

## Korean association presidents from 67 countries pledge unity for Korea's peace and prosperity

OKA Commissioner Kim: 'Reflecting Korean associations' voices in policy; we will  
strengthen our practical support'

Yoon Hee, president of Asian Federation, and Lee Seok-ro, president of Canadian  
Federation, to be the chairs of next year's conference

The 2025 World Korean Association Conference concluded successfully on Oct. 1 at the Grand Walkerhill Hotel in Seoul, with participants pledging to unite the capabilities of the overseas Korean community for the peace and prosperity of the Republic of Korea.

Hosted by the Overseas Koreans Agency (Commissioner Kim Kyung-hyup), the three-day conference proceeded under the slogan "Connecting to the World with 7 Million Overseas Koreans, Illuminating the Future." Over 370 participants attended, including presidents of Korean associations from 67 countries worldwide and executives from continental federations.

"This conference reaffirmed the potential and capabilities of the global overseas Korean community," OKA Commissioner Kim Kyung-hyup said in his closing remarks. "We will do our utmost to translate the participants' voices into achievable policies."

Prior to the closing ceremony, participants held a plenary session and adopted a 10-point resolution encompassing the peace and stability of the Republic of Korea. The resolution marked the 80th anniversary of liberation by honoring the spirit of the independence movement within the overseas Korean community, and pledged to pool their capabilities for the peace and prosperity of the Republic of Korea.

It also expressed support for the successful hosting of the APEC 2025 KOREA and the realization of lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula centered on END (Exchange, Normalization of Relations, Denuclearization), pledging to strengthen civilian public diplomacy activities that raise awareness of the necessity for a peaceful reunification.

Additionally, resolutions were passed on: ▲ Cultivating the identity of next-generation compatriots and strengthening ties with their homeland, ▲ Actively cooperating to enable young overseas



OKA Commissioner Kim Kyung-hyup delivers remarks at the closing ceremony.

Korean talents to contribute to overcoming population decline and regional extinction, ▲ Improving the overseas voting system, ▲ Supporting lowering the age for dual citizenship, ▲ Proposing the establishment of Taegeukgi Day and ▲ Proposal for the World Korean Association Conference to be hosted by Korean associations.

On the previous day, Sept. 30, a Common Agenda Discussion led by the World Assembly of Korean Associations (WAKA) was held in a lively atmosphere to discuss operational plans for the World Korean Association Conference and the resolution of disputes among regional Korean associations, aiming to strengthen

solidarity among Korean associations worldwide.

During the Dialogue with the Government session, five institutions -- the Ministry of Justice, National Tax Service, National Election Commission, National Pension Service and National Folk Museum -- introduced systems related to overseas Koreans, such as nationality law, tax law, overseas voting, social security agreements and cultural artifact collection systems, and responded to participants' questions.

The Local Government-Overseas Korean Community Case Study Presentation program, introduced for the first time this year, drew significant interest as Incheon Metropolitan City, Ulsan Metropolitan City and Jeonbuk Special Self-Governing Province shared their respective overseas Korean policies and collaboration cases with Korean associations.

During the conference, the World Korean Association Conference Steering Committee held a meeting and confirmed Yoon Hee, president of the Asian Federation of Korean Associations, and Lee Seok-ro, president of the Canadian Federation of Korean Associations, as the co-chairs for next year's conference. 장