

CANADA SUPPORTS CREDIT LINE FOR TYPHOON UNSANG VICTIMS



Canadian Ambassador R.H. Davidson and Planters Development Bank President Jesus Tanbunting signing the credit line agreement. Witnessing the events are Canada Fund Coordinator Jojo Deles and Jesus Tirona, General Manager for GFSME, and representatives of the four NGOs who will receive the loan

Responding to the devastation inflicted by Typhoon Unsang when it swept through the Philippines in late October, the Canadian Embassy, in cooperation with the Planters Development Bank (PDB), has opened a Php 10 million line of credit for the victims. Canada's contribution, through the Embassy's Canada Fund, was Php 5 million, matched by the PDB's contribution.

The fund will be loaned to four non-governmental organizations working in the areas most affected by the disaster. The NGOs will relend the fund to individual beneficiaries and associations. The participating NGOs are the Agency for Community Education Services in Nueva Ecija, the Shanley-

Austin Foundation in Quezon, Social Action Center of the Diocese of Nueva Caceres in Camarines Sur, and the Leyte Economic Development Foundation in Leyte.

Under the same scheme, the PDB funds are guaranteed by the Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise (GFSME).

According to PDB President Jesus Tanbunting, this is the first time PDB is utilizing NGOs as a conduit for credit to small rural-based borrowers. He sees this as an important move that could serve as a model for delivering credit services to farmers and fishermen.



CANADA GRANT FOR THAI FLOOD RELIEF

Canada's Ambassador to Thailand, L.A.H. Smith, is pictured presenting a cheque of \$25,000 to Dr Kasem Suwanagul, Secretary General of the Thai Red Cross Society. Looking on are, from left, Colleen Swords, Jake Buhler, Boonyat Veesakul and student nurses of the Thai Red Cross Hospital.

The Canada Fund grant will be used to purchase medicines and household equipment for victims of flooding in Thailand's southern provinces. Canada has pledged a total of \$95,000 for flood relief in Thailand.

WOMEN'S ISSUES

CAMPAIGN KIT TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

As part of the continuing efforts of Malaysian women's groups to devise practical and effective strategies and tools to improve the living conditions and status of women, the All Women's Action Society of Malaysia (AWAM) has produced a campaign kit designed to help combat violence against women. The production of the kit was made possible through a grant by the Canadian High Commission's Canada Fund, which also helped finance a series of four seminars to assist groups to use the kits effectively.

The launching of this kit culminates a two-year effort undertaken mainly by volunteers. This and other related projects are designed to inform, educate and disseminate information to create greater public



The campaign kit produced by the All Women's Action Society of Malaysia to combat violence against women

awareness of the role of women in society, and to bring about attitudinal changes to create equality in status and opportunities between men and women.

The kit itself is designed to be both pragmatic and innovative, with an easy to understand format which will prove invaluable not only to organized women's groups, but also to individuals at the grassroots level, who are the ultimate beneficiaries of projects such as this.