

the past few years, the growth and momentum of our relations with this region has become a major component of our foreign policy.

Our Pacific trade now exceeds our trade across the Atlantic. It is also growing more rapidly.

It is not surprising that the Pacific Rim has become a major focus of our National Trade Strategy. In a time of financial restraint, the Government is committing increased funding in support of Asia-Pacific trade initiatives. We are undertaking a number of specific projects which we hope will result in a greater awareness on the part of Canadian industry of the potential of this dynamic region -- and of the opportunities for commercial cooperation and joint ventures.

We hope, also, that our new initiatives in this area will improve the knowledge of your own business community of the market opportunities in Canada, as well as Canadian supply capabilities. Our Government actively supports industrial cooperation, especially joint ventures, as being to our mutual advantage. In September, for example, we are organizing a Canada-ASEAN Forum in Vancouver, the aim of which is to encourage and facilitate cooperation between our country and yours through joint ventures and technology transfer.

Another example of Canada's readiness to promote cooperation with Indonesia is the water resource development project in Nusa Tenggara Timur Province, for which we will be providing 26 million dollars in financial support.

Canada's relationship with Indonesia, by the way, has roots that go back further than most people think. We established our first trade commission here in 1928, when Jakarta was still called Batavia.

Canada has been a dialogue partner of the ASEAN countries since 1975. Our relationship has been an active one, ranging from political consultations to cooperation in development projects.

During this period, our ties with Indonesia have become very strong. As middle-powers in the Pacific, we have common interests in security and regional stability -- both of which are essential to trade and growth. We have often worked together in international organizations, bringing a pragmatic and moderating influence to conflicts and controversies that threaten stability.

Last year we institutionalized a system of regular consultations with Indonesia on world issues of interest to both of us. We have also facilitated exchanges between Indonesian and Canadian scholars and policy-makers, notably through the first seminar held jointly by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies and the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada.

My visit to Jakarta is the third by a Canadian Cabinet Minister in the past twelve months. We, in turn, are looking forward to receiving several of your Ministers in Canada, particularly during Expo '86, our world trade fair in Vancouver. It will be held from May to October.

We have given tremendous emphasis to the Pacific dimension of Expo '86 -- or, to give it its technical title, "the World Exposition on Transportation and Communications." We are delighted that Indonesia was one of the first countries to register its participation. Expo '86 will provide an excellent opportunity for you to show Canada who and what you are. The fair will attract an estimated 15 million visitors. It should serve very well as a showcase for the Indonesian business community.