

Celebrating opening of Overseas Adoptee Service Center

As an overseas adoptee, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the opening of the Overseas Adoptee Service Center.

I was adopted by a family in Sweden at a young age and had to grow up in a country with a new language, culture and environment. The experience of adoption is a life-changing event that brings with it a lot of excitement and confusion. Throughout the process, I have always had a love for my home country and have tried to build a good relationship with it.

Many overseas adoptees, like me, want to reestablish ties with their home countries, but administrative procedures, language barriers and cultural differences in their home countries make it difficult.

On March 25, the Overseas Koreans Agency opened a dedicated service center for overseas adoptees at the OKA Service Support Center on the second floor of Twin Tree Tower A, 6 Yulgok-ro, Jongno-gu, Seoul. By staffing the center with professional English-speaking counselors, it is expected to help resolve the concerns of adopted Koreans who have experienced difficulties in filing service requests due to their inability to speak Korean. We believe that the opening of the dedicated service center is not just an extension of administrative services but a meaningful starting point to respect the existence of overseas adoptees and listen to their voices.

The center is expected to provide practical assistance to Korean adoptees in Korea and abroad, such as finding their birth parents and other family members, restoring their nationality, applying for overseas compatriot visas, visiting the homeland and supporting resettlement. In addition, the center will provide a warm bridge that connects people with their home country by providing counsel on various problems and difficulties.

There are about 200,000 Korean adoptees around the world, living in various countries while maintaining their Korean roots. They want to understand and connect with their home country, but the reality is that there are many barriers, including language, administrative and institutional.



Louise Lindberg,
secretary general of Global
Overseas Adoptees' Link

We hope this will help break down the barrier a little bit and that adoptees will recognize their home country as a country that is always with them, rather than just a country that they visit. Adopted Koreans are not mere recipients of support but rather civilian diplomats who connect their adopted countries with Korea. With their multicultural sensitivity and complex identities, adopted Koreans are important assets for Korea as it strives to become a global backbone nation.

From this perspective, the OKA is not just an administrative agency but a partner and a pillar of strength in shaping the future with the Korean diaspora around the world.

I hope that the policy meeting on April 29 for the resettlement of adopted compatriots in Korea will provide good policy options for the resettlement of adoptees in the homeland and that the agency will be able to play a stable role in promoting relations between the adoptive and home countries.

Finally, we need to continue to communicate and cooperate in order to further strengthen the institutional framework for overseas adoptees. The role of the OKA will be enhanced if a structure is put in place to reflect the experiences and voices of overseas Korean adoptees in policymaking.

Overseas Korean adoptees are valuable members of Korea. We hope that more warm hands will join us in our journey to find our roots and take a step toward our homeland. 🇰🇷

* The contributor's claims or opinions may differ from the position of the Overseas Koreans Agency.

