

public and private sector ventures and in attracting foreign participation in the national development effort. That you seem more prepared to view Canada as a mature and logical partner in this process is no doubt a measure of the impact of the visits of both the Prime Minister and Mr. Regan.

On April 26 I opened the Inaugural Meeting of the Canada-ASEAN Joint Cooperation Committee, an event which I described as marking the maturing of a process in Canada's relations with ASEAN. The JCC discussions went a long way towards expanding the relationship beyond one narrowly defined on the basis of traditional development assistance although Canada reaffirmed its commitment to provide such assistance, now valued at \$5.1 million in operational projects with another \$7.5 million in planned projects which will be of benefit to ASEAN. The implementation of two further projects (thesecond phase of the Forest Tree Seed Centre and the possible creation of a Forest Products Utilization Centre) could raise the total value of Canadian projects benefitting ASEAN to some \$20 million over the next few years. Against this background it was satisfying to see the JCC exploring the possibility of cooperation in such diverse areas as science and technology, communications, museums, broadcasting development, specialized financial fields and cultural and journalist exchanges. The importance of several of these areas is that they offer the prospect of greater contact between the peoples of Canada and the ASEAN countries.

Canadian awareness of Asia and the Pacific is increasing steadily and over the past year we have taken several steps that will promote greater contact between the peoples of Canada and the Western Pacific. In March the government announced the formation of a Founding Committee to establish an Asia Pacific Foundation, a private institution that would be devoted to expanding the diverse range of Canadian interests in Asia and the Pacific through the stimulation and coordination of both new and existing activities. It is anticipated that the Foundation will also help to develop more widespread knowledge in Canada about the region and its importance to Canada.

This initiative to establish an Asia Pacific Foundation is an example of the increasingly tripartite nature of the Canadian approach to the region - an approach that combines government, private sector and the academic community. The Canadian private sector in particular is responding effectively to this approach and I would draw