanta and the bereaved, as well as Korean American organizations, hosted the event at Blackburn Park in Brookhaven, Georgia, with around 150 people present. This park is where the third “Comfort Women” Memorial in the United States was built in 2017.

“They say pain passes, but not for us,” Robert Peterson (39), the son of victim Yong Ae Yu, said. “Not a day has gone by the past year without thoughts of my mother.”

“I miss her smile, her food and even insignificant things like how I used to change light bulbs with her. She shouldn’t be remembered just by her race, job and cause of death.”

Phi Nguyen, executive director of the AAAJ, read a letter written by the daughter of another victim, Kim Sun-ja.



“My mother, the grandmother of my daughter, vanished from our lives in a single day. I still feel that she might return at any moment,” Kim’s daughter said in her letter read by Nguyen.

“The sadness experienced by Asian women due to racism in Atlanta isn’t so different from the pain of comfort women who fell victim to extreme violence during World War II,” Nguyen said. “Please offer flowers and silent tribute to the Comfort Women Memorial to offer respects to women who fell victim to violence.”

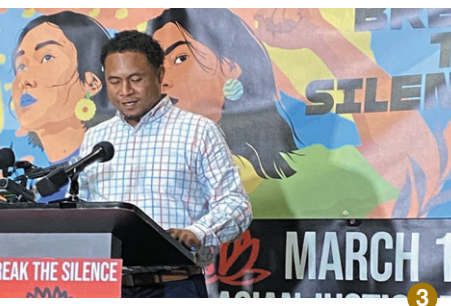
Present at this event were the Atlanta Comfort Women Memorial Task Force, as well as the Korean American Association of Greater Atlanta.

Robert Aaron Long, the shooter, fired volleys of bullets at two spas in Fulton County, Georgia, and one massage parlor in Rocky County, Georgia. Eight victims died in the shootings. Six of the eight victims were Asian women, and four of the eight were Korean Americans.

The Cherokee County Superior Court sentenced Long to life imprisonment. Long is currently undergoing a separate trial in the Fulton County Superior Court.

“I send my deepest condolences to the bereaved and the communities affected,” Long said through his lawyer. “I can’t fathom the sadness the deaths must have caused, but it is now time to work towards healing.” [\[참\]](#)

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- 1 Families of the deceased commemorate the Korean victims on the first anniversary of the tragedy.
 - 2 Robert Peterson, son of the deceased Yong Ae Yu, remembering his mother.
 - 3 A bereaved family member speaks at the commemorative ceremony for the first anniversary of the shooting deaths in Atlanta.
 - 4 Rep. Carolyn Bourdeaux offers flowers at the first anniversary commemoration held at the Korean American Association of Greater Atlanta.
 - 5 A local offers flowers at the Comfort Women Memorial during a commemorative assembly on the first anniversary of the Atlanta shootings.



GLOBAL KOREAN



Cho Bong-hwan, president of the Cebu Korean Association, awarded March 1st Peace Medal

He and his wife, Sityo Cho, mayor of Cordova, helped advance relations between the two countries

The president of the Cebu Korean Association, Cho Bong-hwan, and his wife were awarded the March 1st Peace Medal by the Foundation for the Commemoration of the Registration of the March 1st Movement as a UNESCO Memory of the World (Board Chairman Kim Young-jin, former minister of agriculture, food and rural affairs), as well as the World Korean Interchange and Cooperation Association (President Kim Heui-seon).

Cho was given this award at the March 1st Commemoration and Peace Medal Award Ceremony on Feb. 28 at the Novotel Ambassador Seoul Gangnam hotel. His wife and co-recipient, the Filipino Mary Therese Sityo Cho (mayor of Cordova), wasn't able to come to Korea.

Cho and his wife were acknowledged for advancing friendly relations and economic cooperation between South Korea and the Philippines with the spirit of the March 1st Movement, in addition to actively taking part in ensuring the safety and rights of Koreans in the Philippines.

Other peace medal awardees this year included Kim Won-ki, former speaker of the National Assembly; Jang Sang, former acting premier; Lee Man-yeol, former president of the National Institute of Korean History; Kim Sang-geun, chairman of the board of KBS; and Kim Hong-guk, chairman of Harim Group.

"I interacted with Filipino politicians and businessmen to tell them about Korea and gave them opportunities to visit Korea to enable interchanges and collaborations," Cho said in an interview with Yonhap News. "My wife and I will continue to contribute to the development of both countries."

Mayor Cho, who is referred to as a "Korean daughter-in-law" by local residents, is running for her third term in the upcoming mayoral elections on May 7. The city of Cordova, where she has held office for two three-year terms, lies on an island that is located between the islands of Cebu and Mactan, and has a population of approximately 80,000 people.

The couple have been making extensive efforts to turn Cordova into the first high-tech city of the Philippines, using the "smart cities" of South Korea as their inspiration.

Cho traveled to Cebu in 1995 to visit relatives there and decided to settle down in the region. He met and married his wife 18 years ago, and currently works in real estate development and leasing, as well as in the resort and restaurant businesses.

Korean American Choe Kyu-sun wins Poppy Award for best content marketing in California

Pines Resort CEO overcomes difficulties of COVID-19 pandemic through social media marketing

The Korean American Choe Kyu-sun, who operates The Pines Resort near Yosemite National Park in California, was awarded the Poppy Award for best content marketing by the California Office of Tourism (popularly known as Visit California).

He was given this award at the Poppy Awards, an awards ceremony held by Visit California in San Francisco in mid-February. Mark Choe, his son and general manager at the resort, was present at the ceremony in his place.

"We were singled out for this content marketing award out of 218 hotels and resorts operational in the state of California, a hub of U.S. tourism," said Choe Kyu-sun, who is also an executive director of the World Federation of Overseas Korean Traders Association (World-OKTA), in a social



media interview. "This has more significance than as a personal honor, as it contributes to elevating Korea's status in people's eyes."

The Poppy Awards, held biannually, give out awards to businesses and local government institutions who have excelled in eight fields that include tourism promotion and marketing.

Choe was recognized for his feat in securing over 30,000 room reservations through various online platforms, such as social media, YouTube and podcasts, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Having come to the U.S. in the late 1970s to pursue his studies, he subsequently settled there. He saved money by various means, including working as a goods peddler and running a souvenir shop. After moving to California, he operated a Days Inn in Oakhurst before purchasing The Pines Resort in 2010.

Despite difficulties ranging from the pandemic and wildfires to storms, The Pines Resort launched an active social medial marketing campaign after Mark Choe joined the business. It soon became a popular resort frequented by 100,000 tourists annually.

The Fresno Bee, a Californian daily newspaper, threw a spotlight on Choe Kyu-sun as a living example of the American dream.

The Pines Resort has a main building with 20 suites, as well as 84 mountain chalets that come complete with a bedroom, kitchen and living room.

Ruslan Pak's Korean-Kazakhstani movie shown in Kazakhstan for first time Pak, a Koryo-saram, based 'Three' on past serial killings in Soviet Union

A movie jointly created by Korean and Kazakhstani teams, and directed by a Koryo-saram director (Koryo-saram are ethnic Koreans who live in post-Soviet states) was released in Kazakhstan at the end of March. This was the first time a movie jointly worked on by the two countries was shown in Kazakhstan.

According to the Koryo Business Network (KBN), composed of Koryo-saram and other businessmen in Korea, "Three" by Ruslan Pak (41, 4th-generation Koryo-saram) opened in all regions in Kazakhstan on March 31.

The movie was given the New Currents Award -- an award created with the purpose of discovering new directing talent in Asia and providing encouragement -- at the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) in October 2020. Pak was given the honor of being the first Koryo-saram to ever receive an award at BIFF.

He began his foray into the field of film by entering the Korea National University of Arts in 2006. He began making his name known with his debut work, "Hanaan," in 2012. Over the subsequent years, he has made over 10 documentaries and movies about Koryo-saram.

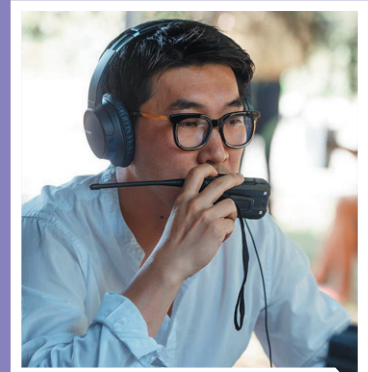
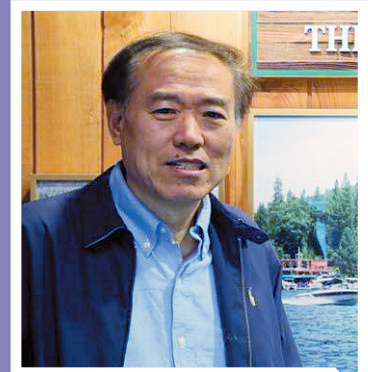
"Three," based on serial killings that occurred in the Soviet Union 40-odd years ago, was filmed in the course of a year while the staff in Korea and Kazakhstan traveled back and forth between the two countries.

The movie was also shown in the 43rd Moscow International Film Festival and the 9th Muju Film Festival last year.

According to a society of Koryo-saram, this is basically the first time a commercial movie created jointly by the two countries has ever been shown in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), including Russia.

There are approximately 100 movie theaters and 360 screens in Kazakhstan, not one-tenth of those in Korea.

"We'll make our best efforts to release the movie in Russia and Korea as well," Pak said. "I wish to continue my efforts to create movies that will allow the two countries to collaborate." 🇰🇷🇰🇵



Yangdong Village in Gyeongju retains 500 years of pristine history



- 1 Mucheomdang House, the main house of the Yeogang Lee clan built in 1508.
- 2 Gwangajeong House, located at the entrance of the village.
- 3 The Suunjeong Pavilion offers a great view of the plains in the Angang region.
- 4 Yangdong Village in Gyeongju, located in the hilly areas to the east of the fertile plains in the Angang region.
- 5 Yangdong Village is a classic example of an aristocratic neighborhood in Korea. Every house is currently occupied.

Yangdong Village in Gyeongju is the largest “yangban,” or aristocratic neighborhood in Korea, where the Wolseong Son clan and the Yeogang Lee clan have lived for around 500 years and still do to this day. Together with Hahoe Village in Andong, the village was registered as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site in July 2010 under the title “Historic Villages of Korea: Hahoe and Yangdong.”

Yangdong Village, located approximately 20 kilometers to the northeast of Gyeongju, stands at the foot of Mount Solchang (163m above sea level). To the west of the village is the large, fertile plains of Angang. Yangdong Village was a wealthy village that formed early on based on the productive plains.

In each of the valleys in the region, with names that include Mulbonggol and Angol, there are small houses and thatched-roof houses, where the nobility once lived. The larger tile-roofed houses are located on the hilly areas, while the smaller houses and thatched-roof houses are gathered in the valleys. The main houses of the two clans were built on the tops of the valleys, while the lesser houses took the peaks. The ruling class and the governed class took the upper and lower regions, respectively.

Yangdong Village was a clan society village led by the Wolseong Son clan and the Yeogang Lee clan. Even today, it retains the major components of such a village, including the main houses, private homes, pavilions, Confucian academies and village schools, as well as farmland and natural scenery that surrounds it.

Registered as S. Korea's 10th UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site

Immediately past a large stone, next to a parking lot, with the words “A World Heritage, Korea’s historical village of Yangdong” inscribed lies the Yangdong Village Cultural Center. This is where all the information about the village can be accessed. Entering Yangdong without the basic facts will prevent visitors from recognizing the significance of the village, and make it difficult for them to feel its true value and beauty.

On the largest hilltop of the village is the respective main houses of the Son and Lee clans -- Seobaekdang House and Mucheomdang House, respectively -- while at the entrance of the village are the largest lesser houses of the two clans -- Gwangajeong House and Hyangdan House, respectively -- standing as if they are competing with each other.

In the valley named Angol, located deep within the village, stands Seobaekdang House -- built by the founding ancestor of the Son clan -- and some juniper trees, creating a vintage look. The main house of the Son clan, built in 1459, has a “sarang madang” (a courtyard for the master’s quarters) that still features the juniper trees built in those times.

Descendents still live in Seobaekdang House, with only some of the rafters having been replaced. It is regarded as one of the four great propitious places of Yeongnam. It has long been considered a site where three sages would be born. Son Joong-don (pen name Woojae, 1463-1529), son of Sun Shao, as well as Sun Shao’s grandson, Yi Eonjeok (pen name Hoejae), were born there.

It is said that this was the reason for a custom in the Son clan, in which they refused



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to offer a room to a married daughter visiting them: They did not want to pass on the luck that would bring about the birth of great individuals to daughters who had married into a family with a different surname.

Passing into Mulbonggol from Seobaekdang House will bring one to Mucheomdang House. The main house of the Lee clan, built around 1460, is where Yi Eonjeok's father once lived. The "sarangchae" (the men's section) of the house features many plaques. The Jwahaageumseo plaque is well-known to have been written by Heungseon Daewongun (Prince Gung) himself with a bamboo brush. Below the ridge where Seobaekdang House stands are Sahodang House, Sangchunheon House and Geunnam House, as well as other houses of the Lee clan.

On the path leading from Mucheomdang House to Gwangajeong House are beautiful light pink red apricot blossoms flowering near the small stone walls of some thatched-roof houses. Gwangajeong House, featuring a unique architectural form that combines the design of a house and a pavilion, is the branch house of Son Joong-don (pen name Woojae), who lived there after moving out of Sun Shao's home. On the "numaru" (upper floor) of the sarangchae, one can have a panoramic view of the Hyeongsan River and surrounding plains. Together with the fresh breezes that blow from the plains in Angang, the view provides relaxation for the soul.

Hyangdan House, located so close to Gwangajeong House as to be almost facing it, was built by Jungjong of Joseon, while Yi Eon-jeok was the provincial governor of Gyeongsang Province. Originally 99 "kan" (around 300 square meters) in size, it is now 56 kan after part of the house was lost during the Korean War. The Gwangajeong House



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mostly used rectangular pillars, but Hyangdan House only uses cylindrical pillars, and is very ornate and conspicuous.

The Lee and Son clans also built more pavilions -- almost as if in competition with each other -- as the generations passed. A total of 10 pavilions exist today. Pavilions were locations of rest, allowing for the enjoyment of natural scenery, as well as meeting places where the people of the clans could gather.

Going past a ridge reveals old houses, and pavilions can be found where the paths seem to end. There is no end to the stories held by the signboards, columns, bolts and doorknobs of these venerable houses. To visitors seeking to learn of the storied 500 years hiding in every path of Yangdong Village, a single spring day is much too short. [3]

Ahn Pil-young, youngest son of freedom fighter Dosan Ahn Chang-ho, passes away

Spiritual guide spoke and taught independence movement history to LA Korean American community

Ahn Pil-young (Ralph Ahn), the youngest son of the freedom fighter Ahn Chang-ho (pen name Dosan), passed away with Independence Movement Day just around the corner. He was 96 years of age.

Ahn died of a chronic ailment at 11:11 p.m. on Feb. 26 in Los Angeles.

The deceased was the third son of Ahn Chang-ho, and the only surviving child of his three sons and two daughters. Ahn was born in LA in 1926.

At the time, Dosan was staying in the U.S., building the foundation for the independence movement abroad. When his youngest son was born, he moved his activities to Shanghai, China.

According to the Korean American History Museum, the deceased graduated from the University of California and served in the U.S. Navy to fight against the Japanese army, which carried out the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

After World War II ended, Ahn also worked as an actor, influenced by his older brother, Philip Ahn, who was a patriot who contributed to the independence of Korea and a Korean American actor.

He took part in many movies and TV shows until the mid-2000s, including "Battle Circus" (a 1950s movie based on the Korean War) and "Mission Over Korea."

When he quit acting, he also worked as head coach of a varsity sports team at a high school in California -- having majored in pedagogy in college.

In keeping with the desires of his father and family, the deceased was also a spiritual leader, serving as a witness to the independence movement in the Korean American community in LA.

His older brother, Philip Ahn, gave a speech criticizing Japan's invasion of Korea. He also managed the League of Friends of Korea,



which was formed in October 1940 for the celebration of the creation of the independence army. Ralph Ahn's sister and the eldest child of Dosan, Susan Ahn Cuddy (Ahn Soo-san), worked at the Sinhan Minbo (a Korean American newspaper), the Young Korean Academy and the 3.1 Women's Association. She was also the first Asian woman to join the U.S. Navy during World War II.

The deceased missed no Independence Movement Day or National Liberation Day event, even until recently -- celebrating his father's contributions to the independence movement after the deaths of his brother and sister.

He was well-respected by the Korean community, engaging in various volunteer activities, such as teaching history to next-generation Korean Americans and giving lectures on health for the elderly.

"Continuing the purpose of the Korean National Association, founded by Dosan, he actively participated in various events and took the lead in protecting historical sites related to the independence movement," Yoon Hyo-sin, president of the KNA Memorial Foundation, said, mourning Ahn's passing.

"He was a pillar of the Korean community."

James Ahn, president of the Korean American Federation of Los Angeles, said: "It is incredibly sad that he passed away right before Independence Movement Day. He was a leader who spread Dosan's spirit in the Korean community."

He is survived by his wife and two daughters. 

1 Ahn Pil-young, the youngest son of freedom fighter Dosan Ahn Chang-ho.

2 Dosan Ahn Chang-ho's children joined and served in the U.S. Army during the Pacific War. From left: Ahn Pil-young, Ahn Philip and Ahn Soo-san. (Photo courtesy of the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs)

Bank clerk creates Korea-themed park in Indonesian countryside for K-drama-loving wife

Kadu Engang is modeled after Korean village and built on the slopes of Karangetang volcano



A signboard hanging ceremony for the Kadu Engang Korean village. (From left) Director Kim Yong-woon of the Korean Cultural Center in Indonesia; Uus Sutia, the owner of the park; and the head of tourism in Pandeglang.



Kadu Engang, a Korea-themed park built on the slopes of Karangetang, a volcano located at the western end of the island of Java.

We started off from Indonesia's capital of Jakarta on Feb. 24 this year and traveled two hours along a highway to arrive at a rural village in Banten, Pandeglang. We then traveled another 30 minutes up a rough mountain incline. When we arrived at an altitude of 1,500 meters on the volcano Karangetang (1,700m above sea level), we had a perfect view of Kadu Engang, a park modeled after a Korean village.

Though it went through multiple temporary closures due to COVID-19 since it first opened on Dec. 20, 2020, around 40,000 people have already visited the park. It is also a well-known tourist attraction on Instagram and other social media platforms.

Female students on field trips from nearby schools chatted with each other as they changed into "hanbok" (traditional Korean clothing) in the park. The girls seemed to be enjoying themselves, telling us: "We love Korean dramas. It's amazing that we can indirectly experience traveling to Korea in such a nearby park."

Surprisingly enough, the park is the handiwork of a 32-year-old local by the name of Uus Sutia, who created it for his wife, an avid fan of K-pop and K-dramas.

"I was trying to decide how to utilize the

5,000 square meters of land I'd inherited from my ancestors," he said. "My wife told me she wanted to know what it was like to be one of the characters in a K-drama, so I decided to create a Korean village."

Uus had been a bank clerk in Jakarta for six years. After quitting his job in September 2020, he utilized Google Search to research Korea and then used his findings to model the park, which he opened in December of the same year.

"I used photos of Korea and bits of Korean language I found online to decorate the park and purchased items like hanbok wholesale from Jakarta," he said.

In the Korean currency, a ticket for entry to the park costs 1,000 won (US\$0.81) for an adult and 500 won for a child. Korean signs and the Korean flag are displayed throughout the park, and hanbok rental services are also offered. As the park was created without the advice of any actual Koreans, relying only on Google Search results, the Korean writing featured on the signs and signboards has grammatical errors. There were also images of Japan, such as of cherry blossoms there and Mount Fuji, mixed in.

The Korean Cultural Center in Indonesia visited the park in January, and upon

discovering the errors, provided support for one month in order to make the village more authentically Korean. "Sotdae" (a pole traditionally erected for various reasons), "cheonsachorong" (traditional Korean lanterns) and "daljip" (bonfires built during a seasonal festival) were provided as actual traditional items for the park. A corner was also created where visitors can listen to Korean fairy tales by using a QR code on their phones. Proper hanbok produced in Korea was also gifted to the park, and sections of the park that introduced the Korean language and the beauty of Korea's four seasons, as well as other highlights, were added.

Uus seemed proud as he watched the female students enjoying themselves, saying, "Everyone really loves Korea."

"We tried to make sure that the park, located in the mountains, could offer a Korean experience while staying eco-friendly," director Kim Yong-woon of the Korean Cultural Center said. He complimented the park's owner, stating, "I applaud the romantic Uus for his determination -- he made his wife's wish a reality -- and even turned the result into a business." 장

Seong Hye-mi,

Yonhap News correspondent in Jakarta

Koreans in Cambodia team up through 'IF Together' project to overcome COVID-19 pandemic

Korean Association of Siem Reap Cambodia provides daily items to Koreans in need

The "IF Together" project, created by the Korean Association of Siem Reap Cambodia (President Park Woo-seok) to help overcome difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, has caught people's attention.

Siem Reap, the second-largest city in Cambodia, is a tourist destination. Angkor Wat, a temple that is a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site, is a major attraction in the city. In the past, around 1,200 Koreans who worked in the tourism industry lived here, but after the COVID-19 pandemic broke out, over half of them returned to Korea; the remaining Koreans are barely managing to eke together a living.

The Korean Association of Siem Reap Cambodia began this



A photo of the 11th "IF Together" campaign. (Photo courtesy of the Korean Association of Siem Reap Cambodia)

campaign in July 2020 in order to help Koreans who cannot receive aid from their home country (or from Cambodia as they are foreigners).

This campaign, funded by other overseas Koreans and the Overseas Koreans Foundation, provides rice, "ramyeon" (instant noodles), red pepper paste, soybean paste, eggs and other daily supplies to Koreans in need. The chief recipients of the

supplies include families with fathers who returned to Korea in search of a job, at-risk Korean families and multicultural families.

The association also visited the provincial orphanage in Siem Reap to provide shoes, blankets, school supplies and other useful items. The 12th "IF Together" campaign began March 16.

Korean society president and Korean church provide free meals in Eswatini, Africa

300 malnourished children receive free meals weekly despite ongoing COVID-19 pandemic

In Eswatini, a small country in Southern Africa, Kim Han-ki (president of a Korean association) and a Korean pastor and his wife are working to provide free meals to the needy amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We have been providing chicken and rice, snacks and other food to around 300 children every Thursday," Kim said.

This free meal campaign is being sponsored by the Korean nonprofit organization Right Hands and the Mana Missionary Society (U.S.).

Kim, who was originally a medical missionary specializing in international health, shifted his focus to the provision of free meals to malnourished children -- something he's been engaging in for some time -- after visits by foreign doctors no longer became an option because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rev. Jang Young-joon (68) and his wife, Kim Seong-hye (62), who



(From left) Rev. Jang Young-joon, his wife, Kim Seong-hye, and Kim Han-ki, president of a Korean association, pose for a photo in front of a newly constructed Korean school in Ezulwini Valley, Eswatini, on Feb. 28.

operate a local Korean church, have also used their own money to provide around 5,000 households with food packages -- containing rice, cornstarch and sugar -- for the past two years.

At the end of last year, they visited a maximum security prison in Matsapha to donate daily supplies, such as towels and facial soap, to the felons and other convicts there.

"I served at the Wooyi Central Presbyterian Church in Korea and eventually became the senior pastor there," Jang said. "After an early retirement at 62 years of age, I realized that there was much work left to be done after visiting Africa in 2015. That's why I came to Eswatini."

Around one-third of the 1.1 million people of Eswatini, the only monarchy in Africa, live in absolute poverty. Around 90 Koreans live in the country.

'Coreia' added to name of central street in São Paulo's Koreatown

Strengthening Latin America as hub of Korean Wave

The word "Coreia," the Spanish word for Korea, was added to the name of a central street in the Koreatown in the Bom Retiro district of São Paulo, Brazil.

Mayor Ricardo Nunes signed a bill March 23 that changes the name of the Koreatown street Rua Prates to Rua Prates-Coreia and made a public proclamation.

The São Paulo City Council had earlier approved a proposal made by Councilwoman Sandra Tadeu on March 9 to add "Coreia" (Korea) to the name of Rua Prates.

The Consulate General of Korea in São Paulo (Consul General Hwang In-sang) had been in contact with the city council and government representatives since the latter half of last year to carry out the proposal -- part of a project to vitalize the Koreatown.

"The revision was done so quickly, partly because the Korean



The new name of a central street in São Paulo's Koreatown, with the word Coreia added. (Courtesy of Consulate General of Korea in São Paulo)

community has contributed greatly to São Paulo's economic, social and cultural development," a consulate general representative said. "Our country's increased national status and improved image also played a large part."

The consulate general plans to increase the status of the Koreatown in Bom Retiro as a central hub of the Korean Wave in Latin America, including reaching an agreement with the São Paulo authorities and Korean

organizations to install "cheonsachorong" (traditional Korean lanterns) street lamps in Koreatown and repair the sidewalks.

Next year, the Korean community in Brazil will celebrate 60 years of immigration. The community is estimated at around a maximum of 60,000 people, and forms a large garment-centered business district in Bom Retiro and the surrounding Braş district.

2nd-generation Korean American becomes judge of U.S. District Court for Western District of Washington

John H. Chun, named by President Biden, given approval by U.S. Senate

The U.S. Senate approved the designation of a second-generation Korean American as a judge on the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington.

In September last year, President Joe Biden named John H. Chun (Korean name: Jeon Hyeon-seung), who is a Korean American and judge on the Washington Court of Appeals, a judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington. The Senate approved the decision six months later on March 23.

Chun is the first Asian American male to become a judge on this district court. Chun, who majored in English at the University of Columbia, received his Juris Doctor degree from Cornell Law School before working at law firms as a lawyer. As a lawyer, he was named to the Super Lawyers list (awarded to the top 5 percent of attorneys) in 2004, 2011 and 2013 -- a



John H. Chun (Jeon Hyeon-seung), who has been appointed a judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington.

rare feat for a Korean American.

He was previously the president of the Korean American Bar Association of Washington, a fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America and director at the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. In 2014, he was appointed judge at the King County Superior Court in the state of Washington, where he worked for four years before moving to the Washington Court of Appeals.

Chun's father, Chun Hong-guk, immigrated to Portland, Oregon, in 1960. He was the president of the Korean Society of Oregon. Chun Shin-yong,

John Chun's grandfather (who passed away in 2012), was the president of Seoul Bank, Commercial Bank of Korea, Hanil Bank and Seoul Trust Bank before becoming a member of the Monetary Policy Board. He also established Kimpo University.



Korean students at University of Minnesota resume Dokdo activism Korea's Island Dokdo (KID), a club formed for the protection of Dokdo by Korean students at the University of Minnesota, has resumed activities that had been suspended because of the COVID-19 pandemic. After holding a fundraiser in February, KID opened a Dokdo Golden Bell event March 25 at their university. The event involved various quiz games regarding Korean culture and the island of Dokdo, which was one of the biggest events held by the club. Participants were given a "Dokdo Golden Bell Guide," which allowed them to study the questions in advance. There are currently 20 Korean students in the club, which has previously partnered with the North Korean human rights club LINK to hold a "Dokdo Photo Exhibit." The club has also published an advertisement in the Minnesota Daily, the university newspaper, spreading awareness of the fact that Dokdo belongs to Korea.

Event commemorates push for Korean independence in Primorsky Krai 103 years ago Neomeo, a Koryo-saram support organization based in Korea (President Shin Eun-cheol) and the Koryo-saram Cultural Center (Director Kim Young-sook) of Ansan revealed that they'd engaged in online and offline promotional activities on March 16 in celebration of the 3.17 Independence Movement in Primorsky Krai. The event celebrated how Moon Chang-beom (1870-1938), Lee Dong-hwi (1873-1935), Choi Jae-hyoung (1860-1920) and other Korean leaders in Russia gathered in Ussuriysk, Primorsky Krai, on March 17, 1919, (immediately following the March 1st Movement) to announce a declaration of independence and found what was effectively the first-ever Korean provisional government, the Korean National Assembly. Neomeo made posts, "news cards" and other announcements explaining the significance of the independence movement of the time on social media, and the Koryo-saram Cultural Center in Ansan hung commemorative banners in Korean and Russian.



350 Sakhalin Koreans confirmed for permanent return to Korea this year This year 350 overseas Koreans from Sakhalin, Russia, will be permanently returning to Korea. "With regard to the repatriation project, we have recently held remote discussions with the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, the Korea Land Corp., the Korean Red Cross, overseas diplomatic offices and Korean societies in Sakhalin, among others, to confirm the number," a representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said March 14. Those returning will be subject to the Special Act On Assistance To Sakhalin Koreans, which took effect last year. Those wishing to repatriate can apply to an overseas diplomatic office by June 30, after which applicants will be selected in July and individually notified in August. A repatriation briefing will be held in September, with the actual return trip to Korea taking place in October.

Korean journalists all over the world unite to promote ginseng from Geumsan County Journalists all over the world have taken on the mantle of promoting the ginseng produced in Geumsan County, South Chungcheong Province, to the world at large. The Overseas Korean Journalists Association (Secretary General Yeo Ik-hwan) and the International Ginseng & Herb Research Institute (Board Chairman Moon Jeong-woo) revealed on March 4 that they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the creation of an overseas promotion network for Geumsan ginseng. Under this MOU, the Overseas Korean Journalists Association will cooperate for the globalization of Korean ginseng, one of the principal products of Korea, and actively promote its excellence to overseas Koreans and foreigners. The International Ginseng & Herb Research Institute has agreed to collaborate for the facilitation of international interchanges regarding the press and the strengthening of the stature of overseas Koreans. The Overseas Korean Journalists Association is an association of 180 overseas Korean news agencies that provide coverage of news related to the Korean community and the world in 65 cities throughout the globe. Geumsan County exported US\$26.4 million worth of ginseng and related products to 26 countries last year.



Jung Joo-hyeon, former president of Korean American Chamber of Commerce USA, elected president of Korea Sport Association in U.S.A. Jung Joo-hyeon, former president of the Korean American Chamber of Commerce USA, was elected the 21st president of the Korea Sport Association in U.S.A. Jung was the only candidate that ran for office, and he was selected for a two-year term as president at the 2022 Regular Delegates' General Assembly held on March 19 at a hotel in Los Angeles. "I will make sure that the Korea Sport Association in U.S.A. grows further and becomes a solid organization inside and out," Jung, who will assume his position June 9, said. "I will place a particular focus on the nurturing and discovery of athletes of the next generation, as well as the operation of youth sports classes." The Korea Sport Association in U.S.A. has been around for 50 years. It is a nonprofit organization with branches in 30 locations in the U.S., including New York, Chicago, Washington and Atlanta, and is the largest organization in the Korean American community. Jung hails from Daegu and is a businessman who moved to the U.S. at 30 years of age and launched the successful jean brand Just USA. He was formerly the president of the Korean American Chamber of Commerce LA, president of the Korean American Chamber of Commerce USA (which has 66 branches in the U.S.) and president of the LA Korean Festival Foundation.

Can Koreans in Japan rely on promise of Overseas Korean Services?

The promise of an Overseas Korean Services was one of the major promises made by every party in this year's elections. Everyone agrees that the administrative work related to overseas Koreans, which is currently scattered across various government bodies, must be unified in one central location.

However, there are also many points of contention: Should basic laws for multicultural families be enacted before anything else is done? How big should the Overseas Korean Services be, and what kind of work should it handle? Why should it be a "service" rather than a "ministry," or even a committee under the prime minister's direct supervision? The questions go on.

The Overseas Korean Services is expected to make cross-sectional decisions on issues long unresolved because of differences of opinion between various government bodies. As I will describe later on in this piece, dealing with the disadvantages that are being forced on Koreans in Japan, regardless of their nationality, would also fall under that scope. It will be difficult for the Overseas Korean Services to win the favor of the overseas Korean community by simply combining the current policy creation systems.

It must instead be willing to correct a structure that puts involuntary immigrants who left the country prior to independence (Koreans in Japan and China, as well as Koryo-saram) at a relative disadvantage. (Koryo-saram are Koreans living in post-Soviet states.) This structure enforces an unfair hierarchy among overseas Koreans. Koreans in Japan, who have been placed in a policy blind spot and forced to endure many disadvantages, will be particularly affected.

When Korea-Japan diplomatic relations were normalized in 1965, Koreans living in Japan were classified as citizens of Korea by consent of the Japanese government. Herein lies the difference from Koreans in China and Koryo-saram. The decision had nothing to do with what the Koreans in Japan actually wanted, but Korea continues to require that Japanese Koreans act dutifully as Korean citizens while not awarding all the rights granted to other Korean citizens.

As an example, all the reward Japanese Koreans are given after completing their mandatory period of service in the Korean military is a monthly bill of 130,000 won (US\$104) for health insurance. This is because the Ministry of Health and Welfare requires an average insurance fee from immigrants (including Korean nationals living abroad), ignoring their actual income and wealth. Though military service falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Defense and the Military Manpower Administration, these government bodies don't care about the Japanese Koreans after they finish their period of service.



Kim Woong-ki,
assistant professor at Institute
of Japanese Studies at
Hallym University

What of the increasing number of Koreans with Japanese citizenship then? These days 90 percent of Koreans living in Japan marry a Japanese spouse. The fourth- and fifth-generation children born to them are registered only with a Japanese nationality. Data suggests that two-thirds of elementary school students with Korean blood in Osaka are Japanese by nationality. Most Japanese Korean parents who have lost their ties with Korea are not particularly motivated to register their children as Korean citizens either.

As with most overseas Korean groups, more Japanese Koreans with Japanese nationality are seeking to return to Korea and settle down. Most of these people are

treated as pure foreigners, however -- not overseas Koreans. As per the Treaty on Basic Relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea, the Korean citizenship given to their parents and grandparents becomes an obstacle for them.

Such issues do not occur for Koreans in China and Koryo-saram upon whom immigration was compulsory. Under the Act on the Immigration and Legal Status of Overseas Koreans, all of them are considered to have relinquished their Korean citizenship before accepting the citizenship of the respective foreign countries.

In order to meet the current requirements of an overseas Korean (F-4) visa, one must have relinquished their Korean citizenship or have either a parent or grandparent that has done so. This runs counter to the situation of many Koreans in Japan today: Most of them have never held Korean citizenship while their families often maintain theirs. This requirement has an additional caveat, in that a Japanese Korean with Japanese citizenship born before 2006 whose mother has relinquished Korean citizenship cannot apply. This is because the Nationality Act used to be patrilineal in nature.

We know Koreans love the drama "Pachinko." I can't help but note the irony in the way the Korean government turns a blind eye to the history of Korean immigrants to Japan, which was the basis for the series.

What must come before the creation of an Overseas Korean Services is the recognition that discriminatory treatment toward different overseas Korean groups based on historical events is taking place, besides a willingness to improve this lamentable situation. Koreans in Japan have moved from issue to issue with only constitutional complaints to rely on. Their only hope is that a fundamental principle -- that the past must not influence the fair treatment that all overseas Koreans deserve -- will be recognized by the upcoming Overseas Korean Services. 🇰🇷

Overseas Koreans Foundation, city of Ulsan, and Maeil Business Newspaper promise to collaborate for successful World Korean Business Convention

The Overseas Koreans Foundation (President Kim Seong-gon) has partnered with the city of Ulsan (Mayor Song Cheol-ho) and the Maeil Business Newspaper (President Jang Dae-whan), which have oversight over the 20th World Korean Business Convention, to make the convention a success.

On March 24, the three institutions signed a memorandum of understanding regarding the co-hosting and successful execution of the 20th World Korean Business Convention, which will be held from Nov. 1-3 in Ulsan.

Present at the signing ceremony were President Kim Seong-gon, Mayor Song Cheol-ho, Kim Dae-young (deputy director of the Maeil Business Newspaper) and Kim Jeom-bae (chairperson of the 20th



Kim Seong-gon, president of the OKF, gives an opening speech at the 19th World Korean Business Convention.

World Korean Business Convention).

“We hope to promote the value of Korean business and the importance of the Korean business network through the World Korean Business Convention, which has now hit its 20th year,” Kim Seong-gon said. “Each institution will do its best to carry out its given role so that the upcoming convention in Ulsan this year will produce significant results.”

The World Korean Business Convention is the biggest Korean business networking event in existence, with Korean businesspeople from both overseas and inside the country taking part. The 2023 convention will be taking place overseas for the first time in either Dallas, Texas, or Orange County, California, in the United States.

Overseas Koreans Foundation to help maintain Chilean Koreatown and support publication on 50 years of Korea-Portugal history

This year, the Overseas Koreans Foundation will help renovate the Koreatown in Santiago, Chile, and support a publication on the 50th anniversary of Korean immigration to Portugal.

The OKF will also lend a hand to the construction of the Hanwoori Korean Garden in Federal Way, Washington, the United States -- a park that will become a symbol of Korea-U.S. amity.

According to OKF, it will contribute US\$50,000 to a Koreatown environmental improvement project undertaken by the Chile Korean Association (President Jung Sung-gi) in order to protect the lives and property of Koreans and secure their safety.

This project involves installing CCTV cameras on 5 kilometers of roads in the Patronato neighborhood, where many Korean businesses are clustered together.

Plundering and arson were common in Koreatown during the large anti-government protests in Chile in October 2019, and this project will increase safety.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Koreans first immigrating to Portugal. The local Korean association (President Jung Hyeon-joo) will



A groundbreaking ceremony for the Hanwoori Korean Garden in Federal Way, Washington, the United States. (Photo courtesy of the Federal Way Korean American Association)

hold an event in celebration of the milestone, as well as issue a publication on the 50-year history of Korean immigration to the country.

The publication will contain records of the activities of the first-generation immigrants to Portugal, messages of thanks to the local figures who aided with the immigration process and the history of Korean immigration spanning the early days to the present day. The OKF plans to provide encouragement in the form of a US\$15,000

contribution.

Hanwoori Korean Garden will be created in Federal Way, Washington, to serve as a landmark representing the Korean community and contributing to amicable relations between the U.S. and Korea.

The OKF has decided to contribute \$30,000 to the Federal Way Korean American Association (President Kim Young-min), which is spearheading the construction.

The foundation plans to support 837 overseas Korean projects, including the aforementioned projects, with a total sum of \$303,004,500 this year.

Dallas and Orange County to vie to host next year's World Korean Business Convention

The Overseas Korean Foundation on March 3 said the potential location of the 21st World Korean Business Convention (to be held next year) has been narrowed to Dallas and Orange County in the United States. The convention has never been held at an overseas venue before.

The chambers of commerce and industry in New York, Dallas, Atlanta and Orange County -- which belong to the larger Korean American Chamber of Commerce USA (President Hwang Byeong-gu) -- had all bid for the right to host the event. In February, the OKF visited the respective locations to perform due diligence.

The foundation held an initial internal evaluation committee meeting March 3 and narrowed down the four potential locations to two: Dallas and Orange County.

As this will be the first World Korean Business Convention held



A promotional poster for the 19th World Korean Business Convention (2021).

overseas, the committee considered various factors, including the facilities and infrastructure of the respective cities (convention centers, hotels, etc.), the potential for cooperation between the Korean community and the local mainstream society, and the willingness of the applying organizations to host the event.

The final decision will be made at the 40th World Korean Business Convention Operation Committee meeting that will take place April 6-7 in Yeouido, Seoul, in partnership with the National Assembly World Korean Economic Forum.

"We are grateful for the enthusiasm shown by the Korean community for retaining the right to host the convention here," Jung Gwang-il, the business director of OKF, said. "Holding the convention overseas will likely be a great opportunity for the mother country and the Korean community to experience mutual growth."

The OKF has hosted the World Korean Business Convention since 2002 with the goal of helping Korean SMEs expand overseas and creating a worldwide Korean business network.

Overseas Koreans Foundation Book Recommendations



'A Sea of Moongwooridol - A Story of the Independence Movement at Home and Abroad'

A volume on India, Mexico, Cuba and the U.S. / Kim Dong-woo / Suo Books (Suoseojae)

"Moongwooridol" is a now-obsolete Korean word used to refer to large, round stones. The word is mentioned in independence activist and politician Kim Gu's book "Baekbeomilji," where it is used as a symbol of the spirit of the struggle for independence. In the book, a Japanese policeman threatens Kim Gu, stating that it is only right for a landowner to remove the "moongwooridol" on his farmland (the "landowner" representing Japan, and the "stones" referring to those fighting for Korean independence). Kim Gu replies he will live and die like one of these stones, never giving up on his duty. The "moongwooridol" that Japan sought to uproot were not only present in China (Shanghai and Manchuria) but also in Korea. "A Sea of Moongwooridol" is the first of its kind, a documentary in book form that traces the footsteps of the Korean independence movement all over the world. The author chanced upon a training site used by the Korean independence army in India while on a world trip. That find in India led him to visit 10 additional countries, including Mexico, Cuba, the U.S., Russia, the Netherlands, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. This book deals with the story of the struggle for Korean independence in India, Mexico, Cuba and the U.S.



'Jessie's Story'

Park Geon-woong / Woorinabi Publishing

This book could be described as the Korean equivalent of "Diary of a Young Girl." It is at its heart a diary of Jessie's parents that describes how she grew up and the events surrounding her family, but it is also an excellent description of the lives of the families of the Korean provisional government, the philanthropy of the freedom fighters and the touching moment of independence. Most of the records from the days of the provisional government were lost. This diary, however, provides an accurate timeline of how the provisional government moved to Chongqing, China, during the Second Sino-Japanese War because of Japanese air raids. This makes the diary valuable historical material, the only record of that period in existence. The ordinary record of daily events, describing the history of the provisional government, life in China and hope of independence, provides insight into how they could live lives full of passion despite being caught up inside a life-threatening war. This book contains their story, one of a tough struggle for the restoration of their country and independence despite their fears as they raised their baby. It captures their hope for the future.



'Faces and Voices We Miss,' program run by KBS radio station Hanminjok, holds encouraging performance for 50th anniversary

The KBS radio station Hanminjok (972-AM) caters to Koreans in areas that include Sakhalin, Russia, the three northeastern provinces of China and Japan. Its biggest program, "Faces and Voices We Miss," recently held a performance to encourage overseas Koreans in celebration of its 50th anniversary.



A ceremony to encourage overseas Koreans was held in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the KBS radio station Hanminjok. (Courtesy of KBS)

Under the theme "Happy to be Companions," the performance was held as a public broadcast on the evening of March 21 in the KBS ART Hall. Around 200 participants were present at the performance, including returnees from Sakhalin, Chinese Koreans living in Korea and listeners of the program.

The performance featured singers that included Sul Woon-do, Kim Kook-hwan, Na Tae-joo and Seol Ha-yoon, as well as "gukak" (Korean classical music) singers Park Ae-ri and Nam Sang-il.

"Faces and Voices We Miss" was first created April 3, 1972, when Koreans in Sakhalin -- who'd been conscripted to Sakhalin during the Japanese occupation but were prevented from returning after the fall of Japan -- requested help to locate their families.

Park Cheong-kyu, son of Park No-hak (one of the most influential figures in the repatriation movement of Koreans in Sakhalin), was featured in the performance, where he spoke of his experiences at the time. He helped deliver letters from Sakhalin residents.

"As no diplomatic relations existed between Korea and the Soviet Union back then, Koreans in Sakhalin could not send letters directly to Korea by any normal means," he said. "They routed their letters through Japan instead. This radio station broadcast stories of people searching for their families, and the Koreans in Sakhalin listened to their radios in secrecy."

The station broadened its reach to the three northeastern provinces of China (Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang), as well as Primorsky Krai, in 1974, sending out family identification requests for Koreans in China as well.

"Koreans in China sent in around 260,000 letters until 1992, when diplomacy was established between Korea and China," Park Cheon-gi, head of the radio station, said. "We have successfully connected lost family members approximately 14,000 times using our data."

Lee Seung-heui and Park Dong-chan are two Koreans living in China who found their families thanks to the radio program.

"All the ethnic Koreans in our neighborhood rejoiced when we found our families. Everyone cried as they listened to the letters from families

in Korea and desperately hoped for the day of reunions yet to come," Lee said at the event.

"I've listened to this program for decades waiting for the day when I'd finally set foot on Korea soil," said Lee Soojin, former president of the Sakhalin Separated Families Association. "I am so grateful to be present at this event."

King Sejong Institute Foundation holds Korean language workshop in Vietnam to commemorate 20 years of diplomatic relations

The King Sejong Institute Foundation (President Lee Hae-young) held a Korean language education workshop at the King Sejong Institute in Vietnam in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the foundation and the 30th anniversary of the establishment of South Korea-Vietnam diplomatic relations.



King Sejong Institute employees from 21 regions in Vietnam take a commemorative photograph after the '2022 King Sejong Institute Vietnam Workshop' in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, on March 29. The event was held to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the King Sejong Institute Foundation.


The theme of the workshop, held March 29-30 at the King Sejong Institute in Ho Chi Minh City, was "Pursuit of Methods for the Localization and Capacity Enhancement of Professional Korean Teachers in Response to Demand in Vietnam."

The event was held offline and online simultaneously, and around 70 people, including King Sejong Institute employees and Korean language school teachers, took part.

Participants shared the demand for Korean language learning and the number of teachers available, which changed amid the COVID-19 pandemic. They also discussed efficient education methods and potential areas of improvement.

On the first day of the event, diplomas were issued to five graduates of the local teacher training course. This was followed by presentations on "Policies for the Enhancement of Professional Korean Teachers of the King Sejong Institute Foundation." On the second day, success stories from the King Sejong Institutes in Vietnam were shared, along with the annual operating plan.

Nguyen Quang Dung -- director of "Go-Go Sisters," a Vietnamese remake of the Korean film "Sunny" -- also gave a special lecture on the appeal of Korean culture during the event.

Vietnam is only the first of many such workshops for the foundation, as the plan is to continue overseas workshops at King Sejong Institutes inside and outside the country in partnership with relevant institutions. 

Announcement: 2022 Korean Language School Teacher Certification Course (Q2)



The foundation will operate the 2022 Korean Language School Teacher Certification Course (Q2) in order to educate Korean language school teachers all over the world, with the goal of nurturing excellent Korean language school teachers. The Korean Language School Teacher Certification Course is an online program meant to facilitate the training of teachers working in Korean language schools. The course comprises standard knowledge and theory regarding basic knowledge required of such teachers, including Korean linguistics, Korean language education, child education, Korean culture and history, and Korean teaching methods.

The educational material intended for overseas Koreans and made available on the Study Korean website helps Korean language schools of varying backgrounds prepare fun and dynamic classes. Besides lectures on Korean language education theory, which will give teachers the knowledge, teaching capacity and confidence to provide education that fits the characteristics of the development level of their students, there are also other classes that include Language Development in Children and Teens and Emotional Development.

- The following people may apply:

Regular course: Current language school teachers

Practical course: Study Korean members

- **Cost:** Free

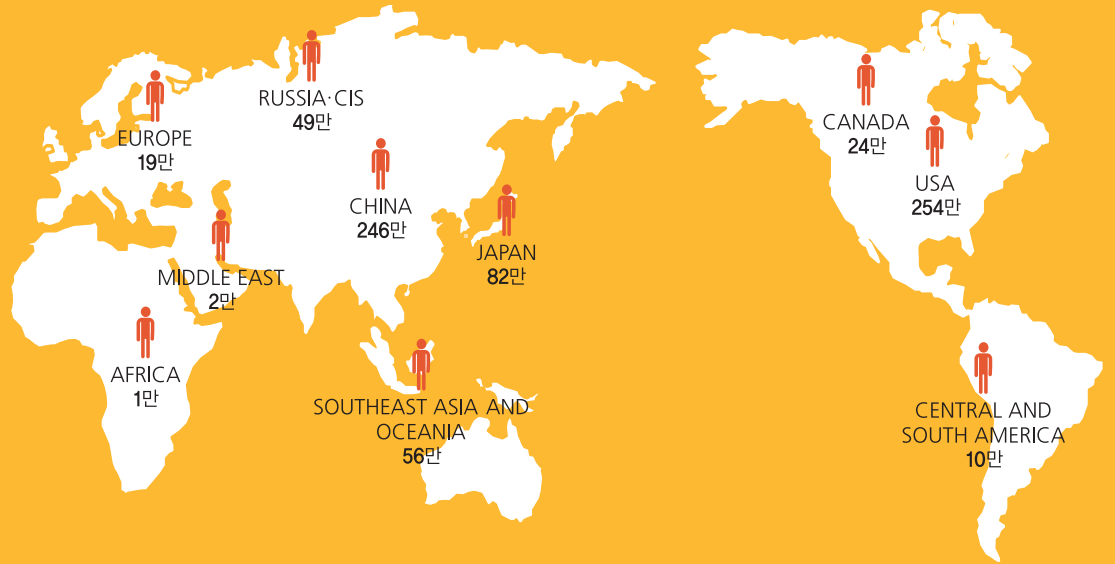
- **Classes available between April 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022 (KST)**

- **Courses:** Regular course (levels 1-2, crash course included), practical course (levels 1-4)

- **For more information:** Log in to the Study Korean (<http://study.korean.net>) teacher certification course.

Upcoming plans for Overseas Koreans Foundation executives in March 2022

President Kim Seong-gon	March 15: Participation in regional Korean language school conference (Americas)
	March 26: OKF Volunteering Group launching ceremony
	March 30: Congratulatory speech at policy forum on overseas Koreans
	March 31: National Unification Advisory Council lecture in Osaka, Japan



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