

Canadian PM Delivers Singapore Lecture

■ On October 14-17, 1989, Mr Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada, visited Singapore, during which he delivered the prestigious Singapore Lecture. He also held a bilateral meeting with Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and met with Canadian and Singaporean businesspersons.

The Singapore Lecture is one of the most distinguished public lectures in the region. In 1988, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad, delivered the lecture. The presentation by Mr Mulroney marked the tenth anniversary of the event and was the first time that a serving Head of Government from outside the Asia Pacific region had been invited to present the lecture.

The title of Prime Minister Mulroney's talk was "Trade Outlook: Globalisation or Regionalisation". In his presentation, he discussed the regional movements underway in North America, Europe and the Asia Pacific region. He spoke about the growing importance of the Asia Pacific region and noted that since 1983 Canada's trade across the Pacific has eclipsed its trade with Europe. He concluded by making a strong case for an open world trading environment, calling for "intensified links between North America and the Asia Pacific region to promote consensus and to help boost multilateral organizations".



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Prime Minister Brian Mulroney sharing a light moment with Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew

As a further demonstration of the importance he attaches to trade and investment links between the region and Canada, the Prime Minister met with Canadian and Singaporean businesspersons to discuss the possibilities for increasing trade and investment ties.

Canadian Chamber of Commerce Established in the Philippines

emphasis on technology transfers and joint ventures between firms from Canada, Asia and the European community.

"There is a new outward-looking Canada on the global scene," said the Prime Minister. "In this interdependent world, the key to prosperity is cooperation. That is why we are encouraging strategic partnerships that will give Canadian firms the global reach they need to succeed in an increasingly competitive world economy."

By making the announcement of this major Canadian initiative in Singapore, Prime Minister Mulroney was further demonstrating the importance which Canada attaches to the Asia-Pacific region.

■ On October 11, 1989, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (CCCP) was formally established. Mr Sidney Goulbourn, President of Keller Insurance Brokers, was elected as its first President.

The Chamber is built on the foundation of the Canadian Business Group (CBG), which was set up in 1986 to bring together the many Canadian businesses that had established a presence in the Philippines. The CCCP seeks to have a more dynamic role in the economic life of the Philippines than its predecessor, which was essentially a social club in its early years.

The principal purpose of the new association is to promote a full range of Canadian business interests in the Philippines and help to increase the commercial contacts between the two countries. Members will include Canadian businesspersons resident in the Philippines as well as Filipino nationals associated in some way with Canadian businesses. The CCCP will also organize joint meetings with other foreign Chambers of Commerce resident here. Moreover, the CCCP will work closely with the Philippine-Canada Business Council of the Philippines Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The CCCP is not designed to be of assistance to Philippine exporters to Canada since the Philippine Department of Trade and Industry has created a Business Cooperation Council comprised solely of Philippine exporters. However, the CCCP will provide a forum for local firms to establish contact with Canadian firms, thereby facilitating a wide range of activities in the area of joint venture arrangements.