

## Asian Opinion Makers Cross Canada



*Asian journalists discuss their tour during Cross-Canada trip.*

The Canadian Asian Studies Association has just completed a highly successful tour of Canada by three leading Asian opinion makers—Mr. Suthichai Yoon, Editor, "Bangkok Nation Review" daily newspaper; Dr. Muhammad Ali Siddiqui, Editor, "Pakistan and Gulf Economy" magazine and Dr. Makoto Fujita, Executive Director of the International Studies Centre at Kwansei Gakuin University, Japan.

The visitors began their tour in Eastern Canada as guests of Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia where they attended the Canadian Southeast Asia Studies Association annual meeting. After participating in this weekend long symposium of Canadian academics specializing in issues involving Southeast Asia, they travelled to Halifax where they addressed a symposium sponsored by the School of Journalism at Kings College which included noted Canadian journalist George Bain and former Asian Specialist in the Department of External Affairs Arthur Andrew.

From the Atlantic coast the visitors flew to Ottawa where Carleton University acted as host, sponsoring a seminar on the topic "The Role of the Media in the Development Process" and organized meetings with Carleton's School of Journalism.

While in the nation's capital, the Department of External Affairs arranged a luncheon for the visiting Asian opinion makers with senior officials of the Department of External Affairs, the Canadian International Development Agency, and Dr. Charles McMillan, Policy Advisor to Prime Minister Mulroney. The journalists took the occasion of this luncheon to discuss in general terms Canadian foreign policy. Dr. McMillan indicated that economic issues would come to the fore and therefore Asia would continue to be a area of great focus for Canadian foreign policy.

In Ottawa, the visitors toured the

Communications Research Centre Satellite Assembly Facility at Shirley's Bay where, in addition to observing the assembly and testing of satellites for both Canada and Brazil, they were briefed on Canadian capabilities in the high technology fields of communications and satellite technology.

From Ottawa the tour visited Toronto, Kingston, St. Catharines, Guelph and Windsor in Ontario where seminars were held at various universities and meetings arranged with Canadian journalists.

Leaving southern Ontario they travelled through Western Canada including stops in Winnipeg, Edmonton, Vancouver and Victoria where a further series of seminars were arranged to enable them to gain a better understanding of Canada while giving Canadians an opportunity for a fuller appreciation of the Asian perspective on world affairs.

The visiting scholar program is an annual event organized by the Canadian Asian Studies Association with the financial assistance of the International Development Research Centre of Ottawa.

### **Banff Centre Hosts Asian and Canadian Executives**

Banff, in the heart of the Canadian Rocky Mountains, was the site of a recent management seminar attended by 28 Asian and Canadian senior executives. The 14-day seminar, entitled Managing Future Challenges, was organized by the University of Calgary and the Banff Centre School of Management.

The select group of senior executives and administrators, including 10 representatives from five ASEAN nations, experienced two intensive weeks of discussions, workshops and field visits in Alberta. The seminar focussed on the future global setting, covering the directions of future links between Asia and Canada — international technology transfer — service industries of the future, and other topical issues.

### **JCC Meets in Manila**

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and the Association are evolving at a rapid rate on a number of sectoral fronts. Canada remains fully committed to the ideals of freedom and stability to which ASEAN subscribes and we in the Canadian government are impressed by the dynamism and intensity of your organisation."

On the basis of the positive environment created by the opening statements, the Committee focussed on a general review of the expanding relationship. Following a full discussion, the Committee then turned its attention to the more specific projects to encourage industrial and development cooperation. The participants examined various ongoing projects including the Fisheries Post-Harvest Project, the Forestry Tree Seed Centre and the Crops Post-Harvest Program. The session was also briefed on the contribution that the IDRC would play in supporting a number of projects.

The delegates examined a variety of new proposals that were submitted for consideration as possible areas for future cooperation in transport, communications, energy, science and technology, and manpower training. The Committee was also provided with an oral and visual briefing of the forthcoming World's Fair—Expo 86 to be held in Vancouver.

The Committee created a working group on trade to examine their commercial relations. Mr. Kilpatrick had noted that for the first time in 1983, Canada's trade with the Pacific region had surpassed that of Europe, a trend that is likely to continue. Furthermore, he remarked that the balance of trade which had been significantly in Canada's favour was narrowing rapidly with the possibility of its disappearing completely in 1984. While both sides recognized that trade was developing from a rather low base, significant progress had been achieved. Further efforts will be made to increase respective levels. The working group also took the opportunity to examine a number of issues of particular concern including a review of the generalized system of preferences, specific trade issues, liberalization of non-tariff measures and trade promotion activities.

The proceedings were not exclusively formal, as a dinner hosted by Ambassador Ong and a reception offered by Canada's Ambassador to the Philippines, Mr. Reginald Dorrett provided informal occasions to exchange views and ideas on how to further strengthen the relations between Canada and ASEAN.

The JCC concluded with satisfaction on the part of both sides with the extensive discussions, and thorough review that had occurred on an extremely broad range of issues. The Committee will reconvene in Ottawa in the autumn of 1985.