

Korea UPDATE

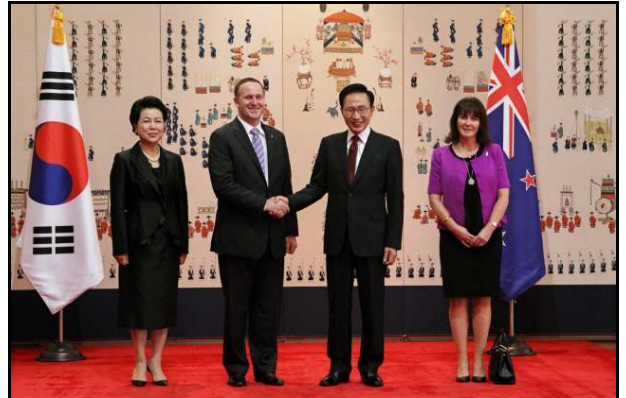
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NEW ZEALAND

PRIME MINISTER

JOHN KEY VISITS

SEOUL, 4-7 JULY



Prime Minister John Key shaking hands with President Lee Myung-bak together with First Lady Kim Yoon-ok and Mrs Bronagh Key.



Prime Minister Key and President Lee walking to the Summit meeting room.



President Lee presented a thank you plaque to Prime Minister Key for New Zealand's participation in the Korean War.



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NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER JOHN KEY VISITS SEOUL, 4-7 JULY

Prime Minister Key visited Seoul for the first time from 4-7 July 2010. He received a red-carpet welcome by the Korean Chief of Protocol, Ambassador Mann, Mrs Mann, Defence Attaché Colonel Cockburn and Korean Ambassador to New Zealand Roh Kwang-il. The Prime Minister was accompanied by his wife, Mrs Bronagh Key, and children Stephanie and Max. A delegation of New Zealand officials including Melissa Lee MP and media contingent also travelled with him.



Prime Minister Key received a red-carpet welcome upon arriving in Seoul on 4 July.

DMZ VISIT AND WELCOME RECEPTION

Following his arrival the Prime Minister received a briefing on the security situation on the Korean Peninsula by Commander of the United Nations Command (UNC), General Walter Sharp.



Prime Minister Key with Ambassador Mann and UNC Colonel Kurt Taylor at Panmunjom inside the DMZ. Two North Korean soldiers appeared in the background.

Prime Minister Key and his delegation then travelled together out to the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) separating the two Koreas to get a first hand sense of Korea's security challenges. It was a beautiful day and there was good visibility across the border into the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) as well as across the lush vegetation and rice fields on the South Korean side. White herons were visible in the area which is renowned as a habitat for rare Korean species of animal and plant life.



Prime Minister Key met the New Zealand military personnel stationed in South Korea at the DMZ.



Prime Minister Key interviewing with New Zealand media at Panmunjom.

In the evening Ambassador Mann hosted a reception at the Grand Hyatt Hotel for the New Zealand business community and senior Korean bilateral contacts covering political, the DPRK, defence, tourism, education, science, culture and economic areas. A highlight of the evening was a musical performance by the New Zealand Youth Choir, on tour in Korea. Sarah Malone, a member of the New Zealand Embassy community, sang the Korean national anthem at the reception. The weather held up even though heavy rain clouds were circling on the night.



The New Zealand Youth Choir captivated the guests in the evening.



The Prime Minister and Melissa Lee MP with Korean lawmakers Reps Won Hee-ryong and Cho Yoon-sun at the reception.

FOCUS ON POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP WITH KOREA

The second day of Mr Key's visit focused on the political relationship with South Korea.

In the morning the Prime Minister gave informal remarks at a gathering of around 90 members of the New Zealand business and residence community in Korea, hosted by the New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (also known as the Kiwi Chamber). He touched on themes such as New Zealand's economy, the 2011 Rugby World Cup and relations between New Zealand and Korea.



Prime Minister Key addressing the Kiwi Chamber.



The Prime Minister with Kiwi Chamber board members.

Prime Minister Key went on to lay a wreath together with Mrs Key in front of the New Zealand Roll of Honour at the War Memorial in Yongsan. Mr Key and Korean Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, Kim Yang, delivered speeches in a ceremony to commemorate the Korean War and sacrifices made during that war by New Zealanders some 60 years earlier. The ceremony was more moving for the presence of a group of young New Zealanders who were visiting Korea at the invitation of the Korean Government as descendants of Korean War veterans. Representatives of the group laid a wreath and one read a poem written by a New Zealand veteran returning to Korea.



Prime Minister Key and Mrs Key laid a wreath in front of the New Zealand Roll of Honour at the War Memorial.



Prime Minister Key met a group of young New Zealand descendants of Korean War veterans.

The Prime Minister had a bilateral meeting with Korean Prime Minister Chung Un-chan. They discussed the bilateral Free Trade Agreement negotiations, inter-Korean relations and climate change.

SUMMIT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT LEE MYUNG-BAK



The Summit meeting focused on the bilateral FTA.



2012 has been designated as Korea-New Zealand Year of Friendship at the Summit meeting.

On the afternoon of 5 July the Prime Minister met with President Lee Myung-bak at the presidential palace Cheongwadae (the Blue House). Their Summit meeting lasted one and a half hours, and focused on the need to advance the bilateral FTA. At the same time, Mrs Key met with First Lady Kim Yoon-ok in a separate meeting.

In the evening President Lee hosted Mr and Mrs Key to a formal dinner at the traditional *hanok*-styled room Sang Chun Jae in the garden at Cheongwadae.

FOCUS ON BUSINESS AND PARLIAMENTARY LINKS

On Tuesday 6 July, the Prime Minister's programme focused on business and parliamentary links.

Mr Key met with G20 Summit Organising Committee and Korea International Trade Association Chairman Sakong Il and gave an opening address at the 2nd Korea-New Zealand Business Roundtable meeting. The Roundtable was organised by the NZ International Business Forum and the Korean International Trade Association, and involved around 100 senior business leaders from both countries.



Prime Minister Key gave an opening address at the Korea-New Zealand Business Roundtable meeting.

The Embassy hosted a lunch for former Prime Minister's Fellows to New Zealand at the National Assembly, with Prime Minister Key as the guest of honour. Representatives Won Hee-ryong, Park Jin and Kim Se-yeon reflected warmly on their experiences in New Zealand.



The Prime Minister with former Prime Minister's Fellows to New Zealand at the Korean National Assembly.

Prime Minister Key met newly elected Speaker of the National Assembly, Rep. Park Hee-tae. The two discussed parliamentary and people-links

between Korea and New Zealand and discussed progress on the FTA.

In the afternoon the Prime Minister met with the Te Papa Club, a group of senior Korean travel and tourism CEOs who promote New Zealand in the domestic market. This meeting gave Mr Key, who is also the Minister of Tourism, a chance to update the CEOs on efforts underway in New Zealand to enhance tourists' experiences in New Zealand.



The Prime Minister updated the Te Papa Club members on efforts to enhance tourist experiences in New Zealand.

Prime Minister Key discussed ways to secure the early signing of the FTA in his meeting with Minister of Strategy and Finance, Yoon Jeung-hyun. The two also discussed economic growth policies and the G20, as Korea looks forward to hosting the next G20 Leaders' Summit in November.

The Prime Minister delivered closing remarks at the 26th Joint Annual Korea-New Zealand Business Council (KNZBC) meeting where he again highlighted the importance of securing a high quality comprehensive FTA with Korea. He reflected warmly on his time in Korea and he expressed optimism for further collaboration with Korea across a wide range of sectors. The Prime Minister presented KNZBC export awards to Sanfords Fisheries and Hyundai Motors.



The Prime Minister delivered closing remarks at the KNZBC meeting.

Wrapping up his visit the Prime Minister attended a small dinner with select influential Korean businessmen with trade and investment links to New Zealand.

The Prime Minister and his delegation left Korea on the morning of 7 July on board the Royal New Zealand Air Force aircraft continuing on to Beijing, Shanghai and Hanoi before returning home to New Zealand.

Chancery Move

From 2 August the Embassy will be relocated on new premises immediately behind the Canadian Embassy in Jeong-dong, Seoul.

The new address is:

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Telephone, fax numbers and email addresses will remain unchanged.