

OKA builds connections with next-generation leaders worldwide

Networking in Atlanta, regional next-generation conventions strengthen global next-generation connections



Participants pose for a photo at the first regional next-generation convention of the Future Leaders Conference (FLC) in Atlanta on March 8.

2025 was the year the first regional Future Leaders' Conference (FLC) was held in Atlanta, Georgia, U.S., on March 8. The FLC Atlanta can be seen as an extension of a reunion event organized by previous participants of the FLC.

Led by University of Georgia professor Katie Koo, Attorney Jung Joon and Lawrenceville Symphony Orchestra conductor Park Pyeong-kang, a meaningful event was held with 20 next-generation participants from Atlanta.

The event was also a networking event for other organizations, such as the Georgia Association of Korean Professors, the Korean American Scientists and Engineers Association, the Association of Korean American Educators, the Korean American Women in Science and Engineering association, the Korean

American Bar Association of Georgia, the America Korea United Society and the Korean Adoptee Association of Georgia.

In particular, the FLC Atlanta event provided an opportunity to explain the programs and policies of the OKA. It is expected to serve as an active communication channel between the next generation of overseas Koreans and the OKA. The next generation is hoping for an agency that is sensitive to the changed media environment, and they suggested that direct communication should be activated in various ways, especially through online content and various apps.

The regional FLCs are expected to serve as a focal point for the next generation of overseas Koreans to mobilize their capabilities and provide an official platform for them to explore ways to contribute to their home countries and communities. The OKA will continue to support this convention. It will become the core group that will organize and run the Global Next Generation Summit, which will be the official consultative body for the next generation of diaspora leaders.



(From top to bottom) Participants pose for a photo at the FLC New York regional next-generation convention in New York on Nov. 24, 2024. Participants pose for a photo at the FLC Eurasia regional next-generation convention in London on Nov. 16, 2024. Participants pose for a photo at the FLC regional next-generation convention in Almaty on Nov. 30, 2024.

Third, we strongly agree with and will actively participate in the Overseas Koreans Agency's project to publicize Korea's progress in order to foster the Korean identity, which we learned about through this conference.

Fourth, we propose to create a Global Next Generation Compatriots Committee to participate in building a global Korean network and to strive to expand next-generation networks in our respective countries, and propose that the OKA support our activities.

The FLC, organized annually in Korea by the OKA, brings together representatives of the next generation from each Korean community. Participants understand the current state of their respective communities, share their thoughts on identity and the homeland, and return to their countries of residence with a sense of pride and responsibility as members of the broader Korean community.

In order to ensure that this valuable experience of ethnic identity awareness and a strong sense of connection to the homeland does not become just a page of memories, the OKA (Next Generation Rights Department) is developing and promoting the FLC Regional Next Generation Convention, which is organized by the next generation of Koreans in the region.

The 2024 regional FLCs held in four locations: New York and Atlanta in the U.S., London in the U.K. and Almaty in Kazakhstan.

At each event, participants shared current issues in their local communities and discussed practical ways to address them. As the event is mainly for the next generation, mentoring and peer-to-peer networking to help them with their future career and academic direction is the main focus of the program.

Even if they live in the same region, this was an opportunity to fulfil the desire to meet older members of the community who can become mentors. Most importantly, the program has created an opportunity for the next generation to share various opinions on the development of the overseas Korean community. 장

The next-generation leaders who participated in the FLC, which was held in June 2023 to mark the launch of the OKA, gained attention when they released a declaration on Dec. 1 that year, recognizing their role as next-generation leaders in the overseas Korean community and pledging to strengthen their links with Korea.

In their declaration, the next-generation leaders adopted the following four-point resolution to help build a "Korean identity" and a "global Korean network."

First, as participants of the 2023 Future Leaders Conference, we plan to promote exchanges and cooperation between overseas Koreans and Korea, and to actively strive for mutual development.

Second, we, as global Koreans, strive to learn the language of the Korean people, to inherit cultural traditions and to create an environment in which these activities can be sustained while contributing to world peace and human co-prosperity.