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CANADA EXPANDS DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION  
IN ASEAN

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that Canada's development cooperation program with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will be enlarged and given new focus and direction.

At the annual Post Ministerial Meeting of ASEAN and dialogue country Foreign Ministers, Mr. Clark said that Canada valued highly its long and close relationship with the ASEAN countries, and recognized the profound economic changes taking place in the region.

"The new program of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in the ASEAN countries will emphasize human resource development, taking advantage of Canadian institutions - both public and private - to provide needed training", Mr. Clark said.

CIDA currently spends more than \$100 million a year on bilateral assistance to four of the six ASEAN countries.

"While maintaining our bilateral cooperation activities with Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines, we will move to enhance our relationship with ASEAN as a group," Mr. Clark explained.

"The essence of this new approach is to provide new human resource development and scholarship funds to finance a number of high-priority ASEAN requests for study and training."

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"In addition, and in keeping with the recommendations of the recent Parliamentary committee study of CIDA, the Canadian government will establish a Canada-ASEAN Centre in the region which will provide a stronger Canadian presence and a greater focus for CIDA's regional programs" he added.

The Canada-ASEAN Centre, as an initiative to decentralize CIDA operations and working closely with Canada's diplomatic representatives in the region will provide coordination in the field, particularly for CIDA's ASEAN human resource development programs and counselling on Canadian educational services.