

international trade, but, by helping foster a better understanding of our trading partners, it serves a very useful purpose."

The Canadian Museum of Civilization, in Hull, Quebec also made great use of the CYAP framework to incorporate many Asian themes into their 1997 activities. Visitors to the Children's Museum were greeted by a dragon donated by the Chinese government and assembled by 19 artisans from the People's Republic of China. The government of South Korea presented the museum with a traditional turtle boat, and the Thai government donated an authentic "tuk tuk" taxi, one of the most common forms of transportation on the streets of Thailand. The Royal Thai Dance Troupe also participated in a special presentation ceremony at the museum, in addition to a performance at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.

The countries and economies of Asia Pacific were also key partners in CYAP. On behalf of the government, Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy wrote to his counterparts encouraging them to send to Canada performing groups or visual exhibits. This spirit of co-operation led to sixteen country-specific projects, such as *Fast Forward*, a ground-breaking exhibition featuring the works of six young South Korean artists, staged at the Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery in Toronto. Supported by extensive educational and public information programs, *Fast Forward* was the first major Korean exhibition of contemporary art held in North America.

Audiences in Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, and Vancouver were captivated by the unconventional *H ART CHAOS*, an all-female dance company dedicated to the exploration of Japanese identity in modern society. Hailed by critics as "the leading figure in the Japanese dance scene" and "one of the top dance companies in the world," *H ART CHAOS* has pioneered a new style of dance in Japan. Their performances were a welcome addition to CYAP, offering a unique glimpse inside the psyche of the Japanese people today.

Other performers this year included India's Chandralekha. A leading interpreter of classical Indian and modern dance, Ms. Chandralekha is one of the most important voices on the Indian cultural scene. Her dancers and musicians made their first Canadian appearance during an extensive national tour as part of Canada's Year of Asia Pacific. The Hong Kong Classical Orchestra also toured in Canada with the help of CYAP, introducing Canadian audiences to their unique 94-piece ensemble of Chinese instruments arranged in the style of a western symphony orchestra.

Canadians in all parts of the country had instant access to information about CYAP's cultural component by accessing a website, which included full details of over 550 cultural events in both official languages. A special *Showcase* section profiled the range of performing groups, exhibitions, screenings and special events that came directly from Asia for Canada's Year of Asia Pacific.

One of the works featured in the website was a collaborative project between Canadian choreographer Christopher House, Korean visual artist, Soo-ja Kim and Kung Chi Shing, one of Hong Kong's most celebrated composers. Mr. House's company, the Toronto Dance Theatre, presented the piece as part of its tour of Western Canada in the fall of 1997 (Whitehorse, Coquitlam, Courtney, Duncan, Fort St. John, Banff) and as the principal work of