

Pacific

Japan

Building upon the new relation between the two countries established by the Canadian and Japanese Prime Ministers in 1974, the past year marked a continuation of the ever-expanding community of interests between the two nations. Canada's interests in Japan are determined primarily by shared democratic institutions, a Pacific orientation, dependence on a stable world-trading relation, and the possibility of developing an already profitable commercial relation into a mutually-beneficial and more broadly-based economic partnership. Japan is already Canada's second-largest individual trading partner. In undertaking its initiative to broaden and deepen relations with Japan, the Canadian Government was mindful of the role Japan could play in the development of Canada's policy of diversifying its external relations in the interest of reducing Canada's vulnerability and developing its domestic economy.

Marking another phase in the expansion of bilateral relations, the Japan-Canada Ministerial Committee met for the seventh time, in Tokyo on June 23 and 24, 1975. Canada was represented by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the President of the Treasury Board, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Minister of Agriculture and the Canadian Ambassador to Japan. They were received by their Japanese counterparts. The Committee, which was established in 1961, was designed primarily for the exchange of opinions between leaders of the two countries so that both sides, separated by geographical and cultural differences, could gain a close appreciation of each other's problems and aspirations. The seventh meeting of the Committee also resulted in agreement that officials of the two countries should proceed as soon as possible to identify those areas of the Japanese and Canadian economies that held the greatest promise for increased and mutually-beneficial economic co-operation. In the spirit of striving for mutual benefit, they agreed that the explorations would cover manufacturing as well as the whole range of resource areas and include such matters as mutually-beneficial investment, broader intercorporate links, including joint ventures, scientific and technological exchanges, and the conditions that give greater assurance of supply and access to markets.

Consultations continued to intensify during 1975. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, in addition to participating in the Japan-Canada Ministerial Committee meeting, held discussions with his Japanese counterpart during the UN General Assembly in September and in Paris at the first meeting of the CIEC in December. The Canadian and Japanese Ministers of Finance continued their close relation, especially in the context of international monetary affairs. The Canadian Minister of State for Science and Technology, who is also Minister of Public Works, visited Japan in 1975 and gave a major presentation to the Japanese Federation of Economic Organizations on Canada's scientific and technological achievements and potential.

Discussions at the official level focused primarily, though not exclusively, on economic questions. A high-ranking Canadian delegation participated in the Japan-Canada Sub-Committee on Resources and Energy on June 9 and 10. The same officials pursued these talks with their Japanese colleagues in Ottawa on July 7. A delegation of senior officials from five government departments met in Tokyo with Japanese officials in November to follow up the agreement of ministers in June. This delegation laid the groundwork for the implementation of bilateral economic co-operation, which will lead to a number of specialized Japanese missions visiting Canada.

The second annual Japan-Canada consultations on United Nations questions were convened and foreign policy experts from the two countries held their annual talks in Ottawa in April. The Canadian Chief of the Defence Staff visited Japan for consultations with his counterparts in November. Units of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Forces paid courtesy visits to Vancouver and Montreal during the summer, returning visits of Canadian Forces ships to Japan earlier in the year. The Canadian Government mounted a major exhibition at the International Ocean Exposition, Expo 75, in Okinawa. Negotiations leading towards an anticipated early signing of a bilateral cultural agreement were advanced. People-to-people contacts continued to grow, involving the visit of some 25,000 Canadians to Japan and about 100,000 Japanese to Canada.