improving Asian language skills and awareness to allow Canadian businesses to deal more effectively with opportunities in the region.

It is widely perceived in Asia-Pacific countries that developments in Europe and North America are leading to a "bloc-oriented" trading system. The Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. Hawke, has been encouraging a dialogue on a Pacific basin trading group as an offset to this trend, to ensure that Asian nations have secure access to a sufficiently large market for economies-of-scale in production.

Australia's regional economic co-operation initiative was expanded in July, 1989, to include Canada and the United States. Canada has offered support to this initiative. A Ministerial meeting held in Canberra during the first week of November, 1989, was attended by trade ministers from twelve countries to discuss this proposal. These were Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, the United States, and the six members of ASEAN 154. This group agreed that emphasis should be placed on a successful completion of the Uruguay Round, that the role of the group should be complementary to the ASEAN, and that it should not, at this time, move towards becoming an OECD-like organization in the Pacific.

¹⁵⁴ Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Brunei.