

The ministerial level political consultations between Canada and the Southeast Asian nations on the occasion of the annual Foreign Ministers' Meeting reflect the political importance accorded by Canada to ASEAN. Canada also supports the economic and social development of the ASEAN countries, including joint efforts such as the ASEAN Forest Seed Centre project in Thailand. On September 25, 1981 an ASEAN-Canada Economic Agreement was signed in New York which provided the framework for broader industrial, commercial and development cooperation. Discussion of particular areas of cooperation under this Agreement have just been completed at the Third Canada-ASEAN Dialogue Session in Manila.

While it is expected that a major topic of multilateral discussion at Singapore will be the situation in Cambodia, other important international issues of mutual concern will be reviewed as well as specific matters of bilateral interest.