

Finance Ministers at their bilateral meeting on April 4, 2007, in Tokyo agreed that officials from both sides will work together to bridge the few remaining differences, having substantive discussions following the signature of the new Protocol to the Canada-U.S. Tax Convention, with a view to initiating formal negotiations on the revision of the treaty once such differences have been reasonably narrowed.

### **6.3.1.5 Asia-Pacific Gateways**

Success in international commerce is driven by the timely and efficient movement of goods and people in global supply chains. It requires new approaches from governments and it means giving businesses the tools to adapt. Initiatives related to national gateways are being developed in Canada and Japan to promote economic growth and strengthen ties with trading partners. Canada's billion-dollar Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative aligns the multibillion-dollar investments by the provinces and private sector to enhance transportation logistics between Asia Pacific and North America through significant increases in the capacity, reliability and efficiency of Canada's ports, railways, roads and airports. Japan is advocating the Asian Gateway Initiative and aims to play a key role in connecting Asia and the rest of the world in terms of the flow of people, goods, capital, information and culture. Japan's Initiative presents a comprehensive strategy for ensuring Japan's stable economic and social growth and encompasses wide-ranging issues. While maintaining focus on trade and commerce, Japan's Initiative attaches much importance to other areas such as restructuring policies for international students, promoting Japan's creative industries and publicizing its attractiveness overseas. The two gateway initiative concepts are different but related and do coincide in a timely manner. There is considerable scope for sharing information and for cooperation as both coun-