

CANADA-SINGAPORE RELATIONS

CANADA AND SINGAPORE

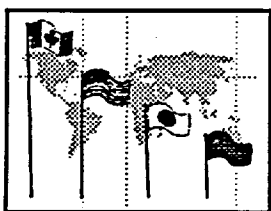
Canada enjoys sound relations with Singapore as a result of Commonwealth ties, a similar outlook on international problems, and Canada's support for and active dialogue with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). In addition, Canada and Singapore are both members of the tripartite (government, business, and academia) Pacific Economic Co-operation Conference (PECC).

Singapore is an important interlocutor for Canada on regional and global trade, economic and political issues. Similarly dependent on foreign markets and, therefore, in opposing protectionist trends, both countries co-operate on international economic issues. Trade is by far the most important feature of Canada-Singapore relations.

Ties between Canada and Singapore have been strengthened through strong educational links. It is estimated that there are between 1,500 and 1,800 Singaporeans studying in Canada at any one time. Singaporean graduates of Canadian universities have attained local prominence in government, business and education and are important "unofficial" representatives of Canada.

A number of Singaporeans have chosen to move to Canada in recent years to establish businesses in a wide range of sectors. In 1993, 26 business category cases were processed for movement to Canada, bringing about CDN\$42 million in assets.

Canada and Singapore have worked closely on the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) initiative. At its' Ministerial meeting in Bangkok in September, 1992, APEC member governments agreed to the establishment of an APEC Secretariat in Singapore. The Secretariat was opened in 1993 and includes one Canadian staff member. In March, 1994, Canada hosted the first APEC Environmental Ministers meeting in Vancouver, which the Singapore Minister of the Environment attended.



CANADA-SINGAPORE TRADE

Trade is by far the most important feature of Canada-Singapore relations. It is carried out under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Singapore is a beneficiary of Canada's General Preferential Tariff (GPT) and British Preferential Tariff. In 1990, more than 75 percent of the dutiable shipments from Singapore were eligible for preferential access to the Canadian market under the GPT.