

KOREA

- In July 1999, Korea and Canada signed the Canada-Korea Telecommunications Equipment Agreement that puts Canadian suppliers of telecommunications equipment on an equal footing with their U.S. and European competitors.

INDIA

- Under an agreement announced January 10, 2000, quantitative restrictions (QRs) and import-licensing requirements will be lifted on 1429 agriculture, textile and consumer products. QRs on 714 tariff lines will be eliminated by April 2000, with the remainder phased out by April 2001.
- In October 1999, new telecommunications legislation was passed that will allow basic and cellular service operators to migrate from the existing system of a fixed-licence fee to a revenue-sharing regime. This will enhance market access for new entrants.

INDONESIA

- Canada maintained market share in wheat sales, despite the predatory subsidy policies of competing economies, particularly those of the United States.
- The Canadian Embassy continued to press Indonesia customs authorities to improve transparency.
- The Indonesian government implemented new regulations permitting greater foreign ownership of commercial banks. Foreign investors may now own up to 99 percent of a bank's shares.
- Non-food agricultural tariffs have been reduced.

THAILAND

- In October 1999, the Thai Parliament adopted a revised Alien Business Law, significantly easing restrictions on foreign companies doing business in Thailand.
- In August 1999, Thailand reduced the tariff on canola meal from 10 percent to 5 percent, making it equivalent to the tariff for soya meal.
- Thailand reduced the tariff for alfalfa from a prohibitive 30 percent to 5 percent.

VIETNAM

- In August 1999, Chinfon-Manulife Insurance Company launched operations in Vietnam. This joint venture between Manulife Financial of Toronto and a Taiwanese conglomerate is the first investment licence to be granted by Vietnam to a foreign owned life insurance business.

THE PHILIPPINES

- The Estrada administration demonstrated a commitment to economic liberalization by lowering tariff barriers, eliminating non-tariff barriers and deregulating key sectors, such as telecommunications.

AUSTRALIA

- Partial access to the Australian market for uncooked salmon products has been agreed as an interim measure while a WTO ruling is implemented.