

conomic Framework. Following a meeting between the CCCE and Nippon Keidanren in 2004, both organizations called for strengthened bilateral economic ties and pressed for the creation of a framework agreement between the two governments. This call for action expedited the decision by the two governments to move ahead with plans for a new economic framework that had been under joint consideration. Shortly thereafter, in January 2005, the Canadian and Japanese Prime Ministers launched the development of the Canada-Japan Economic Framework. At their last meeting in Canada, in November 2005, CCCE and Nippon Keidanren business leaders issued a joint statement urging the Canadian and Japanese governments to move swiftly toward a discussion of opportunities to enhance the bilateral relationship (the joint statement is available at [www.ceocouncil.ca](http://www.ceocouncil.ca) or [www.keidanren.or.jp](http://www.keidanren.or.jp)).

#### *Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan (CCCJ)*

The CCCJ has been working since 1975 to promote the interests of Canadian business in Japan and encourage the development of commerce between the two countries. Its members represent a broad cross-section of business leaders and entrepreneurs from Canada, Japan and other countries. Over the years, the CCCJ and the Embassy of Canada in Tokyo have forged a close working relationship through joint efforts to promote Canadian products in the Japanese market and through the work of the CCCJ's Committee on Trade Policy.

#### *Japanese Chambers of Commerce*

The Japanese chambers of commerce in Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver and Montreal have been working to promote friendly relations between Canada and Japan through economic, commercial and industrial activities by members, as well as to develop and maintain good relations with the community at large. In particular, the Toronto Japanese Association of Commerce and Industry (the Toronto