



**PRIME MINISTER**

**SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING  
STATE DINNER FOR PRESIDENT KIM YOUNG SAM  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE CANBERRA  
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Mr President, we meet again.

On this occasion it is here, in Australia, where you and Mrs Kim are very welcome guests and friends.

For me it is a real and personal pleasure to welcome you and your distinguished party to our country.

Before I turn to our very healthy bilateral relationship, I must say something about our work together on APEC.

In many respects nothing nearly so important would have come from Bogor Mr President had it not been for your vision, and persistence.

From its inception there have been APEC doubters and critics.

Korea has never been in that company.

More importantly, you Mr President, have been at the frontline of our efforts to make something substantial and significant of APEC.

We have shared a view about what was needed and have joined our efforts to get the best possible outcome.

Through your efforts you have stamped Korea and yourself as leaders in the Asia-Pacific.

That we were able at Bogor to agree an historic declaration for free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific by 2020 is evidence of this.

Our agreement there is, of course, just the start of the work and effort that is needed to turn this commitment to reality.

One thing you can be sure of, however, is that we would never have secured a result as significant as we did had leaders not had the will to lead.

As we now develop ways of taking forward and acting on the Bogor declaration I know I will work closely again with you Mr President.

While APEC is a broad regional body, it also stimulates the development of bilateral relations. We saw in Indonesia dozens of meetings between Asia-Pacific leaders which preceded Bogor - all ensuring better understanding and co-operation between countries in the region.

Mr President, your visit to Australia, like mine to Korea last year, is a sign that we both believe now in the time to take the relationship between Australia and Korea to a new level.

Our ties go back many years and are of the deepest kind. Between 1950 and 1953, 17,000 Australian men and women served in Korea to help defend its people from aggression. More than three hundred died there. I paid tribute to some of them when I visited the United Nations cemetery in Pusan during my visit to Korea last year.

I am pleased to announce tonight that the Australian Government will contribute \$200,000 towards the construction of a national monument on Anzac Parade in Canberra to mark the sacrifice of the Australians who served in Korea and to commemorate the links between our two countries.

Australia has been a firm supporter of Korea's security since that time. We are also conscious that, despite recent hopeful developments, the security problems of the peninsula continue to require vigilance and the active interest of all nations in the region.

While an earlier generation of Australians knew Korea as a country ravaged by war, the current generation knows a very different country - a strong democracy and one of the most dynamic economies in the world.

Australia has been a partner in that growth.

In the late 1960s, for example, Australian engineering support and consultancy helped to build POSCO's Pohang steelworks. Australia has been proud to be associated with POSCO and with the development of other Korean industries.

There is a natural complementarity between our economies which benefits us both and adds breadth and depth to the relationship.

Over recent years, our economic links have grown at an astounding rate.

The Republic of Korea is now our third largest export market and is likely to be our second largest in the next two years. It is our eighth largest source of imports.

Two way trade grew by 16 per cent in 1993-94 , to more than \$6.5 billion.

Korea's growing status as a world trading nation is one of the reasons, in addition to Trade Minister Kim Chul-Su's long experience and personal qualities, that Australia is supporting him for the post of Director General of the World Trade Organisation.

We are also encouraged to see Korean and Australian companies increasingly working together in a range of major projects.

I attach real significance to your decision to bring with you a distinguished group of senior Korean businesspeople. I have no doubt they will find new opportunities here for trade and investment, and that their Australian colleagues will find new opportunities in Korea.

Investment both ways has lagged behind our trading relationship and is one area which we should work to strengthen over the coming years.

Scientific research, industrial technology and energy co-operation are other fields in which we can do more together.

Each of us has the sense, I think, Mr President, that this vital and growing economic relationship needs still to be matched by greater bonds between our people. We do not yet know enough about each other although we are both working hard on this aspect of our relationship.

For Australia's part, we have nominated Korean as one of the principal Asian languages to be taught in Australian schools under our national languages strategy.

Nine Australian universities now offer a degree program in Korean, compared with only one in 1988.

Education and closer human contact, through tourism for example, will help to reinforce the economic relationship. But it will do more: it will enrich the lives and deepen the cultural understanding of those who take part.

So the President and I have much to talk about tomorrow.

I began by saying that it was a great personal pleasure to welcome you to Australia, Mr President.

One reason for that is because of my admiration, and the admiration of Australians, for your deep commitment to democracy, expressed at times at considerable personal risk.

Throughout your career you have stood unwaveringly and courageously for civil and political freedom, for

democratic parliamentary institutions and for the observance of human rights. Your political life has left a lasting legacy to your country, and a lasting example to the world.

For this reason, it is particularly appropriate for me to welcome you here in our country's Parliament House on behalf of the Government and people of Australia and to invite you to speak to us.

I now call on the leader of the National Party, Mr Fischer, to join me in welcoming you.

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