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MOE to announce Study Korea 300K Project: Korea aims to be the top 10 world-leading countries for study abroad by 2027

- Collaborative strategies established among universities, local industries, and local governments, promoting all aspects of study-abroad from recruitment to academic and career planning of international students
- Anticipated benefits include stimulating regional economy, enhancing the global competitiveness in high-tech industries, and strengthening universities' global standing

On Wednesday, August 16th, the Ministry of Education (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Lee Ju-Ho) will hold the 7th Social Affairs Inter-ministerial Meeting at the Seoul Government Complex. During this Meeting, they will unveil the Study Korea 300K Project.

The Ministry of Education has formulated the Project with the aim of achieving the top ten world-leading countries for study abroad worldwide by attracting 300,000 international students to Korea. In particular, to position Korea as a global education powerhouse, a series of step-by-step strategies are outlined to attract international students and to plan for their academic and career prospects.

1 Revolutionizing the gateway for international students

The “special education internationalization zones” for global talent will be designated at a local government level. These zones will develop step-by-step strategies to attract, educate and connect global talents to local development strategies. In addition, a global talent center will be established within the overseas Korean Education Centers to identify local demands for studying abroad and to systematically support activities related to global talent initiatives.

The “education internationalization competency certification system” will be evaluated, so that university laws and regulations that hinder the recruitment of global talents such as academic affairs will be reformed.

2] Fostering Global talents for regional industry

A task force for the global talent strategy team composed of universities, regional industries, and local governments under the Regional Innovation System & Education (RISE) will establish strategies to address a wide-range of regional needs from attracting global talents to facilitating their academic growth and supporting their career plans.

For academic purposes, designated regional Korean centers, linked with universities or local governments, will be established. In line with this, Korean education and Korean culture education will be extensively strengthened, in addition to increasing field training hours and internship fields for opportunities to plan their careers

In addition, talents in the shipbuilding industry and *ppuri* industry (*ppuri* meaning root or foundation in Korean) who will lead relevant practices and research for the growth of the regional industry will be nurtured, and their employment will be supported.

3] Strategically attracting global talents to lead in high-tech and emerging industries

Through the expansion of the Global Korea Scholarship (GKS) program and increased financial support for the recruitment of international researchers, the Ministry of Education aims to draw global talents from overseas in the fields of high-tech and emerging industries.

In addition, personalized courses tailored to English-speaking students will be developed and promoted including expanded English instruction, academic writing, and research ethics, to ensure that they can excel in

their studies. On the one hand, more domestic job opportunities at mid-sized and small businesses will be created, linking graduates with careers after graduation. On the other hand, “science technology talent fast-track system” will be launched to facilitate the visa integration of graduates (Master’s and Ph.D) by streamlining the process and timeframe for obtaining permanent residency or naturalization visas (from 5 stages, 6 years → 3 stages, 3 years) in the field of science technologies.

④ Establishing inter-ministerial collaborative framework to secure potential demand for studying abroad

To make Korean language learning accessible worldwide, the Ministry of Education will develop and distribute digital Korean language materials tailored to different proficiency levels and revamp the Test of Proficiency in Korean (TOPIK) into a digital format.

Furthermore, the Ministry will expand exchanges with overseas youths, and through restructures, broaden the scope of Official Development Assistance (ODA) in education.

For international students interested in studying in Korea, the Ministry will provide scholarships and information on academic and career pursuits from the preparation stage, and establish a central task force headed by the Deputy Prime Minister to ensure the seamless integration of initiatives across relevant ministries.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Lee Ju-Ho stated, “Through these measures, we anticipate positive outcomes such as stimulating regional economies, enhancing competitiveness of high-tech industries, and strengthening universities’ global competitiveness. We will do our utmost to facilitate talent settlement in local communities through domestic study abroad programs, and to establish supportive institutional foundations by promoting direct communication with stakeholders.”

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