



news release

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MACLAREN TO LEAD TRADE MISSION TO ASIA

The Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Roy MacLaren, will lead a Canadian trade mission to the People's Republic of China, Korea and Japan, March 26 to April 9. The visit will promote increased trade and investment with Canada, and will highlight the region's strong business potential for Canadians.

"Asia-Pacific is the most dynamic region in the world today, with average annual growth rates between six and nine percent. China, Korea and Japan are among Canada's top six trading partners, together accounting for \$27.8-billion worth of trade with Canada," the Minister said. "Increasing trade and investment with these countries is of vital importance to economic growth and job creation in Canada."

Mr. MacLaren will meet with government ministers and business officials in each of the three countries to discuss key issues regarding bilateral trade and economic relationships, including market access issues. As well, he will underline to ministers the importance Canada attaches to a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round in April at Marrakesh.

In China, Mr. MacLaren will seek to strengthen and expand Canada's already active participation in the country's rapidly developing economy, and assure government leaders that Canada supports China's accession to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). He will tour the Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications and address local business representatives in Beijing. In Shanghai, he will tour the Pudong economic zone and participate in a business forum at Tongji University, College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

In Korea from March 31 to April 5, Mr. MacLaren will visit Seoul and Wolsung, the site of four CANDU nuclear reactors, one of which has been in operation since 1983, and three which are under construction. He will also meet with the chairmen of Korea's leading *chaebols* (conglomerates), including Hyundai, Daewoo, POSCO, Sammi and Lucky-Goldstar International.