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SINGAPORE AS A GATEWAY TO CHINA

CANADIAN INDUSTRY TO EXPLORE PARTNERSHIP

WITH SINGAPORE COMPANIES TO SEEK MARKETS IN CHINA

SINGAPORE--The Minister for International Trade, James Kelleher, announced today that ten Canadian firms will be both guests and participants at a Gateway to China Conference organized by the Singapore Society of Accountants and supported by the Singapore Trade Development Board. The Conference is scheduled to be held from April 17-19 at the World Trade Convention Centre in Singapore.

Mr. Kelleher said that over the past few years the success of Singapore firms in penetrating certain sectors of the China market have attracted increasing international attention. Canadian firms have expressed a growing interest in associating with the investment and marketing activities of Singapore companies in China. With this in mind, "the Canadian Government is planning specific promotional projects to bring Canadian companies together with Singapore partners active in China", Mr. Kelleher said.

"This Conference will provide an excellent occasion for Canadian firms to explore the most suitable form of partnership with Singapore firms for the penetration of the China market".

"Later in the year, we plan to stage our own Canadian solo event in Singapore involving 20-25 Canadian firms, to which we will invite a broad spectrum of the Singapore business community. This will be the first time that a western country has given full recognition to the concept of Singapore as a Gateway to China".

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