



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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IKAA GATHERING 2019
Spanning Generations: Communities, Families, & Leadership

SEOUL, Korea - The International Korean Adoptee Associations (IKAA) Network will host the IKAA Gathering, the only international conference of its kind, scheduled to take place from July 30 to August 4, 2019 in Seoul, Korea.

Building upon the foundations laid by earlier Gatherings in Washington D.C. (1999) and Oslo, Norway (2001), the Gatherings moved to Korea, the shared motherland of the attendees, in 2004. Following the success of that Gathering, the IKAA Network has continued this tradition, bringing 500-700 Korean adoptees and their families to Korea once every 3 years for IKAA Gatherings in 2007, 2010, 2013, 2016, and now, 2019.

The theme of the IKAA Gathering 2019 is *Spanning Generations: Communities, Families, & Leadership*. We are a constantly growing and changing network, as our community continues to mature both in our personal lives as well as within our respective organizations. Many adoptees have moved into new life stages and/or started families of their own, and there has been a notable shift in needs and interests among members of our community. The IKAA G19 theme marks an effort to address this evolution, provide a space that is more inclusive of the families of adoptees, and support the next generation of emerging leaders, while continuing to offer programming and activities that are engaging and relevant for the broader adoptee community, from attendees who have been to all 6 Gatherings in Korea, to attendees who are participating in their first adoptee event! Over 500 Korean adoptees and their families are expected to attend.

The IKAA G19 will host a comprehensive program that not only reflects the advancement of our community and the continued development of new leaders, but also further serves our mission to enrich the global adoption community and promote the sharing of information and resources.

Formally established in 2004, IKAA is the largest existing network of international Korean adoptees, reaching out to thousands worldwide. All IKAA associations are well established within their respective communities, organizing regular events and activities, and have an entirely volunteer organizational structure and membership comprised almost entirely of adult adoptees.

The IKAA Network was created to better serve the international Korean adoptee community, to promote the exchange of ideas and information, and build bridges between Korea, Korean adoptees, and adoptive countries.

For further information, please visit our website: www.ikaa.org or follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IKAAorg>.