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Development Assistance

A Regional Base

Singapore is not an eligible country for bilateral Canadian development assistance, with the exception of Canada Fund under which the Canadian High Commission annually disburses \$50,000 to support local initiatives. However, Singapore has played a significant role in the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA's) ASEAN and Regional Institutions programs which are currently managed from the Canadian High Commission in Singapore. The opening of the Canada-ASEAN Centre in July 1989 has strengthened Canada's presence in the region and provides a solid base from which to expand non-governmental ties with ASEAN. Funded by CIDA, the Centre's mandate is to improve understanding between Canada and ASEAN through a wide range of activities. The Centre's programs embrace business co-operation, public affairs and academic relations.

Singaporean officials have actively participated in a number of CIDA's ASEAN projects. This included hosting a seminar on urban forestry, which was funded under the ASEAN Institute of Forest Management project. Officials from the Singapore Department of Fishery Production are also playing a lead role on behalf of ASEAN in the design and implementation of CIDA's Fishery Post Harvest Program. In addition, Singapore is one of three ASEAN countries participating in CIDA's satellite communications project whose objective is to determine the effect of the ASEAN climate on the Ku-Band range of signals.

As an Associate Member of SEAMEO (Southeast Asia Ministers of Education Organization) since 1988, Canada has assisted in the development of Integrated Community-Based Human Resource Development projects in the region, including a Programme for Continuing Language Education for Urban Workers in Singapore. With continued sponsorship from CIDA in 1990 of CDN \$8.3 million, Phase II of SEAMEO-Canada Co-operation began. By promoting institutional linkages between SEAMEO Centres and Canadian universities and colleges, and by providing technical assistance and training, it is expected that the institutional capacities of the SEAMEO Centres will be strengthened and their strategic management capabilities enhanced during the second phase of co-operation.

Table VIII, on the following page, lists the various projects currently managed from the Canadian High Commission. Singapore officials have been active interlocutors on development assistance issues in the Canada-ASEAN Joint Co-operation Committee and are represented on the Project Steering Committees of all CIDA-ASEAN projects.

Parallel with the Canada-ASEAN Centre, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is Canada's most important aid donor in Singapore, where it maintains an office which co-ordinates its activities and programs for ASEAN region. IDRC has supported 84 scientific research projects in Singapore for total disbursements of over \$12 million.