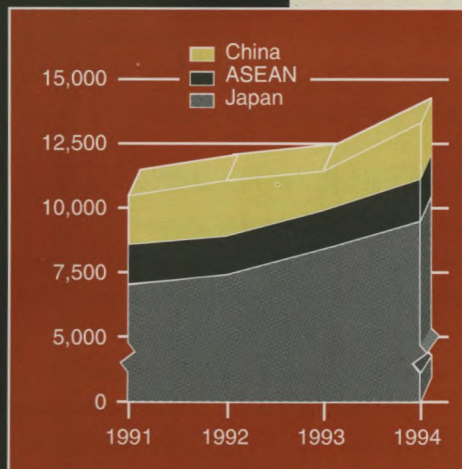


WHY APEC MATTERS TO CANADA

GROWTH IN CANADIAN EXPORTS TO SELECTED APEC ECONOMIES (millions of C\$)



Source: Statistics Canada

APEC's 18 members are geographically distant and culturally distinct. They also span levels of development ranging from China (estimated 1995 per capita GDP of C\$775) to Japan (estimated 1995 per capita GDP of C\$55000). What brings these members together is a compelling desire to create a Pacific community and to build

the open trade and investment system that will ensure continued high levels of growth and economic interaction.

Taken together, the gross domestic product of APEC economies in 1995 represented about 60 per cent of global output. In the same year, the merchandise trade of these economies accounted for nearly 50 per cent of the world total. By the end of the decade, this will rise to over 70 per cent of global trade. Although the region faces challenges of economic development, it is also home to the world's fastest-growing middle class with increasing amounts of disposable income for consumer goods, travel, recreation and education.

APEC represents an opportunity to be a full trading partner in what is becoming the hub of the global trading economy.

Dr. John MacDonald, Chairman
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