

World Forum in Nairobi on Women, Law and Development.

The participants felt that while the last decade had been marked by the creation of women's organizations focussing on the reform of legal education services, the goal of the next decade should be to make these organizations into tools transforming the law into a truly effective instrument for promoting justice, equality and socio-economic development for women.

A key recommendation was that the Forum on Women, Law and Development should be institutionalized regionally.

In December 1986, at a regional meeting in Manila, 60 Asian women lawyers, social scientists, academics and activists ratified a proposal to establish the APWLD. It has now been legally incorporated in Kuala Lumpur as an international organization.

The APWLD is housed in the Asia-Pacific Development Centre and will coordinate its activities with the Centre's women's programme. The elected board is made up of three women from South Asia, three from Southeast Asia and one representing the Pacific Island countries. The APWLD will implement specific activities to promote social and economic justice for women and to further basic human development rights for women in the Asia-Pacific region.

In connection with the establishment of the APWLD, Noor Farida Ariffin, head of the APWLD executive committee, recently undertook a study tour of women's organizations in Canada.

Canadian school in K.L.

Being able to prepare for university in one year rather than two is a strong attraction for students and one of the main reasons for the popularity of the Canadian Program at Taylor's College in Kuala Lumpur.

Regulated by the Ontario Ministry of Education, the program is identical to the Grade 13 program taught in the final year in Ontario secondary schools.

"Since the Grade 13 diploma enjoys such wide acceptance throughout the world, Malaysian graduates of this program are now studying not only in Canada, but also in Britain, Australia, the United States and New Zealand," said Stan McFarlane, Director of the program in Kuala Lumpur.

The Canadian Grade 13 Program of Kuala Lumpur opened in May 1983 with an enrolment of 135 students. The objective of the program is to provide a pre-university course for Malaysian students intending to pursue their tertiary studies in Canada. Such a course thereby supplies an alternative to the more costly "visa" schools already established for foreign students in Canada.

The course of study lasts one year. All students who successfully complete a minimum of six credit courses are awarded the Ontario Secondary School Honours Graduation Diploma (OSSHG), generally recognized as a valid admission requirement for universities throughout

the world.

One of the main attractions of the Canadian program for Malaysian students is the one year duration of the course as opposed to the longer Malaysian Form 6 or British "A" level course of study. The program operates on a two-semester pattern with student intakes each January and July. Currently 370 students are enrolled. The teaching staff consists of 10 Canadians and four Malaysians, all of whom hold degrees and teacher's certificates from Canadian or local universities.

An attraction of the Grade 13 Program is the attention devoted to English. New students to the program, having received extensive elementary and secondary school instruction in the national language, Bahasa Malaysia, often require instruction to upgrade their English.

To achieve this goal, students entering the program are assigned to an intensive course in English as a Second Language (ESL) designed primarily to raise their level of proficiency in English to university admission requirements. The ESL course has met with overwhelming success enabling most of the Taylor's College students to meet the rigid language requirements at Canada's most competitive universities.

The tenth batch of graduates brought the total number of graduates to over 800, a tribute to the overall success of this program at Taylor's College.

SINGAPORE

Canadian software

The Canadian contingent to this year's recently completed Singapore Informatics computer exhibition was the largest to date with nine software manufacturers participating.

Golden opportunity

"We know that Singapore is Asia's most important computer centre," said O. von Finckenstein, director of the Canadian Pavilion. "We could not miss this golden opportunity of introducing our software to this fast-growing market."

The Canadian computer software industry is booming, registering over the past several years, an annual growth rate of 28 per cent. The Canadian software market is expected to reach C\$4.8 billion by 1990. An industry survey indicates that there are more than 1,000 firms in Canada supplying and developing software.

Commented Canadian High Commissioner Sean Brady, "Next to Japan, Singapore, has the highest ratio of computers

per capita in Asia. In this dynamic market, the business opportunities for Singaporean and Canadian firms are promising."

"Small wonder that the number of Canadian software companies visiting Singapore, and that of Singaporeans going to Canada, is steadily increasing."

Software on display at the exhibition included CAD/CAM packages for mechanical engineering and metal fabrication; expert systems for specialized fields such as disease detection and coast guard inspection; financial forecasting for investors; Chinese word processing, hotel reservation and office integrating systems.

World premiere

Making its world premiere at Informatics was Computer-Ease developed by Arrakis Technologies of Montreal. Using a light, friendly touch, the program teaches the complete novice how to operate a microcomputer.

For more information on the software companies, please contact Mr. O. von Finckenstein, Commercial Counsellor, Canadian High Commission, 230 Orchard Road, 10th Storey, Faber House, Singapore 0923, telephone 737-1322.

Partner wanted

A Singapore joint-venture partner is being sought by a Canadian financial research company, Iceberg Financial Systems Inc. (IFS).

Montreal-based IFS introduced its online databank at Singapore Informatics. Using nothing more than a personal computer, the databank has access to stocks, commodities, options and indices in 29 countries and enables investors to predict future stock trends and determine optimal buy/sell points.

IFS, which has partners in Austria, Canada, France, Germany and the United States, is now seeking a partner in Singapore to develop a similar databank to allow the transfer of information and technology between Canada and Singapore.

The Singapore company would be expected to develop raw material from SIMEX, adapt existing IFS programs and upgrade the transmission of data from Singapore to Montreal and back again.