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“Fostering a Vibrant Australia-Korea Business Community through Networking, Information Sharing, and Representation”

Dear Members,

The AustCham Board has recently reviewed the fundamental underpinnings of the Chamber including the future directions and expected challenges and have adopted the above headline as our new mission statement. It is a very simple but compelling statement that embodies what we do and why.

Another busy year for AustCham in 2015 and timely to reflect on the year so far. Many great events and interesting developments as we begin to understand the opportunities presented by the KAFTA. In summary:

New Members and Sponsors: We welcome ExxonMobil (Gold) and Rio Tinto (returning Silver), as well as new company members Audax, Pepper Savings Bank, Pulse, SFI Korea, Shout Waggenger Edstrom and Steelcase. A very warm welcome also to our many new individual members. We now have a total membership of 247 that positions us well for the future.

New Committees: Following a review of our committee structure, the AustCham Board has decided to realign our committees to better serve the needs of our members. The six restructured committees along with Chairs are:

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UPCOMING EVENTS: CHECK WEBSITE FOR DETAILS
WWW.AUSTCHAMKOREA.ORG

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AUSTCHAM KOREA DOWNUNDER SEPTEMBER 2015 VOL. 7 NO. 12

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Executive Committee – Graham Dodds
Compliance – Paul Schofield
Membership – Craig Pasch
Doing Business in Korea – Lewis McDonald
Events & Social and CSR – Scott Walker
Communications – Paul Degano

The committees are actively looking for member engagement and would really like to hear from you! Please contact any of the Chairs!

Team Australia: AustCham, the Australian Embassy, Austrade, and various other partner organisations continue to work as “Team Australia” to promote the Australia-Korea bilateral relationship. The group works well together in support of projects with various Australian Government Ministries, State offices and many other stakeholder organizations such as the Western Australia Korea Energy Resources Forum.

AustCham has participated in multiple interactions with a range of visitors including NSW Premier Mike Baird, MP Steve Ciobo and DFAT Secretary Peter Varghese providing perspective on business conditions in Korea as well as identifying opportunities for development of the relationship between Australia and Korea.

Supporting Education

AustCham is a supporter of the University of Technology Sydney’s Project “The Innovation Systems of Australia and Korea in the FTA Era: Deepening Linkages to Promote the Diffusion of Innovation” which has just recently been successful in its grant application for funding by the Australia-Korea Foundation. AustCham has proudly supported the New Colombo Plan (NCP) by offering business internships to successful Australian NCP recipients in 2016 within its Secretariat.

Issues Advocacy and Outreach

AustCham participated in a forum at the request of HE Yoon Sang-jick, the Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) and were invited to express our views on the directions and incentive programs that the Korean government offers the foreign business community. We also welcomed a trade mission from the Canberra Business Chamber and supported the Korea Agency for Saemangeum Development & Investment.

We have also continued to develop the relationship with Korea International Trade Association (KITA) and our recent joint KAFTA seminar was a great success. We continue to look for further similar opportunities.

We have also assisted in the pilot operation and later welcomed the launch of the Regulation Information Portal, a joint project by The Office for Government Policy Coordination (OPC), Ministry of Trade, Industry & Energy (MOTIE), and Korea Trade Promotion Corporation (KOTRA) to establish an online communications channel to actively hear out what foreign-invested firms have to say in the process of formulating legislations that regulate foreign-invested companies and of other regulatory information

AustCham continues to be active participant in the Seoul Metropolitan Government’s Foreign Investment Advisory Council (FIAC) and recently developed a policy on the importance of contractual integrity.

Events & Community

The heart and soul of AustCham are events and networking activities. AustCham kicked off the year with a great Australia Day at the Grand Hyatt Seoul, our regular Sundowners - including a joint ANZAC Day Luncheon with the Kiwi Chamber - and continued to support our community by sponsoring the ANZA Ball. In addition, we took part in the Rugby World Cup Dinner with the British Chamber, Kiwi Chamber, and the newly formed South African Chamber

Earlier in the year, we presented a KRW 3 Million donation to the Jeon Jin Sang Hospice. We laid a wreath on behalf of members at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service, provided student scholarships to Gapyeong High School, and raised over KRW 1.2 Million in raffles in support of charity.

And to complement charity donations and fundraising, AustCham has a community outreach activity planned for Saturday October 17. More details will be available shortly.

Lots coming up over the next several months so be on the lookout for flyers and social media for specifics. This is your Chamber, get involved because the Chamber exists for our Members!

Graham Dodds,
Chair
AustCham Korea

AUSTCHAM CHRISTMAS IN JULY SUNDOWNERS
Held on 30 July 2015 at the Australia Centre, Australian Embassy Seoul



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