

of Canadian business visitors to our embassy in Jakarta. Several of these companies are pursuing joint ventures or putting in place technology transfer arrangements with Indonesian counterparts.

We support the expansion of these business linkages through strengthened trade promotional activities and innovative export financing and insurance programs. The Canada-Indonesia Business Development Office, a project being implemented by the Canadian Exporters' Association with the support of the Canadian International Development Agency, assists Canadian firms in their investment and technology arrangements through the work of resident advisers located at "BKPM" [Investment Co-ordinating Board] and "BPPT" [Agency for Applied Research and Technology].

For its part, our Export Development Corporation, EDC, has expanded its lending programs to include not only government-to-government transactions, but also support for private sector procurement from Canada and financing for large-scale capital projects.

The first of what I hope will be a number of private sector lines of credit was signed by EDC with Indonesia's Bank Umum Nasional in May of this year. This facility, which will support transactions with a value of \$100 000 or more, is of particular importance to Canadian and Indonesian small and medium-sized firms who require export financing. There are already a number of transactions in the pipeline. They will add to the extensive EDC portfolio in Indonesia, which has accounted for over \$800 million in financing support since 1970.

We are also working closely with the Indonesian government to conclude a number of important bilateral agreements to help foster business links. Negotiations have begun towards the conclusion of a foreign investment protection agreement, which will provide further security to Canadian investors and to Indonesian investors in Canada.

We began today in Indonesia the negotiation of an air services agreement. This will permit the establishment of a direct air link between our countries with, on the Canadian side, Air Canada as the designated carrier.

There are other agreements, in fisheries products inspection, geomatics and nuclear technical co-operation, which are in an advanced stage of discussion.

The co-operation between Canada and Indonesia is also evident in multilateral and regional forums such as the new World Trade Organization [WTO], ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] and APEC.