

IMMIGRATION

The Asia-Pacific region remained the largest source of new immigrants to Canada in 1990. More than 88 000 arrived from the area, representing 42 percent of the total number of immigrants Canada received from around the world.

Thirty-eight percent of immigrants from the region during the past year were given visas in the "family class" category.

A high percentage of immigrants coming to Canada from Asia Pacific come as either entrepreneurs or investors. Of all immigrants accepted into Canada as entrepreneurs during the year, 7 300 or 60 percent came from Asia Pacific. Similarly, 3 900 or 94 percent of the total number of financial investors entering Canada last year also came from this region. More than 6 500 jobs in Canada were expected to be created or maintained and \$3 billion to be transferred because of the entrepreneurial skills of these new immigrants.

The Indochinese movement still dominated the refugee intake in Asia. Their selection is governed by the Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA), an international agreement adopted in Geneva in June 1989.

A total of 180 000 visas were issued to visitors, students and temporary workers from the area, a 9 percent increase over 1989.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Department sets public affairs priorities in Asia Pacific with a view to promoting Canada as a full-fledged player in the Asia-Pacific area and one committed to the region on a long-term basis. Public affairs efforts were directed towards positioning Canada as a source of goods and services, high-quality resources, and cultural excellence — all offering attractive investment opportunities.

In October, ASEAN foreign ministers met in Jasper, Alberta. This was an historic meeting as it was the first time ASEAN foreign ministers had held such a meeting outside their own countries. In conjunction with this conference, an academic seminar, which highlighted Canada's valued educational links with the ASEAN countries, was held in Calgary.

Canada Business and Technology Week in Seoul, November 1990, included high-technology products and trade shows, tourism, and food displays, as well as a highly successful education market place.

As part of the festivities for Canada Week in Taipei, the Education Liaison Section within the Canadian Trade Office was opened, and a fashion show featured the work of Canadian designer Alfred Sung.

WESTERN EUROPE AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Numerous visits at the head-of-state, prime ministerial and ministerial level with European leaders confirmed the importance of Europe for Canada in political, economic, demographic and cultural terms.

Bilateral political consultations were held with French Prime Minister Michel Rocard, and the Prime Minister of Italy, Giulio Andreotti. Prime Minister Mulroney was received by H. H. Pope John Paul II. Canada signed significant agreements with France on the environment and on cooperation in museums. Canada also signed a memorandum of understanding with Germany on environmental cooperation.

Just weeks before German unification, Canada hosted German President, Richard Von Weizsaecker, marking a new more active phase in relations between Canada and Germany. Finnish President Mauno Koivisto made a state visit during which he and Foreign Minister Pertti Paasio met with Prime Minister Mulroney and Mr. Clark to discuss the continuing evolution of Europe, and particularly

the prospects for political and economic change in the Soviet Union and Central and Eastern Europe.

In November, Prime Minister Mulroney and Prime Minister Andreotti, in his capacity as President of the EC, issued a Declaration on EC-Canada Relations. The Declaration established principles of partnership and common goals for Canada and the EC. Under the consultative framework of the Declaration, the President of the Council of the European Communities, Luxembourg's Foreign Affairs Minister Jacques Poos, accompanied by EC Vice-President M. Frans Andriessen, met with the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Intensive discussion improved coordination with the EC on international affairs, and encouraged progress on bilateral issues. As a result of their visit, it was agreed that Luxembourg's Prime Minister, M. Jacques Santer, and the President of the Commission, M. Jacques Delors, would meet with Mr. Mulroney later in the spring.