

Korea

UPDATE

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BILATERAL
POLITICAL
AND
ECONOMIC
UPDATES



Azalea blossom in Mt Jiri in May (Photo: Sok Kheng Wee)



Blue sky and palm trees on Jeju Island in June.
(Photo: Eunji Back)



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“An interesting juxtaposition – East meets West” at a motorbike shop in Seoul. (Photo: Jane Mulryan)

BILATERAL

VISIT TO KOREA BY MINISTER WAYNE MAPP, 23-26 APRIL



Minister Mapp (left) met with Korea's Defence Minister Kim Kwan-jin.

Minister Wayne Mapp, who holds both the Defence and Science and Innovation portfolios, visited Korea 23-26 April. Minister Mapp had an active programme including meetings with Minister of National Defence Kim Kwan-jin, Minister of Education, Science and Technology Lee Ju-ho, and United Nations Command (UNC) Commander General Walter Sharp. New Zealand and Korea have a strong bilateral defence relationship, and during discussions the Minister emphasised the importance that New Zealand places on its contributions to international peace and security, including on the Korean Peninsula. The Minister received comprehensive briefings on the situation on the Peninsula through these discussions and a visit to the De-Militarized Zone (DMZ) and Joint Security Area at Panmunjom.



Minister Mapp (third from right) discussed science cooperation with Minister Lee Ju-ho (second from left).

The Minister's science programme included a meeting with collaborating research institute presidents and a tour of Seoul National University's

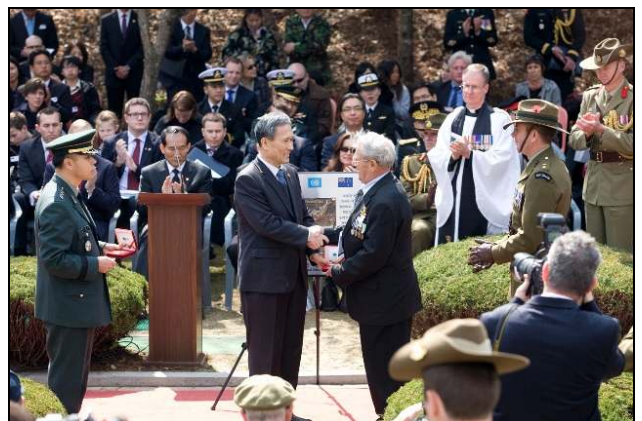
Advanced Institute of Convergent Technologies (AICT). Science cooperation between Korea and New Zealand has been a real success story, and the Minister's discussions with his counterpart Minister Lee highlighted exciting new opportunities in areas as diverse as Antarctic research, green growth and new medicines and medical devices.



Minister Mapp (fifth from left) met with collaborating Korean research institute presidents.

SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF KAPYEONG

2011 marks the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyeong, and New Zealand Defence Minister Wayne Mapp, led the New Zealand delegation at Commemoration ceremonies at Kapyeong on 24 April. Fourteen Kiwi veterans of the battle, together with family members, and currently serving members of the 16th Field Regiment, also attended. The Chief of New Zealand Army, Major General Tim Keating, represented Chief of Defence Force at the Commemorations. The Minister also represented New Zealand at the ANZAC dawn service the following morning at the National War Memorial in Seoul.



A New Zealand veteran receiving an appreciation plaque from Korean Defence Minister Kim Kwan-jin at a Kapyeong Battle Commemoration ceremony.

NEW ZEALAND VETERANS THANK KOREAN DIPLOMATIC FRIEND



From left, Ambassador Richard Mann, Mr Des Vinten and Assistant Secretary Hong Jin-wook.

During a function in honour of Minister of Defence Dr Wayne Mapp and Kiwi Korean War veterans, the Veterans Association took the opportunity to thank a long time supporter of their organisation, Hong Jin-wook. Mr Hong was formerly Counsellor at the Korean Embassy in Wellington where he was active in supporting Kiwi veterans and the Association. He is now working at the Blue House as an Assistant Secretary to the President for Foreign Affairs.

PRIME MINISTER'S FELLOW



Rep Lee Hye-hoon meets with Prime Minister John Key.

Korea's National Assembly Representative Lee Hye-hoon recently visited New Zealand as the 2011 Prime Minister's Fellow. Rep Lee energetically engaged in an extensive programme of calls over a week that saw her meet with political and economic leaders in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Queenstown. The highlight was a

meeting with Prime Minister Rt Hon John Key in which they discussed a broad range of issues including the bilateral relationship, the Korean Peninsula, FTAs, and the current economic situation, especially as it related to ordinary citizens. Rep Lee also met with Minister of Justice, Commerce and Consumer Affairs Hon Simon Power, Minister of Women's Affairs Hon Hekia Parata, Reserve Bank Governor Alan Bollard, Secretary of the Treasury John Whitehead and MPs Craig Foss, Nicky Wagner, Michael Woodhouse, Lianne Dalziel and Melissa Lee.

ANNUAL MILITARY-MILITARY TALKS HELD IN WELLINGTON, 13 JUNE

The 11th annual Republic of Korea-New Zealand bilateral defence policy talks were held in Wellington on 13 June. Officials from the two Defence Ministries discussed the range of ongoing bilateral defence activities, and shared views on regional security issues such as North Korea and the South Pacific, as well as regional organisations, counter-piracy, and peace keeping operations. Next year's talks will be held in Korea.

VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND BY KOREAN MINISTER OF PATRIOTS AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS, 25-28 MAY



Korean Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, Park Sung Choon, met with Korean War veterans during his visit to New Zealand.

Korean Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, Park Sung Choon, visited New Zealand from 25 to 28 May to present the Korean Presidential Unit Citation to veterans of the New Zealand Army 16th Field Regiment who served in the Korean War between 15 December 1950 and 1 November 1951. The Citation was originally presented in November 1951 in recognition of the Regiment's role in holding ground and halting the assault of communist forces during the Battle of Kapyeong. Recent approval for the presentation of the insignia

was granted by New Zealand's Governor-General, allowing the presentations to take place some 60 years after their initial award. During his visit Minister Park also had bilateral meetings with his counterpart Judith Collins, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, and Dr Wayne Mapp, Minister of Defence.



Minister Park receives a Maori welcome at Linton Army Camp.



From left, Minister Park Sung Choon, Minister Judith Collins and Korean Ambassador Noh Kwang-il.

K-FORCE VETERANS HONOURED



Korean War veterans, Korean Ambassador Noh Kwang-il (left), Veterans' Affairs Minister Judith Collins (right), and others commemorated the 61st anniversary of the start of the Korean War at a wreath-laying ceremony at the National War Memorial in Wellington on 27 June. About 6,000 New Zealanders were involved in the Korean War. "K-Force", as New Zealand's troops were known, developed a reputation as a fierce fighting force.

AMBASSADOR VISIT TO DPRK

Ambassador Richard Mann made his annual visit to North Korea 16-21 May, accompanied by Second Secretary (Political) Charles Boulton. New Zealand's relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK, North Korea) are limited, and there are only a few New Zealanders present in the country. Ambassador Mann conveyed to the DPRK Government New Zealand's wish to see DPRK work constructively towards a peaceful and stable region, and used the opportunity to talk with NGOs and diplomats resident in Pyongyang about the current economic situation. The Ambassador has a small annual fund for humanitarian projects in DPRK, which this year will be allocated to two organisations that work directly with rural North Korean communities (the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)).



Ambassador Richard Mann (centre) visited the New Zealand-DPRK Friendship farm.

KOREA-AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND (KANZ) BROADBAND SUMMIT, 27-29 APRIL

The 6th Korea, Australia, New Zealand (KANZ) Broadband Summit was held in Hobart, Australia, on 27-29 April. This year's KANZ Summit was held under the title "Digital Futures" and once more brought together the ICT Ministers, senior officials and business leaders from the three countries' ICT sectors to discuss areas of common interest and commercial opportunities. Korea sent an impressive delegation of officials and businesspeople, led by Korea Communications Commission Chairman Choi See-joong. ICT Minister Hon Steven Joyce had a meeting with Chairman Choi, with discussions ranging from ICT infrastructure investment to cyber security. Chairman Choi invited Minister Joyce to attend the

7th KANZ Summit in Korea, an event that the New Zealand contingent in Hobart is already looking forward to.



Korea Communications Commission Chairman, Choi See-joong, delivering a speech at the KANZ Summit.

NEW ZEALAND-KOREA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION JOINT COMMITTEE, 31 MAY



Dr Prue Williams, Chief Science Advisor at New Zealand's Ministry of Science and Innovation (left) and Dr Bae Seoung-geun, Director General of the International Cooperation Bureau at the Korean Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, signing the Record of Discussion.

The 2nd Korea-New Zealand Joint Committee on Science & Technology Cooperation was held on 31 May in Wellington. Dr Bae Seoung-geun, Director General of the International Cooperation Bureau, led a large Korean Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) delegation, while Dr Prue Williams, Chief Science Advisor at the Ministry of Science and Innovation (MSI) led the New Zealand side. Both sides highlighted the excellent progress being made in science cooperation based on both sides' complementary skills and knowledge. The

Joint Committee recognised the on-going success of the bilateral science Focal Point Programme (FPP) is the cornerstone of the relationship. At the Joint Committee, MEST and MSI agreed to conduct joint research projects in each of the current FPP areas: food innovation, nanotechnology, and renewable energy. Looking forward and recognising the success of the first and second FPPs, MEST and MSI agreed to embark on an unprecedented third FPP covering green growth; Antarctic research; and new medicines and medical applications. The new FPP will commence in November 2011.

SENIOR MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OFFICIALS PARTICIPATE IN GLOBAL EDUCATION LEADERS' PROGRAMME IN SEOUL

Deputy Secretary Rob McIntosh (Tertiary, International, and System Performance) and Deputy Secretary Anne Jackson (Schooling) of the Ministry of Education visited Seoul from 3-7 May to attend Global Education Leaders' Programme (GELP). GELP brings together a coalition of senior policy-makers and practitioners in education from several key countries around the world, including Korea and New Zealand, to assess the trends in education in a globalised world, and discuss how school education can foster creative and global leaders.

Together with this event, Rob McIntosh participated in a four-way panel discussion broadcast by the Education Broadcasting System (EBS) on the efforts by countries in supporting 21st century learning, and why 21st century learning is so important to students, families, communities, and countries.

The Programme was organised by MEST, the Korean Educational Development Institute (KEDI), the Korea Institute for Curriculum and Evaluation (KICE), the Korea Education and Research Information Service (KERIS), and EBS; and sponsored by CISCO.

HONORARY CONSUL

The New Zealand Government has appointed Mr Kim Jae-chul, Chairman of Dongwon Group, as Honorary Consul for Busan and the wider Gyeongsang-do district. Chairman Kim is a well-known businessman with ties to New Zealand. He has been honoured on many occasions in Korea for his achievements. We are delighted that he accepted our offer of appointment.

The Embassy hosted a celebration of the opening of the New Zealand Consulate at the Lotte Hotel Busan on 14 April. Attended by over 100 guests, including the Mayor of Busan, Hur Nam-sik, and Director-General Park Hae-yun from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Seoul, the event demonstrated the New Zealand Government's commitment to expanding its diplomatic presence in Busan and the Gyeongsang Province region. In his address the Ambassador said that "Our linkages with Busan have expanded, and we want to intensify these further." In his remarks, Chairman Kim said that he hoped that the opening of New Zealand Consulate would promote exchanges between New Zealand and Korea.

Performing Arts, who delighted guests with their spirited powhiri (welcome) and performance. Embassy staffer and talented pianist, Onnuri Lee, played the Korean and New Zealand national anthems at the start of the event. Guests were able to enjoy fine New Zealand wines and beer.



Honorary Consul Kim Jae-chul, Chairman of Dongwon Group (right) with Ambassador Richard Mann.



The opening ceremony began with a powhiri (welcome).



The guest of the honour participated in the powhiri.



To publicise the opening of the Consulate, Ambassador Richard Mann had interviews with major local media including KNN TV in Busan.

Thanks to support from the New Zealand Ministry of Culture and Heritage, we were pleased to have the services of Maori kapa haka group, Pounamu

KOREA JOINS GLOBAL RESEARCH ALLIANCE

Korea joined the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse gasses at the Alliance's first Ministerial summit in Rome. The Alliance was launched in the margins of the 2009 UN climate change conference in Copenhagen. The concept originated in New Zealand, but it now spans the globe with over 30 participating countries. The Alliance is focused on research, development and extension of technologies and practices that will help deliver ways to grow more food (and more climate-resilient food systems) without growing greenhouse gas emissions.

KOREA ATTENDS CARBON MARKETS ROUNDTABLE

Officials from Korea's Presidential Committee on Green Growth visited Wellington in May to take part in the Asia-Pacific Carbon Markets Roundtable, hosted by New Zealand's Ministry for the

Environment. The Roundtable brought together senior officials from both developed and developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region that are considering, developing or implementing market based schemes for cutting greenhouse gas emissions. Participants discussed the development of market based schemes at a national or sub-national level, and the feasibility of an Asia-Pacific market of linked schemes post-2012.

NORTH ASIA TRADE AND MARKET ACCESS WORKSHOP, 9-10 JUNE



The workshop participants on the roof of the Embassy building overlooking Seoul.

On 9-10 June, the Embassy hosted an inaugural North Asia Trade and Market Access Workshop. Trade and market access work is an essential component of North Asian posts' operations, which each year directly assists exporters and benefits the New Zealand economy. The workshop brought together trade access officers based in Seoul, Beijing, Tokyo, Taipei, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Wellington to share experiences and insights, benchmark best-practice, identify collaborative ways further up our trade and market access game across the region to give New Zealand an edge internationally. The workshop covered a full range of topics from quarantine systems to regulatory issues to agricultural cooperation activities, as well as opportunities to engage with the Seoul-based New Zealand business community and colleagues from other embassies.

NEW ZEALAND SHOWCASE AT SEOUL FOOD AND HOTEL 2011



Robert Oliver (left), a renowned New Zealand chef, demonstrated a variety of menu items using New Zealand ingredients at the New Zealand pavilion.

Building on last year's successful participation, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) Seoul brought together ten New Zealand food and beverage companies to exhibit at Seoul Food and Hotel 2011, the largest food and beverage trade show in Korea, from 26-29 April. Companies joining the New Zealand pavilion showcased New Zealand beef, seafood, and dairy products along with specialty food items and organic beverages. New Zealand Chef Robert Oliver, winner of 'Cookbook of the Year Award' at the Prestigious 2010 Gourmand World Cookbook Awards, demonstrated various menu items using New Zealand ingredients provided by the exhibitors. Visitors were impressed by the superb, natural food and beverages, and highly appreciated the opportunity to meet the New Zealand chef and suppliers.

The assistance and support from NZTE, including an extensive range of business matching with key buyers, enabled the New Zealand exhibitors to develop new business opportunities. Exhibitors estimated at least \$18 million of business leads from the fair," said Graeme Solloway, Trade Commissioner to Seoul.

NZTE Seoul also organised a networking reception for exhibitors and over 180 Korean food industry VIPs to mingle. Over the following two weeks, Chef Robert Oliver ran a New Zealand food and beverage promotion at the Seoul Millennium Hilton Hotel with a tailor-made New Zealand menu. A range of leveraging events were run by NZTE and New Zealand businesses at the hotel throughout this period.

NEW ZEALAND FOOD AND WINE PROMOTION AT BONO BONO SEAFOOD BUFFET RESTAURANT

A leading seafood buffet restaurant chain called Bono Bono is holding a New Zealand promotion for two months in June and July. The chain is run by Shinsegae Food and is currently composed of five restaurants in Seoul, serving around 5,000 customers per day. The promotional menu uses safe and high quality ingredients from New Zealand, including kiwifruit, buttercup squash, Greenshell mussels, hoki, abalone, King Salmon, beef and wine.

This promotion will provide Bono Bono chefs a good opportunity to trial and experience diverse new New Zealand products and will raise the profile of New Zealand's quality F&B products among high-end and middle class Korean consumers.

DISCOVER NEW ZEALAND WINES 2011



"New Zealand Wine Tasting Group" of consumer bloggers with Ambassador Mann.

NZTE Seoul launched a wine promotion on 20 June to usher in the hot summer with cool and chilled New Zealand wine at 35 restaurants and wine bars. Under the theme "Discover New Zealand Wines 2011," consumers have an opportunity to experience 30 quality wines from popular New Zealand vineyards including Cloudy Bay, Villa Maria, Sileni, Kim Crawford, Jackson Estate, Forrest, Framingham, Mount Riley, Palliser Estate, Pernod-Ricard, Mud House, Woollaston Estate, Wooing Tree, Vynfields, and Hunter's.

NZTE Seoul has also formed a "New Zealand Wine Tasting Group" of 30 consumer bloggers who are going to cover the story of the New Zealand wines' restaurant promotion. As a kick-off event, the bloggers were invited to a wine tasting on the night

of 16 June, at the Grand Hyatt Hotel's Poolside Garden. Thirty-four wines from 15 wineries were introduced and tasted at the event.

During the 3-week promotion from 20 June-10 July, each blogger will visit participating restaurants in and around Seoul and write their own feedback on their experience of New Zealand wines at each restaurant. Some 35 restaurants including three hotels are in the promotion and its promotional website (www.purenzwines.com) is hosted for a month to introduce New Zealand viticulture, wine industries, and participating wines and restaurants. Consumers can scan QR Code on the promotional materials distributed to the restaurants in the promotion, which directly connect them to the website as well.

NEW ZEALAND AND ASIA GLOBAL FOOD AND BEVERAGE FORUM

On 24 June the New Zealand and Asia Global Food and Beverage (F&B) Forum, jointly hosted by NZTE Seoul and the Korea Food Safety Information Center (KFSI), was held at the Grand Hyatt Seoul with about 100 participating Korean and New Zealand F&B industry representatives.



Forum speakers including Mark Ward (General Manager, Riddet Institute), Tony Egan (CEO, Assure Quality), Dr Andrew Kelly (Executive Director, BioPacific ventures), Niel Craig (Chairman, Comvita), Simon Eriksen (CEO, Neat Meat), Paul Morgan (Chairman, Wakatu) and Dr Sangtae Han (Principal Researcher, Korea Food Safety Information Center), and organisers.

It drew nine high-level speakers from the Korean and New Zealand F&B sector, including Mark Ward, General Manager of the Riddet Institute, Neil Craig, Chairman of Comvita, and Dr Sangtae Han, Principal Researcher of KFSI under the theme of "Food Security, Food Safety and Sustainability." In addition, Adrian Boshier, Investment Manager of NZTE, outlined lucrative investment opportunities in

the New Zealand F&B industry and related Government policies.

In particular, the nine experts discussed Asian and global perceptions and trends relating to meeting demand in a sustainable way, increasing demand for high-quality functional foods and leading R&D solutions from New Zealand in the F&B field.



The New Zealand and Asia Global Food and Beverage Forum was attended by about 100 F&B industry people.

EARLY CHILD STUDY ABROAD AND ENGLISH CAMP FAIR, 4-5 JUNE

NZTE Seoul participated in the 6th Early Child Study Abroad and English Camp Fair on 4-5 June at the COEX in south Seoul on behalf of Education New Zealand. This is an annual education fair which targets young Korean students who are looking at shorter and longer term study abroad. Education New Zealand had a generic booth at the fair and assisted two local agents (Appro and KOKOS) who participated in the fair with New Zealand Institutions. The fair attracted 7,500 visitors over the two days.

KIWI CHAMBER EVENTS: NEW ZEALAND RUGBY CHARITY DINNER AND NEW ZEALAND WINE FESTIVAL

On 13 April the Kiwi Chamber and Austcham co-hosted a rugby charity dinner at the Grand Hyatt hotel. Guest speakers were Sean Fitzpatrick, All Black legend and former captain, and Eddie Jones, former Wallaby coach. The dinner served as a promotion of the forthcoming 2011 Rugby World Cup and around 400 guests were treated to a menu of New Zealand food and wines, as well as having the opportunity to listen to the speakers talk about their rugby experiences. Guests included the Ambassadors of New Zealand, Australia and Japan, as well as many business leaders with a connection with New Zealand. A major focus of the

evening was a charity auction for earthquake relief in Christchurch and Japan. Over \$120,000 was raised from the auction of rugby memorabilia and prizes donated by generous sponsors.



A part of New Zealand's wine push into Korea, the Kiwi Chamber hosted the first New Zealand Wine Festival at the Grand Hyatt on 25 June. Wines from 16 New Zealand wineries were represented and poured to over 200 enthusiastic guests. Wet weather forced the event indoors, however the Grand Hyatt did a superb job of hosting the event in the Waterfall Ballroom, with a spectacular view of the fountains making up for the rain. The Kiwi Chamber event focused exclusively on wines available in Korea and many were able to be purchased at the event, a change from past promotions. Guests were evenly split between enthusiastic ex-pats and curious locals, some of whom were trying New Zealand wine for the first time. The atmosphere was casual with good food and cool New Zealand music to accompany the wine tasting. Feedback from exhibitors and participants was very positive and the Chamber looks forward to future events tied to promotion of New Zealand as a provider of excellent value, summer drinking wines.

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LONG BAY COLLEGE AND KOREAN CULINARY ACADEMY

On 20 May Long Bay College in North Shore and the Korean Culinary Academy based in Cheonan City, South Chungcheong Province celebrated their partnership of opening a culinary course at the college. The school is hosting Korean students enrolled to the Korean Academy who hope to become world renowned chefs by learning the English language as well as cooking skills there. Long Bay College Principal Russell Brooke was

quoted in North Shore Times as saying that the partnership with the academy is an important step from both a business and education perspective. Foreign Affairs Minister Murray McCully, MP for East Coast Bays, attended the opening and was quoted in North Shore Times as saying that this country has a wonderful opportunity to market the quality of our education to other countries. Minister McCully added, "Today our geography is an advantage because this is the time of the fast growing powerhouses of Asia."



Foreign Affairs Minister Murray McCully with the Korean Culinary Academy Director, Hee Jun Park.



Some Korean Culinary Academy students study at Long Bay College.

KIWI CYCLIST WINS SPRINTS CLASSIFICATION ON TOUR DE KOREA

The Subway Professional Cycling team successfully competed in the fifth annual Tour de Korea cycling race. The nine-day event started in Gumi, North Gyeongsang Province and finished 1,340 km later in Seoul. The seven-man Kiwi team competed well, with Christchurch-based rider Paul Odlin winning the sprints classification. Two of the riders were eliminated suffering from hypothermia following a gruelling stage up some of Korea's

highest mountain passes. The team was managed by former world track cycling champion Hayden Godfrey, and Olympian Graeme Millar. Millar rode to New Zealand's best-ever result in the road race at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul. The team hopes to return to defend Odlin's victory in the race next year. Follow the team's successes at www.subwaycycling.co.nz.



Paul Odlin riding to defend his blue sprinters jersey at the start of the final stage in Seoul.



Subway ProCycling team members (from left) Nick Lovegrove, Paul Odlin, Sam Horgan and Westley Gough at the start of the final stage in Gwangwhamun, Seoul. Team members Jonathan Allen and Matthew Gorten withdrew from the race suffering from hypothermia after a tough mountain stage.

JUNIOR ALL WHITES UNDER-20 FOOTBALL TEAM IN SUWON U-20 CUP

The Junior All Whites Under-20 football team travelled to Korea in early May to take part in the four-team round-robin Suwon U-20 Cup as part of its preparations for the FIFA Under20 World Cup in Colombia later this year. The recently-crowned Oceania champions narrowly went down 0-1 in each of their first two matches with Uruguay and South Korea. Their final match was against Nigeria, who only two weeks earlier had been crowned African champions in South Africa. In a match

marked by a host of excellent goals and a see-sawing scoreline, the Junior All Whites pulled off a stunning 4-3 surprise victory. After the match, coach Chris Milicich and assistant Alan Jones described the result as the best-ever for a U-20 All Whites team.



The Junior All Whites line up before their match against Nigeria.



Ambassador Richard Mann and Second Secretary Michael O'Shaughnessy with coaches Chris Milicich and Alan Jones.

KOREAN-NEW ZEALANDERS' RECENT MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

New Zealand-Korean film director Stephen Kang won a Grand Prix at Critics Week at the 64th Cannes Film Festival for his short film *Blue* on 19 May. *Blue* tells the story of a former mascot on a Children's TV show who struggles to hold down a job at an Asian restaurant. Born in Korea, Kang immigrated to New Zealand in early 1990s. His feature film *Desert* was screened at the Pusan International Film Festival in Korea last year and has been also selected for the 2011 Shanghai International Film Festival.



A scene from *Blue* directed by Stephen Kang.

Young Korean-New Zealanders have shown exceptional talent in international golf tournaments. In late April Danny Lee who held the title of the youngest winner of the US Amateur in 2008, won second placing in the Volvo China Open. At the same time 14-year old Lydia Ko from North Harbour became the first woman to win both the New Zealand Strokeplay and Australian Strokeplay champion in the same year, and the youngest winner in both events. In early March, Cecilia Cho became the best woman amateur golfer in the world, becoming the first woman from New Zealand to hold that mantle.

KIWI DOCUMENTARIES AT SEOUL GREEN FILM FESTIVAL

Two New Zealand-made documentary films – *There Once was an Island: Te Henua e Noho* (Director: Briar March) and *The Nuclear Comeback* (Director: Justin Pemberton) – were featured as part of the eighth Annual Green Film Festival in Seoul, which ran from 18-25 May. The first film follows the Polynesian community of Takuu, a tiny low-lying atoll in the South Western Pacific as they experience the devastating effects of climate change at first hand. The other documentary questions whether the nuclear industry is really a solution to climate change.

VISIT BY REPRESENTATIVES OF AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL TO KOREA

David Inns, Chief Executive, and Carla van Zon, Artistic Director of Auckland Arts Festival, visited Seoul from 23-27 May to explore possibilities of inviting Korean artists and/or art groups to the Auckland Arts Festival 2013 and onwards. Accompanied by Sophie Kang, the Embassy's Public Affairs Officer, they met a wide range of people from the Korean art sector from contemporary dance to K-pop, and saw some performances of b-boying (hip hop), non-verbal and contemporary dance. Both enjoyed the opportunity to understand the Korean art sector and experience cutting edge performances.

POLITICAL

KOREA-JAPAN-CHINA SUMMIT, 22 MAY



The fourth Korea-Japan-China Summit was held in Tokyo.

On 22 May the fourth Korea-Japan-China Summit was held in Tokyo. Korean President Lee Myung-bak, Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao agreed to increase cooperation on nuclear safety, as well as trade and regional security. The three leaders issued a joint declaration calling for the founding of an early notification system in emergencies, and sharing information and analysis of nuclear crises. The leaders also agreed to joint disaster training, and to dispatch relief teams when any nation in the region is hit by nuclear power meltdowns.

They also pledged to speed up laying the ground work for a possible three-way free trade pact. China, Japan and Korea account for around 20% of the world's total economic output.

The leaders also agreed that there were measures North Korea must take to resume stalled denuclearisation talks, noting that inter-Korean talks need to take place before the six-party talks.

A day before the Summit, the leaders met in Fukushima to demonstrate their joint desire for Japan's recovery from the 11 March earthquake and tsunami.

KOREA SIGNS ENERGY AGREEMENT WITH IRAQ

On 28 April President Lee Myung-bak and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki had a summit meeting at the Blue House in Seoul and agreed to expand cooperation on developing energy and infrastructure in the Middle East nation. According

to the Korean Presidential Office, an economic and energy cooperation agreement was signed on the sidelines of the summit as an important framework for expanding trade and investment and other substantial collaboration between the two nations. Under the agreement, Korea, the world's fifth-largest crude oil importer, will be able to secure the rights to around 10% of its annual demand for crude oil from Iraq in an emergency. In return, Korea will help Iraq rebuild infrastructure. Following the pact, Korea is expected to provide details on investments in Iraq, including in steelmaking, refining, fertiliser production and housing.

Last year Korea imported 60 million barrels of crude oil from Iraq, or about 7% of its total crude import of 872 million barrels. Asia's fourth-largest economy has been competing with China and India to secure energy reserves and ensure crude supplies at a time when oil prices are surging, while grappling to curb inflation in the face of costlier energy.



President Lee Myung-bak (right) and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki had a summit meeting on 28 April.

FIRST KOREA-PACIFIC ISLANDS FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING, 31 MAY

Korea hosted a Korea-Pacific Islands Foreign Ministers Meeting under the theme of "Vision and Action: Cooperation across the Ocean" on 31 May for the first time. Korean Foreign Affairs Minister, Kim Sung-Hwan met his counterparts from 14 Pacific Island nations – Kiribati, Tonga, Samoa, Niue, Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Nauru, Tuvalu, Micronesia and Palau – and discussed expansion of cooperation on climate change and other issues of regional concern. In his opening speech, Minister Kim noted that the southern Pacific region is an important axis of the

“New Asia Initiative.” Following the meeting, the participating Ministers adopted a joint statement specifying ways to bolster cooperation, including the Korean Government’s increase of the Korea-Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) fund from \$US300,000 to US\$1 million. According to the Korean Foreign Ministry, “the first and highest-level meeting between Korea and the entire group of the Pacific Island countries laid the groundwork for the Korean Government to expand its network of diplomatic cooperation as well as its substantive cooperation with the region in the fields of resources and distant-water fisheries.”



Korea hosted the first Korea-Pacific Islands Foreign Ministers Meeting in Seoul on 31 May.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY WINS IN BY-ELECTIONS, 27 APRIL

The main opposition Democratic Party (DP) became the real winner in the fiercely-contested Parliamentary and local by-elections held on 27 April, sweeping two of four key posts up for grabs. The governing Grand National Party (GNP) only managed to win one out of four major contests. Voting took place in 38 electoral districts, selecting three National Assemblymen, the Governor of Gangwon Province and local Government and Council representatives.

Sohn Hak-kyu, Chairman of the DP (and former GNP member), clinched a National Assembly seat by defeating Kang Jae-sup, former Chairman of the governing GNP and five-term lawmaker, in the Bundang B district, Gyeonggi Province, traditionally a GNP stronghold. With the victory, Sohn will return to the Assembly as a legislator for the first time in nine years. He is seen as a potential DP Presidential candidate in next year’s election. Another major victory for the DP came in the closely-watched gubernatorial race in Gangwon Province, considered home turf for the GNP. Choi

Moon-soon of the DP, who had stepped down from his electorate seat, won the governor’s role by defeating Ohm Ki-young of the GNP, 51% to 46.6%.

FIVE NEW MINISTERS APPOINTED

Prompted by the governing GNP’s defeat in the April by-elections, President Lee Myung-bak replaced five Ministers in a Cabinet reshuffle on 6 May reported above. The new Ministers are as follows:

Bahk Jae-wan, Minister of Strategy and Finance

Bahk has been Labour Minister since last August and is considered a close adviser to President Lee Myung-bak. Bahk was the President’s Senior Secretary for State Affairs and Planning at the beginning of the President’s term of office.

Lee Chae-pil, Minister of Employment and Labour

Lee has been Vice Minister for Employment and Labour since March 2010 and was a Blue House official for labour in the early 1990s.

Kwon Do-yup, Minister of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs

Kwon has been a member of the National Academy of Engineering Korea since January and served as First Vice Minister of the land ministry from March 2008-August 2010 after leaving his post at the Korea Expressway Corporation.

Suh Kyu-yong, Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Suh has been the President of the Korea Farmers and Fishermen’s Weekly News since July 2006, and was the Vice Agriculture Minister from February-July 2002.

Yoo Young-sook, Minister of Environment

Yoo has been a principal research scientist at the Korea Institute of Science and Technology, and also served as the Director of the Korean Chemical Society in 2008.

NEW GOVERNING PARTY FLOOR LEADER ELECTED, 6 MAY

Hwang Woo-yea, a reform-minded four-term lawmaker, won the Floor Leader post of the governing GNP in the runoff election on 6 May, defeating An Kyung-ryul, 90 to 64 votes. Among the GNP’s 172 Parliamentary membership, 157 GNP lawmakers participated in the vote and three

lawmakers abstained. Analysts say that Hwang's surprise victory reflects a broader desire for leadership changes within the conservative party, which is being championed by a group of young, reform-minded lawmakers and the pro-Park Geun-hye faction. Hwang entered the National Assembly in 1996 and his Parliamentary activities have focussed on education including the Head of the Education Committee from 2004-2005.

BAN KI-MOON RE-ELECTED AS UN CHIEF FOR SECOND TERM, 22 JUNE



Korean Foreign Affairs Minister Kim Sung-Hwan (left) congratulates Secretary General Ban Ki-moon (right) on the re-election.

On 22 June United Nations (UN) Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, praised for his commitment to climate change and nuclear disarmament, was re-elected to serve a second five-year term in a unanimous decision at the UN General Assembly in New York. Secretary General Ban, a former South Korean Foreign Minister, was the only candidate after the 15-member UN Security Council unanimously recommended his re-election. As the chief of the 192 member international organisation, he pledged to keep leading the world body as a "bridge-builder" at a time of global change. His second term will formally begin on 1 January 2012 and run until the end of 2016.

ECONOMIC

KOREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPROVES KOREA-EU FTA BILL, 4 MAY



On 4 May Korea's Parliament ratified a free trade agreement with the European Union (EU) in a one-sided vote pushed by the governing GNP. With the endorsement, the Korea-EU FTA will take effect on 1 July as agreed upon by Korea and the world's largest trading block. The main opposition Democratic Party (DP) boycotted the vote in a dispute about providing safeguards for farmers and small retailers. The trade pact is expected to eliminate 98% of import duties – 1.6 billion euros of Korean duties and 11 billion euros of EU duties – and other trade barriers in manufactured goods, agricultural products and services between the two sides over the next five years. The deal was signed in October of last year and the European Parliament approved it in February.

The EU and the US had been in a race to be the first to seal a free trade agreement with Korea. However, Korea and the US are still facing resistance to their deal which was signed in 2007 but had been held up by US auto and beef industry concerns. Korean farmers claim the Government has done little to provide relief for the expected damage from the US trade deal. The US and Korea say that they want their long-delayed FTA to be signed by the end of the year.

KOREA OPENS GLOBAL GREEN GROWTH INSTITUTE IN DENMARK, 11 MAY

Attended by President Lee Myung-bak after arriving in Denmark on his three-nation European tour, Korea opened the first overseas office of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) in Copenhagen on 11 May. Founded by the Korean Government last year in Seoul, GGGI as an international think tank aims to systematise theories of green growth and disseminate green growth models around the world. Its founding Chairman was former Prime Minister, Han Seung-soo and the current Chairman is Richard Samans, former Managing Director of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Foundation. GGGI signed a memorandum of understanding

with the Danish Government for green growth support in developing countries. It also signed an MOU with Danfoss, Denmark's world's leading company in eco-friendly heating system.



Attended by President Lee, Korea opened a GGGI branch in Copenhagen.

KOREAN ECONOMY GROWS 1.4% IN Q1

According to the Bank of Korea (BOK), Korea's gross domestic product grew in the first quarter by 1.4% from the previous quarter, which expanded by 4.2% from a year earlier. Although the economy continues to show robust growth, the country's worsened trade terms were driven by external factors like surging oil prices. However, the bank forecast that oil and fresh produce prices could ease in the third quarter, but the underlying upward trend of inflation would continue into next year. The BOK raised its key interest rate by a quarter of a percentage point on 10 June to 3.25%. The hike came after a two-month freeze amid persistent signs of inflation. May saw the fifth straight month in which inflation exceeded 4%. The Government targets to keep inflation below 4%.

KOREA AND SPAIN AGREE ON OPEN-SKIES DEAL

On 8 May, Korea agreed on an open-skies accord with Spain in an effort to meet growing demand for the transportation of passengers and cargo. According to the Korean Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, under the agreement, Korean airlines will be allowed to fly an unlimited number of times per week to any city in Spain. Korean airlines are currently allowed to offer flights to only Madrid and Barcelona, with the number of flights limited to four a week. Korean Air, Korea's top air carrier, offers three weekly flights to Madrid. Spain has become the first European country to reach such an accord with Seoul.

EMBASSY NEWS

STAFF MOVEMENTS

In May we said goodbye to our Administration Officer and Consul, **Jeff Mathews**, and his wife, **Cherry**, who served on our local staff as Executive Assistant to the Ambassador. They left a little earlier than planned so that Jeff could take up a similar position in Suva, Fiji, in July. Jeff is a stalwart supporter of New Zealand rugby and made many friends in Korea through his love of the game, while Cherry was an active participant in ANZA activities, also taking advantage of many opportunities to explore Korean culture. We will miss them and wish them well in their next assignment, which will be a challenging one.



Jeff and Cherry

We have, however, been pleased to welcome **Peter Cox** as our new Administration Officer and Consul. Peter has come from Wellington, where he was most recently in the Security Division and in Nuku'alofa (Tonga) and Apia (Samoa) undertaking relief assignments. He is now settling into his role in Seoul and his new apartment. He has completed "survival" language training and is starting to explore his new environs.



Peter

AMBASSADOR PLAYS AT DIPLOMATIC TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ambassador Richard Mann participated in the 7th Diplomatic Tennis Championships, organised by The Korea Times on 16 April. The Ambassador reached the quarterfinals with Jorge Carvajal, the husband of the Mexican Ambassador to Korea. The tournament was sponsored by the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Korean Culture and Information Service along with some private companies.



Ambassador Richard Mann (right) with his doubles partner Jorge Carvajal, husband of the Mexican Ambassador to Korea.

DEFENCE ATTACHÉ AND HIS WIFE EXPERIENCE TRADITIONAL KOREAN WEDDING



Colonel Harry and Mrs Robyn Cockburn, Defence Attaché, pose for a photo with General and Mrs Park Jong-Hun, Chief of ROK Air Force, after experiencing a traditional Korean wedding at the ROK Air Force and FMAC (Foreign Military Attaches Corps) Friendship Dinner on 13 May.

UPCOMING EVENTS

10-13 October

Busan International Film Commission and Industry Showcase (BIFCOM)

4 November

New Zealand Agent Seminar

5-6 November

New Zealand Education Fair

15 November

New Zealand Food Connection in Seoul