

Minding our Future: Report on Federal Science and Technology

Federal initiatives are creating leading-edge jobs and encouraging economic growth, moving Canadians into the knowledge economy. That is one of the conclusions of the first report on the implementation of the government's strategy for science and technology (S&T), released on December 22, 1997.

"Minding our Future — A Report on Federal Science and Technology, 1997 demonstrates that the S&T Strategy is strengthening Canada's system of innovation," said Ron Duhamel, Secretary of State (Science, Research and Development), in announcing the release of the report.

After setting the context of Canada's transition into the knowledge-

based society and analyzing the federal investment in science and technology, the report focuses on performance and results. It outlines how the actions of departments and agencies to implement the S&T Strategy have advanced the federal S&T effort and strengthened the national innovation system. The final part of the report deals with innova-

tion and people, two key themes that will shape federal science and technology initiatives in the future.

"By reviewing S&T priorities and strategically reallocating resources, the federal government has been able to maintain a major commitment to science and technology," said Dr. Duhamel. "Still, our collective success

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Survey of Canadian Business Activities in Asia

The Asian Business Consortium is conducting an innovative new survey of the business activities of Canadian firms in Asia. In this nationwide survey, over 8,000 small and medium-sized enterprises will be asked about their business activities in Asia, including how they entered the market, what kind of training needs they have, and what their future plans in the region are. The questionnaires, available in English and French, were mailed out at the end of January; the results will be announced in April at the first national conference of the Consortium.

The Asian market is projected to account for nearly 50 per cent of the world's GDP by 2000. Yet Canada remains a relatively small player in the region — hence the need for a deeper understanding of what Canadian businesses need to be

successful in Asia, and what actual and perceived barriers they face.

The Asian Business Consortium is a collaborative venture among centres for Asian management studies, including the Asian Business Studies Program and the Joint Centre for Asia Pacific Studies at the University of Toronto/York University and the Centre for Canada-Asia Business Relations at Queens University. It offers specialized courses, seminars,

workshops and contract research to Canadian and Asian corporations.

The Consortium is being supported in this project by two principal partners — Hong Kong Telecom (Canada) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

For more information on the survey, contact Michael Hartmann, Asian Business Consortium Secretariat, tel.: (416) 978-0184.

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in both English and French, by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), in collaboration with the Business Council of Canada (BCF).

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