

Although we are proud of our performance in Malaysia to date, we clearly want to do more. We would like to do more business in the transportation sector. The sheer vastness of Canada has forged a unique breed of transportation professionals with expertise in areas from concept and design to implementation, from air services and transcontinental railways to urban systems such as the Vancouver Skytrain or the Toronto Transit System, which is integrated to include commuter rail, streetcars, subways and buses. We would also like to do more business in the power sector. Canada is a nation built on energy and Canadian expertise in this sector is world renowned.

We realize that for our relationship to broaden, more investment is required. We also want to see more of our small- to medium-sized companies involved.

To make that happen, Canada has been working hard to expand investment and joint venture links with Malaysia. One of the best examples of our commitment to this market is the establishment of Enterprise Malaysia-Canada. Started in 1991, this program is funded by a Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) contribution of close to \$15 million. Its purpose is to promote the transfer of technology and expertise to Malaysia through joint ventures and other co-operative endeavours between the private sectors in both countries. It complements the activities of CIDA's Industrial Co-operation Program, which contributes over \$2 million annually, on a cost-sharing basis, to Canadian firms looking into the feasibility of joint ventures and other business arrangements in Malaysia.

I have talked for some time about the fine prospects for our bilateral commercial relations. Let me now put this in the context of wider Canadian trade goals.

To achieve enhanced economic growth and build Canadian competitiveness, Canada is pursuing trade initiatives in several areas. A successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) is very much our top priority. We know that it is in our interest, given our considerable dependence on foreign markets, to work hard for a strengthened world trading system and wider liberalization.

In the Asia Pacific region, we have the benefit of the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum, which we strongly believe can play a constructive role in furthering these global trade liberalization goals. APEC promotes dialogue among senior representatives from throughout the Pacific trading community. All the countries in this community have a stake in a strong MTN result. A particular value that we see in APEC is the membership of major powers whose actions on the trade front affect us all.