

institutions of Canada and the Asia Pacific region towards their cultural, social and economic enrichment.

When fully operational, the foundation will function as a co-ordinating and resource centre, providing information on the many Canadian activities related to the Asia Pacific region. The foundation will also serve as a forum for creating new ideas, programs, and long-term strategies for Canada's role in the Asia Pacific region.

Sponsoring Activities

When its base of funding is established, the foundation will sponsor or facilitate a wide range of activities in the fields of culture, business and public affairs, such as:

An information network through which Canadians involved in the Asia Pacific region can contact and assist each other.

Asian language training centres to assist business people and others to become more effective in their work in the region.

Exchange and education programs for journalists, publishers, producers, and directors to encourage more and better coverage of Asian events in Canadian media and vice versa.

A forum for the private and public sectors to hold seminars and other programs concerned with Canada's future policy directions in the Asia Pacific region.

Seminars and information programs about Asian cultures, customs and economics.

Programs in Asia Pacific countries to encourage neighbours to learn more about Canada.

Assistance with research conducted independently by businesses, universities and others.

Scholarships, travel grants and other special programs for students and teachers to ensure that Canada's next generation can broaden the nation's activities in the Asia Pacific region.

Academic, business and cultural ex-

change programs to encourage the interchange essential for lasting economic and political relations between Canada and its natural partners in Asia and the Pacific.

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The concept of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada evolved out of the enthusiasm generated at the first Pacific Rim Opportunities Conference, held in Vancouver in 1980.

Following this event, the Government of Canada asked John Bruk — then president of Cyprus Anvil Mining Corporation — to study the feasibility of establishing an institution to promote Canada's interests in Asia and the Pacific. His report documented widespread interest throughout the country, and in March of 1983, a Founding Committee was appointed.

The Founding Committee's immediate objectives are to define the foundation's role, to set up the foundation's operating framework and to secure a broad base of funding. The response has been encouraging, with support coming from a cross-section of corporations and institutions, as well as for the federal and provincial governments. ■

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Guinea, Brunei and the South Pacific Islands); the five "newly industrializing countries" or NICs (Mexico, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea) and the People's Republic of China.

Despite their geographical linkages and some important cultural similarities, the Asia-Pacific countries are not a homogeneous group. There are vast differences in their respective levels of development, resource endowments and economic strategies.

On the one hand, there are the four NICs — Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea. Despite their lack of natural resources, they have each used their access to standard technology and their abundant supply of labour to become major international competitors in a wide spectrum of manufactured products.

Moreover, they have achieved such phenomenal export-led growth that they are now, sometimes to their annoyance, variously referred to as the "Gang of Four," the "super-competitors" and the "new Japans." By 1979, close to 80 percent of their total exports were manufactures, and their total share of world manufactured exports had increased to 5 percent from only 2 percent in 1970.

On top of this performance, the region's two "city-states", Hong Kong and Singapore, have also become major international trade and financial centres in their own right.

Unlike the NICs, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines are relatively well-endowed with natural resources and, hence, hold a somewhat different position *vis-a-vis* the international economy.

As major international suppliers of palm oil, natural rubber, tin, hardwood, nickel, oil and natural gas, commodity trade dominates their export patterns.

However, these countries have become known as the "near-NICs," or the second tier of newly industrializing countries, on the basis of their increasing importance as producers of light manufactures. Throughout most of the period following World War II, the developing countries of the Asia-Pacific region did not figure prominently in Canada's foreign economic policy.

Changing Priorities

Canada's peace and security approach to the region was altered somewhat during the late 1960s and early 1970s as economic issues and interests became more prominent in Canadian foreign policy.

In recent years, as the Pacific has taken on growing importance in the global economy — and the Western provinces have acquired more economic power in Canada — more weight has been given to the Pacific countries in Canada's external relations.

Realizing the potential benefits of expanded Pacific links, many provinces, businesses and interests in Canada have been

REGION

Growing Canadian Trade With Asian Pacific Rim Countries

Perhaps the only common denominator to be found in the Pacific community is the Pacific Ocean itself.

Unlike other regional groupings, it includes countries from different continents, hemispheres and levels of economic development.

In the broadest sense, the Pacific

community consists of five industrialized countries (Canada, the United States, Japan, Australia and New Zealand); several Latin American developing countries (Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and the Central American states); the Asian developing countries (Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Papua New