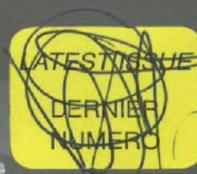


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Pacific Gateway Strategy announced

Vancouver > On October 21, the Government of Canada released details of the Pacific Gateway Strategy, designed to enhance

prosperity and strengthen Canada's position in international commerce by further developing the Pacific Gateway.

The strategy includes up to \$590 million in specific measures and commitments in several areas, including investments in transportation infrastructure, secure and efficient border

services, and deeper links with the Asia-Pacific region.

Canada's Pacific Gateway is a multimodal network of transportation infrastructure focused on trade with Asia. It is made up of interconnected public and privately owned assets, including ports, airports, rail and road systems. Changing trade patterns associated with emerging markets are predicted to result in significant growth in traffic through the Gateway. By 2020, container cargo coming through British Columbia ports is projected to increase by up to 300%. The value of this trade is

see page 2 - Pacific Gateway



The Port of Vancouver handled more than 73 million tonnes of cargo in 2004.

Doing business in Botswana: Opportunities and advice

Botswana is a geographically vast but arid country that is thinly populated with 1.8 million people. Yet Botswana's economic growth rate—averaging slightly above 7% over the past two decades—has been among the highest in the developing world.

Private sector business climate

For a long time, the country has offered some of the lowest tax rates in Southern Africa plus generous incentives, including programs of equity injection, to attract foreign direct investment. In addition, the business environment is very accommodating, with good intra- and inter-urban transport systems, efficient telecommunications and power supply networks, a contract law system

that is enforced and an efficient financial system. To promote employment and poverty reduction, efforts are also being intensified to empower locals through citizen empowerment schemes, which include preferment provisos in public procurement and the reservation of certain contracts for citizen-owned businesses.

Botswana's economy is generally well managed (attested to consistently by various international ranking agencies). In the 2004-05 World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report, Botswana was ranked number 45 in the world and number two in Africa (after South Africa) in terms of growth competitiveness. In a recent World Bank report,

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