

- Tourism from Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) countries has trebled.
- The transpacific student flow has doubled.

These and other successes don't happen by chance.

Early on in our first mandate, our government recognized the need for much more concentrated national activity with respect to our relationships in the Asia-Pacific region.

In 1988, here in Vancouver, Prime Minister Mulroney announced the decision to proceed with a comprehensive, multiyear plan to expand Canadian linkages with the region. The Asia-Pacific Foundation has served as a focal point and delivery vehicle for many of Pacific 2000's programs, and they seem to be bearing fruit:

- In 1987, there were roughly 1,100 secondary and post-secondary Canadian students studying Japanese. Today, there are over 10,500!
- Simon Fraser University's David Lam Centre has pioneered new approaches to teaching Asian languages and business practices that have been emulated in other major cities across the country.
- The number of joint research projects undertaken between Canadian and Japanese institutions has surged from 80 in 1988 to more than 200 today.

Pacific 2000 has also meant taking Canadian culture to Asia. In the past two years, we have promoted our presence in the region with a series of activities including special festivals in Hong Kong, Korea and Japan.

However, Canada's interests in the region are too intricate to be described simply in economic or cultural terms. The reality of Asia Pacific today is a reality replete with challenges across the full range of our foreign policy. To illustrate this, let me share with you a series of the issues that I will be discussing over the week ahead.

In Tokyo, I will be addressing many elements of our very important bilateral relationship with Japan. As many in this room will know, the two Chairs of Canada-Japan Forum 2000, Peter Lougheed and Ambassador Okawara, have now submitted their joint report to their prime ministers.

I will be discussing the implementation of this report in Tokyo -- from how to co-operate more effectively in Group of Seven leading industrialized countries (G-7) deliberations to engaging