

come of age. I have attempted to sketch in some of the highlights of success achieved and the milestones met in Canada-ASEAN relations over the last few years – and the attention we continue to focus on and the support we continue to give ASEAN in the search for a peaceful settlement to the crisis still afflicting Indochina. We have achieved much. But there is still more to be done, new opportunities to be pursued, challenges to be met. A Canada that is informed about Southeast Asia, that is schooled in the traditions and heritage of this region, that is debating and examining the issues in the region and Canada's approach to them – that will have to form a vital element in the continuing growth of relations. And that is an area where this conference, and the Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies, are making a most valuable contribution.

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