

Singapore Venue for SEA Studies Conference

THE Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies (CCSEAS) will be holding its second international (twelfth annual) conference at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, June 21-24, 1982.

Sponsored by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Social Science Research Council of Canada, the conference is expected to inaugurate a new phase of research collaboration between Canadian specialists on Southeast Asia and about 60 Southeast Asian counterparts.

The main theme of the conference is "Village-Level Modernization: Livelihoods, Resources and Cultural Continuity," and will include discussion of the role and potential for Canadian NGO's, small industry and consultancy in complementing the efforts of indigenous agencies in promoting regional and integrated rural development to enhance livelihood opportunities and prospects for rural inhabitants of Southeast Asia.

The CCSEAS is the national organization of specialists with an academic or professional interest in Southeast Asian affairs. Its first international (ninth annual) conference was held at the Institute of Asian Research, University of British Columbia, November 9-11, 1979, the proceedings from which are being published as "The Political Economy of Rice and Water: Village-Level Modernization, Employment and Income Distribution in Southeast Asia" (University of British Columbia Press, 1982) and "Southeast Asia: Women, Changing Social Structure and Cultural Continuity" (University of Ottawa Press, 1981). Other volumes of annual conference proceedings are obtainable from CCSEAS Secretariat, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada.

About 12 collaborative research projects are expected to be inaugurated on various aspects of Southeast Asian development as a result of the CCSEAS conference in June, in addition to a widening information network among scholars and others with a professional interest in Southeast Asia.

It is hoped that the international conferences will become regular bi-annual or tri-annual affairs, held alternately in Canada and in a location in Southeast Asia.

Further information is available from Professor Geoffrey B. Hainsworth, at the Institute of Asian Research, University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, or Professor Kernial S. Sandhu, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore.

The Canadian Travel Scene

Canada Welcomes More ASEAN Tourists

OVERSEAS travel to Canada from the ASEAN countries increased by almost nine per cent in the first six months of 1981, according to the Canadian Government Office of Tourism (CGOT) figures. More than 17,000 visitors from ASEAN's five member countries travelled to Canada in the January to June period, compared with about 15,000 a year earlier.

The Canadian government has launched a series of 16 market probes to learn more about travel to Canada from a number of "emerging markets" around the world, including countries in Asia. The results are expected this April. The purpose of the probes is to get a better indication of potential travel to Canada from these nations as well as an idea of what people think of Canada as a travel destination. Steps will be taken to increase promotion of Canada in markets showing high potential.

The total number of Asian visitors to Canada reached 357,000 in the first 10 months of 1981, about the same level as in 1980 and nearly six per cent higher than in 1978, according to CGOT figures.

More than half of the Asians travelling to Canada are visiting friends and relatives

or are on vacation. About 27 per cent head to British Columbia, with Alberta a close second at 22 per cent, followed by Ontario (15 per cent) and Quebec (14 per cent). About 54 per cent of these visits are in June, July and August, the most popular vacation months. About 70 per cent of Canada's Asian visitors enter the country via the United States of America.

The average length of stay among Asian visitors has remained stable at about 11 nights per visit. However, the Japanese, who stay only seven nights on average, accounted for nearly 50 per cent of the \$125 million spent by Asians in Canada in 1979. In 1978, Asian visitors spent about \$90 million in Canada.

Canada's unspoiled natural landscape, combined with the comfort of nearby urban centres, is a major draw-card among overseas visitors. Tourism is a big business in Canada, earning almost \$15 billion a year (five per cent of the gross national product) and employing more than one million Canadians (almost 10 per cent of the workforce). The country welcomes more than 40 million visitors a year from around the world. In 1980, they spent \$3.3 billion, up from \$2.9 billion the year before, making tourism Canada's seventh-largest earner of foreign exchange. However, most of Canada's tourism income comes from



The main street of Banff, Alberta, nestling at the foot of Cascade Mountain.