



ANGLO - KOREAN SOCIETY

Newsletter July 2008

Joint Presidents: H.E. The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea
Dr. Robert Hawley CBE

Chairman: Sir Stephen Brown KCVO

From the Chairman:

Welcome to the Society's first E-bulletin. I hope you will find this a good way to keep in touch. With the launch soon of our website, we will increasingly move to electronic communication. For those of you who do not have convenient internet access, we shall continue to send you information by mail.

The Society is in good shape and I am delighted that our events this year have been well attended.

Although the AGM in January now seems a long way away, there was a particularly good turnout, due entirely, I am sure, to the quality of the meeting, rather than the free buffet which was provided. The evening gave us the opportunity to say goodbye and to thank Ambassador Cho Yoon-je for his support throughout his time in London. On behalf of the Society, I presented him with a copy of Andrew Marr's recent book "A History of Modern Britain". Ambassador Cho acknowledged that now that he was stepping down from his appointment he would actually have time to read it!

As I reported at the AGM, we now have three sponsors locked into the Society for the next three years. They are Diageo, Samsung Electronics and Hyundai Motor UK. We are also pursuing a fourth who is being a little elusive.

Although the sponsorship is modest, at least by their standards, it does allow the Society to be more proactive. The extra funding will be used both to hold more events and to subsidise them more for members. Your Committee's aim is to ensure that if you attend two functions a year you will see your subscription returned to you in subsidy.

We have already seen the benefits of sponsorship in the "Evening with Warwick Morris" which was supported by Samsung Electronics and included a powerful presentation of their success in the UK.

In terms of our outreach, sponsorship will now enable us to fund two bursaries for UK students undertaking Korean studies. Details of the latest awards are in this bulletin. There is no doubt that our support, modest though it is, is much appreciated and raises the profile of the Society.

I represented the Society at the UK Korea Forum for the Future which this year was held in London in June. This high level dialogue involves, among others, Lord Kerr, Sir David Wright and Sir Thomas Harris, on the UK side and Dr Bae Soon-hoon and Dr Park Jin on the Korean side.

The Forum provided the opportunity for me to meet the new Korean Ambassador, Mr Chun Yung-woo. I have written to him on behalf of the Society and asked for a meeting with him to brief him on our activities.

Can I close with a plea (that I suspect that I will make many times), if we can each recruit just one more member then the Society will be in even better shape than it is today.

I look forward to seeing you at future events.

Stephen Brown



50 Years of Friendship, Understanding and Cultural Exchange 1956-2006



PAST EVENTS

Korean Night - our first event at the Korean Cultural Centre

The Korean Cultural Centre was opened in January 2008 at Number 1 Northumberland Avenue, near Trafalgar Square. It falls under the jurisdiction of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, its role to enhance friendship and understanding between Korea and the UK through cultural and educational activities. The centre houses an art gallery, library, lecture room, theatre & cultural lounge. This proved to be an ideal location for our Korean Night, an evening of culture held on 10th April.

The evening began with a warm welcome by our Chairman Sir Stephen Brown, greeting the participants and thanking the organisers and sponsors with great cheerfulness and humour in the presence of the Chargé d'Affaires of the Korean Embassy.



A joint presentation by the Korea Tourism Organization and Asiana Airlines enabled the audience to learn more about the tourism and transport opportunities available to reach Korea and visit its most interesting sites.

After this informative presentation, the audience was treated to a concert of Kayageum and Guitar with two exceptional performers. Contemporary and traditional pieces were played and the audience was given an opportunity to join in and sing.

Then it was time for an exciting Taekwondo demonstration with young performers – including

one brave girl – eager to show their talent at this very efficient martial art. Taekwondo became a worldwide sport after it was designated as an official Olympic sport in 2000. After this brilliant and energetic demonstration, a raffle was drawn with various prizes including a return ticket London to Seoul kindly donated by Asiana Airlines.

The evening was rounded off with a delicious Korean buffet accompanied by excellent wine.

With thanks to Béatrice Colbrant

Visit the KCC website at: london.korean-culture.org

An evening with Warwick Morris, the former UK Ambassador to Korea

On 7th May the Korean Cultural Centre again hosted an AKS event, this time sponsored by Samsung Electronics. An opening presentation on their products and corporate structure was enthusiastically delivered by Andrew Griffiths, Samsung VP of Consumer Electronics for UK and Ireland.

In vivid contrast to the technology of modern day South Korea, our guest speaker, Warwick Morris, entertained us with recollections of life in Seoul when he was first posted there in 1974. Under military dictatorship and a nightly curfew, life was rather bleak. Further postings from 1988 to 1991 and most recently, as Ambassador, from 2003 to 2008 have given him a unique and fascinating insight into the dramatic changes that have taken place in Korea over this period. Jennifer Barclay has written a full report of his excellent talk for Philip Gowman's website at londonkoreanlinks.net/category/anglo-korean-society/.

Following a question and answer session we belatedly tucked into another delicious Korean buffet and enjoyed catching up with old friends and new over a glass of wine.



Andrew Griffiths, Sir Stephen Brown, Warwick Morris and Suk-jin Choi—Samsung Marketing Controller

Presentation by Laura Devine

This was held on the evening of 5th June at Laura Devine Solicitors in Old Jewry London EC2. A group of over forty AKS members and guests were privileged to hear a leading immigration lawyer talk about and take questions on the recent changes in the law affecting Koreans coming to the UK. Mr Ahn, the Consul General at the Korean Embassy here in London, was concerned that the new laws would adversely affect Korean catering staff wanting to work in the UK, and was advised that the way forward was for the Korean Community to lobby the Government to grant special concessions.

We were also given a bonus presentation as Alan Timblich, a current KBS member and a former committee member of the AKS, put in an appearance and described the operation of the Seoul Global Centre. Alan also took questions and gave a view on migration issues from a Korean perspective. He was in the UK representing the Seoul Metropolitan Government at the Dano festival held in Trafalgar Square.

We would like to thank Laura Devine for her hospitality and for the Korean food with wine she generously provided. This proved to be a very successful evening and a great time was had by all those attending. It is hoped that further such themed events will be held in the future.

*Sylvia Park
Social Events Secretary*

FUTURE EVENTS

Chuseok Celebration - A joint event with Asia House

Tuesday, 16th September 2008

In Korea the harvest festival called Chuseok has been celebrated since ancient times. Always held on the eighth full moon, the year's first rice is eaten and people visit their ancestors' graves and make offerings. At this year's Chuseok event Dr Charlotte Horlyck, Lecturer in Korean Art History at SOAS, will give a talk on the meaning of Chuseok and the importance ancestral rites hold in past and contemporary Korean society. This will be followed by a finger buffet with wine.

Annual Dinner at the House of Commons

Thursday, 6th November 2008

This ever-popular event will commence with a guided tour of the chambers of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Followed by a reception on the Terrace Pavilion and dinner at the Churchill Dining Room with a guest speaker. Hosted by Edward Garnier QC MP, a member of the All-Party Britain-Republic of Korea Parliamentary Group.

NEWS

Anglo - Korean Society Bursaries 2008

The President of the British Association for Korean Studies, Professor James Grayson has thanked the Society on behalf of the Council of the BAKS for providing funding and extra funding for the Anglo-Korean Society Post-Graduate Research Bursary.

Thanks to the generosity of the Society, BAKS were able to provide two £500 bursaries to two excellent students both of whom will be leaving shortly for a period of research in Korea. One student, Kevin Cawley, a PhD candidate is doing research on late Choson thinker and early Catholic Chong Yagyong, while the other Ben Jackson, an MA student, is doing research into the designation of certain ancient trees as cultural properties.

An announcement about the awards will be placed on the Association's website (www.baks.org.uk), and a formal announcement will be made at the AGM in the 2008 Biennial Conference. As is the Society's practice, the two students will be invited to our AGM in 2009 to make a short report on their studies.

Good deal from Asiana for AKS members

Asiana Airlines are offering AKS members discounts on fares from London to Seoul. There are special rates for both individual and group bookings. If you are a fully paid-up member of the AKS and would like more details please contact Sylvia Park.

email: sylviaparkairtravel@hotmail.co.uk

tel: 07802 858 771

Our Korean Sister Organisations

Visiting Korea? The Korea British Society has a lively programme of events to which it welcomes AKS members on a reciprocal basis. Contact Julie Clarke-Soper at the British Embassy to see what may be happening when you are there — julie.clarke-soper@fco.gov.uk. Also the British Association of Seoul and the British Chamber of Commerce in Korea are very active and many of their events are open to non-members.

See their websites www.britishseoul.com and www.bcck.or.kr for their latest news.

The British Association of Korean Studies 2008 Biennial Conference

'The Koreas at 60: Looking Back, Looking Forward'

The Association will host its biennial conference at Clare College, the University of Cambridge from Monday 8th September to Wednesday 10th September.

The Keynote Speaker on the evening of 8th September will be Prof. Meredith Woo-Cumings, Dean of Arts and Sciences at the University of Virginia, USA.

There will be a plenary panel of diplomats and scholars on the first day to discuss current affairs on the Korean peninsula, followed by a series of papers on topics of historical and contemporary interest to be given by British and international scholars. The Conference will begin with the Reception at 6:00pm on Monday, and conclude at 12.30 on Wednesday.

Further particulars on the Conference arrangements and the schedule of papers will be published on the BAKS website shortly, www.baks.org.uk.

For information regarding registration and to secure a place at the conference, please contact:

Dr. John Swenson-Wright

BAKS 2008 Biennial Conference Organiser

Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

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AKS Executive Committee

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Email the committee:

info@anglokoreansociety.org.uk

Suggestions for events please!

Do you have any ideas for AKS events you would like to help organise, or have you particularly enjoyed an event in the past which you would like us to repeat?

Previous events have included tours of the British Library, the British Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum, all with special emphasis on the Korean collections.

We have also organised talks by experts on various topics related to Korea—do you know of anyone in the UK or visiting from Korea who would be willing to share their experiences?

Contact Sylvia Park, Social Events Secretary, with your ideas.

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