

Park Min-seo, overseas Koreans supporter for OKA

'A precious journey reaffirming my sense of mission as a little diplomat and affirming my identity'

"Being an overseas Koreans supporter isn't just about external activities; it's a precious experience that affirmed my identity -- that even while living abroad, I can remain deeply connected to Korea."

Park Min-seo, who has lived abroad for over 15 years and has been leading efforts to promote Korea's history and culture, said her activities as an overseas Koreans supporter renewed her sense of mission as a "little diplomat."

Park is a young activist who has consistently produced content on themes resonating with both Koreans at home and abroad since her school days. These include Dokdo and the comfort women issue, promoting traditional Korean culture, the 1988 Seoul Olympics, introducing the Korean community in Dubai, preparing for overseas employment, the overseas Korean system and the Korean Emigration History Museum.

She moved to the United Arab Emirates with her parents during elementary school and spent her teenage years in the Middle East.

During high school, while wanting to promote Korea, she formed a club called Kloud with friends to teach Korean and personally planned events for Dokdo Day.

In her college days, she co-founded and operated the online web magazine Wisdom Agora for overseas youths. This platform, primarily run by university students from international schools, serves as a space for overseas youth to share their own writings and experiences.

"We ran a program connecting Korean university students and overseas youth as mentors and mentees to share experiences," she said, noting that these diverse experiences helped establish her identity as an overseas Korean.

"Interacting with friends of various nationalities made me keenly aware of the importance of networks. While seeking opportunities to connect with similar overseas youth, I discovered supporter activities at various organizations and have been consistently involved in such support work ever since."

She said she will never forget winning the Gold Award from the Anti-Japanese Imperialism Video History Foundation for her video "Later is too late," which addressed the comfort women issue.

"I added English narration and subtitles to spread awareness of the Japanese military comfort women issue worldwide," she said. "The fact that my voice reached someone was the greatest achievement."

In her role as a supporter, she emphasized a production approach



Park Min-seo, who acts as an overseas Koreans supporter for the OKA

blending "information plus storytelling." Rather than merely explaining systems, she created richer content by weaving in her own firsthand experiences.

"Like obtaining an apostille, I turned initially unfamiliar and complex processes into videos based on actual experiences, hoping they might serve as a small guide for others facing similar situations."

Among her many pieces, the one she found most rewarding was a video about visiting the Korean Emigration History Museum. "It went beyond a simple introduction and weaved in my personal experience. When someone who watched it said, 'I definitely want to visit with my students,' I felt a great sense of fulfillment."

Currently enrolled in the Erasmus Mundus master's program, she plans to continue producing content related to overseas Koreans during her working holiday and study abroad period. She expressed her aspiration to pursue a doctoral program and continue research contributing to educational technology and international education development. 🇰🇷