

Media Advisory

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MINISTER PETERSON TO MEET WITH INDIA'S MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT

International Trade Minister Jim Peterson will meet with Kapil Sibal, India's Minister of State for Science and Technology and Ocean Development, on November 18, 2005, in Toronto. The ministers will make an announcement related to science and technology and build on the momentum created in September at the 11th Technology Summit and Technology Platform 2005 in New Delhi, India. The announcement will be made at a joint media availability prior to an Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce luncheon at which both ministers will deliver remarks.

Canada's commitment to deepening its trade relationship with India is evidenced by the recent launch of CAN-Trade, a \$470-million investment in Canada's global competitiveness. *Canada's International Policy Statement—A Role of Pride and Influence in the World* calls for further development of Canadian trade and investment links with new economic powerhouses, including India.

India is Canada's largest trading partner in South Asia. The active promotion of trade and investment by both countries resulted in bilateral trade in merchandise valued at a record \$2.43 billion in 2004. In the first six months of this year, bilateral trade has reached more than \$1.31 billion. This represents more than 20 percent growth over the previous year.

Event: Joint media availability
Date: Friday, November 18, 2005
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Location: Room C-3, Suite 100, main level
MaRS Centre
101 College Street
Toronto, Ontario

Event: Opening remarks (prior to Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce luncheon)
Date: Friday, November 18, 2005
Time: 12:20 p.m. (approximately)

