

Indonesian Resource Centre at UBC

In response to the increasing interest being focussed on the Pacific region by Canadian university and business communities, the Canadian government will contribute almost C\$435,000 to the University of British Columbia (UBC) for an Indonesia Resource and Policy Project establishing an information centre on Indonesia.

The aim of the resource project is to provide the Canadian public with an information service dealing exclusively with Indonesia, the world's fifth most

populous country.

The project will offer a complete range of government reports, Indonesian newspaper articles, studies and analysis on the political, economic and social situation in Indonesia.

The financial contribution will be spread over three years and will be provided by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

"The University of British Columbia has all the necessary expertise and resources to manage this project," commented

the Minister for External Relations, Monique Landry, when announcing the contribution.

"The centre will improve the quality of Canadian knowledge about Indonesia and will serve Canada's business community, government and non-governmental organizations," she added.

The Institute of Asian Research of UBC, which will be responsible for the project, will thus strengthen ties between Canadians and Indonesian research institutions.

PHILIPPINES

Musical instrument workshop founded



Mr. Gagnon (left) and his artisans in their workshop.

Canadian Jacques Gagnon, who settled in the Philippines, has founded the Istituto Luiteria Italiana which successfully produces classical string instruments based on originals designed by Italian masters.

Realizing the high quality of local craftsmanship while vacationing in the Philippines, Mr. Gagnon began experimentally producing prototypes of classic string instruments. With the success of these experiments, he went into business.

The Istituto produces four to five bows per week and about four classic

string instruments per month under the direction of Mr. Gagnon who for 20 years was a double bass instrumentalist with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra.

The Istituto has sold bows in New York, Boston and Montreal. Mr. Gagnon is currently discussing with Filipino businessmen and musician Paul Manikan the possibility of exporting classical guitars and lutes.

The Istituto was also commissioned to produce prototypes of the mini-bass for the musicians' worldwide project initiating children to this instrument.

Filipino conductor Sergio Esmilla of the Manila Symphony Chamber Orchestra and other musicians affiliated with the Cultural Centre of the Philippines have been impressed with the quality of the Istituto's products.

Mr. Gagnon's core of artisans includes violin-makers Angelo Gabute, and Amador Tamayo — a professional cellist who studied violin-making in Germany — world-class bow maker Paniflo Cruz, and bass-maker Alfredo Cruz.