

## OKA signs MOU with aT: 'Expanding K-food exports at WKBC'

OKA Commissioner Lee: 'Actively supporting agri-food companies' efforts to enter North American market'

The Overseas Koreans Agency announced it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Korea Agro-Fisheries & Food Trade Corporation (aT) on April 8 to make the 23rd World Korean Business Convention (WKBC) in Atlanta, Georgia, U.S., a platform for K-food to expand its presence in the North American market.

The WKBC was held at the Atlanta Gas South Convention Center from April 7-20 under the slogan "Leaping into the Korean Business Zone - Korean Merchants Together Towards the Future of the World of Small and Medium-Sized Businesses."

On Feb. 13, the two organizations signed an MOU at the aT Center in Yangjae-dong, Seoul, to cooperate on the overseas expansion of Korean agri-food companies. Under the agreement,



OKA Commissioner Lee Sang-duk (L) signs a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Korea Agro-Fisheries & Food Trade Corporation (aT) CEO Hong Moon-pyo at the OKA headquarters in Songdo, Incheon, on April 8 to support Korean food companies' entry into the North American market.

the two organizations will support the expansion of K-food sales by utilizing overseas Korean networks to expand Korea's food territory and provide overseas Korean business consulting (OK Biz) to Korean food companies that want to expand overseas.

"We will actively help 115 Korean agri-food companies participating in the 23rd WKBC meet with North American buyers and create tangible business results," OKA Commissioner Lee Sang-duk said during the signing ceremony in Yeonsu-gu, Incheon.

In response, aT CEO Hong Moon-pyo said, "We will collaborate with the OKA to strengthen the competitiveness of Korean agricultural and food companies so that they can increase their exports and overseas expansions."

## OKA-Siheung to expand cooperation to support compatriots in Korea

OKA Deputy Commissioner Byun discusses policies with Mayor Lim

The Overseas Koreans Agency has decided to expand cooperation with Siheung, Gyeonggi Province, to stabilize the settlement of overseas compatriots living in Korea.

According to the OKA, Deputy Commissioner Byun Chul-hwan met with Mayor Lim Byung-taek at Siheung City Hall on April 2 and agreed that the growing number of overseas compatriots living in Korea are valuable members of Korean society who can contribute to overcoming national challenges, such as the declining birthrate, aging population and rural depopulation.

Siheung has been highlighted as an example of laying the foundation for mutual cultural solidarity in the region by ▲ Establishing a school platform for foreign children, ▲ Operating a global division within the Jeongwangbon-dong Residents



OKA Deputy Commissioner Byun Chul-hwan (R) meets with Siheung Mayor Lim Byung-taek at Siheung City Hall on April 2 to discuss policies to support overseas compatriots living in Korea.

Association and ▲ Providing Korean language education programs centered on Chinese compatriots.

"Until now, local governments have individually been carrying out the tasks related to compatriots living in Korea, but now that the OKA has been established, we hope to create synergistic effects in supporting compatriots' resettlement by combining the agency's expertise and local

governments' field experience," Byun said.

"Siheung is a city with a rapidly growing influx of foreigners and Chinese compatriots, with 70,000 registered foreigners and foreign nationals accounting for 12 percent of the city's 600,000 population," Lim said. "I am grateful and encouraged that the OKA is actively promoting support for compatriots living in the city, which has not received much attention from government policy so far."

