



# communiqué

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## MINISTERIAL TRADE MISSION TO SOUTH EAST ASIA COUNTRIES

The Honourable Gerald Regan, Minister of State (International Trade), announced today that he will lead a 17-day trade mission to the South East Asian countries of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, and to Hong Kong, from May 3 to 19, 1983 as a follow-up to Prime Minister Trudeau's January visit to the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations).

Mr. Regan will be accompanied by a group of about 40 representatives of Canadian firms pursuing major commercial opportunities in the region. A number of trade interests supported by Mr. Trudeau at the time of his visit will be pursued by Minister Regan and several new commercial initiatives will be explored.

The major sectoral developmental needs of the South East Asian economies are matched in many respects by Canadian supply capabilities. The mission will particularly focus on marketing Canadian technology and products in transportation, telecommunications, power generation and transmission, and resource development including forestry.

In 1982, two-way trade between Canada and ASEAN and Hong Kong exceeded Canadian \$2 billion. During the current worldwide economic slowdown these markets have shown continued growth rates attractively superior to the economies of the western countries, and as such represent important opportunities for Canadian suppliers.

Mr. Regan added that "this trade mission will give added impetus to the vigorous trade relations already developing between Canada and this Pacific region".