

A good number of you here tonight, and in the CIIA generally, are educators. An important contribution the CIIA could make is to look at questions related to the training of our youth for the internationalist roles we all envisage for Canada.

Your Conference will be discussing the "New Realities in the Pacific". Some of those realities were scarcely imaginable as recently as ten years ago: Japan becoming the world's largest capital exporter, China modernizing and joining the GATT, the Asian Newly Industrialized Countries (NICs) turning into the four tigers.

The need for Canada to adjust to the new realities has entered our collective consciousness. Governments, federal and provincial, are devising strategies and programs to take advantage of the exciting opportunities in trade, investment and scientific and technological cooperation. We are making good progress. The many ministerial visits to the region, including the Prime Minister's, the emphasis on Asia/Pacific in our National Trade Strategy, the support given to the Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference (PECC) and to the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC), and the strengthening of our diplomatic and trade missions in Asia, are all evidence of that.

More is being done all the time. Grace McCarthy, the B.C. Minister of Economic Development, and I are co-chairwomen of the new Pacific Initiative Advisory Committee which involves the private sector in efforts to promote Vancouver's role as Canada's Gateway to the Pacific. The Committee will be seeking ways to strengthen economic ties with Japan, the NICs, and the rest of the Pacific in international trade and finance, transportation, tourism and other areas.

The new economic weight of Japan and increasingly of the NICs as well, makes it essential that they take on greater responsibilities in international economic institutions. This is a process we are encouraging in our dialogue with them.

Some day we may also see the emergence of a pan-regional economic institution of Pacific Rim countries. This is a vision that is close to my heart. People are talking of a "Pacific OECD". Whatever institution finally emerges will be a new and unique institution reflecting the special characteristics and needs of the region, and I think the OECD itself in its membership and activities, should reflect more of the dynamism of the Pacific.

During this Conference you will also be discussing the brightening future of East-West relations. A sign of the times perhaps is the title of an upcoming Wilton Park Conference: "Europe into the 1990s: An End to the Post-War Era?". In the afterglow of the Reagan-Gorbachev Summit and the signature of the INF Treaty, the first post-war arms reduction agreement, we have reason to be hopeful. We should also be realistic.