

forward since they are AsDB financed. On the other hand, government contracts may stay on hold until the upcoming May elections. The current fiscal deficit is likely to act as a constraint on government spending.

Canada made a number of high level representations to the Philippines objecting to proposed new meat inspection requirements (Administrative Order 16). Canada considered the new requirements to be more trade restrictive than necessary. A number of other countries also made representations. Canada also raised concerns about the undue delays meat importers were facing in obtaining import permits. The Philippines authorities were responsive to Canadian concerns and in early January announced new requirements (Administrative Order 56). Canada is reviewing the new requirements.

Canada's Market Access Priorities for 2001

- urge continued commitment to economic liberalization and reform, including enactment of stated plans to privatize and deregulate the energy sector;
- continue to argue against protectionism in the agri-food sector and continue to support policies consistent with WTO principles and regulations;
- encourage resumption of tariffs reductions which were temporarily suspended for certain industries in the wake of the Asian economic crisis;
- advocate correction of serious deficiencies in legal protection for intellectual property, including a lack of authority for courts to seize pirated material, difficulties in licensing software and other technology, and delays at the Intellectual Property Office in pursuing cases against intellectual property violators; and
- monitor the implementation of the new inspection rules governing the import of meat and meat products and press for timely issuance of import permits.