

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Minister of Justice visits Ulsan to hear voices of the field

- ① Concerns of the shipbuilding industry heard at HD Hyundai Heavy Industries
- ② A meeting with foreign science and technology researchers at UNIST

- ☐ To better reflect voices from the field in immigration policies, Minister Han Dong Hoon paid a visit to Jeonbuk on October 30th, Daegu on November 17th, and HD Hyundai Heavy Industries and Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST) today.
- ☐ Today's visit to HD Hyundai Heavy Industries was Minister Han's second visit to a shipyard, following his visit to Hyundai Samho Heavy Industries in Yeongam, Jeollanam-do last July. During his visit today, he took a tour around the shipbuilding site and held a meeting with officials from the shipbuilding industry.
- The meeting was attended by President Lee Sang Gyun and President Noh Jin Yul of HD Hyundai Heavy Industries, Mayor Kim Doo-gyeom of Ulsan, Rep. Lee Chaeik, Rep. Kwon Myung-ho, Chairman Lee Mu-deok of the Internal Partners Association, and Chairman Choi Geum-sik of the Busan Shipbuilding and Marine Equipment Industry Cooperative.
- During the meeting, Minister Han heard various concerns from shipbuilding industry officials, including the △ easement of wage requirements for shipbuilding skilled workers (E-7-3); △ grant of permission for new companies to hire shipbuilding skilled workers (E-7-3); and △ creation of a job category in the shipbuilding field. In response, Minister Han commented

that he would actively review the concerns, paying special attention to adding a job category in the shipbuilding field in consideration of the urgency of the matter.

- After his visit to the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) on the 21st, today's visit to UNIST was arranged to listen to voices from the field to improve the visa system for science and technology intellectuals.
- As part of his visit to UNIST, he participated in handling semiconductors and new material energy analysis equipments, which are used for analysis support* of local companies.

*UNIST provides R&D infrastructure, such as support for science and technology material analysis, for local companies in difficulty of technology development due to a lack of expensive research equipment.

- The meeting, which addressed foreign researcher visas, was attended by President Lee Yonghoon of UNIST, Rep. Lee Chaeik, Rep. Seo Beom-su, Rep. Kwon Myung-ho, professors from abroad, researchers, and international students.

- In his statement at HD Hyundai Heavy Industries, Minister Han commented, "We will actively review the wage requirements for foreign workers and other concerns of the shipbuilding industry that have been continuously raised, and we will continue to operate visa policies beneficial to the economy in priority of national interests."

At UNIST, he remarked, "We will provide exceptional preferential support to outstanding individuals in science and technology from the perspective of national interests and practicality, and we will reflect various opinions discussed today in the upcoming "Visa System Improvement Plan for Outstanding Science and Technology Talents," noting that "Ulsan's

industrial base is science and technology, ranging from automobiles, petrochemicals, oil refining, shipbuilding, and recently, secondary batteries." Furthermore, he stated, "For the sake of balanced immigration policies, such as granting tiered incentives to skilled workers yet taking strict measures against foreigners who do not abide by Korea's law and order, we will push for the establishment of the Immigrant Management Office."

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