

Canada has, with China, also been looking at ways and means of diversifying Chinese manufactured goods exports to Canada. In addition, China is seriously considering investing in Canada, so as to secure sources of supply in the food products and potash areas. A substantial part of our export strategy has focused on the joint development of the Chinese energy sector through the supply of expertise and equipment in the exploration, exploitation and transportation of energy. We intend to intensify our efforts in those areas. Another vital aspect of China's development will involve the upgrading of its communications network and we intend to actively pursue our efforts in this area.

I hope that some of the thoughts I have shared with you today will underline the importance my government attaches to the China market. We believe there is a two-way process going on. As we increase our understanding of China and improve our marketing approach, the Chinese are sharpening their understanding of international commercial practices. This process will mean greater opportunities for reward for both sides.

In this context, we recognize the considerable contribution made by the CCTC in the development of sino-Canadian trade. I am proud to see the accomplishments of this privately funded organization and I hope that together we will work even harder at strengthening our relationship with the giant of Asia. As I said earlier, some small pictures are bigger than others.

Thank you.