



"First Trip Home"

2008 Birth Family Search Tour to Korea

for Overseas Adopted Koreans

The Overseas Koreans Foundation (OKF) is a specialized organization for overseas Koreans. The Foundation is established under the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in order to support the 7 million overseas Koreans around the world as they become model citizens of their countries of residence.

Since OKF's establishment in 1997, we have supported overseas adopted Korean by inviting them to Korea to experience and learn about Korean culture, creating opportunities for adoptees to develop their identities, providing assistance with birth family search, and by developing exchange programs in order to assist adoptees with their visits and stays in Korea.

"First Trip Home" the 2008 Birth Family Search Tour to Korea for Overseas adopted Koreans is being organized in order to give adoptees who are interested in trying to find their birth families a chance to come to Korea. This program will be set up through a partnership of OKF together with domestic and overseas adoption agencies, sponsorship programs, and adoptee community organizations.

First Trip Home aims to assist adoptees wishes to find their birth family by reducing the difficulties and undesired stress that normally can accompany the process. We will also be providing financial support to cover the flight ticket and accommodations while in Korea. Through this year's program and into the future we hope adoptees we be able to develop a strong sense of pride for being Korean and have more opportunities to visit their motherland.



1. Introduction

A. Program Title: "First Journey to Home" 2008 Birth Family Search Tour to Korea for Overseas Adopted Koreans

B. Objectives:

- To assist overseas adopted Koreans that wish to find their birth families by reducing the normal obstacles that often are encountered during the search process.
- To assist adoptees in developing into exemplary citizens and leaders of their adoptive countries
- To help adoptees to take pride in being Korean.

C. Program Content

- Based on information that applicants already have available from their adoption files, a "preliminary family search" will be carried out with cooperation of the relevant adoption agencies, police, etc.
- Applicants who have a high possibility to find their birth family will be invited to Korea and given a chance to meet their birth family. For those who have little or no information about their birth family, they will be given opportunities to visit their place of birth, where they were found, and/or their orphanage(s) where they stayed before being adopted in an attempt to gather information to further their search.
- There will be a maximum of 40 invited participants
- The results of the preliminary family search will be notified individually to all applicants after the program ends, if not sooner

D. Participating Organizations

- Organized by: Overseas Koreans Foundation
- Facilitated by: Global Overseas Adoptees' Link (G.O.A.'L)
- Partner Organizations: Eastern Social Welfare Society (ESWS) Holt Children's Welfare Society, Inc. (Holt), Korean Social Services (KSS), Social Welfare Society, Inc. (SWS), Global Adoption Information and Post Services (GAIPS), International Korean Adoptee Services (InKAS), and KoRoot Guest House



2. Application Process

A. Application - *who can apply?*

- Overseas adopted Korea 18+ years of age

B. How to apply

- Download the application form from the OKF homepage (oaks.korean.net), G.O.A.'L homepage (www.goal.or.kr/eng) or partner organizations' homepages (See 1. D. Participating Organizations)
- Send the completed application form and required documents (see 2.C. Documents to be submitted) to both the OKF email address (firsttriphome@gmail.com) AND contact your local Korean embassy or consulate to forward the same.

C. Documents to be submitted

- Completed application form, copies of your adoption papers*, two photos* (one pre-adoption, and one current photo) and an essay (1 pg. describing why you wish to participate in this program).

**Adoption papers and photos should be scanned and sent as attachments in digital format (.jpeg preferred).*

D. Application Period

- Now until Monday, October 20, 2008 (Korea time)
- Invited participants will be notified by: Monday, November 10, 2008

E. Questions?

- Contact Information:
Staff in-charge: Mr. Joo-dong Kim, Asst. Manager, Next Generation Team, OKF
Tel: 82-2-3463-6265
Fax: 82-2-3463-3999
Email: firsttriphome@gmail.com and/or joo@okf.or.kr
OKF website for overseas adopted Koreans: <http://oaks.korean.net>



3. Procedure of Participant Selection

- A. Announcement released → Applications received by OKF → Preliminary research for birth family search → Selection of participants → Notice given to invited participants (via embassies and individual participants)
- B. For applicants that are not selected to participate, their results of the preliminary family search will be notified individually after the program ends.
- C. Priority to select participants
 - Overseas adopted Korean
 - Priority will be given to those interested in birth family search or a motherland visit, but have been able to do either because of difficult circumstances
 - Those with a high possibility to find their birth family with clear adoption records and information regarding their birth families.
 - Those who have no prior experience visiting Korea

4. Tentative Tour Schedule

- A. Dates: Dec. 8 -14, 2008 <7 days and 6 nights>
- B. Location: Within and around the Seoul area
- C. Number of participants: up to 40
- D. Programs: (*schedule is subject to change*)
 - Meet birth parents, adoption file review
 - Volunteer opportunities (e.g., at adoption agencies, related organizations, homes for single mothers, etc.)
 - Travel with birth parents or families on your own
 - Korean Traditional Culture Experiences (e.g., cultural experience of Korea and seeing traditional performing arts)
- E. Description of Support Provided to Participants
 - Reimbursement of round trip flight ticket (original receipt should be submitted)
 - Economy class ticket, GTR (Government Transportation Request) will be standard
 - Accommodations during the invitation period (excluding personal expenses)
- F. Documents to submit
 - A copy of the flight reservation with proof that payment was made
 - Documentation Release, Liability Release