



**Australian Institute of International Affairs**

# Korea Policy Dialogue

29 December 2014



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

Supported by  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia



## Outcomes Report

This report summarises the main outcomes from the Korea Policy Dialogue held in Brisbane on Monday 29 December, 2014. The event was jointly hosted by the Korea Foundation and the Australian Institute of International Affairs. The event was supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The Dialogue brought together prominent academics, practitioners and other experts with knowledge and experience on issues important to Korea and Australia. The objective of the Dialogue was to strengthen ties and facilitate an open exchange of ideas between Korean and Australian foreign policy experts. The discussion covered such topics as the strategic environment in the Asia-Pacific, middle power cooperation, Korean foreign policy and North-South relations on the Korean Peninsula.

Highlights of the Dialogue included:

- Twenty-one participants including a current ambassador, leaders from civil society and business, university professors and other academics.
- Opening statement and active participation and engagement from H.E. Mr Bong-hyun Kim, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea.
- Opening statement from Dr Hyun-seok Yu, President of the Korea Foundation, on the importance and value of international dialogue in fostering stronger mutual understanding.
- Knowledgeable and engaging speakers and discussants enhancing the understanding of both Australian and Korean perspectives and encouraging lively, productive discussion.
- Discussion of a range of important issues, including MIKTA and other middle power diplomacy initiatives, and the prospects for trust-building and cooperation on the Korean peninsula.
- Collegiate atmosphere facilitating friendship between Korean and Australian participants, including opportunities for networking and relationship-building.
- Closing remarks from Mr Matthew Harrison, Acting Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Queensland State Office.
- Dissemination of discourse through blog articles, YouTube interview and presentation videos and podcasts.



*Ambassador HE Mr Bong-hyun Kim delivers his congratulatory remarks*



*Dr Hyun-seok Yu, President of the Korea Foundation, welcomes delegates*



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## Format

The Dialogue began with opening remarks from Mr Geoffrey Ewing, President of AIA Queensland, followed by opening addresses from both Dr Hyun-seok Yu, President of the Korea Foundation, and H.E. Mr Bong-hyun Kim, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea. The program was then divided into three sessions, each featuring presentations and discussant responses followed by general discussion. Each session focused on a particular aspect of foreign policy. The topics covered were:

- **Session 1: Strategic Environment in the Asia Pacific**

The first session saw Dr Malcolm Davis present on the Asian Strategic Outlook. Dr Davis spoke on the rise of China and the growing tensions between China and the US in the Asia-Pacific. Dr Jae Jeok Park followed with a presentation on both trilateral and quadrilateral strategic dialogue involving Australia and South Korea. The general discussion during this session focused principally on the presence of both China and the US in the Asia-Pacific region and how both South Korea and Australia should manage their relationships with these two powers.

- **Session 2: Korea's Foreign Policy Initiatives**  
**Trust Building Process in Korean Peninsula: Version 2.0**  
**Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative**

The second session opened with a presentation from Dr Kang Choi on Korea's foreign policy and security concerns. Dr Choi looked at South Korea's foreign policy regarding North Korea and the complexities of relations between the two states on the Korean Peninsula. Dr Sang Hyun Lee spoke next on the Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative and multilateral cooperation in Northeast Asia. Dr Lee addressed the lack of trust between states in Northeast Asia and prospects for improving cooperation in the region. Final speaker Dr Leonid Petrov discussed the difficulties of achieving peace on the Korean Peninsula. Dr Petrov focused on issues of denuclearisation, trust-building, ending the Korean War and overall prospects for peace in Northeast Asia. The general discussion during session 2 centred on Korea's foreign policy initiatives, especially those related to trust building and management of the relationship with North Korea.

- **Session 3: Middle Power Cooperation: Korea's Perspective**

The third session began with a presentation from Dr Jaehyon Lee on the MIKTA country grouping. Dr Lee examined Korea's middle power diplomacy, its membership in the MIKTA (Mexico-Indonesia-Korea-Turkey-Australia) group and prospects for the future in this area. Dr Caitlin Byrne delivered the final presentation of the day on middle power diplomacy. Dr Byrne discussed avenues for 'like-minded collaboration' internationally, and the potential for cooperation through public diplomacy and engagement with private sector, non-government organisations. The general discussion during this session focused on middle power diplomacy and the prospects for MIKTA's success.

At the conclusion of the third session Mr Matthew Harrison, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Queensland Branch, delivered his closing remarks.



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### **Australian and New Zealand Participants**

**Mr. Geoffrey Ewing**, President, Australian Institute of International Affairs (Queensland)

**Dr. Caitlin Byrne**, Vice President, Australian Institute of International Affairs (Queensland)

**Ms. Melissa Conley Tyler**, National Executive Director, Australian Institute of International Affairs

**Mr. Matthew Harrison**, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Queensland State Office

**Professor Michael Manton FTSE**, Acting Chair, Australia-Korea Foundation

**Professor James Cotton FAIIA**, Emeritus Professor, UNSW Canberra, Australian Defence Force Academy

**Professor Roland Bleiker**, Professor, University of Queensland

**Associate Professor Rosita Dellios**, Associate Professor, Bond University

**Dr. Leonid Petrov**, Visiting Fellow, College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University

**Dr. Malcolm Davis**, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Bond University

**Dr. Danielle Chubb**, Lecturer, Deakin University

**Dr. Jason Young**, Lecturer, Victoria University of Wellington

**Dr. James Ferguson**, Assistant Professor, Bond University

### **Korean Participants**

**H.E. Mr. Bong-hyun Kim**, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea

**Dr. Hyun-seok Yu**, President, Korea Foundation

**Dr. Yun Young Cho**, Professor, Chung-Ang University

**Dr. Kang Choi**, Vice President, Asan Institute for Policy Studies

**Dr. Jaehyon Lee**, Research Fellow, Asan Institute for Policy Studies

**Dr. Sang Hyun Lee**, Director of Security Studies Program, Sejong Institute

**Dr. Sang-Yoon Ma**, Associate Professor, Catholic University of Korea

**Dr. Jae Jeok Park**, Assistant Professor, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies



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### Feedback

Feedback indicated that the Dialogue was a great success, with participants rating the overall quality of the Dialogue as 4.7 out of 5 and the organisation of the Dialogue as 4.8 out of 5.

Participants assessed the event very positively. The quality of the general discussion was rated highly, with many participants appreciating the frank and lively exchange of ideas. The event was also rated as being well-organised with a high standard of speaker presentations. Overall, the dialogue was seen as being valuable for generating better understanding of current issues and policy both in Australia, Korea and the Asia-Pacific more generally. A number of positive outcomes were identified:

- “Deepened my understanding of Korean foreign policy approach”
- “Greatly improved my understanding of Australian perspective on Korean matters”
- “Improved my knowledge of new dynamic in S. Korea-Australia relations”
- “Increases my understanding of Australian positions and concerns about East Asian regional politics”
- “This kind of dialogue should continue in the future”

Participants noted the importance of such dialogue between Australia and Korea in strengthening understanding and cooperation. Participants expressed interest in participation in future years and spoke of opportunities for its expansion and the potential for publications to be developed based upon the day’s discussions.

### Outreach

The Dialogue was recorded and will be disseminated in the following ways:

- Podcasts from each session will be made available through the [Media Library](#) on the Australian Institute of International Affairs website.
- An interview with Dr Hyun-seok Yu, President of the Korea Foundation, will be published on the Australian Institute of International Affairs [YouTube Account](#) and on the [Australian Outlook blog](#).
- Blog articles have been commissioned from a number of participants on issues discussed during the Dialogue. These articles will be published on the [Australian Outlook blog](#).



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### Acknowledgements

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

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Thanks must also go to those involved in organising the event, without which the Dialogue would not have been possible:

- Mr Geoffrey Ewing, President, AIIA (Queensland)
- Dr Caitlin Byrne, Vice President, AIIA (Queensland)
- Ms Melissa Conley Tyler, National Executive Director, AIIA
- Mr Jae-seung Moon, Chief Assistant to the President, Korea Foundation
- Mr Chung Min Lee, Senior Program Officer, Korea Foundation
- Mr Sebastian McLellan, AIIA National Office
- Ms Caitlin Clifford, AIIA National Office
- Mr James Turner, AIIA National Office



*Dr Hyun-seok Yu greets Mr Geoffrey Ewing, AIIA Queensland President*



*Ms Melissa Conley Tyler, AIIA National Director, speaks with Dr Sang-Yoon Ma*