



## NAFI's 2003 Conference brought together:

- 280 participants from the three NAFTA countries;
- More than 40 high-level speakers coming from Canada, the United States and Mexico;
- More than 30 organizations, partners and sponsors;
- A dozen representatives from print and televised Media;
- Many influential people involved in North American integration.

## Our slate of guest speakers included:

- The Honorable Pierre Pettigrew, Minister for International Trade, Canada;
- Ms. Pauline Marois, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Economy and Research, (Québec) ;
- Her Excellency Maria Teresa de Madero, Mexican Ambassador in Canada;
- Lic. Geronimo Gutierrez, Deputy Minister for North America, Department of Foreign Relations of Mexico;
- Mr. Thomas D'Aquino, President and Chief Executive, Canadian Council of Chief Executives;
- Mr. Michael Gadbaw, Vice-President and Senior Counsel, International Law and Policy, General Electric Company;
- Many members of parliament/deputies and senators;
- Leaders of the three national manufacturers' associations;
- And many more...

## Themes of the 2003 Conference

- The creation of a North American Investment Fund;
- The impact of NAFTA on business;
- North American development challenges;
- The effectiveness of North American borders;
- The role of Parliaments in North America;
- The manufacturers' point of view on North American integration;
- NAFTA's consequences on federalism.

The quality of our participants, the diversity of sectors represented, as well as the shared will to ensure a follow-up of the conference have convinced us of the success of this first experience.

During the conference, Dr. Victor Lopez, Director of the Centre for North American Studies of the ITESM has officially announced that his institution will be hosting NAFI's next North American Conference in 2004.