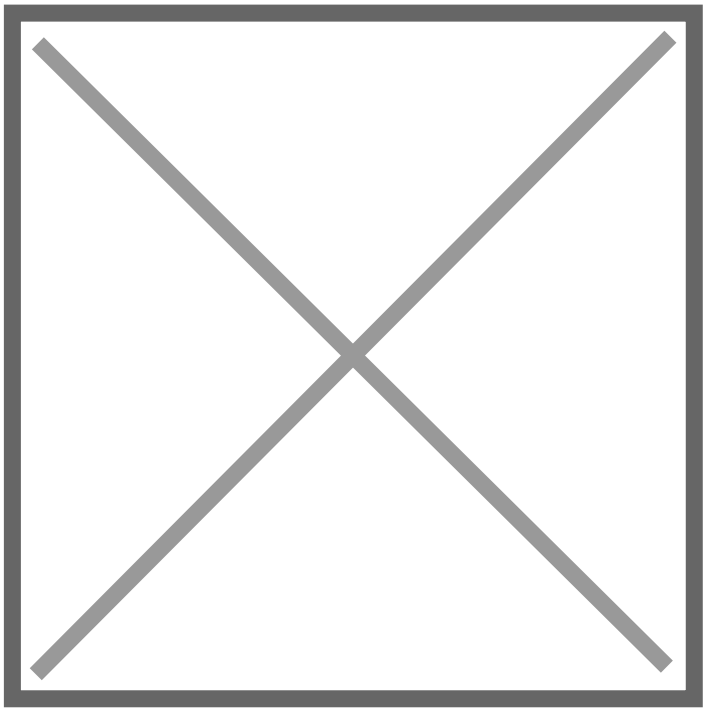
# APF Canada Hosts Canada-in-Asia Conference 2026 in Singapore

12 February 2026 | News

**Promoting Canadaâ??Asia Collaboration on Food Security, Energy Security, and Infrastructure**



**Promoting Canadaâ??Asia Collaboration on Food Security, Energy Security, and Infrastructure**

TheÂ Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APF Canada)Â successfully concluded theÂ Canada-in-Asia Conference 2026 (CIAC 2026)Â in Singapore, bringing together more thanÂ 700Â senior policymakers, business leaders, investors, and experts from Canada and across the AsiaÂ Pacific.Â

Held against a backdrop of geopolitical uncertainty and economic transition, CIAC 2026 centred on three key pillars:Â food security, energy security, and infrastructure,Â exploring how Canada and Asia can develop resilient, future-ready partnerships through policy alignment, investment, and cross-border collaboration.Â

The conference was attended by senior government representatives, includingÂ **Maninder Sidhu, Minister of International Trade (Canada) and Gan Siow Huang, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Trade & Industry (Singapore),Â** reflecting the strategic importance of Canada-Asia engagement at both the regional and bilateral levels.Â

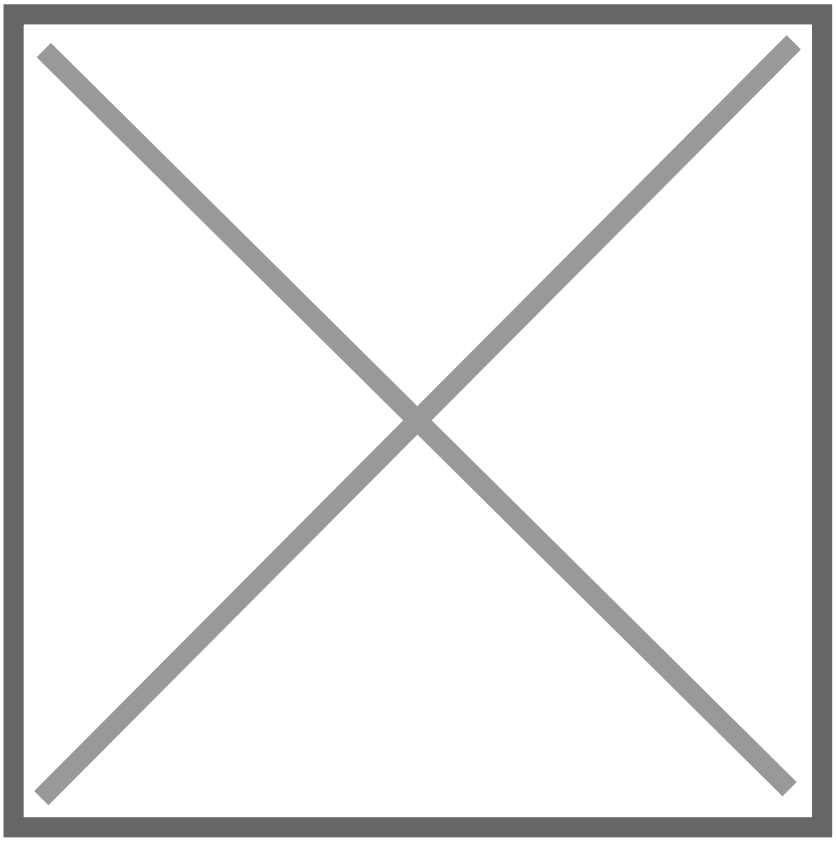
**From Dialogue to Delivery in a Changing Indo-Pacific**

Opening the conference, Jeff Nankivell, President and CEO of APF Canada,Â emphasisedÂ the importance of long-term, trust-based partnerships between Canada and Asia.Â

â??Across the Indo-Pacific, governments and businesses are addressing shared challenges,Â from food and energy security to supply-chain resilience and infrastructure financing,â?• said Nankivell. â??CIAC 2026Â providedÂ a platform to move beyond superficial dialogue and concentrate on practical collaboration that provides mutual benefit for Canada and our Asian partners.â?•Â

Throughout keynote addresses, ministerial discussions, and sector-specific panels, speakers explored how Canadaâ??sÂ expertiseÂ in sustainable resource management, clean energy, agrifood innovation, and infrastructure planning can complement Asiaâ??s scale, market dynamism, and technological leadership.Â

**Key Sessions Addressing Regional Priorities**



*The Hon. Gan Siow Huang, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Trade & Industry (Singapore)*

Several headline sessions at CIAC 2026 explored cross-cutting regional challenges shaping Canadaâ??Asia relations.Â

A high-level session on geopolitics and economic fragmentationÂ examined how middle powers can navigate rising strategic competition, trade realignments, and supply chainÂ disruptions. Speakers discussed the implications for investment flows, industrial policy, and regionalÂ co-operation,Â emphasisingÂ the importance of diversified partnerships and dependable regulatory environments.Â

Another session focused on investment and infrastructure financing, bringing together policymakers, investors, and project developers to discuss how toÂ mobiliseÂ private capital for large-scale infrastructure across Asia. Panellists examined blended finance models, risk-sharing mechanisms, and the role of development finance institutions in unlocking bankable, sustainable projects.Â



*The Hon. Maninder Sidhu, Minister of International Trade (Canada)Â*

Discussions on energy security and the energy transition examined ways to increase the deployment of clean energy whileÂ maintainingÂ affordability and reliability. Speakers highlighted opportunities for collaboration in renewables, energy storage, gridÂ modernisation, and critical minerals, positioning Canada as a complementary partner in Asiaâ??s shift to low-carbon energy systems.Â

A dedicated discussion on food systems and supply-chain resilience examined how climate pressures, demographic changes, and geopolitical shocks are reshaping food security across the region. ParticipantsÂ emphasisedÂ innovation inÂ agri-technologies, sustainable production, and regulatoryÂ co-operationÂ as key drivers of long-term resilience.Â

**Spotlight on Key Country Relationships**

CIAC2026 also included country-specific sessions, with particular emphasis on India,Â China, and Indonesia,Â reflecting their increasing importance in Canadaâ??s Indo-Pacific engagement.Â

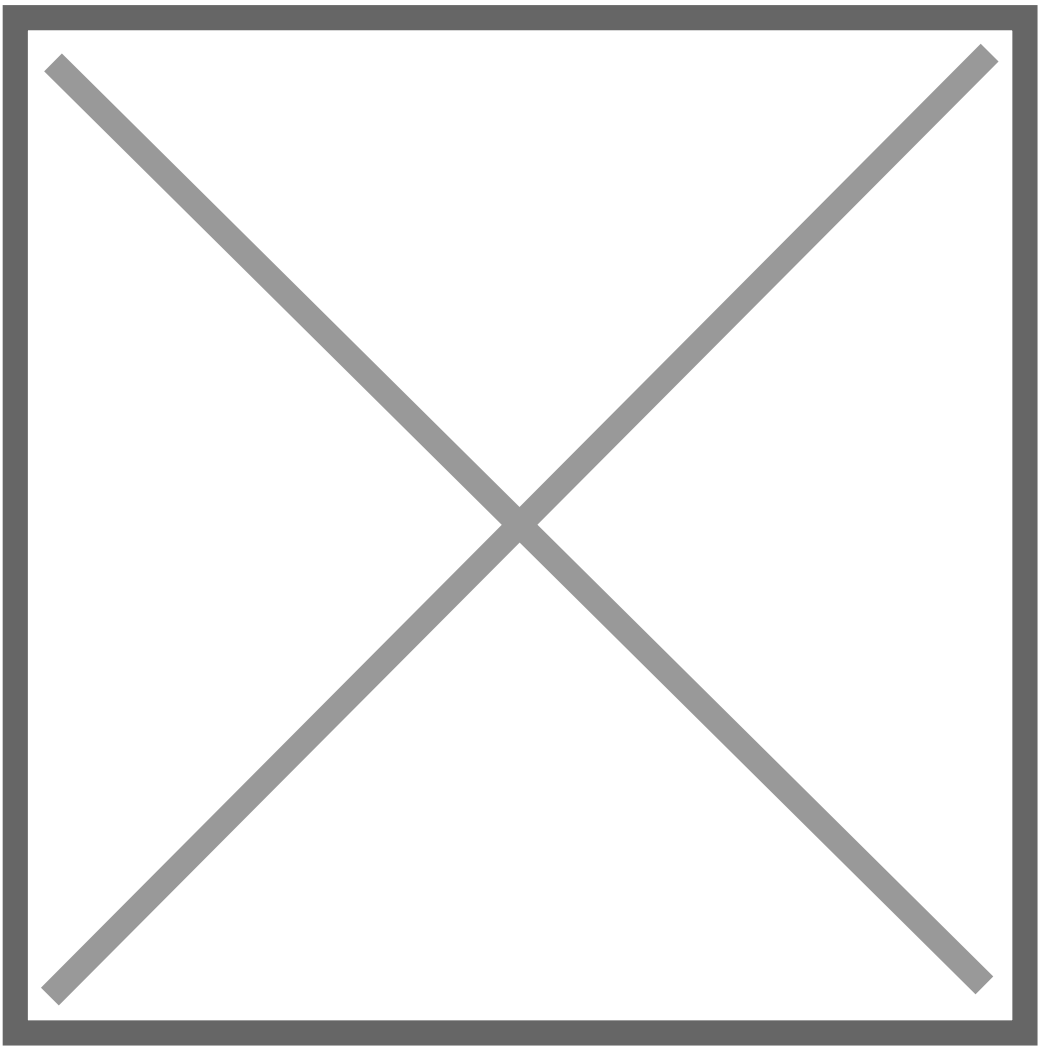
**Canadaâ??IndiaÂ and Canada-China: Expanding Engagement in a Changing Economic Environment**
Discussions on Canadaâ??sÂ relationsÂ with China and IndiaÂ explored howÂ theÂ threeÂ nations can strengthenÂ co-operationÂ amid shifting geopolitical and economic circumstances. SpeakersÂ emphasisedÂ IndiaÂ and Chinaâ??s increasing demand for food security, energy diversification, and large-scale infrastructure investment, and examined how Canadian companies, institutions, and investors can contribute to these key sectors.Â

**Canadaâ??Indonesia: Turning Alignment into Action**
Sessions on Canadaâ??Indonesia relations explored opportunities to deepenÂ collaboration across agrifood systems, clean energy, critical minerals, andÂ infrastructure development. Speakers highlighted Indonesiaâ??s emergence as a regionalÂ manufacturing and resource centre, and the role CanadianÂ expertiseÂ can play in supporting sustainable production, regulatory development, and supply-chain resilience.Â

Panellists stressed the importance of turning policy alignment into commercial partnerships, especially in downstream processing,Â agri-tech, and investment support, positioning Canada as a long-term partner in Indonesiaâ??s economic transition.Â

VinaÂ Nadjibulla, Vice-President ResearchÂ &Â Strategy at APF Canada, who led the Canadaâ??India session,Â emphasisedÂ the importance of going beyond transactional engagement.Â

â??Canadaâ??India relations are entering a phase where strategic alignment must be matched by sustained, sector-led collaboration,â?• saidÂ Nadjibulla. â??What we heard at CIAC2026 was a clear interest in building partnerships that combine investment, technology transfer, skills development,Â and mutual security,Â areas that will be critical to delivering long-term value for both economies.â?•Â



*The Hon. Gan Siow Huang, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Trade & Industry (Singapore) andÂ Barrett Bingley, Asia Regional Director for the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada*

AcrossÂ theÂ country-focused discussions, participantsÂ emphasised that successful partnerships must extend beyond trade flows to include knowledge exchange, workforce capability building, and people-to-people relations, aligning closelyÂ with CIAC2026â??s core pillars of food security, energy security, and infrastructure.Â

**Sustaining Momentum Beyond CIAC 2026**

In closing remarks,Â **Barrett Bingley, APF Canadaâ??s Asia Regional Director,**Â noted that CIAC2026 marked a transition from conversation to sustained collaboration.Â

â??CIAC is not a standalone event,â?• said Bingley. â??It is part of a longer-term effort to connect governments, businesses, and institutions that are shaping the future of Canada-Asia relations. The relationships and ideas advanced here in Singapore will continue through follow-up engagements and concrete partnerships across the region.â?Â

The outcomesÂ emergingÂ alongside the conference underscore this momentum in action. One such example is the newly announced exclusive North American distribution agreement betweenÂ TradeWorksÂ Environmental Inc. and Singapore-basedÂ GoCircular.Â TradeWorksâ?? President and CEO, Meni Mancini, is both a past and current delegate of APF Canadaâ??s Womenâ??s Executive Series (WES), havingÂ participatedÂ in missions designed to foster strategic connections across Asia. Through sustained engagement and market access supportÂ facilitatedÂ by APF Canada, these introductions contributed to the partnership nowÂ formalisedÂ betweenÂ TradeWorksÂ andÂ GoCircular. The agreementÂ demonstratesÂ how CIAC and APF Canadaâ??s broader Canada-in-Asia initiatives helpÂ catalyseÂ commercial outcomes, strengthen cross-border collaboration, and advance Canadian innovation in key sectors such as cleantech.Â Â

In a parallel development reinforcing Canadaâ??s commitment to sustainable economic partnerships in Asia, Canadaâ??s bilateral development finance institution,Â FinDevÂ Canada, announced the signing of a USD 30 million loan to PT Indonesia

Infrastructure Finance (IIF),Â markingÂ FinDevÂ Canadaâ??s first investment in Indonesia. This financing will expand access to capital for renewable energy and other sustainable infrastructure projects that bolster climate mitigation, strengthen infrastructure capacity and resilience, and unlock economic opportunities. Leveraging IIFâ??s deep countryÂ expertiseÂ and advisory role in Indonesiaâ??s infrastructure sector, the commitment builds on the memorandum of understanding signed in 2025 and advances the bilateral agenda by supporting key projects that enhance trade, drive low-carbon growth, and foster long-term sustainable development outcomes.Â