

Quebec Trade Office Officially Opened



In front of the cameras: (from left) High Commissioner Brady, Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Bonifacio.

The Honourable Pierre MacDonald, Minister of External Trade and Technological Development for the Province of Quebec, was in Singapore in early April to officially open the Office of the Agent of Quebec.

The office will serve as the provincial government's regional headquarters for the fostering of trade in the ASEAN region.

The Minister's trip and the official office opening are a demonstration of Quebec's recognition of the growing importance in world trade of the Asia Pacific region. As a result, the province has embarked upon a concerted effort to further develop mature trading relations in the region.

Mr. MacDonald was accompanied on his visit — which included stops in Malaysia, Thailand and Hong Kong — by 35 Quebec businessmen making up three separate commercial and ministerial missions.

Mr. MacDonald called on Dr. Yeo Ning Hong, Minister for Communications and Information. He also met Chan Chin Bock, Alternate Chairman of the Economic Development Board, and Alan Yeo, Chairman of the Trade Development Board.

During these meetings, the minister reviewed Quebec's trade strategy and objectives and was briefed on Singapore's latest economic and trade forecasts.



Trade Minister MacDonald unveiling the plaque.

Two-way Flow

At the opening, Dominique Bonifacio, Director of the regional Quebec office said, "Although positive gains have been made in trade co-operation between ASEAN and Quebec, we recognize that for the relationship to mature and prosper, there must be increased two-way flow of goods and technological expertise."

The main function of the Quebec office — which covers Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand — is to develop closer relationships with the business communities and identify opportunities for Quebec firms in ASEAN and for ASEAN companies in Quebec.

The Quebec business sector is particularly interested in trade in high technology such as telecommunications, computer software, food processing, hydropower, transportation, agro-industrialization and hospital equipment; machinery for the construction and environment maintenance sectors; and consumer items like food products and furniture.

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