

Publication
time

For Immediate Release

Release

September 21 (Mon.), 2026

World Korean Community to Gather in Songdo for “World Korean Week” Beginning Sept. 27

- Major gatherings of overseas Korean community leaders, businesspeople, and next-generation leaders to take place during a single week
- Weeklong program to bring overseas Korean voices into policy discussion, connect Korean businesses with global opportunities and empower the next generation

- Overseas Korean community leaders, businesspeople and next-generation leaders from around the world will gather in Songdo, Incheon, as major events for the global Korean community come together during a single week.
- The Overseas Koreans Agency (OKA), headed by Commissioner Kim Kyung-hyup, announced that “World Korean Week” will take place at Songdo Convensia in Incheon from Sept. 27 to Oct. 1, ahead of World Korean Day on Oct. 5.
- This year’s World Korean Week will bring together several major events, including the World Korean Association Presidents’ Convention, the World Korean Business Convention, the World Korean Next Generation Convention and the Korean Festival. Approximately 1,300 overseas Koreans are expected to participate, including community leaders and professionals in business, culture, science and education.
- For the first time, participants will have opportunities to attend programs beyond their respective events and engage directly with the Korean public. The week is designed to strengthen connections across regions, fields and generations, bring overseas Korean

perspectives into policy discussions, and expand cooperation between Korean companies and overseas Korean business networks.

□ World Korean Association Presidents' Convention: Sept. 27–29

- World Korean Week will begin with the World Korean Association Presidents' Convention, which will run from Sept. 27 to 29. Korean association presidents from around the world will discuss issues facing their communities and share best practices in association management.
- For the first time, the convention will be planned and operated by a private–sector steering committee with direct participation from overseas Korean communities.* At the Continental Future Strategy Conference on Sept. 28, participants will discuss key issues facing different regions, ways to strengthen cooperation among overseas Korean organizations, and successful initiatives from communities around the world.

* Ko Sang-gu, President of the World Federation of Overseas Korean Associations, was elected chair of the private-sector steering committee on March 9, 2026.

□ World Korean Convention: Sept. 28–29

- The World Korean Convention, bringing together overseas Koreans and the Korean public, will be held Sept. 28–29. The venue will feature the Hall of Overseas Korean Achievements, highlighting overseas Koreans and their contributions around the world. Programs on Sept. 28 will include the Overseas Koreans Town Hall Meeting, the 20th World Korean Day Commemorative Ceremony and the joint opening ceremony for World Korean Week.
- At the Overseas Koreans Town Hall Meeting, chaired by OKA Commissioner Kim Kyung–hyup, government officials and overseas Koreans will discuss the findings of the Global Survey of Overseas

Korean Community Grievances. Participants will review measures taken in response to issues identified through the survey and discuss remaining challenges and priorities for institutional reform.

- The 20th World Korean Day Commemorative Ceremony will recognize individuals who have contributed to the development of overseas Korean communities. The winner of this year's Overseas Koreans Literary Award will be announced at the joint opening ceremony that follows. OKA Honorary Ambassador Sandara Park will also participate.
- On Sept. 29, the Ministry of Unification will host a Social Dialogue for the Promotion of Peace, where participants will exchange views on peace on the Korean Peninsula. A Generations Roundtable will also bring together older and younger generations of overseas Koreans for dialogue.
- That evening, the Korean Festival will bring overseas Koreans and the Korean public together for a cultural celebration. Overseas Korean musicians will perform alongside singers Sandara Park and Gummy.

☐ **24th World Korean Business Convention: Sept. 28-30**

- The 24th World Korean Business Convention will take place Sept. 28-30, bringing together overseas Korean business leaders and Korean companies. Around 3,000 businesspeople from Korea and abroad are expected to participate in programs focused on exports, investment and global market expansion.
- Held under the slogan "Irreplaceable Korean Business Leaders, Irreplaceable Korea," the convention will be overseen by a private-sector steering committee.* Building on more than two decades of overseas Korean business networks, the convention will

connect Korean companies with new opportunities in global markets.

- More than 300 companies will operate 340 booths in the exhibition hall, showcasing products and services in sectors with strong global demand, including K-food, K-beauty and K-bio. Around 150 buyers, including representatives of major overseas distributors,* will hold one-on-one export consultations with Korean small and medium-sized enterprises.
- Programs will also support investment and market expansion. They include the IR Stage, combining corporate investor relations sessions with buyer luncheons; the Global AI Startup & VC Forum, featuring global venture capital firms; and the AI Business Summit, led by the Young Business Leaders Network (YBLN).
- * Hwang Byung-koo, President of the Korean American Federation of Commerce & Industry, was elected chair and Yoon Deok-chang, President of the Asia-Pacific Korean Food Importers Association, vice chair of the private-sector steering committee on Feb. 25, 2026.
- * Participating distributors include K&K Global Trading (K-Market, Vietnam), KMT JAYA (Malaysia) and Hitrons Solutions Inc. (United States).

☐ World Korean Next Generation Convention: Sept. 29-Oct. 1

- The World Korean Next Generation Convention will bring together emerging leaders from overseas Korean communities from Sept. 29 to Oct. 1.
- Participants will review the development and activities of the Future Leaders' Conference (FLC), the convention's flagship network, and discuss its future direction.

- On Sept. 30, participants will take part in a Policy Recommendation Discussion focused on government policies that can support the growth of next-generation overseas Koreans and expand their roles in their respective communities. The program will also include meetings with policymakers, including a courtesy visit to the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly.
- The convention will conclude Oct. 1 with a presentation of policy recommendations developed through discussions during the three-day program.

□ Connecting Overseas Koreans, Korea and the Next Generation

- Through World Korean Week, the Overseas Koreans Agency aims to create stronger connections among major overseas Korean events that were previously held separately, while expanding opportunities for overseas Koreans and the Korean public to engage with one another.
- “The seven million overseas Koreans are an invaluable link between Korea and the world and partners in shaping Korea’s future,” Commissioner Kim said. “I hope World Korean Week will turn the voices of overseas Koreans into policy, connect the networks of Korean business leaders with global opportunities for Korean companies, and carry the ideas of next-generation leaders into the future of overseas Korean communities.”
- The Overseas Koreans Agency plans to continue holding World Korean Week in conjunction with World Korean Day on Oct. 5, while expanding programs that help the Korean public better understand overseas Korean communities and their contributions around the world.

Overseas Koreans Agency Overseas Koreans Cooperation Coordination Division	Supervisor	Director	Hwang In-seong	(032-585-3195)
	Person in charge	Deputy Director	Park Jun-yeong	(032-585-3197)
Overseas Koreans Agency Overseas Koreans Educational and Cultural Support Division	Supervisor	Director	Lee Hee-kyung	(032-585-3207)
	Person in charge	Assistant Director	Kim Yeong-su	(032-585-3209)
Overseas Koreans Agency Future Generation Overseas Koreans Division	Supervisor	Director	Kim Chae-yeong	(032-585-3213)
	Person in charge	Deputy Director	Yoon Jung-seop	(032-585-3215)
Overseas Koreans Agency Overseas Koreans Economic Support Division	Supervisor	Director	Lee Kyung-ah	(032-585-3220)
	Person in charge	Deputy Director	Hwang In-yong	(032-585-3293)