

your attention to the series of Pacific Rim Opportunities Conferences organized by the private sector, the latest of which is to be held in Calgary, Alberta in October. We are also endeavouring to strengthen cooperation in the Pacific by establishing a Canada-Pacific Cooperation Committee which brings together government with representatives of the private sector and the university community. This approach reflects our view that only through the full participation of the private sector can we develop the lasting economic ties that are essential to long-term interests. It is through this ever-increasing web of contacts that Canada-ASEAN awareness and mutual understanding will be enhanced.

I am here in Bangkok to further the process of contacts and communication that will build and strengthen understanding between Canada and ASEAN. These gatherings at the ministerial level have become in Canada's view not only the most important annual meeting of Asian and Pacific countries and their main partners, but also a significant North-South forum bringing together some of the key industrialized countries with a grouping of some of the most influential members of the Third World. The informality and frankness of these sessions have impressed me particularly. I can assure you that these meetings will continue to feature prominently on the annual agenda of Canada's important international political consultations.