

BULLETIN

VOL II NO 35
89-09-01

NORTH ASIA - L'ASIE DU NORD

JAPAN/JAPON

- PM Kaifu will be in Ottawa Sept. 6-8 and in Vancouver Sept. 8-9. Trade issues, bilateral exchanges and cooperation on international issues will be the main focus of talks with Prime Minister Mulroney.
- During his visit to the US, PM Kaifu is expected to stress the "Structural Impediments Initiative" aimed at reducing the bilateral trade imbalance between. The PM will also visit Mexico.
- Kobe Steel Ltd. will invest about \$US 120 million, or approx. 13.3% of the total \$900 million investment, in the proposed Alouette aluminum smelter in Sept-Iles, Quebec.
- Top Japanese business leaders are urging PM Kaifu to carry out political reform, but not to act hastily in revising the unpopular 3% consumption tax.
- The total value of trading on the Tokyo Stock Exchange surpassed that of the New York Stock Exchange in 1988, making the TSE the world's largest.
- BOJ Governor Sumita announced that he has cancelled his scheduled visit to China for talks with officials from the Central Bank of China.
- MITI will propose a joint development with the US and the EEC of a next-generation, computer-controlled order-taking, production and sales system.
- Mitsui and Taiyo Kobe banks will merge in 1990 to form the world's second largest bank in terms of assets.
- Idemitsu Kosan Co. has acquired Muswellbrook, an Australian coal operation that produces 1.1 million tons of steam coal annually, about 80% of which is currently shipped to Idemitsu.
- Japan's steel exports fell on a year-on-year basis for the second consecutive month in July, down 15.9%
- The World Bank has been granted two syndicated loans totalling 100 billion yen from 50 Japanese financial institutions.
- The Chairman of the Japan-China Parliamentarians League, LDP member Masayoshi Ito, plans to visit the PRC "to improve bilateral relations."
- Japan and the Soviet Union will initiate a feasibility study for the construction of a 100 billion yen pulp and paper plant on Sakhalin Island. The project would be joined by 20 Japanese companies under the leadership of Oji Paper and Mitsui.
- The Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry said that rice cultivation should be suspended in at least 930,000 hectares of Japan's 2.9 million hectares of rice paddies over a three-year period beginning in 1990.
- Japan's leading steel firms cut their labour force by 35, 000 in the last three years.
- Japan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 2.2% in July for the second consecutive month.

CHINA/CHINE

- The National People's Congress Standing Committee is expected to deliberate a public assemblies and demonstrations bill.
- Another PRC member of the Basic Law Drafting Committee has acknowledged that Beijing is concerned by the strength of the pro-democracy lobby in Hong Kong.
- The Chinese Communist Party plans to establish party cells with government ministries and agencies to strengthen party control.

- In an editorial addressed to university students, the People's Daily noted that all students would be required to study documents related to the "period of unrest" to help them "understand reality and clarify the facts."

- The government of Shanxi Province confiscated 2700 limousines bought illegally. The cars were registered in the names of private households or army units. (Xinhua)

- Production of 7 of 12 major textile products including cotton cloth, woollen fabrics and silk, did not meet targets set for the Jan-July period. Fifteen provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions need cotton urgently and if the problem persists, the supply of cotton products to domestic and foreign markets will be affected.

- The Chinese Youth News reported that a Chinese student, who allegedly spoke to the Voice of America radio network about the democracy movement, was sentenced to nine years in prison.

TAIWAN

- The International Trade Commission ruled that Taiwanese exports of martial arts clothing are not being dumped on the US market.

HONG KONG

- The US House of Representatives is considering a bill to double the annual number of immigrants from HK from 5000 to 10,000.

- The Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre will ban future immigration exhibitions as they are "detrimental to HK's image."

- US Congressman John Porter is expected to introduce a resolution calling on Britain to convene an international conference on Hong Kong.

- HK Police fought with hundreds of Vietnamese refugees at the Tai Ah Chan detention centre.

KOREA/COREE

- The demand for power continues to surge with peak loads up 10% in 1989 and projected 7.8% next year.

- The ROK will establish an economic cooperation fund to promote economic and technical cooperation with the ASEAN countries.

- The ROK and Japan will hold a shipping conference to negotiate the establishment of new routes using high-speed ships between the two countries.

INDOCHINA/INDOCHINE

- The International Conference on Cambodia, held in Paris, has ended without a settlement of the Cambodia problem.

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 Consultations
- COMMTEL Asia '89, Hong Ko

The North Asia Bulletin is produced Relations Division. Le Bulletin de l'hebdomadaire redige par la Direction du Nord. Comments/Commentaires-G. Timothy Skye-613-992-8530 fax-613-996-

