

Korea-Oceania Next Generation Policy Experts Network

Seoul Study Tour

24-30 July 2016



Jointly organised by
Australian Institute of International Affairs and the
Korea Foundation

Outcomes Report

This report summarises the main outcomes of the Korea-Oceania Next Generation Policy Experts Network Study Tour held in Seoul during the 24th to 30th July 2016. The event was jointly organised by the Korea Foundation and the Australian Institute of International Affairs.

The study tour brought together Australian academics and young professionals with demonstrated interest and expertise in international affairs. The objective of the study tour was to provide participants with opportunities to deepen their understanding of and encourage policy-oriented research on the East Asian region over a series of dialogues and networking events. The dialogues covered topics such as Korea's defence policy, unification in the Korean peninsula, North Korean defectors and inter-Korea relationships.

Highlights of the study tour included:

- Twelve participants (upon invitation) including academic and political analysts, university professors and other academics.
- Networking with significant groups including two former ambassadors, leading policy makers, academics and international journalists based in Korea.
- Active participation and engagement with senior policy experts at the Korea Foundation Next Generation Policy Experts Alumni Dialogue.
- A roundtable discussion with the Australian Ambassador to the Republic of Korea at the Australian Embassy in Seoul.
- Discussion of engaging topics including Korea's foreign policy, the integration of North Korean refugees and North-South unification on the Korean Peninsula.
- A positive atmosphere for networking and relationship-building between Korean and Australian participants.

Format

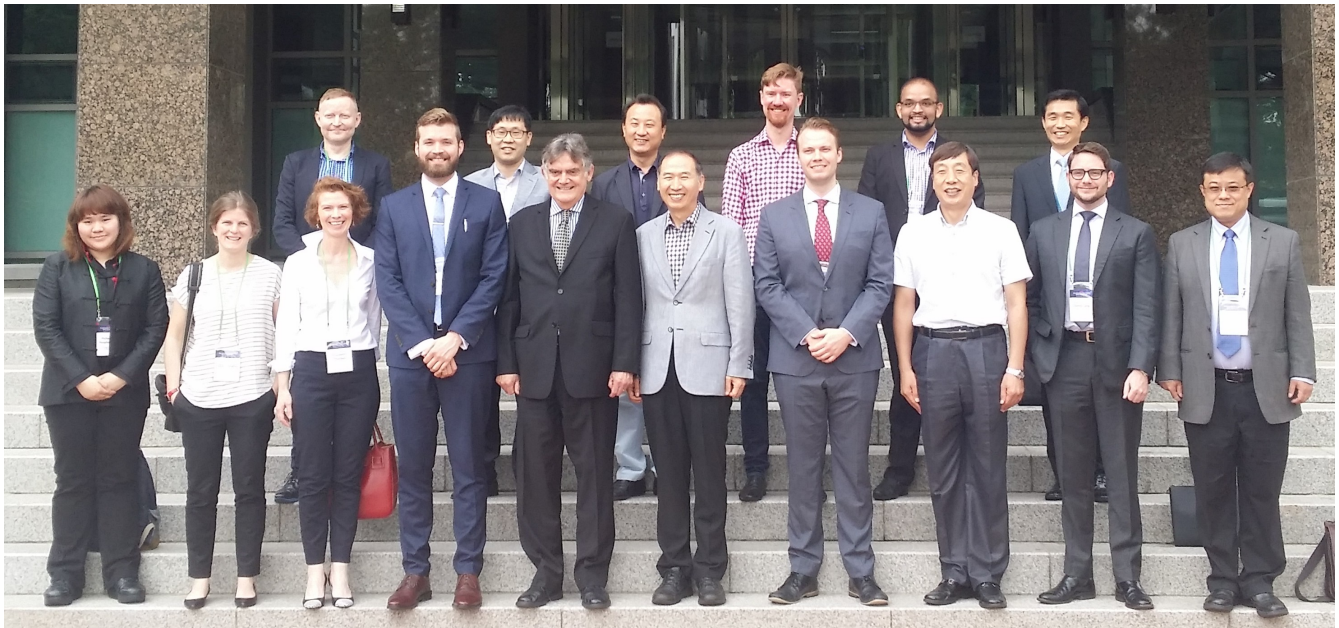
The study tour was held across one week between the 24th and 30th July, including participants' arrival to and departure from Seoul. It included seven dialogues and four networking events with senior representatives from Korea's government and civil society. The tour also consisted of meetings with foreign policy journalists and a full-day dialogue on Korean politics with over 40 alumni representatives from the Korea Foundation's Next Generation Policy Experts Network across the US and Europe.

- **Sunday 24th July**

The Korea Foundation kindly hosted a welcoming dinner and orientation for all participants.

- **Monday 25th July**

The first session opened with a dialogue hosted by the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses (KIDA) on Korea's defence policy and missile defence systems. There were two networking events following the dialogue. The first was with the former Korean Ambassador to Australia, Woo Sang Kim, who discussed Korea's middle power diplomacy and Korea-Australia relations. Next, the participants joined in a networking event with Professor Heejin Lee and Professor Jeffrey Robertson from Yonsei University.



Australian delegates visit the Korean Institute for Defense Analyses (KIDA)

- **Tuesday 26th July**

Participants were invited to attend the Korea Foundation Next Generation Policy Experts Alumni Dialogue. Ambassador Sihyung Lee, President of the Korea Foundation, spoke his welcoming remarks to the event. Senior policy experts then provided presentations and in-depth panel discussions on topics such as North Korean denuclearisation and the regional architecture of the Korean Peninsula. Member of the Australian delegation, Assistant Professor Kai He from Griffith University, also participated as a panellist for the discussion. The dialogue was followed by working group sessions for participants to share their research interests as well as their future insights on the East Asian region, with one senior expert assigned as a moderator for each group.



Panelists at the KF Next Generation Policy Experts Alumni Dialogue

- **Wednesday 27th July**

The first dialogue was conducted by the Presidential Committee for Unification Preparation and Dr Chong-wook Chung, Vice Chairman of the Presidential Committee, examined Korea's unification process. Participants then visited the Korea Hana Foundation where they engaged in a dialogue about North Korean defectors and their integration into the ROK. The delegation was invited to participate in a roundtable discussion at the Australian Embassy with the Australian ambassador to the Republic of Korea, Bill Paterson PSM. Finally, participants attended a networking dinner joined by participants of the Australian Young Political Leaders Visit Korea program – Nikki Boyd, Martin Greenwood, Imogen Beynon, Mitch Redford, Nathan Hersey and Zoe Darling.

- **Thursday 28th July**

Dialogues for the day were held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Dr Beomchul Shin from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented a dialogue on major foreign policy issues related to the Korea-US alliance and the relationship between North and South Korea. Participants then joined a networking luncheon with prominent international journalists based in Korea – Chad O’Carroll, Director and Managing Editor of NK News and Alastair Gale, Bureau Chief Korea of the Wall Street Journal – who provided valuable perspectives on Korean issues. The event was followed by a dialogue presented by Senior Researcher Jae Hyon Lee from the Asan Institute of Policy Studies, who discussed the ASEAN-Oceania Research Program. The final dialogue for the study tour focused on Korean unification policy and initiatives with Mr Du Haeng Lee, Senior Policy Cooperation Officer from the Ministry of Unification.

- **Friday 29th July – Saturday 30th July**

At conclusion of the week’s proceedings, participants were given the opportunity to partake in significant historical and cultural activities including a tour of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), Unification Bridge, the War Memorial of Korea and Myeong-dong. Participants also departed from Korea over this period.



Visit at the Korea Hana Foundation to learn about DPRK refugee integration

Feedback

The study tour received very positive feedback. Participants expressed that they had developed a strong interest in Korean culture, politics and international relations through their participation in the program. Overall, the study tour was seen to have enhanced participants' understanding and interest of both Korea and the East Asian region. A number of positive responses were noted:

- *“It is fantastic to have spent the week with such an interesting and collegial group of people – just lovely to have had the chance to get to know everyone and their interests a little more deeply – and I do look forward to staying closely connected on all things Korea!”*
- *“It was an honour and a pleasure to participate. I hope this is the first of many such occasions! Kamsahamnida.”*
- *“Was great to meet you and spend a week in that amazing city, learnt so much from you all.”*

Acknowledgements

The Australian Institute of International Affairs would like to thank all participants in the study tour, particularly the Korean Ambassador, Korea Foundation President and delegation, Consul-General, moderators, presenters and discussants.

The Korea-Oceania Next Generation Policy Experts Network Study Tour was made possible through the generous support of the Korea Foundation.

Australian Delegation

Mr Geoffrey Ewing, President of AIIA Queensland

Mr Rory MacNeil, National Office Operations Manager, AIIA

Associate Professor Kai He, Research Fellow, Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University

Dr Elizabeth Thurbon, Senior Lecturer, School of Social Sciences, University of New South Wales

Dr Pichamon Yeophantong, Assistant Professor, University of New South Wales

Dr Benjamin Habib, Lecturer, La Trobe University

Mr Sean Jesudason, Pathways Partnership Coordinator, Deakin University

Mr David Lang, Analyst and Managing Editor, Australian Strategic Policy Institute

Mr Alexander Willox, Policy Officer, Migration Council Australia

Dr Christopher Richardson, PhD graduate, University of Sydney

Dr Czeslaw Tubilewicz, Senior Lecturer, University of Adelaide

Ms Ciara O'Loughlin, Trainee Lawyer, AIIA WA Young Professionals Network