

Mr. Kelleher said this trip is part of the Government's global trade strategy. "We launched a major new trade initiative in the Pacific Rim, at the same time that we proposed bilateral trade talks with the Americans. We have also taken a leading role in promoting a new round of multilateral trade negotiations under the GATT, and I will be discussing with my counterparts how best to advance our common interests in the new round", Mr. Kelleher said. Canada has proposed Montreal as the site of the ministerial launch for the new GATT round.

After his visit to the ASEAN countries, Mr. Kelleher will go on to Hong Kong (February 21-22), where he will open the new offices of the Canadian Commission and discuss business opportunities with local and Canadian business people residing in Hong Kong.

This will be his third official visit to the Asia/Pacific region in the last 12 months, following his trips to Korea, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand. With the conclusion of this trip, Mr. Kelleher will have visited 17 countries outside North America promoting the Government's global trade strategy.

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