

The Economic Council of Canada is currently involved in such an initiative with the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI). The Council will act as the implementing agency for a project under way to strengthen Thailand's capacity to formulate policy and to consolidate TDRI. TDRI has also undertaken projects with the Conference Board of Canada, including the organization of an industrial co-operation conference which was held in Bangkok in May 1988. Institutional support is also provided through CIDA to the National Economic and Social Development Board in its dual role as the central planning agency and economic policy adviser to the Thai Cabinet, as well as to the Department of Technical and Economic Co-operation (DTEC), the agency co-ordinating the inflow of development assistance in Thailand.

CIDA's \$8 million Institution Linkages Program provides a strong base to develop a series of arrangements between Canadian and Thai institutions and universities in the areas of energy, natural resource development and institution building. Approximately 20 such projects are expected to be approved during the period 1985 to 1991. The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada is assisting in the management of this project.

External Affairs and International Trade Canada's Academic Relations Program can assist Canadian studies development in Thailand through short study visits to Canada by academics wishing to develop and teach courses about Canada. Canadian studies courses have been generally developed in the fields of the social sciences, humanities, business, economics and law. This program has the potential to generate links among academics from Canada and Thailand and increase knowledge and awareness of Canada in Thailand. During 1989, the Alberta government provided a \$10 000 grant to Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok to support its Canadian Studies Program. EAITC provided further support to this program in 1990 and a contribution of \$10 000. A University Library Book Donation Program has, in addition, provided since 1983, a large number of books and pedagogical materials about Canada to Thai academics to support Canadian studies activities.

A new Canada-Thai Alumni Association was established in October 1989; its offices are currently located within the CIDA support office in Bangkok. It is hoped that the Association will support the growth of academic activities between Canada and Thailand.

Finally, a number of important missions have been undertaken in the education and training sector in the past few years, including delegations from the Thai Teachers' College to Alberta to study the organizational structure of Alberta community colleges (1988); from the Thai Ministry of Education to Ontario to study the primary school system in that province (March 1990); and from the Thai Ministry of Science and Technology to promote enrollment of Thai students in science programs at Canadian universities under Thailand's Scientific Scholarship Program (March 1990). In addition, several Alberta colleges have provided technical expertise and training programs to Thai colleges and teachers in the field of agriculture, food technology and processing.

Others

Canada is actively involved in bilateral anti-narcotics and law enforcement co-operation with Thailand. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) has provided police assistance to Thailand since 1983, including training of Thai police personnel in Canada under the Observer Attachment Program; at the Canadian Police College; and on-site training to all major Thai drug enforcement agencies under the National Drug Strategy. Senior Thai police officials have also made operational visits to Canada to promote co-operation in the area of intelligence and ongoing operations. The Solicitor General of Canada, the Honourable Pierre Blais, also visited Thailand in November 1989.

Since 1984, Revenue Canada (Customs and Excise) has offered extensive assistance to Thailand, both through departmental resources and resources available through CIDA's Management for Change Program. Technical assistance was provided in 1984 in the area of indirect tax administration methods and procedures within the context of the Canada-ASEAN Co-operation Agreement. Subsequently, Revenue Canada provided technical expertise to the Thai Department of Excise in the areas of operation and administration and laboratory services. This has involved classroom and on-the-job training for a number of Thai officials and scientists in Ottawa. Since 1986, Revenue Canada officials have made several trips to Thailand to assist the Thai Department of Excise in the implementation of its Five-Year Plan. Financial assistance to Thailand in the area of customs and excise will have reached approximately \$0.2 million between 1984 to 1990. The establishment of a mutual assistance agreement between the two customs administrations has been raised by Canada but the idea has yet to be pursued formally.