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## Minister, LEE Young, Paid Particular Attention to the Labour Issues of SMEs and Venture Companies

- Prepared a venue for communication to listen to the difficulties which companies in the gaming and software industries are experiencing as a result of the 52-hour workweek and lack of manpower
- Emphasized that the MSS will make vigorous efforts to increase the flexibility of labour policies, resolve regulations that hinder innovation, and support the globalisation of SMEs

The Ministry of SMEs and Startups (Minister LEE Young, hereinafter referred to as MSS) announced that the Minister held a meeting with representatives of small and medium-sized enterprises and venture companies in the gaming and software fields at the Startup Zone at Gyeonggi Center for Creative Economy & Innovation (located in Pangyo, Gyeonggi-do) on May 26.

### <Overview of the meeting>

- [Date and Venue]** May 26, 2022 (Thur), 15:00 - 16:40 (100 mins) / at the **Startup Zone of the Gyeonggi Creative Economy Innovation Center** (located in Pangyo)
- [Participants]** About 16 people including the MSS Minister and 11 representatives from small and medium-sized enterprises including Stoic Entertainment
- [Main content]** Discussion on difficulties in the field related to the 52-hour workweek and labour supply and demand

This meeting was prepared in order to listen to opinions directly from small and medium-sized and venture companies and reflect them on SME support policies as the manpower shortage of those companies has intensified due to the recent 52-hour workweek policy and wage increases.

According to the survey conducted by the MSS in April on perceptions regarding the manpower market in the software sector for small and medium-sized venture companies, 63% of domestic venture companies reported that it is “difficult” to supply and attract manpower in the sector.

In particular, a meeting with entrepreneurs in the gaming and software sectors was prepared because they are experiencing more difficulties compared to other industries as flexible working hours are required due to the nature of the work in these sectors.

At the meeting, the Minister said, “I recognize that the 52-hour workweek policy has been uniformly introduced to all industries without considering the characteristics of jobs and industries, and many people working in the field are experiencing difficulties.”

“In order to protect workers’ right to health and not interfere with corporate management, it is necessary to prepare a system that can flexibly adjust and utilize working hours according to the characteristics of each industry,” she said.

Also, she added, “The government plans to expand manpower training to increase the supply of human resources in the digital sectors such as SW and IT to address the manpower shortage in related industries.”

Representatives of 11 small and medium-sized enterprises attended the meeting and freely voiced their opinions on difficulties being faced and made suggestions regarding possible ways forward. All the participants engaged in lively and fruitful discussions during the meeting.

The MSS will review the matters discussed at the meeting and try to resolve the difficulties through consultations with related ministries such as the Ministry of Employment and Labor, and expand communication with companies in the future.