

Minister Carney's host during her official visit to Indonesia was Indonesia's Trade Minister Rachmat Saleh. Together they discussed the new Canada-U.S.A. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and progress at the Uruguay Round of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) -- a continuing negotiation which will lead to improvements in the world trading environment.

Miss Carney emphasized that the FTA is part of a broader two-track trade strategy which seeks to liberalize trade through both bilateral negotiations and the MTN.

The Minister said that Canada has recently provided training to Indonesian officials to assist them in participating fully in the complex MTN discussions and offered to provide further assistance should Indonesia wish it.

Miss Carney said, "The continued active participation of Indonesia and other developing countries in the MTN is a top priority for Canada and one that my visit to Indonesia was designed to encourage. The MTN will further liberalize world trade to the advantage of countries such as Canada and Indonesia and will strengthen international economic growth."

Miss Carney undertook her visit to Indonesia in the context of Canada's commitment to expanding relations with the Asia-Pacific region and with the ASEAN countries in particular. In the last few years, Canada's trade with ASEAN has tripled.

At a press conference at the end of her visit to Indonesia Miss Carney said the objectives she set for her visit had been met: to strengthen Canada's growing economic and commercial relationship with Indonesia and to support the activities of Canadian companies in the Indonesian market.