

Education: a New Player on the Team — Continued from page 12

Team Canada missions are essential to letting Asian governments and businesses know that Canadians are serious about exporting their talents and products.

John Tibbits
Director

the École des hautes études commerciales de Montréal, had three main objectives on the Team Canada trip: recruiting foreign students, looking for new areas for student exchanges and trying to set up new training programs.

International programs vital

The school's students already have the chance to participate in exchange programs with 59 universities in the world. Under the programs, credits taken by students in the exchange country are recognized by their home institution. On the mission, Toulouse spoke to representatives from two universities in Korea and two in Thailand about the program.

The school is also involved in various global education projects that build, operate and then transfer institutions to their host countries. "Its international programs are vitally important for a variety of reasons," says Toulouse. Most importantly, they give faculty members expertise they couldn't get by staying home. "In an open world economy," he stresses, "this kind of expertise is necessary to be able to compete and grow."

In addition, students and faculty develop a broader world view; the change of pace and culture energizes them and improves their research and teaching.

"The income and expertise gained from international projects also protects and even creates jobs," says Toulouse. Professors teaching in other countries have to be replaced by someone else in Canada. Sometimes an older professor will decide to stay in his or her host country, opening up a spot for a younger academic in Canada.

Canadian education on display

Numerous Canadian educators not on the Team Canada mission were well represented in Bangkok at the city's first Canadian Education Fair, held the weekend of January 18.

Representatives from 43 educational institutions plus local sponsors were on hand to answer questions from Thai students and to demonstrate the attractiveness of education in Canada.

Educators pointed out that as well as generating revenue for universities and colleges, having international students come to Canada is also an important learning experience for Canadian students, one that will make them more sensitive and aware of cultural differences when they enter the business world.



The chairman of Nova Scotia Community College in Halifax points out that five years ago, the college generated none of its own funding; now it raises about \$10 million a year through customized training activities — about one-sixth of its total budget.

The college is now moving forward on two potential contracts in Thailand to add to the one it already has with Thailand's Ministry of Labour to establish a training facility for youth and women. The two new contracts would involve tourism training and the development of curricula for Thailand's community colleges.

Jean-Marie Toulouse, Director of