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Los Angeles street view in evening looked down from The Summit is another enjoyment of high tower life.

1, 336,000 Koreans residing in America

Population in California hits 409,000, or 30% of the nation

It is estimated that 1,335,973 Koreans and Korean Americans live in the United States as of 2009.

According to 2009 American Community Survey by U.S. Census, the Korean population in the U.S. excluding those of mixed blood is 1,335,973 (with margin of error fl24,867). This is a decrease of 0.6 percent from the 2008 figure of 1,344,267 (margin of error fl26,878).

The most populous state in terms of Korean-American population in the U.S. was California, where 409,412 reside to make up 30 percent of the total Korean population nationwide. New York came next with 134,759, followed by New Jersey (84,731) and Illinois (66,957).

The Korean population in Los Angeles County was 199,221, which is a decrease of 3.7% from the 2008 figure of 206,897. The growth rate of Korean population was highest in Contra Costa County of all Southern California counties with a 28.67 percent increase while San Mateo County saw its Korean population declining almost by half (47.92 percent) in the past one year.

The Korean population in major Southland cities was as follows: Los Angeles (103,031), San Jose (12,203), San Diego (9,251), San Francisco (8,349), Garden Grove (3,482), Oakland (3,019), Sacramento (1,641), and Long Beach (1,245).

It was found that 77 percent of Koreans in the U.S. spoke only Korean at home while 56 percent of Koreans older than age of five were not proficient in English. A total of 1,039,021 Koreans older than five (77.7 percent of the total population) spoke Korean at home.

Koreatown? No, Mid-Wilshire

It lies at the midpoint between downtown Los Angeles in east and Hancock Park/Beverly Hills in west, or the midpoint between Hollywood in north and South Los Angeles in south. It is the best location in Los Angeles, thirty minutes away from LAX, thirty minutes away from Santa Monica beach, and forty minutes away from Angeles National Forest. It is Koreatown. Experts in real estate investment note that this key area is still undervalued despite its importance in both geographic and Feng-shui terms. They conclude after careful consideration that its geographic conditions do not suffer in comparison to West Los Angeles. According to some real estate investors, the most attractive factor that raises the value of this area is Korean people, one of the most dynamic peoples in the world.

Korean-American immigrants transformed the face of this area, which was in a shabby decline only twenty years ago. The transformation was accelerated by large-scale investments just as South Korea was leading the Asian economic boom of the 2000's with her continued economic growth. While there is still room for further development and investment, the recent years saw its change to convenient and cultural living space. Beverly Hills-based investment company Big Rock Partners purchased The Summit, an eleven-story high tower condominium at the corner of Sixth Street and New Hampshire Ave. in the heart of Koreatown for those reasons.

"Koreatown? No, it is its yolk, Mid-Wilshire."

Caroline Lee, sales manager who is in charge of The Summit's open house, says that Mid-Wilshire is the real estate heart of Koreatown, which is being

transformed with "high tower life."

"Most of 58 buyers who moved in are racially diverse professionals such as doctors, lawyers, banking professionals, and garment district businessmen," said she, "they are of diverse age as well, from 20's to 70's."

According to Lee, what they have in common is their preference for nearby location of workplace and convenience of cultural and dining options including theaters and museums. In particular, Metro subway made transportation in Koreatown convenient for commuting businessmen and lawyers, elevating Koreatown to living space of a higher level.

"The building and interior designs were made with such customers in mind," said Lee, "in particular, 11-foot-8-inch ceiling and night view looking down on Los Angeles appealed to the consumers looking for tower life."

So far, 66 out of 96 units from second to eleventh floors of The Summit were sold, and 58 units completed a move-in after the close of escrow. It is a good show despite freezing real estate market. Marketing firm Kennedy Wilson's aggressive sales also played a role.

The Vermont / Wilshire Metro station is one block away from The Summit (3223 W. 6th St.) while Chapman Plaza, City Market, City Center, Vons, Ralphs, Grand Spa, M Park Theater, and Robert F. Kennedy Community Schools - which recently opened as the nation's largest public school encompassing K to 12th graders - all lie within one mile radius. Miracle Mile lined with famous museums is only ten minutes away.

"Condo sales requires approval of Fannie Mae, but The Summit has fulfilled all requirements to conduct sales so that one can trust fully," said John Park of Park & Associates in charge of sales. He said that most

buyers chose The Summit after considering diversity, neighborhood, and investment value. "In particular, businessmen in downtown clothing industry have moved in for place to rest nearby."

Each floor has one-bed and two-bed units, but the two-bed, two-bath model makes up the main part of the condominium. There are four models with the size of living space ranging from 1,279 sqft to 1,769 sqft, and the price starts at \$330k and goes up to \$700k for a penthouse, depending on the floor and structure. The high-tech LG appliances are installed in kitchens and living rooms, and most of these features are included in the sales price.

The communal facilities including fitness center, golf simulation center, steam sauna, and lounge can be used at any time. So far 66 out of 96 units, or about 70 percent, are sold. Manager Lee said that 90 percent of buyers were first home buyers who successfully closed the deal with help of various incentives and benefits.

"Because the price has been greatly reduced from original parcel price, I would like to recommend that now is the best time to purchase a condominium for investment plus residential purpose."

Many people who visit Koreatown are surprised by different appearance of Koreatown as it changes every few months. Some may even hesitate at the speed of the transformation. Many people who come to Mid-Wilshire, the yolk of Koreatown, are enchanted with the "high tower life" for diverse dining opportunities and freedom from the traffic and domestic chores.

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Samsung, LG to release Windows 7 smartphones

The South Korean technology giants are already promoting a variety of devices powered by the Google-backed Android mobile operating system, and

Samsung Electronics and LG Electronics will bulk up their line up for smartphones with new devices powered by Microsoft's Windows Mobile operating system.

are hoping that the Windows-based phones will give them further ammunition to challenge Apple's supremacy in consumer smartphones.

Samsung, which has enjoyed strong sells of its Android handset Galaxy S, looks to extend the momentum by releasing the latest versions of its Omnia Windows Mobile smartphones to leading carriers in Europe on Oct. 21.

Omnia 7, powered by Microsoft's latest Windows 7 mobile operating system, will be available to wireless users in France, Britain, Spain, Germany, Singapore and Australia before reaching consumers in Korea and North America, according to

Samsung spokesman Shin Young-june.

"We are not ready to comment on our detailed plans for Windows 7 phones beyond the Omnia 7," said Shin, adding that the company plans to add a wealth of customized applications for Omnia 7 users.

The latest Samsung handsets features a 4-inch active matrix organic light-emitting diode (AMOLED) display, a five megapixel built-in camera, a 1,500 milliampere-hour battery and various mobile Internet functions that are designed to optimize social networking services.

LG, which has been rendered among the also-rans in the smartphone competitions, is desperate for the success of Optimus 7, its latest smartphone that will also be powered by Windows 7.

LG will release Optimus 7 and Optimus 7Q, a version of the phone that

has a QWERTY keyboard, in major European and Asian markets on Oct. 21 and the United States on Nov. 21.

"The phones will be released in 30 countries," said LG spokesman Yoo Won-il.

In the U.S., telecommunications giant AT&T, which also provides Apple's iPhones there, will be releasing Optimus 7Q, while Telus will be selling the phones in Canada.

LG also inked a partnership to provide the device in Mexico through America Movil. Yoon said the company, which is desperate to differentiate from its better-performing rivals, could possibly decide to increase the portion of Microsoft-based phones in its smartphone lineup starting next year.

The Optimus 7 is powered by Qualcomm's 1-gigahertz Snapdragon processor and features a 3.7-inch liquid crystal display (LCD), a five megapixel built-in

camera and WVGA-level picture quality.

Analysts believe the performance of the new Samsung and LG phones will also be critical in Microsoft's attempt to regain relevance in the competition for mobile operating systems that are currently dominated by Apple and Google.

"I doubt that Samsung and LG's Windows 7 phones will provide a major boost for Samsung, as I don't see the phones becoming something more than niche products," said an industry insider, who refused to be named.

"We have a beautiful line up in this first wave of Windows Phone 7 handsets," said Steve Ballmer, chief executive officer at Microsoft, in a statement.

"Microsoft and its partners are delivering a different kind of mobile phone and experience one that makes everyday tasks faster by doing more in fewer steps and providing timely information in a 'glance and go' format."