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FIFTH CANADA-JAPAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CONSULTATIONS, JUNE 14-15, 1982

The Department of External Affairs announces that the Fifth Canada-Japan Science and Technology Consultations were held in Ottawa June 14 and 15. Those consultations marked the tenth anniversary of the science and technology relationship between Canada and Japan which began with the 1972 visit to Japan of a mission led by the then Minister of State for Science and Technology, the Honourable Allistair Gillespie.

The Canadian delegation to the Fifth Consultation was led by Dr. D.E.L. Maasland, Assistant Secretary, Government Branch, Ministry of State for Science and Technology. Mr. L.D. Hudon, Secretary, Ministry of State for Science and Technology, also addressed the participants at the opening of the Consultations. The Japanese delegation was led by His Excellency Ambassador K. Mikanagi who was supported by Mr. Tsuji, Assistant Vice-Minister for Administration, Science and Technology Agency, Tokyo. In addition to the federal government representatives, the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Quebec were represented at the discussions.

Following the Gillespie mission, the First Consultations took place in Ottawa in 1973 and since that time meetings have been held alternately in Tokyo and in Ottawa. From modest beginnings, the program has matured into a relationship covering approximately thirty projects in areas such as personnel exchange, transportation, environmental studies, space and communications research, agriculture, construction, energy, disaster prevention and basic particle research.

Discussion at the Fifth Consultations was directed at both a review of ongoing projects and consideration of various new proposals put forward by the Japanese and by Canadian federal and provincial representatives. In addition, both sides reviewed the mechanisms for further promoting the active exchange between Canadian and Japanese science-based departments and agencies. As a result, both sides agreed to examine internally the possibility of concluding a Science and Technology Agreement which would further and consolidate the active state of the present science and technology relationship. A Statement of Intent in the field of remote sensing was signed during the consultations and new or expanded projects were agreed to in the areas of toxic gases produced by burning of construction material, arctic marine transportation, agricultural biotechnology, forestry, the effect of low temperature on concrete, etc.

In conclusion, the two delegations agreed that further development of the science and technology relationship is clearly in the long term interest of Canada and Japan as it plays an increasingly important role in the overall bilateral relationship between the two countries.