



*Canada's Minister for Employment and Immigration Lloyd Axworthy visits Singapore's Minister for Home Affairs Chua Sian Chin to exchange views on refugee matters.*

Mr. Axworthy also exchanged views on refugee matters with Singapore's Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs E.W. Barker and the Minister for Home Affairs Chua Sian Chin, as well as senior officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) from Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. He also toured the Hawkins Road Refugee Centre run by UNHCR.

With assistance from the Canadian government-sponsored International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Singapore Institute of Standards and Industrial Research (SISIR) has designed a 149-square metre solar collector and installed it for the Singapore food manufacturer Hock Hin and Company. The new design of the collector makes it very durable because it is structurally simple and is less subject to corrosion since it does not contain water.

The solar collector has been operating since mid-May and has already demonstrated its potential for substantial energy savings. On sunny days it supplies about 40 per cent of the hot air needed to dry the firm's rice vermicelli. The savings in electricity costs from the use of the collector in the first year alone are estimated to be about \$87,000. The \$10,700 initial cost of the collector will, therefore, be recovered in about 18 months. This compares very favourably with more complicated and expensive solar water heaters, which normally take three to four years to recoup their cost.

The collector also shows considerable

potential for many other industrial applications. It could be used in the drying of paints, timbers, plywood, textiles, or in any other operation that requires hot air.

## THAILAND

Thirteen teachers from across Canada, spent six weeks in Thailand during July and August conducting in-service training projects and workshops for Thai teachers. Sponsored jointly by the Canadian Teachers' Federation and the Private School Teachers' Association of Thailand, this was the ninth year that a group of Canadian teachers have spent their summer holidays this way in Thailand.

Courses in English and physical education were conducted in the capital, Bangkok, and in Nakhon Ratchasima and Suphanburi provinces. More than two hundred Thai teachers were able to benefit from the experience and methods the visiting Canadians demonstrated.

Meanwhile, the Canadians gained substantially through exposure to the different climate and culture of Thailand and many a session lasted well into the evening with exchanges of folk songs and stories of how life is lived on opposite sides of the globe. A highlight of the stay in Thailand for the Canadians was an audience with Her Majesty Queen Sirikit at Chitladda Palace during the last week of their classes.

Plans are already in preparation for next year's tenth anniversary program and both Thai and Canadian organizers are looking forward to the continue

success of this grassroots cultural exchange program.

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Thailand's Minister of Industry Major General Chatichai Choonhavan led a five-man delegation on an extensive 10-day tour of Canada in July. In Ottawa he held discussions with Canada's Minister of State for Trade Ed Lumley, who had extended the invitation to Canada during a visit to Thailand he had made last October. The two ministers discussed Canadian export initiatives in Thailand, including geophysical survey contracts financed by the Asian Development Bank, oil and gas development and projects, and consulting engineering contracts. Canada's Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce Herb Gray also met his Thai counterpart and they reviewed matters of bilateral interest.

While in the Canadian capital, Major General Chatichai also had an opportunity to observe question period in the Canadian House of Commons and was introduced to the House by the Speaker, The Honourable Jeanne Sauvé. The Thai Minister remarked that he had found this a most interesting highlight of his stay in Ottawa.

The delegation then flew to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, where they were met by that province's Deputy Premier Roy Rowmanow. Potash was the main subject of talks. Saskatchewan officials outlined for their Thai colleagues their experience as a government which both controls and takes a market share in the industry. A most interesting tour was organized to the nearby Cory potash mine. The Thai visitors explored a pit face 1,500 metres below ground level and eight kilometres from the entrance shaft and were greatly impressed by the degree of automation they found in this operation.

From Saskatchewan the Thai officials travelled to Calgary, Alberta. They were hosted by Alberta's Minister of Economic Development Horst Schmid who led an Alberta oil and gas delegation to Thailand in December of last year. Thai and Alberta task forces were established as a result of that visit to Thailand and an introductory meeting between the two groups was held in Calgary.

The session dealt with several aspects of energy resource management and development. Minister Chatichai expressed his confidence that Canada would be an ideal source of expertise in the area of natural gas for Thailand's newest energy resource and said that was the reason he made Canada the destination for his first trip abroad to discuss gas policy, development and downstreaming. It was also agreed that Alberta officials would visit Thailand in the near future to further this growing relationship.