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GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS STUDY OF ASIAN LANGUAGES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, and International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie announced today a \$1.6 million grant to the David Lam Centre for International Communication at Simon Fraser University to promote the study of Asian languages and cultures.

The grant, provided under the Government's Pacific 2000 Language and Awareness Fund, will be used to establish and operate intensive language training courses in Japanese, Mandarin and Cantonese Chinese and Korean. It will also be used to teach intercultural skills to Canadians pursuing business ventures in the Asia-Pacific Region.

"To compete effectively in Asia-Pacific markets, our businesspeople must be well versed in Asian languages and business norms," said Mr. Clark.

"The bottom line is that Canada's future economic prosperity is now inextricably linked to that of the Asia-Pacific Region," stated Mr. Crosbie.

After completing the language training, students will be able to introduce themselves and their organization, initiate phone calls, order meals, give and receive simple directions, ask and tell time and dates, and even give a polite refusal in a variety of different situations.

The grant to Simon Fraser University consists of an initial endowment grant of \$800,000 followed by annual operating grants of \$200,000 for four years. The University has already raised some \$2.6 million in private and provincial funds. The federal grant will be instrumental in helping the University raise additional funds.

The Pacific 2000 Language and Awareness Fund is part of the Going Global international trade strategy announced by the Prime Minister last fall.

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