

# CONFERENCE POLICY REPORT

"Canada - East Asia Business Connections"

Dept. of Foreign Affairs  
Min. des Affaires étrangères

MAY 21 2006

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## Intent of the Conference

In October of 1993, Ryerson College and the University of Waterloo hosted their fourth annual East Asian Autumn Festival. The festival included a wide range of activities well attended by the Kitchener-Waterloo community.

The festival's official opening took place on September 24 at the Kitchener City Hall, along with the "Tastes of East Asia Food Fair", the weekly lecture series and demonstrations, a presentation of Chinese and Japanese arts and crafts, and a display of traditional Chinese costumes. Visitors also learned about...

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An 87 reception fair was held the next day in which participants learned about employment, study, and research opportunities in East Asia. Representatives from a variety of organizations and institutions were on hand to answer questions from the interested public. On the same day, several guest speakers took part in the celebrations. Dr. Inseok Koh, principal architect for Oikos in Seoul, Korea gave the keynote address. He spoke about the connections between culture and architecture in a talk entitled "Korean Culture Reflected in Architecture and Landscape". In a literary evening held at the University of Waterloo's Theatre of the Arts, audiences were treated to two unique perspectives of Canadian - East Asian relations. Dr. Peter Li discussed his work, "The Chinese in Canada" in which he explores the historical development of this group in this country. Author Harry Sakuma read from his best-selling novel "The Electrical Field". This work was nominated for the Giller Prize and the Governor General's Award for Fiction and explores the lingering effects of the Japanese-Canadian internment during the Second World War. The evening also showcased a special screening of the National Film Board's "Under the Willow Tree: Women's Lives in Early Canada", under the direction of Don Nipp.

The Festival concluded on October 3, 1993 at Ryerson College with cultural demonstrations of origami, calligraphy, Aikido Judo and Karate techniques. Participants enjoyed samples of East Asian dishes before concluding the festival with demonstrations of the Chinese Lion Dance, and instructions in Aikido and Judo practices.

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