



Trainees at the rattan handicraft workshop

Rattan Handicraft Training for Youths

■ "Catch me a fish and I will have something to eat today; teach me how to fish and I will have something to eat every day." This is the spirit of a recent project to train youths from rural areas in Malaysia to make rattan handicrafts. The project was supported by the High Commission's Canada Fund.

A project organized by the 4B Youth Movement of Sungai Buloh in Malacca was the recent recipient of a contribution of \$6,100 from the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives to purchase a rattan splitting machine, raw materials and teaching aids. In collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Malaysia, the project consists of a three-week intensive course and one-year informal training program in rattan handicraft. The UNDP supplied a field worker to provide technical, management and coordination services.

In the rattan handicraft training project, 14 young

men and six young women from small and rural communities in Malacca were taught such skills as the identification of rattan varieties, rattan processing and production, marketing, and management of a small-scale venture. The youths were also exposed to a two-day study tour of rattan processing factories to witness practical aspects of the rattan industry.

Coincidentally, the training project took place at the Appropriate Technology Centre, which was established in 1983 with a financial contribution of \$24,000 from the Canadian International Development Agency.

The Canada Fund supported project provides an opportunity for youths to be trained in an increasingly lucrative industry and will simultaneously enable the Sungai Buloh 4B Youth Movement to venture into the processing and export of rattan on a commercial scale.

Philippine Plant Quarantine Officials Visit Canada

■ Agriculture Canada's Plant and Health Directorate invited Mrs Estrella Tuazon, Chief, Plant Quarantine Inspection, and Mr Eduardo Sarmiento of the Port of Cebu, to visit Canada to discuss and resolve mutual quarantine concerns. The Philippine delegation visited the Okanagan fruit-growing region, the Port of Vancouver inspection branch and various grains terminals. In Ottawa, they held a round-table discussion with Agriculture Canada officials to formalize a plant quarantine protocol between Canada and the Philippines.

