

government-business cooperation. The Prime Minister's 1994 trip to China was generally viewed to have successfully promoted Canadian economic relations with that country, and acquainted Canadian companies with opportunities there. A strong follow-up program must be implemented to reap the full benefit of the Prime Minister's visit.

To the extent that practices of North Asian governments disadvantage Canadian suppliers, a combination of pressure for change and pragmatic reassessment of Canadian strategies may be in order. To the extent that the rationale for investing in the region is driven by barriers to Canadian exports, it may make more sense from a Canadian national interest perspective to seek the lowering of those barriers, rather than to encourage Canadian investors to set up shop in the region.

Increasing Canadian involvement in North Asia's fast-evolving business environment and still nascent economic institutions is both possible and desirable, particularly within APEC as it becomes more institutionalized. Canada should work within APEC to ensure that it maintains its outward-looking orientation, including with regard to the prospects for achieving free trade within the 2010/2020 timeframe adopted by Leaders when they met last November in Indonesia. Such involvement would not only provide Canada with leverage to shape this organization at a crucial moment in its development, but would signal Canadian recognition of its substantial economic stakes in Asia and its intent to pursue a commercial agenda that is both broad and pro-active.