

News Release

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MINISTER CLARK TO HOST ASEAN MEETINGS IN ALBERTA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today stated that he will host meetings in Calgary and Jasper October 4 to 7 with the foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN: Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand).

These meetings are unique as they draw together Mr. Clark and the foreign ministers of six dynamic Asian nations in a part of Canada which has rapidly expanding trade, commercial, educational, and cultural links with the ASEAN region. They will also explore the future of Canada-ASEAN relations with a view to addressing common political and economic concerns in the next decade and beyond. Mr. Clark stated: "The meetings will serve as a medium to gain greater support for Canadian initiatives in the area of Pacific security and the environment".

" Nearly 300 million people live in ASEAN nations. They produce about \$ 300 billion worth of goods and services each year. In the Jasper meetings, I hope to strengthen Canada's ties with what is rapidly becoming one of the most dynamic and important regions in the world," stated Mr. Clark.

The Minister explained that the meetings in Jasper will focus on ways of significantly improving co-operation between Canada and ASEAN. These meetings will address pressing international political issues, and will discuss closer economic links and improved trade between Canada and the countries of the region.

During the week, there will be a number of workshops, conferences and other events in Calgary to promote closer business, academic and personal contacts between individuals from Canada and ASEAN. Since 1986, two-way trade between Canada and ASEAN nations has almost doubled to reach nearly \$ 3 billion. Much of this increase has been generated in Western Canada in the resource, transportation and high technology sectors.

The Canada/ASEAN events in Alberta were organized by External Affairs and International Trade Canada in collaboration with Alberta Education, the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, the Asia Pacific Foundation and the ASEAN Canada Business Council.

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