

# News Release

# Communiqué

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## CANADA-ASEAN CENTRE TO BE LOCATED IN SINGAPORE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that the Canada-ASEAN Centre will be located in Singapore. Mr. Clark is attending the annual meeting with Foreign Ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), in Bangkok, Thailand, 7-9 July.

The Canada-ASEAN Centre, which Mr. Clark first proposed at the ASEAN meeting in Singapore in July 1987, will provide a regional base for Canada's development cooperation program with ASEAN and facilitate the creation of linkages between Canadian educational institutions and business associations and those of ASEAN countries: Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Mr. Clark noted that "the Canada-ASEAN Centre will enable us to work more closely with local authorities to implement projects and develop programs which address our mutual priorities, especially fostering human resource development and building links between our respective peoples."

The Centre will open this year and become fully operational during 1989. Initially, four main activities will be supported through the Centre: a decentralized Canada-ASEAN Development Cooperation Program; a Human Resource Development and Institutional Cooperation Program; a regional Industrial Cooperation Support Program and a regional Public Affairs Program. The Centre will also become a regional base for the ASEAN-Canada Business Council.

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Secretary of State  
for  
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État  
aux  
Affaires extérieures

Canada

Mr. Clark observed that, "the Canada-ASEAN Centre will provide a stronger Canadian presence in the region and a greater focus for the variety of governmental and private sector initiatives now underway between our respective governments, businesses, and institutions. It will also demonstrate that Canada and Canadians are intent on building long term relationships with our counterparts in this dynamic region. This shows once more that we're here to stay."

Mr. Clark noted that establishment of the Centre is part of the decentralization of operations of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), an initiative flowing from Canada's new Official Development Assistance (ODA) Charter announced by the Minister for External Relations and International Development, Monique Landry, in March, 1988.