

## Canadian Dairy Mission visits M'sia, Thailand

A delegation of Canadian dairy experts visited Thailand and Malaysia in September and October to meet with their counterparts. The delegation was headed by Dr John E. McGowan, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Agricultural Programs, Department of Agriculture Canada. He was accompanied by Canadian agricultural officials and representatives of Canada's livestock industry.

The highlights of the delegation's stopovers in Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok and Chiang Mai were the Dairy Technical Seminars which attracted several hundred experts, government officials, cooperative representatives and cattle importers. The seminars addressed key issues such as animal health, nutrition, breeding strategies and genetic improvement programs.

In Malaysia, training programs were also discussed, drawing on the experience between the two countries over the past number of years. Many staff members of the Department of Veterinary Services of Malaysia were trained at the University of Guelph in Canada, and senior department officers have visited Canada on educational and fact-finding trips.

The delegation had a number of commercial objectives which found an equally receptive audience in Malaysia. As a consequence, sales of Canadian livestock (cattle and swine), Canadian bull semen and frozen embryos, and Canadian feed supplement are in the offing. An exciting project to develop a crossbreed of dairy cattle based on the best traits of cattle in both Canada and Malaysia and able to tolerate tropical conditions was also advanced by the delegation.

Visits to several dairy farms, milk collection centres and dairy processing plants in both countries were also included in the program. In Malaysia, the delegation also met with officials of the Malaysian Agriculture Research and Development Institute; the Agricultural University of Malaysia; and the State Veterinary Office at Air Keroh, Melaka.



High Commissioner Garrett Lambert addressing the Malaysia-Canada Dairy Technical Seminar in Kuala Lumpur. Among those at the head table are Malaysian Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Dato' Alex Lee (third from left) and leader of the Canadian delegation, Dr John McGowan (second from left).

## Maple Tree for Thailand

While in Bangkok, Dr John McGowan donated a silver maple tree to the Royal Thai Botanical Garden, Suan Luang Rama IX Foundation (SLRF), on behalf of Canada's Department of Agriculture. This tree, native to Canada and the symbol on Canada's flag, came from Montreal's Botanical Gardens.

Dr McGowan is seen presenting a plaque to Major General Chamlong Srimuang, Governor of Bangkok, at the official planting ceremony held at SLRF on 30 September. Looking on are, from left to right, Canada's Ambassador to Thailand, H.E. Lawrence A.H. Smith, Trade Counsellor Mr Robert Vanderloo, Mr David Solloway of Canadian International Airlines, and Thailand's Ambassador to Canada, H.E. Manaspas Xuto.

