



Australian Government



AUSTRALIA-KOREA
FOUNDATION

June 2014

Australia-Korea Foundation Newsletter

Chair's introduction



Welcome to the first newsletter of the Australia-Korea Foundation providing news about bilateral relations and stories of people-to-people engagement.

As demonstrated during the Prime Minister's visit, Korea is a key partner for Australia. We share common values and strategic outlooks and are natural partners in regional cooperation. Korea is Australia's third largest export market and our trade relationship is based on complementary economies. The Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement will lead to better outcomes

for both the Australian and Korean economies and will undoubtedly bring our societies closer together. On behalf of the AKF, I encourage those with an interest in the Free Trade Agreement to make their views known to the two Parliamentary enquiries before 13 June. I hope readers enjoy the stories about bilateral arts and sports engagement and commend to you the forthcoming exhibitions and films in the calendar.

David Palmer

In this issue

- PM's visit to Korea
- Express your views on KAFTA
- Korea's national priorities
- Metalwork exhibition
- Korean Cultural Office events
- AFC Asian Cup



Tale of Samulnori, Legs on the Wall and AsiaNow. Photo: Brett Broadman (More p6)

Australia's Prime Minister visits the Republic of Korea (ROK), April, 2014

Prime Minister Tony Abbott visited the ROK from 8-9 April, during which Australia and Korea signed a Free Trade Agreement, released a joint vision statement on regional stability and announced plans for the ROK to host Australian students under the New Colombo Plan.

During a Joint Press Conference at the presidential palace, Korean President Park Geun-hye described the new Free Trade Agreement as *“a landmark in the evolution of our ties. Australia is a longstanding friend that fought by our side during the Korean War..... In addition to having a tangible impact on drawing trade, investment and on expending jobs and markers, the FTA will help take the full range of our relationship to a higher level, including in social and cultural areas.”*

Prime Minister Abbott acknowledged existing economic, security and personal connections. *“Australia and Korea are important and natural partners. We are democracies, we are G20 economies, we are allies of the United States. We are countries which would much prefer to find friends than to pick fights.”*

In a personal touch, Prime Minister Abbott presented the President with a gift of a photo recalling her visit to Australia, as a teenager, accompanying her father President Park Chung-hee in 1968.



President of South Korea Park Chung-hee visits Australia
National Archives of Australia: A1200, L73748

‘Open for business’

Australia and Korea have agreed to work closely together to finalise domestic processes to bring the Korea Australia Free Trade Agreement into force as soon as possible to enable the benefits to flow quickly for both sides.

While addressing a business lunch, Mr Abbott talked about the importance of deregulation and cutting red tape. His comments were strongly supported by Korea’s Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Hyun Oh-Seok.

During the visit, President Park hosted a Gala Dinner for the Prime Minister, the Minister for Trade and Investment Andrew Robb, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister Josh Frydenberg, Queensland Premier Campbell Newman and Australian and Korean CEOs.

Taking the opportunity to demonstrate Australia is “Open for Business” were 22 Australian CEOs who accompanied the Prime Minister on his visit. The CEO delegation demonstrated the broad range of commercial interests Australia and Korea share with representatives from across the Australian business community, including from the resources, financial, services, telecommunications and agricultural sectors.

Cooperation

In the days before visiting North Asia, the Prime Minister was at the Pearce Air Base in Western Australia where he thanked the Korean aviators for their work in searching for the missing Malaysian aircraft MH370. In Korea, he thanked the President for Korea’s swift, generous and heartfelt contribution to the search.

Remembering fallen soldiers

Prime Minister Abbott travelled to the Korean National Cemetery to remember the almost 400 Australians and many thousands of Koreans killed in action during the Korean War. At the time of the visit, some 120 Australian service personnel were taking part in an amphibious exercise on the Peninsula as a demonstration of Australia’s strong support of United Nations Command and its firm commitment to a strong defence and security relationship with the ROK.

[Joint Press Conference](#)

[Vision Statement for a Secure, Peaceful and Prosperous Future Press Conference, Seoul](#)



Traditional Korean festival, subject of a field report by Robert. Photo: Robert North

Seoul through the eyes of interns

Kate Bolster and Robert North, University of Sydney, provide intriguing two minute videos on life as AKF Fellows undertaking media internships.

- [Kate, Korea Herald](#)
- [Robert, TBS eFM](#)

HAVE YOUR SAY - BEFORE 13 JUNE - KAFTA

The Korea Australia Free Trade Agreement (KAFTA) has been signed and is being considered by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties and the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee.

The AKF encourages Australians currently in business with Korea, as well as potential new entrants to the market, to make their views known to each of these independent enquiries.

Submissions to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties close on 13 June, 2014. Submissions to the Senate Committee are now open, with no set closing date at this stage, though this may be as early as mid-July. (The Senate Committee will report within one month of the tabling of the Treaties Committee report.)

Information regarding the negotiated Agreement, such as sector-specific fact sheets and a quick snapshot including business case studies, is available: [KAFTA website](#).

[Joint Standing Committee on Treaties – 13 May 2014](#)

[Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee Inquiry](#)

Korea – Australia Internship Program

Thank you to the Australian workplaces who hosted the Korea – Australia Interns in early 2014: City of Sydney, Kia, Local Organising Committee AFC Asian Cup Australia 2015, NSW Department of Education and Communities, Macquarie Bank, Roxby Media, and Tourism Australia.



Korea – Australia Interns with AKF Chair David Palmer, Brian Elliot (Centre for Volunteering) and AKF Board member, Dr Bronwen Dalton, Sydney 2014

Korea's 3 Year Plan for Economic Innovation

Highlights from President Park's New Year Address

An economy based on strong fundamentals

- Public sector reform
 - Including a new system to control the total amount of public and corporate bonds
- Develop a principled market economy
 - Joint task force of business and petitioners to monitor the recent Acts providing the institutional foundation for fair trade
 - Workplace relations
 - Consumer rights
- Build a strong social safety net
 - Including employment insurance and improvements to the public pension programs

An economy based on dynamic innovation

- Develop the creative industries
 - Innovation centers for creative industries to be established in 17 cities
 - A "technology bank" will be assigned to collect unused ideas, patents and knowhow held by government research institutions and companies and help their transfer to those in need of such intangible assets, like entrepreneurs and startup companies.
- Invest for the future
 - Raise research and development spending to 5 percent of GDP to improve the country's science and technology capacity, on which the creative industries are based.
 - Introduce a 'Korea research fellowship' where 300 world-class scientists and researchers will be invited to Korea to support the country's economic growth and to help raise the R&D capability of local universities
- Make inroads into overseas markets

An economy that balances between domestic demand and exports

- President Park emphasised that growth is to be distributed equally to the public. She highlighted the high level of household debt and the rise in required key money deposits, as the biggest barriers to the expansion of domestic demand.
- She spoke of deregulation as a solution to improve investment.
 - "For the five most promising service industries, in particular – healthcare, education, finance, tourism and software – which not only offer the jobs most preferred by young people but also boast high investment demand, the Government will conduct complete re-evaluations of regulations through a public-private task force."
 - In the healthcare sector, regulations will be rationalised on for-profit hospitals in Free Economic Zones. Comprehensive services will be provided to assist medical organizations with overseas expansion and work to promote telemedicine services.

- Job creation to stimulate domestic demand.
 - President Park said clear improvements must be made in employment rates for young people and women, in particular. Korea aims to create 500,000 new jobs for young people and 1.5 million new jobs for women, and will improve childcare availability and access to part-time work arrangements.

[Transcript of President Park's Address](#)



Michael Janda and Alexandra Lee filming in Busan as part of the Australia-Korea Journalists Exchange Photo: The Walkley Foundation

Culture

Musical theatre

Legs On The Wall (Australia) has been working with AsiaNow (Korea) to co-produce the Tale of Samulnori, a new music theatre production inspired by a Korean fairy tale about four children who travel to the corners of the earth to prevent the world from becoming consumed by the Ash Monster. This timeless story reflects the global issue of the need for environmental protection.

Tale of Samulnori will appeal to a broad family audience, combining extraordinary physicality, digital imagery and rich, accessible music. It will be storytelling that is full of heart, virtuosic physicality and a dynamic energy borne out of the two different cultures that have come together to produce it.

Theatre

지하 Underground is a performance supported by the Australian producing agency Motherboard Productions. Transported to the back alleys of Seoul, 지하 Underground audiences find themselves in an underground Korean speakeasy or bar in the company of a ragtag crew of musicians and theatrical storytellers. Guests can drink the night away as 사장님 Sajungnim – the venue's eccentric proprietor – tells a tale of love transcending culture, language and gender.

지하 Underground was written by Jeremy Neideck and Nathan Stoneham. It is a collaboration between respected Korean artists Park Younghee, Tak Hoyoung and Lee Chunnam and performers from Brisbane and Sydney.



Jeremy Neideck and Younghee Park. Photo: FenLan Chuang

"Seoul is a very special place for me and for our team, and *지하 Underground* is a collage of our experiences, travelling back and forth between Korea and Australia – falling in love and making mistakes along the way," says Neideck.

After sell-out, critically acclaimed seasons in 2011 (Metro Arts) and 2012 (Brisbane Festival), both supported by funding through the Australia Korea Foundation, *지하 Underground* recently returned to the Brisbane Powerhouse for the World Theatre Festival and the Australian Performing Arts Market in February 2014. The work has been nominated for several Matilda awards and won the Green Room Groundling award for Best New Musical (2012).

"Creative partnerships with Asia are becoming increasingly relevant in Australia as we move towards a more inclusive and diverse society, and it's great to be at the forefront of that conversation," says Neideck.

Korea: Then and Now

First Australian visitors to Korea

The first Australians to ever visit Korea were missionaries led by Rev. Joseph H. Davies in 1889. They are believed to have been the recipients for the first ever passport and visas Korea has issued. They built schools, hospitals and churches, improving the social welfare in Busan and Gyeongsangnam-do Provinces. During their stay, they experienced its culture and left behind photo journals representing honest portrayals of their impressions of Korea.



Photographs of Korea from the 1890s to 1950s

The Korean Cultural Office offers an exhibition of rare photograph images taken by the missionaries, spanning the years from the 1890s to 1950s. At first the photographs taken by the missionaries present the people and the culture of Korea as exotic, and hence, distant. However, through years of involvement and communication, the latter photographs reveal a familiarisation and deeper understanding of the culture they have come to encounter and accept.

<http://www.koreanculture.org.au/major-events/exhibitions/korea-then-and-now>



2014 VIDEO CONTEST

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Korea (MOFA) and Arirang TV are holding a 3-minute [video contest](#) about Korea. With the topic of "To me, Korea is...." it's time to share your passion for Korea through film! LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Conveying Korean Metalcraft Exhibition



Kenny (Yong-soo) Son at work
Images by Youmee Jeon



Ibsa Container by Kenny (Yong-soo) Son

An exhibition by Master Cho and AKF Scholar Kenny Son, will be held at Studio 21-17, Waterloo, Sydney, from 14th – 28th June. Workshops for practitioners with metalwork experience-knowledge will be held from mid-June to early July, at the JamFactory Adelaide, JMGA Perth and Sydney College of Arts, University of Sydney.

Kenny's blog provides an evocative photographic record of his time in Seoul:
<http://akfkyss.tumblr.com/>

Asia's largest sporting event: the AFC Asian Cup

In January 2015, Australia will host Asia's largest sporting event, the AFC Asian Cup.

With an expected 500 million people across Asia watching the tournament on television, the event provides a great opportunity to build relationships between Australia and Korea.

The Local Organising Committee hosted a range of activities earlier this year with the support of the Australia-Korea Foundation to raise awareness of Korea and Korean football in both countries.

In February 2014 at the Asian Champions League match between the Western Sydney Wanderers and Korean club Ulsan Hyundai, fans waiting outside Parramatta Stadium were entertained by Korean music and dancers.

Inside the stadium, performances by X-Factor winner and Korea-born singer Dami Im and Korean-Australian K-pop star Teddy Kim gave the crowd a taste of Korean music. A business function strengthened networks between Australian and Korean leaders.

Korean cultural performances also delighted fans at the Docklands Stadium in Melbourne during the Asian Champions League match between Melbourne Victory and Korean club Jeonbuk Hyundai on March 12.



Dami Im singing the national anthems with fans at Parramatta Stadium



James Casey, AKF Board Member, with the Asian Cup

Calendar

21 May – 25 July 2014, 10am-6 pm, *Korea: Then and Now*, Photographic Exhibition, Korean Cultural Office, 225 Elizabeth St, Sydney.

Friday 6th June Korean Day of Remembrance

From 6 June: Korea Films at the Sydney Film Festival (<http://www.sff.org.au>)

- THE FAKE: http://tix.sff.org.au/session_sff.asp?sn=The+Fake
- SNOWPIERCER: http://tix.sff.org.au/session_sff.asp?sn=Snowpiercer



14– 28 June, Conveying Korean Metalcraft, Master Cho and Kenny Son, Studio 21-17, Waterloo, Sydney

Next issue: Successful 2014-15 AKF grant and scholarship applicants

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