

### THAILAND

# Home Economists co-operate

The Thailand Home Economics Association is twinned with the Ottawa Home Economics Association. The two organizations have worked together to evolve 35 teaching and learning packages covering all facets of homemaking and banana leaf work that would be valuable to 11- and 12-year old Thai children.

Field testing of the learning aids is now complete and is being assessed. If approved by the Thai Ministry of Education, the teaching and learning aids will be mass produced for general use. In this way, teachers without training in home economics will have established guidelines to follow and materials to stimulate the interest of the pupils.

The Ottawa group was recently taken on a tour of schools and government projects aimed at improving the quality of life in rural communities.

The purpose of the tour was for the home economists to assess future areas where Ottawa expertise could be useful, make recommendations to the Ottawa Association and then set up a new program with the Thai Association.



*Women in Pongroo village have been taught to weave. Margaret Wheatley (left) gets a demonstration.*

## Software Seminar

A seminar on Canadian software capabilities held in Bangkok recently was well attended.

Participating in the seminar were five Canadian companies visiting Thailand as part of an Informatics mission to meet potential distributors or joint-venture partners.

The companies were Arrakis Technologies, a producer of computer-aided instruction materials; Xios Systems, a specialist in office integration systems; Accugraph Corp., a leading developer of hardware-independent software packages; DATACAP, developers of Expert Systems, for diagnosis, regulations, planning and training applications; and Resort Systems, a producer of software for hotel and leisure industries.

The seminar received an excellent turnout of about 110 individuals from local computer hardware and software companies, government departments, state enterprises and academic institutions. The interest generated by the seminar was positive, resulting in requests for more detailed information on products and terms for representation or joint-venture agreements.

All five companies were satisfied with the results of the mission and the majority of them indicated that business opportunities identified justify a revisit within the next 12 months.

## CAI to Bangkok

Since October, Canadian Airlines International (CAI), the airline formed late last year when Pacific Western bought Canadian Pacific Airlines, is flying into Bangkok.

CAI serves over 150 points in North America and has the most extensive route network in Canada. Flying out of Vancouver, the airline operates 16 round-trip flights across the North Pacific — 10 to Tokyo, five to Hong Kong and one to Shanghai.

It is the Hong Kong flight that has been extended three times a week to Bangkok. The Shanghai route is also being extended to Beijing.

Bilateral talks are now underway to further expand CAI's presence in the Pacific. When the airline feels the time is right, new destinations like Taiwan and the Philippines will be added.

## Made in Thailand

The relationship between Canada and Thailand has been growing steadily because of the strong commitment by both countries to its expansion.

An excellent example of how to further enhance the growing economic ties between the two countries was the **Made in Thailand Trade Show** held in Edmonton.

At the show's opening, attended by the Thai Minister of Commerce, Montree Pongpanit, Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, noted that Canada was fully aware of the importance of trade, investment and industrial development to the vigour and vitality of the Canada-Thailand relationship. He said the Trade

Show made a major contribution to the continued growth of the relationship.

Mr. Clark commented that Canada has a competitive advantage in seeking a share of the Thai market in the telecommunications, oil and gas, mining and food processing sectors.

However, he added that Canada values its relationship with Thailand in all its aspects noting that the two countries share wide ranging and complementary interests. For example, the security of the Asia-Pacific region; for achieving peace and stability in Indochina, especially where Cambodia is concerned; and for a more open and fairer world trading system particularly in agriculture and resource products.