



Message from the Secretary of State  
(Asia-Pacific)

As an Asia Pacific country, Canada is determined to promote peace and prosperity in the region. To that end, Japan is one of our most valuable partners. We enjoy excellent political, economic, and cultural relations with this highly-developed democratic country, and, as such, I am delighted that Team Canada is visiting this dynamic economy. Together, we work closely in multilateral fora such as the United Nations, ASEAN Regional Forum, and APEC.

This tradition of political and economic co-operation has flowed over onto our respective business communities who also work and prosper together—building partnerships, joint ventures and strategic alliances to break into third markets. In this time of rapid advancements in technology and innovation, this remains one of the best ways to succeed. Small and medium sized enterprises often lead the way in innovation and that is why SMEs, and particularly those led by youth, women and aboriginal people are a special focus of the mission.

Canada enjoys vibrant cultural relations with Japan. With extensive people-to-people links cultivated through large tourism and student flows, as well as dynamic cultural programmes mounted by Canadian artists, it is safe to say that the people of our countries have already taken many steps to get to know each other. Team Canada will build on this and lay the foundation for even more such exchange, thus advancing further our goal of peace and prosperity in the region.

I take great personal pleasure in joining all the members of Team Canada in working towards vigorous and mutually rewarding partnerships in the new millennium.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raymond Chan".

The Honourable Raymond Chan  
Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific)