

II. INTRODUCTION

The pressing need to create a foundation which would focus on Canada's relationship to Asia and the Pacific, is an idea that first emerged in public discussion in November 1980 at the Pacific Rim Opportunities Conference, held in Vancouver. This was significant as it represented an acknowledgement by government and the private sector that something was missing in the further development of Canada's relations with the countries of Asia and the Pacific, a region of great opportunity and challenge for Canada.

This public airing of the concept of a foundation served as a catalyst. In the ensuing months, interest in exploring the idea began to grow with further seminars and discussions on Canada's relationship to Asia and the Pacific taking place in other parts of the country. In the fall of 1981, as a result of the federal government becoming increasingly aware of this growing positive public response, the Secretary of State for External Affairs commissioned a study of the feasibility of establishing a Canada Foundation for Asia and the Pacific.

This report is based on the findings of that study conducted over the period November, 1981 to September, 1982.