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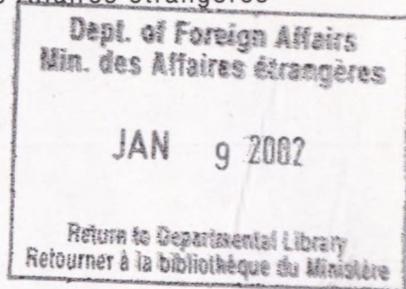
Minister of Foreign Affairs



Ministre des Affaires étrangères

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2

The Honourable L'honorable
John Manley P.C., M.P. c.p., député



I am pleased to introduce *Canada & South Asia: Partners for the New Century*.

South Asia is undergoing an historic period of change. Demographic patterns – including the impending "youth boom" – as well as technological innovations spreading rapidly throughout the region will increase South Asia's prominence on the world stage in the coming decades.

Canada looks forward to being an active participant in the sweeping changes taking place in South Asia. Our strong historical ties to the region coupled with our position as a world leader in telecommunications, transportation, power, natural resources and education distinguish Canada as both a recognized and a logical partner to meet many of South Asia's infrastructure needs. Canadian companies look forward to collaborating further with the South Asian private sector in areas such as research and development, and will continue to actively seek joint business opportunities, particularly in the emerging information technology sector.

This overview reaffirms the significant importance that the Government of Canada places on its relationship with South Asia, emphasizes the strong ties that exist already between Canada and the region and underscores the tremendous potential for enhanced links and increased activity. Our common interests in such areas as trade, arts and culture, and governance are also highlighted.

At the outset of the 21st century, Canada stands poised to make a significant contribution to the countries of South Asia in their transition to more prosperous societies. Canadians of South Asian origin, just under one million strong, are an essential element in strengthening this valuable relationship. I hope that you enjoy reading this publication and are inspired to be a part of this exciting and growing partnership.

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