

The SSEA announced that Canada has agreed to provide specific assistance to ASEAN in the forestry and fisheries sectors. At the meetings, Canada undertook to grant funds from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) toward the cost of experts, training, seminars and related equipment for a Forest Tree Seed Centre to be located in Thailand; an exchange of notes to this effect took place with the Thai Foreign Minister acting on behalf of ASEAN. Negotiations have not yet been completed on the establishment of a post-harvest fisheries technology project incorporating similar elements.

The SSEA said: "The ASEAN region holds some of the worlds most valuable reserves of tropical hardwoods, including teak and mahogany. Large-scale reforestration is urgently needed partly to safeguard the commercial resource, but also to protect watersheds and agricultural land, to provide fuel wood, and to preserve the ecological balance. The forestry project would reinforce ongoing ASEAN government efforts in this area and help to overcome one of the main obstacles to better forest management in the region, uncertainty of seed supplies and quality, and would also provide some of the training needed to ensure improved management of the resource. Benefits would be mainly to people employed in forestry within member countries, and in the longer run to future generations".

With regard to the fisheries project under negotiation, the SSEA said: "Fish provides about half the animal protein intake of the people of the ASEAN region, which is a protein-deficient area. It is estimated that 3 million people are already employed in fisheries within ASEAN countries. The assistance in the fisheries sector would focus on helping member-countries to reduce post-harvest losses, improve the traditional and modern fish processing technology and increase the income of small-scale fishermen".

The SSEA noted that industrial co-operation between Canada and the ASEAN region has expanded rapidly. The Canadian industrial co-operation programme carried out by CIDA involves support to the Canadian private sector to engage in joint ventures, licensing arrangements and other forms of economic co-operation with countries such as those in ASEAN. In 1979/80 thirty-nine projects were supported for the ASEAN region, almost eight times the number for 1978/79. This is the largest such Canadian programme for any region. Five projects were ASEAN-wide. These include: an ASEAN hardwood furniture seminar in 1979 which led to four Canadian firms sourcing from ASEAN exporters; an ASEAN standards seminar in Ottawa in May and June 1980 which brought representatives of ASEAN standards organizations together and assisted them in the formation of national industrial standards; and, an ASEAN seminar on licensing and transfer of technology which concluded in Kuala Lumpur on June 26 and which was intended