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OAPIA Update

News Updates from the DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Dear Community Members,

For 25 years, OAPIA has been building the legacy of community activism and engagement. Through the help of our city government agencies, we have been able to provide quality assistance to those in need. It is through continued cooperation and coordination of our agency officials, staff, and residents that we have been able to accomplish our goals and build a stronger future.



In the spirit of coordination, we would like to remind you that September is [National Preparedness Month](#). OAPIA would like to take this time to remind you to have your own emergency action plan in place. Whether responding to a natural or man-made threat, creating your own emergency-preparedness plan ensures that your loved ones will be properly taken care of. Working with neighbors and local officials to devise an emergency plan is beneficial to the safety and health of our city.

Being armed with knowledge and information is crucial to keeping our communities safe. [Serve DC](#), the District's lead agency in coordinating the management of emergency volunteers, will be holding events throughout the month of September. In addition, [HSEMA](#) (DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency) will be holding emergency-preparedness training sessions. Please visit [Serve DC](#) to find upcoming events and to learn more about how you can protect yourself and your family.

Warm Regards,

Soohyun "Julie" Koo
Director, DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Office of Human Rights (OHR) - Know Your Rights Campaign

The 2012 [Know Your Rights Campaign](#) aims to educate limited and non-English proficient DC residents about interpretation services that must be made available to them at government agencies if they speak Amharic, Chinese, French, Korean, Spanish or Vietnamese. Just recently OHR released eight public service announcements in eight different languages. OAPIA was very pleased to have been involved in the making of one of the public service announcements. Our very own, Hiji Nam, 2012 Summer intern, took part in the Korean recording.

["I Speak"](#) cards are now available to the public, and will be displayed in different agencies city wide, including OAPIA. OHR encourages those who speak limited or no English to obtain the appropriate card

for their language and carry it with them.

Press releases in different languages can be accessed [here](#). If you want to learn more about the campaign and where to find the "[I Speak](#)" cards, please visit OHR's [website](#).

OAPIA Welcomes Fall Interns



Doo Wan Nam

Doo Wan Nam was born and raised in Seoul, South Korea. He attended middle school in China and moved to the United States in 2007. He is a sophomore at George Washington University, pursuing a bachelor's degree in economics and international affairs. Through his previous internships, Doo Wan has considerable research experience on various topics, especially as it pertains to East Asia.

At OAPIA, Doo Wan hopes to sharpen his language skills, and gain valuable work experience, in order to better serve the AAPI community. His long-term aspiration is to become a diplomat.

Songyi Park was born in Cheongju, South Korea and raised in Pusan, South Korea. She is a junior double majoring in English literature and economics at Chung-Ang University. Songyi is currently attending American University as an international exchange student through the Washington Semester Program, focusing on global economics and business. She has experience participating in international conferences, such as the Ramsar Convention, a convention on wetlands and migratory birds. Songyi also has research experience on various global economic issues, and is greatly interested in international and global affairs.

Songyi aspires to become a financial analyst in the future, and thus welcomes opportunities and experiences in various fields to help develop her leadership and analytical skills. As an intern at OAPIA, she expects to acquire greater insight on global relationships, while improving her language skills.



Songyi Park

Sooryun Kim was born and raised in Seoul, South Korea. She is a junior at Sookmyung Women's University in Seoul, and is double majoring in English language and literature and business administration. She is currently in the United States for the first time as an international exchange student at American University through the Washington Semester Program, taking a global economics and business course. Sooryun has considerable experience in the fields of marketing and journalism, in addition to her strong English to Korean and vice versa language translation and interpretation skills.



At OAPIA, Sooryun intends to improve her language skills, and assist individuals who face language and cultural barriers. She hopes to better understand the dynamic of local government and community issues, while developing her leadership, research, and communication skills. Her long term goal is to become a human resources manager in the public sector.

Sooryun Kim

OAPIA Meets with Public Allies DC



Director Koo Meets with DC participants in Public Allies' AmeriCorps Ally Program.

Public Allies identifies diverse young adults and prepares them for leadership through paid full-time nonprofit apprenticeships and rigorous leadership training. Visit them [here!](#)

Spotlight: Wah Luck House 30th Anniversary



Wah Luck House Turns 30

OAPIA is pleased to recognize the 30th anniversary of the Wah Luck House, a 153 unit apartment building located in Chinatown that provides affordable housing to many Chinese seniors. The Wah Luck housing project was started in 1975 when Chinatown residents, led by the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, worked together to plan the development at the corner of 6th and H Street NW.

The project was completed in 1982, and since then the Wah Luck House has served as a residence for many Chinese seniors who were displaced by the demolition of the apartment building that stood where the old Convention Center was located. Funding of the building was secured through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, with the land given by the District of Columbia government. OAPIA is pleased to honor the Wah Luck House and wishes them a happy birthday!

DC Mayor's Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

The DC Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs usually convenes monthly meetings to discuss current issues affecting the DC AAPI community.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 25, 2012 @ 6:30 pm at the OAPIA office located at 441 4th Street, NW, Suite 721N, Washington, DC 20001.

All commission meetings are open to the public. If you have any questions about the commission or its meetings, please contact oapia@dc.gov.

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