

active and more effective role in global affairs, equal to its economic strength.

Today, Asia Pacific is the most dynamic area of the world. It has become a model to others in the economic field. But its potential for security co-operation has yet to be achieved. An outward-looking, confident Asia Pacific has much to offer others in helping to manage global affairs.

Canada's commitment to Asia Pacific is strong. For many years now, our trade across the Pacific has surpassed our trade with Europe. Fifty per cent of new Canadians are from Asia, and Chinese is now the third most widely spoken language in Canada.

We take our responsibilities as a regional partner seriously, and we are prepared to bring our skills and expertise to the table. We will continue to support initiatives that ensure that Canada and Canadians are closely involved with others in developing new frameworks for Asia Pacific co-operation.

When I spoke a few weeks ago about "the Pacific Century," I emphasized Canada's belief in multilateral approaches to peace and security and our willingness to back up these beliefs with substantial commitments of human and financial resources. Let me reinforce that pledge today.

As a Pacific country, Canada will be part of the Pacific century.