

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RELATIONS

Japan's growing status as a world force in science and technology (S&T) has encouraged Canada to strengthen the ties the two countries have enjoyed in this area since the mid-1970s.

At a meeting in Toronto in January 1988, the prime ministers of Canada and Japan commissioned a joint study of how S&T projects in both countries complement each other. The goal was to find promising areas for new or expanded co-operation and ways to carry it out.

The study, led by Dr. Geraldine Kenney-Wallace, was completed in July 1989. An assessment of the study is now being carried out by Harry Rogers, Canada's chief science advisor, and will be completed in October 1989.

As well, Canada and Japan signed a bilateral agreement in 1986 to expand joint research and development projects covering a spectrum of peaceful technologies.

Under the agreement, a joint committee meets every two years to review activity, approve new projects and develop policy guidelines. The agreement covers 85 projects ranging from agriculture and the environment to communications technology and space science.

Canadian companies are particularly keen to identify and acquire Japanese technology for use in Canada. Through the Technology Inflow Program, the embassy in Japan helps Canadians make contact with Japanese firms and conduct negotiations.

As well, officials of both countries meet once a year to promote industrial co-operation.