

mechanism that enables Canadian and Japanese researchers to share and exchange recent advances in the area of housing research and technology development.

Information and Communications Technologies (ICT)

Canada and Japan are global leaders at the forefront of innovation in the field of ICT. The two governments place great importance on this sector and recognize the potential to enhance our respective objectives through collaboration, not only at the multilateral level (e.g. International Telecommunications Union), but also bilaterally. In addition, Canada and Japan are actively endeavouring to strengthen cooperation among research centres, universities and the private sector.

The key bilateral forum for cooperation in this area is the Canada-Japan Telecommunications Policy Consultations, which were established in 1984. These consultations provide an opportunity to share perspectives on key policy developments, to exchange a wide range of opinions on appropriate regulatory decisions and cooperation concerning ICT in Canada and Japan, as well as to identify and advance mutual collaboration in research and development. In 2006, Industry Canada, the Japanese Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry signed a joint statement in the field of anti-spam.

Collaboration between various Canadian government departments and JETRO is also ongoing and productive. JETRO has supported Canada's efforts to enhance ICT partnerships by sending information technology (IT) missions to Canada and by providing Canadian IT companies with information and advice about the Japanese market. In April 2003, JETRO and Industry Canada signed an MOU intended to increase levels of data sharing and technical cooperation and to improve electronic access for both Canadian and Japanese firms.