



Korea UPDATE

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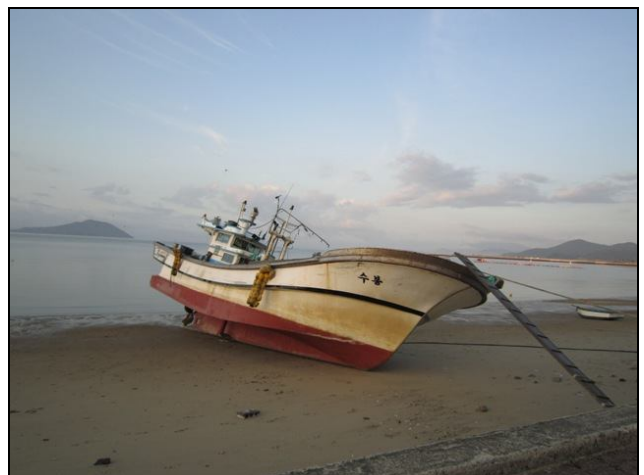
BILATERAL
POLITICAL
AND
ECONOMIC
UPDATES



“Art Fence” of the construction site of National Art Museum, Seoul
(Photo: Sophie Kang)



The Royal Guard changing ceremony at Deoksugung Palace in downtown Seoul. (Photo: Sophie Kang)



A fishing boat on Yulpo Beach early in the morning (Photo: Sophie Kang)



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BILATERAL

KOREA AT PACIFIC MEETING

Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Min Dong-seok led a Korean delegation to New Zealand for a meeting of Pacific Island countries and partners, at the Pacific Islands Forum Post-Forum Dialogue on 8-9 September. The theme of the meeting was "Sustainable Economic Development: Converting Potential into Prosperity". This was an important opportunity for Pacific Island countries to discuss with their partners how best to advance policies and assistance. As part of its own bilateral development assistance, Korea has been stepping up its engagement in the South Pacific, and in May hosted a gathering of Pacific Island Foreign Ministers in Seoul.

FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET IN BALI

Minister of Foreign Affairs Murray McCully met with his Korean counterpart Minister Kim Sung-hwan in Bali, Indonesia in July. Both Ministers were attending a series of regional Foreign Ministers' meetings held 21-23 July in Bali. The two Ministers discussed the meeting between North and South Korea that had taken place in Bali shortly before, and ways to enhance peace and security on the Korean peninsula. Minister McCully noted appreciation for Korea's support of Pacific countries, and said that New Zealand was keen to work with Korea in the Pacific, especially on development assistance coordination.

AMBASSADOR MANN'S CALL ON REP KIM SEON DONG

Ambassador Richard Mann called on National Assembly Representative, Kim Seon-dong on 28 July, to discuss Rep Kim's visit to New Zealand in May this year. Rep Kim had a particular interest in education and science issues during his visit, as a member of the National Assembly Committee covering these areas. Rep Kim visited the Korean Studies Centre at Auckland University, and had dinner with students. At UniServices, Rep Kim was introduced to some of the cutting-edge collaboration between Korean and New Zealand researchers, a healthcare robotics project. To the Ambassador, Rep Kim said he was impressed with this project, and that it seemed to have a high possibility for a win-win for the two countries.

ANTARCTICA COOPERATION

The Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI), which is responsible for Korea's bases in the Arctic and Antarctica, has a close working relationship with its New Zealand counterpart organisations, especially Antarctica New Zealand. For example, the recently launched high-tech research vessel Araon regularly stops at Christchurch Lyttleton port to resupply, which will be an essential support mechanism for Korea's second Antarctic base *Jang Bogo*, currently under construction. Korea and New Zealand experts are also in regular consultation on other Antarctic-related matters such as science, environmental protection, search and rescue, safety, and fisheries management. On 27 July, Ambassador Richard Mann called on KOPRI Director, Lee Hong-kum to discuss this broad relationship, and ways to ensure it continues to move ahead.

EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICERS EXCHANGE BEST PRACTICES ON SCHOOL EVALUATION



Dr Graham Stoop, Chief Executive of the New Zealand Education Review Office, speaks at the 2011 KEDI-ERO International Seminar on School Evaluation in Seoul.

A 3-person delegation from the Education Review Office (ERO), led by Chief Executive Dr Graham Stoop, visited Korea 23-27 September. The visit was centred on a joint seminar and workshop with Korean education officials on the topic of evaluation methodology and practices of school performance. The seminar, jointly organised by government-funded research institute, the Korean Educational Development Institute (KEDI), brought together over 60 education officials from around Korea for one and a half days of presentations and discussions.



Delegation from the Education Review Office and officials from the Korean Educational Development Institute at the KEDI-ERO International Seminar on School Evaluation.

The delegation visited Hana Academy Seoul and Dae-wang Middle School, where they met with the school principals and senior management and caught a glimpse into Korea's schools. The delegation also met with the Korea Institute for Curriculum and Evaluation President, Seong Taeje, and discussed recent trends and developments in education.

NEW ZEALAND EDUCATION REPRESENTATION AT THE EMBASSY

New Zealand's international education sector is a key contributor to the agenda for economic growth. The recent establishment of Education New Zealand (ENZ), a Crown Agency responsible for promoting New Zealand education to the world, will allow closer alignment among Government-funded representational, promotional and education functions. Marketing Manager Yun-ju Jung and Education Officer Onnuri Lee have transferred to Education New Zealand, and work together representing New Zealand's education sector in Korea. Yun-ju is responsible for marketing and promotions, and Onnuri responsible for government and institutional liaison.

ENZ creates strategies and programmes alongside education providers, government agencies, and governments overseas that increase and broaden our international education activities – from onshore and offshore delivery of our education programmes to the promotion of our education knowledge, products and consultancy skills.

OUTGOING NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE ATTACHÉ RECEIVES KVA MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

On 12 July the outgoing New Zealand Defence Attaché, Colonel Harry Cockburn was presented

with the Korean Veteran's Association Meritorious Service Medal by the Chairman of the Korean Veteran's Association (KVA), General (retired) Park Se-Hwan. In a small ceremony Gen Park presented the medal on behalf of all members of the KVA, in grateful recognition of Col Cockburn's outstanding contribution in supporting the association and promoting mutual relations between the two countries. Col Cockburn for his part was humbled by the presentation, noting that supporting the Korean War Veterans' Revisit Programme was one of the most rewarding aspects of his appointment as Defence Attaché. He was constantly moved and humbled by the generosity and friendship extended to the New Zealand veterans by not only the KVA but all Koreans. Gen Park stressed the importance Korea places on both honouring and remembering those who fought in the defence and foundation of their country. Col Cockburn is only the second Defence Attaché to have received such an award.

The period of Col Cockburn's tour as Defence Attaché has been particularly busy with several commemoration visits, including the 60th Anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War, the landing at Incheon, and the Battle of Kapyong in April this year. Further, he has assisted the visits of 'Grandchildren of Veterans', another 'friendship programme' supported by the Government of the Republic of Korea.



The outgoing New Zealand Defence Attaché, Colonel Harry Cockburn (right) was presented the Korean Veteran's Association Meritorious Service Medal by the Chairman of the Korean Veteran's Association (KVA), General (retired) Park Se-Hwan.

NEW ZEALAND WOOD INDUSTRY PROFILE RAISED AT INTERNATIONAL FOREST SYMPOSIUM



New Zealand participated in the International Symposium on Timber Industry and Forest Products Trade in Asia-Pacific organised by the Korea Forest Research Institute.

Ravindran Nagasamy, a New Zealand Trade and Enterprise Wood Building and Interiors sector manager, presented on “Trends and Innovation in Sustainable New Zealand Wood Trade” at the International Symposium on Timber Industry and Forest Products Trade in Asia-Pacific on 19 July in Seoul. Invited by the Korea Forest Research Institute, Ravi not only briefed about New Zealand’s forest industry and international trade but also highlighted New Zealand’s efforts to produce more innovative and value added forest products meeting increasing demand for sustainable wood products.

SEOUL FOREIGN SCHOOL STUDENTS DONATE FOR CHRISTCHURCH EARTHQUAKE APPEAL



Fundraising organisers, Eins Lee, Sangyeon Chae and Michael Ho with Ambassador Richard Mann.

A group of students from Seoul Foreign School with strong connections to New Zealand decided to use

their school's international fair to raise funds to help the city of Christchurch recover from February's devastating earthquake. They organised a stall with some typical New Zealand kai (meat pies), Maori games, and t-shirts they had designed themselves. The stall was a big success, raising around one million won for the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal.

AMBASSADOR RICHARD MANN TALKS ABOUT NEW ZEALAND HISTORY AND CULTURE TO KOREAN CHILDREN

“Do you know why it is called New Zealand?” “Kiwi could mean three different things in New Zealand – the fruit, the bird and New Zealand people.” Ambassador Richard Mann had opportunities to meet two different groups of Korean children and talk about New Zealand’s history and culture. On 6 July, he became a storyteller about New Zealand for children from low-income families at a child care centre in Jongno-gu in downtown Seoul supported by Jongno Ward Office. Launched in March, the Ward Office has been running a programme involving foreign Ambassadors and diplomats who wish to talk about their countries to children. Ambassador Mann’s presentation was arranged as a part of the programme.



Ambassador Richard Mann became a storyteller about New Zealand for children at a child care centre supported by Jongno Ward Office.

On 3 August, a group of children from Seowonju Elementary School in Wonju, Gangwon Province, 150 kilometres southeast of Seoul, visited the New Zealand Embassy to learn about the country from the Ambassador. Starting with a brief introduction on the duties of his position and the role of the Embassy, Ambassador Mann extended his talk to New Zealand’s history, environment, culture, sports and other interesting aspects for the school children. Following his presentation, the children drew pictures of images of New Zealand they liked.

The visit was conducted as a summer school break activity to experience an English-only environment.



A student explaining her picture of kiwi to Ambassador Mann.



Ambassador Mann putting an Embassy stamp on the picture of a student.



At the end of the trip to the Embassy, the children posed for a group photo with Ambassador Mann holding up their own pictures.

MICHELLE MANN'S COOKING DEMONSTRATION WITH NEW ZEALAND BEEF CHARMS KOREAN BLOGGERS

About 10 Korean bloggers were busy taking photos and learning how to make two New Zealand beef dishes, prosciutto-wrapped beef fillet and beef fillet salad at a cooking demonstration presented by Michelle Mann in the kitchen of the temporary New Zealand Residence on 29 September. The demonstration was in association with beef + lamb New Zealand.



Michelle Mann (centre) wrapping a New Zealand beef fillet with prosciutto at the cooking demonstration.

Michelle explained how to cook grass-fed New Zealand beef fillet properly to the “power” bloggers who were selected by beef + lamb New Zealand. Michelle emphasised that at the end of the roasting time the beef fillet should be covered in foil and rested for 10-15 minutes to ensure that the meat is tender. While the beef fillet was being roasted in the oven, Michelle demonstrated how to make a beef fillet salad with vegetables such as spinach, baby rocket, fresh cherry tomatoes and semi-dried tomatoes.

Following the cooking demonstration the bloggers were served a lunch consisting of the beef fillet salad and the prosciutto beef tenderloin served with kumara and potato gratin, green beans followed by fruit salad. During the lunch the bloggers asked Michelle and John Hundleby, Korea Market Manager for beef + lamb New Zealand about the differences between grass-fed New Zealand beef compared to Korean and other imported beef.

Michelle's cooking demonstration and the lunch provided a very good opportunity for the bloggers

to learn about New Zealand beef and they have subsequently posted the details on their blogsites.



Beef fillet salad was served as entrée.



The bloggers enjoyed New Zealand beef dishes at the lunch.

RELEASE OF HITE BEER MADE OF NEW ZEALAND HOPS

In July Hite, a major Korean beer brand, launched “Max Special Hop 2011” beer, using “Rakau” hops from New Zealand – 355ml can and 1600ml PET bottle. They said the hop variety was very rare, accounting for only 0.001% of world total hop production, and was from a clean and unpolluted valley in New Zealand, and had unique fruit flavours. It was their third special limited edition product. Hite is supplying the Max Special Hop 2011 draft beer to four bars of Lotte Hotel, W Hotel and Grand Hyatt Hotel in Seoul and Outback Steakhouse restaurants. Outback is one of the largest family restaurant chains in Korea, running around 100 stores. Hite has imported other specialty hop varieties from New Zealand Hops Limited.

KOREAN TV COMMERCIAL AND DRAMA PRODUCERS LOVE NEW ZEALAND LOCATIONS

New Zealand has long been a favourite destination for Korean producers to film movies, dramas and TV commercials. This year we continue to see New Zealand nature, especially, in many Korean TV commercials. Earlier this year, FILA and Merrell filmed their TV commercials in New Zealand with Korean singer Hyo-Ree Lee and actor Kosu, respectively. During the Korean summer, many Korean outdoor gear companies such as Kolon, Northface Korea and K2 shot TV commercials in New Zealand starring Korean celebrities including Seung-Ki Lee, Big Bang and Won-bin. Also High Kick Season 3, a popular Korean sitcom series, filmed some scenes of the first episode in New Zealand and the scenes is currently airing on MBC TV, a major national TV network.

NEW ZEALAND TV PRODUCER RECEIVES SPECIAL PRIZE AT SEOUL INTERNATIONAL DRAMA AWARDS 2011



Stephen Campbell, a New Zealand TV producer, received a special prize at Seoul International Drama Awards on 31 August.



Korean actress Kim Mi-sook (right) announcing *Amazing Extraordinary Friends* series nomination for a special prize.

Stephen Campbell, a New Zealand TV producer received a special prize for the TV series *Amazing Extraordinary Friends* at the sixth Seoul

International Drama Awards held at KBS Hall in Seoul on 31 August. Greenstone Pictures' children's series *Amazing Extraordinary Friends* begins when teenager Ben Wilson finds a mysterious emblem at the bottom of a river. The emblem transforms him into super hero Captain Extraordinary and that is when his trouble begins. A total of 204 dramas from 37 countries were submitted to this year's drama awards and 39 of them made it to the finals. Stephen was one of the two special prize winners, and the award ceremony was aired live on SBS TV.

KOREAN FILMMAKER'S DOCUMENTARY *MOVING* EXPLORES IMPACT OF CHRISTCHURCH EARTHQUAKE

Korean film director Park Kiyong, former Executive Director of the Korea Academy of Film Arts and a visiting research fellow at University of Auckland, produced an 88-minute-feature documentary called *Moving*, in association with New Zealand lawyer and businessman Michael Stephens. It explores the impact of 22 February's earthquake in Christchurch on the city and its people through on the experiences of one Korean migrant couple. In the documentary, Korean couple Jung Jin-sung and Lee Kyung-mee, who immigrated to Christchurch in 2002 with their two sons, talk frankly of their struggle to establish themselves, and their success with two busy restaurants in the central district area. When the earthquake hit, they had a lot to lose. In the director's note, Director Park wrote, "...I was there to dig up a heavy and dark immigration story. But as I explored the city, ironically, I was completely smitten by the charm of the city: the so called Garden City of the South Island. Even though scarred with damages from the previous earthquake, occurred three months ago, she still looked charming with grace...." The documentary was screened at the 2011 New Zealand International Film Festival and has been selected for the 30th Vancouver International Film Festival.

POLITICAL

FIVE NEW MINISTERS APPOINTED, 19 SEPTEMBER

On 19 September President Lee Myung-bak appointed the following five new Ministers. The Cabinet reshuffle came as some Ministers had been gearing up for bids to run in the National Assembly elections in April next year.

Minister of Unification, Yu Woo-ik

Appointing the former Ambassador to China and former Presidential Chief of Staff signalled a shift in President Lee Myung-bak's hard-line North Korea policy. Minister Yu is expected to play a key role in normalising the South's relations with the communist North.

Minister of Health and Welfare, Rim Che-min

The Minister of the Prime Minister's Office was appointed as the Minister of Health and Welfare. Minister Rim's predecessor Chin Soo-hee will run in the parliamentary elections next year.

Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Choe Kwang-sik

The head of the Cultural Heritage Administration was appointed as the new Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism. Minister Choe has also previously headed the National Museum of Korea. Former Minister Chung Byoung-gug is expected to run for another term as legislator next year.

Minister of Gender Equality and Family, Kim Kum-lae

Former legislator Kim Kum-lae was appointed as the new Minister of Gender Equality and Family. She served as a women's rights activist in a conservative NGO for 10 years before joining Lee Myung-bak's presidential election camp in 2007.

Minister of the Prime Minister's Office, Lim Jong-ryong

First Vice Minister of Finance, Lim Jong-ryong was appointed as the new Minister of the Prime Minister's Office.

SOUTH KOREA-CHINA DEFENCE MINISTERS MEETING AND FIRST STRATEGIC MILITARY TALKS

On 15 July South Korean Defence Minister Kim Kwan-jin and his Chinese counterpart Liang Guanglie met in Beijing and agreed to strengthen military cooperation between the two countries. In a joint statement issued following the talks, they said "The two sides have agreed to officially launch the

annual Korea-China Strategic Dialogue to promote mutual understanding and bolster bilateral trust." The two Ministers pledged to make joint efforts to secure regional peace and stability, especially on the Korean Peninsula, but did not mention North Korea and the two attacks it carried out against the South last year, killing 50 people. The two sides also agreed to revive their military education exchange programme, which had been suspended since 2005, from next year. South Korea and China will also collaborate in international peace keeping operations, crackdowns on pirates and coping with non-military threats such as earthquakes and other natural disasters. The joint press statement was the first of its kind since Seoul and Beijing established diplomatic relations in 1992.



South Korean Defence Minister, Kim Kwan-jin (left) and his Chinese counterpart, Liang Guanglie.



Following the Ministerial talks, the first South Korea-China Strategic Defence Dialogue was held in Seoul on 27 July.

Following the Ministerial talks, the first South Korea-China Strategic Defence Dialogue was held on 27 July at the South Korean Defence Ministry in Seoul. Led by Lee Yong-gul, the South's Vice Defence Minister and Gen. Ma Xiaotian, Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Chinese Army, the two countries exchanged views on North Korea and regional security, and discussed management details for the annual talks.

KOREA, INDIA SIGN NUCLEAR ENERGY PACT, 25 JULY

On 25 July Korea and India signed a nuclear energy cooperation pact at a summit between Korean President Lee Myung-bak and Indian President Pratibha Patil held in Seoul, paving the way for Korea to export atomic power plants to the fast-developing nation. The two countries began to discuss the pact on nuclear energy cooperation in June last year when Indian External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna visited Seoul. According to media reports, India currently has 20 power-generating reactors in operation, six under construction, and plans to build about 40 more by 2032. Korea has been stepping up efforts to export nuclear power plants since late 2009 when local firms won a US\$18.6 billion project to build four atomic power plants in the United Arab Emirates over rivals such as the US, France and Japan. During the summit, the two leaders also agreed to strengthen cooperation and exchanges in the areas of economy and trade, security and defence industry.



Korea and India signed a nuclear energy cooperation pact on 25 July.

GOVERNING PARTY'S NEW CHAIRMAN ELECTED, 4 JULY

Rep Hong Joon-pyo, a four-term lawmaker and former prosecutor, won the chairmanship of the governing Grand National Party (GNP) at the party's national convention on 14 July. Chairman Hong now has the task of revamping the party at a politically crucial time before next year's legislative and presidential elections. In his acceptance speech, Rep Hong said, "I see my victory as the Grand Nationals' wish to unite the party and win next year's legislative and presidential elections. The GNP must be reborn as the true conservative party." Reps Yoo Seong-min, Na Kyung-won, Won Hee-ryong and Nam Kyung-pil were also elected members of the GNP Supreme Council, the party's highest decision-making body. The new leadership will be responsible for politically significant roles

overseeing the nominations for the 2012 legislative elections (April) and presidential election (December).



Rep Hong Joon-pyo (third photo from left) was elected the Chairman of the GNP at its national convention on 14 July.

SEOUL MAYOR RESIGNS OVER FREE SCHOOL LUNCH VOTE

Mayor Oh Se-hoon of Seoul resigned on 26 August after the failure of his campaign to end free lunches for all 810,000 primary and middle school students. Seoul held a referendum two days earlier and low voter turnout invalidated it, leaving in place the City Council's programme of providing the lunches for free, regardless of family income. During his campaign against universal free lunches, Mayor Oh called for more restrained welfare spending. His successor will be chosen in a by-election scheduled for 26 October, which is regarded as a litmus test for public sentiment ahead of next year's general and presidential elections. Mayor Oh had been elected to a second four-year term in June 2010.

ECONOMIC

KOREA-EU AND KOREA-PERU FTAS TAKE EFFECT



The Korea-EU FTA took effect on 1 July, about eight months after the two sides officially signed the agreement. The day marked provisional ratification of the deal, meaning that 99% of the agreement went into effect immediately. It will take effect fully in two years if each member of the EU has ratified it by then. The deal will remove tariffs on various products step by step, with the EU scheduled to get rid of customs duties on all industrial products in five years. According to the Korean Government, 99% of Korean-made industrial products exported to the EU will see tariffs removed in three years while Korea will eliminate customs duties on 96% of European goods over the same period. Korea's automobile industry will see some of the biggest benefits from the deal, as the 8% tariff imposed on Korean-made vehicles will be wiped out over five years, while the same will happen for the 10% tariff imposed on vehicles made in EU nations that are imported to Korea. On the other hand, Korea's agricultural and cosmetics industries are expected to struggle to compete with European products.

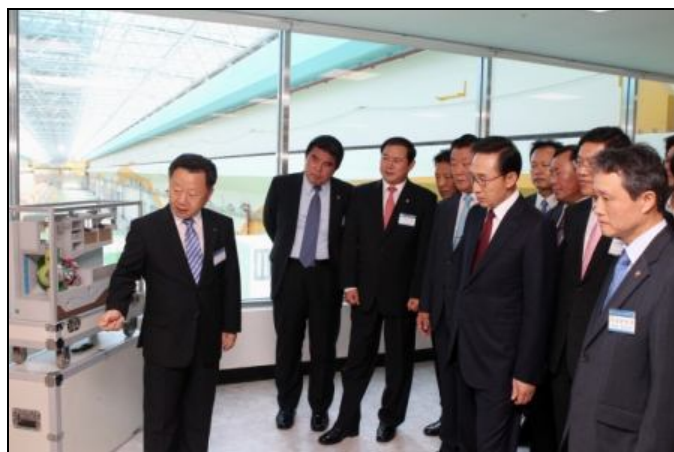


The Korea-Peru FTA went into effect on 1 August. Peru is the second Latin American country after Chile to implement an FTA with Korea. Signed in March, the pact is expected to benefit Korea, as Peru's average tariffs, at 11%, were relatively high. Korea's automobiles, electronics and pharmaceutical exports are expected to benefit the most. All tariffs will be eliminated within a decade. Korea will immediately eliminate tariffs on over 86% of all items in the agreement, including major minerals, coffee, sugar and bicycles, while Peru will do it for over 68% of the total amount of products agreed upon, including TVs, automobile parts and large vehicles. Rice, which was a sensitive issue on the Korean side, was not included in the pact.

KOREAN ECONOMY GROWS 0.9% IN Q2

The Korean economy grew 0.9% quarter-on-quarter in April-June. The second quarter growth in GNP was down from a 1.3% rise in the first quarter. Compared with a year earlier, the economy expanded 3.4%. The on-year growth rate also decelerated from the first quarter, when the economy grew 4.2% from a year earlier. The country's economy is slowing as inflation remains elevated. Recent Government data showed that the country's trade surplus shrank sharply to US\$821 million in August from US\$6.32 billion in the previous month on a slowdown in global demand, while consumer inflation soared to a three-year high, up 5.3% on-year in August, mainly due to rising fuel and food prices and rents. The Bank of Korea said that it expects construction investment to remain strong in the second half, and it is maintaining its forecast that the economy will grow at a rate of 1.5% in the third quarter and 1.5% in the fourth quarter. However, analysts expect growth to slow further to 0.6-0.8% in the third quarter from the second. On 11 August, the central bank kept its key interest rate unchanged at 3.25% for the second straight month.

KOREA OPENS MAJOR TIDAL POWER PLANT



President Lee Myung-bak (second from right in front row) receiving a briefing about the tidal power generation system at the power plant.

Korea has inaugurated what it says is the world's largest tidal power plant at Sihwa Lake reservoir on the west coast, about 60 km southwest of Seoul, to meet the electricity demand for almost half a million people. The Ministry of Knowledge Economy said that the facilities were built seven years after ground was broken in late 2004. The 254,000-kilowatt plant, expected to be fully completed in December, began partial operation in August, powered by six of its 10 generators. France's

240,000-kilowatt Rance Tidal Power Station is currently known as the world's largest. At the opening ceremony of the power plant on 29 August, President Lee Myung-bak said that the new plant would reduce Korea's carbon emissions by 320,000 tons. One of the world's top energy importers, Korea ranks fifth for oil and second for liquefied natural gas. Imported coal currently accounts for 43% of all fuels used in power generation in Korea, and the country currently depends on thermal and nuclear power to meet the majority of its electricity demands.

KOREA RANKS SIXTH IN WORLD AIR TRAFFIC IN 2010

According to the data recently released by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), Korea ranked sixth in the world air traffic in 2010 (international and domestic combined), following the US, China, Germany, the UAE and the UK. The country took the thirteenth and third places for passenger and cargo transport respectively, and topped Japan, France and Singapore. In particular, Korea posted a more positive record on international air traffic, ranking ninth and second in passenger and cargo traffic respectively.

EMBASSY NEWS

STAFF MOVES

In July we said goodbye to two Embassy staff and their families – Defence Attaché, Colonel Harry Cockburn and his wife, Robyn, and Second Secretary (Trade), Michael O’Shaughnessy, wife, Eunmi Kim, and children, Oscar and Hera.



Colonel Harry Cockburn

Harry was a popular member of the Defence Corps here in Seoul, including for a period as Dean of the Corps. His tour of duty encompassed the first General Officer talks in five years with North Korean representatives, the sinking of the Cheonan, and the firing on Yeonpyong Island, so it was both a challenging and interesting time for him to be here. Harry has now retired from the Army, and he and Robyn have returned to New Zealand where they will face new challenges and live their dream of a sustainable lifestyle at their recently purchased property in the far North.



Michael O’Shaughnessy

Michael completed two years of language training in Seoul before joining the Embassy and focusing on trade access and G20-related issues. Though trade access is a never-ending challenge, Michael was effective in ensuring that issues that arose were resolved promptly and with least impact on New Zealand businesses. And he never lost his sense of humour. Michael and family have returned

to New Zealand. He did give up a few days of his leave to renew his links to Korea, looking after the Korean delegation visiting New Zealand for the Pacific Islands Forum.

Though we miss both Harry and Michael and their families, we have been pleased to welcome Colonel Jeremy Ramsden, his wife Amanda Valentine and their children, Henry and Jacqueline Valentine-Ramsden, and Jo McLeod and her husband Nick Dunn in their stead.



Colonel Jeremy Ramsden

Jeremy has served in the Army for almost 30 years. He has twice served in the Middle East on peace support operations, was deployed to Bosnia, has been Defence Adviser to Fiji, Tonga and Samoa, and Assistant Defence Attaché in Afghanistan, and he also served a term as Aide de Camp to the Governor General of New Zealand.



Jo McLeod

Jo actually arrived in Korea two years ago for Korean language training. She studied hard and did very well in her exams and is now immersed in trade access issues. Fortunately she already knew something about these as before coming to Korea she was the desk officer in Wellington for Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao. Prior to joining the Ministry she was a lawyer with Chapman Tripp in Wellington.

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