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The project also enjoyed the collaboration of the local Health Department, which provided technical assistance and organized seminars on health and hygiene during the work camp. The Canada Fund contribution to the project was used for the purchase of equipment and materials.

The project, which was the first community "self-help" project, also instilled confidence in the community to undertake group projects to benefit the longhouse population.

The effective completion of the water tank project serves as a model which can be replicated by SABERKAS in other communities in Sarawak. The organization has since identified other projects in which the community self-help concept can be applied successfully. The water tank project also reinforced the enthusiasm and emphasized the role of youth in rural development, in light of the increasing trend of rural-urban migration.

The Canada Fund, which has placed a priority on self-help projects, will continue to emphasize such projects in future contributions.



Participants and instructors at the pilot workshop held at INTAN

## LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE

Because the effective use of human resources is critically important to the realization of developmental goals, the Canada-Malaysia Development Co-operation Program highlights human resources development. One undertaking in particular is designed to assist Malaysia in enhancing its planning capability – a rigorous evaluation process to improve training programs.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is funding a five-year program to provide Malaysian government officers with "hands-on" experience through attachments with Canadian federal and provincial government agencies. Also included in this program are study tours and technical missions to Canada, and short-term Canadian assignments in Malaysia.

An important element of this package is a program evaluation workshop designed to provide participants with the opportunity to give feedback on ways to improve the program. Practical recommendations for improvement are an intrinsic part of this process and they must be defended in the workshop setting.

The two pilot workshops took place in February and December 1989, at INTAN, the National Institute of Public Administration, in Kuala Lumpur. There, 43 senior officers from seven government organizations participated in discussions led by Dr Gordon Cassidy of Queen's University, Kingston, and Ronald Corbeil of the Office of the Comptroller General of Canada.

The workshop programs were judged "an exceptional success" by the participants, although the program requires follow-up to ensure its continued success. One recommendation made was to extend the program evaluation seminars to senior level Malaysian officials in order to foster an environment in which the new evaluation approach can flourish.

The modifications made to this workshop in consultation with the participants resulted in a revised program uniquely suited to the Malaysian environment because it was developed, tested and proven by Malaysians – the essence of technology transfer.



## Ambassador Simard Briefs Regional Development Council

During a meeting with the Regional Development Council (RDC) in Davao, Ambassador André S. Simard (second from right) provides an overview of Canada's aid program in the Philippines with emphasis on CIDA's expanding support to NGOs. Also shown in photo from left to right: Jim Carruthers (CDPD-Philippines), Wendel Abesado (RDC XI Vice-Chairman) and Jesus V. Ayala (RDC XI Chairman).