

recently, all six Trade Ministers of the ASEAN states were in Vancouver in August, along with other colleagues from the Pacific region, working together to find success in the all-important Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

The Province of Alberta has a special relationship with ASEAN countries. For example, in the Alberta higher education system, there are 690 students from ASEAN countries. That includes a unique training program now running at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. More than 2700 ASEAN students have studied in Alberta since 1986. Many of those students have gone on to become senior business people, officials and ministers in ASEAN governments. Those personal links build prosperity and partnership between Canada and ASEAN. And this week, the Government of Alberta has helped introduce special projects in its school system to increase awareness of ASEAN-Canadian relations.

I, along with many of my colleagues in this room, have just come from the United Nations. Before the General Assembly, I outlined some ideas for a new approach to security, co-operative security, and suggested some specific ways in which that concept might be moved forward.

Co-operative security is based on the recognition that peace is more than the absence of war. That security has ceased to be something to be achieved unilaterally and through military means alone -- that security has become multidimensional and co-operative. That security relates not only to peace but to prosperity; that stability requires justice within and between states. There are many threats to our way of life -- economic threats, environmental threats, threats arising from underdevelopment and debt -- all of which must be addressed together, through conversation rather than conflict.

ASEAN's achievement has been co-operative security in action. Its willingness to be open with its partners like Canada, to establish a dialogue with them, and to be flexible and functional in the solution of problems is precisely the sort of approach needed for today's world.

A secure and successful Pacific depends on a secure and successful ASEAN. And I believe ASEAN itself can carve an even more central role for itself in the Pacific region. It is for this reason that Canada would support the extension of ASEAN membership