

Talks mark ten years of Canada-Japan science exchanges

The fifth Canada-Japan Science and Technology consultations were held in Ottawa, June 14-15.

The meetings marked the tenth anniversary of the science and technology relationship between Canada and Japan which began with the visit to Japan in 1972 of a mission led by the then Minister of State for Science and Technology Allistair Gillespie.

Provinces participate in talks

The Canadian delegation to the 1982 meeting was led by Dr. D.E.L. Maasland, assistant secretary of the government branch, Ministry of State for Science and Technology. L.D. Hudon, secretary, Ministry of State for Science and Technology, also addressed the participants at the opening of the consultations. The Japanese delegation was led by Ambassador K. Mikanagi who was accompanied by Mr. Tsuji, assistant vice-minister for the Administration, Science and Technology Agency, Tokyo. The provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Quebec were also represented at the discussions.

Following the Gillespie mission, the first consultations took place in Ottawa in 1973 and since that time meetings have been held alternately in Tokyo and in Ottawa. From modest beginnings, the program has matured into a relationship covering about 30 projects in areas such

as personnel exchange, transportation, environmental studies, space and communications research, agriculture, construction, energy, disaster prevention and basic particle research.

The representatives at the fifth consultations reviewed ongoing projects and considered new Canadian and Japanese proposals. In addition, both sides reviewed the mechanisms for further promoting exchanges between Canadian and Japanese science-based departments and agencies. Both sides agreed to examine the possibility of concluding a science and technology agreement which would further and consolidate the present science and technology relationship.

Agreement signed

A statement of intent in the field of remote sensing was signed during the consultations and new or expanded projects were agreed to in the areas of toxic gases produced by burning of construction material, Arctic marine transportation, agricultural bio-technology, forestry, the effect of low temperature on concrete, etc.

The two delegations agreed that further development of the science and technology relationship was in the interest of both countries because of its increasing importance in relations between Canada and Japan.

Co-operative energy corporation

Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Marc Lalonde and Minister of State responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board Senator Hazen Argue recently announced the establishment of the Co-operative Energy Corporation (Co-Enerco), an association of co-operative financial and marketing institutions that will actively participate in the Canadian oil and gas industry.

"This new co-operative will play a vital role in achieving the goals of the National Energy Program by providing a new source of funds to the petroleum industry, new investment opportunities to individual Canadians, and an increase in the share of the oil and gas industry that is owned by Canadians," said Mr. Lalonde.

The members of the co-operative system will participate through three newly-created organizations: the Co-operative Energy Corporation (CEC), a holding company; the Co-operative Exploration and Development Corporation (CEDC), a company that will become active in oil and gas exploration and development; and the Co-operative Energy Investment Fund (CEIF), a trust fund.

Federal funding

Up to \$100 million in funds is being provided by the federal government over the next five years to match investment funds generated by participating co-operative organizations. To date, the co-operatives have committed \$57.8 million.

The co-operative organizations participating in the venture include: the Alberta Wheat Pool, B.C. Central Credit Union, Canadian Co-operative Credit Society Limited, Co-op Atlantic/Co-op Atlantique, Coopérative Fédérée de Québec, Co-operative Fire and Casualty Company, Co-operators Insurance Association, Co-operators Life Insurance Company, Credit Union Federation of Alberta Limited, Federated Co-operatives Limited, Fédération des Caisses Populaires Acadienne, Manitoba Pool Elevators, Newfoundland and Labrador Credit Union Limited, Nova Scotia Credit Union League, Saskatchewan Co-operative Credit Society Limited, Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, United Co-operatives of Ontario, CUMIS Life Insurance Company, CUMIS General Insurance Company, and Prince Edward Island Credit Union League Limited.



Director General of the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing E.A. Gotby (left) and Deputy Director General of the Japan Science and Technology Agency, Mr. Tsuji (right) sign a statement of intent on remote sensing during the talks.

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