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WILSON ANNOUNCES CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN WEST-EAST ECONOMIC CONFERENCE IN TOKYO

The Honourable Michael Wilson, Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, today announced that the Honourable Tom Hockin, Minister for Science and Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism), will represent Canada at the second West-East Economic Conference to be held in Tokyo, Japan, April 24 and 25, 1993.

The Conference will be attended by Economy, Industry and Trade Ministers of the Group of Seven leading industrialized countries (G-7), and selected reforming countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the former Soviet Union (FSU). It will address critical issues of structural reform faced by the CEE and the FSU.

"Canada is already playing a very active role, through various technical assistance programs and other forms of aid, in helping these countries achieve reforms and develop market economies," Mr. Wilson said. "This Conference will give us an added venue to co-ordinate our efforts with other like-minded countries."

Ministers will be reviewing results achieved since the first conference, held last May in Muenster, Germany. Topics to be addressed include enterprise structural reform, defence conversion, international trade promotion, foreign investment, industrial technology and environmental protection.

In addition to participating in the West-East Conference, Minister Hockin will take the opportunity to meet with the head of Japan's Science and Technology Agency and with the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture to discuss bilateral co-operation. He will also reiterate Canada's strong interest in having Japan contribute to the proposed KAON (a particle accelerator) factory.

"I will in particular be consulting with my Japanese colleagues on the U.S. effort to redesign the International Space Station and seeking their views on how to optimize our benefits from the space program," Mr. Hockin said.

Parallel to the West-East Conference, there will be a West-East Businessmen's Exchange Forum and individual seminars on the economic and investment climate in various reforming countries.

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