

Alberta-Asean Trade and Technology Transfer

The Honourable Larry Shaben, Minister of Economic Development and Trade for the Province of Alberta, and two of his senior officials, visited Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia to discuss trade, investment and technology transfer opportunities between Alberta and the host countries.

One of Canada's most economically dynamic provinces, Alberta is a leader in the supply and development of oil and gas equipment and service technology, telecommunications, electronic products and agriculture. Of particular interest to Malaysia and Indonesia is Alberta's expertise in oil and gas technology in conditions of adverse climate and difficult terrain. Several Alberta oil and gas companies have a presence in Southeast Asia.

While in Kuala Lumpur, Minister Shaben visited the GASTECH '88 trade show, at which a number of Canadian firms were represented, and a sale by one Alberta company of more than \$1 million was announced.

As a major agricultural producer, Alberta has developed biotechnological and irrigation advances that significantly increase commercial crop production. In this context, water and waste treatment technologies were discussed, and Minister Shaben's offer to share Alberta's experience in setting up the world's most modern nuclear hazardous waste disposal system was readily accepted by his Malaysian hosts, who are about to embark on a similar national program.



Mr Shaben visits a booth in the Canadian section of the GASTECH '88 trade show.

MINING

CANADA AND INDONESIAN MINING

Canada has a long history of participating in Indonesian mining, the most prominent being the Inco laterite nickel mine at Sosoako in South Sulawesi, which began some 20 years ago. Apart from nickel, Indonesia is a producer of tin, copper, gold and coal, the latter two minerals being of considerable interest to Canada.

Canada's most prominent coal participation has been in the Bukit Asam mine in South Sumatra, where coal is mined in open pit, transported 400km to port, and shipped to the Suralaya power station in East Java. Canadian assistance in that project includes project consulting, advisory services for rail, provision of coal-handling equipment for the port, locomotives, coal hopper-cars, railway rail and engineering services for the power station.

The most recent mineral of inter-

est in Indonesia is gold where more than 100 contracts of work, that is, licences to explore in detail and develop properties, have been let to foreign firms, many of them Australian. Some Canadian firms have indicated interest, particularly for deposits in the Pacific "Ring of Fire" deposits.

All of this mineral activity has, of course, attracted Canadian consulting engineers and equipment suppliers. More than a dozen Canadian consulting firms are active in Indonesia, in one fashion or another. Equipment suppliers are also interested and, as a consequence, the Canadian Embassy in Jakarta organized participation in "Mining Indonesia", from September 27 to October 1. There were eight Canadian firms with booths organized around an official Canadian Government stand. Canadian firms were supported under the

Program for Export Market Development and many of them reported very favourable results due to participation in the trade show. Additionally, there were several other Canadian firms actively working the corridors from their base in the official Canadian booth.

The uplift in international mineral prices has prompted Indonesian expansion by both Inco and Freeport Minerals, which produces copper in Irian Jaya. Indonesia is becoming a new hot spot for prospectors and mine developers. Participation in the Canadian booth was an official recognition of the interest that Canada has in the Indonesian market. Support received from Canadian suppliers of equipment and services indicates they share official interest in these new developments.