

4.4 International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

IDRC supports research and development activities in developing countries such as Thailand. IDRC provides technical and financial assistance for research activities identified and carried out by local scientists and universities. IDRC maintains a regional office in Singapore. To date, IDRC has supported more than 250 scientific research projects in Thailand for total disbursements of approximately \$31.2 million. IDRC funding in Thailand has ranged between \$2 and \$3 million annually over the past five years. A total of 91 projects are currently being implemented.

4.5 Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation (PCIAC)

PCIAC is a non-profit subsidiary of Petro-Canada funded by the Government of Canada. Its mandate is to assist developing countries in finding and utilizing their own oil and gas reserves. PCIAC has been involved in Thailand since 1983 on two related projects.

In 1983 and 1984, as part of a \$8.75 million agreement, PCIAC assisted Thailand in acquiring and interpreting seismic data from an exploration concession in the Gulf of Thailand and in assessing the economic viability of small offshore fields. Practical training was also provided to geologists and geophysicists from Thailand in relation to this work. Other projects supported under this agreement

included a study by CanOcean Engineering to evaluate the feasibility of utilizing compressed natural gas for vehicular fuel in Bangkok and an assessment of the need for a computer-based petroleum data collection, and a storage and retrieval system for the Thai Department of Mineral Resources.

In March 1987, a new four-year \$8.7 million Technical Co-operation Project Agreement was signed to assist the Thai oil and gas industry in the area of exploration and production as well as gas operations and management. The agreement involves the transfer of technical expertise to the Petroleum Authority of Thailand as well as assistance to the Petroleum Institute of Thailand in the formulation of its long-term plan, and for professional training.