

all the regional activities: CSCAP – the Council on Security Co-operation in Asia-Pacific. CSCAP's membership comprises institutes of international and security affairs from 10 countries. The Canadian Committee of CSCAP recently co-sponsored with Japan (in Tokyo) a very productive seminar on "frameworks for stability on the Korean Peninsula."

We are also actively encouraging the Canadian community to take a more prominent role in Asia-Pacific security issues. This has led to the formation of an organization of Canadian specialists from all over this country – the Canadian Consortium on Asia-Pacific Security, whose membership now exceeds 150, mainly academics and officials.

In the Asia-Pacific region, Canada is working to build a co-operative security framework that responds to the realities and needs of the region. We are also working to position the region – our region – in a stronger position to contribute in a meaningful way to building global security. This means engaging a wide range of tools – bilateral and multilateral – and developing a diverse set of relationships. These include relationships among business people and military officers, among diplomats and academics, and among artists and students. There can be no real security if hunger, poverty, social injustice and environmental degradation occur. Thus our development assistance programs will continue to be an important instrument in support of Canada's foreign policy interests, while reflecting our humanitarian concerns in the region.

As our trade with Asia continues to grow we frequently encounter political conditions that are different from those we enjoy in Canada. We respect time-honoured traditions and cultures, but as Canadians we cannot turn aside from violations of universally accepted fundamental freedoms. As a government, we raise our concerns in this area with our Asian partners. We shall continue to do so.

I must point out, however, that trade and human rights are mutually reinforcing. In fact, trade itself is a force for human rights. Trade benefits Canada through job creation – a government priority – but it also supports economic, social and inevitably, political reform in countries like China. We believe a China open to the world can only be good for its people, both economically and politically, and will further the cause of respect for human rights.

Governments that open their doors to international trade are more sensitive to the views and reactions of others. Greater economic freedom encourages the growth of political freedom. People-to-people contact in day-to-day trade can be an instrument of change. The Government of Canada therefore encourages Canadian businesses to expand their participation in world markets. In