

Themes for Prime Minister Kaifu's Visit to Canada

Prime Minister Kaifu visits Canada at a significant juncture in the development of Canada-Japan relations. His presence in Ottawa offers Canada a valuable opportunity to establish personal contact with the new Japanese leadership.

During their meetings, the prime ministers and their foreign ministers will review recent trends in the bilateral relationship--the growth of trade, investment and financial ties, new air links, cultural and scientific exchanges. The Canadian side will use the occasion to highlight a number of major initiatives the government will be taking to expand Canada-Japan relations under the Pacific 2000 program.

This will be the first prime ministerial visit since the ratification of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The enhanced access to the wider North American market provided by the FTA should act to encourage greater Japanese direct investment in Canada. A major Japanese investment mission is to visit Canada in October.

As members of the Economic Summit, the prime ministers will be looking at the state of the world economy. They will address the continuing need to harmonize economic and trade policies, and to make progress in the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations in the shared interests of sustained growth. They will also discuss problems of international debt and development and the need to integrate the developing world into the global economic system. The urgent necessity of addressing major environmental challenges is likely to be covered as well.

The prime ministers will also be exchanging views on the international political situation, including developments in East-West relations, arms control and disarmament issues, and recent events in China. The foreign ministers will be examining a number of regional issues such as co-operation in the Asia-Pacific region and the outlook for peace in Indochina.