

# ANGLO - KOREAN SOCIETY



JOINT PRESIDENTS

H.E. The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Dr. Cho Yoon-je  
Dr. Robert Hawley CBE

CHAIRMAN

Sir Stephen Brown KCVO

## **Chairman's Report for 2007**

**Presented to the Annual General Meeting, 23 January 2008**

The Chairman opened by commenting on the excellent turnout of members for the AGM. Some 46 members (about 25% of the Society) were present. He thanked members for attending.

The Chairman said this had been a successful year for the Society. He reviewed the programme for 2007 which had included a most enjoyable Chuseok celebration and the Annual Dinner held in the House of Commons, undoubtedly the high spot of the year. The guest speaker was Lord Richard who had for seven years been co-President of the UK-Korea Forum for the Future, developing relations between the two countries. Both these events had been well attended.

Overall, the year had gone well for the Society, which had seen an increase in the number of members. Membership currently stood at 163, made up of 123 ordinary, 25 corporate and 10 life members. The Chairman was committed to increasing the membership, aiming to double the numbers and thus create a more vibrant and representative community. The executive committee was actively pursuing this goal, in particular focussing on increasing Korean membership, thus furthering the Society's aim of developing friendship and understanding between the two communities. The Chairman also encouraged all existing members to introduce one new member as part of an ongoing recruitment drive.

One area which had not gone so well during the year had been communication between the committee and the members. There had been limited circulation of an email newsletter from the Chairman, but insufficient resources to produce the Bulletin. After being without a secretary for most of the year, a new secretary was standing for election and it was hoped this would improve communication in future. The committee was also looking into the issue of electronic communication with the members, and had plans to set up the Society's own website which might also attract a younger generation. There would of course be a commitment to continue using the post for those without email.

The Chairman then turned to the Society's finances and reported that the bank balance currently stood at just over £10,000. He explained that it was the policy of the committee that members should have the opportunity to get back all or part of their subscription fees by attending events as these were subsidised for members.

But in addition to serving its members, the Society also needed to reach out in order to realise its full aims and potential. At present, the principal way the Society did this was through its modest bursary program. The Society would hear a report tonight from this year's recipient. The Chairman would like to develop more outreach programs in the fields of academic study and research to raise the profile and impact of the Society. He hoped members would support this approach.



There was more good news to be announced in the form of potential sponsorship for the Society from one UK company and three Korean companies. This money would be used to further the aims of the Society, and indeed some of this money would be made available for providing future bursaries.

In summary the Chairman believed that it had been a good year for the Society in spite of difficulties with the absence of a secretary. He thanked all members of the executive committee for their support and looked forward to an even more successful year for the Society.

He also paid tribute to the support over the last 3 years from Ambassador Cho Yoon-je who would shortly be returning to Korea. (At the reception that would follow the AGM, the Society would be presenting Ambassador Cho with a book to remind him of his association with the Society.) He also thanked the staff of the Korean Embassy, especially Mr Jae Park, for their help with meetings and hospitality.

January 2008