

BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - L'ASIE DU NORD

JAPAN/JAPON

- While Japan retains the position that there is inadequate scientific evidence to ban the use of driftnets, PM Mulroney emphasized to PM Kaifu that driftnetting is a serious problem which the Japanese should address.
- External Affairs Undersecretary, James Taylor has been appointed to succeed Mr. Barry Steers as Canada's next ambassador to Japan.
- PM Kaifu has won the support of Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, an influential LDP member, for a full two-year term in office. Mitsuzuka said that there will not be any rivals in the October LDP presidential election. The party always puts forward its president for the PM's position.
- Japan's current account surplus diminished to US\$5.308 billion in July from US\$6.498 billion during the same period a year ago.
- The Kansai Economic Federation plans to establish a 2.5 billion yen personnel exchange centre to train businessmen from developing countries in the Pacific region.
- The Tax System Council, a governmental advisory body, is considering exempting such items as rice, wheat, barley, postal rates, expressway tolls, and educational institution entrance fees from the 3% consumption tax imposed in April.
- Five Japanese have been arrested in Tokyo for attempting to sell four kilograms of uranium to the US Embassy in Japan. Sales of uranium is strictly controlled under Japanese law.
- PM Kaifu will meet PM Thatcher and Vice President Quayle when the two attend a gathering of conservative political leaders later this month.
- PM Kaifu indicated that Japan would extend \$US1.4 billion in loans to help Mexico solve its debt problems.
- PM Kaifu said that the US and Japan would continue efforts to resolve economic problems and would work together to achieve a successful conclusion to the Uruguay round of world trade negotiations in Geneva next year.
- According to government sources, Japan will lift its advisory against travel to China next week.
- Japan and the U.S. agreed to draft a plan for reforming their economies and business practices as the first round of the "Strategic Impediments Initiatives" talks ended.
- Bank of Japan Governor Sumita reiterated his strong determination to fight the dollar's rise against the yen with coordinated intervention.
- Canada, Japan and Western Europe voiced concern about the U.S. budgetary cutbacks on space projects which could delay the construction of an international space laboratory.
- The Japan Automobile Importers' Association stated that sales of imported cars surged 39.1% in August from the previous year to 14,008 units.
- The Osaka Prefectural Government will exclude eight construction firms from tendering construction works due to their forming a cartel to artificially fix prices on the New Kansai International Airport Project.

CHINA/CHINE

- As a result of the serious economic problems China is facing, the Government intends to adopt tougher measures in the next three years to accomplish economic retrenchment and improvement.

- 205 English teachers from the U.S. and Canada have arrived in Chinese colleges and universities for the 1989-90 year.

- According to Xinhua news, the Chinese foreign minister will visit Sudan, Egypt, Syria and Tunisia from Sept. 16-26.

- A Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman, called charges against China's quelling of counter-revolutionary rebellion contained in an Amnesty International report, "groundless and unreasonable."

- The vice-chairman of the Xinjiang Party Committee has been dismissed for bribery.

- The governor of Hainan province, Liang Xiang, has been relieved of his post and is under investigation for corruption.

- The 9th meeting of the NPC Standing Committee ended September 4 after endorsing a proposal to extend the deadline for soliciting opinions on the draft of the Hong Kong Basic Law until the end of October. The meeting also continued deliberation of the draft laws governing demonstrations and the organization of neighbourhood committees.

- The PRC will launch a nationwide drive against tax evasion, considered to be wide-spread among self-employed and private businesses.

TAIWAN

- Jefferey Koo, chairman of the China Trust Co., has been elected to the board of Asia Finance and Investment Corporation, a regional bank established to finance the private sector in developing countries.

HONG KONG

- In the first half of 1989, Hong Kong re-exports increased by 37%. The PRC and the U.S. continue to be the most important markets.

- The heads of seven foreign Chambers of Commerce in Hong Kong, including Canada's, will cooperate in seeking ways to restore confidence in the territory.

- Of 6000 Hong Kong citizens who have applied for immigration to Singapore, 3000 have been accepted.

KOREA/COREE

- A huge offshore gas deposit estimated at 24 billion cubic meters was found about 100 kilometers east of Ulsan.

- In the first seven months of 1989 applications for additional foreign investment projects totalled US\$505.5 million, down 36% from the same period a year ago.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING/A VENIR

- Pacific Economic Cooperation Committee, Auckland, Sept. 4-5.

- PM Kaifu Official visit to Canada, Sept. 6-9

- Marine Biotechnology Conference, Tokyo, Sept. 4-6.

- Global Environment and Human Response Conference, Tokyo, Sept. 11-13.

- Trade Mission to Korea and Hong Kong, Minister of International Trade, Sept. 15-23.

- 14th World Energy Congress, Montreal, Sept. 17-24. Contact: Canadian National Committee, World Energy Conference, 305-130 Albert Street, Ottawa K1P 5G4.

- International Meeting of Parliamentarians, International Democratic Union, Tokyo, Sept. 21-23.

- Japanese Assoc. of Canadian Studies Annual Meeting, Tokyo, Sept. 23-24.

- OECD Council Meeting, Tokyo, Oct. 1-6.

- Second Canada-Japan Telecommunications Seminar, Ottawa, Oct. 23-24.

- Cda-Jpn Telcom Policy Consultations, Annual Meeting, Ottawa, Oct. 25-26.

- InterMedica '89, International Medical, Hospital and Healthcare equipment, products and technology exhibition, Taipei, Taiwan, Nov. 2-5. For info contact: The Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Ottawa, (613) 238-4000.

- Pacific Economic Cooperation Committee, Seventh Annual meeting, Auckland, Nov. 12-15.

- Trade Mission to Japan, Minister for International Trade, Tokyo, Nov. 15-18.

- Arita Ceramics Symposium, Japan, Nov. 15-17.

- Trade Ministers Meeting, Tokyo, Nov. 17-19.

- Annual Canola Consultation

- COMMTEL Asia '89, Hong Kong

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