

Mr. Clark observed that, "the Canada-ASEAN Centre will provide a stronger Canadian presence in the region and a greater focus for the variety of governmental and private sector initiatives now underway between our respective governments, businesses, and institutions. It will also demonstrate that Canada and Canadians are intent on building long term relationships with our counterparts in this dynamic region. This shows once more that we're here to stay."

Mr. Clark noted that establishment of the Centre is part of the decentralization of operations of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), an initiative flowing from Canada's new Official Development Assistance (ODA) Charter announced by the Minister for External Relations and International Development, Monique Landry, in March, 1988.