



## **Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation**

### **Annual visit by the Co-chairs of Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group Tokyo, Hiroshima Miyajima, Japan March 10-16, 2007**

The Annual visit by the Co-chairs built upon the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Bilateral Meeting between the Canadian parliamentarians and Diet members held in Japan in November 2006. The primary purpose of the visit was for the Co-chairs to discuss the parameters for the upcoming 15<sup>th</sup> Bilateral Meeting between Canadian and Japanese parliamentarians to be held in Canada in 2007. The visit also allowed the Co-chairs to reaffirm to their Japanese counterparts the importance of the Canada-Japan partnership.

# Report

## Objectives

- To follow-up on the Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group/Japan-Canada Diet Friendship League 14th Bilateral meeting of November 2006 and discuss the objectives and parameters for the 15th Bilateral meeting;
- To raise Canada's profile in Tokyo and Hiroshima through strategic engagement of Diet members, local officials and Japanese and Canadian businesses; and
- To reinforce links between parliamentarians from Canada and Japan.

**Meetings (Tokyo)** Tokio Kanoh, Member House of Councilors, Secretary General, Liberal Democratic Party of Japan Research Commission on Oil, Resources and Energy; Katsuyuki Kawai, Member of the House of Representatives, Director, Liberal Democratic Party of Japan National Defense Division; Seigo Kitamura, Member of the House of Representatives, Director, Fisheries Division, Liberal Democratic Party of Japan; Seiji Maehara, Member of the House of Representatives (former President, Democratic Party of Japan); Seiichiro Murakami, Member of the House of Representatives, Acting Chair, Liberal Democratic Party of Japan Research Commission on the Finance and Banking Systems; Takumi Nemoto, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Economic and Fiscal Policies; Hosei Norota, Member of the House of Representatives, Acting Chairman, Japan Canada Parliamentary League; Shinako Tsuchiya, Senior Vice Minister of the Environment; Tamisuke Watanuki, Member of the House of Representatives, President of Japan and Canada Parliamentary League; Philip O'Neill, President, Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan; Neil Moody, Executive Director, Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan. **(Hiroshima)** Yuzan Fujita; Governor of Hiroshima; Yasushi Yamada, Acting Mayor of Hiroshima City; Koki Tada, Honorary Consul of Canada at Hiroshima; Motofumi Asai, President Peace Institute Hiroshima City University.

The program commenced by a visit to the Island of Miyajima, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that embodies traditional Japanese culture, continued in Hiroshima where the Co-chairs met with local leaders and visited the Peace Museum and Park and concluded in Tokyo with formal meetings and events. **Hiroshima**

The Co-chairs were accompanied throughout the visit to Miyajima and Hiroshima by Canadian Trade Commissioner Scott McKeeman. Mr. McKeeman also provided a detailed briefing prior to meetings with local officials.

In his meeting with the Co-chairs, Governor Fujita talked about the long history of trade between Japan and Canada, mentioning sister-city relationships such as Hiroshima-Montreal, but also Fukuyama-Hamilton, as well as existence of a Hiroshima Association in Toronto. The Governor highlighted some challenges such as the steel and shipbuilding industry of the region. The industry is having to reinvent itself to face new

competition and previously strong industries (such as denim fabric) are feeling the impact of Chinese competition.

The Acting Mayor of Hiroshima, Mr. Yasushi Yamada, informed the Co-chairs that Hiroshima City and Montreal have had a strong and active relationship since 1986 (sister cities since 1998). In fact, Montreal is the only North American city with which Hiroshima has relations. Their most recent cooperation was on environment and other related technologies.

The Co-chairs obtained the views of Mr. Asai, President of the Hiroshima Peace Institute on questions of regional stability and the emergence of Japanese nationalism. He feared that the next 5-10 years will lead Japan too close to U.S. policy, particularly if Japan modifies its Constitution to allow for the participation of Japanese troops in active combat roles abroad. Mr. Asai saw a positive role for the United States with regards to the North Korea, identifying a chance for U.S. President George Bush to achieve a diplomatic success.

The Co-chairs were honoured to be hosted to a dinner by Mr. Koki Tada, Honorary Consul of Canada at Hiroshima and President of Canada-Hiroshima Association. He spoke of the Association, which has a membership of 400, and of the links between Canada and the Region.

The Co-chairs visited the Aohata Corporation, Japan's major jam producer; which has been importing Nova Scotia blueberries for the past 25 years. Blueberry jam is the second best selling jam in Japan and 50% of the blueberries used are imported from Canada.

## **Tokyo**

The Co-chairs commenced the Tokyo portion of the program visit by receiving very comprehensive briefings by Ambassador Joseph Caron and Program Managers of the Canadian Embassy. Recurring themes throughout the Tokyo meetings were trade and investments, environment, energy and fisheries; peace and security and bilateral relations.

### **Economy, Trade and Investment**

Representatives from The Canadian Chamber of Commerce provided an overview of its structure and activities in Japan. Canadian companies, they maintained, are not taking full advantage of Japanese markets, particularly in areas of new technologies and value-added products. The Chamber raised the question of the closure of two Canadian Trade Consulates in Osaka and Fukuoka. Such closures, they argued, send inconsistent messages to the Japanese Government as to Canada's interest in furthering trade with Japan.

Mr. Takumi Nemoto, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Economic and Fiscal Policies, provided an overview of Prime Minister Abe's "Asian Gateway Vision" through which Japan will contribute to furthering the stability and prosperity of Asia while simultaneously channeling new vitality from other Asian countries.

The Co-chairs explained that the Canadian Government, like Japan, also wishes to enhance prosperity and strengthen Canada's position in international commerce by

further developing the Pacific Gateway as well as its East Coast. Canada is working to become a conduit for trade for all of North America. Canada's initiative focuses on infrastructure whereas Japan's Asian Gateway is much broader in scope.

The Co-chairs discussed administrative and deregulation reform in the Japanese economy with Mr. Seiichiro Murakami, Member of the House of Representatives. Mr. Murakami expressed admiration of Canada's efforts in eliminating its deficit and hoped that Japanese politicians and voters would come to fully accept that Japan needs to follow similar policies. He provided examples of reform in such areas as the issuing of automobile license plates, the height requirements for new school buildings, and the reduction of the number of civil servants. Japan, he explained, is introducing the concept of market testing, whereby public services provided by the national or local governments are open to competitive tendering between the public and private sector bidders in an open and transparent fashion. Reducing the public debt, which lies at 80% of the GDP in net terms, is of major importance to Japan. He noted that by cutting inefficient grants and subsidies to the regions in an effort to control costs, Japan is now faced with an increasing socioeconomic gap between major urban centers and rural regions. The only solutions in sight are a raise in the consumption tax and a better sharing of revenues from economic centers such as Tokyo and Osaka. Unfortunately, the media has created a powerful negative bias towards such ideas. This contributed to the Liberal Democratic Party's electoral defeat ten years ago

### **Environment, Energy and Fisheries**

The Co-chairs discussed fisheries with Mr. Seigo Kitamura, Member of the House of Representatives, Director, Fisheries Division, Liberal Democratic Party. They compared respective legislative frameworks noting that both countries share similar challenges: conservation of resources, supporting regional economies, and regional/international fisheries management issues. The meeting was pertinent in that Japan is preparing a White Paper regarding its fisheries industry. The Co-chairs gained a deeper appreciation of the magnitude and importance of the fish industry in Japan by their visit of the Tokyo Tsukiji Fish market, which is the largest in the world.

Climate change and global warming were discussed with Ms. Tsuchiya, Senior Vice Minister of the Environment. According to the Vice-Minister, the biggest environmental challenge facing Japan is the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and, as such, it is of great importance for countries to send a positive message to the world on how to meet this challenge. She identified environmental technologies as an area in which economic opportunities exist for both Canada and Japan. As in Canada, the environment is now a top priority for the Japanese electorate. The Vice minister stressed the importance Japan attaches to the 3 R initiatives launched under the G-8.

The Co-chairs were informed of Japan's energy strategies by Mr. Tokio Kanoh, Member House of Councilors, Secretary General, Liberal Democratic Party Research Commission on Oil, Resources and Energy. The strategy aims to secure Japan's energy supply, ensure a sustainable society on a global scale and prevent CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from further increasing. Japan will advance energy conservation technologies world wide and promote the de-carbonization of the energy supply. Japan believes that nuclear power is a key source of energy that can allow for environmental

conservation and energy security. There are fifty five nuclear reactor units in operation in Japan and the government is promoting light water reactors followed by the construction of fast breeder reactors (FBR) by the year 2025 and commercialization by 2050. Japan aims to have forty to forty-five percent of its energy supplied by nuclear reactors and is also considering renewable energies sources such as bio-fuels, ethanol, diesel, wind and solar. Mr. Kanoh spoke highly of the Asia Partnership Program for Clean Development and noted that Japan is the only country in the “emitters top 5” to have ratified the Kyoto Protocol. Engaging other large emitters through a dialogue on clean technologies could be a way to ensure concrete progress, he added.

According to the Co-chairs, even though Canada is primarily an exporter and Japan primarily an importer of energy, both countries share similar challenges in meeting high environmental standards, as well as ensuring global security of supply. This latter point is the key for Japan, which only has 4% energy self-sufficiency.

### **Peace and Security**

The Co-chairs expressed Canada’s appreciation for the deployment of Japanese ships in the Indian Ocean and for providing free fuel and water to allied forces. Security, they learnt, is of increased concern to the Japanese people in light of China’s increased military spending and North Korea’s nuclear program and missile tests. Mr. Kawai, Member of the House of Representatives, Director, Liberal Democratic Party National Defense Division, spoke of Japan’s Defense Agency being upgraded to a Ministry in January 2007 as a positive step towards normalizing Japan’s situation on the international scene. Japan, he said, is looking to increase its contribution to international peace and security activities and looks to Canada as both a partner and a model. Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution is central to the debate on Japan’s future military role. While Article 9 forbids Japan’s self defense forces from using of force as a means to settling international disputes and forbids Japan from maintaining offensive military forces, the Japanese Government believes that after sixty years, Article 9 should now be amended to reflect modern reality. Amending the Constitution, however, will prove to be very difficult in that proposed amendments to the Constitution must receive unanimous consent of Cabinet, be passed by a two-thirds vote in the Diet and then ratified by a national referendum.

When questioned about the recently signed Japan-Australia Defense Pact, Mr. Kawai explained that for Japan to ensure its own security and to contribute in a meaningful way to international peace and security, it must widen its network of alliances beyond that of the US-Japan framework. Other future candidates for similar agreements could be Canada, other NATO members or India. Similar views were expressed by Mr. Seiji Maehara, Member of the House of Representatives and former President of the Democratic Party of Japan. On Japan’s wish to hold a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council, Mr. Maehara was supportive but remained skeptical, saying it will take considerable effort to effect this change.

On North Korea, Mr. Maehara said that Japan will monitor carefully whether or not the Six Party Talks agreement is respected. He offered the view that the Six Party Talks group of countries is an interesting framework in itself and could eventually be used to discuss other regional security issues.

## **Bilateral Consultations**

The Co-chairs met with their counterparts in Japan Canada Diet Friendship League, Mr. Tamisuke Watanuki, Member of the House of Representatives, President of the Japan and Canada Parliamentary League, Mr. Hsei Norota, Member of the House of Representatives, Acting Chairman of the Japan Canada Parliamentary League and Ms. Shinako Tsuchiya, Secretary General, to discuss the upcoming 15<sup>th</sup> Bilateral Consultations. It was agreed that the next bilateral consultations be held in Nova Scotia from August 18 to 25, 2007. The agenda would likely include peace and security, economic cooperation and the environment. **Incoming Ambassador to Canada**

The Co-chairs had an opportunity to meet and hold informal discussions with the incoming Ambassador of Japan to Canada, His Excellence Tsuneo Nishida, at a luncheon hosted by Canadian Ambassador Joseph Caron.

## **Foodex 2007**

Foodex is Asia's biggest food products trade show and this year marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canadian participation in the event. The Co-Chairs toured the Canadian pavilion, participated in a ceremony and attended an evening reception.

## **Conclusion**

The Canadian Parliament and the Diet of Japan have a very privileged relationship. This relationship, cultivated through visits such as this, accentuates the importance of the Canada-Japan partnership. The success of the Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group in promoting Canadian interests would not be possible without the support of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Canadian Embassy in Japan. The Co-chairs wish to express their deepest appreciation to Mr. Joseph Caron, Ambassador, and his staff for their continued support and guidance over the years. The Co-chairs particularly wish to note the professionalism of the Embassy's visit coordinators, Mr. Jean-François Lacasse, First Secretary, and Mrs. Mayuko Toho Yamamoto, Officer in charge of Political Affairs.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. James Cowan, Senator  
Co-leader of the delegation  
Canada-Japan  
Inter-Parliamentary Group

Mr. Gerald Keddy, M.P.  
Co-leader of the delegation  
Canada-Japan  
Inter-Parliamentary Group

## Travel Costs

<b>ASSOCIATION</b>	Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	Annual Co-Chairs Visit
<b>DESTINATION</b>	Tokyo, Hiroshima Miyajima, Japan
<b>DATES</b>	March 10-16, 2007
<b>DELEGATION</b>	
SENATE	Hon. James Cowan, Senator
HOUSE OF COMMONS	Mr. Gerald Keddy, M.P.
STAFF	Mr. Normand Radford, Acting Secretary
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	\$31,439.73
<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>	\$5,342.85
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	\$202.12
<b>PER DIEMS</b>	\$1,684.18
<b>OFFICIAL GIFTS</b>	\$628.32
<b>MISCELLANEOUS / REGISTRATION FEES</b>	\$6,800.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$46,097.20</b>