

Another vibrant ASEAN presence in Canada is provided by the over 6 000 students from ASEAN countries registered at Canadian schools, technical institutes, colleges and universities in 1987-88. They accounted for nearly 13 per cent of the 52 170 international students in Canada that year. The Philippines provided the most students, sending 2 531. Another 1 882 came from Malaysia, 1 487 from Singapore, 598 from Indonesia, 176 from Thailand, and 102 from Brunei.

Conclusion

As a community of nations that has overcome the problems of diversity to achieve mutual respect and the building of common interests, ASEAN provides an excellent example of the value of regional co-operation. Its political successes and economic prospects belie the earlier tensions and unenthusiastic predictions. As events unfold in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, ASEAN will be challenged to build a constructive relationship with these countries in the region, including new co-operative arrangements to overcome the tensions and distrust of the past. ASEAN's own internal experience gives hope that this change can be accomplished if there is good will on all sides. Canada stands ready to help.

ASEAN is a vibrant part of Asia-Pacific which in turn is an important focus of Canadian foreign policy. In a region where the four superpowers converge, ASEAN's growing relations with Canada are valued. Canada, as a member of the Economic Summit, the Commonwealth, and la Francophonie provides opportunities and challenges for a long-term and valuable relationship with the member countries of ASEAN.

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