



Conclusion

Canada's relationship with Malaysia is longstanding and encompasses a broad range of interests. Trade, which today remains the main focus of activities between the two countries, has been growing steadily. However, Canadian investment in Malaysia and the level of trade between Canada and Malaysia have not reached full potential.

Canadian development assistance in Malaysia is currently entering a new phase which will see active support being given to the establishment of long-term linkages between the private sectors in Canada and Malaysia. Initiatives under this program will support and complement traditional government trade promotion efforts and help to broaden the bilateral commercial and economic relationship.

Although still relatively modest, contacts and linkages between organizations and institutions in Canada and Malaysia outside the trade context also play an important role in further developing bilateral relations. Initiatives in the education, defence, agriculture and communications sectors are particularly noteworthy.

Malaysia's increasingly assertive role in international political and economic fora also provides opportunities for dialogue and consultations between the two countries which can be instrumental in further expanding bilateral relations. High-level visits, such as those of Prime Minister Mahathir to Canada and Prime Minister Mulroney to Malaysia for the Commonwealth Heads of Government meetings in 1987 and 1989 respectively, play an important role in supporting these objectives.