

Thailand Development Research Institute Receives Second-Phase Grant from CIDA

■ In a ceremony held at the Hilton International Hotel in Bangkok on May 14, 1990, Dr Phaichitr Uathavikul, President of the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) and Mr Lawrence A.H. Smith, Canadian Ambassador to Thailand, signed an agreement providing the institute with \$13 million through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) over the next six years. The agreement, which represents the second phase of financial assistance from CIDA, will further strengthen the institute's research capability and will promote institutional linkages between TDRI and various Canadian academic and research institutes. An exciting new initiative, which will be made possible through

this second phase, will be policy research collaboration between the Economic Council of Canada and TDRI.

Created under the initiative of the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), TDRI was founded in 1984, when Prime Ministers Pierre Elliott Trudeau of Canada and Prem Tinsulanonda of Thailand presided at the signing of a CIDA aid agreement that provided the necessary start-up funding for the institute.

Research collaboration between TDRI and Canadian research institutes under this second phase was recently formulated when TDRI senior executives travelled to Canada and met with over 100 researchers from 20 Canadian research insti-

tutes. Through coordination with the Economic Council of Canada, Canadian and TDRI researchers will work together on issues related to the Asia-Pacific region and other areas of mutual interest.

Through this grant, TDRI will be able to continue operating as an independent policy research institute, whose research activities have influenced Thailand's major policy decisions. The impact of TDRI research conducted during phase one of its operation has enabled the institute to develop into one of the most prominent policy research institutes in the region and to attain international recognition for the quality of its research.

