

economy. Nevertheless, despite the emergence of Asian countries with fast economic growth, a number of countries face entrenched problems of poverty and economic underdevelopment, and there is a continued need for international aid. There is also a need for a different type of assistance to some of the more fortunate countries as they undergo democratization and a transition to open economic systems, and develop closer and more sophisticated trading relationships with Canada.

2.2.1 Canadian Trade with Asia

By the end of the century, the Asia-Pacific region is expected to represent 60 percent of the world's population, 50 percent of global production and 40 percent of total consumption. The Asia-Pacific region contains many of the fastest growing economies in the world. Annual growth has averaged 7 percent in recent years -- twice the rate for North America.

As indicated by preliminary trade data, the Asia-Pacific region was a market for over \$16.55 billion of Canadian exports in 1993, second only to the United States. Imports from the region were \$25.13 billion, leaving a deficit of some \$8.5 billion. The most promising markets in the Asia-Pacific region for Canadian exports are China, Korea, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Taiwan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Our trade with the Asia Pacific region is more important to some regions than to others. For example, British Columbia trades almost as much across the Pacific Ocean as it does across the U.S. border, exporting, in 1992, \$5.8 billion to the Asia-Pacific region and \$7.9 billion to the United States.

The following are sketches of trade activities in major Asian markets:

Japan is Canada's number two export market. Preliminary trade data for 1993 indicates that Japan purchased \$8.46 billion worth of Canadian exports in 1992, as much as the U.K., Germany and France combined. In this same year, Canada imported \$10.69 billion of goods and services from Japan in 1992.

In 1992, the most recent year for which more detailed trade data is available, exports benefited enterprises and industries from coast to coast as seen in the following examples :

- over \$2.25 billion in forestry products;
- \$1 billion in B.C. metallurgical coal;
- lobster sales up 20 percent last year, crabs up 65 percent;
- \$500 million each in oilseeds and grain;
- a major market for Canadian technology; about \$70 million in Canadian telephone equipment in 1992; and
- Japanese companies now own 16 Canadair Challenger aircraft.