

## Around the Region

### Canadian Connections with ASEAN Countries

#### INDONESIA

Indonesia's Minister of Manpower and Transmigration, Dr. H.A. Zain, recently inaugurated the **Samarinda Vocational Training Centre (VTC)** in East Kalimantan. The occasion also marked the completion of Phase I of the project, which is supported by the Canadian International Development Agency.

Since the Samarinda VTC began offering courses in early 1980, nearly 500 students have graduated as welders, automotive mechanics, heavy-duty mechanics, heavy-equipment operators, electricians, and chain-saw operators, and are finding employment without difficulty.

The modern facilities at the centre include a 12,500 hectare site for the training of workers in forest industries. The Indonesian government built, installed and furnished classrooms, offices and dormitories and has reserved a generous concession site for the students to practice their new trades.

Canada's contribution, valued at approximately \$4 million, is divided evenly between technical assistance in the form of instructor training and support and capital assistance in the supply of training aids, materials and equipment used to stock the workshops, classrooms and forest concession site.

One important characteristic of the



*Dr. Harun Alrasjid Zain (l) and Canada's Ambassador to Indonesia William H. Montgomery, in hard hats, cut a ceremonial log to mark the opening of the Samarinda Forest Vocational Training Centre.*

technical assistance aspect of the project was its ASEAN flavour, introduced when Indonesian instructors took advantage of the facilities of the Teachers' Technical Training College in Kuala Lumpur to brush up their teaching skills before the arrival of their students. Canada looks forward to participating again in this kind of tripartite co-operation for development.

Phase II of the development of the Samarinda VTC will provide for the addition of instructors in six trades that are in great demand by wood-processing industries, such as saw mills and plywood factories.

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In Indonesia, **Mission Administered Fund (MAF)** allocations — money provided each year by the Canadian International Development Agency to be used at the discretion of Canada's embassies and high commissions throughout the developing world to foster small-scale development activities—have been concentrated on rural development since 80 per cent of Indonesia's 150 million inhabitants still live in rural areas.

Projects concerning health and water supply, vocational and community development training, agriculture, promotion of the credit union movement, and appropriate technology have all been carried out under the MAF program.

Innovative projects that have the potential for duplication and substantial local participation are given preference. An example is the construction of a small number of ferro-cement rain water collectors made from a frame of chicken-wire (later bamboo) and covered with cement to act as water storage tanks in a very dry area near Jogjakarta in Java. This project was carried out in co-operation with the Indonesian appropriate technology group Dian Desa and its example has led to the widespread diffusion of this simple technology throughout the area.

Another example is the printing of an edition of a school and community practical health manual by Yayasan Essentia Medica, a development health publishing foundation. The manual has been sent to over 3,000 primary health care centres. It is often the first practical aid of its kind to reach the doctors, health workers and teachers who need it.

Change and improvements in the lives of those affected by MAF projects may be slow and incremental—or they may be swift and dramatic. Whatever the result,

the critical factor has been the infusion of a small amount of MAF money which when coupled with local initiative and enthusiasm has lead to a successful project.

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For an increasing number of Canadian executives the vast and populous country of Indonesia now falls clearly within their international field of vision. Moreover, it is becoming increasingly apparent that the many geographic similarities (apart from climate) between Canada and Indonesia provide commercial and industrial opportunities on a large scale.

The process of changing Canadian and Indonesian perceptions was given an additional boost in late May when a high-level Indonesian **trade and investment mission** of 40 members visited the cities of Vancouver, British Columbia, and Calgary, Alberta and met with interested Canadian businessmen and government officials in specified industrial sectors.

Forestry and forest products—vital to the economies of both countries—were the focus of much attention, and mutually beneficial trading arrangements as well as consulting opportunities and joint-venture possibilities were examined in detail. Discussions were held on the mining, smelting and fabrication of non-ferrous metals, and also on industrial activities of mutual interest. The large Canadian enterprises of INCO and ALCAN already have major mineral-related investments in Indonesia, which account for Canada being ranked among the largest foreign investors in the country.

In Calgary, the focus was on potential links between Canadian and Indonesian business firms that supply products and services to their respective petroleum and natural gas industries.

The 1982 mission was the fourth in a series of visits abroad aimed at calling attention to Indonesia's large and rapidly growing resource-based economy. Building on a similar but shorter stay in Toronto, Ontario, last year, and in response to recent visits to Indonesia by British Columbia's Premier William Bennett and Alberta's Minister of State for Economic Development and International Trade Horst Schmid, the Indonesians chose this year to focus their efforts on Canada and in particular on two of its western provinces.

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**Canada World Youth**, a private non-governmental organization supported by the Canadian International Development Agency, seeks to create among young people from Canada and the various exchange countries an increased interest and understanding in their own country, an awareness and understanding of the