

## THE CANADA/JAPAN BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE

Several developments in late 1976 suggested the desirability of establishing a mechanism to promote wider and more visible involvement by the private sector in the development of Canada/Japan trade and economic relations. In particular, Mr. Hisao Makita, leader of a high-level Japanese Economic Mission to Canada in November 1976, stressed the essential role of the business communities in realizing closer economic cooperation.

David Culver, President of the Aluminum Company of Canada Ltd. (ALCAN), having been assured of the full support of the Canadian government, offered to take the initiative to form a Canada/Japan Business Cooperation Committee (CJBCC) comprising representative chairmen or chief executive officers of Canadian firms with a special interest in Japan. Of the Canadian businessmen approached by Mr. Culver in September 1977, some 50 agreed to join the Committee. The CJBCC now numbers about 70 members. Mr. Makita, as leader of the Japanese Economic Mission to Canada in 1976, formed a similar group.

The first Canada/Japan Businessmen's Conference was held in Tokyo, May 16-18, 1978. The Canadian delegation, led by Mr. Culver, comprised 47 members of the Business Cooperation Committee with 80 members on the Japanese side. The Conference was highly successful insofar as it brought together a group of senior businessmen in both countries to discuss mutual concerns and provided the opportunity for businessmen to establish valuable contacts.