

## OKA seeks employment support for compatriots with disabilities living in Korea

MOU with Korea Employment Service for the Disabled to establish employment support system

The Overseas Koreans Agency has set out to create a stable employment environment for compatriots with disabilities living in Korea.

The OKA signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Korea Employment Service for the Disabled (Director Lee Jong-sung) on June 5 at its headquarters in Yeonsu-gu, Incheon. Through the MOU, the two organizations will connect compatriots with disabilities to a dedicated job counseling center so that they can maintain their jobs and live stably, even if they had a disability before coming to Korea or acquired a disability during their stay.

To this end, the two organizations will cooperate on ▲ Activating employment support services for compatriots with disabilities living



OKA Commissioner Lee Sang-duk (L, front row) poses for a photo with Lee Jong-sung (R, front row), director of the Korea Employment Service for the Disabled, after signing an MOU with officials from both organizations.

in Korea, ▲ Linking together systems owned by each organization and ▲ Sharing relevant statistics, including the employment status of compatriots with disabilities living in Korea. The MOU also states that the Korea Employment Service for the Disabled will provide professional support for employers to hire compatriots with disabilities through training on hiring people with disabilities.

“We hope that through the signing of this MOU our compatriots with disabilities will be

able to work in a better environment by fully utilizing the capabilities of both organizations,” OKA Commissioner Lee Sang-duk said. “The government will pay closer attention to the employment realities of compatriots with disabilities in Korea so that they will not be marginalized in the workplace.”

## OKA runs volunteer meal-serving drive for Koryo compatriots and local communities

Koryoin Global Network (KGN) members served meals to more than 500 people, including elders living alone

Koryo compatriots living in South Korea volunteered with the Overseas Koreans Agency at a welfare center for the elderly in Mapo-gu, Seoul, with a vow to maintain their roots and to contribute to the community.

On May 27, Chae Ye-jin, president of the Koryoin Global Network (KGN), an organization of Koryoin living in Korea, and members of the KGN served food and washed dishes at the Mapo Senior Citizens' Welfare Center in Mapo-gu, Seoul.

“I believe that social contribution activities for the community are not just volunteer work but the most beautiful way for Koryoin living in Korea to contribute to the people and communities of this land while maintaining our roots,” Chae said.

KGN conducts a variety of activities to connect the Koryo diaspora and the local community, including regular community service activities and the six-week “Connecting the Future” program for Korean youth and young adults, which it runs six times a year.



Lee Ki-sung (7th from L), the OKA's overseas Korean policy director, and KGN Director Chae Ye-jin (6th from L) take a commemorative photo with members before a meal.

The volunteer program was made even more meaningful by the participation of Lee Ji-sung, the OKA director of overseas Korean policy, and OKA staff members.

“The OKA will continue to engage in social contribution activities that can promote our overseas compatriots and connect them with the community,” Lee said.