

the Asia Pacific area.

Government will further promote cooperation based on private sector initiatives that focus on product fields of advanced and high technology. Germany recognizes that a number of Asia Pacific countries have established research and development facilities that present new prospects for German direct investment and technological joint ventures.

Lastly, the German Government also emphasizes the critical role of cultural exchange in enhanced future relations with the Asia Pacific area. For instance, improving academic and business exchanges with the Asia Pacific area will be prioritized and the Goethe Institute may soon establish an office in Hanoi to develop better ties with influential German speaking Vietnamese.

It is noted that while the German Government has clearly emphasized the importance of increased ties with Asia and instructed government departments and Chambers of Commerce to forcefully stress Asia, no formal budget has as yet been established. Indications are that in the absence of budgeted programs, this Asia initiative may be fuelled by monies from other areas and from current operational funding for Asia. It is too soon to say with any certainty whether this will in fact be the case.

#### Britain:

Although the British Government has introduced the "Priority Japan Initiative", there remains no government programs focusing on increased relations with either Japan or the Asia Pacific area as a whole. However, there are some indications the British Government is nonetheless actively seeking enhanced linkages with Japan. For instance, Britain and Japan have entered a Memorandum of Understanding on exchange of university researchers and more recently signed a formal S&T Cooperation Agreement. Partially government funded researcher exchanges with Japan have been on the rise and research facilities in British universities have also welcomed substantial investments from several Japanese private sector firms (Hitachi, Fujitsu and Toshiba).

#### Institutions Similar to the APFC

Several countries have institutions that share the APFC's objective of promoting mutual awareness and linkages with the Asia Pacific area. The APFC seems to be on a common track vis-a-vis the types of activities and program undertaken to reach this objective. Worthy of note, however, are the considerable differences among these institutions in terms of financial resources and the resulting breadth of activities.

The following institutions have been identified as comparable to the APFC in terms of objectives and types of activities (the Japan Foundation and the Australia-Japan Foundation are