

CANADA-ASEAN

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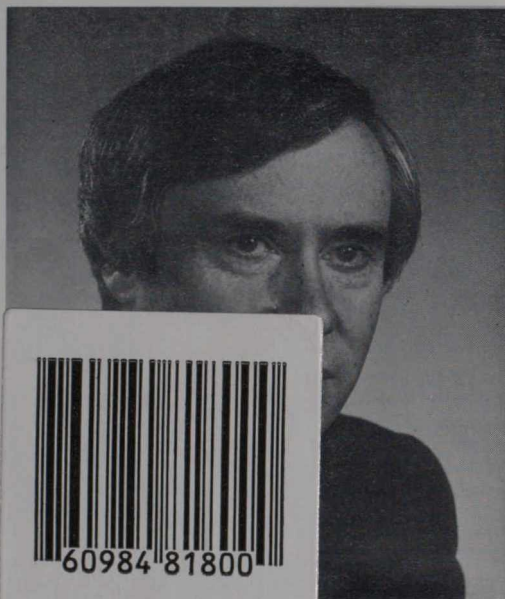
News and Information of Interest to Readers in Canada and ASEAN

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DR. MARK MACGUIGAN

Dear Readers,

It is with considerable pleasure that I participate in the launching of *CANADA-ASEAN*, a publication which will cover the expanding relationship between Canada and the ASEAN group of countries.

The growing cohesion of ASEAN parallels in some fashions the increasing awareness within Canada of the importance of the Pacific dimension to Canada's social and economic well-being. This awareness is based not only on such explicit factors as growing trade and financial linkages, but also the very evident political will on both sides of the Pacific to develop a framework, or rather a system of ties, among the countries of the Pacific region.

Canadian awareness of ASEAN dates from the early 1970s, but it is really since the Bali Summit of ASEAN leaders in 1976 that both sides have stressed the importance of strengthening and expanding the relationship. Development and technical assistance, regular consultations in both bilateral and multilateral fora, and visits by senior political and government officials have become the mainstays of the Canadian-ASEAN dialogue. We have every reason to believe that new elements in the relationship will be added in the future.

Canada recognizes that ASEAN, for reasons relating to its geographic location, political importance and economic prospects, is an increasingly important player in the Pacific region. Canada's relations with ASEAN are being built on this recognition, as well as the solid footing provided by the mature relations which have existed between Canada and the constituent members of the Association.

Our objective in launching this publication, therefore, is to inform readers on both sides of the Pacific of the ways in which these relations are expanding. It is also meant to encourage its readers to become active participants in this process. Only through enhanced awareness and participation will the relationship achieve its fullest measure of success.

Mark MacGuigan
Secretary of State for External Affairs

Canada Today Becomes CANADA-ASEAN

IN APRIL, 1980, the Canadian High Commission in Singapore initiated a publication entitled *Canada Today*, which was designed to present information and news of interest to a select group of readers primarily in Singapore. The growing relationship between Canada and ASEAN has prompted us to enlarge the scope of the publication to include readers in all of ASEAN. *Canada Today* has therefore been incorporated into *CANADA-ASEAN*, which will be distributed quarterly by Canadian diplomatic missions in ASEAN capitals. See page 10 for addresses.

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