



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

communiqué

Nº:
No.: 135

June 25, 1987.

CANADA CONTRIBUTES TO ONGOING WORK OF
REGIONAL FORESTRY CENTRE IN THAILAND

To support conservation of ASEAN forests, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, and Air Chief Marshall Siddhi on behalf of ASEAN, signed on June 20 in Singapore a protocol confirming \$9.4 million through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) as Phase II of Canadian support to a regional forestry centre in Thailand. Canada contributed \$2.4 million to the initial phase to establish the centre in 1981.

In a highly successful first phase of Canadian participation with the centre, Canadian forestry experts provided technical support for the centre's vital tree seed operation. A second phase, to begin in early 1988, will benefit from this new Canadian support consisting of advisory services, training at Canadian institutions and laboratory equipment.

ASEAN forests are in danger of losing their productive potential unless swift action is taken now to increase the supply of quality forest tree seed and materials for plantations. A further threat lies in the loss of genetic diversity resulting from overcutting. Accordingly, the second phase of the project is designed to enhance the ability of the centre to facilitate research and development relating to the preservation and distribution of tree seeds.

The centre also provides a vital link among all ASEAN forestry departments where information and technology is exchanged for mutual benefit.