

## Waste Management Project Renewed

The Primary Production Department (PPD), Ministry of National Development will, for the next two years, help train engineers and scientists from various Asian countries in wastewater treatment and waste-reuse technologies. A "hands-on" training approach aimed at meeting the need for practical training for staff of the region's environment agencies will be adopted.

Funding for the first group of 20 trainees will be provided by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada. The trainees will range from fresh graduates who lack practical experience in waste management to engineers in mid-level management who are in a decision-making capacity to decide on wastewater treatment options. The IDRC will also be meeting the other costs incurred in operating the program.

An agreement formalising IDRC's contribution totalling S\$439,000 to the project was signed recently. Mr Koh Cher Siang, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Development, Singapore, and Mr Ivan Head, President, IDRC took part in the signing ceremony.

### Third in a Series

This grant is the third to be made to PPD by IDRC. The previous two grants totalling about S\$999,050 (from 1977 to 1983) were used by PPD to carry out research in conjunction with the UNDP-supported Waste Management and Utilisation Project managed by Professor E P Taiganides of the FAO. The joint research efforts resulted in a total recycling system which consists of high-rate algae ponds from which high-protein algae are harvested, and also facilities for the recovery of biogas, treated water and stabilized solids which are used as fertilizers.

The results of the team's research work contributed significantly to the design and construction of a full-scale commercial waste treatment and recycling plant in Singapore which was executed by FAO with funds from the Australian Development Assistant Bureau (ADAB).

The facilities in Singapore developed over the past 10 years are unique in the world and can offer a wide and comprehensive range of treatment and recycling options which the trainees from the region can select and investigate. They will each be trained in Singapore for periods ranging from a few weeks to a month and are expected to return home to form a "human resource pool" which will assist the region's efforts in research in environmental pollution biotechnologies and also in the planning and implementation of national waste management programs.



*Mr Koh Cher Siang, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Development, Singapore and Mr Ivan Head, President, IDRC signing the Asian waste-management training project.*

## IDRC Sponsored Training For Scientific Editors

The first of five Editing and Publication Training Courses is now in progress at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Los Banos, Philippines.

Mr Ian Montagnes, Editor-In-Chief, of the University of Toronto Press is the course director. Funding for the three-year training program is being provided by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada.

The program aims primarily to improve the dissemination of research results in the region. National research programs are developing the knowledge and technology to produce better crops, better health and better quality of life. But the results of these programs are not always efficiently communicated to the scientific community due to a lack of skilled editors

and publication officers. Nor does much of the vital information ever reach the extension agent, farmer or health care worker because there are not enough men and women trained to interpret, simplify and popularize the findings of research.

This four-month course is designed as professional development for staff of research and extension development organizations who are already engaged in editing and publication activities or who have been assigned to launch such activities.

Prospective participants may obtain details and application forms from:

The Director of Research and Training  
International Rice Research Institute  
P O Box 933  
Manila

## SEAMEO/CIDA Projects

The CIDA-assisted SEAMEO project for integrated human resource development held its second steering committee meeting in Bangkok at the SEAMEO headquarters on October 16 and 17.

At this steering committee meeting representatives from the five participating ASEAN countries met to discuss the projects' progress over the past year, to confirm the selection of villages that would be the sites for the pilot projects and to approve the annual project plan of operation.

This project, to which Canada is contributing \$8.9 million, brings Canadian universities and colleges in partnership with the SEAMEO regional institutions to develop and finance training for ASEAN officials who are engaged in development work in their countries. It is providing specialized training and developing links of a more enduring nature between these centres and the Canadian educational institutions that will be working with them.



*Mr Ian Montagnes conducting a session for his class of Asian editors.*