

Minister of Education of Korea Meets With the Chinese Ambassador to Korea to Discuss Korea and China's Efforts to Respond to COVID-19, Strengthening Their Education Cooperation

- HE Yoo Eun-hae, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education of the Republic of Korea and HE Xing Haiming, Chinese Ambassador to Korea, held a meeting on May 11, 2020 (Monday) to exchange actions that Korea and China have taken to contain COVID-19 and discuss ways to strengthen their education cooperation.

- On the outset, Deputy Prime Minister Yoo congratulated Chinese Ambassador Xing Haiming for taking up the new post and emphasized the companionship of the two countries to fight COVID-19, one of which both Education Ministries have put first the health of Korean and Chinese international students since the wake of COVID-19.

In return, Ambassador Xing Haiming extended his gratitude to the Korean Ministry of Education for its unwavering support for Chinese international students amid the unprecedented time, especially providing systematic guidance in steps to protect Chinese' international students' safety.

- Deputy Prime Minister Yoo and Ambassador Xing Haiming shared the view that the two Ministries of Education have closely cooperated to making sure the security of all international students in good faith, and highly praised their contribution to curb COVID-19, not further spreading it to universities and local communities, in alignment with their mutual agreement on minimizing international students' entrance to and out of the country.

- Deputy Prime Minister Yoo then proceeded to speak about the Korean Ministry of Education's start of the new semester with online classes, and its current position on school reopening.

In fact, she made note of how the Korean Education Ministry established the ground for online learning in response to COVID-19, as a means to protect the safety of all students and their right to education, including how it secured the public infrastructure based on public-private companies' partnership.

And further indicated the reliable operation of nationwide online classes in close collaboration with schools, all derived from commitment and efforts put forth by teachers in building their capacities.

In addition, Deputy Prime Minister Yoo shared the Ministry's plan to create a school operation system that ensures the safety, daily life, and learning of all students through rigorous provisions on school infectious disease prevention and control, and that it will turn COVID-19 crisis into an opportunity, taking a step closer to the future of education.

- Ambassador Xing Haiming paid tribute to Korea's successful actions to respond to COVID-19 including the online school year, and said in return his will to facilitate bilateral cooperation in the field of education, which indeed is the future and aspiration of the nation.

- Deputy Prime Minister Yoo paid special attention to the ways in which Korea, Japan, and China discussed on promoting education cooperation earlier at the Third Korea-Japan-China Education Minister's Meeting held in January of this year in Beijing, and asked for the Chinese Embassy in Korea's cooperation in reinforcing bilateral exchanges in the field of education.

- In conclusion, Deputy Prime Minister and Ambassador Xing Haiming agreed to continuously make joint efforts in pursuing policies amid and post COVID-19, a global crisis affecting the entire international community, and fortify solidarity and bilateral cooperation for the mutual development of the two countries.