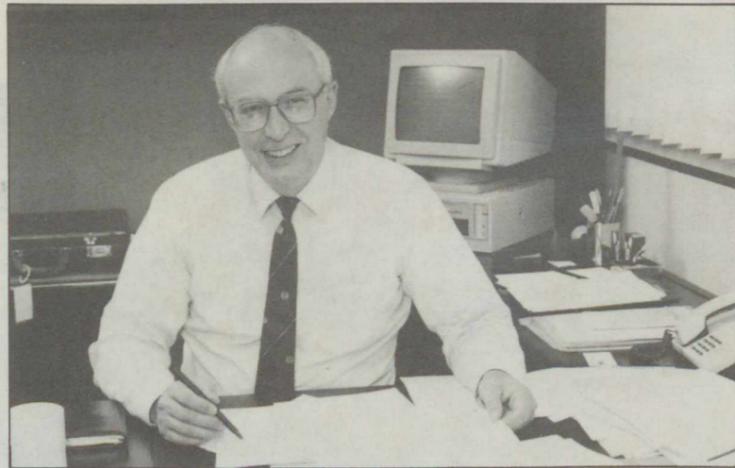


New Executive Director for Canada-ASEAN Center



Ian Robertson, new Executive Director of the Canada-ASEAN Centre

The Canada-ASEAN Center in Singapore extends a warm welcome to its new executive director, Ian Robertson. He brings to his new position a wealth of experience from both the private and government sectors.

Mr Robertson has managed Canadian development and trade programs in Asia, served on the Board of the Asian Development Bank in Manila, and represented Canada at numerous international conferences. He was a corporate finance officer for one of Canada's largest investment dealers.

His experience in international marketing has involved line market-

ing of engineering services, and eight years as co-founder and principal of one of western Canada's leading international marketing and trade promotion firms. He also served the government of Canada's Pacific province, British Columbia, as Vice-President, Marketing of the newly-formed B.C. Trade Development Corporation.

At the Canada-ASEAN Center, Mr Robertson will be administering four programs currently underway:

- a decentralized Development Cooperation Program (CIDA)
- a Human Resource Development and Institutional Cooperation Program

- a regional Business Cooperation Support Program
- a regional Public Affairs Program.

"The Center is truly a regional center," commented Mr Robertson.

"Although the headquarters is in Singapore, Center staff will travel frequently and local resources will be located and utilized throughout the region. The Center will be fully responsive to the ideas and guidance of the Canadian posts in ASEAN."

Mr Robertson is currently visiting each post to meet with both Canadian and ASEAN officials to discuss ideas and obtain feedback on programs already in place.

DEVELOPMENT

CIDA INC Assistance for Mekong Committee

CIDA INC will provide \$450,000 for a flood level optimization study for the proposed Pa Mong dam on the Mekong River between Thailand and Laos. The study will be conducted by Acres International Ltd of Niagara Falls, Ontario. This marks the first time since 1975 that Canada has provided funding to the Mekong Committee, the UN-sponsored body responsible for coordinating development in the lower Mekong basin.

Picture shows the Executive Agent of the Interim Mekong Committee, Chuck Lankester, (middle), and Martin ter Woort of Acres (second from right) signing the agreement for Acres to carry out the study. Looking on are Canadian Ambassador to Thailand Lawrence Smith (far right), Somphong Mongkhonvilay, Assistant Executive Agent for Laos (second from left) and Prapath Premmani, Secretary General of Thailand's National Energy Administration (far left).



CANADIAN AMBASSADOR VISITS ACEH



In early October, the Canadian Ambassador to Indonesia, Ingrid Hall, paid an official visit to the Special Territory of Aceh, at the northern end of Sumatra. Her objectives were to meet provincial officials and Canadians in and around Banda Aceh, the capital city, and to review the progress of development assistance projects that Canada is supporting.

Ambassador Hall's three-day visit was filled with a variety of colourful and interesting events, from cultural performances, focussing on the dances native to this province, to a visit to the cement factory that is playing a central role in the development of both Aceh and the Medan and Batam areas of Indonesia.

She also visited a local silk-weaving cooperative where ancient and intricate Acehese patterns are being woven into silk products. Silk production and weaving is not common in Indonesia notwithstanding the success of this industry in neighboring ASEAN countries. Aceh is one area where there are the beginnings of a revival in Indonesian silk production. At the cooperative, pattern designs are maintained in computer data bases.

Through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Canada is providing support to the IAIN University. During a visit to the university, the Ambassador had an opportunity to meet with the faculty and students. The trip ended with a tour of the highway between Banda Aceh and Meulaboh where the CIDA-funded section is approaching completion.

Ambassador Hall plans to make a second trip to this fascinating province in order to visit the oil and gas facilities in Lhokseumawe and the Canadians residing there, and to officially open the Canadian section of the highway to Meulaboh.



1. (Left to right) Indarsiani Francisca, Ambassador Hall and Counsellor David Keithlin at the dock facilities of PT Semen Andalas cement factory in Aceh where cement is shipped to Thailand, Medan and Colombo
2. Ambassador Hall trying her hand at spinning silk