

Saturday, January 10th 2026

South Korean Officials Inspect Japanese Coal Mine Remains Discovery



Published on November 20, 2025

Document Date: Sat, Jan 10 2026 01:35:54 am

Category: ,English,Events - ,Snippets

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Sources Xinhua

SEOUL – South Korean officials visited Japan's Chosei undersea coal mine on Thursday following the recent discovery of remains of Korean forced laborers, the Ministry of Interior and Safety said.

The Chosei mine, located in Yamaguchi Prefecture, suffered a catastrophic flood in 1942 that killed 183 workers, including 136 Koreans who had been forcibly mobilized during World War II.

Human bone fragments, including a skull, were recovered in an underwater excavation operation in August this year.

During the visit, officials inspected the site and discussed measures to support ongoing recovery efforts and proper handling of the remains. The ministry emphasized the importance of honoring the victims and strengthening cooperation between the two countries in addressing historical wartime injustices.

The visit comes amid renewed attention in South Korea and Japan to unresolved issues related to forced labor during the war, as authorities work to preserve historical sites and provide closure for families of the victims.