

first by fostering more productive and focused relationships among governments, industries and universities, and second by strengthening networks between our institutions of higher education and those of key partners such as Europe, the United States and Japan.

There can be no such thing as splendid isolation for our universities, any more than there can be splendid isolation for any region or any country.

If we are to move forward -- in engineering, computer sciences, communications and transportation -- we must be systematically linked to the best in the United States, Asia and Europe.

If our post-secondary institutions are to compete effectively for first-rate students and professors, we must develop our international connections and ensure that the quality of our teaching and research meets the highest international standards.

That is why, when I was in Brussels last December, my European Community counterpart and I initiated this round table on European and Canadian higher education and training programs.

I want to thank the CBIE for providing the venue and expertise for this initiative. It is the kind of initiative we had in mind when we signed the Transatlantic Declaration with the European Community in November 1990.

Other similar activities are also under way, such as the trilateral conference held in Wingspread, Wisconsin, last month, which considered ways of improving co-operation in higher education among Canada, Mexico and the United States.

Let me assure you that Canada will continue to do what it can to maintain and develop bridges to foreign academic communities. This includes support for Canadian studies programs in foreign universities.

It also means playing an active role in multilateral organizations such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC). It is also important for Canada to recognize the sources of its own strength. That strength lies in the ability of generation after generation of Canadians to build a prosperous democracy by reaching out to each other and looking outward around the world.

The India Express of New Delhi recently observed, "The strength of Canadian society is that it produces people who would fight for the cause of those to whom they do not belong, culturally or economically."