



The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

**Report of the Parliamentary Delegation to the
Republic of Korea and Japan**

11 to 21 April 2018

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Members of the Delegation

Hon. Tony Smith MP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Leader of the Delegation (Japan)

Member for Casey, Victoria

Liberal Party of Australia

Ms Cate Clunies-Ross

Senior Adviser, Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives

Senator Sue Lines

Deputy President of the Senate

Leader of the Delegation (Republic of Korea) & Deputy Leader of the Delegation (Japan)

Senator for Western Australia

Australian Labor Party

Hon. Sharon Bird MP

Member for Cunningham, New South Wales

Australian Labor Party

Ms Michelle Landry MP

Member for Capricornia, Queensland

The Nationals

Ms Rebekah Sharkie MP

Member for Mayo, South Australia

Centre Alliance

(resigned on 21 May 2018)

Ms Stephanie Mikac

Delegation Secretary

Republic of Korea

Visit Purpose

The delegation's visit to the Republic of Korea (Korea) formed part of the official program of bilateral parliamentary visits in 2018. The Deputy President of the Senate, Senator Sue Lines led the delegation which consisted of three additional Members: the Honourable Sharon Bird MP, Ms Michelle Landry MP and Ms Rebekah Sharkie MP. The delegation visited Seoul, Jincheon and Sejong Cities and the Korean demilitarized zone (DMZ).

The purpose of the visit was to sustain and strengthen parliamentary and social ties, and discuss issues of mutual benefit and importance to Australia and Korea.

During its visit to Korea, the Delegation met with: Representatives of the Korean National Assembly, local government Representatives and officials, policy researchers and business representatives.

Matters discussed during the visit included: the challenges of doing business in Korea for Australians and in Australia for Koreans, similarities and differences in electoral systems and balancing electoral and parliamentary responsibilities, using technology to improve living standards, bilateral trade, security and defence issues.

The Delegation also received briefings on: new and emerging technologies, primary social research, the Australia-Korea bilateral relationship in regard to trade and defence, and saw first-hand Australian products and produce for sale in Korea supermarkets.

Bilateral Relationship

Since 1961 with the establishment of formal diplomatic relations, Australia

and Korea's now strong economic and political relationship has been enhanced by continuing growth in people-to-people links, trade and a shared strategic focus on regional stability and defence.

Australia and Korea's bilateral economic exchange is formally underpinned by the 2014 Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement (KAFTA). Australia's main exports to Korea are: minerals (coal, iron ores and concentrates), beef, sugar, energy and travel education, with Korea exporting to Australia: petroleum, ships, boats, passenger vehicles, and electrical goods and components.¹

In addition to the KAFTA, Australia and Korea's strong trade relationship is sustained through membership of the G20, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the East Asia Summit and the Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Australia (MIKTA) grouping.

Importantly Australia and Korea have common strategic interests and both are closely allied with the United States of America (USA). Combined efforts to strengthen regional security and stability have been ongoing since before the Korean War (1950-53), with a current strategic focus on denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.

Issues relating to Australia and Korea's bilateral relationship were prevalent in discussions held with various groups and individuals. In particular, in relation to: conducting business, trade, education services, security and defence, tourism and other avenues of exchange.

¹ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *Republic of Korea Country Brief, December 2017*.

Strengthening Parliamentary Links

During its visit to Korea, the Delegation met with a range of national representatives which included: the Republic of Korea-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group, the Chair of the Trade, Industry, Energy, Small to Medium Enterprises and Start-Ups Committee, the Vice Chair of the Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee, and female representatives of the Korean National Assembly, Representatives Ms Sun Mee Jin, Ms Choun Sook Jung, and Ms Seung Hee You.

Discussions centred on: the link between encouraging women to stand for parliament and increasing female representation in parliaments and legislatures, improving opportunities and participation for women elected to parliament, electorate representation and the challenges of changing electoral boundaries, the bilateral trade relationship, ongoing political stability on the Korean Peninsula, renewable energy and uses for new and emerging technologies.

Women in Parliament

The delegation to Korea was uniquely all female which spurred much interest in taking the opportunity to discuss female representation in parliaments and legislatures in corresponding countries. In particular, the value and rich diversity of views, experiences, and cultural perspectives that women bring to parliamentary representation was acknowledged.

The delegation was interested to learn about Korea's recent step forward in increasing and maintaining women in parliaments at all levels. Taking into consideration that women comprise just over 50 per cent of Korea's

population, Korea indicated that in addition to recently implemented strategies, it could do more to entice and retain women into representative roles.

At present Korea has 51 national female members of parliament, which is 18 per cent of the total number of national representatives. Korea currently has a 30 per cent female representation quota in place and certain mechanisms within the electoral system to support this quota such as specific candidacy rules.

In the latest OECD² findings, Korea was found to have the lowest proportion of female representatives, however, over time, this would likely change with Korean citizens now preferring to vote for female candidates.

In meetings with Korean representatives, there were a few issues of concern discussed on this matter. These were that while female representation is steadily increasing in Korea, there are not many women involved in negotiations or discussions on 'hard-hitting' political and economic issues, but that women tended to be over represented on social issues relating to health and education. As an issue of importance, Korean representatives indicated they were pleased that for the first time, female representatives were advising on women's issues.

² Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development



Delegation Members with RoK Representatives Jin, You, Jung and HE Mr James Choi, Australian Ambassador to the RoK

Growing Bilateral Trade & Business

The delegation met with business representatives from both Australia and Korea who are doing business in corresponding countries, and gained a greater perspective on the challenges for Korean's doing business in Australia and vice versa. In particular the delegation met with: members of the Australian Chamber of Commerce in Korea, representatives of the Hanhwa Q Cell Korea, and also conducted an inspection of the Hyundai Department Store and Samsung D'Light.

The challenges of doing business cross-countries included: cultural and language differences which impact on the marketing and end user rate of consumption, economic and monetary factors such as the exchange rate and GDP³ rate of growth, how the KAFTA has assisted to increase and normalise trade between the two countries, differences in workforce composition and related factors, the level of sophistication of technology and the implications for competition in both nations, using traditional and alternative financial methods to boost investment into the future.

The delegation received a briefing from Mr Rodney Commerford, Trade Commissioner to Korea and also

³ Gross Domestic Product

undertook a tour of a popular Korean supermarket (Hyundai Department Store) which sells Australian produce including fresh fruit, vegetables, and wine. In doing so, delegation members acknowledge the effort and cost involved in making ready for the international market Australian produce, taking into consideration the short shelf-life of some goods. It was evident from the products and produce available that Australia has a noticeable presence in Korea, and there was much discussion around consumer attraction to the *clean and green* production image of Australian produce. The Delegation was also impressed with the *Australian Food and Beverage Directory* published by the Australian Trade and Investment Commission which lists all the Australian products for sale in Korea under the KAFTA. The guide is produced in a combined format in both Korean and English.⁴

Further to the supermarket tour, the Delegation met with Representative Byung-wan Chang, Chair of the Trade, Industry, Energy, SMEs⁵ and Start-ups Committee.

Matters discussed included: the current state of the international market for steel, progressing trade through KAFTA for particular products such as meat (beef), seafood, fresh produce (fruit), wine and beer, cultural preferences for specific types of products, renewable energy (wind and solar), and the Tesla battery.

⁴ Australian Trade and Investment Commission, *Australian Food and Beverage Directory 2018*

⁵ *Small to medium-sized enterprises*



Delegation Members at the Hanwha Q CELLS Facility, RoK

The Delegation also visited the Hanwha Q Cells facility in Jincheon City. Members received a briefing on Hanwha Q Cell's international operations which included discussion about its historic and current business models and then later observed the 16-step automated manufacturing process of solar cells. Hanwha Q Cells was particularly interesting as it had begun making greater in-roads into the Australian market, having established an operation in North Sydney.

Ageing Demographic & Future Lifestyle

The delegation was fortunate to receive a briefing on research into policy measures on the ageing demographic of Korea from researcher and university lecturer Dr Kyung-hee Chung from the renowned Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs. Delegation Members heard about the current issues surrounding the social and economic cost of a rapidly ageing population, coupled with a low fertility rate. In response, Korea has developed a three-step plan over a 15-year period ending in 2030 to restore the fertility growth to the OECD standard and thereby increase population growth. The *Basic Plan for an Ageing Society and Population* (the plan) incorporates housing, employment and includes influencing the workplace to encourage childcare-friendly work environments and work-life balance. For the aged, the plan similarly provides for continued

certainty and security economically and socially, insurance considerations and the provision of alternatives for housing and long term care as well as social participation.⁶

Research into methods for responding to changing demographic trends is ongoing with new data and updates to the plan occurring regularly. It was acknowledged that the future response to Korea's ageing population and low fertility rate would need to take into consideration the apparent cultural shift that is currently taking place within Korean society.

Following the theme of forecasting future societal trends, the delegation visited Sejong City, *the Smart, Safe and Happy City*, an innovative, high-technology city of the future, located approximately 113 kilometres from Seoul, connected by a very-fast train service. Construction on the city began in 2012 and is planned to conclude by 2030 at a cost of 155.8 Billion WON or approximately 188 Billion AUD. On completion, Sejong City will consist of 14 neighbourhoods and nine townships. The current population is 250 000 and consists mainly of relocated public sector employees and their families who have moved to Sejong with the commenced decentralisation (from Seoul) of the majority of public sector agencies (39 in total including the Prime Minister's Office), and 15 national research institutes.⁷ The city is expected to reach a population of 500 000 people on completion.⁸

⁶ Dr Kyunghee Chung, *Presentation, National Strategies in Reponse to Population Ageing in Korea, 12 April 2018*, Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs.

⁷ *The New Heart of Korea: A City of Happiness – Sejong*, Sejong City, p. 10.

⁸ National Agency for Administrative City Construction, Korean Land & House

Sejong City is a planned city and is designed to be self-sustaining and eco-friendly, incorporating a high level of sophisticated technology to achieve this end. Sejong City is the first ring-shaped city in the world, consisting of shared urban and green space with clusters of key functions (such as: central administration, culture/international exchange, local administration, university/research, medical/welfare and high-tech knowledge) located in a rough circular pattern.⁹

Sejong City's technological features are extensive. As an example Sejong City has an in-home waste and recycling system which is linked to a greater city system; A fresh food produce and market system¹⁰, an extensive, centrally administered safety and traffic monitoring system consisting of 1096 closed circuit television cameras and 451 emergency bells located in public areas. Bus timetables are digitally available at bus stops and online, indicating arrival, departure and travel times based on traffic conditions. Part of the city's safety system is the monitoring of public areas, bushfire and natural disaster monitoring and licence plate recognition software to ensure minimal crime.¹¹

The delegation travelled through Administrative City, Sejong City and also received a private briefing and tour of the Administration hub.

Corporation, *Administrative City, Sejong Guide, Brochure.*

⁹ National Agency for Administrative City Construction, Korean Land & House Corporation, *Administrative City, Sejong Guide, Brochure.*

¹⁰ *The New Heart of Korea: A City of Happiness – Sejong, Sejong City.*

¹¹ *Smart City: Sejong Smart City Center, Sejong City Brochure.*



Delegation Members at the Administrative City, Sejong, Smart City Centre, RoK

Korean Peninsula & Regional Stability

Much has been discussed and reported nationally and internationally on the stability of the Korean peninsula in recent months. Prior to the recent North Korea Summit (held in Singapore), there was much discussion about maintaining and improving regional stability through voluntary denuclearisation in the region.

This topic was explored in a number of discussions with parliamentary counterparts and followed-up with briefings and a visit to the Korean DMZ. The delegation also received a briefing on the topic from Dr Robert Kelly and wishes to thank him for taking time to prepare and meet with the delegation.



Delegation Members at the Korean Demilitarised Zone with Major Simon Hawkins, RoK

Adding to discussions on regional stability was the issue of the reunification of Korea and the impact

this could have on the economic and social fabric of Korea. The delegation heard that over time there had been some occasions where family members who were separated by the political boundaries of North and South Korea had brief reunions (a few hours or a day) or in some cases not at all since the early 1950s. While reunification was discussed in the context of the current political environment of the Korean peninsula, it was acknowledged that with the now frequent passing of people who had been affected by the annexation of Korea, the issue of familial ties and reunion was a weakening driver of reunification. Societally it was acknowledged that, while still hopeful, most Koreans did not believe they would see the reunification of Korea in their life-time.



Delegation Members looking out across the demilitarized zone on the Korean peninsula

Japan

Visit Purpose

The Honourable Tony Smith MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Members of the delegation were pleased to accept an invitation from the Presiding Officers of the Japanese Diet, Mr Tadamori Oshima, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Mr Chuichi Date, President of the House of Councillors to visit Japan.

In addition to strengthening the parliament-to-parliament relationship, the visit provided Members with the opportunity to gain a practical insight into Australia's growing economic and social relationship with Japan. Members were also able to discuss existing and potential areas of inter-governmental and inter-parliamentary co-operation and exchange.

Bilateral Relationship

In the last financial year, Japan was Australia's second largest trading partner with two-way goods and services trade of \$68.6 Billion, and the second largest export market and source of foreign direct investment.¹² Goods exports to Japan were valued at \$42.2 Billion in 2016-2017 (approximately 14.5 per cent of total goods exports) and consisted of: liquefied natural gas, coal, iron ore, and beef. Since 2015, under the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (JAPEPA), Australian exporters have been able to gain improved market access to Japan. Both Australia and Japan are key negotiating members for the *Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific*

¹² Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *Australia-Japan Bilateral Relationship*.

Partnership and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.¹³

Australia and Japan, along with the USA have a strong and 'broad ranging security relationship' in the region. The bilateral strategic relationship is underpinned by the 2007 *Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation* which includes cooperation on: counter terrorism, disarmament and counter-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, peace and humanitarian operations.¹⁴

With more than 50 000 Australians of Japanese heritage, people-to-people links between Australia and Japan have been ongoing for over a century. The continuing expansion of people-to-people institutional links is undertaken through the Australia-Japan Foundation which funds projects in line with Australia's foreign policy priorities.¹⁵

Since 2014, Japan has partaken in the *New Colombo Plan* (NCP) which 'aims to lift knowledge of the Indo-Pacific in Australia and strengthen people-to-people and institutional relationships through study and internships undertaken by undergraduate students in the region.'¹⁶

Strengthening Parliamentary & Cultural Links

The delegation provided a privileged opportunity for Members to build on the existing strong and warm parliament-to-parliament relationship between Australia and Japan.

¹³ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *Australia-Japan Bilateral Relationship*.

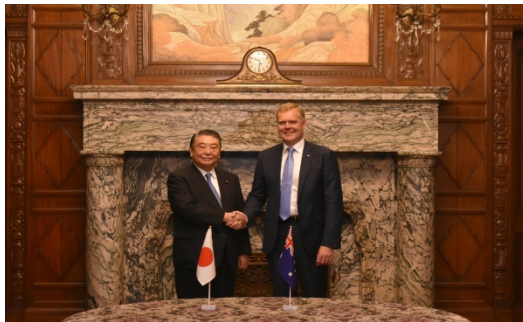
¹⁴ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *Australia-Japan Bilateral Relationship*.

¹⁵ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *Australia-Japan Bilateral Relationship*.

¹⁶ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *Australia-Japan Bilateral Relationship*.

The delegation undertook extensive meetings and attended a number of events which enabled Members to meet and discuss parliamentary issues across a broad range of topics.

In particular, the delegation met with: Mr Tadamori Oshima, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr Hirotaka Akamatsu, Vice Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr Chuichi Date, President of the House of Councillors, Mr Akira Gunji, Vice President of the House of Councillors, Mr Taro Kono, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Members of the Japan-Australia Parliamentary League of Friendship, and Members of the Parliamentary League to Promote Female Participation in Politics.



Hon. Tony Smith MP, Speaker, House of Representatives with Mr Tadamori Oshima, Speaker, House of Representatives, Diet of Japan

The delegation also met with: Mr Daisaku Kadokawa, Mayor of Kyoto and Mr Satoshi Uemura, Deputy Mayor of Kyoto. The delegation received a comprehensive briefing from Mr Yoshinori Fujiyama, Director General, International Affairs Department of the House of Representatives.

Discussions centred on: strengthening the parliament-to-parliament link, the similarities and differences between parliamentary office positions and Members' services, strengthening the bilateral relationship including trade, energy policy, improving regional stability, and empowering women in politics.

The Speaker was pleased to extend a reciprocal invitation to the Speaker and President of the Japanese Diet to visit the Australian Parliament.

The Speaker was also highly honoured to be able to receive an audience with His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito of Japan, who only grants four private audiences per year.

During its visit, the delegation was invited to learn more about Japanese culture and tradition. The delegation visited the Nishijin Textile Centre and learned how traditional Japanese fabrics were designed and made.

The delegation also visited a number of significant cultural places such as: the Kinkakuji Temple (the golden pavilion), and the Fushimi Inari Taisha Shrine, both in Kyoto. The delegation also stayed at the traditional Kyoto Guest House.

The delegation was honoured and privileged to witness Kyoto Geisha known as Geiko or 'arts child' perform a traditional dance accompanied by a shamisen player (three-stringed traditional Japanese musical instrument). The delegation ended its stay in Kyoto with the feeding of the Koi fish (Amur Carp) a traditional gesture of friendship and to welcome good luck and prosperity.



Delegation Members partaking in the traditional feeding of the Koi fish (Amur Carp), Kyoto

Culturally and politically significant, there was continuous discussion about female representation in parliament and methods for encouraging women to enter into the political sphere. To this end the Japanese Diet has established a Parliamentary League to Promote Female Participation in Politics. There is currently a bill before the Japanese Diet aimed at achieving a more even gender balance in the Diet. As was raised during the Korea visit, Japanese Members raised the issue of the need for more leadership opportunities for women in the Diet.

Exchange, Science & Technology

The delegation was impressed with the high calibre of Australian students on exchange in Japan under the NCP. Students discussed their varied experiences in studying and living in Japan and how they had adjusted to the Japanese culture and language. The delegation also learned about each student's specific area of study which included: film, technology and artificial intelligence, law, biology, public policy and chemistry. There are currently 17 Australian students studying and living in Japan under the NCP for periods of between three and 19 months.



Delegation Members with the New Colombo Plan Scholars at the Australian Embassy, Tokyo

Having, over 30 years ago assisted Australia to establish the Questacon¹⁷,

¹⁷ Australia's National Science and Technology Centre.

the Miraikan¹⁸ showcased existing and future technologies to the delegation with a briefing provided by the esteemed and world famous former NASDA¹⁹ astronaut, Dr Mamoru Mohri AM, who is the current Chief Executive Director of the Miraikan. The Miraikan offered a glimpse of the world into the future, assisted and entertained by artificial intelligence, living and working in space, and seeing the universe in action through a particle accelerator.



Delegation Members in the replica of the space habitation module of the International Space Station located at the Miraikan, National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation, Tokyo

Doing Business in Japan

The challenges and rewards for Australians doing business in Japan was raised and discussed during the visit, especially with the Japan-Australia Business Cooperation Committee, a number of Australian's involved in either conducting or operating businesses and corporations in Japan, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Senior Trade Commissioner in Osaka. In addition, there was discussion about Japanese businesses and corporations eager to do more business in Australia such as

¹⁸ Japan's National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation

¹⁹ The National Space Development Agency of Japan, and since 2003, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

Kansai Electric and Kawasaki Heavy Industries.

As a matter of particular interest the advantages of KAFTA and Japanese demand for high quality beef was discussed, together with Australia's National Beef Expo, a triennial event, most recently held in May 2018 in Rockhampton.

The market for Australian primary produce, resources and energy was also frequently discussed.

The delegation received a briefing from Kansai Electric about its international operations and the Australian component (50% share in Blue Waters Power Station, a coal-fired power station) of its overseas projects.

The Speaker received a briefing from Kawasaki Heavy Industries and undertook a tour of the Kawasaki hydrogen gas turbine facility and the construction site for a liquefied hydrogen plant. Discussions were centred on: the availability of raw materials for energy generation, the conversion method for obtaining liquefied hydrogen from coal, and energy policy and infrastructure into the future.



The Speaker and Ms Cate Clunies-Ross on a tour of Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Osaka

Political and Regional Matters

A topic of discussion, similarly to discussions held in Korea, was regional stability and the potential impact of current political events on the Korean peninsula.

In this vein, Mr Yoshinori Fujiyama, Director General of the International Affairs Department of the Japanese House of Representatives briefed the delegation about issues associated with the abduction of 17 Japanese citizens by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) in the 1970s and 1980s and the attempts made to secure the safe return of these citizens home to Japan.

In September 2002, the North Korean Government acknowledged that it had abducted Japanese citizens and subsequently apologised.²⁰

In 2002, after 24 years, following the dispatch of a Japanese Government led investigative team, and 12 rounds of meetings over five days, five abductees were returned safely to Japan and reunited with their families.

Over almost the last two decades, the Japanese Government has approached the North Korean Government through various formal and informal meetings (2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2012, 2014) to attempt to secure the return of the known remaining abducted Japanese citizens or repatriate where deceased, their remains.²¹

²⁰ Headquarters for the Abduction Issue, Government of Japan, *Abductions of Japanese Citizens by North Korea: For Their Immediate Return!*, May 2017, pp 5 to 9.

²¹ In the case where the Japanese Government has been informed that a Japanese abductee is deceased. Forensic analysis of remains provided by the North Korean Government thus far have not matched those of the known abductees which are claimed to be deceased

In further investigations conducted by Japanese authorities, in addition to the 17 Japanese abductees, it is suspected that, as of April 2017, there are up to 883 other missing persons cases still open where abduction by the North Korean Government 'cannot be ruled out'.²²

In early 2016 in response to Japanese sanctions against North Korea for nuclear testing in the region, the Government of North Korea ceased discussions about abduction issues with its Japanese counterparts.²³

In 2014, the United Nations General Assembly Commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea published a report of its findings and recommendations.²⁴ The commission conducting the inquiry was chaired by the Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG, a former Justice of the High Court of Australia.

The commission was mandated with investigating 'the systemic, widespread and grave violations of human rights in the State [North Korea], with a view to ensuring full accountability, in

particular, for violations that may amount to crimes against humanity.'²⁵

The commission made a statement of findings in relation to 'abductions and enforced disappearances from other countries'. In particular, the commission found that since the 1950s, North Korea has engaged in the systematic abduction of well over 200 000 persons including children who 'may have become victims of enforced disappearance'. Most abductions are linked to the Korean War and the 'organised movement of ethnic Koreans from Japan' (in 1959), however, 'hundreds of nationals of the Republic of Korea, Japan and other states were also abducted or disappeared between the 1960s and 1980s'. More recently, North Korea has 'abducted a number of its own nationals and nationals of [Korea] from China'. In addition, abductions also took place of foreign nationals from Europe, the Middle East and Asia.²⁶ The report found that abductees were subjected to a raft of other human rights violations. On the matter of abduction, in addition to providing legal remedy for human rights violations, the commission recommended that North Korea: provide information on all abductees to their families and nations of origin, whether still living or deceased, and allow the immediate, free and

by the North Korean Government. Reference as above.

²² Headquarters for the Abduction Issue, Government of Japan, *Abductions of Japanese Citizens by North Korea: For Their Immediate Return!*, May 2017, p. 3.

²³ Headquarters for the Abduction Issue, Government of Japan, *Abductions of Japanese Citizens by North Korea: For Their Immediate Return!*, May 2017, p. 9.

²⁴ United Nations General Assembly, Human Rights Council, Twenty-fifth session, Agenda Item 4: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention, Report of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, 7 February 2014.

²⁵ United Nations General Assembly, Human Rights Council, Twenty-fifth session, Agenda Item 4: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention, Report of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, 7 February 2014, p. 3.

²⁶ United Nations General Assembly, Human Rights Council, Twenty-fifth session, Agenda Item 4: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention, Report of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, 7 February 2014, p. 13.

unfettered communication and return home (if so chosen by the individual) of the living, and the remains of deceased, abductees.²⁷

Conclusion

The delegation to Korea and Japan enabled Members to renew existing, and establish new parliamentary and social links for mutual bilateral benefit.

Issues discussed highlighted the economic, political and social similarities shared between countries and potential areas of future mutual assistance.

An issue raised during visits to both Korea and Japan was the growing concern of instability on the Korean peninsula and the then upcoming summit between North Korea and the USA. Given the close proximity and long standing relationship between delegation countries, Members acknowledge the role Australia has together with Korea and Japan in ensuring a consistent and cooperative approach to denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.

The delegation was also concerned and saddened to learn of the abduction of Japanese citizens by North Korea in the 1970s and 1980s and the long standing attempts to secure the return of remaining abductees home to Japan. The delegation acknowledges the difficulty faced by the Japanese Government in negotiating on this matter over an extended period and the immeasurable loss to the victims and their families. Members will

continue to monitor the situation into the future.

Acknowledgements & Note of Appreciation

On behalf of the delegation, we wish to extend our appreciation for the invitation to visit Japan from the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Diet of Japan, Mr Tadamori Oshima and the President of the House of Councillors of the Diet of Japan, Mr Chuichi Date. The delegation also wishes to thank the Japanese Members of the Diet that met and hosted Members on their visit to Japan.

A particular note of gratitude and appreciation is extended to His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito of Japan for granting a special audience with the Hon. Tony Smith MP, Speaker.

In Korea, we would like to thank the Representatives of the Korean Parliament and parliamentary officials for openly welcoming and sharing their experiences with Members.

We would also like to thank the Australian Ambassadors to the Republic of Korea, His Excellency Mr James Choi and to Japan, His Excellency Mr Richard Court AC and their staff for welcoming, and assisting the delegation during visits. In particular in Korea-Mr Sam Kealey, Ms Hyejung Shin, Ms Kumna Jung, Mr Sam Baker and Major Simon Hawkins, and in Japan-Ms Melanie Calvert.

The delegation appreciates the time, effort and logistical coordination required to arrange visit programs and thanks diplomatic officials and the respective Australian International and Parliamentary Relations Office and the Japanese International Affairs

²⁷ United Nations General Assembly, Human Rights Council, Twenty-fifth session, Agenda Item 4: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention, Report of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, 7 February 2014, p. 18.

Department for arranging and facilitating the visit programs.

The delegation would also like to extend its appreciation to Japanese Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Australia, Mr Sumio Kusaka and his diplomatic officials for briefing the delegation and extending hospitality to the delegation on its return to Australia.

We would also like to thank all the individuals who gave their time so generously to meet with the delegation and openly share their experience and knowledge.

On behalf of the Australian Parliament we look forward to welcoming future delegations from Korea and Japan.

**Hon Tony Smith MP
Speaker of the House of
Representatives
Delegation Leader (Japan)**

**Senator Sue Lines
Deputy President of the Senate
Delegation Leader (Republic of Korea)
Deputy Delegation Leader (Japan)**

26 June 2018

Parliamentary Delegation to the Republic of Korea and Japan

Republic of Korea Official Visit Program 11 to 15 April 2018

Monday and Tuesday, 9 and 10 April 2018 (Seoul)

Delegation arrives in Seoul, Republic of Korea

Wednesday, 11 April 2018 (Seoul)

Meeting with Australian Ambassador to Korea and Embassy Staff

Participants:

- *HE Mr James Choi, Australian Ambassador to the Republic of Korea*
- *Ms Lisa Wright, Deputy Head of Mission*
- *Ms Amanda Hodges, Senior Trade Commissioner (Austrade)*
- *Ms Tiffany McDonald, Counsellor (Political)*
- *Ms Jemma Martin, Counsellor (Agriculture)*
- *Mr Sam Kealey, Second Secretary (Political)*
- *Ms Maria Vu, First Secretary (Economic)*
- *Col. Nicholas Bolten, Defence Attache*

Meeting with the Australian Chamber of Commerce (AustCham)

Participants:

- *Mr Christopher Raciti, AustCham Chairman and CEO, ANZ Korea*
- *Mr Craig Pasch, Country Manager & Chief Representative, Woodside Korea*
- *Mr Daniel Burrows, Managing Director, Macquarie, Seoul Office*

Working dinner meeting with the Republic of Korea-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group

Participants:

- *Representative WON, Yoo-chul, Chair of the Friendship Group*
- *Representative CHANG, Jung-sook, Vice Chair of the Friendship Group*
- *Representative PARK, Duk-hyum*
- *Representative KIM, Joong-ro*

Thursday, 12 April 2018 (Jincheon City and Sejong City)

Meeting with and Tour of Hanhwa Q Cell Korea Solar Energy Facility

Participants:

- *Mr Peter JK Bae, Head of Australia*
- *Ms Myung Shim, Marketing and Key Account Manager*

Meeting with, and Tour of Sejong Smart City Facility (Administrative City)

Participants:

- *Mr LEE, Dong-yoon, presenter*
- *Staff of the Administrative City*

Research Centre for Ageing Society, Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs

Participants:

- *Dr CHUNG Kyung-hee, University Lecturer and Researcher*
- *Mr CHO Heung-seek, President, KIHASA*

Friday, 13 April 2018 (Seoul)

Tour and Presentation of the Republic of Korea National Assembly

Participant:

- *Ms PARK, Joon-hee, presenter*

Meetings with Representatives of the National Assembly

Participants:

- *Representative YOON, Young-seok, Vice Chair of the Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee*
- *Representative CHANG, Byung-wan, Chair of the Trade, Industry, Energy, SMEs and Start-ups Committee*

Working lunch meeting with Representatives of the National Assembly

Participants:

- *Representative JIN, Sun Mee*
- *Representative JUNG, Choun Sook*
- *Representative YOU, Seung Hee*

Inspection of Australian Produce at Hyundai Department Store, Gangnam

Participants:

- *Mr Rodney Commerford, Trade Commissioner and Counsellor (Commercial)*
- *Ms Jemma Martin, Counsellor (Agriculture)*

Presentation and Tour of Samsung D'Light

Participants:

- *Mr Sam Kealey, Second Secretary (Political)*
- *Ms Hyejung Shin, Senior Research Officer and Interpreter*

Saturday, 14 April 2018 (38th Parallel & Seoul)

Briefing and Tour of Korean Demilitarized Zone

Participants:

MAJ Simon Hawkins, Assistant Defence Attache

Briefing from Dr Robert Kelly, Professor, Busan National University

Sunday, 15 April 2018

Delegation departs for Tokyo, Japan

***Japan
Official Visit Program
15 to 21 April 2018***

Sunday, 15 April 2018 (Tokyo)

Delegation arrives in Tokyo, Japan

Working dinner meeting with Staff of the International Affairs Secretariat

Monday, 16 April 2018 (Tokyo)

Working morning tea meeting with New Colombo Plan Scholars

Presentation and Tour of Miraikan, the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation

Participants:

- *Dr Mamoru Mohri, Chief Executive Director*
- *Dr Geng Tu, Division Manager, Office of Management and Planning*
- *Ms Rieko Chihana, Office of Management and Planning*
- *Dr Tomokazu Fukui, Science Communicator*

Working lunch meeting with the Japan-Australia Business Cooperation Committee

Participants:

- *Dr Akiko Mimura AC, Chair*
- *Mr Yorihiro Kojima AC, Vice Chair*
- *Mr Nobuyoshi Aoyama, Director General*
- *Dr Eichii Harada, Kawasaki Heavy Industries*

Cultural Visit to the Omotesando District

Meeting with the Parliamentary League to Promote Female Participation in Politics

Participants:

- *Mr Masaharu Nakagawa, Member of the House of Representatives, Chair, PLPFPP*
- *Ms Kuniko Koda, Member of the House of Councillors, Secretary General, PLPFPP*
- *Ms Keiko Itokazu, Member of the House of Councillors*
- *Ms Yuko Mori, Member of the House of Councillors*
- *Mr Ryuhei Kawada, Member of the House of Councillors*
- *Ms Kimie Hatano, Member of the House of Councillors*
- *Mr Ryuhei Kawada, Member of the House of Councillors*

Working Dinner Meeting with Australian Business Representatives

Participants:

- *Ms Tracy Whiskey, Partner, Ashurst*
- *Ms Cassandra Farrell, President, ResMed Japan*
- *Ms Melanie Brock, Melanie Brock Advisory and Chair Emeritus, Australia & New Zealand Chamber of Commerce in Japan*
- *Mr Brett Cooper, General Manager, North East Asia, Austrade*
- *Mr Trevor Holloway, Counsellor (Resources & Industry)*

Tuesday, 17 April 2018 (Tokyo)

Briefing from His Excellency Mr Richard Court AC, Australian Ambassador to Japan

Meeting with Mr Tadamori Oshima, Speaker of the House of Representatives

Participants:

- *Mr Akamatsu, Vice Speaker*
- *Mr Furuya, Chairman, Committee on Rules and Administration*
- *Mr Nakatani, Member, Committee on Rules and Administration*
- *Mr Ito, Director, Committee on Rules and Administration*
- *Mr Shiokawa, Member, Committee on Rules and Administration*
- *Mr Fukuda, Member, Committee on Rules and Administration*
- *Mr Maki, Director, Committee on Rules and Administration*
- *Mr Ishida, Director, Committee on Rules and Administration*

Working Lunch hosted by the Japan-Australia Parliamentary League of Friendship

Participants:

- *Mr Ichiro Aisawa MP, Liberal Democratic Party*
- *Mr Goshi Hosono MP, The Party of Hope*
- *Mr Takeaki Matsumoto MP, Liberal Democratic Party*
- *Mr Go Shinohara MP, The Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan*
- *Mr Yasuhisa Shiozaki MP, Liberal Democratic Party*
- *Mr Taku Otsuka MP, Liberal Democratic Party*

Observing a plenary session of the House of Representatives

Meeting with Mr Chuichi Date, President, House of Councillors and Mr Akira Gunji, Vice-President, House of Councillors

Meeting with Mr Taro Kono, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Official Dinner Meeting with Mr Tadamori Oshima, Speaker of the House of Representatives

Participants:

- *Mr Akamatsu, Vice Speaker*
- *Mr Furuya, Chairman, Committee on Rules and Administration*
- *Mr Nakatani, Member, Committee on Rules and Administration*
- *Mr Ito, Director, Committee on Rules and Administration*
- *Mr Shiokawa, Member, Committee on Rules and Administration*
- *Mr Fukuda, Member, Committee on Rules and Administration*
- *Mr Maki, Director, Committee on Rules and Administration*
- *Mr Ishida, Director, Committee on Rules and Administration*

Wednesday, 18 April 2018 (Tokyo & Kyoto)

Hon Tony Smith MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives meeting with His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito of Japan

Working lunch hosted by the Australian Embassy in Japan

Delegation travels to Kyoto

Working Dinner at Kyoto Guest House

Participants:

Mr Satoshi Uemura, Deputy Mayor of Kyoto

Thursday, 19 April 2018 (Kyoto & Osaka)

Tour of the Kyoto Guest House & traditional feeding of the Koi fish

Cultural Tours: Kinkakuji Temple (The Golden Pavilion) & Nishijin Textile Centre

Working lunch with Mr Daisaku Kadokawa, Mayor of Kyoto

Cultural Tour: Fushimi Inari Taisha Shrine

Delegation travels to Osaka

Meeting with Kansai Electric

Participants:

- *Mr Toru Kuwahara, General Manager, International Business and Cooperation Division*
- *Mr Masayuki Hamano, Executive Officer, International Business and Cooperation Division*
- *Mr Tetsuya Osaki*
- *Mr Shinya Hashimoto*
- *Mr Shinichiro Sumitomo*
- *Mr Masanori Kataoka*
- *Mr Hidehiko Yukawa*
- *Mr Osamu Mizusawa*
- *Mr Kei Ito*
- *Mr David Lawson, Consul-General and Senior Trade Commissioner (Osaka)*

Working Dinner with Consulate-General Officials

Friday, 20 April 2018 (Osaka & Tokyo)

Senator Lines, Ms Bird, Ms Landry, Ms Sharkie and Delegation Secretary return to Australia

Mr Speaker and Ms Clunies-Ross meeting with Kawasaki Heavy Industries and conduct a tour of the Kawasaki hydrogen gas turbine facility and the construction site for a liquefied hydrogen plant

Mr Speaker and Ms Clunies-Ross travel to Tokyo and return to Australia