

Canada and Thailand Reach New Bilateral Agreements

On January 17, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Team Canada witnessed the signing of nine bilateral agreements that will enhance trade and investment and co-operation between Canada and Thailand on fish and fish product inspection, the environment and education.

"These bilateral agreements will help create a more secure business environment, so important for trade and investment, and will expand our education, scientific and industry links," said the Prime Minister.

Foreign Investment Protection Agreement

This agreement will provide greater protection for investors from both countries by establishing improved conditions for investment and enabling Canadian investors to compete in a stable, transparent environment. The main features include most-favoured nation status and national treatment for investors with very little screening; compensation for investors in the case of expropriation; and the right of investors to international arbitration in the case of disputes. Canada has maintained sectoral exemptions in areas such as culture.

Memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Revenue Canada and Thailand's Ministry of Finance
This MOU will allow the two countries to enhance their tax, excise and customs administration.

Agreement to conclude a mutual recognition agreement (MRA) regarding fish inspection and control systems

The two countries have agreed to work as quickly as possible to complete an MRA that would seek to

improve efficiencies and reduce duplications in these systems. The Thai Department of Fisheries would be the responsible authority for approving plants in Thailand to export products to Canada. Products would be subject to reduced frequency of inspection.

MOU on environmental co-operation between the Thai Ministry of Science and Environment Canada
This MOU will provide the framework for bilateral work on various projects and activities such as environmental laws, pollution prevention and global environmental issues.

Two separate MOUs on academic co-operation between the Thai Ministry of University Affairs and Nova Scotia and New Brunswick
These MOUs cover the development of institutional links at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, diploma programs, specialized training courses and the promotion of staff and student exchanges, as well as the exchange of information and co-operation in developing specific education projects and programs, and in research and development.

Letter of intent for a Radarsat Station Licence Agreement between the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) and RADARSAT International
This letter of intent confirms NRCT's intention to receive data

directly from the Canadian Radarsat satellite and to conclude a Network Licence Agreement with RADARSAT International Inc.

Letter of intent on integrated congress development between the University of Saskatchewan and King Mongkut Institute of Technology (KMIT)

This letter of intent confirms the collaboration between both parties regarding the training of KMIT staff for the new campus in the Chumthong province. The University of Saskatchewan will provide advisory services and participate in science park development and joint doctoral degree programs in targeted areas of science and technology.

Co-operation agreement between the Alliance of Manufacturers & Exporters Canada and the Federation of Thai Industries
This agreement will provide a framework whereby both parties agree to exchange professional experiences relating to services rendered to their respective associates, facilitating their relationships and providing adequate support for the successful outcome of specific programs.

