Canada believes that technology transfer is another area in which increased international cooperation is called for, particularly between the private sector (which develops most technologies) and governments (which can help to facilitate the transfer process).

Rehabilitating Small Hydro Sites in China

Bilateral agreements between Canada and China on small hydro development and environmental cooperation are paving the way for the rehabilitation of some fifty-five unused small hydro installations in the Hangzhou region of China. Greenhouse gas reductions from these retrofits, which involve the installation of Canadian-made automated turbine control units, are expected to total 310 000 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually.

Canadian government support for this project will also enable the Canadian manufacturer to market the technology to other Asian countries. Assuming fossil fuels are replaced, this could result in further savings of more than 1.75 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.



Small hydro automated control unit in China. Photo credit: Natural Resources Canada.

Mobilization of Funds

The energy investments needed in developing countries (of the order of several hundred billion dollars per year) could consume more than the sum of all official development assistance (ODA) pledged by developed countries. Because there are other pressing needs for this ODA and for the limited financial resources of governments in developing countries, a substantial proportion of energy investment requirements in these countries will have to be met through private financing, whether from domestic sources or from abroad.