

Canada-ASEAN Developments

Approval Near for Framework Agreement

RECOGNIZING the increasingly important role of ASEAN as a positive factor in the peace, stability and development of Southeast Asia, since the mid-seventies Canada has sought to complement existing bilateral relations with the ASEAN member states by developing substantive linkages with the Association. As readers of this publication are aware, these include frequent consultations at the ministerial and official level, numerous visits between Canada and ASEAN of political leaders and government officials, and development assistance in the form of regional aid projects.

Although the development of the relationship has been a source of considerable satisfaction for Canada, it was recognized that the relationship would benefit from the establishment of some form of co-operative framework agreement between Canada and the Association.

Accordingly, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan at his meeting with the ASEAN foreign ministers in Kuala Lumpur in June, 1980, proposed the Canada-ASEAN Industrial, Technical and Commercial Co-operation Agreement. The Minister explained that such an agreement would constitute a valuable demonstration of Canadian support for the Association and for its overriding objectives of stability and economic development. Canada also hoped that the agreement would serve to facilitate relations with ASEAN and reflect the growing awareness of Canadian interest in the region. The agreement, as initially envisaged, would emphasize co-operation in the industrial field—thus involving the private sector—and become a vehicle for the provision of development assistance to the Association for regional programs of benefit to all five member countries.

The ASEAN governments welcomed a Canadian draft of the proposed agreement in July of last year, but indicated through the ASEAN Standing Committee that the agreement should cover additional areas of co-operation, especially in the commercial field. Canada has concurred with this view and commercial articles have been drafted for

inclusion in the agreement.

On July 7 and 8, representatives of the ASEAN governments gathered in Ottawa for discussion and negotiation of the agreement. It is hoped that these negotiations will lead to the drafting of an agreed text to be ready for formal Canadian and ASEAN approval and signature at an early date.

Towards the Transfer of Fisheries Technology

CANADA will provide a \$1.5 million grant to ASEAN as part of an agreement reached on a post-harvest technology fisheries project, the Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan announced in June.

The project is aimed at increasing the use of available fish resources, improving the standard of living of local fishing communities, and increasing the supply of high-protein food in the five ASEAN countries.

To enable a transfer of fishing technology, Canadian experts, services and equipment will be provided along with post-graduate and short-term training awards for citizens of ASEAN countries in Canadian universities and colleges.

Fish and fish products are an important source of dietary protein in

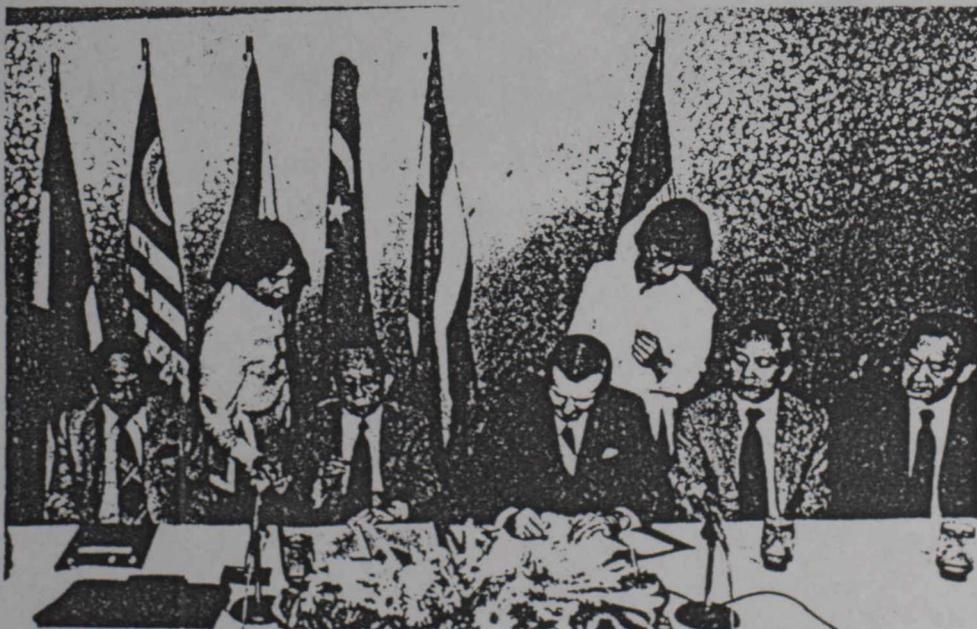
ASEAN countries. Per capita consumption varies from 40 per cent to 65 per cent of the total animal protein intake; total production is estimated at 5,222,240 tonnes (1980). While fresh fish is generally preferred, a significant proportion of fish consumed is in the form of processed products, including traditional products such as salted or dried fish, fish sauce, paste and fermented products.

Between 15 per cent and 50 per cent of current fish catches are lost as a result of poor storage and handling technology. Spoilage and insect infestation results in losses of about 25 per cent. In addition, a considerable quantity of low-value fish caught by shrimp trawlers is discarded at sea while lack of quality control and poor processing is another cause of waste.

Processed fish products provide employment opportunities and a source of foreign exchange for ASEAN countries. Research and development will bring about greater diversity in processed fishery products and added value.

A Seed Centre for Forests of the Future

IN OTTAWA, Canada, on May 1, Thailand's Minister of Foreign Affairs Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetsila and Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan signed a memorandum of understanding on the establishment of a forest tree seed centre in Thailand. The project is designed to strengthen the efforts of ASEAN



Philippine Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo (seated 2nd. left) signs the agreement on a post-harvest fisheries project on behalf of ASEAN with Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines Ed Bobinski.