

Asia and the Pacific

The countries of Asia and the Western Pacific present a wide variety of forms of government, social structures, peoples and customs. With a population of two billion increasing at a faster rate than that of the rest of the world, the countries of the region are inevitably demanding a more equitable share of the world's resources and a greater voice in the ordering of international affairs. They include some of the most highly industrialized and wealthiest countries of the world and some of the poorest and least developed. Canada has established a valuable trading relationship with the former group and has played a major role in assisting the latter.

Almost all countries in the region were deeply affected by the problems arising from the increase in energy prices, food scarcities and world-wide inflation during 1974. Progress was made toward increased trade and economic co-operation, but tensions between a number of the countries continued to exist. The Canadian Government's determination to develop a Pacific dimension in its outlook on the world was reflected in Canada's extensive and complex relations with the countries concerned. It was also manifested through the Government's actions to add new perspectives to traditional economic relationships in the interests of diversifying Canada's external relations. This was particularly the case in regard to Japan.



During visit to Canada, Prime Minister Tanaka of Japan received honorary Degree of Law at University of Toronto. Dr. Eva MacDonald, Chancellor of the University, officiated.