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CANADIAN ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IN THE  
SOUTHEAST ASIAN MINISTERS OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATION  
(SEAMEO)

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that the Government of Canada is seeking Canadian associate membership in SEAMEO, the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization, which serves as a vehicle to promote cooperation in the region through education, science and culture. Membership is largely drawn from Southeast Asian nations, including Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Cambodia.

By taking this important step, Canada expects to broaden its economic, social and cultural ties in the Asia Pacific region, which the Government of Canada has identified as a priority area for the enhancement of its international trade. Canadian membership in SEAMEO would provide the social and cultural basis to enhance export opportunities for Canadian goods and services, and to further the industrial development of Southeast Asia through human resource development. Membership would also increase the visibility of Canada's educational institutions and serve as a vehicle for attracting more foreign students to Canadian universities and colleges.

Canadian membership in SEAMEO has been strongly encouraged by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, and has also met with the favour of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges, the Canadian International Development Agency and the federal Department of the Secretary of State.

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