

- Significant opportunities for Canadian business are in infrastructure development, including power generation, oil and gas, water management and waste disposal. Other opportunities are emerging in the construction, advanced technology, mining, agri-food, industrial, services and consumer products sectors.
- Canadian exporters have demonstrated a growing interest in the Philippines. For example, Northern Telecom has just received a US\$75-million contract to install 300,000 digital telephone lines for the International Communications Corporation of the Philippines. Monenco Agra has recently secured an engineering contract for the \$250-million Agbulu Hydroelectric Project in a joint venture with an Australian firm.
- Canada is the 15th-largest investor in the Philippines, with Canadian direct investment valued at about \$90 million. Major investors include Sun Life, the Bank of Nova Scotia, Placer Dome Development, and BC Packers. A double taxation agreement is in place between Canada and the Philippines and foreign investment protection agreement negotiations are currently underway.
- To attract foreign investment, the Philippines government has developed programs, policies and incentives, such as the creation of a duty-free "special" economic zone in Subic Bay.
- Central to these activities is the 1991 Foreign Investment Act which allows 100 per cent foreign ownership in most areas, including: telecommunications, informatics, environmental service and supply organizations, infrastructure development projects, select food groups and export-oriented enterprises.

Development Assistance Co-operation

- Canada has targeted the Philippines as a priority country for development assistance. Since 1986, Canadian assistance has totalled about \$250 million. In 1994-95, bilateral disbursements reached \$27.4 million. Major areas of assistance are local and national government administration improvements, private sector development, and strengthening of democratic institutions and non-governmental organizations.