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Embassy of Sweden in Seoul Press Release

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The Embassy of Sweden in Seoul and the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family co-host the 2nd *Korean Dads* photo contest

The Embassy of Sweden in Seoul and the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family co-host the 2nd *Korean Dads* contest of photos on parenting from September 1st to October 15th.

Korean Dads is a photo and story contest on Korean fathers actively engaging with their children and family. The Korean Dads contest aim to encourage Korean dads' right to child-care, support an active parenting culture and share Sweden's experience of developing gender equality in family life and at work.

The contest is open to every dad with children. You apply to the contest by submitting photos of you and your child in everyday childcare situations. We would also very much like to hear your story about what caring for a child means to you, how it has affected the relationship with your partner and how your expectations on childrearing has changed. Upload pictures and tell your story on: www.koreaswedendads.kr/

The first prize winner will receive two round-trip tickets between Korea and Sweden. The applicants can also participate in a hashtag event #KoreanDads2021 held until October 29th.

A total of 1,055 entries applied to the 1st *Korean Dads* contest held in 2020. Prize-winning photos of *Korean Dads* 2020 are showing on-line gallery (www.koreaswedendads.kr) along with *Swedish Dads* photos by Swedish photographer Johan Bäyman.

Swedish Dads presents the everyday portraits of fathers in Sweden who chose parental leave to stay home with their children for at least six months. Sweden was the first country in the world to replace maternity leave, only for the mothers, with parental leave, shared between both parents, in 1974. Sweden's parental benefits system is one of the most generous in the world. One child under 11 years old entitles parents to a total of 480 days of paid parental leave. Of the 480 days, 90 days are reserved for each parent while the rest can be

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transferred between them freely.

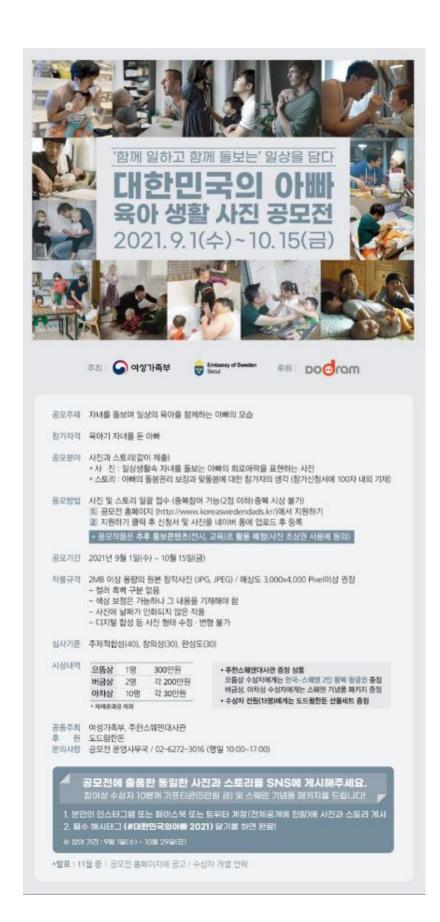
Daniel Wolvén, Ambassador-designate of Sweden said, "I have a daughter and a son, 9 and 13 years old. The time I spent with my children during parental leave was unforgettable.", "While a growing number of Swedish dads are seeing the advantages of taking parental leave and developing close ties with their children early on, we still have some way to go as women still take out 69 % of the total number of days. In Sweden, more than 80% of men and women work. The equal role and responsibility for child-care is essential not only for a sustainable family life, but also for a sustainable economy. I hope this *Korean Dads* contest could encourage more dads to take a bigger role in childcare. It's tough work, but mainly it's a lot of fun!"

Chung Young-ai, the Minister for Gender Equality and Family said, "Through this contest, we would like to present the new parenting culture created by the active participation of Korean dads in the childcaring not as just a supporting role but as a principal agent. We will continue our efforts to build a social atmosphere considering dads' participation in child-care natural and working and parenting together, through institutional support such as parental leave, reduction of working hours for a period of child-care."

Attachment



Swedish Dads Photo by Johan Bävman



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