

History of Science Diplomacy- SIN, the Royal Society and the Science Museum create links for a unique UK exhibition

As a result of relationships supported by SIN Korea, on 16 November 2015 the National Science Museum of Korea opened its doors to the '10 Great Experiments' and 'Science and Splendour' exhibition. Showcasing nearly 200 artefacts and documents, this is the first time they have been on display outside of the UK.

Exploring Connections

In advance of the state visit of President Park Geun Hye to the UK in November 2013, SIN Korea met with the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning (MSIP) to identify new bilateral opportunities. With discussion already underway for a partnership between the Royal Society and the Institute of Basic Science in Korea, MSIP was keen to explore science culture links with the UK.

SIN Korea helped to initiate and facilitate talks between the Royal Society and the MSIP funded National Science Museum of Korea based in Daejeon, South Korea's science capital. This generated an agreement signed during the State Visit to pursue a travelling exhibition to South Korea, and the Royal Society invited the Science Museum Group into the partnership to make the most of this fantastic opportunity.



Universal silver microscope, by George Adams, 1761. Photo with permission from the Science Museum Group.

Raising the Profile

Ahead of the opening, SIN Korea worked with the British Embassy Seoul's media team and the Science Museum Group to promote the exhibition through the Embassy's social media channels, including a week-long series of short articles highlighting the most significant artefacts of the exhibition and a competition to win tickets along with GREAT campaign branded prizes.

The importance of the exhibition was demonstrated by strong support at the national and local level. At the opening, MSIP Minister Choi Yanghee and Mayor of Daejeon Kwon Sun-Taik spoke alongside the Director of the Science Museum Group, Ian Blatchford, addressing an audience of research organisation leaders and 300 students from local high schools.

The UK's Scientific History Continues to Inspire

Running until 28 February 2016, the exhibition will provide thousands of visitors a unique view of the UK's scientific history, with the aim to inspire the next generation of Korean scientists and engineers, and hopefully to explore studying in the UK.

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Ambassador Charles Hay with Korean students at the exhibition.