

## OKA establishes cooperation with Kazakhstan's dedicated body for overseas Koreans

Joint seminar discusses Korea-Central Asia Development Plan with overseas compatriots

The Overseas Koreans Agency (Minister Kim Kyung-hyup) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Sept. 11 to establish a cooperative relationship with Otandastar Qory, an organization under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, dedicated to overseas Koreans.

This marks the first official agreement signed by the OKA with a foreign institution.

It was pursued to enhance the rights and interests of the Korean community in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region and to establish an official cooperative relationship between the two countries' agencies managing overseas Koreans policy.

Under the MOU, the two agencies agreed to pursue: ▲ Exchanges of overseas Korean policies and programs, ▲ Promotion of mutual cultural exchanges, ▲ Cooperation in supporting overseas Koreans in both countries and ▲ Joint research on overseas Koreans.



Officials from the Overseas Koreans Agency and Otandastar Qory pose for a commemorative photo after signing a memorandum of understanding.

Through its ongoing partnership with Otandastar Qory, the OKA has decided to promote the development of the Korean community in Kazakhstan, including Koryoin compatriots, and to foster friendly cooperation between Korea and Kazakhstan.

Following the signing ceremony held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, the two institutions also

held a joint seminar titled "Measures to strengthen Korea-Central Asia relations together with overseas Koreans."

At the seminar, professor Myung Seung-hwan of Inha University, chairman of the K-Community Policy Special Committee, presented on "Policy strategies for overseas Korean cooperation and economic activity support," while Janil Karzakhbayev, project manager of Otandastar Qory, presented on "Cooperation measures between the OKA and Otandastar Qory to strengthen Korea-Central Asia cooperation."

## Companies can now obtain apostille for Certificate of Authenticity of Trade Secrets without notarization process

OKA and KIPO resolve point of contention in order to support overseas expansion, also enhance position in responding to international litigation

Korean companies can now obtain an apostille for their Certificate of Authenticity of Trade Secrets without separate notarization procedures. The apostille is a system where the government verifies the authenticity of official documents issued domestically, ensuring their legal validity is recognized overseas.

The Overseas Koreans Agency (Commissioner Kim Kyung-hyup) announced that, in cooperation with the Korean Intellectual Property Office (Commissioner Kim Wan-ki), it will simplify the apostille issuance procedure for Certificates of Authenticity for Trade Secrets starting Sept. 15.

The Certificate of Authenticity of Trade Secrets is a document issued by an original certification agency designated by KIPO for trade secrets held by a company. It serves as supporting evidence

to prove the possession date and originality of trade secrets in the event of disputes between companies.

The current original document certification authorities are the Korea Intellectual Property Protection Agency, LG CNS, Redwit and the Onnuri International Trade Secrets Protection Center. Previously, to have this certificate recognized as an official document, notarization was mandatory. This led to criticism that the notarization date, often later than the actual possession date, was applied as the standard, potentially placing companies at a disadvantage.

Accordingly, the OKA and KIPO have improved the system, recognizing the original trade secret certificate itself as an official document and enabling immediate issuance of an apostille.