

The Geological Survey of Canada (GSC), with financial backing from CIDA (\$15.5 million over 7 years), has been involved in an extensive airborne geophysical survey of Thailand funded through the Asian Development Bank. The GSC has been responsible for the technical specifications and for monitoring the survey performed by a Canadian company. GSC staff continue to provide advisory and inspection services to the Thai Department of Mineral Resources as data processing and map compilation work is being completed.

In addition, trainees from the Thai Department of Mineral Resources have had an opportunity to review the systems of mineral industry statistics compilation and mineral commodity tracking of the Mineral Policy Sector of Energy, Mines and Resources Canada.

A \$5 million CIDA project will soon be under way to assist Thailand's National Energy Policy Committee (NEPC) in formulating detailed action and investment plans consistent with the framework established by the Sixth National Energy Development Plan, and to assist the office of the NEPC in developing a co-ordinated approach to energy management and planning.

Transportation

In 1986, Transport Canada launched a five-year \$10 million program to assist developing countries in meeting international obligations related to civil aviation security. This involves the provision of needed equipment, technical assistance and training. Thailand has expressed an interest in receiving assistance but an agreement to proceed with the project between CIDA, the sponsoring agency, and the Thai government has yet to be signed.

CIDA has also sponsored 18 trainees from Thailand to attend courses provided by Transport Canada's Training Institute in Cornwall, Ontario on air traffic control as well as to participate in related short-term practical training.

In addition, in November 1989, members from Canada's Airport Task Force visited Bangkok to gain experience in dealing with international transit passengers in Thailand.

Communications

The Department of Communications has been very active in its marketing efforts in Thailand as well as in other Southeast Asian countries. Since 1985, they have sponsored several trade and technical missions to and from Thailand in collaboration

with External Affairs and International Trade Canada and CIDA. Thai officials have visited Canada regularly for training in areas of Canadian expertise such as spectrum management. High-level Thai officials have also participated in training sessions at the Telecommunications Executive Management Interchange Centre (TEMIC). This Centre, funded by the Government of Canada and the private sector, provides training in the management and use of telephone and communications systems for representatives of developing countries. Alberta Telecommunications International as well as B.C. Tel's Telecommunications Services International have also provided training and technology in their sector of expertise to Thailand. The Thai government policy to speed up the country's telecommunications services through private sector equity participation, may provide opportunities for Canadian companies to penetrate the communications sector.

Defence

The recent accreditation of a Canadian Forces Attaché to Thailand has helped stimulate bilateral co-operation in the area of defence. An agreement has been approved covering participation by Thai military personnel in Canada's Military Training Assistance Program (MTAP). This agreement establishes the legal, financial, security and administrative arrangements under which Thai military personnel are trained in Canada under the MTAP.

A number of high-level visits in 1989 and 1990 have demonstrated the mutual interest shared between Canada and Thailand in the defence and security sector. These include a visit by the Associate Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Mary Collins, to Thailand in August 1989, visits to Canada by the Royal Thai Army Deputy Commander-in-Chief in July 1989 and by the Chief of Staff of the Royal Thai Army Training Command in April 1990, plus exchange visits by Canadian and Thai national defence colleges in 1989 and 1990. A Thai Armed Forces Administrative mission also took place in August 1990.

Institution Building and Education

A number of projects under CIDA's bilateral program are designed to promote links between Thai and Canadian institutions.