

and new export-oriented industries. This is a five-year, \$13-million program, under which Thai businesses can apply for funds to help enter into joint ventures or seek technology transfer from Canada. This includes feasibility studies, visits to Canada to meet potential partners, and help with the implementation phase.

The fact that the program will respond to Thai-initiated activities reflects our strong desire to work more closely with the Thai private sector on priorities identified by them.

A few weeks ago, Minister Korn Dabaransi gave a speech in Toronto to the Thailand Board of Investment seminar, in which he challenged Canadian firms to participate in the exciting opportunities facing Thailand. I would like to echo that challenge to the Thai private sector, to go to Canada to seek out business partners for new joint ventures here in Thailand.

I think you will find that in Canada the entrepreneurial spirit is flourishing, and it is a spirit my government has nourished.

One of our first acts as a government was to implement a policy which welcomes foreign investment. We introduced deregulation, and returned many Crown corporations to the private sector. We reduced personal and corporate income tax rates. We brought in the Free Trade Agreement, and we took a leadership role in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

To boost our export readiness, we have launched a program called Going Global, which Prime Minister Brian Mulroney announced in Singapore last month. This \$94-million program targets the three giant markets of the United States, Europe and Asia-Pacific. Fully \$65 million of the funds are devoted to the Asia-Pacific component, entitled Pacific 2000.

Pacific 2000 includes a Business Strategy whereby bilateral business networks will be supported. It will help exporters in establishing offices overseas and expand relations with counterpart groups. The Business Strategy will also support sectoral exhibitions in the Pacific region.

There is also a Pacific 2000 Language and Awareness program, to help our private sector learn more about Asian languages and culture, and to support courses in doing business in Asia.