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Germany Targets Korea for Higher Education

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Germany's education ministry said Korea was one of its best partners for research and development. German Federal Minister of Education and Research Annette Schavan, 52, revealed a plan to strengthen cooperation in higher education between the two countries and draw more Korean college students to her country in an interview with The Korea Times.



German Federal Minister of Education and Research Annette Schavan

Germany is strong in the humanities and arts subjects as well as engineering. Currently, over 5,000 South Koreans are studying at German universities. Specifically, Korean students form the largest foreign group studying in the fields of music and the fine arts, according to the ministry.

"We are very interested in these artistically talented young people. They enrich our universities and our culture. I see a lot of potential for development in this area, especially when it comes to cooperation between universities in the two countries," the education head said. "Through the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the federal ministry is already providing funding for a project of the German College of Music Weimar in Yongin."

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Although not many Germany universities have been recognized in world university rankings, the German minister was convinced that the country's research power would be the driving force to improve the global composition of German universities. "A lot of our research is conducted at non-university research institutions, such as the Max Planck Society or the Helmholtz Association. We aim to concentrate the research potential of the German science system at our universities. We want to turn them into international centers of top-class research and raise their international profile," she said.

Also, in order to draw high quality students around the world, the ministry has introduced a campaign "Hi! Potentials," in which it presents institutions of higher education at international exhibitions.

"German universities of applied sciences provide more practice-oriented training, while our universities give students an excellent academic education in the Humboldt tradition," Schavan said. "German universities are characterized by their combination of teaching and research. The Excellence Initiative is also intended to help our top-class universities become better known across the world."

In addition, the ministry has increased the number of study programs, which are taught in English to reduce language barriers. Lastly, the education head revealed her plan to increase the number of university students in Germany. "Higher education pays off, as all studies on this subject show, including a current OECD study on education," she said.

Under the plan, the federal government is financing 90,000 additional university places. It is also increasing financial support for students from low-income backgrounds and working to internationalize universities, thus improving the conditions of study and enabling more young people to complete their degrees successfully.




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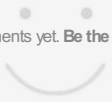
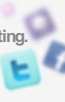


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