

I want to stress that mutual interest must be served in the field of education and training, as it must be in the new business partnerships we are developing. Canada's intention is to share the talents of our people and the facilities of our country, not with a view to encouraging the outflow of talent to Canada but to enriching both your and our peoples through the contacts that they will share. We believe that our mutual interests will be best served by the linkages which will be there after the participants return.

One of the most successful new initiatives which the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada has undertaken was to organize a Seminar in Banff, Alberta, my home Province. The session brought together Japanese and Canadian businesspersons to spend two weeks getting to know one another and talk about common problems and how to build new business relations between Canada and Japan. They were able to go back to their organizations with a better understanding of each other's business practices, perspectives and opportunities for building new links. I am told that at least one business deal was launched from the experience.

The next such session will take place in September, this time involving executives and business people from Thailand. I can see the Canada-ASEAN Centre playing a catalytic role in multiplying these kinds of new and specialized seminars across the ASEAN region.

To maximize contact between our people, we must look beyond traditional areas of cooperation. We must look beyond our official programs. The Centre can promote contacts between our cultural groups, our media, our sporting associations and other non-governmental bodies. The Centre's role will in many respects be that of a match-maker. I am confident that many lasting marriages will result.

I anticipate that next year at this time, the Centre will be embarking on new programs, beyond development cooperation which have been created through our mutual planning efforts. The Centre will be what we choose to make of it. I am inviting you to be part of this process.

I believe most sincerely that the future of our relationship hinges on the expansion of contacts and links which will increase familiarity trust and friendship between our respective peoples. We should consider that to be our common goal. The Canada-ASEAN Centre signifies Canada's commitment to the future that we will share together.