

last month had been most productive, he said, and specific areas for co-operation had been identified in the industrial and commercial sectors, in agriculture and forestry, energy, science and technology as well as transportation, communications and mineral resource development. In the near future co-operation will begin in several areas including collaboration between Canadian and ASEAN energy experts to reduce dependence on imported oil; a feasibility study on the setting up of a regional coal-handling centre; and a \$500,000-allocation for co-operation in oceanography. The Minister also drew attention to the signing last September of the Economic Co-operation Agreement, which came into force in June 1, 1982. The agreement covers co-operation in the industrial, technical, developmental and commercial spheres.

### Trade Discussions

Dr. MacGuigan referred to the significant increase in two-way trade between Canada and ASEAN, which has tripled over the past six years and has now reached over \$1 billion annually. In recent years trade between Canada and ASEAN grew three times faster than Canada's trade with the rest of the world.

In response to ASEAN interest in Canada's Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), Dr. MacGuigan announced that the Canadian government had recently agreed to extend the GSP for an additional 10 years and that it will soon be introducing legislation to implement cumulative rules of origin. Almost 90 per cent of ASEAN's exports to Canada enter duty free or under a GSP tariff.

### Canadian Capabilities

Canada was looking for a greater recognition by ASEAN members of Canada as a country with high technology capabilities and as being a source of high quality goods and services. Canadian firms are anxious to participate in the ambitious development plans of ASEAN countries in areas such as energy and resource development, transportation and communications. The Canadian government, for its part, takes every opportunity to portray ASEAN as a priority market area to its private sector. Dr. MacGuigan noted, for example, that the Canadian government is currently preparing a series of trade development strategies outlining economic development and trade opportunities in the respective ASEAN countries to encourage Canadian companies to expand into the region.

Another means of developing closer economic co-operation, Dr. MacGuigan said, was through the encouragement of

## ... Thailand for an Official Visit



*Foreign Affairs Minister Siddhi Savetsila welcomed Dr. MacGuigan to Thailand with the traditional garland of flowers.*

investments and joint ventures in ASEAN. In this connection the Canadian government sponsored CANEX '82 in Singapore from June 22-24. Twenty-one small and medium-size Canadian companies were involved in this joint venture—technology transfer exhibition. Approximately 140 business people from the ASEAN countries participated.

### Development Co-operation

Dr. MacGuigan also reviewed Canadian development co-operation with ASEAN, which includes two projects initiated last year—the Forest Tree Seed Centre and the Fisheries Port-Harvest Technology Project. He also described new instruments and mechanisms through which Canada has already begun to broaden the range of co-operation with ASEAN and its member countries. These include the Industrial Co-operation Program, through which the resources of expertise, knowledge and financing that reside in the private sector can be tapped; the Institutional Co-operation Program, through which the co-operation between Canadian universities, colleges, technical and other institutions and their counterparts in ASEAN can be financed; and the Management for Change Program, which enables Canada to contribute to projects to enhance managerial capabilities.

### Support for ASEAN on Cambodia

Dr. MacGuigan said he had been impressed by ASEAN's growth and sense of common destiny and by the economic and social progress achieved in the region, which has been an essential

underpinning for peace and stability. Accordingly, Canada would continue to co-operate with ASEAN in the search for a peaceful settlement in Cambodia that would remove foreign occupation troops from that land, provide for the Khmer people to choose their own government free from external pressure, and halt the flow of refugees.

During the Post Ministerial Conference it was learned that a coalition had been successfully formed amongst the three Cambodian groups currently opposed to the Vietnamese occupation, and Dr. MacGuigan took the initiative to congratulate ASEAN for its consistent efforts in helping to bring this about.

### Refugee Resettlement

So long as Hanoi refuses to end its occupation of Cambodia, Canada for its part would not help subsidize its military activities by extending development aid to Vietnam. Dr. MacGuigan added that at the same time Canada would continue to share the refugee burden that has fallen in the first instance on the shoulders of the people of the countries of ASEAN. Since the flow of Indo-chinese refugees began, more than 70,000 have been resettled in Canada.

Canada's commitment to ASEAN and to the development of relations with the member countries will be further underlined with the visit in September of Prime Minister Trudeau to all five ASEAN capitals (see story p.3).

All figures in this publication are in Canadian dollars unless otherwise specified.