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MINISTER CARNEY ATTENDS ASIA-PACIFIC TRADE CONFERENCE

The Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Pat Carney, completed the first day of the Fourth Asian-Pacific Trade Conference in Bali, Indonesia.

The Conference, hosted by the Indonesian Government, has brought together some 55 government ministers, businessmen and independent experts from the Asian-Pacific region to discuss the prospects for reaching early agreements in the GATT multilateral trade negotiations (MTN).

In her opening remarks, Minister Carney highlighted the major Canadian objectives: to strengthen the multilateral trading system, to assist developing countries and to give greater priority to agricultural trade as an element in a mid term review.

The Minister also reiterated Canada's invitation to host the mid term review towards the end of this year, a proposal which the Minister said has been warmly received by her colleagues. She stressed that rapid progress in the MTN is needed this year to demonstrate the commitment of governments to strengthening the trading system and to give a positive signal to the business community that protectionism can be halted.

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Minister for
International
Trade

Ministre du
Commerce
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