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QUELLET ANNOUNCES CREATION OF APEC STUDY CENTRE

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APFC) has been designated as the site of a new Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) Study Centre in Canada.

The Centre will serve as a clearing house for a wide range of information on the Asia-Pacific region, including studies by international organizations and think tanks, research abstracts, government and private sector market studies, academic works in progress and articles in publications and on electronic networks. It is part of the APEC Leaders Education Initiative launched at the Seattle Summit of APEC leaders last November.

Mr. Ouellet said that the APFC was chosen as the site of the APEC Study Centre because of the independent non-profit organization's ongoing efforts to promote awareness and understanding of the Asia-Pacific in Canada, as well as knowledge about Canada in the region. Established in 1984, the APFC works to increase Canada's competitiveness in the Asia-Pacific region and to develop institutional and personal networks between Canada and Asia.

Using the existing APFNET electronic communication system, the APEC Study Centre will serve both the academic and business communities. APFC regional offices across Canada, in Victoria, Regina, Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal, will facilitate dissemination and collection of information. Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1994 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

APEC is a regional consultative body which consists of Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States. Its aim is to develop regional co-operation in higher education, to encourage cultural and economic exchanges, to promote the study of key regional economic issues and to increase understanding of the region.

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