

## Republic of Korea

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): US\$331 billion (1993); US\$356 billion (1994 est.)  
GDP Growth Rate: 5.5% (1993); 8.3% (1994 est.)  
GDP Per Capita: US\$7,510 (1993); US\$8,015 (1994 est.)  
Population: 44.5 million (1994)

Head of State: President Kim Young Sam  
Head of Government: Prime Minister Lee Hong-koo  
Minister of Foreign Affairs: Gong Ro Myung  
Minister for International Trade and Industry: Park Jae Yoon

### Canada-Republic of Korea Relations

- Canadian involvement in the Korean peninsula began in the late 19th century when Canadian missionaries played an important role in education and health care.
- Official involvement began in 1947 when Canada participated in the United Nations commission that supervised free elections. Formal recognition of the Republic of Korea followed in 1949. Canada opened its embassy in Seoul in 1973.
- Canada contributed the fourth-largest contingent to the UN Command in the 1950-1953 Korean War, providing 26,791 troops and suffering 516 fatalities.
- In 1992, Canada welcomed the election of President Kim Young Sam, the Republic of Korea's first civilian president in more than 30 years.
- The Republic of Korea's rapid development, democratic evolution and growing regional and international interests, together with its entry into the United Nations in 1991, have resulted in greater co-operation between the two countries in a number of areas, such as arms control, disarmament and peacekeeping.
- In addition, Canada and the Republic of Korea share membership in the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum and the World Trade Organization. Canada is supporting the Republic of Korea's request for membership in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development because of the country's growing economic importance and our shared interest in many policy areas.