

Philippine Telecoms Gets \$5M Boost

Noting the importance of an efficient telecommunications system in a country's economic growth, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) continues to assist the Philippines in developing its fledgling telecommunications network.

An agreement for a second CIDA-funded telecommunications project was signed on 21 June by Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines, H.E. Russell H. Davidson, for Canada and Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus for the Philippines. This augments the first field trial project, the "Batangas Telecommunication Development Project", which will complete a model rural telephone system using subscribers' radio telecommunications (SRT100) in 16 Batangas Municipalities by August this year.

Under the new agreement, a technical assistance project will provide institutional support and increase institutional capacity in the planning, policy formulation, development and management of the telecommunications sector.

The project will also make available up to \$5 million for the procurement of Canadian consulting services for any mutually agreeable work assignment on the development of telecommunications, project management and evaluation. This will improve links between the Canadian and Philippine telecommunication sectors.

A joint Philippine industry-Government committee will be established to provide the project with overall guidance and direction. The committee will review the project's annual workplans and the proposed work assignments.

UNIVERSITY GETS GRANT FOR HEALTH PROJECT

Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark has ratified a \$3.15 million contribution with Norman E. Wagner, Ph.D., President of the University of Calgary, for the implementation of a health sector institutional support project in Southeast Mindanao.

With funds from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the University of Calgary will assist the Institute of Primary Health Care (IPHC), in Davao City. The project will focus on improving research and evaluation capabilities, and training officers in the health sector.

The university will also help IPHC to establish small income-generating projects: hog-raising, weaving, and food and handicraft production. The income will then be reinvested in an area populated by 600,000. These people will enjoy such health benefits as the installation of more wells in their villages, medical dispensaries, latrines and improved sewage systems.

To ensure self-sustaining health-related programs, the two partner institutions will train volunteers to improve their capacity to initiate and manage social development projects in their own communities.

The University of Calgary, through its International Centre and the divisions of International Development, International Business and International Relations, is especially active in partnerships with institutions worldwide.

CIDA CONSULTS WITH PHILIPPINE NGOS

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) met with representatives of 31 Philippine and 14 Canadian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Tagaytay, a suburb south of Manila, on 12-15 June. This consultation was in preparation for its first Philippine five-year country program review.

Since 1986, when the Aquino Government was installed, the Philippines has become a priority country for Canadian assistance. Canada has a \$100 million aid commitment to the Philippines over the next five years.

CIDA anticipates a substantial NGO participation in its aid program here. Therefore the discussions centered on the role of a foreign development agency, such as CIDA, in addressing the Philippine situation, as well as the needs and issues confronting the NGO community.

Workshop discussions were keynoted by former undersecretary Karina David of the Social Services and

Development Department; Horacio Morales of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM); Manuel Montes, a university professor; Randolph David of the Third World Studies Centre; Fr Antonio Ledesma of Philidhraa, a network of Philippine NGOs; Tim Brodhead of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC); Dean Gaston Ortigas of the Asian Institute of Management and the Philippine Coalition for Peace; and Sancho Lara of the Philippine Farmers Institute.

Besides Philidhraa, the conference secretariat, PRRM and CCIC, other NGO networks represented were the National Training Centre for Cooperatives (NATCCO), the Ecumenical Centre for Development (ECD), and the National Council for People's Development (NCPD). The CIDA delegation was led by Jim Carruthers, program director for Canada's development assistance in the Philippines.



Jim Carruthers (centre) with his fellow speakers