



High Commissioner von Nostitz being briefed on beekeeping project by UPM expert.

Canada Supports Beekeeping Project

During a visit to a beekeeping development project at Malaysia's agricultural university, the University Pertanian Malaysia (UPM), Canadian High Commissioner Manfred von Nostitz announced a grant of MAL\$50,000 to underwrite the establishment of a national beekeepers association in Malaysia.

Canada has long been involved in the beekeeping industry in Malaysia. Over the years various Canadian institutions, including the International Development Research Centre, Canadian Executive Services Overseas, Canadian University Service Overseas, as well as the High Commission itself, have collectively invested \$1 million in the industry.

Although Malaysia has the largest number of species of honey bee in the world, only in the last decade has an attempt been made to modernize beekeeping methods.

Because beekeeping, whether done as a subsistence or complementary income-generating activity, depends on marginal labour in the agricultural

sector, attention is now being directed at involving women and children in the industry. It is, for example, possible to combine beekeeping with the normal household duties which occupy rural women and children.

UPM has developed a multi-disciplinary approach to spearhead the development of the beekeeping industry in coconut and rubber-growing areas. The response to the pilot project in Johor state was described by Y.B. Datuk Dr Nayan bin Ariffin, Vice-Chancellor of UPM, as "overwhelming". More than 150 people became involved in the initial project, which spawned six more like it across Malaysia.

The grant to establish the national beekeeper's association will cover the initial start-up costs of the organization, equipment and stationery for the production of newsletters and bulletins, training for women at the beekeeping course at UPM, and a revolving fund for the running of the association in the future.

Canadian High Commissioner to Malaysia, H.E. Manfred von Nostitz, visited a few of these projects during his recent visit to Sabah and Sarawak.

The High Commission has contracted the Canadian University Service Overseas (CUSO), a non-governmental organization, to identify, develop and monitor projects for financing under the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives.

Designed for maximum effectiveness using local resources, the projects cover such sectors as agriculture, human resource development,

population and settlements, water and sanitation, and women in development.

In Sabah, for example, members of PENDUDUK (the Kadazan Ex-Students Association, a local NGO), were invited to participate in a workshop designed to provide the basics for forming a cooperative, including identifying ways in which the concept of cooperative development can be applied within rural communities.

In cooperation with the Society of Christian Services in Sarawak, the second phase of the Betanam Ulu Durin Experimental Farm was funded. The farm, which also serves as a teaching centre, is introducing organic farming techniques to a selected longhouse community. The goal is to encourage farmers to learn and exchange techniques that would improve traditional farming, and develop channels through which sustainable indigenous farming technology can be duplicated by other groups.

Several projects focussing on the role of women in development have been initiated. One was the publication of the book, "Profile of Women in Sabah", an information base on women in the state, which identifies their role in social and economic development. This project was implemented by the Sabah Women Action-Resource Group (SAWO), which also conducted a workshop on "Violence against Women". The aim of this awareness-raising workshop was to sensitize local Sabah participants to the problems involved and ways to combat these abuses.

Another project undertaken by CUSO and the Canadian High Commission was the Community Forestry and the Community Workshop held in Kuching in May. The workshop was designed to highlight the importance of the role of the community in forest management, given the pressures placed on this dwindling resource by population increase, the expansion of agriculture, and the overexploitation of forests to fulfil short-term economic goals.

The workshop addressed the expressed need of participants from Sabah and Sarawak for concrete information on the integration of communities into the planning and implementation of community forest projects, and the sharing of information and resources on a local and regional level. Particular consideration was given to the importance and methodology of community forestry in the ASEAN context.

Participants in this workshop included representatives from both east and peninsular Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and India. Both governmental and non-governmental organizations were present.

CANADA FUNDS E. MALAYSIA PROJECTS

Reflecting the broad range of development expertise that Canada is able to share with ASEAN countries, the Canadian High Commission in Malaysia has funded a number of projects in the two states of East Malaysia. The