

With democratic systems being established in an increasing number of Asian countries, the Foundation has plans to increase the number of participants from political and government fields.

Although it was not possible to survey past FLP participants directly, the Foundation does have letters of appreciation from them commenting favourably on the program and its results.

With this FLP experience, its contacts in Canada, its linkages with Asia Pacific, and its non-governmental status, the APFC is well positioned to assist CIDA in bringing Asia Pacific decision-makers to Canada to learn more about Canadian approaches to economic policy development, public administration, and governance.

4.5 Conclusions About Pacific 2000

1. **Rationale.** The basic rationale for Canada to prepare itself, and to become more a more competent player in the Asia Pacific is stronger than ever¹¹. This is because the Asia Pacific region is a highly populated area to which Canada already exports more than it does to Europe (see Appendix 2-2). It has the world's fastest economic growth. Immigration of Asians is transforming Canadian demographics, and the Canadian Asian communities are a valuable resource for Canada vis-a-vis its relations with Asia Pacific (see Appendix 2-7). Finally the Asia Pacific area poses challenges because of the high costs of initial entry, partly because of differences in culture and language, and also because personal contacts and networks based on mutual trust are essential for long-term success.
2. **Objectives Achievement.** Pacific 2000 has brought about improvements in relation to its objectives in the last five years.

In the areas of developing greater awareness and building Canadians' "skill" levels there has been significant progress, especially in the APFC administered secondary and post-secondary schools program, and in the David Lam Centre program targeted at businesses. The Canada Beef Export Federation key sector component of the Pacific Business Strategy - is an obvious success, and has produced tangible results already. The two business linkage components of the PBS which were examined (the ASEAN Canada Business Council, and the CEA-JETRO Japanese Import Specialist project) have not been as successful, but important lessons have been learned. The results of the JSTF client survey indicate progress in relation to JSTF objectives.

The APFC administered Future Leaders Program has been instrumental in heightening

¹¹Interviewees in all four surveys (i.e. Pacific Business Strategy, JSTF client survey, Language and Awareness client surveys, and the survey of managers, stakeholders, and clients of Pacific 2000/APFC), where specifically questioned, were unanimous on this point.