

environmental co-operation and consultations. The first consultations were held in Ottawa in March 1997.

- Canada worked with Brazilian partners on *Canada nas Gerais* (Canada in General), a business and cultural festival held in Belo Horizonte in September 1997. The festival highlighted Canada's trade expertise and culture.
- There are Canadian studies programs at five centres for Canadian studies in Brazil. The Brazilian Association for Canadian Studies, created in 1991, has about 200 members who teach Canadian studies or are active in research on Canada and Canada-Brazil relations. Canadian studies are supported through the federal Faculty Enrichment Program, which provides awards to professors developing courses and material on Canada and Canada-Brazil relations. The Governor General's Award is given annually to a Brazilian graduate student undertaking research on Canada. In addition, Canada's Library Support Program helps Brazilian universities expand their collections of materials on Canadian studies.
- The President of Brazil declared 1996 to be the year of education. In the spring of 1996, more than 30 Canadian educators participated in the first international education fair held in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. More than 20,000 people visited the exhibitions, which included information on post-graduate and English courses, executive programs, and other studies.

Trade and Investment

- Brazil is home to more than 160 million people and has a gross domestic product (GDP) in the world's top 10. Sweeping economic reforms and growing prosperity make Brazil a priority for further trade and investment.
- Brazil is Canada's largest trading partner in South America and its largest export market in Latin America. In 1996, two-way trade totalled just over \$2.5 billion, up from \$2.4 billion in 1995 and \$2 billion in 1994. Canadian exports totalled some \$1.43 billion, nearly double the 1993 figure.
- Wheat, newsprint, mineral fuels and potash have traditionally dominated Canadian exports to Brazil, but takeovers and mergers are quickly transforming the Brazilian economy and the nature of Canada-Brazil trade and investment.