

MULTIPURPOSE TRAINING CENTER FOR RURAL WOMEN

■ For the first time, the Canada Fund has supported a project to purchase a building that will serve as a rural center. This center, the Wanita MCA Multipurpose Training Center (MTC) in Temerluh, Malaysia, was officially opened on November 2, 1990.

The opening marked the culmination of a year's effort by the Wanita MCA, the women's wing of the Malaysia Chinese Association, a key component of the coalition government in Malaysia.

The MTC was established in Kuala Lumpur in 1977 as a non-governmental organization to encourage the participation of women in business and small-scale cottage industries. Its objective is to improve the economic status of women, particularly in the rural and urban poor areas, with training in vocational and management skills.

However, in an effort to extend the concept and benefit more immediately to its members at the grass-roots level, the MTC proposed the Canada Fund-supported project in 1989 to establish a rural center for women in the New Village community of Temerluh.

For the 45 women of the community in Temerluh, who are mostly housewives and with only a few years of primary education, the Center marks the beginning of their road to self-improvement and small-scale business ventures. The Canada Fund contribution of M\$76,180 also covers funds to purchase six sewing machines and raw materials, and to conduct courses in handicraft training. Already, the women have been trained in patchwork and sewing of garments. These new entrepreneurs have also participated in local bazaars and exhibitions and sold their products in supermarkets, generating sales which are very encouraging.

In addition to the handicraft and sewing activities, the Center will also serve as a focal point for counselling services, educational training, health education and medical care that will benefit the rural women and their families.

It is envisaged that the Center in Temerluh will be a model for other training centers in other new villages in Malaysia. The women of Temerluh are also confident that the Center will be the beginning of many more changes in their lives.



Mr Michael Conway, Counsellor (Development), Canadian High Commission, and Mrs Conway seated with Senator Law Jack Yoon, Project Director of the Center, and the women of the Multipurpose Training Center for Women in Temerluh

WID COORDINATOR'S MEETING IN SINGAPORE

■ There was a (Women in Development WID) Coordinator's meeting in Singapore from November 29 to December 3, 1990. This meeting was the second opportunity for the coordinators to share common experiences and learn new approaches to integrating women's issues into CIDA programming at posts.

WOMEN FOR WOMEN FOUNDATION SEMINAR

■ The Canada-ASEAN Center's Women's Initiative Fund (WIF) recently funded a regional meeting of the Women for Women Foundation in Singapore on September 14, 1990. This was a pre-planning meeting for a larger seminar to be held in Kuala Lumpur to address "Key Issues Facing Women Managers in the ASEAN in the 1990s", which will be partially funded by CIDA's Management for Change Program.

WOMEN'S MANAGEMENT TRAINING AT AIM

■ In July 1990, the Canada-ASEAN Center selected three Singaporean candidates to attend Women's Management Training at the Asian Institute of Management in Manila. Unfortunately, the first training session was hampered by the earthquake in the Philippines.

In September, three women from private enterprise travelled to AIM to learn improved career strategies. Representing Singapore were Ms Daisy Quek of Travelmart, Ms Tay Lai Tim of Toyota Rental Singapore Ltd, and Ms Sally Sng Meng Choo of Wang Computers Ltd. They were joined by three trainees from each of the other ASEAN countries to share experiences in business and form valuable networking contacts. The Canada-ASEAN Center wishes the trainees all success in their respective future careers.