

CANADIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION LINKS WITH ASEAN

Canada's development cooperation relationship with ASEAN is changing from the classic donor relationship to a more mature economic and political partnership. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has been a major catalyst in this evolution.

CIDA programs aim to make strategic interventions that support and reinforce the ASEAN cooperation. The Agency is committed to assisting countries in restructuring their economies by strengthening private sector linkages. CIDA has identified human resource development, science and technology, and the environment as natural areas for regional cooperation.

Human resource development (HRD) is the largest component of the CIDA program. While all projects include a training component, several attempt to strengthen regional educational institutions such as the Asian Institute of Technology, the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), the Asian Institute of Management, the Asia Pacific Institute of Broadcast Development, and the ASEAN Deans of Graduate Schools of Management. Subject areas include human settlement, tropical biology, business management, and Women-in-Development initiatives. Almost twenty Canadian colleges and universities are involved in linkage arrangements.

In the area of science, technology and the environment, CIDA is undertaking a number of projects. The ASEAN Institute of Forest Management has developed state of the art techniques for inventory, monitoring and management of the tropical rainforest. The ASEAN Canada Forest Tree Seed Centre undertakes reforestation through seed technology. Solar drying processes are being developed for agro-industry, grain and fishery post-harvest techniques.

CIDA is assisting the development of environmental standards aimed at pollution abatement and sustainable use of coastal marine resources. Collectively, these projects encourage ASEAN scientists, technicians and bureaucrats to work together to solve regional problems in a cost effective manner. They also introduce and give profile to Canadian capabilities in these areas.

CIDA's annual disbursements on the ASEAN/Regional Institutions program are \$12 million, covering some 25 operational and planned projects. The Canada-ASEAN Centre, established in Singapore in 1989, is a mechanism supported by CIDA which is designed to develop a network linking Canadian and ASEAN interest groups in a wide range of activities, including development cooperation.

The following are some current projects of the ASEAN-Canada Development Cooperation Program: