

‘It’s time to strengthen next generation of Korean networks that connect the motherland with the world’

**David Kim, director for International Partnerships and Public Affairs in Seattle:
‘ROK-U.S. alliance is valuable asset that transcends regions and generations’**

“Maintaining a steady network of overseas Korean next-generation members will determine the future. Now is the time to strengthen the next-generation Korean network that connects our home country and the world.”

David Kim, the director for International Partnerships and Public Affairs in Seattle, U.S., who visited Korea to participate in the 2025 Future Leaders Conference, met with reporters May 28 to share his thoughts on participating in the conference.

“It is very meaningful to be able to interact with next-generation leaders from around the world and share diverse perspectives.”

Kim is a second-generation Korean American who has experienced everything from U.S. national policy to regional diplomacy, from U.S. President Barack Obama’s administration and the U.S. State Department to the U.S. Army’s Camp Humphreys in Korea. He is currently in charge of international relations for the city of Seattle and the city council, and has been active at the forefront of U.S. foreign policy and security policy since 2010. He started his career in national security-related work during the Obama administration, and gained experience in education and cultural exchanges, international security and nuclear nonproliferation, and U.S.-Japan relations at the State Department. After that, he studied U.S.-Korea (South and North) relations and nuclear security at the Stimson Center, a U.S. think tank, and was in charge of strategic communications at United States Army Garrison Camp Humphreys from 2019 to 2021.

He also participated in political campaigns, working with major politicians, including Barack Obama (2008) and Kamala Harris.

Kim said the next-generation program should not be a one-time event but that the government should provide institutional support so that the network can continue.

“I recently had a conversation with Washington State Rep. Cindy Ryu, and I heard that she is leading the network of overseas Korean elected officials. If the government makes an effort to support the



David Kim, director for International Partnerships and Public Affairs in Seattle

activation of such networks in the long term, it will be the most strategic resource and a real force that will move the relationship between the two countries.”

He shared his experience of being directly and indirectly involved in the Korea-U.S. relationship, especially at the federal and local levels, and emphasized, “The ROK-U.S. alliance is a valuable asset that should be passed down across regions and generations.”

Kim cited the visit of the Seattle mayor and delegation in 2023 and 2024 to Korea as the most memorable moment that made him feel proud as a Korean.

“It was very meaningful to be able to further strengthen the sister city relationship with Daejeon and share Seattle’s innovative startup culture and technology with key Korean leaders.”

He then introduced the Daejeon Global Business Center, which recently opened in Seattle, as a tangible result of the ongoing partnership between the city government and Daejeon.

Kim said he finds great joy in sharing Korean culture naturally with his friends in his daily life.

“We talk about Korean dramas and food, and we create conversations that transcend national borders. That is the power of culture and network that Korea has today, and I also want to play a bridging role in it.” 