

Korea Times, ICAS sign MOU to expand ties



Korea Times President-Publisher Lee Chang-sup, right, poses with Institute for Corea-American Studies (ICAS) President and Chairwoman Synja P. Kim, center, and Vice President Sang Joo Kim at the English daily's building in Seoul, Thursday, after the two sides signed an agreement to promote bilateral cooperation.

/ Korea Times photo by Choi Won-suk

By Kim Hyo-jin

International research organization ICAS and The Korea Times signed an agreement Thursday to promote bilateral cooperation.

The agreement aims to promote collaboration in co-organizing seminars regarding the Korean Peninsula, East Asia and Korea-U.S. relations issues. Co-hosting the ICAS youth leadership program is also part of the plan.

ICAS — an acronym for the Institute for Corea-American Studies — is a Washington-based non-profit educational organization that holds regular symposiums in an active engagement with Capitol Hill.

With a roster of 139 fellows, mainly from academic and political sectors, its symposium covers humanity and security issues in the Asia-Pacific region. They include Victor Cha, a professor of Georgetown University, Francis Fukuyama from Johns Hopkins University, and former U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Kathleen Stephens.

Along with the symposium, it runs youth programs that give young Korean-Americans free access to networking with global leaders or experts with ICAS membership.

"We help young people to expand their horizons by exposing them to mainstream society, thereby becoming a leader not only of the U.S. but also in the global community," said ICAS President and Chairwoman Synja P. Kim. "In terms of public education, we thought our mission and that of The Korea Times are in the same spirit."

Kim said she expects to run collaborative programs with The Korea Times aimed at developing youth leadership.

"We can combine efforts to make more fruitful results, rather than doing it individually," she said.

With the agreement, Korea Times President Lee Chang-sup expressed hope that bilateral cooperation will help bridge the gap between Korean and U.S. societies.

"We signed the (agreement) to help young Korean-Americans better understand Korean heritage, and also to help our readers better understand the Washington view," Lee said.

The plan is to encourage readers to participate in the ICAS youth leadership program, he said.

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http://koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2015/07/113_182091.html