

opportunities with employees from the department. The new Deputy Ministers' Intranet page is another example of new tools being put in place to inform employees in an effective and timely manner. We also recognize the importance of meeting with you face-to-face, which is why we are committed to holding Town Halls with staff and to developing other events and activities that encourage dialogue.

As we reflect on 2007, we recognize that your efforts, expertise and skills were the driving force behind a productive year, and will be essential to achieving DFAIT's key priorities and corporate objectives leading into 2008.

Canadians depend on our Department to help guide the Government through increas-

ingly rapid changes in foreign affairs and international trade.

The Government of Canada recognizes the importance of our work and has clearly stated its desire to re-assert Canadian leadership internationally. This is good news for the Department, and promises to make 2008 another exciting year for all of us.

We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate David Mulrone, formerly the Associate Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, for his recent appointment as Deputy Minister of the Afghanistan Task Force in PCO. Mr. Mulrone, worked tirelessly on the Afghanistan file for this department and we are extremely grateful for his devotion. We

wish him well in this new endeavour. Please also join us in welcoming Stephen Rigby as the new Associate Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, effective March 3, 2008. Mr. Rigby joins us after serving as Executive Vice President of the Canada Border Services Agency.

We hope you enjoy this first edition of **OUR WORLD**, and we look forward to receiving any comments you may have. All feedback and story ideas can be forwarded to: ourworld-notremonde@international.gc.ca.

Marie-Lucie Morin

Deputy Minister of International Trade

Leonard J. Edwards

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Events

2007 DFAIT Leadership Conference: Building Tomorrow



Minister of International Trade David Emerson outlined current trade priorities and the importance of leadership in this context.



Minister of Foreign Affairs Maxime Bernier spoke on current foreign affairs priorities and thanked the Department for its professionalism.

The 2007 DFAIT Leadership Conference was held on November 28 and 29, 2007, at the Lac Leamy Hilton. Over 300 DFAIT managers and executives from headquarters, regional offices, Passport Canada and a number of missions abroad attended. The conference's theme, "Building Tomorrow," reflected the importance of leadership in facing current and future challenges at DFAIT.

The major objectives of the conference included:

- Advancing a common understanding of DFAIT priorities and the importance of leadership in the context of the ongoing transformation of the department;
- Identifying and discussing the challenges and opportunities facing the Department; and

- Determining priorities and strategic leadership objectives for the coming year.

Deputy Ministers Len Edwards and Marie-Lucie Morin opened the conference by outlining Canada's foreign and trade policy directions and priorities, and their vision for the ongoing transformation of the department, which includes the completion of the Alignment Review and the Strategic Review exercises. The Deputy Ministers announced at the conference the creation of an Office for Transformation—headed by Lucie Edwards—which is mandated to articulate and implement DFAIT's transformation agenda.

Participants were provided the opportunity to participate in six interactive workshops over the two-day period, which included topics such as:

- DFAIT leadership, governance and accountability in policy, program and service delivery;
- DFAIT transformation through leadership and learning aligned to government priorities; and
- Values-based leadership, empowerment and engagement for organizational performance.

The Leadership Conference included speakers from both the federal public service and