

2.0 CANADA IN THE NEW INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

As international trade is the cornerstone of Canada's economy, active international trading relationships are well established. In parallel, science and technology relationships have also been developed with Canada's major trading partners to facilitate S&T collaboration and technology transfer. Canada's scientific and technological activities are relatively small on a world scale. Consequently, Canada needs to have access to the international pool of S&T to meet its domestic needs.

"Going Global" is a multidisciplinary response by External Affairs and International Trade Canada (EAITC) to rapidly changing global conditions.¹ It is intended to strengthen existing international relationships and to build new ones. "Going Global" has three key elements:

- a U.S.A. Opportunities strategy to help Canadians take advantage of the Free Trade Agreement;
- a Pacific 2000 strategy to help Canadians participate fully in the emerging markets of the region; and
- a Europe 1992 strategy to prepare Canadians for opportunities and challenges inherent in the integration of the European Community.

"Going Global" is not limited to traditional trade. Canada recognizes that S&T have become inextricably tied to trade and that increased emphasis must be placed on S&T co-operation and technology transfer. Existing and new international S&T mechanisms and programs will support the plan. As well, Canada will participate in a variety of ongoing and new internationally sponsored activities to strengthen its international presence.

The array of the principal mechanisms and programs available to Canadian firms and research organizations to gain access to the international pool of S&T is described in the following pages.²

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1. For a detailed description of the "Going Global" strategy, see *Canada: Going Global — Guide to Programs and Services*, External Affairs and International Trade Canada, 1990.
 2. For a listing of federal government programs that provide assistance to national R&D and innovation activities, see Industry, Science and Technology Canada, the *Government Record in Science and Technology*.