

# TEAM CANADA: A CURRENT AFFAIR

## Team Canada 1997: More than Meets the Eye

*At the time of writing Team Canada 1997 had just set out on its 13-day whirlwind trade mission to the Republic of Korea, Thailand and the Philippines. Most of the talk about the mission has centered on the expected \$2 billion in contract signings, but much more took place during the mission, from the signing of bilateral agreements and meetings with high-level foreign dignitaries to trade fairs and exhibits, business forums and cultural exchanges. Following is a snapshot of some of the less publicized events that were scheduled during the mission. Upon Team Canada's return, CanadExport will publish a special issue devoted entirely to the mission, the contracts and agreements, the discussions and negotiations, and an inside look at the many activities and events that made this the most comprehensive and far-reaching Team Canada trade mission to date.*

### Republic of Korea, January 8-14

#### January 10

Prime Minister Chrétien met with **President Kim Young Sam** to discuss matters of mutual interest between the two countries. Following the meeting, International Trade Minister Art Eggleton and Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan were to sign a number of bilateral agreements with their Korean counterparts, including:

- **Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on Telecommunications Equipment**, which will greatly enhance bilateral trade in telecommunications, radio and information technology;

- **Social Security Agreement**, which will allow for Canada Pension Plan coverage of Canadians working in Korea;

- **Extension of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Agriculture and Agri-food**, to continue for one year the MOU signed by Canada and Korea in October 1995;

- **Arrangement to MOU on Working Holiday Programs** to extend the exchange program between Canada and Korea originally signed in October 1995. The program enables young Canadians and Koreans to tour and live in each other's countries for up to one year.

Minister Eggleton was a fea-

tured speaker at the **Korea-Canada Forum for Science & Technology Partnership**. The forum is a joint effort of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), with the National Research Council and Industry Canada. Expert panelists discussed areas of technology-based partnerships including joint ventures, technology exchanges and R&D collaboration.

The Prime Minister and the official delegation opened the **Canadian Inuit Art Exhibit**, which featured 50 Inuit sculptures and was part of a larger program of activities that included the showing of two Inuit movies on Korean television. The exhibit then moved for two weeks to a snow and ice festival in the Mount Sorak area.

#### January 11

The Prime Minister and the premiers met with some of the young Canadian entrepreneurs participating in the mission.

#### January 13

Prime Minister Chrétien addressed Korean business leaders at the **14th Joint Conference**

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Editor-in-Chief: Amir Guindi  
Managing Editor: Don Wight  
Associate Editor: Louis Kovacs  
Layout: Yen Le

Telephone: (613) 996-2225  
Fax: (613) 992-5791  
E-mail: canad.export@extott07.x400.gc.ca  
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Mail to: **CANADEXPORT** (BCFE), Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa K1A 0G2.