

unit on Asia Pacific culture for grade 7 and 8 students. Music, video, crafts, sports and elementary language instruction in Mandarin will contribute to raising awareness and understanding of Asia Pacific and its global, economic and cultural importance.

Young Canadians of Asia Pacific descent also made the most of CYAP to enlighten their peers about their backgrounds and their unique Asian-influenced identity as Canadians. For example, the Montréal Coalition of Filipino Students produced a short film documentary on the experiences of young Filipino-Canadians.

On November 21, 1997, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien visited the APEC Leaders Meeting Youth Communications Centre (YCC), accompanied by Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahatir bin Mohammed, who will host APEC in 1998. The centre, staffed by the APEC youth coordination bureau, was an interactive multimedia display, featuring highlights of youth involvement in APEC-related activities throughout Canada's Year of Asia Pacific. The two prime ministers were presented with copies of the *APEC '97 and the Canada's Year of Asia Pacific Youth Report*. This was a fitting conclusion to the CYAP youth component. As Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific), Raymond Chan stated in a speech he gave early in the year, "you're talking about the future when you talk about Asia Pacific, so young people are the biggest stakeholders in this whole operation."

***"The government cannot achieve progress (on human rights) on its own - we need the partnership and active engagement of individual Canadians, non-governmental organizations, the business sector, and academic institutions."***

*- Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, McGill University, October 16, 1997*

## **CYAP and Civil Society**

Throughout the year, CYAP events helped to stimulate discussions on Canada's best course of action in helping to strengthen civil societies in Asia Pacific.

Cultural events showing the traditional and contemporary cultures of Asia Pacific brought the human face of these discussions into focus. As business people learned about exporting to the region, they gained a new appreciation of the need for increased transparency, accountability, and rule of law in many Asia Pacific economies.

Issues of human development were a also major concern at the *Asia Connects* youth conference. Some delegates left the conference with even more questions than when they had arrived. As Laura MacIsaac, a delegate from Cape Breton commented in the final report, "I come away with a sense of the enormity of the moral, political, and economic issues that must be addressed when evaluating the expansion of our connections with the Pacific Rim."