

ASCOPE, the ASEAN Council on Petroleum, was organized in 1975 as an instrument for regional co-operation in the field of petroleum among ASEAN member countries. The council is composed of representatives from the national oil companies of the ASEAN members. Since 1975 interest in alternative energy sources has increased and ASCOPE has taken a broader role in regional energy co-operation.

The 1981 ASCOPE conference and exhibition, while concentrating on oil and gas, included the examination of alternative energy potential such as geothermal, coal, nuclear, and non-conventional sources. Related matters such as financing, environmental implications and new technologies were also discussed. The conference was opened on October 7 by the Philippines' President Ferdinand E. Marcos.

Singapore. Canadian firms had many years of experience in the highly sophisticated technology associated with the exploration, extraction, and processing of energy. One Canadian firm, Montreal Engineering, is involved in two massive projects in Indonesia—the Bukit Assam project through which Sumatra's extensive coal reserves would be mined and transported to the Suralaya thermal power plant in Java.

In the field of nuclear energy, Canada was at the forefront of technology with the Canadian designed and manufactured CANDU reactor system. The CANDU system used natural uranium and has proven to be the most efficient system of nuclear power generation in the world. CANDU reactors are currently being constructed in Argentina, Rumania, and the Republic of Korea, and several other countries are considering its purchase.

Through co-operation, Canada could help the ASEAN countries emulate its own success in this field of energy and could assist with any aspect of the development of a country's nuclear program—from the establishment of a regulatory infrastructure and educational and training programs, through exploration and mining, to the building of nuclear facilities. As recently as last June, Canada entered into an agreement with the Philippines for co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. At the conclusion of his speech to the ASCOPE conference, Mr. Lalonde said that Canada looked forward to continuing co-operation with the Philippines and the other members of ASEAN.

During his three-day visit to the Philippines, Mr. Lalonde met President Marcos and had discussions with Industry and Trade Minister Ongpin, Natural

Resources Minister Pena, and Energy Minister Velasco. The ministers discussed the growing energy relationship between Canada and the Philippines and examined

possible areas of co-operation such as coal and coal conversion, nuclear energy, and the possibility of assistance from Petro-Canada International.

## Canada-ASEAN Developments

### Foreign Ministers Sign Co-operation Agreement

CANADA'S Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan and the foreign ministers of all five member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) signed the Canada-ASEAN Co-operation Agreement on September 25 while they were gathered in New York for the 36th United Nations General Assembly.

The agreement arrived at after one-and-a-half years of negotiations calls for co-operation in industrial, developmental, and commercial spheres. It will serve to enhance further the opportunities for expanded transfer of technology in the industrial area, and reaffirms Canadian interest in considering the extension of regional development assistance over and above that currently extended on a bilateral basis. The agreement will also serve to encourage the expansion of two-way trade between Canada and ASEAN, which in 1980 amounted to \$1.14 billion.

In his address after the signing ceremony at the Canadian Permanent Mission to the UN, Dr. MacGuigan said it was an historic moment. He stressed the importance that Canada attaches to

its relations with ASEAN and reasserted Canada's interest in further expanding relations with the Southeast Asian region. The identification of the three special interest spheres in the agreement, he felt, defined the direction of the future Canada-ASEAN relationship, which would continue to be of mutual benefit.

The co-operation agreement also calls for the establishment of a joint co-operation committee, which should meet periodically to review ongoing activities and study additional areas of co-operation. Dr. MacGuigan suggested that the first such meeting might well run concurrently with a third Canada-ASEAN dialogue meeting, possibly in the first half of 1982. And he hoped that in the meantime some new projects would be identified for action under the regional development co-operation objectives.

In reply, Singapore's Foreign Minister S. Dhanabalan said he was pleased to pay tribute to Dr. MacGuigan on behalf of the ASEAN members and that he and the other foreign ministers looked forward to close co-operation with Canada. The agreement, he said, represented a broad framework for economic co-operation and it was now up to the private sector and officials to work out the practical implementation of the agreement's objectives.



*A toast to the signing of the Canada-ASEAN Co-operation Agreement at the Canadian Permanent Mission to the United Nations: Foreign Ministers Siddhi Savetsila of Thailand; S. Dhanabalan, Singapore; Mark MacGuigan, Canada; Carlos Romulo, Philippines; Ghazali Shafie, Malaysia; and Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, Indonesia.*