

Bell Canada opens office

Late in 1986, Bell Canada International (BCI) opened a regional office in Malaysia to pursue investment and telecommunications opportunities throughout ASEAN.

Northern Telecom Ltd, another prominent company in the Bell family, will also operate their Malaysian office from the same premises facilitating greater co-ordination of services to their Malaysian clients.

Malaysian Minister of Energy, Telecommunications and Posts, Dato Leo Moggie, officially opened the office with Canadian High Commissioner, Manfred von Nostitz and the Chairman of BCI, Gordon Inns. Northern Telecom was represented by Graeme MacDonald, Managing Director of Northern Telecom S.E. Asia Ltd. The office will be headed by Ed Lee of BCI.

Both BCI and Northern Telecom are recognized international leaders in telecommunications and are already well established in ASEAN. In Malaysia, Northern Telecom has on-going equipment supply contracts with the local Telecommunications Department and has two component manufacturing plants in Penang.

BCI has secured a major consulting contract with the Telecommunications Department to develop a fully automated system of customer services. The system is to be implemented initially on a pilot project basis for the city of Petaling Jaya.

THAILAND

Considering women's role in development

For the first time a Women In Development (WID) Seminar was held for the ASEAN countries recently.

The seminar trained participants — who included senior government officials and observers from Negara Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand — in the use of gender analysis techniques in development planning.

This method helps the understanding of the role women play in development, the impact development projects have upon women, and how planners can improve the chances of a project's success by fully considering the productive work women carry out in the community.

Provide training

As a result of the meeting, which was led by Canadian gender analysis expert Tim Broadhead, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has been asked to consider a regional program of support for a core group of trainers in each ASEAN country. This group would provide training continuity in the use of gender analysis techniques.

It was also recommended that a regular ASEAN forum be established to exchange gender analysis expertise and its application in ASEAN women's programs.

Ensuring women benefit from development programs.



Photo by: Andrew Inkpen