



**DEPARTMENT OF
FOREIGN
AFFAIRS**

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AUSTRALIAN CONTRIBUTION TO ASIAN CENTRE

Australia is to contribute the equivalent of \$US24,000 annually over a period of five years towards the establishment of the Asian Centre for Development Administration in Kuala Lumpur.

Announcing this today, the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Willesee, said that the centre would undertake high level training and research to help meet the needs for qualified administrators of developing countries in the ECAFE region.

The centre would begin operating towards the middle of this year and it was planned to review Australia's contribution after two years.

Senator Willesee said that the work of the centre would be a comparatively new element in ECAFE's activities.

Australia had taken an active interest in all aspects of the work of ECAFE, which played an important role in the promotion of economic development and co-operation within the region.

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The two other ECAFE institutions to which Australia contributes are the Asian Statistical Institute in Tokyo and the Asian Institute for Economic Development and Planning in Bangkok.

ECAFE (the Economic Commission For Asia and the Far East) is one of the four regional commissions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. It was founded in 1947 to encourage the economic and social development of Asia and the Far East.