

## ASEAN/CANADA DIALOGUE RELATIONSHIP

In 1974, in recognition of ASEAN's role as a factor in the peace stability in Southeast Asia, and of the potential for links with ASEAN members, Canada began to study means to develop substantial relations with the Association. In December 1974, in a section entitled "Canadian relations with ASEAN" in the Far Eastern Economic Review, Prime Minister Trudeau wrote that our support for ASEAN and relations with its member countries are an important element in Canada's goal of seeking closer relations with the Pacific region. Canada took its first step toward relations with ASEAN when the then Secretary of State for External Affairs, Allan MacEachen, wrote to the Malaysian Prime Minister in March, 1975 offering a programme of development assistance. Later in 1975, informal talks were held to discuss areas of cooperation. In 1976 the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Don Jamieson, and Allan MacEachen visited ASEAN countries. Mr. Jamieson announced a formal commitment to formalize relations with ASEAN through a "Dialogue" on development assistance and economic and cultural relations.

The first Dialogue meeting between Canada and ASEAN officials took place in February 1977 in Manila and the second in October/November 1977 in Ottawa. These meetings agreed on principles for development cooperation and discussed priority areas for cooperation. The latter were identified as 1) regional satellite communications, 2) regional air transport, 3) fisheries and 4) forestry. Studies of the first two areas did not produce projects which could be undertaken. Discussions have taken place on development cooperation and will be one of the items for discussion between the Canadian and ASEAN Foreign Ministers in Kuala Lumpur at their meetings on June 28, 1980.

In recognition of ASEAN's growing political cohesion, Canada has maintained contacts with ASEAN on a range of international and regional issues.