

Countries involved

Nine countries – India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore and Sri Lanka – are participating in the project. A co-ordinator and a national committee formed in each of these countries will organize project activities. Since the beginning of the project in October 1974, several activities have been undertaken. A survey of research management problems from three categories – top managers, middle managers, and researchers – is already in progress in the participating countries. Along with the survey, case studies dealing with specific research management aspects are being prepared by local experts. The first two-week training course for middle-level research managers was held last month, at SEARCA, Philippines.

UN agency chooses McMaster professor as consultant

A United Nations agency has invited a McMaster University professor to meet in Vienna with experts from the United States, Britain, France and Austria as a consultant on neutron radiography. Dr. A.A. Harms, chairman of the Department of Engineering Physics at McMaster, said that his selection by the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency was in recognition of his research on neutron radiography and its increasingly important role in education, industry, medicine and research.

The five scientists will meet November 17 to 19, to discuss the advisability for the United Nations to become more active in the use of nuclear-research reactors for neutron radiography on behalf of the developing countries.

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X-rays are used usually to "image" the interior of a given subject whether it be human or not. Neutron radiography experimentation by Dr. Harms and his students has shown that this kind of imaging is more selective, and that neutrons will pass through some materials that stop X-rays, such as lead. Neutrons, however, go through photographic film without leaving a mark. Dr. Harms has been working on the mechanism of visual-image formation after the neutrons have passed through the object.

Because of the professor's work, McMaster students can do simple neutron radiography experiments even though advanced research is still under way. McMaster's nuclear reactor supplies neutrons for these studies. Another application was work done by Dr. Harms under contract for a private firm which called for a look inside electronic components for the United States space program. Neutron imaging gave much more detailed views than X-rays could. In their subsequent use in satellites it was found that the components performed with complete reliability.

Canada popular choice for European holidaymakers

The volume of tourist traffic from Europe to Canada so far this year is exceeding expectations made earlier against a background of rising inflation and general economic downturn.

Figures issued by Statistics Canada for the first five months of 1975 show a net increase of 17,111 or 9.3 per cent in the number of Europeans visiting Canada, compared with the figure in the same period last year. Totals were: 184,213, against 201,324.

Ontario was the most popular destination among the provinces for European holidaymakers. Numbers were up from 101,207 to 109,428 – a net gain of 8,221 or 48 per cent of the total Canada increase. The province accounts for over 54 per cent of overseas visitor traffic to Canada.

Britain continues as the largest single source of tourists – some 80,849 arrived at Canadian destinations during the period, up by 7,716 from 73,153 a year earlier. Germany and the Netherlands were the next largest sources of European visitors.

Chair of Canadian Studies inaugurated at Edinburgh University

The Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen, and the Canadian High Commissioner, in London, Paul Martin, will attend the inauguration of a Centre and Chair of Canadian Studies at Edinburgh University on October 21.

Four days of activities are planned to mark the occasion, including an exhibition on the Canadian Arctic, films, a Canadiana display, a commensal dinner, an exhibition on the law of the sea, and a ceilidh with Scottish and Canadian performers.

Peach pit products

An agricultural nuisance has been converted into an industrial raw material in British Columbia.

Peach and apricot pits used to be a waste-disposal problem for Western canning companies before Agriculture Canada's Research Station at Summerland, British Columbia, found that they could be ground and used as an abrasive for the "mud" needed in drilling oil wells.

Imported walnut shells from California were used formerly, says John Kitson, a scientist at the research station.

Pits from the canning industry are shipped to a nearby factory, where they are cleaned, dried, cracked and the kernels extracted. The stony pericarps (similar to walnut shells) are ground and added to the mud used by drillers when they encounter porous rock.

Within a year or so, the kernels may be used to produce oil for cosmetics and also a salad oil. It is of high quality, rich in Vitamin E.

Two extraction methods are commonly used. The coarse pieces of kernel are put through a grinder and then pressed. After 15 per cent of the kernel weight is removed as oil, the pressed cake can be treated with a solvent such as petroleum ether. An extra 10 per cent of the weight can be recovered as oil with this method.

The remaining pulp is a good source of vegetable protein which can be used for animal feed after a bitter-tasting component, amygdalin, is removed.