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SECRETARY OF STATE CHAN TO OPEN CANADA-JAPAN SYMPOSIUM ON THE STEWARDSHIP OF THE NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan will open the Canada-Japan Symposium on the Stewardship of the North Pacific Ocean to be held March 25 to 27 in Vancouver.

"This is a Canadian initiative that responds to the recommendations of the Canada-Japan Forum 2000 report, tabled in December 1992. That report recommended, among other things, that Canada and Japan work in partnership on environmental concerns," said Mr. Ouellet.

The co-chairs of the symposium are Dr. Geraldine Kenney-Wallace, President and Vice-Chancellor of McMaster University and Vice-Chair of the Canadian Panel of Forum 2000, and Professor Yoichi Kaya of the University of Tokyo. The symposium will bring together 20 senior sectoral experts from both countries to explore opportunities for collaboration. The topics for discussion include priorities for research and development, instrumentation and measurement technology, and potential commercial benefits.

"This initiative shows Canada's commitment to a dialogue with Japan that extends well beyond trade. Canada and Japan are already working together in a number of bilateral projects in the area of the environment. This symposium will add momentum, and provide impetus to these activities," said Mr. Chan.

Canada-Japan Forum 2000, a non-governmental panel of prominent private citizens, presented its report in 1992 to the Canadian and Japanese prime ministers, recommending ways to further advance relations between the two countries.

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