

Canada Donates Funds To Negros Emergency Program

Canada has donated \$385,000 to a UNICEF emergency action program for the children of Negros Occidental, Philippines where the steep decline in the world price of sugar has had a particularly severe effect on sugar workers and their dependents. As a result of sugar mill closures and reduced planting, many workers have lost their sole means of livelihood and it is estimated that 25-50 percent of the province's children are now suffering from malnutrition. The UNICEF program is a component of a wider action program for Negros Occidental formulated by the Philippine Government.

The UNICEF program is multifaceted and includes supplementary food assistance, food production, growth monitoring and nutrition education, primary health care support and technical assistance to the provincial planning and development office. Canada's contribution will support the growth monitoring and nutrition education aspect which will involve basic nutrition training for parents, community groups and field workers and will give local communities the means for continuous on-going child nutrition surveillance.



Minister Vicente B. Valdepenas, Jr of NEDA (right) receives the Canadian donation to the UNICEF program from Mr Pierre Ducharme, of the Canadian Embassy.

Canadian Companies At ADB

Two Canadian engineering consultancy firms based in Calgary, Alberta have been awarded contracts in Philippine energy projects which are being assisted financially by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). In August, Montreal Engineering (Monenco) signed with the ADB a US\$ 350,000 technical assistance grant for a coal development study to be used by the private coal mining industry in the Philippines. Coal is one of the energy sources that the Philippines is vigorously developing to curb its dependence on oil. The study is to examine the investment and regulatory environment for private sector investments in the coal sector. The second firm, RTM Engineering, is to be awarded a contract for consulting services for an energy conservation study involving the Bataan Refining Corporation (BRC).

In a related development, several Canadian companies have expressed interest in prequalifying for the consultancy requirements of another energy related project being funded by the ADB. This project involves consulting services for a study aimed at strengthening the technical and managerial capabilities in mining development, engineering and operations planning of the PNOC Coal Corporation. As one of the world's largest coal producers, Canada's expertise in coal development is well established.

Musical Tribute

Two Canadians from Montreal, Quebec, Moe Schwartz and Ben Kaye have produced a Musical narrative on a 45 rpm record as their tribute to the Philippines and its people. The record entitled "The Philippines, Pearl of the Orient Seas" has been aired in the Philippines and Canada on a hook-up broadcast between the radio station, Voice of the Philippines, and the Montreal based station CFCF.

The production of the record was a personal project for Schwartz and Kaye who both maintain close links with the Filipino community in Montreal. Schwartz is a customs broker, while Kaye is a music management agent and composer. The lyrics were written by Ruth Beloff and the music composed by Ben Kaye and Ian Cooney.

The duo were well received in Manila and, indeed, the Mayor of Manila made both Kaye and Schwartz honorary citizens. The spirit of the recording caught on quickly and Mr Moy Illusorio, a Filipino businessman and philanthropist has donated an initial cash prize of P 50,000 for a contest to translate the lyrics into Tagalog, the national language of the Philippines. Arrangements are being made with a Philippine recording company to cut copies of the tribute.



Petrol Canada's New Venture

Petro Canada International Assistance Cooperation (PCIAC) and the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) recently signed an agreement for a cooperative project to assess onshore and offshore hydrocarbon prospects in the Philippines. This agreement marks the second phase of an earlier cooperative venture for drilling activities in the Cagayan Basin area. During the first stage of the program, Petro Canada's state-of-the-art seismic vessel, the Bernier, also conducted a sonic exploration of the Visayan area to contribute to the collection of new seismic data in the waters of Southeast Asia.

The second phase costing approximately \$375 million will involve Canadian technical assistance and computer software for an offshore seismic survey of Mindoro, the Ragay Gulf and the Sibuyan Sea and for the development of the Tara sub-sea area.

The survey requires the acquisition, processing and interpretation of 3,000 seismic kilometers which merit seismic detail control. Petro Canada will provide and install computer software to expand the use of the PNOC computer system for geological and engineering applications including log analysis, reservoir analysis, reserves estimation, production forecast, thrust-fault modelling and special seismic processing.