

# British Columbia: Canada's Gateway to Asia Pacific Celebrates CYAP

## A Year of Opportunity for B.C. Business

No one understands the dynamic and diverse nature of Asia Pacific better than the people of British Columbia. B.C. benefits from its rich population of Canadians of Asian descent. They are an invaluable human link to the economic and social life of Asia Pacific. Today, almost 40 per cent of all Canadian exports to these emerging markets originate in the province.



APEC Transportation Ministers met in Victoria, British Columbia in June 1997

B.C. will be front and centre when the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders meet in Vancouver this November, bringing with them more than 8 000 delegates, officials and media representatives. Look for the government of British Columbia to also provide a networking venue for visiting and local business people associated with the APEC meeting called "The B.C. Business Crossroads Centre."

To mark this historic meeting, a full slate of activities is taking place in British Columbia.

In February, the Alliance of Manufacturers and Exporters of Canada, hosted "Pacific Export Club: Destination: Asia Pacific" attracting 250 exporters to learn more about the markets of Asia Pacific. Another event was held to help business people learn more about the work of the Canadian International Development Agency. A

media conference at Simon Fraser University, "The News From Hong Kong — Getting the Real Story," attracted media representatives interested in the impact of Hong Kong's transition on news coverage and freedom of the press in the new Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

## B.C Events for Youth

In June, the APEC transport ministerial meeting brought Asia Pacific to Victoria, highlighting B.C.'s role as Canada's Gateway to Asia Pacific. Youth events focussed on job opportunities in Asia Pacific's transportation

sector. Young Canadians will also explore opportunities in Asia Pacific at the Young Business Ambassadors for APEC '97 Seminar Traineeship Program and Youth Forum on October 2-3, organized by the University of British Columbia. Contact: Rama Agarwal, Tel. (604) 822-6256 for more information

Traditions/Tensions, a major exhibit at the Vancouver Art Gallery, presented by CYAP and Air Canada from April 25-July 6. Raymond Chan, Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific), was on-hand at this impressive showing of the latest in Asian art. A lecture series and school program focussed on the exhibit, which explored art from urban centres in five Asian countries: India, Indonesia, the Philippines, South Korea and Thailand. The event has been seen by over 30 000 people.



## Korea's Chang Mu Dance Company Begins Canadian Tour in BC

The Chang Mu Dance Company, Korea's premier contemporary dance and drumming ensemble, began a cross-Canada tour on July 17 at the Michael J. Fox Theatre in Burnaby, B.C.



Korea's Chang Mu Dance Company

Chang Mu's bold music, movements and experimental style set it apart from conventional Korean dance. *Seoul Magazine* has credited Chang Mu with being at the forefront of creative dance in Korea. Other destinations in B.C. are Revelstoke, Courtenay and Vancouver — all in British Columbia — and Ottawa. (See the CYAP website for further details at <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/~cyap-acap>.)

# Lighting the Way to the Pacific Century: APEC Energy Ministers Meet in Edmonton



Energy Windmills in Alberta

Energy, whether it is used to fly a fleet of planes or light a city block, is the lifeblood of economic growth. The Asia Pacific region has made the world's most significant progress in

terms of economic and social development, resulting in a growth in energy consumption.

Demand for energy is doubling every twelve years. To respond to the increasing needs of their emerging economies, many Asia Pacific countries have had to upgrade and expand their energy infrastructure.

When energy ministers from APEC economies meet in Edmonton, their focus will be on exploring efficient, affordable and sustainable ways of ensuring Asia Pacific can meet its energy demands into the twenty-first century.

"Under the theme Energy: Infrastructure for Sustainable Development," the two-day meeting will focus on issues of prime importance to the

APEC agenda. This includes infrastructure expansion, sustainable development, economic and technical co-operation, business facilitation and the environment," said Ralph Goodale, Federal Minister of Natural Resources.

To make the most of this important event, the government has declared August 23-29 APEC Energy Week. A full schedule of events is planned including:

- business events for firms interested in establishing commercial ties with Asia Pacific;
- a forum for youth from around the region do discuss issues and opportunities in the energy sector; and
- visits to model energy sites across Canada.