

We are also working closely with the Indonesian government to conclude a number of important bilateral agreements to increase further our business links.

Negotiations have begun between our governments towards the conclusion of a foreign investment protection agreement, which will spur further direct investment by Canadians in Indonesia and, I would hope and expect, Indonesian participation in the Canadian market.

An air services agreement is to be negotiated next month, to permit the establishment of a direct air link between our countries.

There are other agreements, in fisheries products inspection, geomatics and nuclear technical co-operation, also in advanced stages of discussion.

All of these agreements will permit you - Indonesian and Canadian entrepreneurs - to work more effectively in meeting your business objectives.

The importance and depth of our bilateral economic partnership, which permits agreements such as these to be concluded, is why the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, has made Indonesia a principal destination in his planned Team Canada mission to South and Southeast Asia early next year. He too was determined to return to Jakarta when he saw the impressive potential of your country during the November 1994 APEC meetings.

I was delighted when the Prime Minister informed me that he had accepted President Soeharto's invitation to visit Indonesia, following their meeting in New York last month.

By leading a large delegation from the federal and provincial governments and the business community to Indonesia, the Prime Minister hopes that many of the bilateral agreements and trade, investment and technology initiatives that I have mentioned today can be brought forward to a successful conclusion.

The Prime Minister's Team Canada mission represents the largest Canadian business delegation ever to travel to Indonesia. It will comprise hundreds of the leading executives of Canadian firms, all of whom are committed to expanding, or in some cases establishing for the first time, business relations with local partners and clients.

"Team Canada" means, by definition, a synchronization of efforts by business and government in Canada. This mission will illustrate the priority Canada attaches to its relationship with Indonesia and the Asia-Pacific region, as we prepare for the 21st century - what many observers refer to as the Pacific Century.