

Canada in the 21st Century

The Daily Star

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

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30TH Anniversary of Canada-Bangladesh relations



On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Canada, I am delighted to welcome the visit of the Honourable David Kilgour, Secretary of State for Asia-Pacific to Bangladesh. The bilateral relationship between Bangladesh and Canada has been a special one over the years. Canada's assistance to Bangladesh in meeting its development challenges is well recognized. I believe the visit of the Secretary of State to our country would lay the foundation for enhanced and strengthened relations in the future.

Bangladesh looks forward to the expansion of the excellent relations between our two countries from development assistance to a true partnership to encompass all aspects of co-operation, including political, economic, technical, trade, investment and educational fields.

Reaz Rahman
State Minister for Foreign Affairs
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Canada offers quality education:

Canada's universities and colleges are well known for their high standards and educational excellence. This high level of quality is consistent across Canada.

The educational system is publicly funded. In Canada, universities receive about two-thirds of their operating funds from government. Donations and tuition fees make up the rest. The higher education system is also decentralized. Education is the responsibility of the 10 provinces and 3 territories. Membership in Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), coupled with the university's provincial government charter, is deemed as international accreditation. Graduate programs and professional schools such as law, nursing, medicine and engineering have rigorous discipline-specific accreditation procedures.

There are 93 universities in Canada that are members of AUCC. All have Web sites. Direct links to these sites are provided on the AUCC Web site www.aucc.ca.

The system is diverse, offering students a wide range of choices. Universities in Canada range from large urban, multi-campus and research-intensive universities to small liberal arts colleges, offering a wide range of undergraduate, graduate and professional programs.

CIDA in Bangladesh:

Canada is one of Bangladesh's longest standing development partners. Since 1971, Canadian assistance to the country has amounted to over C\$ 2 billion- averaging around C\$50 million annually over the last few years. The current program comprises food aid (25%), support for line ministries (50%) and support to civil society (25%).

CIDA's goal is to reduce poverty by delivering a program based on governance and basic human needs. Within this framework, CIDA has made a special commitment to Social Development Priorities: health, HIV/ AIDS, basic education and children, with gender equality as an integral part of all these priority areas.

For details on CIDA projects, please visit www.acdi-cida.gc.ca

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

CANADA - AN ATTRACTIVE BUSINESS PARTNER

- Canada is the most cost-competitive nation in the world.
- Canada is the lowest-cost country in all software, R&D and corporate services, as well as in two manufacturing operations: electronic assembly and specialty chemicals.
- Canada's costs on average are 14.5% lower than the United States. Canada's cost advantage over the US ranges from 7.5% for food processing to 33.1% for electronic systems development and testing.
- By industry, Canada ranked first in electronics assembly, specialty chemicals, biomedical R&D, electronic systems testing, advanced software, content development, and shared services; second in pharmaceuticals; third in precision components and metal components; and fourth in plastic products and food processing.
- In comparison to their regional U.S. counterparts, costs in Canadian cities are generally 10% to 20% lower.
- Even with a hypothetical 20% increase in the value of the Canadian dollar, Canada's cost advantage would still be more than 5% over the U.S.
- Canada has created one of the most attractive overall investment climates in the world. Canada offers the lowest overall costs for labour, land and construction, and electricity, and one of the lowest corporate income tax rates.
- Canada has established a reputation as a leader in software development. It offers the most significant cost savings among the countries studied.

Source: KPMG'S international study, *Competitive Alternatives: Comparing Business Costs in North America, Europe and Japan*.
www.CompetitiveAlternatives.com

CANADA - A CULTURE OF INNOVATION

Canada is a nation of innovation - through its people, knowledge and opportunities. This is particularly true in information and communication technologies. Internationally recognized for their leadership in areas ranging from photonics and wireless solutions to animation software, security technologies and life saving tools, Canada is on the cusp of an advanced technology revolution.

Many of the Information and Communications Technologies solutions the world needs and wants are available right now from Canada - with still more marvels on the way.

While traditional industries such as resources, construction and the public sector remain strong, information and communication technology industries have been growing by leaps and bounds.

Have you seen Titanic, or Gladiator, or perhaps The Lord of the Rings? If so, you've experienced Canadian multimedia magic in action. Canada dominates the special effects and animation market with globally renowned companies such as Discreet Logic, Softimage and Alias wavefront. More than 80% of the world's animation and special effects software is Canadian.

The information and communications technologies sector consists of close to 30,000 establishments. In 2000, the sector employed 582,000 people, who generated total revenues over \$ 130 billion.

Canada has launched a series of policies and efforts aimed at making Canada one of the world's top five nations, in terms of innovative performance, by 2010. This is an excellent time to seriously consider Canada's information and communication technologies industry - whether you're interested in broadband, wireless, photonics, electronic manufacturing services, intelligent systems or multimedia applications.

There are three general areas in which demand will remain strong or even increase - demand which Canada can help meet.

The first area is directly linked to the one-third of the world's population who have never made a phone call. The need for basic connectivity remains critical in the developing world.

The second area is the need to address safety and security. Due to the events of September 11, the global demand for security

technologies has never been greater. Canadian firms are well placed to respond with more than 150 Canadian companies offering expertise in security technologies.

The area which will continue to be strong is demand for new, leading-edge advanced networks and applications. Rapidly expanding broadband network capacity, and the fast growth in Internet traffic, are creating a healthy future market for things like holographic virtual meetings, immersive gaming environments, streaming music video, and other bandwidth-heavy applications.

Innovation is keeping Canada on the crest of the wave. The information and communication technologies sector accounts for about half of all Canadian private sector R&D.

Three things that are clear:

1. The world-wide information and communication technologies surge is not over, and world demand will continue well into the future.
2. Canada has sound, stable, competitive and welcoming business environment.
3. Canadian information and communication technologies companies are among the most vibrant and innovative in the world.



Year 2002 has a special significance for Canadian-Bangladesh relations as it marks the thirtieth anniversary of our formal diplomatic ties and of our official development co-operation program in Bangladesh.

It has been an impressive three decades for Canada-Bangladesh relations. I am proud of the fact that Canada was one of the first G-8 countries to recognise an independent Bangladesh, and has been active in assisting Bangladesh meet its development challenges. The Bangladesh program continues to be our largest aid program.

In the increasingly globalized world of the 21st century, Canada looks forward to exploring new opportunities for co-operation with Bangladesh. We envision a broadening of the partnership to increased linkages in trade, investment and education as we embark on the next three decades of our deep friendship.

Honourable David Kilgour, P.C., M.P.
Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific)
Government of Canada



Canada has been a close partner of Bangladesh since its independence. The year 2002 is an important year as it marks the 30th anniversary of our bilateral relationship. Over the past 30 years we have achieved much together. In the years to come I hope bilateral ties will be strengthened in wide-ranging areas such as trade, investment, education, development, co-operation, and people-to-people exchanges.

David Preston
High Commissioner of Canada
to Bangladesh

Country Overview:

Canada is the world's second-largest country in area. Comprising 10 provinces and three territories, Canada has a population of about 31 million people. Canada's capital is Ottawa.

Canada is one of the world's foremost economic powers and a member of the Group of Eight, the world's top industrial nations. Much of its wealth is based on a massive natural resource base, which includes timber, hydroelectric power, oil and gas, gold, silver, copper, zinc, and lead. Canada is one of the world's top grain producers. The nation has an advanced manufacturing sector that produces such varied products as motor vehicles and aircraft, paper, chemicals and metals, and electronics.

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Global Vision in the Bangladeshi Telecommunications Network

Nortel Networks is an industry leader and innovator focused on transforming how the world communicates and exchanges information. The company is supplying its service provider and enterprise customers with communications technology and infrastructure to enable value-added IP data, voice and multimedia services spanning Metro and Enterprise Networks, Optical Long Haul Networks and Wireless Networks. As a global company, Nortel Networks does business in more than 150 countries.

Nortel Networks, active in Bangladesh since 1998 has been supplying SDH Radio, SDH Multiplexors and power systems nationwide. The company is now set to become a major player in the Bangladeshi switching market and extend the successful partnership that was already displayed in the transmission market.

The new signature on the future of the Bangladeshi telecom market www.nortelnetworks.com

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