

Ministry of Finance to assist Singapore in becoming a regional centre for the computer services industry.

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Three officers from the National Iron and Steel Mill of Singapore spent from August 9-14 visiting Canadian companies that have extensive experience in the construction of **Mass Rapid Transit (MRT)** systems in Canada. The visitors were particularly interested in Canadian tunnelling and shoring techniques as well as heavy equipment manufacture.

They also observed closely the two heavy transit systems in Canada—in Toronto and Montreal. These systems are of particular interest to the Singapore government because of their unique similarity to Singapore's proposed MRT and their world-wide reputation as extremely successful public transit systems.

Another mission, lead by the Chairman of the Singapore Provisional MRT Authority Herman Hochstadt, spent from September 18-23 in Canada studying the same two transit systems.

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Dr. Cheong Kam Khaw, head of the Physical Sciences Department, **Singapore Science Centre**, spent a week in early August at the Ontario Science Centre (OSC) in Toronto. The objective of the study tour was for Mr. Cheong to become familiar with new ideas and techniques employed by the OSC in exhibit development, design and presentation.

The OSC has developed a widely acclaimed reputation for being in the forefront of innovative design and display of scientific principles. It is a major educational institution in Canada and has established close working relationships with similar organizations world-wide. Over the years, the Singapore Science Centre has arranged for a number of its staff members to be on attachment to the OSC to share in the scientific developments that are taking place there.

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The Chairman of the **ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST)** Professor Ang How Ghee visited Canada in August to follow up on talks between senior officials of Canada and ASEAN during the dialogue sessions in Manila in May.

While in Ottawa Prof. Ang met with the President of the International Development Research Centre Ivan Head to discuss ASEAN interest in co-

operation with Canada on non-conventional energy projects. He also met officials at the Canadian International Development Agency.

In addition to his ASEAN responsibilities Prof. Ang is Chairman of the Science Council of Singapore and Deputy Chairman of the Singapore Institute of Standards and Industrial Research. He previously visited Canada in May, 1981, on a scientific study tour.

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In co-operation with the Singapore Department of Trade, the Government of Canada and the Royal Bank of Canada, the **Singapore Manufacturers' Association** mounted a large trade mission to Canada during September 13-24. This was the first official trade mission to Canada in many years. The seven companies that participated in the mission represented a broad spectrum of Singapore manufacturing capabilities and trading interests. Because of its diverse interests, the mission was organised jointly by the bank and the government, thereby ensuring that both the buying and the selling interests of the mission were effectively addressed. The mission visited Vancouver, Montreal, Ottawa, and Toronto.

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Singaporean track and field athlete Mr. C. Kunalan is visiting Canada in October as a result of a grant provided by the

Department of External Affairs. During Mr. Kunalan's 10-day visit he will meet with Canadian sporting officials specializing in track and field. He will also attend the National Coaching Seminar to be held in Mont Ste-Marie, Quebec, a winter and summer sports resort, about 50 kilometres from Ottawa. Mr. Kunalan is well known in Singapore sporting circles and represented Singapore in the Olympic Games (1964, 1968), Commonwealth Games (1966, 1970) and Asian Games (1966, 1970, 1974, 1978).

Earlier this year Mr. Desmond Oon, the Assistant Director for Sports Information and Research, **Singapore Sports Council**, went to Canada under a similar grant. Mr. Oon spent a week at the Canadian Sports Information Research Centre in Ottawa, which is unique and a model for sporting organizations around the world. He also visited the Ontario Sports Administration Centre in Toronto.

THAILAND

On August 12 a 10-member Thai delegation visited Ottawa to sign an agreement on the initial draft of a **transfer of offenders treaty** with Canada. The treaty will not be ratified until the Thai Parliament has considered and passed the Prisoner Exchange Act. This is expected sometime next year. Canada passed its own Transfer of Offenders Act in March, 1978. To date Canada



Director General, Treaty and Legal Department of Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sathit Sathirathaya, and National Parole Board of Canada Chairman William Outerbridge after signing an agreement on the initial draft of a transfer of offenders treaty.