

OKA Commissioner Kim discusses cooperation with Chae Yu-ri, president of Koryoin Association in Kazakhstan

Overseas Koreans Agency Commissioner Kim Kyung-hyup met with Chae Yu-ri, president of the Kazakhstan Koryoin Association, and her visiting delegation on Oct. 14. They exchanged views on matters of interest to the Koryoin community in Kazakhstan, such as the establishment of a K-park, and discussed future cooperation plans, the OKA announced.

"Kazakhstan's Koryoin community is a valuable resource for developing cooperation and friendly relations between Korea and Kazakhstan across various fields," Kim said. "The Korean government will continue to support our Koryoin compatriots in Kazakhstan to maintain their ties with their homeland."

Chae explained the construction of a K-Park, which is being established to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the settlement



OKA Commissioner Kim Kyung-hyup (4th from L) meets with Chae Yu-ri, president of the Koryoin Association in Kazakhstan, at the OKA headquarters on Oct. 14 to discuss support for the Koryoin community in Kazakhstan and other matters.

of the Koryoin people in Kazakhstan, as well as the Alatau City project in which the local Koryoin community is taking a leading role. She requested the OKA's interest and cooperation to ensure the success of this project.

The Kazakhstan government is promoting the construction of Alatau City, aiming to establish a new hub in Eurasia. The Koryoin Association in Kazakhstan is pursuing the establishment of a K-Park, a Korean cultural and business complex spanning approximately 99,000 square meters, within

this new city.

"I hope this project is successfully completed and becomes a meaningful milestone in the history of the overseas Korean community," Kim said. "I will support the project to ensure its successful completion."

Overseas compatriots residing in Korea: 'We face housing and employment insecurity, but we hope to acquire Korean citizenship'

OKA conducts survey to support compatriot residents in Korea, including Chinese and Koryoin

The Overseas Koreans Agency (Commissioner Kim Kyung-hyup) announced the results of a survey assessing the status of resident compatriots in Korea on Oct. 16. According to the survey, which included questionnaires and in-depth interviews with 1,145 individuals, as well as a literature review, most reside in Korea under the overseas Korean (F-4) visa. Among them, Chinese Koreans account for 77 percent but are declining, while Koryoin-saram make up 12 percent but are rapidly increasing.

Residents living in Korea for over 10 years reached 60 percent. Their housing was primarily rental, not owned, and they faced anxieties, such as rent increases, refusal of contract renewals and non-return of security deposits. The perception of being people from their country of origin (38 percent) was higher than being citizens of



A policy discussion meeting is held at the National Assembly on Aug. 29 to support the settlement of overseas compatriots in Korea.

the Republic of Korea (29 percent), indicating a coexisting dual identity. Sixty-eight percent responded that they have plans to acquire Korean nationality.

Thirty percent experienced mental exhaustion or burnout due to difficulties adapting to life in Korea, while 50 percent faced challenges with academic guidance, education costs and the obtaining of

educational information despite having elementary, middle or high school-aged children. Among respondents aged 50 and above, 82 percent stated they lacked "sufficient financial resources to prepare for serious illness." They hoped for government support in the following order of issues: employment (24 percent), income (21 percent), housing (17 percent) and health/medical care (16 percent).