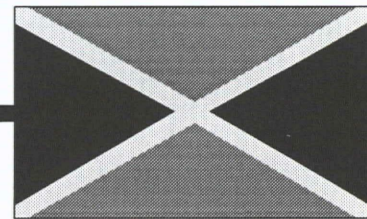
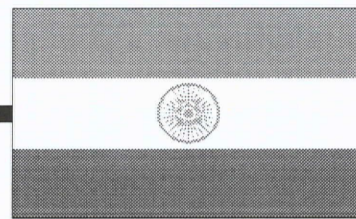
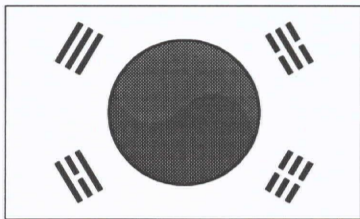


The mission of BCIT is to provide British Columbians with world-class, job-ready skills for career success.



President's visit strengthens ties



Brian Gillespie at the signing of the agreement with Ir. Haji Ahmad Zaidee bin Laidin, director, Institut Teknologi MARA.

Training and educational opportunities are growing dramatically in Southeast Asia, and BCIT will be at the centre of it, according to President Brian Gillespie.

Gillespie participated in signing two new agreements with institutes in Thailand and Malaysia during a trip to southeast Asia last October. They include the Thai Canadian Gas Training Centre Agreement, and a contract for the next phase of the Health Science Training project already underway at Institut Teknologi MARA (ITM) in Malaysia. He says these projects could lead to a variety of opportunities for BCIT and its faculty.

They're leapfrogging forward in terms of their technological development and standard of living - it's an exciting time for them, and it is exciting for BCIT to take part in it," he says.

"The overall purpose of my trip was to reinforce several of the relationships developed by BCIT International over the past five years," he explains. "In Thailand alone, the opportunities are staggering. Their government has a mandate to open 30 new vocational colleges

in the next few years - by building strong relationships, BCIT might have the opportunity to be involved with that."

Gillespie adds, as these colleges are opened, they won't be able to afford or want many Canadian instructors or trainers. He envisions BCIT positioning itself to "instruct the instructors" - that is, provide the most up-to-date training for Thai instructors, so they can effectively teach students.

There are opportunities on the horizon in Malaysia as well. After signing their contract with ITM, Gillespie and BCIT International executive director Henry Arthur met with authorities at Malaysia Airports Berhad. The Malaysian government plans to open a new international airport in January 1998, upgrade its local airports in subsequent years and open a training academy to support this



Brian Gillespie shaking hands with Withaya Tongkhao, director, Samutprakan Technical College, Thailand.

development. Once again, Gillespie feels this is a tremendous opportunity for BCIT.

"This was my first trip to Malaysia, and what struck me was the economic development taking place. They're leapfrogging forward in terms of their technological development and standard of living - it's an exciting time for them, and it is exciting for BCIT to take part in it," he says.

That involvement - in Malaysia and throughout southeast Asia - will benefit BCIT in many ways, Gillespie notes. It provides an opportunity for staff development, through exposure to the training methods and economic realities in those nations. Students will also benefit, because staff will return with new insights and understanding of the "internationalization of markets". It's likely that student exchanges will take place in the future.

"We also benefit because staff can bring back the curriculum, learning materials and other resources they develop while working overseas. Many of those resources are applicable to training for Canadian students," Gillespie says.

He concludes that a larger scale benefit of international training is that it provides employment for Canadians. The projects themselves provide employment, and the revenue they generate also increases the resources available for faculty, course development and operating expenses for BCIT as a whole.

Arun Garg joins Team Canada

The BCIT community was proud to have the chair of the board of governors, Arun Garg, represent them in India last week. Garg was selected to join Prime Minister Jean Chretien's Team Canada on the India leg of their tour that concluded more than \$2.9 billion in deals.

The business deals in New Delhi include \$676.85 million in commercial contracts and \$2.275 billion in agreements in principle, including memoranda of understanding and letters of intent.

Included in the list is a one year memorandum of understanding signed by Garg and Eklavya Education Foundation (EEF) of Ahmedabad to identify, develop and implement activities to help Eklavya create a technical



vocational college in India. EEF is involved in education, research and development, consulting, mass communications and educational loans and scholarships.

"Team Canada is winding up its mission in India having catapulted our relationship with India to a whole new level," said Prime Minister Chretien. "We have shown that when it comes to India, Team Canada means business. The big chill is over for good. Canada is here in India to stay."

Memorandum of Understanding between Eklavya Education Foundation and The British Columbia Institute of Technology

Whereas Eklavya and BCIT have expressed interest in working together to pursue training and technology transfer to meet the specific goals of each party based on:

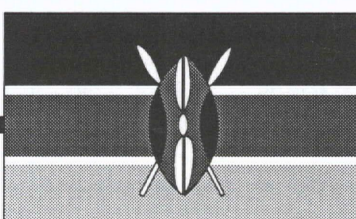
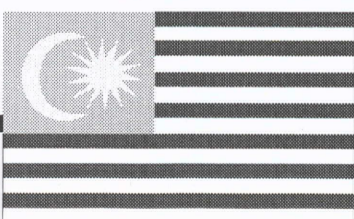
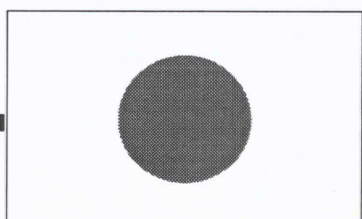
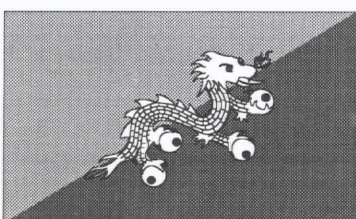
Eklavya's intention of creating a Technical Vocational College in India and; BCIT, as a world-class technical institute of technology and trades training, providing assistance in developing the college.

Therefore it is agreed that Eklavya and BCIT will cooperatively identify, develop and implement activities to create said world-class Technical Vocational College and related activities, including programs for exchange of students and faculty.

And will enter into operational agreements as needed and appropriate to carry out these cooperative activities in India.

India and Canada share many of the same values, and our friendship goes back well before Indian independence. And it flourished in the decades that followed...In recent decades, the relationship has not been as strong. The close ties between our countries that marked earlier decades have been absent. There were reasons for this cooling. But, now it is time for us to start building again. Canada is the seventh largest trading country in the world. And India is emerging as one of the economic giants of the coming century... That is the reason for this Team Canada mission to this country.

—from notes for an address by Prime Minister Jean Chretien to the Confederation of Indian Industry (Mumbai, India, Jan. 10, 1996).



CIDA awards for Canadians

The Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) is pleased to announce the 1996 competition for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) awards. The award will fund a maximum of \$15,000 to Canadian citizens who wish to increase their skills and knowledge in international development.

The activity may be the fieldwork component of a master's degree program (maximum 12 months) or a work/research project of a mid-career professional (maximum 6 months). At least 25 percent of the time must be spent in the host country.

The number of awards will depend on budgetary considerations. Please note that the award is taxable under the Income Tax Act of Canada.

For more information and to receive an application form contact BCIT International.

British Columbia Asia Pacific Awards

The Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology, through the British Columbia Centre for International Education (B.C.C.I.E.), offers financial awards to promote cross-cultural awareness and understanding. The awards provide serious students with the opportunity to study in Asia Pacific countries and committed, professional staff with the chance to work in Asia Pacific institutions.

The awards are in support of travel and living expenses and are based on the cost of living in selected countries. Eligible applicants must be:

- Canadian citizens or landed immigrants
- British Columbia residents
- Students enrolled in full-time study at a British Columbia public community college or provincial post-secondary institute or
- Faculty members or professionals at a public community college or provincial post secondary institute

Deadlines for submission of applications are Nov. 1 and Feb. 1. For further information and application forms, contact BCIT International or

The British Columbia Centre for International Education
Ste. 215-409 Granville Street
Vancouver, B.C., V6C 1T2
Telephone 687-2440
Fax: 687-4763

Food for thought part 2

The BCIT Food Technology and Biotechnology departments are entering a new stage in a four-year project in conjunction with the King Mongkut's Institute of Technology North Bangkok (KMITNB), Vancouver Community College (VCC) and Canadore College in North Bay, Ontario.

"The project, which began in Jan. 1994, is moving from faculty exchange programs to

student exchange programs," says Vic Martens, Canadian coordinator for the project's Food Technology section, and BCIT Food Technology program head. Initially, the project brought Thai instructors to BCIT to examine BCIT's programs and curriculum materials.

In Jan. 1996, Martens and Learning Resource Unit's Terry Fuller will go to Thailand for two weeks to work with the

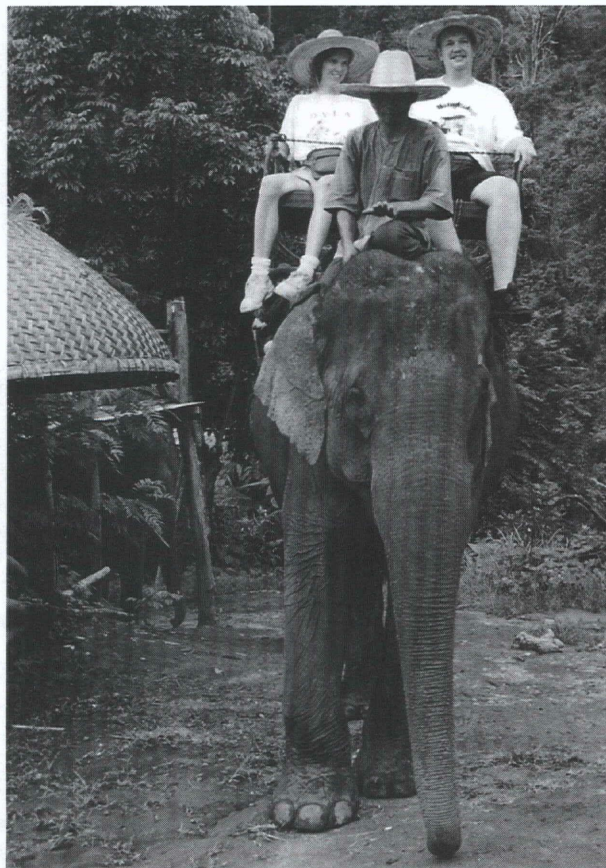
KMITNB's curriculum and instructional materials department. Then in the spring, KMITNB students and instructors are coming to BCIT from Bangkok with a curriculum specialist.

According to Martens, the project enables his department to update its continuing education materials. "These materials originally grew out of our day school and we are now able to

provide a more polished format for use both here and in Thailand."

He adds that the exchange has already provided two-way exposure with regards to culture, people and industry. "It really has provided an opportunity to learn and appreciate how we both do things," he says.

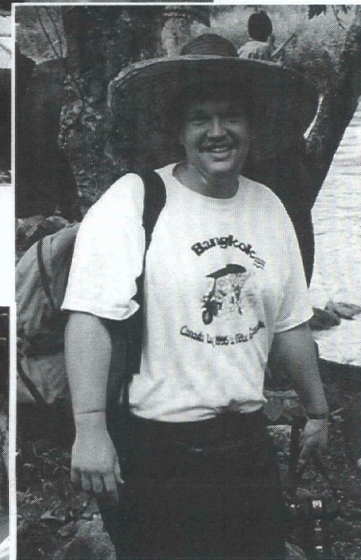
Biotechnology/food technology exchange to Thailand



Sheila Hayes and Ken Dale trying out the transportation.



Jennifer Boyes and Ka Lai Wong (centre) join industry workers drying bananas.



Ken Dale taking a break.



Ayutthaya: ancient city north of Bangkok

Four BCIT students jumped at the chance to be the first group of Canadian students to participate in an exchange program last summer, when they won Asia Pacific Awards to explore the biotechnology and food technology industries in Thailand.

"Not only did these students get to share a fantastic life experience, they were fortunate to have the trip sponsored by the B.C. Asia Pacific Awards," says Ann Lacey, Student Assistant, BCIT International.

Food Technology students Jennifer Boyes and Ka Lai Wong, and Biotechnology students Sheila Hayes and Ken Dale saw the trip as an opportunity to broaden their knowledge of the global marketplace and to learn Thai language and culture.

After a week of orientation in Thai language and culture, the students spent three weeks studying both in their technologies and the Thai language. Industry visits and a practicum rounded out the itinerary.

Ka Lai Wong

Ka Lai Wong explains the challenges associated with visiting a non-English speaking country. "There was zero English spoken except for in the tourist areas. In the industry, however,

most people are highly educated and all speak English. We had a three week course in Thai and learned quite a bit, but still we had some difficulties. For example, there was one word that, depending on tone, could mean four different things: cow, grandmother, rice and the number nine. We knew enough to get around, but because of tone we really had to be careful."

Jennifer Boyes

Boyes and Wong recall industry visits to the Thai-Danish dairy and the Boonrawd Brewery were of particular interest, giving them a means to compare the production techniques of Thailand and Canada. "The factories are similar to ours in Canada, but a bit behind in technology. Often, the technology was there, but people haven't been educated to use it. They have just found manual ways of achieving the same quality of products." The highlight of their trip was the two-week practicum at the Royal Chitralada Agriculture Projects. "The King sponsors demonstrations and tours of these little factories that make

ice cream, cheese, mushrooms, milk powder, rice and other export goods," says Boyes.

Sheila Hayes

Biotechnology student Sheila Hayes felt one characteristic epitomizes the difference between Canadians and the Thai. "We got stuck in the biggest traffic jam all summer; it lasted five hours!" she exclaims. "The weird thing is, we were all crammed on this bus and nobody ever complained — they're so polite. After five hours, we finally saw a Thai man roll his eyes and we knew it was really serious. Canadians could definitely take a lesson in patience from them. The speed of everything from business to traffic is not fast." When the students arrived at their stop, mind you, they were in for another surprise: "Don't expect that they will stop the bus fully — you just jump right out when you see the opportunity."

Ken Dale

Ken Dale applied his biotechnology knowledge to a waste-water analysis conducted at KMIT. "We noticed the waste-water treatment system is stricter than in Canada. Standards, on paper at least, are a lot better. Companies are trying to stick to these standards because they do realize their social responsibility. The pollution downtown was very bad, though, because most cars still run on leaded gas."

All

One aspect of Thai life that impressed all the students was the amount of respect in environments like school and work. Boyes explains, "On the first day of school, first year students offer their teachers elaborate hand-made floral arrangements and present them on their knees, with utmost respect." Wong agrees: "at work, it is tradition that people of lower seniority keep their heads below their supervisor's head. This kind of respect is something we never see in Canada."

SPECIAL BCIT INTERNATIONAL EDITION

Message from the Executive Director



Henry Arthur

BCIT International continues to be one of BCIT's several entrepreneurial departments. We recently began reporting to the vice president of Finance and Administration, but still operate on no direct budget allocation from the institute. In fact, the institute now charges rent for our new office space in the NW 1 Building, formerly the location of the president and the executive.

BCIT's international activities have benefited greatly from the

continuing support of staff across the institute. One of our goals is to involve as many BCIT staff as possible in working with international students, visitors and clients. There are stories in this issue about staff (and student) involvement in a variety of international activities.

BCIT's senior management and board have also been consistently supportive. President Brian Gillespie's October 1995 visit to our partners and clients in Thailand

and Malaysia helped to strengthen mutual understanding and cement relationships. BCIT's board of governor's chair Dr. Arun Garg has just returned from participating in the Team Canada trade mission to India. While there, Dr. Garg signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Eklavya Foundation to work with BCIT to develop a technical training centre in India.

BCIT's contact with the Eklavya Foundation arose directly from a partnership between BCIT and H.A. Simons Ltd. of Vancouver. Partnerships between BCIT and local business and industry to do business overseas are mutually beneficial. A primary objective for the next two years is to develop more such partnerships on a sector by sector basis. The export of high quality training and related services is one of the

ways BCIT can contribute to the B.C. and Canadian economy.

These industry partnerships will be developed and implemented with involvement and support from the staff of BCIT's departments and programs. BCIT teaching staff have excellent long-standing working relationships with the people who employ our graduates, and with our graduates themselves. Partnerships to work together overseas is a natural evolution of the way BCIT has always functioned.

All of us in BCIT International are grateful for the encouragement and support of BCIT staff and students, and try to provide reciprocal benefits to the maximum extent possible.

—from Henry Arthur



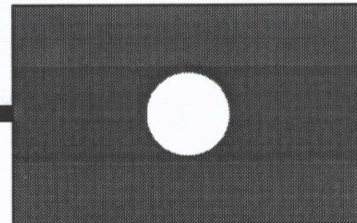
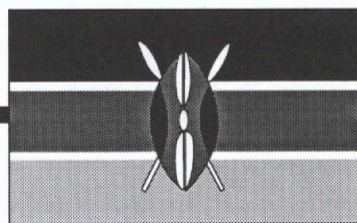
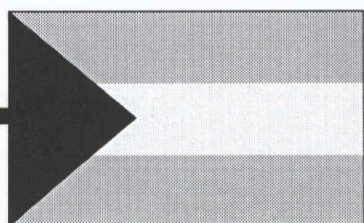
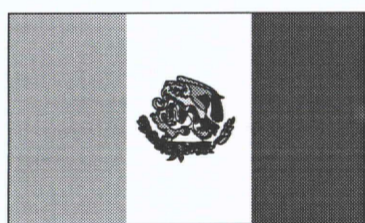
Students at the opening of the Thai Canadian Gas Training Centre with (front row l-r) Chavee Boonkoom, Head, External Relations Section, Planning Division, DOVE; Withaya Tongkhao (as above), Boonchu Moonpinit, Director, Planning Division, DOVE; Amnaj Sawatdiwong, Deputy Director General, DOVE; Brian Henry; Bill Bradbury, Piping Instructor, BCIT; Gerry Wright, Program Officer, ARA Consulting, Bangkok.

Highlights

- In June 1995, BCIT International and Brian Gillespie signed a Letter of Understanding with Institut Teknologi MARA (ITM) Malaysia to pursue the development of an Allied Health Training Program at ITM.
- In November 1995, BCIT International signed an agreement with the Thailand Business Association of Canada (TBAC) for the recruitment of students to BCIT from Thailand.
- In December 1995, BCIT International signed a Memorandum of Understanding with The Coal Industry Department of Hebei Province (CIDH), Qinhuangdao College of Coal Industry Management (QCCIM) and Shijiazhuang College of Coal Industry (SCCI) China to seek participation in joint coal industry related training activities of the Chinese government, enterprises and industry.
- In January 1996, Dr. Arun Garg signed on behalf of BCIT International a Memorandum of Understanding with the Eklavya Education Foundation India to cooperatively identify, develop and implement activities to create a world-class Technical Vocational College, including programs for student and faculty exchange.
- In October 1995, BCIT International and BCIT's School of Electrical and Electronic Technology signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the president of Zhengzhou Electric Power College in China to participate in electrical and electronics related training activities including student exchanges, faculty and management professional development at both institutions, and joint training activities for Chinese industry, government and enterprises.

- In August 1995, BCIT International and Open Learning Agency/Open University signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Lujiang University, China to develop and implement a joint degree program in Business Administration, with the initial focus on Tourism.

- In December 1995, BCIT International and the BCIT School of Business signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the president of the College of International Economics and Management, Shanghai and University of Railway and Economics, China to participate in business management activities including: student exchanges; faculty and management professional development; training activities for Chinese industry, government and enterprises; and pursue funding in Canada and China to support these and other relevant education and training activities.



Looking to Latin America

Under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), business and educational opportunities are opening up throughout Latin America and BCIT International is eager to get involved.

Consequently, Terry Fuller, instructional development consultant in the Learning Resources Unit, has been asked to develop a strategic plan for pursuing opportunities in Latin America.

Fuller speaks Spanish and her husband's work as an advisor to the Guatemalan Refugee Permanent Commission in Mexico has provided the chance to live and travel extensively throughout the area.

"There are many issues to deal with when you begin to work

with another country and you must understand the language, culture and customs that affect the business world. The Latin American perspective on doing business can be very different from what we are used to, and some countries in Latin America do not have the infrastructure in place to support international business development," she says.

Fuller goes on to explain that she senses that Latin Americans are keen on doing business with Canada in addition to new or established business interests with the U.S.

"BCIT will be able to pursue opportunities by providing professional and technical expertise," she adds.

Still in the planning stages, BCIT's involvement in Latin America is minimal. While business opportunities will

require a great deal of groundwork, BCIT International has begun to pursue student recruitment in the area.



Terry Fuller working at an education fair in the Canadian Embassy in Mexico City.

The proposal

Excellent team work between BCIT International and the School of Health Sciences has led to a partnership agreement with Malaysia's largest technical institute, Institut Teknologi MARA (ITM). This multi-year project will lead to the establishment of Malaysia's first health sciences school for nursing and health technology in a post-secondary institution.

ITM intends to develop a School of Health Sciences to complement their 12 existing schools that offer programs on 10 campuses to 30,000 full-time and 6,000 part-time and distance learning students. ITM expects enrollment in the health science programs to reach 6,000 students in their three year diploma programs.

The Malaysian Ministry of Health intends to transfer all their existing entry-level programs to ITM, including radiology, medical laboratory technology, environmental health and diploma nursing.

ITM plans to develop additional programs that are currently offered by BCIT, including

biomedical engineering, health care management, occupational health and safety and prosthetics and orthotics. Eventually, ITM intends to expand into advanced studies in nursing, environmental health and medical imaging. Consideration will be given to the best way to meet requirements for specialization in the diagnostic programs.

BCIT was selected as the international partner for its following strengths as noted by the director of ITM: a working relationship with industry; flexible delivery methods, including distance, to deliver practical program materials; information technology applications and approaches.

The project will extend over three to five years and will involve a large number of the health programs at BCIT. The project will require a full-time advisor located at ITM. A specific plan will be developed for each program and will include: preparation of ITM faculty through visits to BCIT; periodic consultation by BCIT faculty on-site at ITM, followed

by distance consultation by email; expert advice provided by BCIT on quality control methods such as accreditation and program review.

Expected outcomes include the following:

- ITM will offer high quality health programs for selected health occupations.
- ITM will become a recognized health science training centre in southeast Asia.
- BCIT faculty and staff will develop additional knowledge and skills and will increase their ability to work trans-culturally.
- BCIT faculty and students will derive benefits such as global perspective and opportunities for change.
- BCIT will gain recognition as a world-class provider of health science education.
- BCIT will be in an enhanced position to compete for similar projects in other industrializing countries.

—from the ITM-BCIT partnership proposal in health sciences



ITM BCIT



The A Team on their first day. (L-R) Charlie Young, Margaret Neylan, Shirley Hundvik

Reflections

Margaret Neylan

"It is important to realize that while this was the first BCIT delegation to go over and help construct a syllabus for ITM's health care programs, the A Team's visit was actually part of an ongoing relationship that began in 1990.

BCIT Nursing instructor Katherine Doyle received a CIDA mid-career fellowship in 1990 and BCIT International supported her in her trip to Malaysia. Malaysia was selected as both BCIT and British Columbia's country of focus. On this trip Doyle laid the foundation from which all future activities have stemmed.

The next step in the building process involved a delegation from University Hospital in Malaysia, who came to BCIT to develop a proposal to bring a group of nurses here to train. BCIT International has been



Working hard and enjoying the Malaysian sunshine.

working on this proposal with Dr. Sulong, dean, ITM School of Applied Sciences, since 1992."

Charlie Young

"For me, the most rewarding part of working on the project was the chance to work with such a supportive and smoothly operating team. It was wonderful working as consultants and being surrounded by people who respected our opinions so much.



Weekends provided the opportunity to do a little sightseeing.

Recognizing the audience's complete acceptance of what we said placed a great responsibility on us and kept us on our toes. This makes you reflect on your own personal knowledge base, and seeing how you can use your own knowledge to help another institution and your professional counterparts makes your heart swell."

Bernadet Ratsoy

"One of the most fascinating things about living in Malaysia

was reading the newspaper and following current events. We were staying in a country that is struggling with several opposing philosophies.

Malaysia is an emerging country trying to become an economic power, trying to do things in western ways; simultaneously there is a movement to bring back tradition and to develop the country in an Islamic fundamentalist tradition.

There was always quite a bit of focus on the amount of

affirmative action required to support the Malay population. The country is struggling with questions of multiculturalism in a Muslim environment of zero immigration, yet there are thousands of immigrant workers.

Shirley Hundvik

"You learn very quickly that flexibility is the key to working and living in another country. Being there over an extended period of time meant that we had to establish a routine for daily living in a completely different culture. Our counterparts at ITM were very generous in hosting us to various social events and in seeing that we had the opportunity to sample the many different and varied foods of the region.

While we were busy with work all week and we had the usual weekend chores with which to contend, we also managed to travel around quite a bit on weekends. We had a wonderful guide, Karen, who would take us on long, long walking tours that allowed us the opportunity to see the many sights of Kuala



Outings included a visit to the Public Health Institute.

SPECIAL BCIT INTERNATIONAL EDITION

Partnership



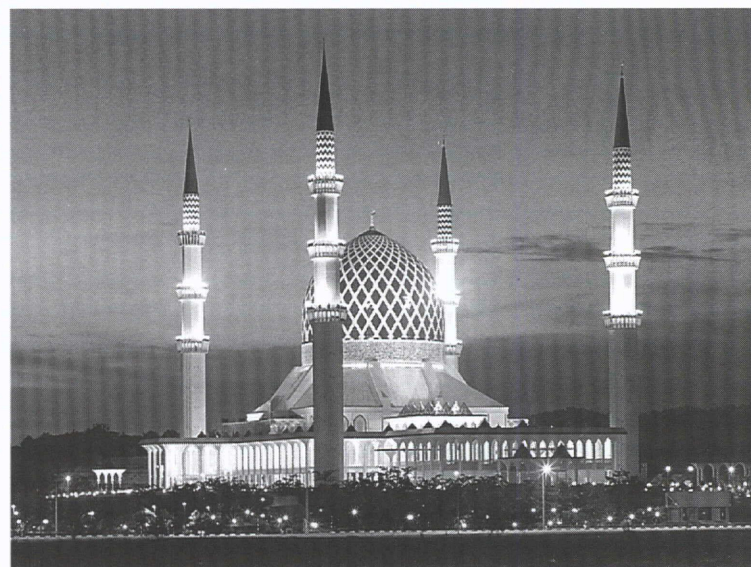
Phase one

The first phase of the partnership took place last summer and fall when five members of the School of Health Sciences (the A Team) went to Malaysia. The A Team included Shirley Hundvik, Charlie Young, Karen Nicolson, Bernadet Ratsoy and health specialist for BCIT International Margaret Neylan. Neylan, in keeping with BCIT International's practice of sending an experienced consultant with individuals who are new to a project and country, accompanied the group at the inception phase.

Each member of the team was selected for their expertise in a specialized area appropriate to the project.

Ratsoy, BCIT's associate dean of Nursing, was selected for her knowledge and experience in nursing. In addition to her work for ITM, she was invited to speak to the University Hospital alumni on nursing practice standards. After reviewing the best examples of standards from around the world, the Malaysian Nursing Association chose the Registered Nurses Association of B.C.'s Standards for Practices as a model for their own standards.

Young, an instructor in Environmental Health, was selected for his knowledge and



The Blue Mosque, could be seen from the A Team's apartment.

expertise in this program area, which the Malaysian Ministry of Health is transferring to ITM. Young is also the immediate past president of the professional organization of public health inspectors in Canada, and in this capacity was invited to address the Malaysian Association of Environmental Health. He addressed them both in Kuala Lumpur and on the east coast, on the future of issues relating to the delivery of environmental health services in Malaysia as compared to the Canadian experience.

Hundvik has long been involved in international affairs as education chair for the International Society for Radiographers and Radiography Technologists. In addition,

Hundvik had already established a relationship with several teaching radiographers in Malaysia who attended a seminar she ran in Victoria in 1987.

Nicolson was asked to join the group by the dean of Health Sciences due to her experience as chair for the redesign of the Medical Laboratory program. This kind of knowledge is particularly valuable to the Malaysians, as they hold the standard of Canadian health courses in high esteem.



Hundvik, Bernadet Ratsoy and Karen Nicolson.

BCIT International

on a regular basis once they returned home.

The vacation travel time provided a brief introduction to the culture, food and way of life of the people in both east and west Malaysia. The experience gained by familiarizing myself with the country was insightful when discussing clinical training sites with the ITM A Team, and the medical laboratory technology instructional staff at the Institute of Medical Research in Kuala Lumpur."



Shirley Hundvik

Lumpur and surrounding districts."

Karen Nicolson

"This trip was my first visit to Malaysia and I had some apprehensions about leaving my family behind. I was fortunate to have them come over for the first little while. This opportunity to spend vacation time together certainly made the transition easier, and we were able to communicate by email



Bernadet Ratsoy and Karen Nicolson at work at ITM with their Malaysian colleagues.

Program leader goes abroad



Jannie Scriabin

BCIT staff and faculty who have the opportunity to work abroad are generally away for periods less than one year, but the ITM project will keep Jannie Scriabin in Malaysia for more than two years.

Scriabin leaves for Malaysia in early February to head up the project to introduce health care programs to ITM. She is currently on secondment to the Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour as special advisor for health programs, where she is responsible for funding and program planning for health issues in the post secondary system.

At BCIT, Scriabin has worked in many capacities including faculty member, program head, manager and dean in the School of Health Sciences. "I have worn many different caps here," jokes Scriabin, "and now I look forward to applying the knowledge and experience I have gained at BCIT to ITM."

She is particularly interested in what is going on in health care in Malaysia as, to a certain extent, it parallels her own experiences. "My own health training, which was prior to BCIT, was in a hospital based program. The kind of transition I experienced is currently happening in Malaysia," she explains.

In preparation for the trip, Scriabin and her husband were able to spend two weeks in Malaysia, exploring their future home away from home. "The timing is perfect because my husband recently retired," she says, "so we will be heading to Malaysia together."

Comparing public health systems

Safe food and water are things we often take for granted in a country like Canada. We forget that it takes a well-developed system to ensure disease control and water quality - a system not present in many countries.

To learn more about Canada's public health system, the federal government of Malaysia sent Haji Rosnani Bin Ab. Hamid to BCIT and UBC on a month-long fellowship in November. A senior health inspector with Malaysia's Ministry of Health, Rosnani says he learned a great deal, but that there are a lot of similarities between the Malaysian and Canadian systems.

"We have the same components in the public health systems - food safety, disease control, drinking water quality surveillance and vector (pest) control," he explains.

As part of the Disease Control Division, Rosnani's work is focused on the surveillance of food and water-borne disease such as hepatitis, cholera, typhoid and dysentery.

"My job involves reviewing policies and systems for containing and preventing these diseases. Occasionally our department goes out on site to offer technical assistance and moral support to the field workers," he says.

While in B.C., Rosnani studied the overall health delivery system, including how outbreaks are handled and hands-on experience with our procedures for disease surveillance. He says a big difference between his country and ours is the way data is communicated and handled.

"In disease control, data management has to be very efficient and prompt. In

Malaysia, everything is done manually, which takes time. Here, it's all computerized, and very efficient." Rosnani said he was also interested to see the high level of commitment the B.C. government has made to occupational health and safety.

Rosnani applied for a fellowship in B.C. after meeting Charlie Young, an instructor with BCIT's Environmental Health program. Young was in Malaysia last summer as a consultant from BCIT working with the Health Sciences Project at ITM.

"We usually do our fellowships in the U.K., Australia or the Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia.. When I met Charlie in August, I thought 'why not try BCIT; there must be something special about it if they're helping develop a training school in Malaysia'. So I applied and here I am."



Haji Rosnani Bin Ab. Hamid with Lorraine Woolsey, program head, Environmental Health Technology.

Rosnani adds that there definitely is something special about BCIT. He says he has thoroughly enjoyed his month in B.C. - although it's been a lot of hard work - and that the people

he's worked with have been very helpful and friendly. He adds that he is confident the information he takes home will help in developing new programs to improve public health.

STUDENT STORIES

Malaysian student pursuing studies at BCIT

Everyone comes to BCIT for a reason, and for Raymond Wong that reason was to gain the necessary knowledge and experience he needed to pursue his dream job back home in Malaysia.

"Eventually I want to return home and open a marketing and advertising agency with a friend. It was actually my future business partner, who has a degree in advertising from a school in Australia, who suggested I come here to gain the business knowledge we'll need to make our business profitable," says Wong.

Deciding to come to Canada was relatively easy for Wong as he had been here in 1992 to visit his brother, and researched Canadian education from his home in Malaysia. "The BCIT Business program has a strong reputation and that, combined with my interest in Canada, brought me here," he says.

Wong came to BCIT in September 1994 on an 8-month scholarship to study in the Business Academic program. When the scholarship ended Wong decided to continue his studies and earn the necessary credits to enter the diploma

program. He hopes to begin BCIT's Marketing Communications program next September.

Everyone comes to BCIT for a reason, and for Raymond Wong that reason was to gain the necessary knowledge and experience he needed to pursue his dream job ...

During his 16 months here, Wong has spent most of his

classroom hours in special international courses, but he did have two options in night-school classes with Canadian students. "I really enjoyed those classes because not only did I learn from the instructor, but I learned quite a bit from my classmates. I look forward to this kind of interaction in the diploma program," he enthuses.

Wong is very positive about his experience and his only complaint was being bored over the Christmas holidays. He misses home and friends sometimes, but points out the value of the experience and is

lucky enough to have friends coming to visit in the spring.

Plans to work and travel before returning home will give him the opportunity to gain international work experience and see more of Canada. When he does return to Malaysia, Wong believes he will have an increased level of self-confidence gained from classroom presentations, stronger English language skills, and good friends back at BCIT International.

Business programs get the unanimous vote

When Yuka Ono was seven years old, she told her mother that one day she would go to Canada. That day came five years ago when she graduated from high school in Japan, and she was fortunate enough to have her family's support and encouragement to pursue post secondary training abroad.

When Ono arrived in Canada, she enrolled in an ESL program at Camosun College in Victoria. Six months later she was ready for the Psychology program at the University of Victoria. "While I really enjoyed the program at U Vic, I didn't think that I was gaining any employable skills so I decided to follow my interest in languages and ended up at the University of Laval in Quebec," she says.

Six months later, homesickness kicked in and Ono went back to Japan for a visit. She was intent on returning to Canada, back to British Columbia, and so she did three-months later.

...both Ono's Canadian and Japanese friends unanimously suggested BCIT for their "excellent business programs."

"When I returned I wasn't sure what I wanted to do, but I had a working holiday visa, so I decided to take some time with my decision. Working at Granville Island Public Market and at a cafe on Robson Street

helped me make the decision that I wanted to run my own small business," she says.

Deciding where to study was not as difficult a decision because both Ono's Canadian and Japanese friends unanimously suggested BCIT for their "excellent business programs."

Soon after meeting with a staff member of BCIT International, Ono was enrolled in a four month business program for international students. Four more months in a business management program and Ono was ready to begin a full-time diploma program.

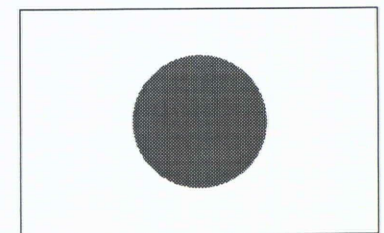
She has just completed the first few weeks of the Professional Sales option in the Marketing Management program. "So far so

good," she jokes, "but I have to admit that I am nervous about the presentations I know I'll have to do. It was intimidating walking into the class in January when the rest of the class had known each other and been working together since September.

...I didn't find the transition too difficult and I am enjoying being a part of the full-time program."

I am lucky though, with all my experiences in Canada, I didn't find the transition too difficult and I am enjoying being a part of the full-time program."

When she is not in the classroom, Ono enjoys pursuing other activities including snow boarding at Cypress Bowl and cooking classes. She also admits that after spending Christmas with a friend in Winnipeg, she had become a fan of the Jets.



Thai experience opens eyes

Sitting here in our roomy house in Vancouver with the heat blasting to counteract the freezing rain outside, it's hard to recreate the reality of living and teaching in the heat and density of Bangkok.

Bangkok, City of Angels, its beauty and ugliness reflected in the faces of its 10 million inhabitants: vacant eyes, dulled by the stress of living in one of the most polluted, congested cities in the world, transformed upon greeting friends and strangers by the radiance of the famous Thai smile. Our thirteen months abroad were like the city: enjoyable, sometimes stressful, but always fascinating. I taught high school computer studies and study skills on an Asia-Pacific Scholar's Award. My husband Peter

Painted, wrote and taught college English.

Teaching in Thailand is a very different experience from teaching in Canada. The first, most obvious differences is in the students' level of proficiency in English.

Bangkok, City of Angels,...

It was a challenge to create exercises, assignments and exams that measured their skills and not just their understanding of English. One of Peter's students was late for school one day. His excuse, there was a cobra in his house and he had to call someone to get rid of it.

Dependence on a group is fundamental to Thai culture. It is



Debbe Gervin surrounded by her students.

rare to see a Thai eating, working or living alone. Classroom group work is done easily and successfully in Thailand. The group culture also means that students will never excuse themselves from class alone.

In the end, the foreign visitor changes as much as, if not more than, inhabitants of the host country.

It took us a while to get used to having one student ask to be excused from class and have their friend automatically accompany them.

There is an inherent dissonance when working as a visitor to another culture, and particularly

when one is teaching students who plan to study or work abroad. It's important to fit into the prevailing culture and to alter one's style and attitude in order to best reach those with whom you're working.

However, consultants and visitors are invited overseas to present effective ideas from their own culture. The tension between fitting in and teaching something new is sometimes difficult to reconcile. This situation can be dealt with by remembering the need for flexibility and understanding on both sides, but *mostly* on the side of the visitor.

Change must be introduced slowly, and with an attempt at understanding the possible reaction to and impact of such changes. In the end, the foreign

visitor changes as much as, if not more than, inhabitants of the host country.

We've certainly changed immensely in the year we've been away. The most obvious change is my new job as a project manager with BCIT International. More fundamentally, living abroad has heightened our sensitivity to different cultures and has taught us some of the Thai values of patience, acceptance, serenity and playfulness. This opportunity to live in a different country for a year is having a positive impact on all aspects of our working and personal relationships in Canada and Internationally.

—from Debbe Gervin



Saying good bye at the airport.

Foreign correspondent

Well, it has been a year since I did this for the first time and was writing from Malaysia. Now, I am writing to you from Thailand. Things are quite different this time.

First, I know where I am and what to expect, being the seasoned traveler that I am! My first trip to southeast Asia was with my daughter Julien, when I worked in Malaysia. Not only did I have to look out for my daughter, but for myself as well. She was a comfort to me when I thought of home and I miss her dearly this time. This trip is short in comparison and it was better for her to stay in Canada.

The people in Thailand are warm and friendly. The language barrier is the biggest difference from working in Malaysia, where English is spoken much more frequently. The culture here is vast and long in tradition. The SEA games will be in Chiang Mai this year and they are celebrating the 700th year of the sports arena.

It seems that southeast Asia is eager to do business with the "West" and they want to learn any and all new technological advances.

In order to have a successful experience overseas both personally and professionally, you must rely on the people with whom you work.

This puts BCIT in a very good position for other training programs here in Thailand. I have talked to several businesses and other training institutions to see if there are areas where we can work together, and things look promising.

I didn't know how difficult the English language was until I started to instruct here in Thailand. Words and phrases such as trade slang that I took for granted sometimes take longer to explain than the actual lesson. I

tend to choose my words very carefully now.

I am somewhat paying them back though, because I am getting them to teach me the Thai language. This is certainly a test of patience. It is a beautiful language to look at and to hear, but to speak it is a different matter. There are five different tones that you use to change the meaning of the same word. I have to be careful with what I say, and thank goodness the people are very understanding.

In order to have a successful experience overseas both personally and professionally, you must rely on the people with whom you work. At BCIT International, my colleagues have worked hard to make this happen. I want to thank all of them, especially Mark Miller who has been there when I needed him. I also want to thank David Bowles and the rest of my fellow instructors and staff in the Piping department for their support.

—from Bill Bradbury



PROFILE

New director enjoys all aspects of the job

Jeanne Kurz jokes that she came to BCIT by accident in 1977 when she was called in as a replacement instructor in the Mathematics department. Perhaps her success can be attributed to her pervading attitude that brought her here in the first place: "I don't have a career path, I just do whatever needs to be done."

Kurz was soon in charge of all the night school math programs, followed by work as department head for both Mathematics and Physics. She later became director of Computer Based Education, but credits her time in the classroom as where she really got to know the institute. "I taught applied math to many of the engineering and health programs and this really introduced me to the technology side of BCIT."

Now, almost twenty years since she began at the institute, Kurz has been appointed director of BCIT International. The job involves looking after the project side of BCIT International (as



Jeanne Kurz with a delegation from the China Management Training Centre at Chengdu.

opposed to international student affairs) and this involves both writing proposals and managing international projects.

When a delegation arrives at BCIT, Kurz describes to its

members how BCIT works with industry. "In many ways I work as a liaison between the institute and industry," she explains.

"This is compounded with my work as part of the new BCIT

Industry Service Marketing Group. I am involved at an institute level because whatever BCIT does, will affect BCIT International."

"The delegations often lead to projects," explains Kurz. "In fact the best example would be Sunil Handa of Core Biotech Limited of India, of which Eklavya Education Foundation is a subsidiary. Subsequent to his visit Arun Garg, chair, BCIT board of directors, signed a memorandum of agreement with Handa when he was in India as part of Jean Chretien and Team Canada's visit there."

With a wealth of experience behind her, Kurz finds it difficult to pinpoint just one area as her favorite part of the job. "It's actually the variety of tasks that I love. The scope of my work is so broad, and it is always moving and growing. I really enjoy working with BCIT faculty and staff; the benefits that result for BCIT; the variety of international clients; and the entrepreneurial spirit of BCIT International."

Jamaican studies



Diane Batchelor enjoys working with BCIT.

The Jamaican government established the Jamaica Maritime Institute (JMI) to support the growth of shipping in the region and to provide an opportunity for residents to gain job-skills.

Courses taught at BCIT's Pacific Marine Training Campus have much in common with their counterpart at JMI in Kingston, Jamaica. Both institutes provide an environment for trainees that is as close to the real thing as possible and offers a high level of hands-on training at sea.

When Diane Batchelor, director of Academic Affairs, JMI, originally met with PMTI in June 1995, she was trying to establish a two year, part-time diploma program in Shipping Logistics. She was drawn to PMTC because of the similarities between the program she was trying to get up and running, and PMTC's Shipping and Marine Operating courses that were already in operation.

Batchelor has traveled to Vancouver three times for this

particular project, but the initial contact with BCIT began when Henry Arthur, executive director, BCIT International, went to Jamaica with a representative from the Association of Canadian Community Colleges, which eventually funded the project.

Presently, JMI is running the second year of the part-time program in Kingston, and other Caribbean partners are interested in joining. To do this will mean developing a distance education program.

On her most recent trip to BCIT in November 1995, Batchelor met with individuals from many areas of the institute to discuss different options for distance education. "Our students aren't looking for full-time studies," she explained, "so we have to develop materials that will fit the preferred mode of delivery." This can mean students who have only one day a week to study or time in the evening after a full work day.

Batchelor has returned home, enthusiastic about the ongoing relationship between the two institutes. Although she isn't sorry to leave the cold weather, she is sorry that she didn't have a chance to try out the local ski hills. Batchelor says she is fortunate to have this kind of opportunity to come to Vancouver and gain experience that she can take back to the Jamaica Maritime Institute.

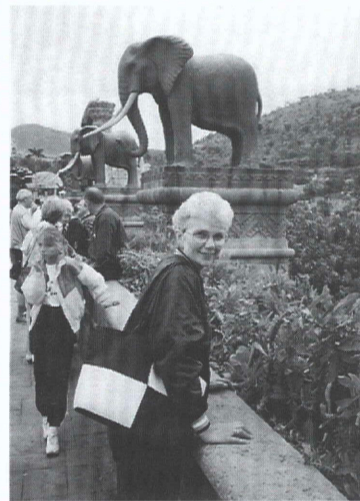
South African conference provides forum for distance education

Components of BCIT's distance education programs may be helping schools all over the world reach students in remote and isolated areas, thanks to a presentation made at the International Vocational Education and Training Association conference in Sun City, South Africa.

Kathleen Bach, chair of the Council for Distance Education, presented her paper entitled "Flexible Delivery of Knowledge that Works" at the conference in May 1995, after BCIT had been invited to participate by Ricki Milan, principal of a technical college in South Africa. Educational institutes from around the world were invited to discuss the issue of applied training delivery with South African educators mandated to increase the level of training and ultimately the standard of living.

"My presentation focused on the experiences of the School of Health, since that's the area with which I'm most familiar," Bach says. "I discussed the combination of delivery methods we use to provide training, with a view to minimize travel for students, maximize use of facilities, alternate distance education with hands-on training and maximize the use of existing staff."

She says a valuable part of the trip was visiting and sharing information with colleagues at the University of South Africa in Johannesburg, where distance education is used to provide training to literally thousands of students each year.



Kathleen at Sun City, South Africa.

She says a meaningful moment for her was during a discussion of distance education with an educator who was responsible for training in an isolated area of South Africa. He had neither the faculty nor buildings to accommodate on-site programs, and distance education was a challenge as well, because there were no telephones or faxes available to maintain communication. Students tended to start a program but would give up due to lack of support systems or information.

"We talked about the link BCIT developed between First Nations nursing students and an Elder from the First Nations community, which seems to have had a positive impact on that particular group. We discussed the possibility of him hiring a respected member of the village community to provide local support, information and encouragement to his students," Bach remembers. "Tears sprang to his eyes. He told me, 'this is why I travelled all this way; I've really gained something from being here.' It was a very moving moment."

BCIT Events to Come

Wednesday, Feb. 7

- Eco-Fair from 1100 to 1900 in the Campus Centre.
- Environment Minister speaks at 12:30. Please encourage students and associates to join us.

Wednesday, Feb. 7

- Lunch and Learn session, SW1 Room 1015 from 1300-1400. Whether looking for tips on driving in winter weather, general accident prevention or just basic helpful hints. Al Lund, Pacific Traffic Education Centre will speak on driving strategies and techniques.

Friday, April 12

Saturday, April 13

- Open House '96

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