

Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference, but also to stimulate awareness and interest within Canada about the Pacific region economy. The National Committee achieved both these objectives when it hosted the very successful Fifth Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference in Vancouver last year. The Minister indicated he attached particular importance to cooperation with the private sector to better ensure the development of Canada's economic links with the Pacific. The SSEA noted that he has met with various private sector groups such as the Pacific Basin Economic Council and the Canada-ASEAN Business Council to achieve this end.

Finally the Minister noted that he was instrumental in seeing that the importance of the Asia Pacific was reflected in Canada's National Trade Strategy. Under the National Trade Strategy Canada has committed a significant budget to help Canadian business develop new trade opportunities in Thailand and other important Asia Pacific countries.. Todate, market opportunity studies in telecommunications, food processing and mining in Thailand have been completed and distributed to the private sector and provincial governments. New studies in project procurement, computers, power and auto parts are in preparation to inform Canadian firms about other significant opportunities in the Thai marketplace. Mr. Clark noted that the strategy had also funded sector specific trade missions to Thailand and the hosting of ASEAN business decision-makers to Canada.

In conclusion, the SSEA noted that no economic relationship could be successful unless the flow of trade and investment was two-way. The Minister stated that Canada was committed to working with our Thai friends to achieve this important objective. He congratulated the Thai Government and Minister Montree on their initiative to put on a trade show of the calibre and scope of the one being opened today.