

Citation for Professor Jong Taik Lee

Professor Jong Taik Lee is a long time friend, supporter and partner of the University of South Australia. He is currently Director of EduAustralia, a company which provides support for Australian education in Korea through recruitment and consultancy services. Professor Lee established EduAustralia to further his long-standing interest in international education, and in particular partnerships between Korea and Australia.

Professor Lee has enjoyed a long and distinguished career as a academic, teaching various subjects at the undergraduate and postgraduate level at Pukyong National University since 1985. His relationship with this institution however stems back to the Pusan National Institute of Technology, the Pusan National University of Technology and later Pukyong National University following a merger with the Pukyong Fisheries University in 1985.

As a staff member of the former Pusan National Institute of Technology (PNIT) Professor Lee first formed a link with the South Australian Institute of Technology (SAIT) following a 1988 Austrade led delegation to Korea. During his visit to Australia in 1989, as an international coordinator, Professor Lee played a decisive role in opening the sister-relationship with SAIT and the Queensland Institute of Technology (QIT). The agreement between Pusan National University of Technology and SAIT - was our institution's first university-to-university international agreement. It would not have occurred were it not for the efforts of Professor Lee and another fellow of the University, our former Registrar, Ms Liz Watson.

Professor Lee's association with UniSA is unique in the context of international educational relationships and collaboration. From the earliest days of the University of South Australia he has been an ardent supporter and tireless worker in building not only educational links between Australia and Korea but ongoing collaboration in research, student mobility, English language training and Korean studies between UniSA and Pukyong National University.

Professor Lee's contributions to UniSA include:

- Several periods as a visiting scholar at the Mawson Lakes Campus teaching aspects of Korean culture and presenting seminars on 'Dimensions of Korea' at the School of International Studies.
- Ongoing support and contacts in assisting UniSA gain funding for research links between Pukyong University and UniSA. This has been most evident in the fields of Electrical Engineering and Chemical Technology. Several PhD students and staff from Pukyong have undertaken research in the Centre for Molecular and Materials Sciences. This has included Australian – Asian fellowship winners working on joint research projects and publications. A Pukyong IPRS candidate is currently studying in the Centre with Associate Professor Pendleton as principal supervisor.
- Encouraging student mobility to Korea in which several students from the Division of Education Arts and Social Sciences spent time in Pusan during the mid to late 1990s. He has recently established a Korean studies unit in his Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences at Pukyong to further enhance opportunities for Australian students to study about Korea.
- Developing a number of English language teacher training and study tour programs with CELUSA.
- Acting as a recruitment agency for both UniSA and CELUSA and providing a steady stream of students in addition to those Pukyong students undertaking exchange in undergraduate programs.
- And finally, for which I am particularly grateful, acting as a gracious host, skilled translator and good friend to the many delegations of senior UniSA staff who have visited Pukyong University.

On the eve of his retirement Professor Lee continues to champion new and innovative collaborative activity. This includes a recent 'online' Art exhibition with Pukyong and UniSA School of Art students and academic program developments such as an International Double Degree Program.

Professor Lee has worked with the Australian Embassy in Korea to promote understanding and interest about Australia in Korea, supporting not just UniSA but higher education more generally. He is an outstanding ambassador for higher education links between our two countries, further demonstrated by his role as President of the Korea-Australia Cultural Exchange Association and membership of 'Team Australia', chaired by the Australian Ambassador to Korea.

All relationships, whether between individuals or institutions, can be hard work. International relationships face the additional challenges, and provide the additional rewards, of linguistic and cultural differences. Professor Lee has done the hard work, demonstrating dedication and ongoing commitment to an institutional relationship, and through this an increased understanding between the people of Korea and Australia.

Chancellor, it is my pleasure, on behalf of the University of South Australia, to present to you, Professor Jong Taik Lee, for the Honorary Award of University Fellow, in recognition of his extraordinary contribution to the University of South Australia and his commitment to forging international educational relationships.