

Canadian suppliers of products and services, particularly in higher value-added items now imported increasingly by Japan.

Peter Lougheed spoke this morning about Canada-Japan Forum 2000. He has given you a flavour of the Forum's numerous recommendations, all designed to build on the already excellent Canada-Japan relationship.

Prime Minister Mulroney was delighted with the ideas put forward for Canadians and Japanese by this group of highly distinguished citizens from our two countries. We all owe them a special vote of thanks -- in particular, Mr. Yoshio Okawara, the Japanese Co-Chair, who addressed your conference in Yokohama last year, and, of course, the Canadian Co-Chair, Peter Lougheed.

Nor should we forget the Canada-Japan Business Conference (CJBC) members of the Forum -- Hart MacDougall and Koichiro Ejiiri -- who brought their unique experiences, both in business and from their active participation in this conference, to the deliberations of the Forum.

The Prime Minister regards the Forum's report as a blueprint for future Canada-Japan relations and he has been pleased by the excellent progress made to date on implementing its recommendations. To ensure that the momentum the report has developed is maintained, the Prime Minister has asked Peter Lougheed to quarterback the Canadian side of the post Forum 2000 advisory group, which is charged with advising our two governments on the report's implementation.

Following Peter Lougheed's presentation of the Forum's report last December, the Prime Minister asked [Secretary of State for External Affairs] Barbara McDougall and myself to look at how Canadians -- that is, governments, business concerns, academics and private individuals -- might respond to the recommendations.

A number of them are of interest to you, ranging from multilateral economic and political co-operation to richer cultural and academic contacts.

But two in particular deserve further comment here:

- one advised governments to remove impediments to bilateral corporate investment, strategic alliances and technological exchanges,
- the other urged Canadians to improve their understanding of the demand side changes creating growth opportunities for the export of higher value-added goods to Japan.

Let me start with the second of these two recommendations, that of urging Canadians to pay more attention to the growth sectors