

Because coal and lumber are among the largest of Canada's resource exports to Japan, two industry leaders have joined me. They are Giacomo Capobianco, Chairman of the Canadian Coal Association, along with Clive Roberts, President of Seaboard Lumber.

Robert Blanchard, First Vice President of the International Woodworkers of America is representing Canadian labour, particularly in the forest sector. He is with me in Tokyo but is meeting with his counterparts in the Japanese labour movement.

Vancouver's International Geosystems Corporation is represented by its President, Hugh Mah. His company is a world leader in the development of text processing systems in Mandarin and is developing a Japanese system.

Also with me from Vancouver is Arthur Hara, Chairman of the Board of Mitsubishi Canada, one of the major Japanese trading companies. Mr. Hara is a member of the Order of Canada and past Chairman of the Vancouver Board of Trade.

David Culver, President and Chief Executive Officer of Alcan Aluminum Limited, will join us later today. As Chairman of the Canada/Japan Business Corporation Committee, Mr. Culver plays a critical role in the strengthening of ties between Japanese and Canadian firms. I know he looks forward to welcoming the Canada/Japan Committee to Vancouver next May.

Because Tokyo is one of the world's financial capitals with a significant Canadian presence. I asked Steve Probyn, a Vice President of Wood Gundy and Charles Coffey, a Vice President of the Royal Bank of Canada, to join me.

I also would like to extend special thanks to Ambassador Steers and his staff for their daily efforts to strengthen the Canada/Japan relationship. They serve Canada well.

We welcome their support and the support of many others here today -- key members of team Canada. They are here with me to give substance to our commitment to the Pacific and to Japan in particular. As a member of Parliament from Vancouver, this is a commitment I heartily endorse. We are here to turn sentiments into substance, rhetoric and reality. We will do our share. We count on Japan to do its share.

Thank you.