

Around the Region

PHILIPPINES

PETRO-CANADA Joins Philippine National Oil Company in Exploration Projects

Petro-Canada International Assistance Cooperation (PCIAC) recently completed drilling activities in the Cagayan Basin area in the Philippines in line with a cooperative agreement signed with the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) in May 1983. This venture required that Petro-Canada provide the import component, consisting of Canadian goods and services, and PNOC-Exploration Corporation (PNOC-EC) shoulder the peso cost of the drilling operations placed at \$3.6 million.

PCIAC's participation in the exploration of the onshore well is covered by the \$7.2 million grant aid for oil and gas explorations in the Philippines and focuses on the latest Canadian technological achievements in the oil and gas industry. This assistance was taken up during the successive visits to the Philippines of Canadian Prime Minister Pierre E. Trudeau and Minister for International Trade Gerald Regan in 1983.

The offshore exploration component of the project involves the use of the *Bernier*, Petro-Canada's first all-Canadian seismic vessel, in the acquisition, processing and interpretation of new seismic, magnetic and gravity data. The *Bernier* is the first Canadian-owned and operated seismic vessel to be designed and built in Canada. It is an innovative and sophisticated ship which incorporates the latest ideas and most modern designs in naval architecture, marine engineering and geophysics.

The vessel is presently conducting the sonic exploration of the Visayas in the Philippines. Its operations in the country is part of PCIAC's intention to contribute to the collection of new seismic data in the waters of Southeast Asia.

Petro-Canada International (PCI) is a subsidiary of Petro Canada, the national oil company. PCI was established in 1981 to put Canada's specialized exploration and energy substitution experience at the service of developing countries heavily dependant upon oil and gas imports.

Headed by Peter Towe, PCI works closely with the private sector, often acting as a catalyst to bring a more favourable climate for projects which might otherwise be overlooked by private interests. In Mr. Towe's words, "PCI becomes involved in pre-development or pre-exploration work such as survey and promotional assistance — the exploration of smaller oil and gas fields with lower financial rates of return — and technical assistance to improve the knowledge and technological base of national oil companies and their personnel."

PCI's funding is set at \$250 million over 5 years, a budget which requires PCI to concentrate its activities in a few selected countries in the ranks of the developing world.

PCI operates within the overall framework of the federal government's international development assistance programme and pursues goals commensurate with Canada's foreign aid objectives.



The Bernier, Petro-Canada's state-of-the-art seismic vessel, is now in the Philippines conducting a sonic exploration of the Visayan region.

Embassy Organizes Prestige Film Festival on Women

The Canadian Embassy in cooperation with the Women Writers in Media Now (WOMEN), the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) and the Ayala Museum launched a Film Festival on Women 2-7 March 1984. This activity was formally opened by Canadian Ambassador Reg Dorrett who hosted a reception for 200 invited guests who attended a special screening of the controversial film, "Not A Love Story".

The public showings of the festival featured 5 other documentaries and 5 full-length features which focused on a number of issues that have confronted and involved women since the turn of the century — woman and her evolving dreams and roles, her successes and misfortunes at home, at work, in sports, among friends or adversaries. These films were "J.A. Martin Photographie," "Scream From Silence," "Cordelia," "Kamouraska," "Surfacing," "Your Move," "And They Lived Happily Ever After," "Doctor Woman," "Is It A Woman's World?" and "Moving Mountains."

The Canadian Film Festival on Women highlighted the International Women's Week celebrations of the WOMEN and the NCRFW.

Canadian Artists Tour the Philippines

Paul and Rima Brodie a husband-and-wife team of artists, visited the Philippines on 18-26 February in the course of a seven-nation tour of Asia and the Pacific. Paul, who is widely known as a concert saxophonist, performed at the Silliman University in Dumaguete City in the Visayas and the University of the Philippines and Maryknoll College in Manila. Rima, who is a noted fibre sculptor, brought along 22 of her works which were featured in a special exhibition at the University of the Philippines' Department of Clothing and Textiles.

Paul, in his crusade to elevate the status of the saxophone as a concert, and not merely a jazz, instrument, has played more than 1500 concerts around the world. He has recorded 25 albums of saxophone music, established a thriving private school in Toronto and helped create the World Saxophone Congress in the sixties.

At the University of the Philippines, he was featured as one of the visiting artists of the College of Music and was ably assisted by Rey Paguio of the famous U.P. Concert Chorus during his performance.