

News Release

November 1, 1994

No. 219

MACLAREN ANNOUNCES NETWORK OF CANADIAN EDUCATION INFORMATION CENTRES IN ASIA

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, announced today that the Government of Canada in partnership with the Asia-Pacific Foundation will establish a network of Canadian Education Information Centres in Asia over the next five years. The Centres will assist Canadian educational institutions to market their services to international students and strengthen their involvement in Asia.

"Canada has many excellent education facilities of interest to international students. In 1991, they contributed approximately \$1.5 billion and 19 000 jobs to the Canadian economy. International fee-paying students also represent an important source of funding for many Canadian educational institutions. Training and skills development are critical elements in the new global economy. Initiatives such as the Canadian Education Information Centres Network will help Canadians to develop closer ties with future leaders of the region," said Mr. MacLaren.

The Education Information Centres will work with the provinces, territories and educational institutions to provide up-to-date information and counselling on the services offered by Canadian universities, community colleges, vocational training institutions, and public and private schools. Such services include English and French language studies, business administration, information technology and long-distance education.

The new Centres will be based upon a model developed for two pilot projects, including a highly successful one in Seoul. They are to be opened in China, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines. While a substantial number of students are already coming to Canada from Japan and Hong Kong, marketing studies are currently being undertaken to determine how Canada may enhance our education services in those areas.

