

These factors notwithstanding, Canada holds only a 2 per cent share of the increasingly competitive Asia-Pacific import market.

Politically, the Asia-Pacific region is in a period of relative stability, benefiting from an improved global climate. Yet the persistence of local and sub-regional conflict together with the continuing task of environmentally sustainable development challenges Canada's ability to understand Asia-Pacific society, and to assess Canada's role in regional affairs.

Pacific 2000

In 1989, the Government of Canada announced a dynamic new strategy to strengthen Canada's position in this rapidly changing environment. "PACIFIC 2000" involves an integrated approach to international trade, science and technology, and investment, more properly reflecting Canada's economic priorities — and with them, the interests of Canadian industry.

The Asia-Pacific Research Fund

A strategic component of PACIFIC 2000 is the Asia-Pacific Research Fund, which is aimed at stimulating policy-oriented research to foster a better understanding in Canada of the economic and political environments in the Asia-Pacific region, and at enabling the Government of Canada to refine its objectives and strategies in the region.