



Conclusion

Canada's relationship with Malaysia is long standing and encompasses a broad range of interests. Canada's strong interest and support for ASEAN, shared Commonwealth links, and development assistance have been principal features of the warm relationship between the two countries. Education, in particular, has been an area of close ties, and many Malaysians have received their education in Canada.

Today, trade provides a central focus of activities between the two countries, and has been growing steadily. Two way trade has nearly tripled since 1986. Reaching approximately \$730 million in 1991, the balance of trade was in Malaysia's favour by approximately \$145 million. There remains much potential for bilateral trade and Canadian investment in Malaysia and Canadian presence in Malaysia continues to increase. There are over 30 signed agreements in the manufacturing and services sectors, and a further 225 Canadian companies which have representatives in Malaysia. The Malaysia-Canada Business Council established in 1989, helps to further trade activity between the two countries.

Canada's development assistance in Malaysia increasingly emphasizes a gradual transition from a development assistance relationship to one of full economic co-operation, and as such provides active support to the establishment of long-term linkages between the private sectors in the two countries. Initiatives under this program will support and complement traditional government trade promotion efforts and help to broaden the bilateral

commercial and economic relationship. The Enterprise Malaysia-Canada program, which promotes the transfer of Canadian technology and know-how to Malaysia through joint ventures and other cooperative endeavours in the private sector, will be a key focus of the bilateral program over the next five years.

Canada, through its bilateral and multilateral assistance programs, is also working with Malaysia to develop sustainable forestry and agricultural practices. The Institute of Forest Management in Kuala Lumpur, and the Sarawak Agricultural Development Plan are only a couple of the various CIDA funded projects which exemplify our close co-operation in the area of sustainable development.

Although still relatively modest, contacts and links between organizations and institutions in Canada and Malaysia outside the trade context also play an important role in further developing bilateral relations. Initiatives in the education, defence, agriculture and communications sectors are particularly noteworthy.

Malaysia's increasingly assertive role in international political and economic fora also provides opportunities for dialogue and consultations between the two countries which can be instrumental in further developing bilateral relations. Membership in APEC, participation in UNCED, and high-level visits such as those of our Prime Ministers and senior cabinet ministers, play an important role in supporting these objectives.