**Korean Air enhancing employee satisfaction**

**Author:**Hyun-bin, Kim

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**Full text:**

By Kim Hyun-bin

Korea's flagship carrier Korean Air, which has achieved great success in the global aviation industry over the last 50 years, is now working internally to raise employee satisfaction, in the belief that this is the best way to become one of the most prestigious airlines in the world.

It has initiated numerous programs to guarantee employees more freedom in working-time management and attire as well as provide better working schedules for cabin crew.

The carrier recently held a 'family day' event for the first time, inviting over 1,600 children of employees for a chance to learn about and experience their parents' professions.

'We are making these changes to create a work environment which anyone would love to be part of,' a Korean Air official said.

Korean Air HQ becomes children's playground

On Sept. 20, the employees and their children visited the Korean Air headquarters located in western Seoul for its first 'family day' event, where it gave youngsters a glimpse of what their parents do for a living.

One of the maintenance hangars was turned into a theme park consisting of a Boeing 787 airplane, an air castle, a family photo zone and snack corner, with programs such as face painting and mini Olympics provided.

After the event the company's online bulletin board was flooded with comments of gratitude from employees, who said they were pleased that their children got a chance to learn about their professions and have fun at their workplace.

Korean Air plans to make the event a regular affair and to expand it to all other Hanjin Group affiliates.

In May, the company also invited employees' parents to a similar event. In August, it hosted a table tennis class for 100 children of workers, with players of a table tennis team sponsored by Korean Air. In summer, it also opened the swimming pool at its training center to employees' families.

More flexibility in work

Starting this year, the company implemented numerous initiatives with the aim of enhancing employee satisfaction.

Workers can now choose when to take their one hour lunch break between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. At 5:30 p.m. a computer message pops up and an announcement is made to signal that it's time to get off work, so workers can leave whether or not their supervisors leave first.

Starting Sept. 2, Korean Air also initiated a free attire system, which allows employees, excluding customer service employees and cabin crew who wear uniforms, to wear clothes of their preference including shorts and jeans, to create a friendlier and more casual work environment.

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