



THE COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CANADA AND JAPAN: TOWARDS A CANADA-JAPAN ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT



We are very pleased that M. Louis Levesque, the Deputy Minister of International Trade (Canada), will be the guest speaker at the first Japan Society luncheon in 2011 which is scheduled to be held on Thursday of next week. This, the first presentation in our Winter Programme, is a must-attend event for all those interested in the anticipated maturation of the commercial relationship between Canada and Japan.

The Deputy Minister will address the germane issues arising in respect of the present and prospective commercial relationship between our two great countries. In today's global economic context, the Canada-Japan commercial partnership offers many opportunities for companies in both countries and the Government of Canada is working closely with the Government of Japan to support business activity, remove impediments to trade, and enhance our commercial relations for the future. As you are aware, Canada continues to examine the possibility of a Free Trade Agreement with Japan, which could further strengthen our commercial relationship and open the door to more collaboration in a range of areas.

Our speaker was appointed Deputy Minister of International Trade in December, 2008, having held a succession of increasingly important portfolios in various Ministries since joining the federal civil service in 1991. Previous to that, he had been with the Ministry of Finance (Quebec). Born in Quebec City, he received a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics and a Master's Degree in Economics from the Universite Laval.

The presentation will be held, from 12:00 Noon on Thursday, January 20, 2011, in the offices of McMillan LLP, 44th Floor, Bay Wellington Tower, 181 Bay Street, Toronto. Please call Ben Ciprietti ([416.366.4196](tel:416.366.4196)) or email the society [ben@japansocietycanada.com] to confirm your attendance. Please mark your calendars and book right away as seating will be limited.

We are pleased to advise that this presentation is being co-sponsored by the *Canada-Japan Society of Toronto* (CJST), the *Japan External Trade Organization* (JETRO) and the *Toronto Japanese Association of Commerce and Industry* (Shokokai).

A light lunch, with refreshments, will be provided at a cost of \$20 for Members of The Japan Society, CJST and the Shokokai and for representatives of JETRO, and \$30 for non-members [please note: costs include HST].

We look forward to welcoming you to this presentation on January 20th. With warm regards,

Ben Ciprietti, President and John Craig, Chairman

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