



# 2010 Korea Open

By Jon Evans (SV Speed Chairman)



## What?

- The Korea Open is an International Speed Skating event, held in Namwon which is four hours drive south of Seoul and organised by the Korean Roller Sports Federation. (KRSF)
- Competitors from Korea, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, India, Hong Kong, Iran, Mongolia and Victoria.
- 4 days of Flat Banked Track events and 3 days of Road (Worlds distances)
- 535 skaters compete for medals and US\$45,000 in prizemoney.
- Divisions include many current and past Korean World Championship medalists.

## Why?

- Skate Victoria recognizes the need to give our skaters valuable experience on World Championship standard tracks that are not available in our region.
- To provide strong competition as a means of helping our skaters to lift their performance level.
- A great opportunity to travel to another country, learn the culture and create friendships.

## When?

- 2010 dates: 5th - 19th May including 4 days of practice on banked track prior to competition.
- Included 2 days in Anyang visiting venue of 2006 World Championships.
- 2011 dates to be confirmed in January, with early May predicted.

## Who?

- Skate Victoria selected a Squad, based on various criteria including skating ability.
- 12 skaters, a Team Manager and Coach made up the Victorian Team, with support from 4 parents.
- **Middle School:** Ariel Chu, Kelly Northover, Nicole Wong, Armstrong Lazenby and Harry Stogdale.
- **High School:** Siran Delice, Ben Coole-Probert, Adam Hodges and James Ke
- **University/Business:** Sam Evans, Jake Round and Jai Trento.
- Team Manager: Jon Evans. Coach: Juan Carlos Valencia.
- Supporting parents: Joanna Birdseye, Frances Wei Lee, Jo Delice and Ian Coole-Probert.

## How?

- The KRSF made all land transport arrangements from Incheon Airport to Namwon and back to Anyang, all by coach. Accommodation also organised by KRSF.
- An interpreter and assistant were provided, along with track marquee, chairs and chilled bottled water.
- All meal bookings were handled by our interpreter.
- Hotel accommodation was modern and comfortable, 5 minutes from track.
- **Cost of trip: approx. \$3000 per person** including airfares, accommodation, food, transport, travel insurance, team management and visas.

**Skate Victoria will be organising a trip to the 2011 Korea Open. The KRSF would welcome any other Teams from Australia and New Zealand.**



For more photos go to <http://community.webshots.com/user/JonnyEvans60>