

Canadian proposals in these areas have been set out in recent speeches in Victoria, Tokyo, Jakarta and at the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference in Jakarta.

They were the subject of discussions I had in Tokyo with my Japanese counterpart, Dr. Nakayama, as well as with Prime Minister Kaifu and Socialist Party leader Doi. Their reaction was positive.

I have had the chance to discuss them here in Jakarta as well, both in bilateral meetings with my colleagues and this morning in the general discussion on the theme of security in this region. Our exchanges this morning were very open, very interesting and very constructive. It is fair to say not just that my suggestions were welcomed but, perhaps more importantly, that the hard perspective I have put forward - that this region can gain real benefits from an expanded dialogue process that address security issues in their broadest sense - is one which is broadly shared by ASEAN and ASEAN dialogue partners.

The security challenge in this region is one which I define expansively.

Contemporary challenges to security now include a range of threats to human well being, economic growth and prosperity and democratic institutions. Real or potential armed conflict within or between states continues to be a major problem in the Asia-Pacific.

Whether internal or external, costs of conflict are high in terms of human suffering, economic stagnation and damage to the development of stable democracy. Internal conflicts, moreover, too often result in drawing others, directly or indirectly, into them. In many instances their impact is felt elsewhere in other ways, most notably through the forced migration of people and the creation of massive refugee problems - a burden that others, both inside and outside the region, are called upon to share.

Over half of Canada's annual intake of immigrants comes from this region. Many of them are escaping unrest or conflict in their own countries - Tamils from Sri Lanka, Vietnamese, Cambodians. In the past 10 years, Canada has taken in more than 125,000 Indochinese refugees: we expect to take more in the future.