

are particularly strong, with Canada being the destination of choice for an increasing number of Hong Kong students studying abroad. As well, Hong Kong is home to at least 100,000 Canadian university alumni and over 20 active Canadian alumni associations.

- The Canada-China Scholars' Exchange Program offers in-country study and research for Canadian and Chinese graduate students and faculty members. Since exchanges started in 1973, more than 750 scholars from both countries have taken part. A memorandum of understanding to renew and modernize this program was signed during the Prime Minister's October 2003 visit. Hong Kong and Canadian universities have over 30 co-operative programs involving students and faculty in research and exchange visits. In 1991, a Canadian international school was established in Hong Kong. It now provides schooling to nearly 1,400 children, with instruction based on Canadian curriculums.
- Since the early 1980s, CIDA has supported links that provide a strong, ongoing basis for academic work and people-to-people contact between Canadian and Chinese universities and colleges. Self-funded programs are also on the rise.
- Since 1998, the Canadian Education Centre Network, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada, has operated an office in Beijing to promote Canadian educational and training activities.
- Several hundred scholars are teaching and doing research on Canada at 32 Canadian studies centres or programs in universities, colleges and advanced research institutions throughout China. These centres belong to the 200-member Association for Canadian Studies in China, which promotes cultural and academic exchanges and increases awareness of Canada. Other Canadian-funded initiatives aimed at developing Canadian studies in China include a library support program and grants for research and publishing.

Development co-operation

- Canada's primary development assistance organization, the Canadian International Development Agency, began building relationships with the Chinese government in 1981. A general co-operation agreement between the two countries was signed in 1983. Poverty reduction is the main focus of the CIDA program in China, and gender equity is an important underlying theme.
- CIDA's three key programming priorities in China are to support economic reform and economic co-operation, to promote environmental sustainability, and to encourage improvement in human rights, democratic