



Mayor of Seoul, Park Won-Soon responding to media intern Simon Love. (Photo: Yonhap news)



Australian Government



AUSTRALIA-KOREA FOUNDATION



AUSTCHAMKOREA
 Australian Chamber of Commerce in Korea
 DownUnder Update



Australian academic Dr Emma Campbell and Eunkoo Lee, founding Co-Director, Teach North Korean Refugees Project at the Mulmangcho Human Institute (Photo: Dr Campbell)



Australian interns learning Korean traditional culture (Photo: University of Sydney)



Australia was the focus country of the 13th Dong Gang International Photo Festival in 2014, with a major group exhibition Episodes: Australian Photography Now curated by Natalie King and Park Youngmi, sponsored by the Australia-Korea Foundation. L-R: Judy Annear, Art Gallery of New South Wales; Natalie King, Co-Curator; William Yang, artist; Virginia Fraser, artist; Destiny Deacon, artist; Juliet Frizzell; Park Youngmi, Co-Curator; Polixeni Papapetrou, artist; Patrick Pound, artist; Olivia Poloni, Assistant Curator; Professor Kim Youngsoo, President, Management Committee, Dong Gang Village of Photography.

AUSTRALIA AND KOREA: GRANTS FOR PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONNECTIONS

The Australia-Korea Foundation is seeking innovative ideas from Australians to work collaboratively with their Korean counterparts, colleagues and friends to strengthen relations with the Republic of Korea and promote a positive image of contemporary Australia.

Mr Peter Coleman, Chair, says "The Foundation is offering grants in education, business, sports, science and the arts. We look to support the creation of Korea-expertise among Australians, building cultural, economic and language knowledge to support engagement across a range of fields.

"The Foundation's annual grants of between \$20-30,000 are intended as seed funding, catalysing financial and in-kind commitments from other partners and leading to longer term partnerships and sustainable outcomes."

The Foundation has since its establishment by the Australian Government 23 years ago encouraged deeper relations between

the people of Australia and Korea, including promoting greater understanding of Korea by Australians and showcasing Australian excellence and innovation in Korea. With a board of eminent Australians responsible for selecting successful projects, the Foundation builds on the ideas of a wide range of Australians to further Australia's foreign and trade interests.

Long-standing and friendly ties between Australia and Korea reach back to 1889 when Australian missionaries arrived in Busan. In 1904, the Australian photographer George Rose travelled in Korea transporting individual glass plates for each photographic negative and capturing remarkable stereograph or almost-3D photos of Seoul, full of life and incident. (Mr Rose's photos now greet visitors at the entrance to the Seoul Fortress Museum. His historically-significant photographs have been published with support from the Foundation.)

(Continued in page 2)



L-R. BS Lee, YB Park, SL Lee, HY Oh, N Savva, HY Kim, TY Ro at Western Abalone (Photo: Western Abalone Processors Pty Ltd)



Kim, Ju Hong and Timothy Constable at Noreum Machi studios, Seoul, 2014 (Photo: Timothy Constable)

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AKF Chair, Mr Peter Coleman

perspectives and insights are shared around the campfire or around a Korean barbecue.

Australia and Korea are natural economic partners, with shared democratic values and a common strategic outlook. The strong, complementary trading relationship between Australia and Korea continues to expand with the entry into force of the Korea Australia Free Trade Agreement (KAFTA). KAFTA creates opportunities for closer collaboration between Australian and Korean businesses. As an example, making the most of both countries' vibrant cultures, the Audiovisual Co-production Agreement under KAFTA delivers new commercial opportunities for the film and television industry by opening new markets and facilitating creative exchange and the development of screen projects of cultural significance.

The Australia-Korea Services Sector Promotion Forum, held for the first time in October 2014, is a business-led strategic discussion, allowing peak industry bodies and business leaders to identify opportunities for collaboration under KAFTA, and to exchange experiences in reform, deregulation and innovation. More recently, in March 2015, the Australian Embassy hosted the Best Practice Regulation Workshop. The Workshop brought together experts from Australia and Korea to exchange views on achieving better regulation while cutting unnecessary red tape – a priority issue for both governments.

The Foundation's current grants round will prioritise projects which can assist Australian businesses, including small to medium enterprises, to maximize the opportunities available under KAFTA and under President Park's structural reform agenda. Further, the Foundation welcomes applications for non-profit activities to strengthen relationships of national professional institutions and facilitate Australian services exports to Korea.

Recent activities sponsored by the Australia-Korea Foundation

Last year the Foundation supported the Australian Abalone Growers Association host a delegation of eight Korean abalone

farmers and researchers to attend the World Aquaculture Conference in Adelaide (WAA 2014) and to visit abalone and other aquaculture ventures at Port Lincoln, South Australia. The project fostered the relationships between abalone farmers, researchers and feed producers in Korea and Australia with a view to furthering technology exchange, trade and co-operation. The visitors are looking forward to hosting their Australian counterparts during the International Abalone Symposium in Yeosu, Korea in October 2015.

In recognition that many Australians remain unaware of the significance of Korea, each year the Foundation sponsors journalists - both mid-career journalists and final year university media students - to visit Korea. In his testimonial on the AKF website, 2014 RMIT University intern, Simon Love says: "Australia wants to be a bigger part of Korea. The Free Trade Agreement has swung open the door on this – it is now up to future Australian generations to reap the benefits. And that's only one reason, of so many, why being an Aussie in Korea, is so exciting. There will always be challenges, languages to overcome, and a culture to be shocked by – but the opportunities are endless."

Korea has the potential to become a major research partner for Australia, particularly as Korea focuses on innovation to drive its economic growth. With support from the Foundation, researchers from Korea and Australia are working together to use fibre composites to create building materials that are stronger, lighter and more resilient to environmental conditions than existing materials. The 2014 Services Sector Promotional Forum also brought together scientists and

planners addressing Korea's focus on smart city technology.

"Episodes: Australian Photography Now" was a landmark exhibition of contemporary Australian photography at Korea's premier photography museum, the Dong Gang Museum of Photography, sponsored by the Australia-Korea Foundation in 2014. The exhibition brought together the work of 12 Australian photographers around the notion of psychological, soap opera and serial episodes. A high proportion of the artists were Aboriginal thereby reflecting the potency and politics of contemporary indigenous photography.

The common element in the testimonials and reports from grantees is a state of excitement about the opportunities for Australians in Korea. It is an exciting, vibrant place blending strong traditions and the latest technology. Whether from media interns or academics, services professionals or exporters, artists or scientists, there is an almost palpable sense of wonder and of inspiration created by people coming together from two countries with rich histories, mutual friendship and a strong faith in the opportunities created by working together.

The 2015-16 grants round closes at 4pm AEST Thursday 16th April. Priority areas this year are Korean language and literacy, economic diplomacy, scientific innovation and sports diplomacy, the latter focusing on major sports events, such as the recent Asian Cup. The online application form, examples of recent projects and further information are available on the website: www.dfat.gov.au/akf. The Foundation looks forward to hearing your ideas for projects enhancing Australia's profile as a dependable country with a unique and creative culture.

During the Korean War, 1950-53, Australia's defence of South Korea involved over 17,000 Australian personnel serving in Korea and creating irrevocable bonds.

In the twenty-first century, both countries share an enduring commitment to supporting peace and prosperity in our region and our close bilateral relationship is underpinned by a multitude of people-to-people ties: each year a steady stream of tourists, working holiday-makers, students, business visitors and immigrants come to Australia.

These personal connections, while building rapport and trust, also provide opportunities for inspiration as different views,

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