

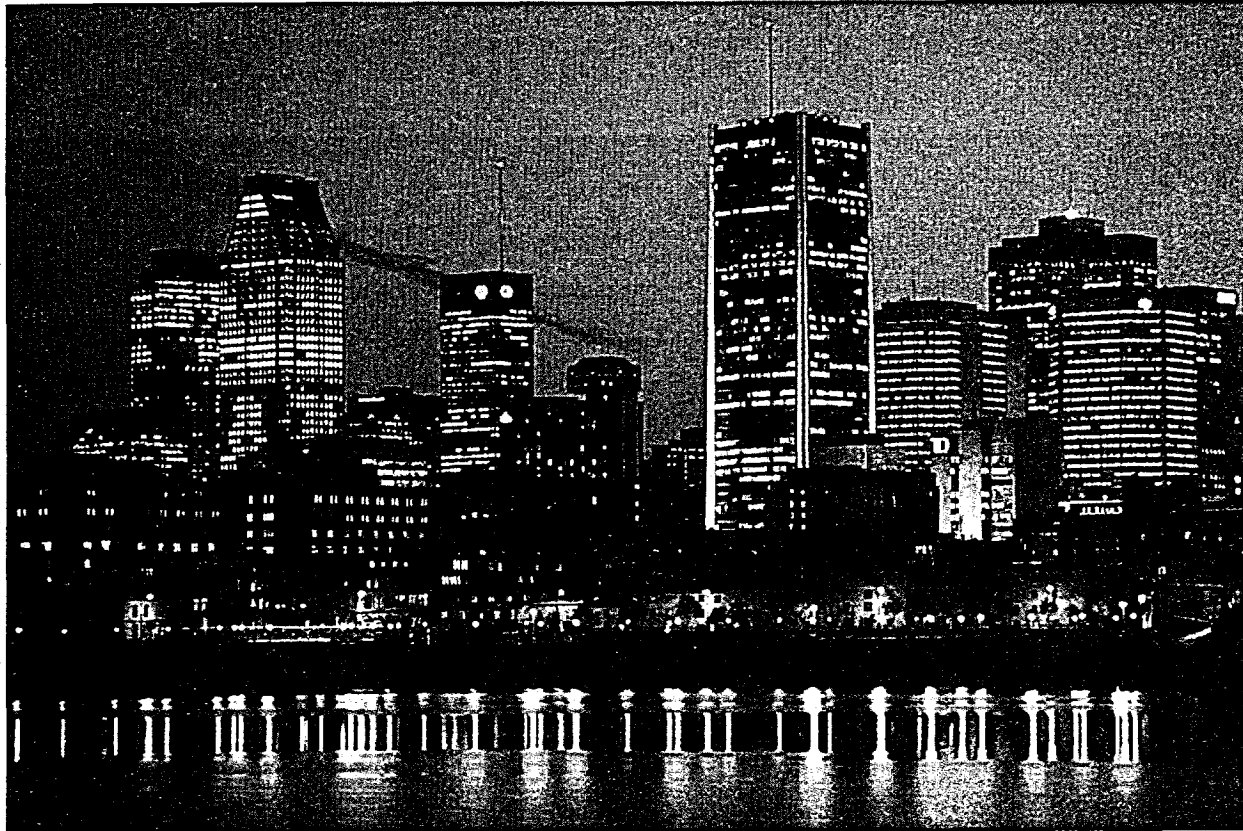
# CYAP Forum ACAP

CANADA'S YEAR OF ASIA PACIFIC

L'ANNÉE CANADIENNE DE L'ASIE-PACIFIQUE



## Asia Pacific comes to Montreal in May



**M**ontrealers have an unprecedented opportunity to show off their vibrant city during the month of May.

Business, government, sponsors and organizations have joined efforts to attract thousands of visitors from Asia Pacific and around the world.

A series of events, from the APEC Trade Ministers' Meeting to business symposia and art exhibitions, are planned, including the 3rd Annual Conférence de Montréal, May 11-13. This year the Conférence de Montréal will feature some of the world's leading authorities on trade and doing business in Asia Pacific. Business people and customs experts also meet May 7 to 9 for a trade exhibition and discussions on making customs clearances easier and faster.

These events offer opportunities for Canadian business to network with business and government leaders from the region without the expense of travelling abroad. It's a chance to show that Canada has a lot to offer — as a business partner and as an excellent place in which to invest, to study and to travel.

### APEC Trade Ministerial Meeting

On May 9-10, Canada's Minister for International Trade will host his colleagues from the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. The first of several ministerial-level APEC events being held in cities across Canada, the trade gathering will lay the groundwork for trade and investment discussions at the APEC Leaders' Meeting in

Vancouver in November.

As chair of APEC this year, Canada proposed that trade ministers meet to focus efforts on finding ways to make doing business easier in the region. That means more than eliminating tariffs. It means reducing business costs, especially for small business, by harmonizing standards, simplifying customs and clarifying regulations. In this way, Canada is working toward an APEC that responds more directly to business interests.

APEC is an important vehicle for advancing Canada's trade and other foreign policy interests in the region. APEC members have agreed to achieve free and open trade and investment in the region by 2010 for developed economies and 2020 for developing economies. In the end, Canada's objective is the freer flow of goods and services and people in the region.

### EYES ON ASEAN EXHIBIT

*Another noteworthy event in Montreal, May 6-27, is the Eyes on ASEAN photographic exhibition. 120 photographs from some of Southeast Asia's finest photographers record the rich ethnic, cultural and religious variations that characterize this part of the world.*

*Marina Mahathir, public affairs writer and daughter of the Prime Minister of Malaysia, is curator of this artistic journey through Asian nations represented within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). (See page 4 and 5 for photos)*

*APEC Update:  
Simplifying Customs Procedures (page 2)*

## "Asia Connects" Youth Conference



### Canadian Youth "Connect" in Winnipeg

Young people from across Canada and Asian youth will be making the Asia Pacific connection at a youth conference in Winnipeg, May 4 to 11. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade is sponsoring the national conference, "Asia Connects/Cherchons l'Asie" to put Asia into perspective and into the lives of Canada's youth. The objective of the conference is to encourage young people to learn more about Asia Pacific, and explore opportunities the region may hold for their future.

About 200 young Canadians chosen from high schools in all provinces and territories will gather together with youth delegates from the Philippines and Malaysia and with a number of Asian students already studying in Canada for a week of high-tech learning and international fun.

A dozen other conference sites will be linked electronically to the Winnipeg national site,

*"Asia Connects" Youth Conference  
continued on page 4*