

Asia and the Pacific

The nations of Asia and the Western Pacific — with their wide variety of forms of government and social structures — include some of the most highly industrialized countries in the world as well as some of the poorest and least-developed. Canada has expanded its trading relations with the former group and has provided important development assistance to some of the latter. The development-assistance program in the region is Canada's oldest and largest. Canadian economic interests in the region continued to increase, with rising opportunities for trade, investment and joint ventures. A major concern for Canada in 1976, consistent with the general foreign-policy theme of maintaining peace and security, was the continuing effort to ensure through negotiations that Canadian nuclear exports to the region would be used for peaceful, non-explosive purposes.

The Pacific

Japan

The past year marked the continued expansion and enhancement of Canada-Japan relations, maintaining the momentum generated by the joint announcement in 1974, by Prime Ministers Trudeau and Tanaka, that called upon the two countries to "broaden and deepen" their contacts with one another and thereby usher in a new era in their association. The Framework for Economic Co-operation and the Canada-Japan Cultural Agreement, signed on the occasion of Prime Minister Trudeau's visit to Japan in October, are two landmarks in the development of the new partnership.

The Prime Minister's visit to Japan was the year's highlight, demonstrating the significance Canada attached to its evolving relations with Japan and providing an opportunity for discussions at the highest level. Mr. Trudeau met with the Emperor and Empress of Japan and had lengthy and constructive talks with Prime Minister Miki and other members of the Japanese Cabinet, including Deputy Prime Minister Fukuda, who was elected Prime Minister late in December.

The Prime Minister addressed a number of groups, including the Keidanren, an important Japanese business organization, the students of Keio University, where he received an honorary degree, and the Japan National Press Club. In his speeches, Mr. Trudeau drew attention to Canada's technological capabilities, and pointed out that as an industrialized country Canada had much to offer Japan besides raw materials. By all accounts, the visit was a success, drawing together the diverse elements of the Canada-Japan relationship and providing impetus to the growing partnership between the two countries.

The signing of the Framework for Economic Co-operation was of particular importance. Japan is Canada's second-largest trading partner, and Canada is a major supplier of food and raw materials to Japan. The Framework, reflecting Canada's desire to increase exports of upgraded products, seeks to foster the diversification of Canada-Japan commer-