

(ii) **Power Generation Sector** A national grid supplies electricity to most parts of the country using hydro, thermal, combined cycle, gas turbine and diesel plants.

Efficient Power

Power generation is efficiently run under the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT).

The best prospects for Canada are in supplying power boilers, equipment for substations, and transmission lines.

(iii) **Minerals Sector** Growth in demand for imported minerals, such as iron, copper, zinc, lead and nickel will remain static or decline with the possible exception of aluminium, as Thailand develops its own mineral resource base in the next decade. Production of many minerals, particularly lignite, gypsum, feldspar, lead and zinc, is expanding.

The management of Thailand's mineral resources is the responsibility of the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR). DMR has a major project to expand its geological data base.

No Aluminium

There is no aluminium production in Thailand and demand should increase steadily. Canada exported almost 17,000 tonnes of aluminium in 1985, for a market share of 42 per cent. Alcan has two fabrication plants in Thailand.

Thailand currently imports all of its sulphur. In 1985 imports from Canada were almost 40,000 tonnes or 78 per cent of the market. Demand for Canadian sulphur should remain constant unless the National Fertilizer Project goes ahead, in which case demand would rise sharply. The major importer of sulphur is Metro Co. Ltd.

Good Potential

Other Canadian minerals with good sales potential are nickel, copper, mica and nephelene syenite.

Canadian technical expertise and investment would be welcome in the development of Thailand's mineral sector including geophysical data collection; possible development of a steel industry; development of the potash industry; and development of gold mining.

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C\$60 – million for Thailand



HRH Crown Prince Maja Vajiralongkorn (right) chatting with Mrs. Landry (left) in the presence of Canadian Ambassador John Paynter and his wife, Inge.

During a visit to Thailand in March, Canada's External Relations Minister, Monique Landry, signed agreements for nearly C\$60-million in funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

One \$21-million agreement covers major CIDA projects in Thailand including scholarships, food processing technology, training, natural resource development and a strategic industrial study.

Mrs. Landry said CIDA programs are no longer concentrating only on aid but are promoting the creation of trade links between Canada and recipient countries, including Thailand.

"We see a need to develop a closer link between aid and trade to help the

private sector because trade can do a lot more for job creation in the long term," she said.

Mrs. Landry also announced the approval in principle for a \$36-million industrial sector program called "Enterprise Thailand" aimed at enhancing Thai-Canadian private sector co-operation.

This program will support the major goals of Thailand's Sixth Five Year Plan by encouraging the Canadian private sector to collaborate with Thai firms in projects which could benefit from Canadian skills and technology.

A third agreement was also announced; \$5-million to support the social and economic development of women.

Energy Assistance Accord

In March an agreement was signed for a co-operative project in Thailand between Petro-Canada International Assistance Co-operation (PCIAC), the Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT) and the Petroleum Institute of Thailand (PTIT). This new two-year agreement ensures that PCIAC will have a continuing role with PTT, and now with PTIT, in assisting Thailand to achieve its goal of greater energy self-sufficiency.

Under the agreement, PCIAC will provide PTT and PTIT with technical assistance amounting to C\$4.7-million. The emphasis of this agreement will be on

training and consulting services in the areas of exploration and production, gas operations and management operations. The newly created Petroleum Institute of Thailand, which has already benefitted from PCIAC assistance, will receive a further \$500,000 for consulting services to prepare a long-term development plan and to organize courses and conferences for the energy industry.

The new technical assistance agreement is expected to create additional opportunities for Canadian energy interests in Thailand.