

Around the Region

MALAYSIA

Canada: A Favourite Student Destination



Canadian Secondary and Post Secondary Institutions are popular destinations for Malaysian students with an average over 5,000 studying annually in various institutions ranging from High Schools through to Universities. Trade Minister Kelleher chats with recent Malaysian graduates during his February visit.

First Canada-Malaysia Conference For October

While in Malaysia Minister for International Trade, James Kelleher, announced that a Canada-Malaysia Conference will take place in Ottawa from October 7 to 9, 1986 — the first Conference of this nature.

Mr. Kelleher said the Conference will have a dual objective — to promote mutual awareness between the two countries and to provide an opportunity for overall consultations on a wide variety of issues.

The Conference program will include panel discussions on topics such as "Malaysia to the Year 2000", "Trends in Canadian and Malaysian Economic Relations", "Malaysian Industrial Strategy to the Year 2000", and "Human Resource Development". There will also be specialized workshops on trade, marketing, banking, training and education.

The Conference will be co-hosted by the Malaysian Institute of Strategic and International Studies, the Asia-Pacific Foundation, the Canada Committee of the Pacific Basin Economic Council, and the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University, Ottawa, with the assistance of the Canadian International Development Agency and the Department of External Affairs.

It is expected that the Conference will bring together Malaysian and Canadian representatives from government, business, and academic sectors for an event that promises to foster growth in the Canada-Malaysia relationship and highlight the potential for further cooperation.

Canada Contributes To Science Week

Under its programme of assistance to ASEAN, Canada contributed CDN\$ 100,000.00 to the organizers of the First ASEAN Science and Technology Week (FASTW) which takes place in Kuala Lumpur April 24-30, 1986. The money is to be used primarily to help finance attendance by Canadian scientists and high tech experts at the Conference on Science and Technology which is one of the main FASTW activities.

A second major activity is the visit of the Canada Science Circus which will run from April 24 to May 25 at the new Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur. The Malaysian Government has contracted with the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto to bring this show to Malaysian and ASEAN audiences. The Circus is made up of exhibits from the Ontario Centre which are interactive rather than static. It has a dual role, acting both as a super-classroom for students and as a unique look at science for adults. By inviting participation, the Canada Science Circus exhibits will encourage visitors to have fun while they are discovering science.

New Credit Protocol

Canadians exporting to Malaysia will benefit from a US\$10 million supplier credit protocol. The protocol is covered by an agreement which was signed by the Canadian Export Development Corporation and Malayan Banking Berhad.

Women Leaders Meet in Kuala Lumpur

January saw the gathering in Kuala Lumpur of over 300 distinguished women delegates and observers to the Second General Assembly of the ASEAN Confederation of Women's Organizations (ACWO). Formed some five years ago through the unification of the National Councils of Women in the ASEAN member states, ACWO is the regional mechanism of women in Non-Governmental Organizations. The body is oriented towards the integration of women in the economic, political, cultural and social development process, and is the biggest women's Non-Governmental Organization in the region.

The Conference, with the theme "Professionalization of ASEAN Women in NGOs: GO-NGO Partnership", was partially funded by the Canada-ASEAN Mission-Administered Fund Program. In his remarks at the closing of the four-day conference, the Canadian High Commissioner to Malaysia, Mr. Manfred G. Von Nostitz touched on CIDA's recently adopted policy framework for the more effective integration of women into Canada's development assistance programs. He said that this policy has long been on the agenda of CIDA's president Margaret Catley-Carlson.

The High Commissioner stressed that CIDA's policy framework has two crucial elements. First, all activities must be governed by the priorities of recipient countries, in line with the increasing consensus among development theorists that women play a critically important — if not always overt — role in the development process. Consequently it was up to Canada's development partner countries to adopt nationally and culturally appropriate approaches to promote more effective participation of women in the development of their societies.

Secondly, the CIDA Women in Development policy has a five year plan in which to carry out its programs. This plan attempts to ensure that corporate management structures are in place and to facilitate the involvement of women. This also means that the planning guidelines and the evaluation procedures are revised to make certain that consideration for women is maintained throughout, in this way ensuring that, in an overall fashion, CIDA is taking into account women's participation. In conclusion, the High Commissioner, said he was "confident that the deliberations of the conference will provide ASEAN with more fine-tuned instruments for broadening the approaches to professional help in women's chosen areas of endeavour, challenges and aspirations."