

THAILAND

The Royal Bank of Canada opened its new office in Thailand in February. The bank's regional representative, Peter M. Tinson, acted as host for the opening ceremony.

The Royal Bank of Canada, which has assets of \$95.35 billion, is the largest bank in Canada and the fourth largest bank in North America. It offers the full range of international banking facilities. The Royal Bank has a long-standing relationship with Thailand, including significant participation in a recent Kingdom of Thailand loan.

Several senior executives of the Royal Bank came from Canada and Hong Kong for the opening, including Mr. Allan R. Taylor, Executive Vice President for International Banking at the head office in Montreal. Also present were Mr. John N.T. Rednall, Senior Vice President and General Manager for the Asia and Pacific Region and Mr. N. Brewis, Assistant General Manager, both of whom are based in Hong Kong.

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A Canadian agricultural marketing consultant, Mr. Cecil Werner, completed a study of rice marketing for the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives of the Royal Thai Government in February. Financial resources for the study were provided by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) through its Industrial Co-operation Program, as part of CIDA's on-going program of assistance for Thailand's human resources development.

The study consisted of a review of the existing rice marketing system and made a series of proposals to improve competi-



At the ceremonial opening of the Royal Bank of Canada's new office in Bangkok, the bank's regional representative, Mr. Peter Tinson, offers food to Buddhist monks.

tion and current procedures as a means to stabilize and increase rice prices, thereby maximizing returns to Thai farmers.

A principal recommendation made by Mr. Werner is the establishment of an umbrella national marketing agency for Thailand to develop and administer a comprehensive marketing program for rice. He also recommended a price stabilization program.

On the technical side Mr. Werner, who has considerable experience in grain handling in the Pacific Rim area, recommended the design of reasonably priced storage facilities for paddy to be built and operated on a co-operative basis by farmers themselves. The study also calls for development of management systems, most notably computerized inventory control, to allow for better management of production on a nationwide basis.

To administer and enforce weighing and grading regulations in the interests of both consumers and producers, the report suggests the establishment of a regulatory commission. This organization would be similar to the Canadian Grain Commission, which monitors grain production from the field at harvest to delivery at a ship's hold for export.

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In early February, a program review team from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) completed a study that will form the basis for Canadian aid to Thailand over the next five years.

Led by Senior Vice-President Bill McWhinney, the team met with many Thai government and industry officials including Deputy Prime Minister Thanat Khoman and Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila. Extensive discussions were held with the National Economic and Social Development Board in an effort to coordinate Canadian participation with the



The Singapore Science Centre's Board Chairman K.C. Tan (1) accepts a cheque to support the creation of an ecology garden from Canada's High Commissioner L. Michael Berry.