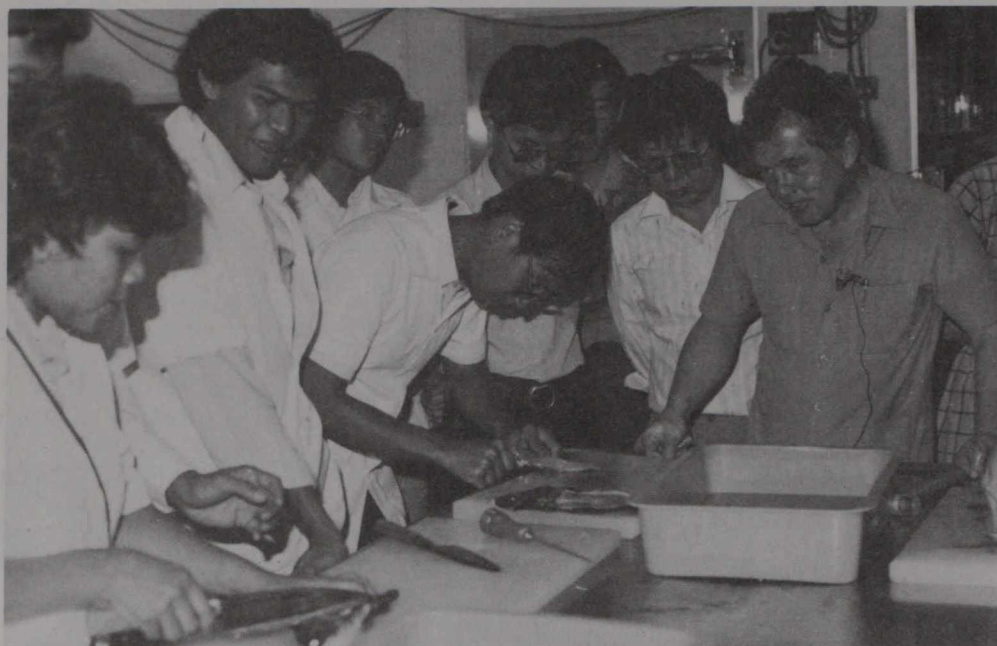


Canada-ASEAN Developments

Fish Inspection Course Provides Practical Training



Proper handling of fish is essential in ensuring a high-quality fish product as demonstrated during recent ASEAN seminar funded by CIDA.

Fifteen representatives from all six ASEAN countries had an opportunity to upgrade their skills in fish inspection and quality control. The four-week course was organised by South East Asian Fisheries Development Centre with the assistance of the Primary Production Department of the Government of Singapore. The course was funded by the Canadian International Development Agency which provided a training budget of Canadian \$33,000 as part of the ASEAN-Canada Post Harvest Fisheries Technology Project. This is but one of a series of fisheries seminars organised to strengthen skills and introduce ASEAN fisheries officers to the latest technologies. The Canadian Government also provided the seminar with the services of a Canadian fisheries expert, Mr Keith Spencer.

During the course, participants were exposed to latest training and technology associated with high-grade fisheries inspection and quality control. The objective of the seminar was to provide practical knowledge and information that would lead to a reduction in spoilage of fish and to an increase in quality control standards from capture to final processing. Visits were organised to various fish markets in Singapore for on-the-spot examination of the handling of fresh fish. This was supplemented by lectures and participation in exercises in the fish inspection laboratory where the microbiological and chemical aspects of fish quality were examined.

The seminar concluded with a presentation of certificates in what all participants considered a highly beneficial and informative session.

Research Into ASEAN Technology

Small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) have been recognised as important contributors to the economic development of a country. Their long run viability depends on their continuing abilities to access and adopt new technologies relevant to everchanging market conditions.

This process of technology adoption in ASEAN will be the focus of a joint project to be undertaken by two Malaysian and two Canadian institutions. They are the Universiti Pertanian Malaysia, Institut Teknologi Mara, the University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Research Council.

Due to the complexity of the project, research work will be undertaken in two phases.

The first phase, lasting about a year and estimated to cost about \$130,000, will be funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada. It will be aimed at collecting pertinent secondary data from small and medium size enterprises and their support institutions. This will lead on to the development of sectorial SME profiles, the determination of the relative performance of SMEs and the selection of the sample size for a survey. Interview guides will also be developed and tested, and a pilot study carried out. The research methodology for the second phase will then be finalised.

Explanation Of Recent

As a result of the last round of the Multinational Trade Negotiations (MTN), Canada and its major trading partners agreed to implement tariff reductions in eight annual steps which began in 1980. In Canada's case the average tariff on industrial products will be reduced from approximately 14% to 9%. Of course exports from ASEAN countries which qualify are accorded the General Preferential Tariff (GPT) which means such goods enter Canada at the lowest possible rate of duty which often is zero, subject to certain conditions.

The first condition is that the value of input components originating in the beneficiary country or in Canada or, since August 1984, originating in any other country eligible for GPT treatment, must represent at least 60% of the selling price of the goods. In addition, a certificate of origin entitled [Form A] must be presented at the time of entry and the goods must be destined for Canada at the time they are exported.

Certain products, such as textiles, clothing and footwear do not qualify for the GPT. In addition these goods are subject to import controls as provided for in the arrangement regarding international trade in textiles, also referred to as the MFA.

Canada has negotiated restraint agreements which expire at the end of 1986 with 17 countries. For each shipment of goods covered by these agreements, it is usually necessary to obtain an export license from local authorities which is then submitted to Canadian authorities to obtain an import permit. The import permit is then presented to customs at the time of entry.

As a further step in the liberalization of international trade, Canada is working toward converting its tariff and commodity classification system to the new Harmonized System which is based on the Revised Customs Cooperation Council Nomenclature. This conversion will greatly simplify the administration of the tariff classification system, will make it much easier to understand and will facilitate the international movement of goods.

In addition to the aforementioned agreements respecting tariffs, several equally important agreements were reached regarding non-tariff barriers. These agreements expand and clarify rules for international trade including the types of measures governments can use to deal with injurious imports.

As a consequence of three of these non-tariff agreements, Canada has made significant changes in its legislation during the past few months which facilitate the export of goods to Canada. New legislation known as the Special Import