



·Enquiries: Foreign Spokesman, Anthony JUNG(044-204-7104), Assistant Director, Jiyoung LEE(7108)

Korea-U.S. Women Business Owner Conference

- The National Association of Women Business Owners, the largest women business owner organisation in the United States, as well as the Korean Women Entrepreneurs Association and the Korea Venture Business Women's Association signed a trilateral MOU to build a sustainable cooperative base for women businesses of the two countries

The Ministry of SMEs and Startups (Minister LEE Young) announced that it would be hosting the Korea-U.S. Women Business Owner Conference at the Kimmel Center, New York University, on Thursday, September 22, at 10AM (local time).

This conference would take place for **Korean and American women business owners** to come together and **share their experiences to build a sustainable cooperative relationship**, based on which **Korean women-led businesses can take part in business activities more efficiently in the United States**.

A total of **20 Korean SMEs and startups with a high possibility to enter the American market**, such as **SMEs that manufacture vehicle components and cosmetics, some major items** that Korean SMEs export to the United States, and **startups in new industries including fintech and self-driving based data**, and 13 American companies will participate in the conference.

And, aside from the women business leaders of both countries, **Korean-American women** who are **successful in the United States** also participate to share their success stories, the difficulties that stood in their way, and how they were able to overcome such difficulties.

The conference would be joined by **Michelle KANG, who founded the**

healthcare technology company Cognosante after going to the United States to study during university and working at Northrop Grumman and other renowned American companies,

and former United States ambassador to South Korea **Kathleen STEPHENS**, the **Chairman of the Board for the Korea Society** and **President of the Korea Economic Institute of America**. The two women give special lectures on **“Experience as a Woman Business Leader and Women’s Leadership.”**

Also, **eight women economic leaders from the two countries, including Minister LEE Young**, participate in an **in-depth discussion** on the **direction that young women leaders, who lead the new era, should take.**

In addition, at the event, **three major women business owner organisations sign an MOU**. The organisations are the **National Association of Women Business Owners** (President Jen EARLE), **the oldest and largest women business owner organisation in the United States**, and Korea’s major women business owner organisations including the **Korean Women Entrepreneurs Association** (President LEE Jeong-han) and the **Korea Venture Business Women’s Association** (President KIM Bun-hui).

The organisations **build a cooperative base to ensure regular exchanges between women-led businesses of the two countries and for the businesses to enter either country.**

Lastly, **the participants from the two countries freely share their experiences and communicate with one another to build a mutually cooperative relationship.**

Minister LEE Young stated, **“In the United States, the heart of the global economy, I hope that the women business owners of the two countries can take part in exchanges with one another to find the wisdom to improve their capabilities and their companies.”**

She added, **“I hope that this conference, in particular, can serve as a bedrock for Korean women-led SMEs and startups to enter the American market.”**

LEE also stated, “**The Ministry of SMEs and Startups will make its utmost efforts to ensure that the exchanges between the women business owners of the two countries will not stop here.**”