VII was held in Calgary in March 1991, attracting over 300 participants representing 200 companies from around the Pacific Rim. PROC VIII will take place from April 17th to 19th in Toronto in 1994.

PBEC also holds an annual International General Meeting (IGM). In May 1992, PBEC-CC undertook the planning for the 25th PBEC IGM in Vancouver, which attracted 601 business leaders from around the Pacific Rim. Ninety-four Canadians from across the country participated at this, PBEC's Silver Anniversary IGM. Approximately 20 PBEC-CC members attend off-shore IGMs every year, including the 26th IGM in Seoul, Korea in May 1993.

Summary: PECC and PBEC

In summary, both PECC and PBEC represent access to valuable networks of contacts and intelligence from around the Asia Pacific region. By situating the Canadian Secretariats for both of these organizations at the APFC, complementarity of efforts and information-sharing amongst all three institutions is maximized. In light of this productive synergy, further integration of the PBEC, PECC, and APFC roles may occur in the near future.

6.2.7 APFNET

APFNET (1993/94 budget - $215,000 in the form of core funding) is the Foundation's response to the need to establish improved and efficient communications with as many of the players in the Canada-Asia relationship as possible. APFNET provides inexpensive electronic mail and file transfer capabilities and linkages with senior government, business and academic users in over twenty countries in the Asia Pacific region. The prime technical objective of APFNET is to allow people with common interests to communicate more effectively , and more often.

From its start in 1991, the system has grown from 47 subscribers to over two hundred. The network now includes not only all APFC staff and board members but is used by such organizations as B.C. Trade, DFAIT, CAC, CIDA, PBEC and PECC, to connect individual users in Canada with their offices, members, and other institutions throughout the Asia Pacific region.

Several key concepts have helped APFNET grow and develop. These strategies have proved to be effective in the formative phases of implementation. They included:

● Promoting APFNET as an easy to use, low cost, flexible, reliable communication tool.
● Positioning the network as a focused business communication facility and source of useful information.
● Providing user defined products.
● Providing seamless connectivity to other electronic network platforms.