



news release

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CANADA AND JAPAN SIGN FILM, TELEVISION AND VIDEO AGREEMENT

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and Minister of Canadian Heritage Michel Dupuy today announced the signing of an agreement between Canada and Japan that will encourage film, television and video co-production.

The agreement, the first in this field that Japan has made with any country, was signed today in Tokyo by Mr. Ouellet and Japan's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Yohei Kono. It is designed to assist producers in sharing and reducing production costs and risks by pooling creative, financial and technical resources, and to facilitate distribution of productions in foreign markets.

"This is a ground-breaking agreement and I am confident that it will be of great benefit to Canadian producers of films, video and television programming. It will boost both our commercial and cultural relations in this sector which holds such enormous potential," said Mr. Ouellet.

Some of Canada's leading production companies and broadcasters, in both the private and public sectors, have been actively seeking expanded relations with the Japanese film, video and television sector.

"We have been negotiating for a number of years in hopes of reaching such an agreement. Several co-production projects, valued at some \$50 million, are already being developed and Canadian producers will benefit immediately from it," said Mr. Dupuy.

Canada already has co-production agreements with 23 countries, including Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong in the Asia-Pacific region. Over the last five years Canada has participated in 172 co-productions which, with an estimated value of just over \$1 billion, represent an increasing share of film and television production activity in Canada.

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