

CANADA - ASEAN

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Minister Regan leads 40 Canadian businessmen on trade mission to ASEAN



Canada's Minister for International Trade, Gerald Regan (left), is received by President F. Marcos (right) and Prime Minister C. Virata (centre) during his visit to the Philippines.

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DPM/SSEA MacEachen attends ASEAN dialogue in Bangkok

Allan MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, attended the annual meeting of ASEAN Foreign Ministers with their dialogue partners held in Bangkok, June 27-28. These meetings, which Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs has attended since 1980, provide an excellent forum to discuss important international and regional issues. The meeting also offered an opportunity for Mr. MacEachen to review progress in the Canada-ASEAN dialogue, including the results of the first meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) held in Ottawa in late April. (See story p.5)

EARLY IN MAY, the Minister for International Trade, Gerald Regan, led a mission of 40 senior Canadian businessmen to all five member countries of the Association of Southeast Asia Nations.

The visit was part of the Canadian government's broad strategy to expand trade and investment links with the region and to follow-up on a number of initiatives raised during the Prime Minister's tour in January.

The mission spent from May 5 to May 19 making stops in Jakarta, Manila, Singapore, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur. En route, the group also visited Hong Kong.

The businessmen accompanying Mr. Regan represented Canadian firms pursuing commercial opportunities in the region. The focus of interest for the mission was on marketing Canadian technology and products in the fields of transportation, telecommunications, power generation and resource development.

A number of commercial agreements of significant interest to Canada were signed in conjunction with the minister's tour. In Jakarta, Mr. Regan witnessed

the signing of two contracts connected to Canadian participation in the Bukit Asam coal mine project. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in Manila by the minister and by Philippine First Lady Imelda Marcos for the supply of six wood-burning power plants by a Canadian company. In Bangkok, a letter of intent was signed with respect to a \$8.7 million grant from Canada to be used in Thailand's petroleum-development programs.

During the tour, Mr. Regan held consultations with senior ministers responsible for trade and related commercial matters. The minister's presence also prepared the way for numerous contacts between members of the Canadian business delegation and local businessmen and officials in each country.

In 1982, two-way trade between Canada and the ASEAN region plus Hong Kong exceeded \$2 billion. During the current worldwide economic slowdown, these markets have shown continued growth rates and as such represent important opportunities for Canadian suppliers.