

As part of a larger framework for economic co-operation, Canada and the ASEAN countries are involved with the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum. Since 1989, the 15 APEC member countries from Northeast and Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, the U.S.A. and Canada have met annually to discuss global and regional economic issues. APEC Ministerial meetings have also created an informal opportunity for foreign and trade ministers from the region to discuss political issues.

Canada's presence in ASEAN countries through joint ventures or other forms of investment is expanding. Total Canadian investment in ASEAN ranges between CDN \$2 billion and Cdn \$3 billion. This investment, which represents about 3 percent of total Canadian direct investment overseas, is largely in resource development. Indonesia and Singapore have been the primary focus points of Canadian investment in the region. Examples of direct interest include INCO (International Nickel Company) and a number of Alberta-based oil and gas firms active in Indonesia, and mining interests in the Philippines. Alcan, Northern Telecom and Bata are also present. "Enterprise Collaboration" projects in Thailand and Malaysia have been launched by CIDA with a view to bringing Canadian and local entrepreneurs together for joint venture initiatives. These programs supplement CIDA's Industrial Co-operation support for Canadian firms interested in joint ventures and similar collaboration in ASEAN countries.

The ASEAN-Canada Business Council (ACBC), created by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the ASEAN Chambers of Commerce and Industry, promotes increased business ties between Canada and the countries of ASEAN.