

The Canada-Singapore Business Association, based in Singapore, was created in 1981 in response to the growing presence of Canadian companies and business interests in the country. It acts as a focal point for Singaporean business persons wishing to do business in Canada. Membership of the Association has grown to over 250 members. Two other groups, the Canadian Alumni Association (a grouping of Singaporean graduates of Canadian universities) and the Canadian Association (a grouping of Canadians residing in Singapore), also contribute in a significant manner to promoting trade and economic ties between the two countries.

A Canada-Singapore Business Association, based in Vancouver, was established in August 1989 and was officially launched in March 1990. It assists in identifying trade and business opportunities in Canada and Singapore and provides contacts to potential investors. This Association is a counterpart to its Singapore-based namesake, which pursues similar mandates. There are, however, no official links between the two bodies at present.

### **3.4 Business Immigration**

Business immigration attracts applicants who wish to move to Canada to establish, purchase or invest in businesses which will create or maintain jobs for Canadians. A number of Singaporeans have chosen to move to Canada in recent years to establish businesses in a wide range of sectors. These entrepreneurs generally maintain close ties with Singapore. Their trade contacts are not only useful in developing their business in Canada, but in expanding new opportunities in Canada-Singapore trade.

In 1990 and 1991, Singaporean entrepreneurs and investors accepted under this program injected approximately \$115 million into the Canadian economy.

### **3.5 Dialogue on Multilateral Economic Issues**

In addition to their active co-operation on economic questions in the ASEAN-PMC context Canada and Singapore are both members of the tripartite (Government, Business and Academics) Pacific Economic Co-operation Conference (PECC). Canada has long been an active supporter of PECC and has been involved in the implementation of several projects. A secretariat for PECC was inaugurated in May 1990 in Singapore.

Canada has also been a strong supporter of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Dialogue with the Dynamic Asian Economies (DAEs). Canada has encouraged Singapore to participate actively in this initiative.

Canada and Singapore have also worked closely on the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) initiative. Singapore was the site of the second APEC ministerial meeting in July 1990 at which Canada was represented. As part of this process, APEC trade ministers also attended a meeting in Vancouver in September 1990.

Finally, under the umbrella of the ASEAN Committee on Trade and Tourism (COTT), regular consultations were initiated with Singapore and other members of the ASEAN community in October 1988 focusing on mutual areas of interest in the Uruguay Round and the Multilateral Trade Negotiations as well as on ASEAN perceptions regarding the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.