



Korea UPDATE

Issue 100 • July-September 2009

BILATERAL
POLITICAL
AND
ECONOMIC
UPDATES



Autumn in Changdeok Palace, Seoul (Photo: Ambassador Richard Mann)



School children at the Korean Folk Village in Yong-in City
(Photo: Defence Attaché Col. Harry Cockburn)



Storefronts alongside Cheonggye Stream in Seoul
(Photo: Deputy Head of Mission Jane Mulryan)

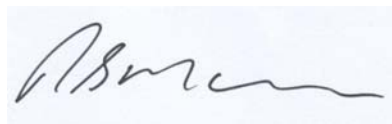


NEW ZEALAND
Embassy SEOUL
TE AKA AORERE

This is the 100th issue of the New Zealand Embassy's quarterly publication Korea Update. Since the first issue came out in 1997, the bilateral relationship between New Zealand and South Korea has developed to encompass political and foreign policy dialogue; a stronger economic relationship across trade, services, investment and science and technology; defence and security ties; and expanded people-to-people links in education, tourism and cultural engagement especially through film.

Through Korea Update, the embassy in Seoul has aimed to convey the vitality of this ever-strengthening relationship and the activities of the embassy to a wider public audience. Many of you are involved with South Korea in your own fields. We see you as our partners in building New Zealand's relationship with this dynamic and often surprising country.

For this 100th celebratory edition we have expanded our distribution. If you would like to be added to our email readership, please let us know at nzembasel@kornet.net. You can also read Korea Update on our webpage: www.nzembassy.com/korea.



Richard Mann
New Zealand Ambassador

BILATERAL

MELISSA LEE MP VISITS KOREA

New Zealand's first member of parliament of Korean descent, Melissa Lee, visited Seoul from 9-15 August at the invitation of the Overseas Korean Foundation (OKF), a non-profit organisation affiliated with the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. During her time in Seoul, Ms Lee undertook a full programme of meetings, speaking engagements and media interviews. She delivered a well-received keynote address on identity at the opening ceremony of the OKF Young Leaders' Conference and met Prime Minister Han, Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Yu and Trade Minister

Kim. Ms Lee also contributed to the ongoing relationships between our two parliaments through extensive meetings at the National Assembly, including with Reps Park Geun-hye, Park Jin, Won Hee-ryong, Na Kyong-won and others. During her visit Ms Lee also spoke at a luncheon hosted by the *Kiwi Chamber*, the New Zealand Chamber of Commerce in Korea.

Lee's background and contacts in Korea ensured that she was very well received and attracted extensive media coverage including in print, radio and television. This in turn enhanced the Embassy's promotion of the bilateral relationship including efforts underway to negotiate an FTA with Korea.



From left, Rep. Lee Hye-hoon, MP Melissa Lee, Rep. Cho Yoon-sun, Rep. Park Sun-young and Ambassador Richard Mann.

SECOND ROUND OF KOREA-NEW ZEALAND FTA NEGOTIATIONS

Around 60 Korean officials travelled to Wellington from 14-18 September for the second round of negotiations for a free-trade agreement between New Zealand and Korea. Negotiations on competition policy, trade and labour and trade and environment were substantially concluded during the week, and progress was made on other parts of the negotiations.

The two sides also discussed aspects of their initial offers for market-opening tariff cuts, which were exchanged on 2 September.

The next round of negotiations is going to take place in December.

NEW ZEALAND-KOREA JOINT FOREIGN MINISTRY CONSULTATIONS

A delegation from Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Lee Yong-joon, travelled to Wellington for the New Zealand-Republic of Korea Foreign Ministry Consultations which was held on 11 September. The delegation was hosted by Deputy Secretary John McArthur.

Discussions touched on political cooperation and the bilateral economic and trade relationship between the two countries, including the Free Trade Agreement, the second round of which took place the following week. People-to-people links between the two countries were also discussed. Officials from New Zealand's MFAT also joined the discussions to discuss developments in regional economic integration, and responses to global economic and environmental issues.

The Consultations confirmed the depth of the bilateral relationship and wide commonality of interests in regional and international settings shared by our two countries. Both sides agreed relations have maintained strong and positive momentum since President Lee's visit to New Zealand in March.

TREASURY-MINISTRY OF STRATEGY AND FINANCE ANNUAL BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS



The New Zealand and Korean delegations who attended the Annual Bilateral Consultations between MOSF and the Treasury.

The 5th Annual Bilateral Consultations between the Korean Ministry of Strategy and Finance (MOSF) and the New Zealand Treasury were held at the Banker's Club in Seoul on 14 August 2009. The delegations were led by Dr Jeong Eun-bo, Deputy Director General of the International Finance Bureau at MOSF and Mr Struan Little, Acting Deputy Secretary at the Treasury. The meeting

produced a wide-ranging discussion, with sessions dedicated to global economic conditions and policy responses, financial cooperation and G-20 issues, and international financial issues. Both delegations stressed the value they attach to these regular exchanges.

In addition to the MOSF-Treasury Consultations, the Treasury delegation had business meetings with the Korea Development Institute Public and Private Infrastructure Investment Management Centre (KDI-PIMAC), Korea Communications Commission (KCC), Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP), the Presidential Committee on Green Growth and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise. The delegation also visited Samsung Electronics in Suwon with MOSF representatives.

NVRQS DIRECTOR-GENERAL LEE JU-HO VISITS NEW ZEALAND

National Veterinary Research and Quarantine Service (NVRQS) Director-General Lee Ju-ho led a working delegation to New Zealand from 27-29 August. Director-General Lee's delegation held working meetings with the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Biosecurity (MAFBNZ) to discuss a range of topics including NVRQS's interest in New Zealand's quarantine system for exporters and border inspection system.

NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE ATTACHÉ PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS TO PAENGNYEONG-DO MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL



Defence Attaché Colonel Harry Cockburn and Political Secretary Abigail Vink presented scholarships to Paengnyeong-do Middle and High School students on behalf of New Zealand veterans of the Korean War and Kiwi expats working in Seoul.

On 16 September the Defence Attaché, Colonel Harry Cockburn, accompanied by Political Secretary Abigail Vink and Defence Office Manager Hur Chul, visited the Paengnyeong-do Middle and High School to present two large screen televisions as teaching aids, and 10 KRW250,000 scholarships to students. The presentations were made possible through donations from New Zealand veterans of the Korean War and Kiwi expats working in Seoul.

New Zealand had six naval ships involved in the Korean War. Three of those ships operated in the general area of Paengnyeong-do, the westernmost point of the Republic of Korea (ROK). Paengnyeong-do was defended by a group of about 2,000 partisans and a small number of ROK (and some US) Marines. The Marines coordinated and trained the partisans on Paengnyeong-do and on Yeonpyeong-do as a part of the United Nations Command group called Task Force Leopard. They operated as far North as Cho-do.

The New Zealand ships helped to ensure their security by providing gunfire support and intercepting enemy ships and boats trying to get to the islands. They also escorted ships re-supplying the islands and Korean minesweepers working in the area. Several New Zealand sailors were killed completing this mission. During the period of the Korean War, the New Zealand ship's sailors formed close bonds with the local people on Paengnyeong-do, and today the remaining men from those New Zealand ships keep alive the memory of those bonds through the allocation of scholarships to deserving students of Paengnyeong-do Middle and High School.

MEAT & WOOL NEW ZEALAND HOLDS COOKING CLASS WITH AMBASSADOR'S WIFE

Around 30 Korean teenagers enjoyed cooking some dishes using New Zealand beef – Asian rissoles with noodles and salad, and stir fried beef and vegetables with the New Zealand Ambassador's wife, Michelle Mann, in an English cooking class organised by Meat & Wool New Zealand at the Hyundai Department Store in Mokdong, south western Seoul on 17 August. Mrs Mann showed the students how to cook the dishes first and then the children cooked them for themselves in small groups. The Ambassador's wife said that she was very impressed by the

Korean children's cooking. The boys and girls clearly enjoyed the food they cooked. Some of the children said that it was the first time for them to cook.



New Zealand Ambassador's wife Michelle Mann showed Korean children how to cook Asian rissoles using New Zealand beef.



Following the Ambassador's wife's demonstration, Korean children cooked for themselves.

The event was part of Meat & Wool New Zealand's campaign to educate teenagers and their parents about the benefits of grass-fed New Zealand beef. John Hundleby, Korea Market Manager of Meat & Wool New Zealand, said that the English cooking class was designed for teenagers who had a strong interest in English as well as learning about different culture. The English cooking class attracted many children who were on a summer school break.



Korean children enjoyed both cooking and learning English at the same time with the event organised by Meat & Wool New Zealand.

VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY BY “FUTURE BAN KI-MOONS”

On 11 September, a group of seven Busan students visited the Embassy to meet with Ambassador Mann and discuss the relationship between New Zealand and Korea.

The students had been selected as part of a project run by the Busan Metropolitan Office of Education entitled *Just Like Mr Ban*. Hundreds of applicants sought to participate in the project to learn more about diplomacy and international relations, following in the footsteps of incumbent UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon of Korea. A total of 50 students were chosen to participate in the project based on their English language ability and interest in international relations. As part of the Busan programme, Education Counsellor, Dion Burns, visited APEC House in Busan to deliver an address on New Zealand’s relationship with Korea and to hear students’ speeches on international climate change policies. The project culminated with visits to Seoul-based Embassies.



“Future Ban Ki-moons” met with Ambassador Richard Mann at the Embassy.

Many of the students who elected New Zealand as their country of choice had studied in New Zealand in the past. Embassy staff were impressed by the students’ excellent communication skills, English language ability and their enthusiasm for New Zealand and international relations. At the conclusion of the meeting with Ambassador Mann, the students presented him with a beautiful framed kite painting created by one of the students.

POLITICAL

NEW PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET MEMBERS NOMINATED, 3 SEPTEMBER

President Lee Myung-bak conducted a major cabinet reshuffle on 3 September, nominating a new Prime Minister and six Ministers. Analysts say that the overhaul, which came about two months ahead of by-elections in October, marks a major turning point for President Lee Myung-bak and the governing Grand National Party (GNP) in their efforts to spur economic recovery and promote social integration, partly through nominating the liberal Prime Minister and including three GNP lawmakers to the Cabinet.



Prime Minister Chung Un-chan

Chung Un-chan, a former head of Seoul National University who is viewed as one of the most likely potential candidates for the next President, was nominated as the new Prime Minister. The nomination came as a surprise as the Prime Minister-designate had often criticised President Lee’s economic policy, including the Four River Restoration Plan. The Presidential Office Cheong Wa Dae called Chung “a broad-minded leader pursuing national harmony”, saying his experience as a long-time economics professor will help realise President Lee’s vision of centrist pragmatism and

promote policies for ordinary citizens. The veteran economist was approached by an opposition party to run for the presidency in 2007. After a confirmation hearing in the National Assembly, President Lee Myung-bak appointed Chung Un-chan as Prime Minister on 29 September.

The six Ministers nominated are as follows:

- Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Kim Tae-young as **Defence Minister**
- Grand National Party (GNP), Rep. Choi Kyong-hwan as **Minister of Knowledge Economy**
- Vice Justice Minister Lee Kwi-nam as **Justice Minister**
- GNP, Rep. Yim Tae-hee as **Labour Minister**
- GNP, Rep Joo Ho-young as **Minister without portfolio**, a new post that does not head a particular Ministry but has a vote in Cabinet decisions
- Seoul National University, Professor Baik Hee-young, **Minister of Gender Equality**

Among the six Minister nominees three are from the governing GNP which is construed as an apparent bid to strengthen policy coordination inside the governing camp. At the meetings held after its crushing by-election defeat in April, President Lee and the GNP leaders agreed to the need for including GNP lawmakers to Cabinet. The reshuffle is regarded as a confidence vote for President Lee and a barometer for local elections next June.

All Cabinet post nominees need to go through parliamentary confirmation hearings which are underway as we go to press, although with the exception of the Prime Minister, legislative endorsement is not mandatory for their appointment.

PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARIAT SHAKEUP, 31 AUGUST

Right before the Cabinet reshuffle reported above, President Lee Myung-bak replaced five of his nine senior secretaries and created a new post of Presidential Secretary for Public Relations, in a major shakeup of the Presidential Office Cheong Wa Dae on 31 August. According to Cheong Wa Dae, the reshuffle is aimed at strengthening policy coordination and communication with political parties and a broader spectrum of social groups.

With his emphasis on economic recovery, President Lee has created an office of policy planning and named the Senior Secretary for Economic Affairs, Yoon Jin-shik to head it. The new Policy Chief Yoon ranks second highest in the Presidential Secretariat, next to the Chief of Staff.



Policy Chief Yoon Jin-shik

The other newly-appointed five Senior Presidential Secretaries are as follows:

- Senior Secretary for Public Relations Park Hyung-joon as **Senior Secretary for Political Affairs**
- Kwon Jae-jin, a retired public prosecutor as **Senior Secretary for Civil Affairs**
- Presidential Spokesperson Lee Dong-kwan promoted to **Senior Secretary for Public Relations**
- Vice Minister of Gender Equality Chin Young-kon as **Senior Secretary for Social Policy**
- President of the Korean Educational Development Institute as **Senior Secretary for Education, Science and Culture**

CONTROVERSIAL MEDIA BILLS PASSED IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, 22 JULY

Amid a strong boycott by opposition lawmakers and protest by unionised workers at the major three terrestrial broadcasters, KBS, MBC and SBS, disputed media bills centred on allowing newspapers and conglomerates to own stakes in broadcasting stations were passed in a vote attended only by lawmakers of the governing GNP in the National Assembly on 22 July. Opposition parties accused of the Government of attempting to rein in domestic media organisations. GNP lawmaker Lee Youn-sung, Vice Speaker of the Assembly, presided over the balloting on behalf of Speaker Kim Hyung-o, who invoked his authority to put the bills to a vote after over eight months of bipartisan wrangling.

Right after the passage, however, opposition parties including as the Democratic Party (DP), the Democratic Party and the Renewal Korea Party filled two petitions to the Constitutional Court in July. A public hearing over the validation of media-related the laws was held at the Constitutional Court on 10 September. At the hearing the DP claimed that the media legislation should be invalidated because of alleged serious problems in the voting process.

A second public hearing is scheduled for 29 September before the Constitutional Court makes its final conclusion.

FORMER PRESIDENT KIM DAE-JUNG DEAD, 18 AUGUST



A memorial altar for the late former President Kim Dae-jung
(Photo: Second Secretary Michael O'Shaughnessy)

Former Korean President Kim Dae-jung who was an iconic statesman and inter-Korean peacemaker died on 18 August at the age of 85 from a month-long battle with pneumonia-related complications. After a six-day mourning period, the first-ever state funeral for a former Head of State was held on Sunday, 23 August at the National Assembly's main grounds as national flags flew at half-mast nationwide. Tens of Thousands of mourners gathered for the funeral. North Korea sent a delegation led by Secretary Kim Ki-nam from the North's ruling Workers' Party Central Committee to pay respects to the late Former President Kim whose so-called "Sunshine" policy brought in a new era of inter-Korean relations for which he received the Nobel Peace Prize. Ambassador Richard Mann represented New Zealand at the funeral.

During his presidential term from 1998-2003, the first-ever inter-Korean Summit was held in Pyongyang, North Korea in 2000 and for the first time in modern Korean history, President Kim established government ministries for human rights, sustainable development and gender equality. Former President Kim practised "politics of reconciliation" through all his life, making peace with authoritarian leaders who had threatened his life and opposed his actions for democracy with house arrests and imprisonment. The former President's body was laid to rest at the National Cemetery in southern Seoul, alongside the graves of the nation's first President Syngman Rhee, and President Park Chung-hee.

KOREA EXTENDS TROOP STAY IN LEBANON AND EXPANDS SUPPORT FOR AFGHANISTAN

The National Assembly passed a motion to extend the deployment of Korean troops in Lebanon until the end of 2010. Korea dispatched a 360-strong infantry and medical unit to the southern city of Tyre in July 2007 as part of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The unit's mission expired in mid-July but the Government submitted the motion calling for its extension for one and a half year.

A ceremony for facilities to greatly expand the activities of the Korean medical support and vocational training team in Bagram, Afghanistan was held at the Bagram Airbase in late June. With the expansion of facilities, Korea plans to send an additional 60 people in January 2010 so that the Koreans can provide medical services to around 40,000 Afghans a year as well as implement project for vocational training.

INTER-KOREAN BORDER CROSSING BACK ON TRACK

Inter-Korean border crossings resumed on 1 September after 9 months of stop-start operations. South Koreans can now depart for and return from the North Korean border city of Gaesung for the joint Gaesung Industrial Complex-related business 12 times and 11 times a day, respectively. North Korea implemented the restriction on 1 December last year in retaliation for the South's Lee Myung-bak Administration's tougher stance towards its regime. A South Korean Hyundai Group worker at the joint Gaesung Industrial Complex was arrested by the North on 30 March for allegedly slandering the North Korean regime and attempting to entice a

female North Korean worker to defect to the South. He was detained in the North for 130 days and finally set free on 13 August during Hyundai Group Chairwoman Hyun Jung-eun's visit from 10-17 August to the North, where she met the North Korean Leader Kim Jong-il.

Tour programmes to the North, however, have not been resumed yet. These were suspended in July last year after a South Korean female tourist was shot dead by a North Korean soldier during a pre-dawn stroll near the Mt. Geumgang Tourist Resort. The North claimed that she had strayed into a restricted military zone.

Meanwhile, from the Inter-Korean Red Cross Talks held on 26 August, the two Koreas agreed to hold family reunions from 26 September to 1 October on the occasion of Chuseok, Korean Thanksgiving Day.

South Korean Unification Minister Hyun In-taek said that North Korea's recent conciliatory gestures have thawed icy inter-Korean relations, but that does not signify any fundamental change in the North's stance on its nuclear programme. President Lee Myung-bak remains firm on North Korea policy, reiterating that the South is ready to help the North rebuild the economy if it abandons its nuclear programme, but will not provide unconditional aid as his liberal predecessors did for a decade.

ECONOMIC

KOREAN ECONOMY GROWS 2.6% IN 2Q

The Korean economy achieved one of the highest growth rates quarter-on-quarter among OECD countries in the second quarter. The central bank announced that the nation's GDP grew 2.6% in the April-June period from three months earlier. The economy expanded at its fastest pace in the three months period since the fourth quarter of 2003, driven by upbeat exports, growing consumer spending and manufacturing activities, and robust business and construction investment backed by Government stimulus measures. Compared with a year earlier, the economy shrank 2.2% in the second quarter, an improvement from an advance estimate of a 2.5% contraction.

Exports of goods, which power nearly 60% of the economic growth, increased 14.7% in the second quarter from three months earlier, sharply rebounding from a 3.4% decline in the first quarter due to tamed oil and other international raw material costs and rising won-based export prices. Manufacturing-sector production jumped 8.9% from a quarter earlier and private spending, another growth engine for the Korean economy, advanced 3.6% from the first quarter. Corporate investment at factories and for equipment climbed 10.1%, up from an 11.2% decrease the previous quarter.

The real gross national income (GNI), a barometer of actual purchasing power, surged 5.6% in the second quarter from the first quarter, the fastest pace in more than 21 years. Compared to a year earlier, GNI also rose 0.5%, meaning Koreans have more money to spend, invest and save than at the same time last year.

The sharp rebound in the second quarter is underpinning optimism that the Korean economy has emerged from the worst downturn in more than a decade. Asia's fourth-largest economy averted a technical recession in the first quarter attaining a 0.1% expansion after plunging 5.1% in the final quarter of 2008. Think tanks at home and abroad have rushed to raise their economic outlooks for the country. The state-run Korea Development Institute (KDI) forecast that the economy, which shrank 4.2% and 2.2% year-on-year in the first and second quarter, will contract 1.4% in the third quarter and grow 4.9% in the fourth quarter. KDI revised its 2009 outlook to -0.7% from -2.3% which is higher than the Government's latest outlook of a 1.5% fall. IMF (International Monetary Fund) revised upward this year's growth estimate to -1.8% from -3% and HSBC to -0.4% from -2.3%.

KOREA-EU FTA NEGOTIATIONS CONCLUDED



After more than two years of negotiations, Korea and the European Union (EU) concluded FTA talks. President Lee Myung-bak and Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt (who is holding the rotating presidency of the 27-member EU) declared

an end to the trade negotiations on 13 July following their summit in Stockholm. The EU is Korea's second-largest export destination after China, and Korea is the EU's fourth biggest non-European trade partner with two-way trade totalling US\$98.4 billion last year.

Once ratified, the accord calls on Korea to phase out tariffs on 96% of goods from the EU in three years and go fully duty-free in seven years, excluding rice and some other sensitive products including hot peppers, garlic and onions. The EU will abolish import duties on 99% of Korean goods in three years before fully opening up its market in five years.

The FTA would give Korea priority access to the world's largest economic zone, while the EU would gain a strong foothold in the Asian region. The state-run Korea Institute for International Economic Policy forecast that it would raise Korea's GDP by 3% and exports by between 2.5 and 5% in the long-term.

Finally reaching an agreement on the free trade deal, the next step is to get a legal review of the text by the two sides and after that the EU must translate the document into 23 different languages and provide them to its member states for endorsement. Both sides hope to have a formal signing early next year, before putting the pact into effect by July next year after legislative approval.

KOREA-INDIA FTA SIGNED



On 7 August Korea and India signed an ambitious Comprehensive Economic Partnership (CEPA) which is the same as an FTA, since its first round of negotiations held in February 2006. For Korea, it is the country's first free trade agreement with one of the fast-growing BRIC countries – Brazil, Russia, India and China. The deal calls for abolishing or reducing tariffs for 90% of Indian goods in terms of value and 85% of Korean products in eight years and increases investment opportunities in a bid to double fast-growing trade between two of Asia's major economies over the next decade. It also

allows for greater human resources exchange between the countries, paving the way for Indian computer and software experts as well as English teachers to gain access to the Korean market. On the Korean side, machinery producers would benefit most from the trade pact, followed by auto and electronics companies. Bilateral trade between the two countries reached US\$15.6 billion last year. According to the Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade (KIET), Korea is expected to enjoy an additional US\$140 million annual trade surplus over the next ten years from the trade pact.

India has completed all necessary procedures for it to go into effect. However, it is widely expected that the bilateral pact will only come into force in June next year after ratification by Korea's parliament.

In recent years, Korea has signed FTAs with Chile, Singapore, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The country also signed a free trade deal with the US in 2007 but it has yet to be ratified by legislatures in both countries. More recently, as already reported above, Korea has concluded FTA negotiations with the EU.

FIRST KOREA-JAPAN-CHINA CENTRAL BANKS GOVERNORS' MEETING HELD

The First Tripartite Governors' Meeting among the Bank of Korea (BOK), the Bank of Japan (BOJ) and People's Bank of China (PBC) was held in Shenzhen, China on 23 July in order to review recent economic and financial developments in the three countries. Governor Lee Seong-tae of the BOK, Governor Masaaki Shikawa of the BOJ and Governor Xiaochuan Zhou of the PBC attended the meeting and they exchanged views on macro-prudence, financial stability, regional monetary cooperation and other issues of mutual concerns.

The meeting follows the establishment on 10 December of 2008 of a formal annual Tripartite Governors' meeting mechanism in order to strengthen their mutual cooperation and communication, and better safeguard economic financial stability in the region. Soon after the announcement, the BOK and the PBC agreed to establish a 38 trillion won (US\$26 billion) swap line for regular use, on top of an existing US\$4 billion arrangement, and the BOK also reached a similar deal with Japan, expanding the availability of the

won-yen swap funds at normal times to US\$20 billion from US\$3 billion last year.

The second meeting will be hosted by the Bank of Japan in 2010.

KOREA'S CARBON EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGET

On 4 August the Presidential Committee on Green Growth proposed three possible scenarios for Korea's 2020 mid-term carbon mitigation target. Compared to a scenario where no action was taken, the targets would reduce Korea's emissions by 21%, 27% or 30%. Compared to 2005 emissions, these targets would either allow emissions to increase by 8%, stay the same, or decrease by 4%. The Government will use a public consensus-building process to select the final target ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Copenhagen in December.

In response to the reduction targets, environmental groups have accused of the Government of proposing only cosmetic measures, while industry wants the Government to take a weaker target than those proposed. The general public has so far shown little engagement in the consensus-building process, suggesting a lack of understanding of the significance of the issue, which is extremely complex.

The task of reducing carbon emissions has been incorporated into the five-year national plan of green growth. The "Basic Law for Green Growth" which will provide the legal basis for the country's green growth strategy is currently in the legislative process.

STAFF MOVES

Sadly in September we have said goodbye to **Dion Burns**, who was the first Education Counsellor appointed to Seoul. In his time here, Dion has established a valuable network of individuals and institutions interested in working with New Zealand in the educational sphere, and impressed with his personal dedication to educational cooperation. He has been a committed team player within the Embassy, where he has also been a leader in promoting Maori language and culture. We wish him well in his new assignment in Santiago, Chile.



Dion Burns

Yoon-Joo Kim returned to the Embassy in August from one-year leave after giving birth to a daughter, and has taken up her new position of Policy Research Officer. She covers research jobs relating to domestic politics, FTA and S&T issues. Yoon-Joo initially joined the Embassy as a visa officer in 2005 and took up the position of research and administration assistant in February 2007. Yoon-Joo is a graduate of the University of Auckland.



Yoon-Joo Kim

UPCOMING EVENTS

12 - 14 October

Busan International Film Commission and Industry Showcase (BIFCOM)

14 October

English New Zealand Agent Workshop

31 October - 1 November

New Zealand Education Fair

4 - 5 November

Korea-Australia-New Zealand (KANZ) Broadband Summit: Digital Futures, Auckland

9 November

New Zealand Wine Fair

12 - 13 November

Screen Production and Development Association of New Zealand (SPADA) Conference, Wellington

December

Third Round of FTA Negotiations between New Zealand and Korea