

Jan 5: Enrollment ceremony for domestic and overseas Koryoin youth vocational training

8: Meeting with IOM Deputy Director-General Lee Sung-ah

13: 'Korean Festival - Resonance: Same Sound' held

15: 'The origin of Taekwondo Hallyu' Master Lee Jun-gu selected as January Overseas Korean of the Month

26: OKA-Korea Economic Association forum on revitalizing the Korean economic sphere

## OKA Announcements

### 'All your questions answered at a glance'; legal casebook for Sakhalin compatriots published

Practical Q&A focused on real-world cases ranging from permanent return to citizenship acquisition

The Overseas Koreans Agency has published the Sakhalin Compatriots Legal Consultation Q&A Casebook in both Korean and Russian to address various legal questions faced by Sakhalin compatriots returning to Korea permanently during their settlement process.

This casebook was compiled based on major cases actually received while operating a dedicated legal consultation window for Sakhalin Koreans. It provides easy-to-understand Q&A solutions for practical issues compatriots face during life in Korea, ranging from permanent return application methods to nationality acquisition, health insurance and housing support.

Key contents include clarifying that, regarding permanent return eligibility, if all children of first-generation compatriots have passed away, one grandchild (direct descendant) and their spouse may accompany them for return. It specifically guides that even a maternal grandchild can be eligible if documentation proving the child's death is provided.

It also provides detailed guidance on the document preparation process, which compatriots find the most challenging. For cases where discrepancies in birth dates between Russian and Korean records make identity verification difficult, it suggests solutions, such as obtaining an identity verification certificate or correcting the family register. It also emphasizes practical considerations, such as the fact that documents proving relationships, like a son's birth certificate, do not need to be reissued when reapplying for permanent return, but the spouse's marriage certificate must be a recent copy issued within the last three months.

Regarding nationality acquisition, it clearly states that while first- and second-generation Sakhalin Koreans can maintain dual nationality through nationality determination, third-generation



Cover of the Sakhalin Compatriots Legal Consultation Q&A Casebook

individuals must undergo naturalization procedures. It also gives significant weight to questions frequently asked during actual consultations, such as the fact that freedom of departure is allowed even during the nationality determination review period (approximately four to seven months).

Information on domestic living support systems was also significantly expanded. For health insurance, eligibility is maintained for stays abroad within one month but is lost if the stay exceeds one month, requiring re-enrollment upon re-entry. Regarding housing issues, the OKA introduced the relief measures currently under discussion with relevant agencies for compatriots facing difficulties renewing rental housing contracts due to delayed nationality acquisition.

The OKA plans to make this casebook available for anyone to view through its website and other channels.