

to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, inviting over 100 representatives of civil society organizations. The meeting provided DFAIT (FA) with an opportunity to brief participants on developments in APEC during 2004, to discuss the outlook for the annual APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, and to obtain participants' views on Canada's priorities for APEC.

■ In November 2004, DFAIT (IT) again met with representatives of the Trade and Investment Research Project to provide an update on the Doha negotiations and the way forward, to present a status report on the GATS negotiations, and to answer specific questions from participants

■ In November and December 2004, Minister Peterson and Parliamentary Secretary Eyking co-hosted three round tables with academics, businesses and civil society in Ottawa. The round tables allowed for an exchange of ideas and perspectives on the development of an emerging markets strategy. These discussions will help the government to advance its trade agenda and to support Canadian interests within the new international commerce environment. A summary of discussions as well as additional information can be found on the department's Web site (www.itcan-cican.gc.ca/em_mark-en.asp).

Other activities include DFAIT (IT)'s ongoing program of face-to-face outreach and teleconferenced information sessions, undertaken by representatives of Canada's Permanent Mission to the WTO in Geneva, to sustain and expand awareness of Canada's multilateral trade agenda among key stakeholders here at home.

In addition, the government encourages Canadians to participate in annual trade-related international conferences and consultative initiatives, including the WTO public symposium, the OECD forum, the OECD Trade Committee and Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment consultations, and the thematic meetings held in conjunction with the meetings of the Free Trade Area of the America (FTAA)'s Committee of Government Representatives on the Participation of Civil Society.

To keep Canadians informed and up to date on trade-related issues and events abroad, the government provides briefings by teleconference, webcast and audiocast, etc. Canadians are also encouraged to use the department's trade negotiations and agreements Web site (www.tradeagreements.gc.ca), which contains an extensive consultation section ("It's Your Turn") to enable users to send in comments on Canada's trade policy agenda and stay abreast of specific consultative initiatives launched by the government.

IF YOU ARE DOING BUSINESS ABROAD, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU...

We particularly welcome direct input from Canadian exporters and investors describing barriers they have encountered in foreign markets. Individual companies, industry associations and other interested organizations are encouraged to contact DFAIT (IT) with specific information on tariff or non-tariff barriers and other business irritants. Business people are invited to report any problems they are experiencing by communicating in strictest confidence to:

"Foreign Trade and Investment Barriers Alert"
Department of Foreign Affairs and International
Trade (International Trade)

125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa ON K1A 0G2

Fax: (613) 992-6002

e-mail: Consultations@international.gc.ca

The department also regularly consults Canadians on international business development through a variety of means. For instance, the Trade Commissioner Service holds regular meetings with national, regional and sectoral industry and trade associations, as well as with provinces and territories, to seek their views on how to improve the delivery of its programs and services. Moreover, several of the department's trade promotion initiatives are undertaken jointly with industry and trade associations. Business people are also encouraged to remain in touch with the department regarding market access and other issues through its Web sites (www.international.gc.ca/trade/menu-e.asp or www.exportsource.ca). These sites contain additional information on many of the issues covered in this document.