



news release

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\$1-MILLION CANADA-JAPAN STUDENT CO-OP PROGRAM LAUNCHED

Secretary of State for External Affairs Barbara McDougall and Science Minister William Winegard today announced \$1 million in funding for a three-year pilot program designed to place senior Canadian science and engineering students in Japanese companies. The program is being launched under a component of the Government's "Going Global" initiative, the \$25-million Japan Science and Technology Fund.

The co-op placement program will be implemented by a consortium of four universities: University of Victoria, Simon Fraser University, University of Waterloo and Université de Sherbrooke. The program will be managed by the University of Victoria and may be expanded after the pilot phase to include other universities.

"Canada-Japan trade and investment amounted to more than \$17.7 billion last year, and there exists enormous potential for expansion," Mrs. McDougall said. "This program will strengthen our relationship with Japan by developing the human links of shared understanding, knowledge and skills. It is an exchange that will benefit both countries."

The program will develop a Canadian pool of young engineers and scientists with practical experience in Japanese industrial engineering practices and research. The students selected for the program will reflect Canadian industrial needs. "Developing a solid base of highly qualified personnel is a vital element in the equation for competitiveness. Providing our technical talent with the opportunity to gain experience in the Japanese working environment will serve as a valuable investment towards meeting the needs of Canadian industry," Dr. Winegard said.