



# communiqué

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## MINISTER KELLEHER'S VISIT TO THAILAND

BANGKOK, THAILAND--James Kelleher, the Minister for International Trade, today ended a three-day visit to Thailand. He announced contracts and lines of credit worth more than \$25 million.

These contracts include:

1. A \$6.86 million contract to Envirocon International Ltd. of Vancouver to provide technical assistance in the development of a fisheries program in northeast Thailand.
2. A \$1.543 million contract to DIGIM Inc. of Montreal to provide technical services to the National Research Council of Thailand in its Landsat Project.
3. A \$381,600 contract with Acres International of Niagara Falls to undertake a feasibility study for a fourth unit at the Sirikit Power Station in Thailand.
4. A \$475,000 contract to Magee Robertson International to undertake a two-year agro-industrial joint venture identification project in Thailand.

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5. A \$485,000 contract by the Canadian Government to Shawinigan Integ of Vancouver to provide a feasibility study for a pumped storage hydro project at Nam Chern, which could potentially provide an important installed capacity at low incremental cost.

\$17 million in loans were also announced. These include a \$12 million loan from the Export Development Corporation and a \$5 million loan from the Canadian International Development Agency to be provided as a line of credit over the next three years to the Siam Commercial Bank. This will assist Thai private sector firms and government-controlled corporations to purchase Canadian goods and services.

Mr. Kelleher provided on behalf of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) a cheque in the amount of \$525,000 to Professor Alastair North, President of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), as part of Canada's commitment to the AIT's broad based human settlements program. Under this Cdn \$3.8 million project, CIDA provides scholarships for a total of 120 Asian students during the 1983-86 period. It also provides faculty support, research, and short-term training support to programs offered by the Human Settlements Division, and the Divisions of Energy, Agriculture, Food Engineering, and Water Resource Engineering.

In addition, Mr. Kelleher announced that the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, in conjunction with the Industrial Finance Corporation of Thailand and the Board of Investment, will convene an investment seminar in Thailand in the fall of 1986.

He also said that under the Asia Pacific component of the National Trade Strategy three market studies in agro-food processing, telecommunications, and defence products which will be completed by March 31, 1986. Completion of these studies will provide Canadian companies with current market information to assist in the sale of their products in these sectors.

Mr. Kelleher also made the following announcements:

1. A joint venture between a Canadian company and a Thai commercial firm. In January 1985, Protein Foods Group Inc., of Hamilton, reached a \$1 million agreement with Laem Thong involving the transfer of technology for the mechanical deboning and processing of poultry cuts.
2. Ontario Hydro has signed a technical co-operation agreement with the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT). The agreement with EGAT is representative of Ontario Hydro's international marketing efforts in selected overseas markets. It also demonstrates EGAT's high regard for the technical capability of Canadian utilities.
3. The addition of a new commercial officer to the Embassy's Commercial Division. This is one of the steps the Government is taking to increase our trade representation in the Asia Pacific region. Two new posts will be opened in Osaka (Japan) and Shanghai (China) and a trade office will be opened in Bombay (India).

During his three-day visit, Mr. Kelleher met with Prime Minister Prem, Foreign Minister/Deputy Prime Minister Siddhi and five Thai Ministers responsible for commerce, industry, oil and gas, transportation, and communications.

In his discussions with these Ministers, Mr. Kelleher emphasized that "the next round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations is the best means open to trading nations to turn back the protectionist tide, lower trade barriers, and strengthen the multilateral trading system". He also said that he was successful in obtaining Thailand's support for Montreal's candidacy as the venue for the Ministerial Conference, which will launch the new Multilateral Trade Negotiations under the GATT. Thailand is the third Southeast Asian country, after Indonesia and Malaysia, to support Montreal's bid to host this Conference.

Mr. Kelleher welcomed Thailand's participation in EXPO '86 and invited several Thai Ministers to visit Canada during the Fair.

Mr. Kelleher's next stop will be Hong Kong where he will wind up his six-country tour around the world in support of Canada's global trade strategy.

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