

VANCOUVER - BOARD OF TRADE

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to be able to join you today on this occasion when you are able to meet and mingle with our professionals on the front lines of the Pacific theatre. There are 18 heads of mission here today including our newest recruits like "Si" Taylor, our new Ambassador to Japan, John Higginbotham in Hong Kong, Ingrid Hall in Indonesia, Nancy Stiles in Sri Lanka, Bernie Gagorz in Singapore and Andre Simard in the Philippines.

I know you will find them a first rate team of men and women who can assist you in gaining greater knowledge of this key part of the global economy.

They have seen the future; and it not only works - it works hard and well. Clearly, the nations of the Pacific Rim are setting new standards in international competitiveness which we must strive to match.

Given the expertise assembled here in Vancouver, it is not my intention to focus on the details of our strategic response known as Pacific 2000.

I recognize that many of you already know its contents.

- . a Pacific Business Strategy to expand activities under the National Trade Strategy to increase the number of trade offices in the region, and to foster technology transfers and investment alliances;
- . a Japan Science and Technology Fund aimed at strengthening our scientific and technological base through bilateral links; starting with the agricultural bio-technology workshop here in Vancouver and the ocean sciences conference in Victoria;
- . a Language and Awareness Fund to help Canadians learn the languages and customs of the region, so our private sector can better understand their potential customers;
- . and a Pacific 2000 Projects Fund to help Asians better understand the potential of our own country.

You know as well that this Pacific Initiative is only part of our overall national trade and investment strategy - a strategy that includes: