

With that in mind, the private sector, working in partnership with the federal and provincial governments, has developed action plans in seven priority sectors: processed foods, tourism, information technology, auto parts, forest and building products, aerospace, and fisheries products.

There is a lot happening in each of these sectors, from seminars to trade shows to incoming and outgoing missions.

One such mission I was particularly glad to see was the Japanese Ministry of Transport Tourism Mission to Canada. In my previous incarnation as Tourism Minister, I pushed hard for Japan to choose Canada as a site for this prestigious mission, and I was pleased to have succeeded. The group toured Eastern and Atlantic Canada, and met with Canadian tourism industry leaders in Montreal on September 21.

At that Montreal meeting, the two sides set some extremely exciting targets: to triple the number of Japanese visits to Canada from the current rate of about 500 000 to 1.5 million, and to raise the number of Canadian visitors to Japan from the current level of 60 000 to 500 000. To attain those goals will not only bring benefits to our respective tourist industries, but will also help build mutual understanding -- dissolving those stereotypes that I mentioned earlier -- while increasing investment and trade.

Let me single out one more example of the kind of partnership-building that is taking place between our two countries: the Japan Manufacturing Engineer Exchange.

One week ago, seven Canadian engineers started a three-month course in Japanese language and culture. After that, they will go to Japan and work on the shop floor at leading manufacturing companies for up to one year before returning to their Canadian operations. The knowledge and contacts -- and I'm talking about business-to-business contacts -- they bring back will, I'm sure, spin off into exciting new developments down the road.

Many Canadians have already made that journey, and the fruits of their efforts are clear not only in our strong trade and investment figures, but also in individual success stories.

I'm thinking of stories like Murphy Aviation, in Chilliwack, B.C., and their agreement with a group of Japanese business people to produce 50 new ultra-light aircraft specifically designed for the Japanese market.

I'm thinking of the KAO Infosystems decision to invest another \$30 million in their Arnprior, Ontario, computer diskette facility, quadrupling production.