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Stothert will review PICOP's modernization and expansion program and the corporation's pulp and paper mill at Bisling, Mindanao; compare existing mill designs with state-of-the-art designs; and develop a program, which can be implemented in stages, for reducing energy and unit costs while improving quality.

#### • CPCS-MOTC

The Philippine Ministry of Transport and Communication has commissioned Canadian Pacific Consulting Services (CPCS) to study ways of improving the Manila-Batangas transportation corridor.

The study will provide an economic and financial evaluation of the land transport sector (road and rail) and port facilities serving the Manila area with special note being taken of the Batangas seaport.

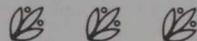
Should the initial study indicate that the preferred strategy includes an expanded role for Philippine National Railways, an additional study will be conducted on how to upgrade the railway.

#### • SNC-Manila Electric

Manila Electric Co. has awarded a pre-feasibility study to SNC of Montreal for the rehabilitation of the Rockwell Power Plant in Metro Manila.

The study will include collecting all data related to the existing operation and maintenance of the plant, determining the present condition of equipment, establishing environmental requirements, recommending how best to upgrade productivity and designing a plan for implementing the improvements.

These four companies are aggressively promoting Canadian technical expertise across Asia. In the Philippines, they maintain representative offices and are actively involved in projects with the Asian Development Bank and other capital projects of a bilateral nature.



## Food Packaging

In September, a five member team from the Philippines joined their counterparts from other ASEAN countries for a special tour of Canada's food packaging, processing and equipment industries.

The trip took delegates to British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime provinces enabling them to observe at close hand the state-of-the-art technology in operation throughout Canada's food industry. The delegates also learned how Canadian food companies are dealing with such issues as labelling policies, health standards, pollution and food sanitation.

The Philippines delegation consisted of Administrator Emil Ong of the National Food Authority, Salvador Reyes of Pure Foods, Edmund Perez of San Minuel Corp., Louis Co of Phillips Food and Ken Ramos of RFM Corp.

## MALAYSIA

# Rural electrification: An ingenious Canadian solution

On a recent visit to Malaysia, Quebec's Minister of Energy and Resources, John Ciaccia, toured the site of BG Checo's Capacitive Coupling System (CCS) pilot project in northeastern Malaysia.

The CCS was developed by Hydro Quebec, Canada's second largest electrical utility and a world leader in electric power transmission technologies. The technology is manufactured and marketed worldwide by BG Checo, a Montreal-based company.

This ingenious system allows power to be tapped from passing high voltage transmission lines to serve local communities on a 24-hour basis. The towns and villages served would otherwise be forced to rely on local diesel turbines for their electricity, a much more costly and unreliable alternative that often provides electricity for only part of the day and can require extensive capital investment in terms of access roads, equipment and site construction.

### Thoroughly proven

The advanced CCS technology has been thoroughly proven in Quebec and is now operating in several countries in Latin America. Malaysia is the first

country to install a unit for evaluation in the ASEAN region where the potential market is substantial.

During his calls on key ministers, Mr. Ciaccia emphasized how the CCS could contribute to Malaysia's industrial development through technology transfer from Canada since much of the equipment required for the unit can be manufactured locally under BG Checo guidance — the evaluation unit was fabricated by Malaysian Transformers Sdn Bhd.

### Export potential

Mr. Ciaccia also highlighted the potential for export of the CCS from Malaysia to other countries on the basis of joint Malaysian/Canadian co-operation.

Minister Ciaccia's visit to Malaysia follows on the heels of that of Pierre MacDonald, Quebec Minister of Foreign Trade and Technology, who led a large trade delegation to Kuala Lumpur in April. These visits, along with the various commercial missions which the province organizes each year, demonstrate Quebec's commitment to increasing its trade and investment presence in Malaysia and the rest of ASEAN.



High Commissioner von Nostitz presents C\$75,000 cheque to Noor Farida Ariffin, APWLD executive committee head.

## Women's Forum

A recently established Asia-Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) has received an initial grant of C\$75,000 from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The setting up of the Asia-Pacific Forum resulted from a series of deliberations held before and at the Third