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in niche markets. At least two Canadian joint ventures are bringing Canadian software to the regional marketplace through partnerships with Singapore companies.

Digital Imaging manufactures hightech identification cards with a difference. The technology prints a photograph directly onto a tamper-resistant identification card, and records the photo, fingerprints and other personal data in a computer where it can be quickly retrieved. The card can also include a number of active security applications.

The software was developed by Canadian company G&A Imaging. G&A teamed up with a Singapore partner which is a security printer for credit cards.

A second software joint venture is between QNX Software Systems and Eutech Cybernetics, a Singapore firm. The S\$2.5-million joint development project will produce multi-tasking operating systems for power plants, electronics industries and communication mechanisms, devices and systems.

Eutech Cybernetics is of interest because it's one of five commercially-oriented companies in Asia to have spun off directly from research funded by the International Research Development Centre (IDRC).

In the manufacturing sector, the Chinook Group opened a choline (vitamin B4) production plant on the Singaporean island of Merbau in February 1995. The company plans to build an animal feed plant in Surabaya

(Indonesia), using the choline produced in Singapore.

Singapore plans to become a regional supplier of environmental expertise, and Canadian firms are positioning themselves to participate. Last year, an MOU was signed between the Singapore

established the West East Centre in Vancouver. The Centre will engage in collaborative research with academic and industrial partners for productive applications. Largely funded by a Cdn\$2.3 million grant from Singapore's Science and Technology Board (NSTB), the West East Centre will identify new organisms and evaluate them to determine whether they have properties of interest to the pharmaceutical and bioremediation industries. The Centre will seek collaboration with industrial partners in both countries in the

Singapore PM Visits Canada

His Excellency Goh Chok Tong, Prime Minister of Singapore, met September 11-14 with government and business leaders in Toronto and Ottawa, where discussions focused on further strengthening the already substantial bilateral relations between the two countries. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) is following up on the areas of cooperation discussed. DFAIT, through its InfoCentre, also has available A Guide to Doing Business in Singapore. Call toll-free 1-800-267-8376 (Ottawa region: 944-4000).

Association of Environmental Corporations (SAFECO) and the Canadian Environmental Industries Association (CAIS). Their first joint venture is already underway in the Philippines, where Canora (Asia) Inc., a consortium of Canadian environmental companies, is working with Environmental Engineering Services Pte Ltd. Singapore to build a waste water treatment plant. ECO, a Canora shareholder, is supplying equipment to the project valued at US\$ 700,000 - \$800,000.

The Canada-ASEAN Centre has been the catalyst in a number of initiatives in the science and technology sector — an area of enormous potential in high-tech Singapore. Of particular note is the joint development of Canadian technology for the international marketplace.

In 1994, the National University of Singapore's Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology and the University of British Columbia

form of joint ventures, licensing of technology, commercial spin-offs or contact research.

The NSTB also has developed a strategic partnership with Ontario's Ministry of Economic Development and Trade for joint research initiatives with a goal of eventual commercialization. Over S\$3 million has been earmarked to support collaborative research projects between Singapore and the Ontario universities research institutes in the areas of manufacturing, biotechnology, IT and environment.

Dr. Geraldine Kenney-Wallace has been invited to serve a second term on the NSTB's International Advisory Panel. She is the only Canadian on this prestigious and influential panel.

Small as Singapore may be, it offers excellent opportunities for Canadian high technology. In joint ventures with Singaporean partners, this expertise finds a ready market in neighbouring ASEAN countries.