

"Canada knows that Asia Pacific is the future".

- Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, January 17, 1997

Conclusion

With over 700 CYAP events spread out over cities and towns across Canada, the government succeeded in raising awareness of Asia Pacific. The year also firmly established Canada's credentials as a Pacific nation in the eyes of our APEC partners. However, many of the organizations who participated in CYAP have expressed a desire to see Canada's Year of Asia Pacific followed up with an enduring legacy of stronger and more numerous human links between Canada and the Asia Pacific region. CYAP's legacy will, in fact, be the subject of a conference that will take place in March 1998, with key participants getting the chance to determine priorities for the future.

In time, some of the small businesses who took a serious look at Asia Pacific markets will make contacts and begin exporting to the region. There are also indications that interest generated by CYAP will lead to increased opportunities for cross-cultural training, and the continuation of some of the very successful networking events that took place in 1997. In 1998, York University and Queens University will cooperate on a survey that will examine the need for Asia Pacific training. Their results will be useful to determining how to follow up on CYAP.

Cultural organizations established relationships with counterparts and one can only hope that this will lead to an increased focus on Asia Pacific so that Canadian touring companies can become as popular in Tokyo, Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur as they are in New York, London or Paris.

CYAP was a unique, ambitious project. Ultimately, its success will ultimately be determined in the months and years to come. However, through business, youth, or cultural events, CYAP did succeed in reaching millions of Canadians. For a time, their attention was diverted away from Canada's southern neighbour, just long enough to consider the possibilities for trade, employment, and cooperation that await Canada in the Asia Pacific region. On this basis alone, the Canada's Year of Asia Pacific initiative accomplished what it set out to do.

On November 21, Prime Minister Chretien announced that the Government of Canada would contribute \$4 million towards the establishment of the Centre for Dialogue at Simon Fraser University, a state of the art conference facility and the first of its kind in North America. The main conference hall of this innovative facility devoted to bringing people together to promote understanding will be named Asia Pacific Hall, in recognition of it being a legacy from Canada's CYAP and APEC year.