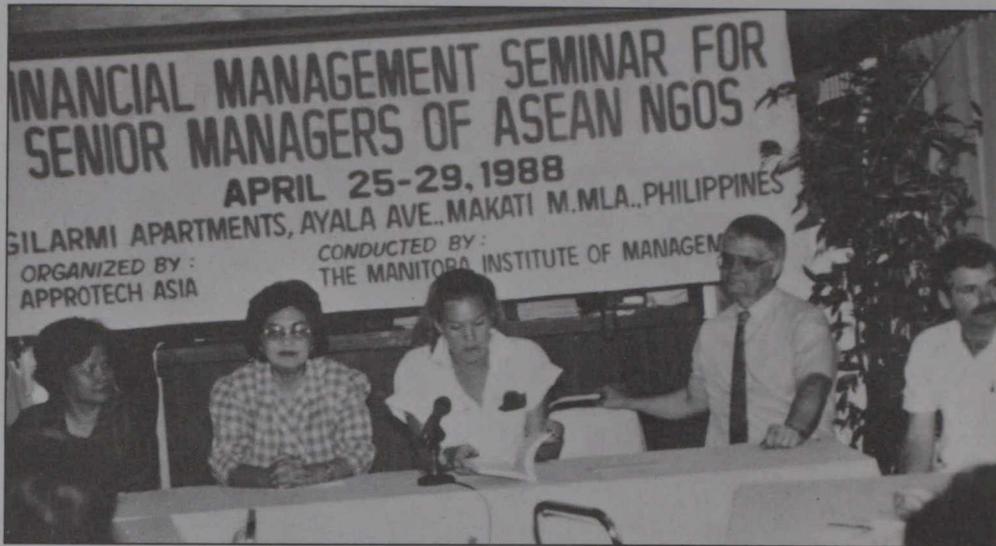


ASEAN-CANADA FUND



1. Opening session of APPROTECH seminar. From left: Erna Witoelar, Vice Chairperson, Indonesian Environmental Forum (WALHI); Lilia Oblepías Ramos, Executive Officer, APPROTECH Asia; Ingrid Knutson, CIDA-Philippines; Brian Trump, Program Director, MIM; Ralph Brown, Program Director, MIM. 2. Opening session of ASEAN food, nutrition and rural development workshop.

The ASEAN-Canada Fund is an activity of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), administered through Canadian Embassies in the ASEAN region. Through this fund, Canada seeks to support the building of a regionally active NGO network. The program is presently coordinated from Bangkok but is soon to be transferred permanently to the Canadian Embassy in Singapore.

The program enables Canada to support the activities of locally based groups working with the rural and urban poor and to respond to their requests quickly and effectively. Its priority sectors have been defined as human resource and social development, environment, agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

Special efforts have also been made to ensure that projects funded reflect Canada's policy of integrating women more fully into its development assistance program. To this end, thus far in 1988, 44 per cent of the projects funded have a strong WID component.

The following are examples of two proposals funded through this ASEAN fund:

1. The Asian Alliance of Appropriate Technology Practitioners (APPROTECH Asia), based in the Philippines, in conjunction with the Manitoba Institute of Management, recently conducted a training seminar for ASEAN NGO leaders. This proposal was developed out of a need expressed by women



working as leaders and managers in regional NGOs.

The participants, representing 15 NGOs, were given an overview of appropriate financial management systems, procedures and techniques. They also received one-to-one assistance in developing financial systems appropriate to their respective NGOs.

To help sustain the project, participants will have access to on-the-ground consultations via APPROTECH. APPROTECH will also monitor and evaluate the project on an ongoing basis in order to provide up-to-date information.

2. In April 1988, Prince of Songkhla University of Thailand hosted an ASEAN food, nutrition and rural development workshop.

The objective was to develop a source book for community development workers in the participating countries. Thirty-eight resource personnel representing five ASEAN countries and a variety of disciplines worked together to develop six draft chapters. These were then evaluated and critiqued by 80 practitioners. These observations will be included in the final version of the source book.

It is hoped that through regional projects like these, organizations working with the poor will be able to learn from one another, strengthen their regional voice in support of more equitable socio-economic development and carry new and innovative techniques to their local communities.