

And it is Western Canada which depends the most on Asia. The four western provinces account for three-quarters of all Canadian exports to Korea and Japan. In sectors such as oil and natural gas technology, Alberta trades more with the Pacific than it does with the United States. Between 1982 and 1989, Alberta's trade with Europe and the U.S.S.R. actually dropped by an annual rate of 11.5 per cent. Yet exports to the Asia-Pacific region grew on average by 8 per cent annually -- more than to any other region including the United States. That is a dramatic shift.

Canadian trade with ASEAN countries reached \$3 billion last year. That's double the figure for 1986 and four times the figure of less than a decade ago. Alberta's own exports report an even more dramatic pattern of growth. Since 1982, Alberta's exports to Singapore have risen by about 50 per cent. Exports to Malaysia have grown by more than three fold, to Indonesia by seven fold, to the Philippines by 13 fold and to Thailand by 17 fold. In 1982, Indonesia did not even feature on Alberta's export charts. Today, it is Alberta's 10th most important customer. In 1982, Thailand stood in 60th place on that list; it is now number 18 and rising fast.

And the future is even brighter. Alberta technology for remote sensing has already found markets in Malaysia and elsewhere in ASEAN, and that market is growing fast. In the oil and natural gas sector, there is an immense market for energy technology, engineering and systems management. For example, Indonesia plans to double its natural gas exports in 10 years. Malaysia has gas resources rivalling Alberta's and is developing that resource fast. And Thailand is reporting oil and gas finds of global rank. As Novacorp, Asamera, Challenger Drilling and others will testify, that is a market made for Alberta.

In the agricultural sector, as ASEAN urbanizes, there will be a skyrocketing demand for agricultural equipment, storage and distribution systems, animal and plant genetics, and fertilizer systems. And urbanization will lead to higher demand for other things -- urban transportation systems, health care services, telephone grids, recycling technology, building components -- and the services required to make them all work. Those too are Alberta markets.