

ASEAN cultural exchanges; a scholarship fund dispensing \$1 million annually in ASEAN and applicable anywhere in the world; and a cultural grants program to develop the infrastructure necessary to further cultural exchange programs throughout Southeast Asia.

**Example of
Australia**

Since Australia and Canada are perhaps more comparable than Canada and Japan, the Australian experience may be even more relevant to our discussion.

By the mid-1970s, a variety of factors had made it obvious to Canberra that relations with Japan would be of increasing importance and that efforts would have to be made to insure their rational development and successful management. A committee was established by the government which recommended, among other things, that an Australia/Japan Foundation be established to give texture and depth to a relationship which had become too narrowly focused on economic issues. The committee concluded that an economic superstructure was a very unsteady creation without a firm foundation of mutual understanding, and awareness of the other country as a society of individuals with cultural interests, professional concerns and family problems. In 1976, an Act of Parliament established this Foundation which was to be funded annually by both government and private sources. By 1980 its annual income totalled \$1.5 million.

In the few years since its establishment it has developed a variety of imaginative programs. A common interests program promotes and funds contacts between Japanese and Australians of similar interests — everything from firemen to craftsmen, medical researchers to legal librarians, martial arts enthusiasts to aficionados of the tea ceremony. A media program promotes cross-fertilization among journalists and media organizations, while support for Japanese language studies at Australia National University incorporates residence in Japan in the program. This brief description touches only the surface of the broad range of activities that have been put into place. I might add that the Australia experience with this Foundation has been so successful that an Australia/China Foundation with similar objectives has been recently established.

I have not mentioned the United States but it should be noted that the U.S.A. has had for years a number of very large and, in some instances, privately funded foundations promoting relations with Asia and the Pacific.

In looking at "what is missing" in Canada's efforts to meet the opportunities in this region I would be less than candid were I to suggest that our own thinking has not been influenced by Japan and Australia. The initiatives of these countries in expanding the range of their intellectual and cultural activities in the region have been most informative.

**Canada founda-
tion idea**

As a result of these assessments Dr. MacGuigan has, in recent months, reviewed the idea of establishing a foundation in Canada that would not be limited to one nation but rather would focus on the Asia/Pacific region. He found considerable interest in this concept at the Pacific Rim Opportunities Conference in Vancouver last November and subsequently there have been additional expressions of support. This