

or *pua kumba*, which is handed down from generation to generation of Iban women weavers in long-house communities.

These textiles are more than attractively patterned cloth. The intricate designs convey both a sense of meaning and of power of the spirits they represent. Although the symbolic and metaphorical designs are not abstract, neither are they static. The designs change constantly as embellishments and improvements are made from weaver to weaver and generation to generation.

Highly skilled rural weavers were invited to attend the workshop, but they were not the sole participants. Also invited to the exhibition and workshop were weavers from Canada, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, Australia and India, whose presence provided an atmosphere in which the traditional and modern weavers could interact, compare ideas and methods, and explore marketing strategies to sustain and popularize the tie-dyed Ikat weaving.

In addition to providing support for the participation of 46 weavers from the interior of Sarawak, the High Commission facilitated the participation of a Canadian weaver, Ms Gail Fromson-Assen. Through the Broadcasting In Development project with the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development, the High Commission arranged for a documentary film to be made which will be translated into English, Bahasa Malaysia and Iban.

The Sarawak Minister of Culture, Dr George Chan, announced at the closing dinner that the Exhibition may travel to Australia in 1989 and Canada in 1990.



An Ikat weaver practises her highly-skilled craft at the Weaving Cultural Links workshop in Kuching, Sarawak.

MISS ASIA-PACIFIC PAGEANT IN PHILIPPINES

Ciara Leigh, 23, of Vancouver, British Columbia, was in Manila in early October to represent Canada in the Miss Asia Pacific Quest Pageant. She is seen here flashing a winning smile with Andrew McAlister, Counsellor and Consul at the Canadian Embassy in the Philippines, and Bente McAlister



CELEBRATING NCWO'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

1988 marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of the National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO) of Malaysia, the umbrella group for 43 organizations which acts as Malaysia's principal women's NGO. The Canadian High Commission has been associated with the group since 1985, through a number of Canada Fund projects and CIDA's sponsorship of the NCWO's participation at the 1985 conference in Nairobi which marked the end of the United Nations International Women's Decade. In 1987, the Canadian High Commission established the NCWO — Women In Development Fund to identify and implement development projects focussed on women.

To publicize the NCWO anniversary, an exhibition is being held in Kuala Lumpur which documents the development of the role of wo-

men in Malaysia, both as individuals and in groups. From this exhibition, a book, a video show and a series of information kits will be developed to serve as historical documentation, as well as resource material.

The exhibition at the National Archives of Malaysia was officially opened by Her Majesty the Raja Perempuan of Perlis. The four-and-a-half month display is expected to attract a quarter of a million visitors. Among the more than 600 exhibits are documents, press clippings, posters and artifacts highlighting the role and achievements of the women of Malaysia.

Resources under the Canada Fund were used to facilitate the production of display materials, compilation of information and the reproduction of historical records.