

ment System Organization (PISO), Philippine buyers are provided a simple and easily accessible credit facility through the PISO.

Contracts for purchases from Canada are considered on a case-to-case basis with priority given to projects in the communication, wood, and mining sectors.

The PISO was established on March 1, 1974, and in less than a year became an investment house following its licensing by the Securities and Exchange Commission. It has performed successfully in a marketing program involved with both private and industrial development in the Philippines.

EDC is a Canadian Crown corporation that arranges credit for foreign buyers in order to facilitate and develop the Canadian export trade.

SINGAPORE

SEACan Development Ltd., an Ottawa-based firm, is actively involved in the promotion and development of joint ventures between Canada and Southeast Asia. In order to strengthen its position in Southeast Asia the company has recently acquired a Singapore equity partner, Mr. Peter Ngo Gim Kang. Mr. Ngo has been appointed as a director of SEACan and will be responsible for the firm's ASEAN operations. He is a prominent Singapore businessman with active business interests throughout ASEAN, Canada and Europe.

SEACan works through joint-venture partners in Indonesia (Wirasakti-SEACan), Philippines (Certeza International, Inc.), and Thailand (United Industry Ltd., Part.). This network of partners allows SEACan to provide timely and accurate information to clients and to effectively assist in establishing viable joint-venture operations. The company also maintains contact with federal and provincial government officials in an attempt to co-ordinate its efforts with those of the appropriate government agencies.

The Canadian International Developmental Agency (CIDA) has extended an invitation to Singapore's Department of Trade and Industry to send a representative to attend the 8th International Symposium on Small Business, which will be held in Ottawa from October 19-22. The symposium should follow closely on the conclusion of a trade mission the Singapore government

is planning to send to Canada. A representative from the private sector in Singapore will also be sponsored by CIDA, and similar invitations to the symposium are being extended by Canadian missions in other ASEAN capitals.

Three officials from Singapore's Ministry of Education and two from the National University (NUS) undertook a computer programming course in the Canadian capital, Ottawa, for three weeks in May. The training was sponsored by the Canadian government-supported International Development Research Centre (IDRC), which has its Asia regional office in Singapore.

They were Mr. Lee Ching Seng, a librarian at the ministry's headquarters library, Mr. Ten Chin Chor and Mr. Seah Hock Chee, systems analysts at the ministry's computer service branch, Miss Tan Hoon Cheng, a systems analyst at the NUS computer centre, and Mrs. Ong Kim Hong, assistant librarian at the NUS library.

The course was on the use of MINISIS, a generalized information-management system that has a set of programs to support library management and information retrieval in small- to medium-sized libraries for use on the Hewlett Packard 3000 series of computers. IDRC developed this software package and presented it to the NUS, as well as to the Ministry of Defence, last November.

An Easy World Fare has been introduced for travel on Singapore Airlines and Air Canada. The applicable fare levels are \$2,224 (Economy) and \$3,942 (First Class) which represent a substantial reduction on normal around-the-world fares.

The scheme takes advantage of the complementary route networks of SIA and Air Canada. SIA's international route network currently extends to 36 cities in Europe/Middle East, the Orient, Southeast Asia, Australasia and the U.S. Air Canada's network covers major Canadian cities such as Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Halifax and Gander as well as Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Glasgow, London, Paris and Zurich in Europe.

All travel must be on SIA and Air Canada services. Travel can commence at any point in the SIA/Air Canada network and must be undertaken in the same direction, either eastwards or westwards

around the globe, but stops are unlimited. Reservation and ticketing is required to be made at least 21 days prior to date of departure.

The Telecommunication Authority of Singapore has ordered four Multiplus word processors, costing about \$48,000, manufactured by Montreal-based AES Data Ltd., which is 65 per cent owned by the Canadian government.

The Multiplus system is a shared and distributed logic system capable of being expanded to 16 work stations. It operates on the modular concept, which offers flexibility because each work station can be located in a different room — even on different floors.

Equatron, the local agent, is negotiating with other government bodies that have also indicated interest. In 1979 the AES group reported sales exceeding \$125 million worldwide.

The Executive Director of the Singapore Manufacturers' Association, Mr. Toh Tse Ming, was among 12 guest speakers at a conference held June 3-5 in connection with Cantrade '81, International Canadian Trade Fair, in Edmonton, Alberta. The title of Mr. Toh's address was "International Trade Within the Pacific Rim — A Singapore Perspective."

THAILAND

Thailand's Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetsila met with Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan in Ottawa, April 30-May 2, to discuss multilateral and bilateral issues.

Canada-Thai relations have become closer in the past few years in response to developments in Southeast Asia, in particular the outpouring of refugees from Indochina. Thailand, as the front-line country of ASEAN in this situation, has borne the brunt of the security threat posed by the continued occupation of Kampuchea by foreign forces. More than 500,000 Indochinese refugees have moved to Thailand since 1975.

Dr. MacGuigan and Foreign Minister Siddhi discussed plans for this month's United Nations conference on Kampuchea. The ASEAN countries spearheaded a UN resolution last year demanding the withdrawal of foreign troops from Kampuchea. The resolution, which was backed by Canada and a majority of UN members, also called for