

FROM THE ATLANTIC TO THE PACIFIC

Australia has recovered from its 1982-83 drought and remains a stable, mature market especially for our manufactured goods, motor vehicles and agricultural equipment and India, under newly elected Prime Minister Ghandi, offers a potentially enormous trade market. With the exception of the Philippines, almost all the economies in this region are doing well so the promise and potential for trade exist and the ingredients for success abound.

Immigration Flow

Asia and the Pacific are now our largest source of new Canadians — 37 000 in 1983 (42 % of our total flow). Since 1979 over 18 000 Chinese immigrants have landed in Canada and to date almost 10 000 have arrived from Hong Kong (a statistic that includes Indo-Chinese refugees).

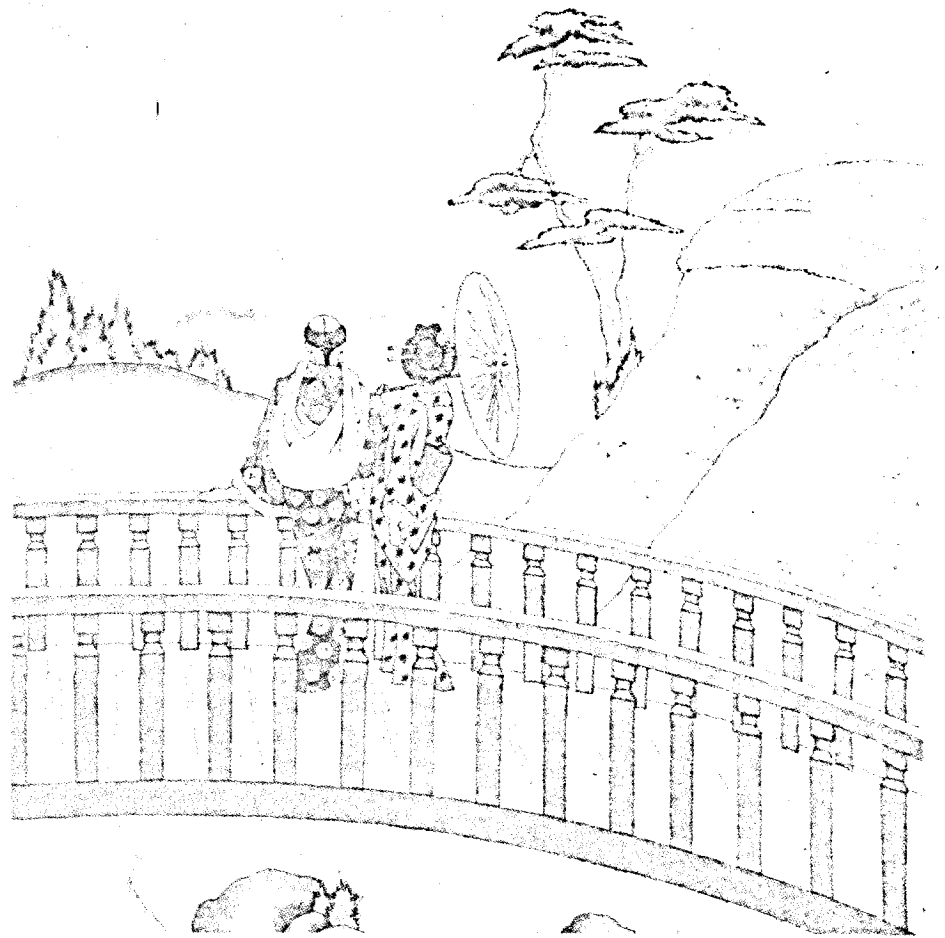
A Posting to Asia and the Pacific

So what do all these statistics and facts mean to families that are living in, or about to be posted to, this area of the world?

First, the focus is definitely turning in this direction. The Asia and Pacific region is emerging as a major economic and political power in world affairs. This means increased activity (China alone has 29 ministerial visits scheduled for the next 12 months), which means increased workload, increased social functions and consequently, in male oriented countries such as Japan, Korea and others — increased loneliness for spouses. Thus, we must be ready and able to search out and pursue our own interests. Fortunately the countries offer a broad spectrum of activities from which to choose — the arts, the cuisine, the culture, the history, the language (plus reciprocal work agreements exist with Australia, India, Indonesia, New Zealand and the Philippines).

A certain amount of culture shock, however, must be expected — not only in South and East Asia but also in the Pacific. The Australians are easy to relate to, but even here differences will be noted. The Japanese, with their high technology, efficiency and modern ways, may initially seem very "western" but may prove to be somewhat closed and inscrutable. The Chinese, by contrast, may surprise you with their open, affable nature. Each country will no doubt offer some surprises. Many families return from a posting to Asia or the Pacific enthused and fascinated. Others are more reflective and subdued. Almost all would agree, however, that they have profited from the experiences they have had.

(Our thanks to Al Kilpatrick, ADM and Jean McCloskey, DG, for their assistance with this article.)



FOLKLORE FROM THE FAR EAST

by Dawn Jones

As editor of *COSMO*, the magazine of the International Women's Club of Copenhagen, Dawn researched and wrote the following article.

Chanoyu, a tea ceremony

("Chanoyu" is an ancient ceremony which began to develop in the 14th century and had established a form by the end of the 18th century which is still used today.)

Picture, if you can, a beautiful small tea-house in a wooded section of a garden in Japan. The house has a tea-room, a preparation room, and a waiting room. The special utensils used in tea-making are objets d'art. The five guests to whom tea is served will dress with special care in quiet colours.

As they approach the tea-house, they rinse their hands and mouths in a garden basin filled with fresh water, then they enter the tea-house through a small opening through which they must crawl, to symbolically humble themselves. Each guest admires the hanging scroll and the hearth, then takes his seat before the hostess and together they eat a light meal.

After this, the guests wait in an inner garden until summoned by a gong, when they again enter the tea-room. This time they admire the flower arrangement and the kettle. The hostess brings out the utensils and prepares a thick tea from special leaves, which is placed in a bowl in a special place on the hearth. The guest of honour moves on his knees to pick up the bowl, holds it in the proper position, sips the tea, praises it, and takes two more sips. He then wipes the bowl and passes it to the next guest, who goes through the same procedure. After this, in a similar manner, a thin tea is prepared, with each guest drinking a bowl of tea. The guest cleans the part of the bowl touched by his lips with the fingers of his right hand, then wipes his fingers on a paper.

The whole ceremony takes approximately four hours to perform and is done with formality and grace. The spirit of Chanoyu represents the beauty of studied simplicity and harmony with nature and has molded the basis of Japanese architecture, landscape gardening, ceramics and floral arts. For young women, it is an essential part of their preparation for marriage.