

CIDA sponsors a number of important projects in Malaysia in the agriculture sector. These are described in section 4.1 of this report.

Communications

The Department of Communications, in co-operation with External Affairs and International Trade Canada, has been active in marketing Canadian expertise in the communications sector in Malaysia. The two departments have sponsored a number of trade and technical missions to and from Malaysia in the past four years. Malaysian officials have also travelled to Canada to receive training from the Department of Communications (normally six weeks in duration) in the spectrum management sector and other areas of Canadian expertise. In addition, Malaysian officials have participated in training sessions at the Telecommunications Executive Management Interchange Centre (TEMIC). This Centre, funded by the Government of Canada and the private sector, provides training in the management and use of telephone and communication systems for representatives of developing countries.

Energy

In the electricity sector, Ontario Hydro has signed a service contract with the Sarawak Electricity Supply Corporation to provide assistance in the planning and definition of a Management Information System and in the design and commissioning of a Generation Operation Optimization Model computer software package. In the state of Sabah, Hydro-Québec International has entered into an engineering services and consultancy contract with the Sabah Electricity Board to provide technical assistance in the implementation of a System Control and Data Acquisition project.

Education and Institutional Linkages

Education has been an important component of Canada's bilateral relationship with Malaysia. Malaysian students have been studying at Canadian universities and other post-secondary institutions since the 1950s, and there are now approximately 65 000 graduates from Canadian institutions occupying senior positions throughout Malaysia. However, the number of Malaysian students in Canada has declined significantly in recent years, from about 6 000 to approximately 2 000 today.

In an effort to facilitate the flow of information about educational opportunities in Canada and to increase enrolment of Malaysian students in Canadian education and training institutions, the Education Canada Centre was officially opened in October 1989, during a visit by Prime Minister Mulroney to Malaysia for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. A consortium of three major national agencies with a combined membership of virtually all of Canada's universities and colleges is responsible for the establishment of the Centre.

Another initiative in the field of education currently being considered would involve the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Malaysia and Canada which would permit Malaysian students who have obtained academic professional training in Canada in the field of accounting to gain practical work experience (article-ship training) before returning to Malaysia as chartered accountants. The MOU is currently being examined by the Malaysian government which attaches a high priority to this type of endeavor.

Defence

The Canadian Forces Attaché located in Kuala Lumpur is accredited to Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia and Brunei. The attaché's mandate to enhance defence relations with the ASEAN member states is fulfilled through ongoing liaison with the Armed Forces of the region, the implementation of defence programs between ASEAN member states and Canada, and the promotion of Canadian defence products and services.

Malaysia is an active participant in Canada's Military Training Assistance Program (MTAP). Six Malaysian candidates have received training in Canada since 1987, and another will arrive in Canada in 1990. A total of 146 officers from Malaysia have participated in MTAP since 1966, half of which undertook their training in the first three years of the program.

The Canadian National Defence College visited Malaysia in March 1987 as part of their Asian study tour. Finally, in conjunction with a Canadian Forces naval training cruise in the summer of 1990, Canadian warships made courtesy calls in a number of Southeast Asian ports, including Malaysia.