

a series of mini-conferences to be held across the country this year under the title "Launching the Second Century". These mini-conferences, sponsored by the Centres for International Business Studies at Canadian universities, will examine a number of topics bearing on the future of the Trade Commissioner Service. These include the effects of globalization on small and medium-sized enterprises, the future role of trade fairs and missions and the implications for trade commissioners of new initiatives in market intelligence and information. A national conference on the Trade Commissioner Service in Toronto on October 3 will build on the views and opinions drawn from the deliberations of the cross-Canada mini-conferences, and the discussions at the national conference will help guide the Service into its second century.

Through these activities, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade will be seeking the input of the Canadian business community on issues of importance to the TCS. At the same time, the Department is taking steps to ensure the TCS continues to meet the evolving needs of its clients.