

Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is providing financial and technical assistance to two projects in Thailand which should lead to improvements in the production and handling of fish and vegetable products.

The first project involves the provision of financial assistance to the National Inland Fisheries Institute (NIFI) for the establishment of a fish genetics unit to improve fish stocks that will be used for aquaculture and for the stocking of inland waters. This project will complement recent efforts by the Thai Department of Fisheries to improve fish production from inland fresh water resources in order to alleviate current and anticipated shortages of fish protein in Thailand. The NIFI, which is part of the Thai Department of Fisheries, was created in 1975 with assistance from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The second project is in the form of a grant to the Faculty of Engineering at Chiang Mai University which is working on the development of a storage system that employs passive cooling for fruits and vegetables. The aim of this project is to construct a cooling system that is simple, inexpensive and requires a minimum of skill to maintain. Because it will be used in remote locations and must be within the technical and economic reach of the villagers, the final design will not depend on an external power source.

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The President of the Association of Thai Industries, Mr. Thaworn Phornprapha, visited Canada for 10 days at the end of October, 1981, to promote closer links between the private sectors of the two countries.

On his first day in Canada, Mr. Phornprapha met with his Canadian counterpart, President of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, Mr. Roy Phillips, in Toronto. They compared notes on the structure and operations of their respective organizations and reviewed the current status of Canada-Thailand trade and investment. A number of avenues for mutual assistance were identified and both men agreed to employ the services of their associations to promote links between companies in both their nations.

Mr. Phornprapha met with many senior Canadian businessmen during a very busy schedule which took him across Canada to Calgary and Vancouver. He informed representatives of the largest banking, mining, retailing, and oil and gas firms in Canada about investment opportunities in Thailand, and some have since followed up with return visits to Thailand.

News Briefs

A Canadian-developed drug used by patients suffering from hypertension, angina, and glaucoma has been shown to reduce the risk of deaths from recurrent heart attacks by 40 per cent. In a study of the drug, which was discovered in 1967 by a Montreal chemist, the mortality rate among high-risk patients had been cut by 49.6 per cent. Sudden deaths were reduced by 44.6 per cent in all-risk groups and by 56 per cent in the high-risk group.

Roland Galarneau of Hull, Quebec, Canada, has developed a computer terminal with a braille printer that will allow blind people to receive information from basic sources such as dictionaries and from data banks such as Telidon, which includes news stories, advertising and educational services. The culmination of 20 years of work on various computer systems, his Microbraille terminal resembles a regular computer terminal without the viewing screen. Connected by phone to a data bank, it prints the same information in braille—at about one line per second.

The Ontario Science Centre, Toronto, Canada, has signed an agreement with China for a major exchange of exhibits. The agreement is with a preparatory committee of the Chinese Palace of Science and Technology, which is to be constructed in Peking. The Chinese sent exploratory delegations throughout the United States and Europe before deciding on the Ontario centre's format for public exposure to science in a "hands-on" exhibit context.

A two-week seminar designed to assist the People's Republic of China (P.R.C.) in market research and the promotion of its exports was held in Hull, Canada, recently. Twenty-five commercial officers from Beijing and the P.R.C. missions abroad attended.

The seminar covered a wide range of export-related topics, including the organization of a trade commissioner service, personnel selection and management, establishment of work programs and reporting services, joint ventures and financing. Speakers were drawn from the public and the private sector and included Canadian trade commissioners who recounted their experiences.

The seminar was financed by the Canadian Industrial Development Agency (CIDA) through its regular grant to the International Trade Centre (ITC), Geneva, Switzerland. ITC collaborated closely with the body responsible for organising the seminar—the Trade Facilitation Office, which was established by the Industrial Co-operation Division

of CIDA with a mandate to provide assistance to developing countries in promoting their exports to Canada.

At the end of the seminar the participants paid one-day visits to the regional offices of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce in Canada to see how federal/provincial co-operation in export trade can work.

Forty-eight scholarships for Third World students to study at Canada's Pearson College near Victoria, British Columbia, were provided for 1981-82 through a \$600,000 program shared by Pearson College and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Pearson College offers a unique form of global education, promoting increased understanding and co-operation among students of 50 nations. Its share of the funds for this innovative program were raised from the private sector.

The CIDA awards were provided on a regional basis, depending on a sufficient number of suitably qualified students from each of the following regions: Asia and the Pacific, Caribbean, Commonwealth Africa, Francophone Africa, and Latin America. The recipients will be required by Pearson College to engage in voluntary service within their own or other developing countries for a period of at least one year upon completion of their studies at the college.

De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited, Toronto, and General Motors of Canada Limited, Oshawa, Ontario have received contracts from Australian companies. De Havilland received a \$37.6-million order for eight DASH-8 aircraft and GM received a \$30.7-million contract to provide 25 Titan trucks to the Australian companies of Blackwood Hodge Pty.

Dome Petroleum Limited of Calgary, Alberta, has signed a 20-year agreement to sell 2.6-million tonnes a year of liquefied natural gas to four Japanese utility companies. The agreement with NIC Resources Incorporated, a subsidiary of Nissho-Iwai Corporation of Japan, is subject to regulatory approvals. The agreement will require the construction of a plant on Canada's west coast to liquefy the natural gas, as well as four tankers and other installations.

Two researchers at the Canadian University of Sherbrooke, Quebec, have discovered a way to dispose of a noxious pollutant and at the same time considerably increase the resistance of concrete to compression.

Their work began at the request of a company which specializes in the manufacture of silicon and ferrosilicon. These are obtained when quartz is