

STRENGTHENING CANADA'S OVERSEAS NETWORKS

Canada welcomed Russia's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, which allows the agreement to come into force internationally. Canada and Russia are developing a strong partnership in helping manage the circumpolar Arctic, through the eight-country Arctic Council and bilaterally, as part of the Northern Dimension of Canada's Foreign Policy.

Since 1991, Canada has also committed over \$225 million in support of governance projects in Russia, especially for projects related to rule of law and respect for human rights.

ASIA PACIFIC

The Asia Pacific region is the most politically and economically diverse in the world. Two of the largest and most dynamic economies, China and India, are located here, as well as the world's second-largest national economy, Japan. Foreign Affairs will lead in the development of cross-Government strategies to more effectively engage these key partners.

ASIA PACIFIC AT A GLANCE

38 countries

Population – Over 3 billion people (the world's most populous region, close to 60% of the global population).

Economy – 27% of world economic output. In a generation, three of the four largest national economies will be in Asia (Japan, China and India).

Canadian exports to Asia Pacific – \$21 billion

Canadian imports from Asia Pacific – \$54 billion

Canadian direct investment in Asia Pacific – \$32 billion

Asia Pacific direct investment in Canada – \$18 billion

Canadian official development assistance to Asia Pacific – \$288 million

Immigration – 52% of Canada's immigrants came from Asia Pacific. Roughly 10% of Canadians have family origins in the region

At the same time, several of the world's potentially most dangerous places are in the region: the Korean Peninsula and the South China Sea, for example. In each of these, nuclear weapons-capable states are involved. Terrorism is a serious problem from Afghanistan to the Philippines, and some states are fragile, suffering from internal conflicts.

The Asia Pacific region varies tremendously in political, economic and social development: for example, India is the world's largest democracy; many countries, such as Indonesia, are building democracy; while others (Burma) are struggling under repressive regimes or coping with insurgency (Nepal).

The region has other important dimensions for Canada. In recent years, more than 50 percent of new immigrants to Canada have come from here, mostly from China and India. Today, a significant and growing percentage of Canadians with roots in Asia are developing an ever-broadening range of ties, giving Canada privileged access to the region.

Successful relations with the region are key to Canada's foreign policy objectives, from the Responsibilities Agenda to our ability to forge a new multilateralism.

Canada is taking an active role in non-proliferation, counterterrorism, peacebuilding and conflict prevention initiatives in the Asia Pacific region. In Afghanistan, we continue to make a major contribution to stabilization and democratic development. Canada works closely with allies on the problem of nuclear proliferation in the region, through the G8 and the IAEA. Also, as a member of the Proliferation Security Initiative, Canada is one of 16 participating countries working to prevent and interdict illicit trafficking of WMD and related technologies, whether they move by land, air or sea.

Canada will continue to partner with like-minded countries such as Australia, New Zealand and Japan to promote democracy, human rights and human security, including through assistance to human rights commissions and NGOs.

Non-traditional security threats, such as SARS and avian flu, have also arisen in the Asia Pacific region, and are of direct concern to Canada. We are addressing these issues through multilateral processes, especially through the World Health Organization.