

IDRC Provides Grant for Research into Rehabilitating Singapore Ponds

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada earlier this year made a research grant totalling \$342,374 to a group of Singaporean, Malaysian and Canadian researchers to support their three-year research programme on the environmental problems caused by slime resulting from the quarrying and processing of aggregate for the building industry in Singapore.

The focus of the study is the tailings ponds and their contained slime. Over one hundred slime ponds accounting for 1.3 per cent of Singapore's land area, have been affected by this problem which, apart from wasting precious land, also deprives the island state of valuable water sources.

Researchers in one of Canada's leading geotechnical research centres located at McGill University, Montreal will be working closely with their colleagues from the Singapore Housing Development Board, McClelland Engineers of Singapore and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia to seek solutions to the problem.

Apart from the search for a method

to rehabilitate the affected ponds, the researchers from the three countries will also attempt to identify a procedure for future aggregate treatment which will reduce or eliminate the creation of permanent slime ponds and at the same time save the loss of water.

They will also be researching for a process to recover clay as a by-product of aggregate treatment.

The long term objectives of this group of scientists are directed at the creation of a research and operational capability in the field within the region. They hope to achieve this through direct participation in the research process and by both formal and informal training during the course of the research.

Within the region, the creation of local research and engineering capability in the several fields involved in the project will have wide applicability in land rehabilitation, alluvial ore mining and materials handling, all of which are essential for sound economical development of local resources and for improvement of the quality of life in settled areas.

Ballet Troupe Visit "Grand" Success

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, as part of their Asian tour, opened the 1984 Singapore Festival of Arts with a gala performance which thrilled Singaporean audiences with a varied programme of both classical and avant-garde dance. Second Deputy Prime Minister and Mrs. S. Rajaratnam were Guests of Honour at the opening night performance.

The visit of Les Grands was the first major presentation of Canadian culture in Singapore. Local choreographers regarded the visit as significant for Singaporean dancers, setting an example of international standards for which to aim.

Included in the three performances were dances by Canadian choreographers Brian MacDonald and James Kudelka, with music written by Canadians Gilles Vigneault and Michael J. Baker.

East met West to the delight of audiences with Tam Ti Delam, which exuberantly reflects the joie de vivre of Quebec life and the company's roots, and the Red Ribbon Dance which demonstrated the colour and skill of traditional Chinese dance. These two 'folk' dances which capture the essence of their respective cultures were received with plenty of foot-tapping and thunderous applause.

James Kudelka's In Paradisum was sensitively performed to critical acclaim.

Les Grands rendition of Balanchine's "Concerto Barocco" and "Serenade" showed the company's range in more traditional ballet works.

The Lianhe Zaobao newspaper regarded the two hour performance as "a venture into an enchanted world" The article went on to affirm that Les Grands are a company of international stature.

During their visit here the company held three well attended open rehearsals and generally enjoyed the sights and sounds of Singapore. His Excellency, High Commissioner George W. Seymour and his wife welcomed the dancers to their home where the group was introduced to members of Singapore's dance community.

At another High Commission get-together, dancers met cast members of the local "Bumboat" production and were entertained by mime artists Roger Jenkins and Tina Sargent, who trained with the world-famous Marcel Marceau.

After Singapore the company left for the next stage in their exhausting nine week tour: a twelve city tour of Japan before completing their Asian visit in Seoul. Earlier they had visited Peking, Shanghai, Canton, Hong Kong and Bangkok.

Montreal Taps Singapore Financial Market

The Montreal Urban Community (MUC) announced on 11 July that it would offer a US\$50 million floating rate note (FRN) in Singapore. Mr. Pierre Des Marais II, chairman of the Community, was on hand to sign the agreement which is being managed by Daiwa Singapore Limited with the Development Bank of Singapore as the fiscal and paying agent.

This was the first occasion for the MUC to seek financing in Singapore. As a major enterprise in North America, the MUC has found it vital to diversify its sources of funds and in Mr. Des Marais' words "the Singapore financial market is a major capital centre; we simply cannot overlook it."

The funds will be used to discharge maturing debts incurred to finance major development of the infrastructure of the Montreal Urban Community, including extension of its highly regarded subway system, and construction of regional parks and municipal waste treatment facilities.

The Montreal Urban Community is made up of 29 municipalities on the island of Montreal. The largest city in the Province of Quebec, Montreal has a population of 1.8 million people living in an area of 490 sq. kms.

Joint Venture in Refrigeration Design

Computers will serve as the link for a joint venture in refrigeration design between J.H. Lock & Sons Ltd. of Toronto and Applied Engineering Pte. Ltd. of Singapore.

The Toronto-based company designs and manufactures refrigeration systems for the chemical, petrochemical and food processing industries.

Applied Engineering, a member of the Warnes Group, is one of the foremost makers of steel and process equipment in Southeast Asia.

The two companies will bid for projects throughout the region. Depending on the project, one or the other company will act as contractor, with their partner participating as a sub-contractor.

Detailed designs will be transferred directly to the workshop in Singapore from the design room in Canada through computer terminals here and in Canada.

This example of electronic technology transfer heralds an exciting new technique for increased cooperation between companies in Canada and the ASEAN region.