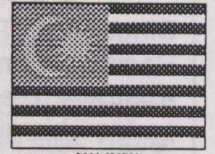CANADA

MALAYSIA

Canada and Malaysia have a long history of friendly relations dating from the 1950s. Canada was a major contributor to Malaysia's economic development under the Colombo Plan. Canada and Malaysia are also members of the Commonwealth (Kuala Lumpur follows Victoria as the next host of the Commonwealth Games in 1998).

Moreover, Canada's status as a "Dialogue Partner" with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has ensured continued co-operation on a wide variety of issues. The Canada-ASEAN Centre, a C$15-million project of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), promotes regional exchanges and is active in Malaysia. Canada's development assistance program in Malaysia has been re-oriented and now focuses on supporting Malaysia's continued industrial development by featuring two-way flows of capital, technology and investment, and the pursuit of mutual interests. Two important CIDA regional projects, the ASEAN Institute of Forest Management and the ASEAN Marine Science project, represent significant collaborative ventures.

A Malaysia-Canada Business Council was established in Kuala Lumpur in 1989. Chapters in Vancouver and Toronto have opened since.

There is extensive co-operation between Canada and Malaysia on international forest issues and on peacekeeping. Education has been an area of close ties, as many Malaysian students have received their university education in Canada.

TEAM CANADA

Team Canada in Malaysia groups Canadian companies, the Canadian High Commission and other interested Canadian agencies and organizations under the following mission statement:

"Advancing Canadian interests by building sustainable partnerships".

This is part of an overall move to set clear priorities for Canada in Malaysia, coordinate programs and activities, and raise Malaysian awareness about Canada. This last objective is being achieved through a special "Canada in Malaysia" media strategy. For more information, contact the Canadian High Commission in Malaysia.