

# **ATTACHMENT 1**

## **Korean Sister City and Study Tour 18-25 May 2013**

### **18th May :: Day 1 – Sydney – Seoul Travel Day**

Korea Airlines flight, Sydney to Seoul. The flight gave us our first taste of Korean hospitality and plenty of time to prepare for the trip ahead.

After a 10 hour flight we arrived at Incheon International Airport. Incheon Airport gave us a preview of the outstanding modern design that we would see elsewhere in Korea. Incheon Airport has been named best international airport for eight years running.

David Soh from Gapyeong Council met us on arrival at airport and transported us by mini bus to Seoul. On the 30 minute trip on the motorway, we were able to view, initially the enormous land reshaping that is going on in and round Incheon for new developments, residential, economic business parks and new parklands, and later the numerous new high rise residential development clusters on the outskirts of Seoul, all appearing to be located on subway rail routes and or nearby to motorways. The many bridges, modern roads and new residential and commercial towers located along the motorway quickly provided us with our first glimpse of the pace of development and infrastructure in South Korea. The motorway followed the Han River, Korea's most important river, which skirts the heart of Seoul metropolitan city. After travelling via road tunnel under Namsan Mountain in the heart of Seoul we arrived at our accommodation.

In the evening we visited the surrounding Myeongdong-Gil retail district. The vibrancy of the precinct was most impressive. Some of the reasons were: the high level of multiple active frontages to the street edge consisting entrances, glass retail shop fronts, cafes and restaurants up to three storeys high, and also the colourful and frequent signage.

### **19th May :: Day 2 – Seoul Study Tour – Seoul Urban Planning and Regeneration; Traditional Korean Gardens**

The next morning commenced with a subway train trip to the Changdeokgong Palace, with its accompany "Secret" Garden, regarded as the finest example of traditional Korean Garden design. As with many large leading cities around the world, Seoul has an excellent and well established underground system of subway trains connecting the city from the outlying residential area to the commercial hubs and city centre. The network is very different to Sydney's in that it is a polycentric network with multiple interchange points across the system, and there is no single dominating rail centre as in Sydney.

We joined an English guided tour of the Royal Palace and secret garden. This enabled us to see the nature and layout of an important Korean Garden, with its architecture, use of water features, use of walls, gates and courtyards, planting layouts, and selection of plant species. We learnt later on the tour just how important this garden is in terms of the design elements, and the relationships between them.

After the Palace we then walked along Insa Dong (street) which is an attractive and lively cultural and artistic retail street elegantly lined with trees and granite paving. This area is regarded as the heart of the arts area of Seoul. From Insa Dong we walked to the Gwanghwamun Square, starting at the Gwanghwamun palace gate, the entry to Gyeongbokgung Palace. The palace gate terminates the northern vista along the grand Gwanghwamun Square, part of Sejongno Street named after Emperor Sejong.

This grand pedestrian plaza acts as one of the key formal urban spaces in Seoul and includes a large statue of the famed Admiral Lee Sun-Sin, as well as one of Emperor Sejong. This is one of many recent significant urban interventions in inner Seoul, which have transformed the city. The close to 20,000 m2 Gwanghwamun Square is located at the centre of Sejong-ro which connects Gwanghwamun Gate and Cheonggye Square.

The square is divided into the sections, "Recovering the History of Gwanghwamun Gate Plaza", "Re-enacting Yukjo Street Plaza", "Korea Main Plaza", "Civil Participation Urban Culture Plaza", "Downtown Plaza" and "Cheonggyecheon Stream Connector".

Located underneath the centre of Square is a museum of the history of Emperor Sejong. We then followed several underground walkways under busy road intersections which link to the subway rail network.

Cheong gye cheon Creek re-development. Cheonggyecheon is a 5.8 km creek flowing west to east through downtown Seoul, and then meeting Jungnangcheon, which in turn connects to the Han River. This was previously a major motorway that was built in 1968 over the city centres major stream. In July 2003, then-Seoul mayor, Lee Myung-bak initiated a project to remove the elevated highway and restore the stream with walkways flanking the re-landscaped stream. The stream was opened to the public in September 2005. The result is high quality and popular recreational corridor in the middle of the central business district that importantly restores one of the city's historic natural features, as well as providing a recreational walking route and a green area that mitigates the heat island effect of the city.

A new modern city hall has recently been constructed behind the old city hall. Whilst the new city hall is a large bulky building, the fully glass covered abstract modern shape respects the old hall by contrasting rather than conflicting with the traditional architecture.

In front of the city hall is a new civic park with large lawn area that can accommodate temporary stages for events. The area was crowded with people celebrating the anniversary of a popular former president, showing how successful this square has become as focus for civic activity. We then walked beside the Deonsugunggil old city wall to the Seoul Museum of History. The museum includes a very impressive interactive city model and other informative displays including many historic built form models, maps and artefacts etc that describe and illustrate the history of Seoul over the centuries.

In the late afternoon Gapyeong Council transported us by bus from Seoul to Gapyeong County. We travelled along a motorway through the southern and eastern outskirts of Seoul where we could see many more examples of new high rise residential towers. As typical of new development in Seoul the residential towers are arranged in clusters as town centres usually around train stations and or centres. We were then dropped off at our accommodation where we were met by the first of many banners specifically made to welcome us.

### **20th May :: Day 3 - Gapyeong County Sister City Visit and Relationship Building**

In the morning we were driven to the Korean Australian and New Zealand war memorial located to the northern area of Gapyeong County only a few kilometres from the North Korean border. A short formal ceremony was conducted with the Gapyeong County Deputy Mayor and Strathfield's Mayor laid wreaths on the Australian memorial.

The memorial commemorates the sacrifice made by the Australian and other allied troops in protecting South Korea from invading Chinese army troops. In particular 34 Australian troops died in the battle at Gapyeong. This is regarded as a crucial battle in the Korean War, which halted the advance of Communist Chinese troops. Today, the battle is regarded as one of the most famous actions fought by the Australian and Canadian armies in Korea. Overall 17,000 Australian troops served in the Korean War as part of the allied forces and 334 died. Many of the people of Gapyeong County and South Koreans are still very grateful for the allied troops as this has enabled them to remain free and progress as a nation.

We then attended a meeting at Gapyeong City Council Offices with the Mayor, Vice Mayor and Council Directors. Gapyeong Mayor welcomed the delegation and outlined a little about Gapyeong County. Mayor Gulian Vaccari provided background about Strathfield Council such as the demographics and they were interested that 10% of the population was of Korean decent. The Mayor and other Councillors then explained about Council's Korean Gardens proposal.

The Gapyeong Mayor said they would like to provide assistance with Strathfield's Korean Garden. Council also raised the issue of organising student exchanges for Strathfield students to come to Korea. The Gapyeong Mayor stated that he wished to see the sister city relationship and exchange program developed as well as other exchanges, such as travel and culture.

We then had a separate meeting with the Gapyeong County Council Chairman Mr Lee. He indicated the special relationship between South Korea and Australia and of the sacrifice that assisted Korea which is now in the top 10 economies in the world. The Chairman emphasised that tourism is a major industry for Gapyeong, which adds \$10 million per year to the local economy.

He indicated they would like to provide assistance and support as much as possible to the Korean Gardens project. After a lunch with the Gapyeong Councillors we then visited Gapyeong High School, the construction of which was begun by the United States army, 40th Infantry Division in 1952. They are interested in promoting more student exchanges with Australia.

We were then transported by bus to the Korean border beside the demilitarised zone. After handing in our passports we were accompanied by a Korean army officer to an observation point on the border. We could view over the border fencing to the demilitarised zone and to North Korea. However we could only photograph within the South Korean section. A Korean soldier was available to answer questions. Of note was a memorial to the famous battle at a nearby hilltop called Maryang San where Australian troops held off the Chinese troops (3–8 October 1951). Today, the battle is widely regarded as one of the Australian Army's greatest accomplishments during the war.

On return from the demilitarised zone we were taken straight to an official welcoming dinner by the Council Mayor, Vice Mayor and Directors at a local restaurant at Gapyeong which included a performance of traditional fan dancing and also drum dancing.

#### **21st May :: Day 4 – Gumi**

#### **Study Tour – Economic Development and Infrastructure Investment – High Speed Rail generated & Local Government initiated**

The group travelled by KTX high-speed train from Seoul to Gimcheongumi, the new town based around a high speed railway station that serves the towns of Gimcheon and Gumi. The KTX train travelled at speeds up to 310 km per hour and had a high level of comfort including free Wi-Fi. This high speed rail line links Seoul to the second biggest city and Korea's major sea port Busan. The high speed rail represents a huge investment which aside from improving the travel time between the two cities, has enabled economic decentralisation and the development of key inland cities along the route. In addition Korea has invested heavily in motorways across the country to improve private car, bus and truck transport. Given it is a very mountainous country; this has involved hundreds of tunnels and bridges.

After a 1.5 hour train trip to Gumi, the local Council representatives picked us up in a mini bus from the new Gimcheongumi Station. Gumi is one of the cities that has experienced massive industrial and residential development and growth over recent years. It has become a major technology manufacturing centre including companies such LG Electronics and Samsung. The County contributes six per cent of the South Korea's total exports.

Gumi Council have planned progressive stages of the city's economic development focussing more recently on electronics and IT. The city has 300,000 people and an average age of 34. The city has worked with the Provincial and National Governments to offer a variety of economic incentives to attract companies to develop in Gumi. These include tax concessions, cash subsidies, removal of customs duties, a foreign investment zone etc.

We were driven to the KR LED factory, as one example of a high tech industry that has developed in the city, and given a tour of the mobile phone manufacturing plant. The company manufactures smart phones and LED computer and laptop screens for Samsung. The company has a turnover of \$39.5 billion and yet

it only commenced operation in 2007. Aside from the specific success of this company it is representative of the dramatic economic growth of Gumi.

Gumi Council then hosted an official meeting at their Council building where the Councillors discussed the features of each Council area. This included a brief outline of the Korean Gardens project. The Gumi Mayor was very impressed with the Korean Gardens initiative.

We were then taken to the Gumi container truck logistics facility which is similar in scale as the Enfield Intermodal Logistics Centre. The estimated throughput of the two facilities are both 200,000 TU (containers). The main difference is that the Gumi facility only caters for road transport, is located well away from residential areas and is directly linked to a motorway.

## **22nd May :: Day 5 - Busan & Gyeongju**

### **Study Tour – Urban regeneration in Haeundae – Centum City and Marine City; Council initiated PPP facility – Aquarium; Economic development and infrastructure investment – Gyeongju**

We travelled from the Busan Port area by mini bus via new motorways and tunnels to the newer northern area of the city, part of the adjacent Haeundae local government area. We stopped first at Marine City which is on reclaimed land near the famous Haeundae beach where several new impressive 60 storey towers have recently been constructed. These were designed by leading architects such as Daniel Libeskind (l'Park – a five tower project) and a partnership between Jerde Partnership International, De Stefano & Partners and SWA (Zenith – a three tower project) are mostly iconic in design and style. The height of these buildings as landmark structures only suits certain key urban locations, but can provide a stunning result. The design and quality of the building surrounds at ground level demonstrated the importance of a well designed urban and landscape areas and provision of trees so this area provides a comfortable human scale. Even children's playgrounds were provided at the base of both of these tower developments.

Following a walk around of the Marine City area, we drove to the Centum City development (the site of the former Busan airport). The first stop was a presentation and short tour of the BEXCO Exhibition and Convention Centre. The current exhibition of state of the art manufacturing technology is very representative of Korea's economic and industrial strengths. Aside from the 50,000m<sup>2</sup> of floor space in the exhibition hall, there is a very large outdoor space to enable outdoor exhibits. The integrated conference and convention centre includes a room where the 2005 APEC meeting was held. A key feature of the room is a large silk tapestry wall hanging of a traditional Korean mountain image.

Nearby BEXCO is another Centum City development, the Busan Cinema Centre, the site of the Busan International Film Festival. This facility is an integrated film centre, including open air cinema area, indoor cinemas, major event hall, conference facilities, media centre, archive spaces, commercial offices, production studios, and restaurants/cafes. The distinctive architecture by Wolf Prix of Coop Himmelb(l)au serves as a key architectural feature along the Nakdong River due to its distinctive organic shape, LED covered cantilevered roof and zinc and glass plated surface. It includes an outdoor undercover cinema and a 1,000 seat indoor cinema which has three levels and is the centre piece of the venue. It is slightly larger in scale to the proposed auditorium in Strathfield Town Centre Master Plan, so provided a valuable visual experience.

We then had an official meeting with the Mayor of Haeundae Council Mr Chae Su Dong (sp.) at the Council offices. The Mayor was also the Chairman of the South Korea Mayor's association which coordinates the country's 227 mayors. The Council was very proud of their traditional Korean garden located within the Council car park. It was judged as one of the top 100 gardens in Korea. The garden was enclosed by mature trees and included a pond with a small island in the middle.

The Council explained an investment model they had used to build the Haeundae Aquarium. Council provided the land which was developed using 100% private investment. In return Council received 5% of the income per year and after the 20 year lease expires, the Aquarium becomes Council's asset.

## **Goeje Island**

We then travelled south by mini bus to Goeje Island. A huge investment has been made to reduce the road transport travel time from Busan to Goeje Island from 3 and a half hours to 1 hour and 15 minutes. This has been achieved by 8.2kms of road bridges over the sea and tunnels through steep islands replacing roads around the bay to a less direct bridge from the north.

On arrival in Goeje Council offices we had a formal meeting with the Mayor of Goeje, Mr Kim Min Han. He emphasised the economic progress of Korea and that Goeje has one of the highest average incomes in Korea. He wished Council success with our projects.

We then were given a bus tour around the Daewoo (DSML) shipyards. This is the largest shipyard in the world, which commenced in 1972 and now employs 40,000 staff and contractors and builds 70 ships per year. The vessels constructed include ocean liners, oil tankers, oil and gas production rigs, container ships. The shipyards were very organised and clean as staff dedicate time to this each morning. Goeje Island is also the home of the Haeundai shipyards which is the second largest shipyard in the world.

During the Korean War, Goeje Island was used for the prisoner of war camps where the allied troops housed the captured North Korean prisoners. The Council took us to the POW interpretive display which illustrated the history of the camps.

## **23rd May :: Day 6 Suncheon International Garden Expo Study Tour – International Garden Expo – Economic Development, Environmental Protection and Korean Gardens**

We were up early to catch a bus at 6am to get to the Masan station, followed by a train to Suncheon. At the station a bus provided by Suncheon International Garden Expo took us to the garden expo site. The Garden Expo at Suncheon is a new site which will be open as an expo for 184 days. Following this it will become a permanent garden complex.

It is a large site featuring many types of gardens such as international gardens, artistic gardens, wetlands, small corporate gardens and indoor gardens. The Korean garden is traditional in style and the design is partly based on the palace gardens of Changdeokgong Palace. The expo site also included food outlets, picnic areas, interpretation areas, arts and sculpture and an outdoor stage area.

The gardens expo provided Council with the opportunity to see how both traditional and modern Korean gardens are designed, planted and used, as well as to see other examples of gardens within the wider area of the Expo. There was excellent information on the plant species used, as well as many examples of architecture, water features, walls, gates and courtyards, and planting layouts. Council came away with many ideas and an insight to the complexity of a traditional Korean garden.

We met with the Chairman of the Expo and the Mayor of Suncheon City. His passion for developing gardens started when he successfully developed a Korean garden in France, as part of an international garden expo in the city of Nantes. He believes international gardens help the development of a city and can help relationships with other countries. He would like to assist Strathfield build the Korean garden.

After a tour of the formal and informal gardens areas, we were taken to the secondary area of the expo at Suncheon Bay and its important international wetlands. There we learnt of an important link between Strathfield and Suncheon. Siberian migratory birds that fly to Australia including Mason Park wetlands, stopover in the Suncheon Bay area. After dinner we returned to Seoul on the KTX high speed train which took only 2.5 hours.

## **24th May :: Day 7 – Seoul**

### **Study Tour – Targeted Urban Regeneration – Dongdaemun Design Plaza complex; Seoul Waste Handling – Gwancheon Automated Waste System, Seoul Food Waste Recycling.**

In the morning we caught a subway train to the Dongdaemun History and Culture Park, and the important urban regeneration project of the Dongdaemun Design Plaza, with the accompanying clothing precinct and markets all around. Within the new Dongdaemun Design Plaza complex, archaeological remains associated with old Seoul city wall had even been exposed in situ for interpretative and preservation purposes. The Dongdaemun Design Plaza is an important urban regeneration project seeking to place Seoul as the international hub for all things design, especially fashion given its location within the clothing district of Seoul. This was a very enlightening illustration for Council that showed how a single project can transform an area of a city, and move it from nowhere to being a world-class centre and focus for design and urban regeneration.

Nearby was the ancient Seoul western city gate (building) which has recently been immaculately restored. It provides an important and beautiful reminder of Seoul's original city fortress wall and buildings, which contrasts spectacularly with the surrounding contemporary retail and commercial buildings. The structure was first built by King Taejo during his fifth year of reign (1398). It was renovated in 1453, and the current structure is the one rebuilt in 1869. We also walked through some large shops set up like open plan Department store but consisting mainly of small independent clothes retailers.

In the afternoon we travelled by subway to Gwancheon City, which is an outer suburban Council of the wider Seoul Metropolitan area, which includes several national government departments. The city is enclosed by hills, has a spacious well planned layout with generous plantings of trees and landscaping. The Gwancheon City Vice Mayor and several Directors hosted an official meeting at the Council offices. One of the Directors explained the Council's involvement in the installing of an automated waste system to new high density residential developments.

Council was then taken to see an automated vacuum waste system used at one high rise residential developments. This included inspecting one of the shared waste chutes for the residents and the centralised waste collection hub where the waste is piped to. This system catered for 3,100 residential units. The local chairman of the residential complex equivalent to our strata committee met the delegation, and explained why they implemented the system from the development's point of view. He also explained the choice of the system, and why they located the inlets outdoors, instead of indoors. The system was demonstrated to the delegation.

The residents purchase special bags which are bar coded which enables the chutes to be opened and also to track the waste. The system does not rely on gravity but a vacuum system that operates around twice a day (when needed) to move all the waste deposited in the respective waste fraction chute. Whilst the system involves a large capital investment, the ongoing recurrent labour costs are low, individual garbage storage and collection is avoided and it provides a reliable and convenient system for residents. In South Korea there are 50-60 automated waste systems constructed to date.

Following this we visited a food waste recycling operation in Seoul. The facility is located at a waste water plant owned by Seoul City Council and is operated by a private company. The facility processes 150 tonnes of food waste per day and manufactures this into liquids and also dry fertiliser. The 10 million people living in Seoul produce 3,000 tonnes of food waste per day which is collected and processed at similar facilities within and outside the city.

## **25th May :: Day 8 - Rest Day - Optional Free Activities**

The group undertook a variety of different activities on the optional free day. This included a tour of CCTV camera infrastructure, shopping at Namdaemun market, visiting art exhibitions and the Seoul Observation tower.

Korean Air flight departed for Sydney at 7.10pm.