



news release

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SECRETARY OF STATE CHAN TO VISIT HONG KONG, CHINA, THAILAND AND JAPAN

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that Secretary of State, Asia-Pacific, Raymond Chan will travel to Hong Kong, China and Thailand, January 3 to 12.

As the result of an agreement reached at the federal-provincial first minister's meeting in Ottawa, December 21, Mr. Chan will also visit Japan with Newfoundland Premier Clyde Wells on January 13 and 14.

"Mr. Chan and Mr. Wells will join forces in Tokyo to promote trade and investment opportunities for Canada in meetings with senior government, banking and business representatives," Mr. Ouellet said.

Mr. Chan noted that the Asia-Pacific region is of vital importance to Canada, as well as a major source of investment capital. "The fact that I will be in Tokyo with Premier Wells underscores the potential for expanded ties between this region and all parts of Canada," Mr. Chan said.

In Hong Kong January 3 to 5, Mr. Chan will discuss Canada's bilateral relations and the future of the territory with representatives of the government and the Legislative Council. He will also meet with members of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong to discuss trade relations. He will then visit Guangdong (Canton) in the People's Republic of China to underline Canada's expanding trade ties with southern China.

Mr. Chan visits Bangkok, Thailand, from January 9 to 12 to review a range of bilateral issues and trade opportunities in the areas of transport, power, telecommunications and environmental protection technology.

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