

from the current difficulties in Japan's domestic financial sector.

- The Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare approved four more transgenic varieties of Canadian canola, in addition to the six varieties already approved in 1996 and 1997.
- Canadian exports of distilled spirits have more than doubled. The increase follows the introduction of lower tariffs and excise taxes as a result of Japan's obligations stemming from the WTO panel on its liquor-tax regime.

KOREA

- In March 1998, Korea removed restrictive labelling requirements for ozonated bottled water.
- In June 1998, Korea agreed to give Canada advance notice of changes to its tariff on alfalfa imports.
- In July 1998, Korea and Canada reached a bilateral government procurement agreement that puts Canadian suppliers of telecommunications equipment on an equal footing with their U.S. and European competitors.
- In July 1998, Korea amended its regulations restricting the use of letters of credit for goods with tariffs of over 10 percent and where the terms for repayment were greater than one year.
- In January 1999, the Korean government announced that the applied tariff on canola oil was reduced from 15 percent to 10 percent for the first six months of 1999. At the same time, the Korean government announced that the applied tariffs for barley and malting barley will be equalized for the first six months of 1999.

INDIA

- India announced its intention to phase out import restrictions on a wide range of products. Restrictions will be removed in three stages. The first "batch" of items was liberalized in the annual Export-Import Policy in April 1998. India has also committed to phasing out all restrictions on the import of goods covered by the ITA during the first stage.

INDONESIA

- Special tax and customs considerations for the National Car Programme were cancelled.
- Restrictive marketing arrangements on cement, paper and plywood were abolished.
- Import tariffs on a large number of chemical products were reduced to 5 percent.
- The number of products requiring an import license has been reduced.
- Canadian investors are now in a position to own up to 100 percent of Indonesian banks, rather than the previous cap of 85 percent.
- Non-food agricultural tariffs have been reduced.
- Agricultural tariffs have been reduced to maximum of 5 percent on all (about 500) food items.

THE PHILIPPINES

- Negotiation of a new sanitary import protocol providing new access for Canadian horse meat.
- Maintenance and updating of existing sanitary import protocols ensuring continued market access for Canadian pork, beef, poultry, boar semen, and bovine embryos, and the negotiation of a new export certificate for Canadian pet food.
- Negotiation of an audio-visual co-production agreement allowing for the use of shared resources and benefits in making of films, television, radio, video and multimedia programmes.
- Conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Information Technology Foundation of the Philippines and the Information Technology Association of Canada.
- Resolution of a dispute over the customs valuation of a third shipment of dental anaesthetics, a resolution which should prevent future disputes.

THAILAND

- The Thai Customs Department began the installation of an electronic data interchange (EDI) system. It is expected that this will reduce the number of discrete opportunities for corrupt practices.