

**REPORT OF THE  
CANADA-KOREA SPECIAL PARTNERSHIP  
WORKING GROUP**

Dept. of External Affairs  
Min. des Affaires extérieures

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**Introduction**

The governments of Canada and the Republic of Korea agreed to establish a Canada-Korea Special Partnership Working Group on April 1, 1994.

This initiative was a follow-up on a commitment made by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and President Kim Young Sam at the November 1993 summit meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum to give priority to developing a special partnership between the two countries. The leaders of both governments shared the view that the two countries, as middle powers in the Asia-Pacific region, should cooperate closely with each other in bilateral and multilateral contexts in order to cope more effectively with the new international economic environment following the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and the launch of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The Working Group was mandated to explore various bilateral and multilateral options to promote closer economic, trade and investment relations between Canada and Korea. Bilateral options included enhanced market access, diffusion and joint commercialization of technology, cooperation in the official development assistance and promotion of investment and joint ventures. Multilateral options included joint collaboration in various international fora, such as the WTO, the OECD and APEC.

The Working Group met twice between June and September 1994 with a view to developing, on the basis of the agreed terms of reference, specific and concrete measures which both governments will take in the fields indicated above. The Working Group focused on formulating an enduring framework which would guide the two governments in their joint efforts for closer cooperative relations, rather than on addressing imminent individual issues.

As a result of the two meetings and communications through diplomatic channels, the Working Group has developed this Report which outlines the