

Hangeul School Teacher Invitational Training Program concludes, 'Reviving educator pride'

Teachers from 46 countries respond enthusiastically to AI-based lesson design and multicultural education field experience program

OKA Commissioner Lee: 'We will make Hangeul schools into places students wait to visit all week'



The 2025 Korean Language School Teacher Invitational Training, which drew a unanimous consensus that it “rekindled pride and a sense of mission as educators,” concluded with a completion ceremony at Songdo Convensia in Incheon on July 19.

Hosted by the Overseas Koreans Agency (Commissioner Lee Sang-duk), the training brought together 234 Hangeul school teachers from 46 countries. They participated in various programs, including the inaugural “AI-based Korean Language Teaching Workshop.”

The completion ceremony included a highlight video of the weeklong training session, presentations by regional representatives, awards for excellence from the “What does Hangeul school mean to me” postcard writing event, certificates of completion, and group and “Life 4 Cuts” photos.

Event held under theme of 'Writing in Hangeul and Connecting with the Heart'

Kim Jun-hwan, a teacher at Madagascar Hangeul

School, said, "This training program was a valuable opportunity to renew my sense of mission as a teacher responsible for identity education for overseas Koreans and to share experiences with colleagues from around the world who are walking the same path."

Kwon Young-nam, a teacher at Amsterdam Korean School, said: “It was a time when I deeply felt the bond and connection with my home country, including to the OKA, which hosted the training. The AI-based lesson design and hands-on experience with multicultural education were particularly beneficial.”

In a postcard writing event for participants, principal Jeong Gyeong-seon of Reading Korean School received an award for excellence with her message: "To me, the Hangeul school is a community garden. It's a place where parents, teachers and local Koreans come together to watch the next generation of overseas Koreans grow."

This year's training program consisted of 16 programs, including a special lecture on "Hangeul Education in the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea," as well as workshops on teaching Korean speaking and writing at different levels, lectures on teacher well-being, playful learning to enhance their classes and a tour of the National Museum of Korea's exhibition halls.

The participants who drew attention at this year's Hangeul School Teacher Training were 17-year-old student teachers Yoo Ha-neul and Ha-byeol,



A total of 234 teachers from 46 countries who participated in the 2025 Hangeul School Teacher Invitational Training Program held at Songdo Convensia in Incheon on July 14 pose for a group photo (L). OKA Commissioner Lee Sang-duk delivers remarks at the opening ceremony.

siblings from Hawaii. Introducing themselves as student teachers at Hangang Church, Yoo Ha-neul shared her own Hangeul story in a clear voice, saying, “Every time I explain Korean names, my surroundings become a little Hangeul school for a moment.”

Born in Washington, Yoo currently resides in Hawaii, where the world’s first Hangeul school was established. She works as an assistant teacher at the newly established K-Hangeul School.

17-year-old assistant teacher Yoo Ha-neul says, ‘Hangeul school is seed of identity’

“The Hangeul school is the ‘School of the Republic of Korea,’ the country of my loving mother and respected father,” Yoo Ha-neul said. “The many overseas Korean students who are losing their Korean language skills desperately need the help of their teachers.”

Yoo’s younger brother, 15-year-old student teacher Yoo Ha-byeol, also said: “I can read, listen to and write Korean well, but speaking it is difficult. I want to learn more at Hangeul school and help my grandparents, who struggle with English.” He also expressed his aspiration to introduce Korean culture to his peers through K-dramas and K-pop.

The siblings’ presentations were imbued with their love for the Korean language and their concerns about the Korean identity.

Principal Cho Young-ae, who has volunteered at a Hangeul school for 37 years and was the longest-serving teacher among this year’s participants, said, “I hope this training will rekindle our passion and provide the strength to return to the classroom.”

At the opening ceremony, Heo Tae-gyun, a professor of the Department of Psychology at Korea University, delivered a special lecture titled “The Heart of Koreans Who Created the Republic of Korea.” This lecture offered a new perspective on identity education, drawing an enthusiastic response from the participants.

Furthermore, students from the Korea National University of Arts’ Traditional Arts Department performed “Arariyo” and “Beautiful Things in the World” for the teachers, enlivening the welcoming atmosphere.

“The Hangeul school is not simply a place to teach the Korean language but also a place to teach Korean culture and historical identity,”

Commissioner Lee emphasized at the completion ceremony. “I will do my best to make this a fun weekend school that young students will eagerly await for the whole week.

“I am glad that everyone completed their schedule in good health despite the continuous rain. I look forward to seeing you again in good health.”

First lady Kim Hea Kyung: ‘Teachers provide deep connection between homeland and overseas Korean community’

During the training period, the OKA held meetings with local officials and teachers to listen to their voices and plan to reflect them in future education policies that foster the identity of overseas Koreans.

Meanwhile, at the opening ceremony of the invitational training program held July 14, first lady Kim Hea Kyung, the president’s wife, sent a congratulatory address to encourage the participants.

“Teaching Korean to overseas Korean children in a distant country goes beyond language education,” Kim stated in her video message. “It fosters an understanding of our culture and conveys our identity. The weekend Hangeul school goes beyond simple language education and serves as a framework that helps children grow with pride as Koreans.”

In particular, she said: “I express my respect to the teachers at the Hangeul School, who, in small classrooms in unfamiliar lands, create miraculous experiences where children connect with the emotions of our people through language. We will remember the dedication and hard work of the Hangeul school teachers who have deepened the connection between the Republic of Korea and the overseas Korean community.” 장