

# HRDK, the Leader of Ever-Expanding Advanced Skills on the Global Stage

Advanced Skills, Reaching Out to the Globe!

- HRDK celebrates the 140th anniversary of Korea-France diplomatic relations by leading the MOU between master hand associations of both countries



The Human Resources Development Service of Korea (HRDK, President Lee Woo-young) is supporting the MOU between the Korean Master Hand Association and the French Master Hand Association (MOF, Meilleur Ouvrier de France). The agreement ceremony was held on Tuesday, November 30, at the Pacific Hotel in Jung-gu, Seoul.

\* Korean Master Hand Association: A professional organization composed of Korean Master Hands designated across 92 occupations in 38 fields, whose members gather to build foundations for skilled technicians by cultivating future talents and social contribution, as well as developing the national economy based on their devotion to craftsmanship. The association also plays an active role in fulfilling social responsibilities, including volunteer activities and fundraising efforts during national disasters such as the wildfires in Gyeongsangbuk-do.

Top-tier skilled technicians who have made significant contributions to the development of advanced skills in industrial sites are selected as Korean Master Hands by HRDK. To date, 719 individuals have been honored with this title.

During the 2024 Overseas Industrial Study Program for Newly Selected Korean Master Hands, an official visit to the MOF was held. The shared understanding of the similarities in the master craftsman systems of both countries laid the foundation for continued dialogue, leading to the signing of this MOU.

In particular, the agreement, which aims to strengthen support for advanced skill advancement through international cooperation and enhanced goodwill between the two organizations, carries added significance, as 2026 marks the 140th anniversary of Korea-France diplomatic relations.

Under the agreement, both associations plan to work together in the following areas: △ Exchange of master-level skills and professional knowledge, △ Collaboration to integrate traditional craftsmanship with modern technologies, and △ Cultural cooperation to preserve the mission and values of mastery and craftsmanship.

Regarding the MOU, President Lee Woo-young commented, "We are delighted to create a platform for sharing advanced skills between Korea and France as we approach the 140th anniversary of diplomatic relations. HRDK will continue to lead a renaissance of advanced skills."