

Canadian-Thai business group holds first meeting in Bangkok

A Canadian-Thai businessmen's group recently held its first meeting in Bangkok. The purpose of the new association is to enhance contacts and improve understanding between businessmen from the two countries.

The inaugural gathering, which was organized by the commercial division of the Embassy, was presided over by Canadian Ambassador Fred Bild. Ambassador Bild described the formation of this group as an important step in the

growth of commercial relations between Thailand and Canada. "Meetings between businessmen of our two countries on an informal basis are a key element to the development of trade and other economic linkages", he said in welcoming the large group of Thai and Canadian businessmen.

It is planned that the Canadian-Thai businessmen's group will meet on a regular but informal basis the second Tuesday of every month at the Canadian Embassy.



CANADIAN-THAI BUSINESS GROUP: Participants in the first meeting of the Canadian-Thai business association included: (left to right) Montri Amphaiphan, Canadian-Pacific Airlines; John Sharpe, Archibald Sharpe Assoc; Nathi Kanikananta, Siam Aviation Co. Ltd; Ambassador Fred Bild; and K.H. Liu, Asia Fibre Co. Ltd. The businessmen's group was formed recently to enhance contacts and improve understanding between the two countries and is to hold monthly meetings.

Donation made to centre for the deaf

Canada's Ambassador to Thailand, Fred Bild, recently presented the last instalment of a contribution of \$47,000 to the Centre for Deaf Alumni.

The centre was established in 1969 through the efforts of the Foundation for the Deaf under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit. It is a voluntary non-profit group composed of deaf adults working to train themselves for independent productive lives.

The aim of the Canadian contribution under project "Making Sense" is to help the centre achieve its goals to enable mute individuals to cope with deafness and ultimately, find employment. Activities at the Centre for Deaf Alumni include specific job skills training, job placement and counselling services, sign language development, training deaf people to be leaders and instructors in their own vocational programs and, finally, providing a forum for deaf adults for community discussion.

Science award for dryer

A low-cost dryer for grains which was developed with assistance from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) was recently given an award by the Science Society of Thailand.

The dryer was developed by the Thai Department of Agriculture, and won second prize at a "Scientific Inventions Contest" held by the science society under the patronage of King Bhumipol Adulyadej.

The department of agriculture, with IDRC funding, has been testing and modifying various drying and storage systems for rice, maize and other grain legumes in recent years. Its prototype dryer, which costs about \$440, has a capacity of two tonnes and can be fuelled by diesel oil or by rice husks and other agricultural wastes.

SINGAPORE

Local company to make Canadian dock equipment

A Singapore company, Material Handling Engineering Pte. Ltd. (MHE), signed a joint-venture agreement in March with a Canadian company, Argo Engineering Ltd., to manufacture dock levellers and platforms.

The two companies were introduced at Canex '82, a technology transfer exhibition held in Singapore last June which aimed at encouraging joint-ventures between firms in Canada and the ASEAN group of countries. Canex '82 was the second in a series of similar exhibitions sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency

(CIDA).

Under the licensing agreement, MHE became the only company in ASEAN to manufacture the technically-superior elevating docks for which Argo is internationally known. The Edmonton-based company has two manufacturing plants in Canada, as well as licensing arrangements for the United States, the United Kingdom, Latin America and Scandinavia. The Singapore venture will be its first Asian operation.

When the agreement was signed on March 24, MHE's General Manager, William Lau, said his company was

pleased that the agreement not only called for a transfer of technology, but also provided for the training of key personnel at Argo's plants in Canada.

"The technology of materials handling is moving fast with the times," Mr. Lau said, "and we are convinced we can learn from Argo, who is a leader in the field."

Mr. Lau disclosed that the specialized dock equipment had already found acceptance by local architects and by government housing authorities in Singapore, and that a number of orders had already been placed with the company.