

## Canada-Philippines Relations

Canada's relations with the Philippines are based on a considerable immigration flow, over 5,000 Filipinos came to Canada in 1981, and expanding commercial activities. Over the past five years contacts between Canada and the Philippines also have expanded as a result of the ASEAN connection. The Philippines was designated by ASEAN in 1977 as Canada's official contact point with the association. Two Canada-ASEAN Dialogues have been held in Manila (1977 and 1982) and the Philippines has been the primary country involved in the Canada-ASEAN Post-Harvest Fisheries Technology project. A nuclear cooperation agreement was signed between the two countries in June, 1981 and discussions have taken place on other energy-related subjects. CIDA has funded several feasibility studies for power projects in the Philippines.

Mr. Lumley, the Minister of State for Trade, and Mr. Whelan, Minister of Agriculture both visited the Philippines in 1980. Dr. MacGuigan, Secretary of State for External Affairs, visited Manila in June, 1981 to attend the annual meeting of the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN with their Dialogue partners. Mr. Lalonde, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and B.C. Premier William Bennett also visited the Philippines in 1981. Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo paid a visit to Canada in October of that year, and Energy Minister G.Z. Velasco visited Canada in May, 1982.

Trade between Canada and the Philippines is carried out under a bilateral trade agreement and the GATT which the Philippines joined on January 1, 1980. The Philippines is a beneficiary of Canada's General Preferential Tariff in favour of developing countries. On November 8, 1981, a five-year arrangement on textile restraints was initialled.

Canada exported \$107,896 million to the Philippines in 1980, and \$83 million in 1981. Imports from the Philippines rose to \$108.7 million in 1981 from \$101.4 million in 1980.

Canada is the sixth largest investor in the Philippines, principally in manufacturing, banking, insurance and mining. These sectors, as well as telecommunications and electricity generation/distribution, offer high potential for Canadian exporters.

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