

E-Methanex a milestone in Canadian investment in Egypt

Cairo, Egypt > November 16, 2005, marked a milestone in Egyptian-Canadian commercial and investment relations, when Vancouver-based Methanex and the Egyptian Petrochemical Holding Company announced the official launch of a joint venture called E-Methanex.



E-Methanex will build a world-class methanol complex at an estimated cost of \$750 million. The complex should be completed and operational by 2008, and will produce some 1.3 million tons of methanol per year, to be sold both locally and internationally.

"Today's meetings represented an important milestone in the development of this project," says Methanex President and CEO Bruce Aitken. "We believe Egypt offers many of the key factors necessary for a successful methanol project,

including competitively priced natural gas, deep water port access and an investment-friendly environment."

Egypt's Minister of Petroleum, H.E. Sameh Fahmy, confirmed that this joint venture was an important part of Egypt's overall strategy for the development of its petrochemical industry. "We are committed to aligning with industry leaders such as Methanex to promote the long-term success of our petrochemical industry," says Fahmy. "The project with Methanex is part of the first phase of Egypt's petrochemical master plan that was proposed by the Ministry of Petroleum. The plan comprises 14 projects requiring around \$11.6 billion to realize by the year 2020."

This project will have a significant impact on Canadian-Egyptian relations in the oil and gas sector. It is also worth noting that a second joint venture with Calgary-based Agrium Inc. is currently under negotiation with the same Egyptian parties, involving similar investments and terms. As such, it is anticipated that Canada will secure a major role in developing the petrochemical industry in Egypt.

Canada is not only a world class supplier of technology but also a committed partner, a key player, a source of direct foreign investments and a supporter of Egypt's strategy to enhance its economy.

For more information, contact Joseph Tadros, Trade Commissioner, Canadian Embassy in Egypt, tel.: (011-20-2) 794-3110, e-mail: joseph.tadros@international.gc.ca.

Join Expo Canada 2006 in the Dominican Republic

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, March 22-24, 2006 > The Canadian Embassy in the Dominican Republic, in cooperation with the Canadian-Dominican Chamber of Commerce, is inviting Canadian companies to participate in **Expo Canada 2006**, a multi-sector trade show.

This event will provide companies from different industrial sectors with the opportunity to showcase their products, services and technologies, to make targeted presentations and to hold one-on-one meetings with Dominican importers and distributors. Expo Canada will be a great opportunity to make direct contact with local companies who are interested in importing or representing Canadian brands.

During the trade fair, the Trade Commissioner Service at the Canadian Embassy in the Dominican Republic can schedule meetings with companies of interest to participants, as well as arrange site visits.

The Dominican Republic is the third-largest export market in the Americas for U.S. products (not counting NAFTA countries) after Chile and Brazil. Due to its geographic location, improving transportation infrastructure and its economic and political stability, the country is slowly becoming a regional hub for many large multinationals.

In fact, bilateral trade between the Dominican Republic and Canada reached \$228 million in 2004, with Canadian exports totalling \$101 million and consisting mainly of paper products, fish, cereals, vegetables, automobile parts and electrical equipment.

For more information, contact the Trade Commissioner Service at the Canadian Embassy in the Dominican Republic, tel.: (809) 685-1136, e-mail: irma.defrias@international.gc.ca, Web site: www.santodomingo.gc.ca.

Canada on display at Middle East wood show

Dubai, U.A.E., April 10-12, 2006 > Canada will host a stand at the **Dubai International Wood & Wood Machinery Show**—a unique opportunity for Canadian suppliers to build strategic relationships with decision makers and professionals in all sectors of the wood industry.

The Gulf region is experiencing unprecedented growth and imports many of its requirements. Numerous Canadian architects and engineers have offices in the U.A.E., and these and other professional firms are anxious to see more Canadian suppliers enter the market.

The Canadian exhibitor package will feature the services of the Canadian Consulate in Dubai and will include a briefing on the market and introductions to potential distributors and partners.

For more information, contact Terry Gain, Wood Show Agent in Canada, tel.: (416) 932-1173, e-mail: terry.gain@interlog.com, or Sanam Shahani, Trade Commissioner, Canadian Consulate in Dubai, e-mail: sanam.shahani@international.gc.ca. Web site: www.dubaiwoodshow.com.

Opportunity flows at AsiaWater 2006

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, March 21-24, 2006 > Billed as Asia's premier water and wastewater industry event, **AsiaWater 2006** will provide a forum for companies to showcase the latest water and wastewater solutions, explore business opportunities and strengthen existing relationships.

With some 500 exhibitors, 9,000 delegates and buyers, a water industry summit, an international conference and 40 technology presentations, a lot is in store for participants.

The Regional Water Industry Summit will bring together executives from water utilities and operators, regulators and investors to discuss issues affecting the region, including water management, development and intra-ASEAN cooperation.

The international conference will focus on meeting increasing demand for potable water, water management, privatization and investments, as well as benchmarking.

It's a good time for Canadian companies in this sector to attend, especially since the Malaysian government is expected to make significant investments in the water and wastewater sectors in the next few years.

For more information, contact Mia Yen, Trade Commissioner, Canadian High Commission in Malaysia, tel.: (011-60-3) 2718-3352, fax: (011-60-3) 2718-3391, e-mail: mia.yen@international.gc.ca, Web site: www.asiawater.com.my.

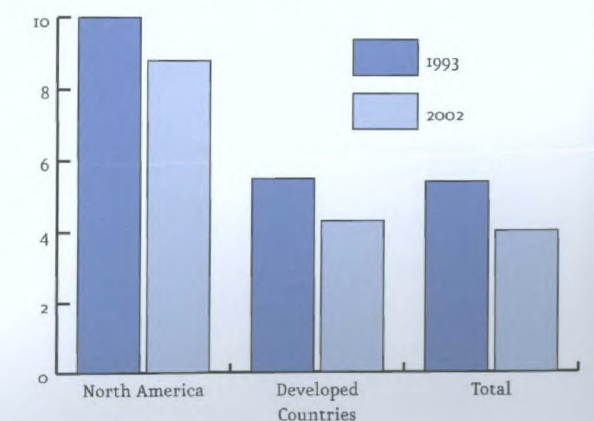
R&D activities are becoming more internationalized, but Canada is losing share

Multinational enterprises (MNEs) world-wide are spending more on research and development (R&D), both at home and abroad. Their spending abroad, however, has been increasing at double the rate of spending in their home countries. In 2002, 16% of all MNEs' R&D expenditures, on average, were spent outside their home countries, compared to only 10% in 1993. For example, German MNEs established more foreign R&D units during the 1990s than in the preceding 50 years. But Canada lost share during this period: Canada's share of expenditures on R&D by foreign affiliates of MNEs declined by 1.4% overall.

Provided by the Trade and Economic Analysis Division (www.international.gc.ca/eet)

FACTS & FIGURES

Canada's share of R&D Expenditures by Foreign Affiliates



Source: UNCTAD World Investment Report 2005