

In the final analysis, improved economic relations with Japan depend on private sector initiatives, and here too, there were major efforts in 1979 to expand contacts, advance mutual understanding and investigate business opportunities. The second Canada-Japan Businessmen's Conference was held in Toronto in May 1979 and built successfully on the groundwork laid at the first conference the year before. The Canadian Government gives its wholehearted support to these significant private-sector meetings.

Since many provinces have strong interests in Japan, the Federal Government has continued to assist their efforts and to consult with them on the content and conduct of Canadian policies vis-à-vis Japan. In 1979 assistance was given to provincial ministerial missions from Ontario, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, British Columbia and Alberta, and to a mission in October 1979, led by the British Columbia Premier.

Governmental exchanges and cooperation in the field of science and technology continued in 1979 as an increasingly active element of the overall relationship. From June 3-6, 1980, the fourth in a series of periodic bilateral government consultations will occur in Tokyo.

Stepped up exchanges in the academic and cultural fields, journalists' visits, the success of the public affairs program of the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo in acquainting Japanese decision-makers about Canada and its concerns, are all manifestations of the growing importance of non-economic factors in Canada's relationship with Japan.