

recognizes that Canada's international competitiveness rests in large part on how well our next generation of workers can obtain the knowledge, talents and tools required to operate effectively in an increasingly competitive international labour market.

Clearly the international dimension of higher education in Canada must be strengthened for our country to face with vitality the challenges - both human and technological - of the world economy. Thus, we must work together to enable our students to acquire training that is international in scope.

My colleague Lloyd Axworthy, the Minister of Human Resources Development, and I have authorized people in our two departments to engage in negotiations with the European Union, the United States and Mexico to establish two new programs of co-operation in higher education and training. Of course, these programs will involve the universities and colleges. The negotiations are well under way, and we hope to be able to reach an agreement by year's end.

Despite these efforts, I know that our country's investment in international academic relations does not compare with those of our competitors. However, as I said in the House during the tabling of our Foreign Policy Statement last month, a lack of resources is no excuse for abdicating our responsibilities. I asked my department to do everything it could to consolidate the Government's present resources in order to obtain the critical mass required to develop coherent strategies. In addition, I have asked my department to integrate science and technology fully in its international academic relations. Thus we shall reinforce our country's ability to penetrate the international markets and to create the strategic alliances required for the expansion of the scientific community right here in Canada.

I would like to see a greater degree of co-operation among the university community, the private sector and the Government in order to achieve our objectives. The Fulbright program, a program of educational exchanges between Canada and the United States, is a good example of what this type of partnership can achieve.

We must go beyond the traditional question of how we can use the appropriations given to us. More and more, we must find ways of generating revenue. You are well placed to know that there is a great demand internationally for our educational goods and services. The new International Cultural Affairs Bureau will have a division responsible for promoting exports of these Canadian goods and services abroad. This new division will work with you to establish strategies and help you to conquer the international markets. As you know, the Department has already announced its intention to create Canadian Education Centres in Asia with this in mind.