

# News Release

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## MACLAREN ANNOUNCES NETWORK OF CANADIAN EDUCATION INFORMATION CENTRES IN ASIA

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, announced today that the Government of Canada in partnership with the Asia-Pacific Foundation will establish a network of Canadian Education Information Centres in Asia over the next five years. The Centres will assist Canadian educational institutions to market their services to international students and strengthen their involvement in Asia.

"Canada has many excellent education facilities of interest to international students. In 1991, they contributed approximately \$1.5 billion and 19 000 jobs to the Canadian economy. International fee-paying students also represent an important source of funding for many Canadian educational institutions. Training and skills development are critical elements in the new global economy. Initiatives such as the Canadian Education Information Centres Network will help Canadians to develop closer ties with future leaders of the region," said Mr. MacLaren.

The Education Information Centres will work with the provinces, territories and educational institutions to provide up-to-date information and counselling on the services offered by Canadian universities, community colleges, vocational training institutions, and public and private schools. Such services include English and French language studies, business administration, information technology and long-distance education.

The new Centres will be based upon a model developed for two pilot projects, including a highly successful one in Seoul. They are to be opened in China, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines. While a substantial number of students are already coming to Canada from Japan and Hong Kong, marketing studies are currently being undertaken to determine how Canada may enhance our education services in those areas.



Potential students will be matched with the Canadian educational facility that will best meet their needs. The project's main goals are to increase the pool of well-educated personnel in Asia, to train people and to give them the skills and abilities to help their nations' economies grow. It will also stimulate further co-operation in education and help in the exchange of faculty and students between the region and Canada.

The Centres will be founded on cost recoverable principles and be administered jointly by the Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Canadian International Development Agency and the Department of Citizenship and Immigration.

The Council of Provincial Ministers of Education have indicated that "...in principle, the ministries and departments responsible for education in Canada are supportive of the concept of the Canadian Education Information Centres and the approach being taken." The Association of Universities and Canadian Colleges has expressed its support for the initiative as well.

Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1994 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office  
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade  
(613) 995-1874