

multilateral system of trade rules. Canada and Korea possess similar needs for political stability and security, both globally and regionally.

Third, at the other end of the scale, we enjoy extensive bilateral economic complementarities. We have a strong traditional resources relationship, and complementarities in the agricultural sector that we are beginning to explore. That is now joined by the matching of Korean technology needs with Canada's ability to supply those needs.

Finally, there are our shared regional objectives. Both Canada and Korea have strong hemispheric interests, yet both want to maintain transpacific ties. Canada sees its prosperity tied to Asia-Pacific growth. And Korea recognizes that its largest market is North America.

In a speech almost a year ago, Foreign Minister Han noted a number of things. He made clear that Korea's economic and other interests were best served by strong transpacific links. At the same time, however, he warned that if North America showed itself disinterested in this, or became inward-looking in its implementation of the NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement], countries such as Korea would have to look at other options.

Minister Han has repeated this theme on several occasions since that time. Indeed, he has added the challenge that the NAFTA, in a sense, prove its openness by accepting the idea of link with East Asia. He has put forward the idea of nations such as Korea and organizations such as APEC playing a leading role in the realization of this link.

What is the Canadian regional view and the role of the NAFTA? The answer is no small challenge in itself. In my view, however, the NAFTA must be looked at as an evolving process. We do need to settle into the NAFTA, but we also need to look to the next steps.

One can look at the NAFTA as a regional trading arrangement, or as the embryonic organization of countries that are ready to go beyond the already substantial disciplines of the new World Trade Organization (WTO) to embrace further free trade.

In this connection, Chile could be an early and welcome new member, but we do not see the NAFTA limited to the Western Hemisphere. Indeed, the NAFTA does not restrict new members to Western Hemisphere countries. The text of the Agreement in respect of accession speaks simply of countries or groups of countries.

Canada, moreover, did not commit itself to free trade with Mexico and the United States in order to join an exclusive or