



Minister for
International Trade

Ministre du
Commerce extérieur

COMMUNIQUÉ

No. 106

May 30, 1986.

THE MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONCLUDES HIS VISIT TO JAPAN

The Minister for International Trade, James Kelleher, today concluded his two-day visit to Osaka in the Western (Kansai) region of Japan.

The Minister's focus on the Kansai region during this visit was in direct support of new Canadian trade initiatives, under the National Trade Strategy, aimed at tapping this area's excellent potential for trade development and as a source of capital investment. With a population of over 22 million, 45 percent of all exports to Japan are destined for companies in the Kansai area. "As one of the great industrial zones of the world," observed Minister Kelleher, "Western Japan offers Canada increasing trade opportunities in grains and oilseeds, 2 x 4 construction materials and consumer products."

During his tour of the new premises of Canada's new Consulate General in Osaka, Mr. Kelleher remarked that the recent establishment of the Consulate General "creates an excellent avenue from which increased public and private sector economic and commercial co-operation between Canada and the industrial sectors of Japan can actively be pursued."

"One of the first major projects I would like to see Canada getting involved in is the Kansai International

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Canada

Airport development project," the Minister noted. To be built on a man made island in Osaka Bay, the \$8.3 billion (Canadian) airport will be linked to the mainland by a 4 km road and rail access bridge. In his meeting with Dr. Yoshio Takeuchi, President of the new Kansai International Airport Company, Mr. Kelleher welcomed the recently implemented procurement policy that reflects a greater willingness to open bidding for this important public works project to foreign participants. "Canada's reputation for building and operating airport facilities equipped to handle a multitude of variable weather and operating conditions is world renowned. Despite difficulties many Canadian companies have encountered in the past in trying to access the Japanese market, I believe that Dr. Takeuchi's commitment to an open-bidding process is very encouraging. I intend, upon my return, to make sure that Canadian firms be made aware of this opportunity and encourage them to participate in this promising project."

In his meetings with the Mayor of Osaka, Mr. Oshima, Civic officials, and executives of the 28,000 member strong Osaka Chamber of Commerce, Minister Kelleher emphasized the Canadian Government's commitment to promote trade, technology transfer and investment with Japan. Mr. Kelleher enthusiastically welcomed the Chamber's expressed interest in a major Investment Mission to Canada in 1987.

The Minister departs today for Seoul to participate in the World Trade Ministers' Meeting in Preparation for the New Round of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations.