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MINISTER CARNEY ATTENDS ASIA-PACIFIC TRADE CONFERENCE

The Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Pat Carney, completed the first day of the Fourth Asian-Pacific Trade Conference in Bali, Indonesia.

The Conference, hosted by the Indonesian Government, has brought together some 55 government ministers, businessmen and independent experts from the Asian-Pacific region to discuss the prospects for reaching early agreements in the GATT multilateral trade negotiations (MTN).

In her opening remarks, Minister Carney highlighted the major Canadian objectives: to strengthen the multilateral trading system, to assist developing countries and to give greater priority to agricultural trade as an element in a mid term review.

The Minister also reiterated Canada's invitation to host the mid term review towards the end of this year, a proposal which the Minister said has been warmly received by her colleagues. She stressed that rapid progress in the MTN is needed this year to demonstrate the commitment of governments to strengthening the trading system and to give a positive signal to the business community that protectionism can be halted.

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Minister for
International
Trade

Ministre du
Commerce
extérieur

Canada

Miss Carney said that the Uruguay round is the most complex round of trade talks in history, involving 15 negotiating committees.

"This makes it difficult for many of the developing countries to fully participate", she said. Miss Carney announced that the Canadian government will be developing further proposals to increase coordination and cooperation of bilateral and multilateral resources devoted to assisting developing countries such as by sponsoring seminars, providing expertise and statistical information.

Miss Carney's comments build upon her reaffirmation of Canada's commitment to the multilateral trading system and to its further liberalization and strengthening at the 43rd annual session of the GATT contracting parties in Geneva last December. The three-day conference continues on Saturday.

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