

The city of Osaka alone has a population of over 2.6 million while Osaka Prefecture has 8.7 million. Osaka is the headquarters of 30 of the world's 500 largest corporations outside the U.S., ranking fourth in that regard behind Tokyo, London and Paris. Osaka was the original great business city of Japan, serving as the nation's distribution centre, and most of Japan's most famous trading companies started here. Despite being the headquarters of such famous names as Sumitomo, Matsushita (National/Panasonic/Quasar/Technics), Sanyo and Sharp, the region is now better characterized as the centre of medium and small companies which represent some 92% of its work force. Virtually everything except defence products is made there but electronics has displaced textiles as the dominant industry.

Canada's opening in Osaka is designed to capitalize on the opportunities for both trade and investment offered by the region's powerful economy.

The new office was established to:

- 1) promote exports of Canadian goods and services
- 2) encourage Japanese manufacturing investment in Canada
- 3) stimulate technology transfer between Japanese and Canadian companies.

Priority areas for the promotion of Canadian exports are:

- 1) communications and informatics
- 2) processed foods and beverages
- 3) fish and shellfish and other marine products
- 4) manufactured wood products

The new office has a large multi-purpose room which is being well-utilized by Canadian businessmen and officials for a wide variety of events including computer software demonstrations, beef promotions, fur shows, 2x4 wood seminars, provincial and municipal presentations, film shows and receptions and other functions. The room is normally made available to Canadian organizations free of charge on a first-come first-served basis.

Priority areas for the new office for the promotion of manufacturing investment in Canada are:

- 1) manufacturing
- 2) consumer electronics
- 3) automotive parts
- 4) pharmaceuticals and biotechnology

In March 1987, Communications Minister Flora MacDonald was the keynote speaker at a Canadian Investment Seminar in Osaka which attracted 254 participants including representatives of five provinces. The very successful event was co-sponsored by the Canadian Government and the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Chamber which has a membership of