

Season of Summits

October will be a busy month for Canadian diplomats and Prime Minister Chrétien. On the schedule are summits of three international organizations to which Canada belongs: the Commonwealth, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum and La Francophonie.

The Commonwealth



CHOGM
BRISBANE 2001

From October 6 to 9, Brisbane, Australia, will host the 2001 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Leaders will examine how to reinvigorate and re-equip the organization to face the challenges of the new century, while maintaining and building upon its traditional strengths.

The Commonwealth is made up of 54 sovereign states representing nearly one quarter of the world's population. Binding them together are links of history, culture and language, plus a commitment to democracy, human rights, good governance and sustainable development.

Canada is the second-largest contributor to the Commonwealth and a strong supporter of its political and economic programs. Among these are the Commonwealth Youth Programme (a Canadian initiative) and the Vancouver-based Commonwealth of Learning, an agency promoting distance learning.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/foreignp/menu-e.asp>

(follow link to "Commonwealth")

<http://www.chogm2001.net>

<http://www.thecommonwealth.org>

APEC



On October 20 and 21, Shanghai, China, will host the Ninth APEC Leaders' Meeting. The aim will be to support the initiatives of trade and investment liberalization and of economic and technical co-operation emerging from previous meetings.

APEC was established in 1989 in response to the growing interdependence of Asia-Pacific nations and the need to advance their economic dynamism. Canada was a founding member. The forum now has 21 members around the Pacific Rim.

Canada is strongly committed to supporting a new round of multilateral trade negotiations. With other members, it will continue to help developing APEC economies strengthen their capacity in order to participate effectively in the World Trade Organization.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/canada-apec>

<http://www.china-apec.org.cn>

La Francophonie



**IX^e SOMMET DE LA
FRANCOPHONIE**
Beirut 2001

From October 26 to 28, delegates from 55 member states and participating governments will converge on Beirut, Lebanon,

for the Ninth Conference of Heads of State and Government of Countries Using French as a Common Language. The focus will be on promoting harmony among the diverse cultures that make up La Francophonie.

Over the years, the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie has become an important component of Canada's foreign policy. Canada hosted the 1987 Francophonie Summit in Québec City, the 1999 Summit in Moncton and the IV Francophonie Games in Ottawa-Hull last July. Our primary objective continues to be the promotion of Canada's democratic, cultural and economic values.

"Francophonie" refers to the community of peoples or countries using or speaking the French language.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/foreignp/francophonie/menu-e.htm>

<http://www.sommet2001.org> (French only)