

Seminars to Promote ASEAN Exports to Canada

At the April 1983 meeting of the Canada-ASEAN Joint Co-operation Committee officials discussed ways and means of increasing the two way trade flow between Canada and the countries of ASEAN. Canada exports to ASEAN countries have risen steadily during the past few years while imports from ASEAN have grown at a more modest level. It was agreed that in order to increase the flow of ASEAN goods Canada should provide assistance to ASEAN exporters in developing a better understanding and knowledge of the Canadian market.

The Canadian response will be in the form of export opportunities seminars to be held during 1984 in all ASEAN capitals. Each seminar will be tailored to export capabilities in the host country and will be directed to the private sector in each country. Resource people from Canada are being selected to cover all areas of expected interest including a speaker from one of Canada's largest department store chains, national distributors for wood products and furniture importers, an expert on processed foods

and seafoods, and an official from the Department of National Revenue who will provide guidance on Canada's tariff structure.

Planning for the export opportunities seminars has been co-ordinated in Canada by the Trade Facilitation Office (TFO), an agency supported by the Canadian International Development Agency. The TFO has been in direct contact with trade and export promotion ministries in each ASEAN capital to make the necessary arrangements. It is expected that each seminar will last for two-three days and be attended by about 150 businessmen and others interested in increasing their exports to Canada.

The seminars are being organized in two phases — in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia from February 20 — March 9, and in Singapore and the Philippines in November 1984.

Businessmen interested in attending the seminars should contact their national export/trade development ministries or the commercial section of the Canadian diplomatic mission in the ASEAN capitals.

Senior Parliamentarian Attends AIPO Assembly

The Honourable Bryce S MacKasey, PC, MP, attended the recent meeting of the ASEAN Interparliamentary Organisation (AIPO) as the official representative of the Parliament of Canada.

This was the first occasion in which a Canadian parliamentary observer has participated in an AIPO assembly and follows upon the interest expressed in AIPO by members of the Canadian parliamentary delegation which visited Malaysia earlier in 1983.

Mr MacKasey is a senior parliamentarian who has held several appointments with the Government of Canada, including Minister of Labour, Minister of Manpower and Immigration, Postmaster General, and Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

After the AIPO assembly, Mr MacKasey departed Singapore for a four day visit to Bangkok.

(See article on pg 12).

Canadians Participate in Pacific Economic Cooperation Meeting

A conference on Pacific Economic Cooperation (PECC) was held in Bali from November 21 to November 23, 1983. This was the third such informal consultative meeting of representatives of various Pacific rim nations to discuss regional trade and economic issues and how to enhance economic cooperation within the region. Previous meetings were held in Bangkok in 1982 and in Canberra in 1980.

The Bali meeting, hosted by Indonesia's Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), drew participants from the governmental, business and academic communities of 15 countries. Canada was represented by Mr. R.A. Kilpatrick, Assistant Deputy Minister, Asia and Pacific Branch, of the Department of External Affairs; Mr. Eric Trigg, Executive Vice-President of the Aluminum Company of Canada Ltd. (Alcan); Professor E. English from Carleton University in Ottawa and Mr. John Bruk, Chairman of the Founding Committee for the Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada.

At its conclusion, the PECC established five task forces to study five major issues for the next meeting to be held in Seoul in April, 1985. Canada will co-ordinate an Agriculture and Resources Task Force. Other task forces and coordinating countries are: Capital Plans (United States, Japan and Indonesia), Manufactured Goods (South Korea), Minerals and Energy (Australia), and Direct Investment and Technology (United States, Japan and Indonesia).



ASEAN journalists meet members of the Department of External Affairs during their visit to Canada in September. Two weeks in duration, the visit saw the journalists travel approximately 5000 kms from Vancouver, B.C. to Montreal, Que.

While in Ottawa, the journalists met with Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau who had visited the ASEAN countries in January 1983.

The journalists' visit was intended to increase media awareness in ASEAN about Canada and its interests and activities in the region. The visit was one of several projects discussed during the Canada-ASEAN Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) Meeting in April 1983.