

BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE

Ichiro HATOYAMA

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr. Hatoyama, 59, was appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs in December 1976. Before entering politics in 1974 when he was first elected to the House of Councillors (Upper House), he had a distinguished career in the Japanese bureaucracy where he served in the prestigious Ministry of Finance for 31 years. He developed a particular expertise in budgetary affairs and served as Vice-Finance Minister (equivalent to Deputy Minister) from 1971-72. Following his election to the Diet he was appointed Director of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Treasury Bureau.

Hatoyama possesses excellent family credentials for a political career. His father Ichiro Hatoyama, served in several Japanese Cabinets before the war and was Prime Minister of Japan in 1955-56 immediately following the establishment of the LDP. His grandfather was Speaker of the House of Representatives. Following in the family tradition, his 28-year-old son was also elected to the House of Representatives in the December 1976 General Election.

In addition to his extensive experience in domestic, financial and economic affairs, he has attended a number of international conferences dealing with financial, monetary and economic problems. However, he has not visited Canada and has had no previous contact with Canadian Cabinet Ministers.