

Canada-ASEAN Developments



The Project Coordinator and the chairman of the Steering Committee for Canada-ASEAN Fish Post-Harvest Technology Project: Mrs. Gloria Guevara and Director Felix Gonzalez of the Philippines Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

Steering Committee Meets on Post-Harvest Fisheries Technology Project

ASEAN and Canadian delegates of the steering committee of the ASEAN-Canada fisheries post-harvest technology project met in Manila 25-26 November 1983 to review progress on the project, and to give guidance to project activities for the coming year. The meeting was chaired by Director Felix R. Gonzales of the Philippines Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

The first Canadian expert, Mr. Keith D. Spencer, a fish inspection and quality control specialist, arrived in the Philippines in October, and four more fisheries experts will visit ASEAN countries in 1984.

Trainees from all five countries attended a short-term training program in Newfoundland during July-August 1983, and graduate students are currently enrolled in fisheries studies programs in Canadian universities.

At the Steering Committee meeting Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia were requested to finalize arrangements for three short-term practical training courses in their countries and Indonesia and the Philippines offered to host and organize two workshops on fish handling and processing and quality control.

Finally, the proposed procurement of equipment — primarily in support of ASEAN members fisheries inspection and quality control programs — was reviewed.

The project coordinator is Miss Gloria Guevara, Chief, Fisheries Utilization Division, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Philippines.

The post-harvest fisheries technology project is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) under the framework of the Canada-ASEAN Economic Cooperation Agreement.

Canada Co-Sponsors ASEAN Resolution on Cambodia

During the 38th United Nations General Assembly in October, Canada, for the 4th year, co-sponsored the ASEAN resolution on Cambodia. Speaking during the debate on the resolution, Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations Gerard Pelletier described the Cambodia situation as the major impediment to peace and security in Southeast Asia.

He noted in particular, "the vital role of members of the Association of South East Asian Nations in continuing to mobilize international opinion in support of a free Cambodia and the consequent reduction in regional tensions."

The United Nations resolution, which calls for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Cambodia, neutrality for the country and free elections, was passed by a vote of 105 to 23, with 19 abstentions recorded.

Ambassador Pelletier commended the activities of the United Nations High Commissioners Office for Refugees, the United Nations Border Relief Operation and the International Committee of the Red Cross for their continued effort to aid refugees under extremely difficult circumstances. He also reiterated Canada's commitment to support these multilateral aid programmes in assisting the displaced Khmer population.

In response to the ASEAN Joint Appeal on Cambodia, Ambassador Pelletier said, "Canada warmly supports the objectives of this appeal and it could provide an excellent framework upon which to work out a negotiated settlement of this issue."

Capital Markets Training

Senior financial officers from ASEAN governmental institutions were recently attached to the Capital Markets Division of the Department of Finance, Ottawa for training.

The attachments took place in two phases, three ASEAN representatives undertaking training in August and two in September, 1983.

Training consisted of an examination of Canada's practices in government financing and debt management.

The participants each spent 4 weeks in Ottawa on the course, meeting with officials of the Department of Finance, Bank of Canada, and several Canadian Crown Corporations.

The participants were Mohd. Shah bin Abdullah (Malaysia); Argus Haryanto (Indonesia); Aurora Elarazon (Philippines); Sukanya Chantrapannik (Thailand); and Chan Mun Seng (Singapore).