

public and private sectors. Many senior business executives, several of whom are here today, and four of Singapore's permanent secretaries have received Canadian education, including two in the Ministry of Education. I can think of no better endorsement of the benefits of a Canadian education.

Singaporean students are welcome in Canada. We will be even more active in the future in providing information and counselling on the varied opportunities that the Canadian educational scene presents.

Singapore itself is becoming the archetypical post-modern state. It is a major economic and commercial centre. An important element in Singapore's trade strategy is the development of links with China, and Singapore sees itself as a gateway to that vast market. This is something about which Canada and Singapore should compare notes, given the greatly increased attention we too are paying to China. Certainly, as a China gateway or, indeed, a significant gateway to Asia, Singapore seems to have the flexibility and versatility to build on its existing strengths as a transportation and financial hub, and to become a regional centre for technology and sophisticated management services.

Canada, like Singapore, knows the importance of a strong information technology industry. Many of our companies are recognized as world leaders in their areas of activity, and are already very well-known in Singapore. To expose more of our companies and their products to this market, Canada will once again have a significant presence at the Singapore Informatics Exhibition August 27-30, 1987. This follows on our successful participation in last year's show.

Also, because we see growth in Singapore and because we want to be part of it, Canada, with the cooperation of the Singapore Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, is organizing a major two day Conference on two-way trade and investment in the first quarter of 1988 in Singapore. We will be bringing senior Canadian private sector decision-makers to Singapore to talk to their local counterparts and company presidents about possible joint ventures, licensing agreements, third country marketing, new technology, and investment opportunities. I wish to emphasize that our theme is two-way trade and investment. I know that we can count on the enthusiastic support and participation from the Canadian Business Association and its members.

There are limitations to what governments can accomplish as governments. I am very heartened therefore at what I see in the way of private sector activities and plans in Canada directed towards Southeast Asia, and Singapore in particular. The new ASEAN-Canada Business Council is a welcome