

ucts, as well as new inspection technologies and risks, such initiatives would foster better communication and understanding between Canadian and Japanese authorities and help minimize the potential impacts of regulatory differences.

### **6.3.2.2 Energy Cooperation**

Given the convergence of the global energy situation and environmental concerns, cooperation on energy between Canada and Japan has evolved over the past decade. As such, promoting the development of energy technologies and diversification of energy sources has become a theme of strategic importance to Canada and Japan, with commensurate emphasis on expanding cooperation and commercial alliances across a range of traditional and non-traditional energy forms.

Japan has long-standing investment in oil sands partnerships in Canada, and Japanese companies have expressed interest in expanding information sharing with Canada on associated oil sands infrastructure, including technical exchanges. With a view to promoting diversification of energy resources and markets, it is important for Canada and Japan to encourage and support collaboration in this area.

Canada and Japan are among the global leaders in the area of hydrogen fuel cell development, including stationary, micro and automotive/mobile applications. Furthermore, there are a number of Canadian firms actively engaged in fuel cell activity in Japan. Both countries already cooperated under the framework of the International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy (IPHE) by coordinating and implementing the research, development and demonstration of hydrogen fuel cell technology. As both countries will benefit from information sharing and increased collaboration, which will facilitate efficiency in research and development programs, international partnerships should be continued and enhanced.