

Invitations are being extended to 80 key business people from Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines to travel to Singapore and join local companies' representatives at the exhibition, which will be directed towards all facets of joint venture, such as licensing agreements and co-production arrangements.

Airport Service Firms Seek ASEAN Agents

CANADIAN manufacturers of specialized airport maintenance and service equipment will be spending three weeks in ASEAN countries in April-May to identify market opportunities. The manufacturers represented produce a range of airport equipment including runway sweepers, towing tractors, aircraft refuellers, crash rescue vehicles, cargo high-lift trucks and cargo conveyors. The Canadian firms plan to meet with local airport authorities and are interested in acquiring local agents to handle their products. Further details on the com-

panies and their products are available from Canadian diplomatic missions in ASEAN capitals.

Trade Officials Meet in Bangkok

CANADIAN Trade Commissioners to the five ASEAN countries held their annual meeting in Bangkok from January 25-27 to review developments of the previous year and plan programs for the future.

All five ASEAN countries have witnessed substantial increases in their trade with Canada over the last few years. This is largely due to the heightened interest of the Canadian business community in the ASEAN market, which it recognizes as one of the fastest growing and most prosperous in the world. As a consequence, Canada is increasing its commercial representation in Singapore and Malaysia this year, and additional personnel are expected soon in Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines. ☐

tation Centre (PDIN) and the national libraries of Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand.

Information is vital to the cultural, social, economic, scientific, and technological development of countries in Southeast Asia. The NLDC-SEA project was designed to develop an inter-library exchange network for the national libraries of Southeast Asia so that each will have access to the collections of the others. The extension of IDRC's agreement will permit a pilot issue of a regional computerized selective bibliography to be produced on computer output microfiche as well as printed formats.

This project will test the creation of a standardized computerized machine-readable catalogue (MARC) format for the region—SEAMARC. It should result in the development of a regional bibliographic data base that can be used by other libraries within and outside the region for bibliographic and cataloguing purposes, thereby realizing the theme of the project, which is the sharing of resources in this region.

IDRC Supports Relevant Regional Research

THE International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is a public corporation established by an Act of the Canadian Parliament in 1970 to support research designed to adapt science and technology to the specific needs of developing countries. The following details of projects that are currently most prominent in the ASEAN region show the extent and diversity of the centre's support.

Expanded Energy Activities

At the United Nations Nairobi Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy in August, 1981, Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau promised \$10 million to IDRC for energy research. IDRC President Ivan Head recently announced that the funds will be used for an expansion of current energy activities and the introduction of major new initiatives in the period of four years covered by the \$10-million allocation. He said emphasis would be placed on research to define energy problems, to identify and evaluate energy technologies, and for energy planning.

The most significant of the proposed new energy projects will be the creation of an international research advisory group. This Energy Research Group (ERG), composed of eminent researchers and policy makers from the less developed countries, will review energy research needs, priorities, and resources. It will be an independent source of

information to assist developing countries and donors in making critical decisions involving their energy options.

Within IDRC there will be increased support for research in forestry and on fuel-related aspects of post-harvest agricultural production technologies. A new sub-program will be created to support research in developing countries on energy policy. And the energy-information requirements of developing countries will be examined. The centre's new Co-operative Programs Unit will invite proposals for collaboration between Canadian and Third World researchers, including co-operation on the development of technologies.

IDRC also intends to strengthen communications between donor agencies active in energy research. At present money being channelled into energy research is rapidly increasing, but there is little co-ordination or information exchange among donors. IDRC hopes to encourage a series of informal meetings of donors to improve co-operation, and will also make available to donors the findings of the ERG.

Inter-Library Exchanges

The IDRC recently extended its project agreement with the National Libraries and Documentation Centre-Southeast Asia Consortium (NLDC-SEA). The members of NLDC-SEA, which was established in January, 1979, are the Indonesian National Scientific Documen-

Integrated Library Functions

Meanwhile, the National University of Singapore (NUS) library has concluded an extensive testing program it began last July of MINISIS, a generalized information management system developed by IDRC specifically to meet the need for a low-cost hardware/software package permitting on-line data entry and interactive retrieval.

The NUS is satisfied that the system is suitable as an on-line integrated system to control library functions in acquisitions, cataloguing, and information retrieval for the library.

One of the system's major advantages is that these library functions are integrated into one software package, rather than using different packages for each function as is usually done in most libraries. The system is also able to accept bibliographic records from an external data base. This allows the NUS library to use other records to create its own cataloguing data base, thus reducing the amount and cost of original cataloguing.

Later this year, an advisory team from IDRC's headquarters in Ottawa will visit the NUS library to discuss how the MINISIS system might be implemented to achieve full automation of the library's operations.

IDRC provides support for installations around the world, including the maintenance of the system and the addition of new features to enhance its flexibility and power. Licensees

All figures in this publication are in Canadian dollars unless otherwise specified.