

Youth to Gain Hands-On Experience in Asia Pacific



Young people join federal Cabinet Ministers on Parliament Hill for the announcement of the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy.

Thousands of young Canadians will get a chance to learn about Canada's growing ties with the Asia-Pacific region in the best way imaginable: working side by side with Canadian companies and institutions involved directly in the region.

In February, Human Resources Development Minister Pierre Pettigrew teamed up with his Cabinet colleagues to announce an extensive youth internship program as part of the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy.

"International Internships" will be a major component of the program. These internships will create new work experience opportunities for more than 4,000 young Canadians in trade and development projects around the world.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Canadian International Development Agency, Environment Canada and Industry Canada are all sponsoring specialized international internship programs.

The internships will be developed in partnership with a variety of organizations (private, public or non-profit) that have international interests, projects or businesses involved in trade or development in foreign markets.

For more information about International Internships, call the Youth Info Line at 1-800-935-5555 or access the website at <http://www.youth.gc.ca>

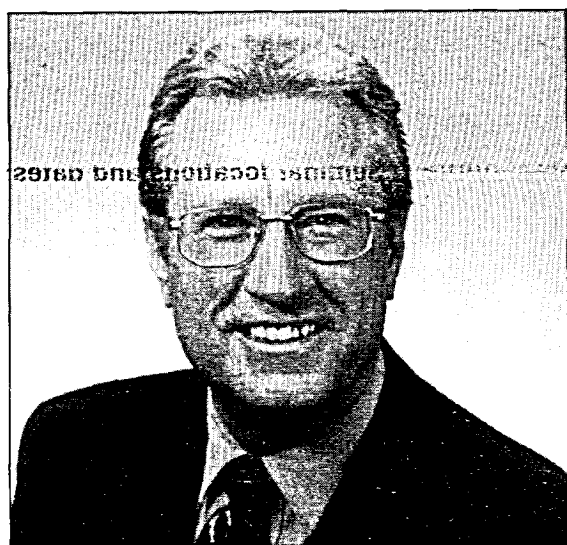
Capital Culture

Throughout 1997, CYAP will serve as the backdrop for numerous important cultural partnerships. Two annual events in the National Capital Region, Winterlude and the Tulip Festival, will reflect Canada's growing links with Asia-Pacific economies this year. Federal agencies such as the National Arts Centre and the Canadian Museum of Civilization are joining with government departments, foundations and major corporate sponsors to host events in the National Capital Region.

The Canada-Asia connection took on a new dimension at Ottawa/Hull's annual Winterlude Festival in February. This year's activities featured a special "Gateway to China" theme and included ice sculptors from Harbin, as well as a Chinese dance group.

The Canadian Tulip Festival in May will celebrate both the arrival of Spring and Canada's Asia-Pacific links by twinning Ottawa/Hull with Tonami City, Japan. Magnificent floral, bonsai and ikebana displays will be provided by Japanese partners for this event and will be shown in venues around the city. More than 100,000 tourists are expected to attend.

Minister Art Eggleton on Trading with the Asia-Pacific Region



As Canada's Minister for International Trade, Art Eggleton is at the centre of this year's focus on the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Eggleton, you are just back from the latest Team Canada trade mission to Asia, and the results suggest that Canada is already doing very well in export trade with that region. Why the year-long focus of Canada's Year of Asia Pacific?

Well, you're right. Team Canada was a big success: \$2.13 billion dollars in new business for Canadian companies and improved relationships with government and business leaders in three of Asia's most dynamic markets. It's a great start for Canada's Year of Asia Pacific.

But it is only a beginning. Canada's prosperity is directly linked to our ability to export and the fastest-growing opportunities for export trade are the Asia-Pacific region. Obviously a number of Canadian companies understand that and are acting on that knowledge, with great results. But we also want to see more small and medium-sized businesses enter this market. As hosts of APEC this year, we have a tremendous opportunity to show Canadians the potential for jobs and growth that the Asia-Pacific market can bring.

How do you get this message across to more Canadian businesses?

Information is the key. We need to inform Canadians in general, and young Canadians in

particular, about the potential of the Asia-Pacific region. The challenge is for all of us, not just our business leaders. That's why we're making sure that CYAP includes a number of events, in all regions of the country, designed to make Canadians more aware of the Asia-Pacific region.

We also want to show Canadians something that all of us who were on these trade missions have understood – that Canadians can unite behind an important challenge like this and succeed. When we see the benefits that flow from a unified effort like Team Canada, when we see how well the world responds to us, we're reminded what a success story this country is.

We'll also be working directly with provincial and local governments, and businesses to promote greater knowledge and expertise in Asia-Pacific export development. Our Asia Business Seminars in Atlantic Canada and our Asia-Pacific Investment Forum in Calgary, both coming up in March, are good examples of this.

What does Canada hope to achieve by chairing APEC in 1997?

Our objectives are quite straightforward: to increase trade, economic and people-to-people connections in the APEC region, and to enhance Canada's credentials as a long-term player in this, the fastest-growing region of the world. We'll be hosting hundreds of business people and trade officials who will be coming to Canada for the first time. It's a real opportunity to showcase our country. In our formal work with APEC representatives we'll concentrate on two things – first, trade and investment liberalization; and second, economic and technical cooperation. Each APEC member economy has an Individual Action Plan (IAP) to improve access to its own market, and we will try to get even greater commitments to improved trade. We will need this success to stay on track for free and open trade and investment in the region by 2010 for developed economies and 2020 for developing economies.

What will this mean for Canadians?

First of all, it means jobs and growth for Canadians. Every \$1 billion in exports sustains 11,000 jobs.

For businesses the implications are clear: our efforts will reduce the cost of doing business in the Asia-Pacific region. This will particularly help small and medium-sized enterprises expand into APEC markets. For example, if we streamline customs procedures, we can help reduce costs that often prevent small businesses from expanding into these new markets.

But more generally, the relationships we are developing on trade issues enable us to tackle bigger issues of concern to Canadians. APEC has committed itself to developing human capital, fostering safe and efficient capital markets, strengthening economic infrastructure, promoting environmentally sustainable growth and encouraging the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises throughout the Asia-Pacific region. These are important issues, and Canada has a golden opportunity as chair of APEC in 1997 to bring its influence to bear on these discussions.

Canada's voice is one of moderation and creativity in international affairs, and both are needed as we begin to address the complex questions that surround economic development, social development and sustainability. In the process we would like Canadians, especially younger Canadians, to understand that our economic well-being is increasingly tied to the Asia-Pacific region and that there are great opportunities for our country and for ourselves in that region.



"Canada knows that Asia Pacific is the future."

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien,
Vancouver, January 1997