



**Submission No 55**

**Inquiry into Australia's Relations with the Republic of Korea; and  
Developments on the Korean Peninsula**

**Organisation: Austrade**

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Dear Mr Crawford

I write to thank you for your email of 25 October 2005 to Hamish McCormick, Executive Director, Government and Corporate Services, Austrade, seeking information regarding any possible contact by Austrade with the Overseas Korean Traders Association. I have been asked to reply on Mr McCormick's behalf.

Austrade does not have a formal association with the Overseas Korean Traders Association (OKTA).

Whilst Austrade is familiar with a number of Korean Chamber of Commerce groups based in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth, that are focussed on export, we are unaware of the actual charter of this Association and the extent of their focus on exporting from Australia to Korea.

The Association has not featured prominently in Australia-Korea bilateral circles to date and Austrade is not aware of any links the Association has with other bilateral groups such as the Australia-Korea Business Council.

Austrade's Seoul based Senior Trade Commissioner did however meet with several OKTA members at an Austrade seminar for Korean-Australian business people in Sydney in August 2003. This seminar was part of a seminar series Austrade conducted at that time in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne. The impression gained at that stage was that the Association was import rather than export focused.

Yours sincerely

Roger Bagley  
Manager  
Ministerial and Parliamentary Unit