

## Hungary

Adapting the educational system to meet the needs of its fledgling market economy is a critical challenge in Hungary today, as the country increasingly looks to the global marketplace and deals with the problem of unemployment.

The Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) is helping to revise curricula in Hungary to better meet the needs of both young and old, those who are entering the workforce for the first time and those who need retraining. For most of the last two years, the ACCC has been developing curricula and training programs for vocational and technical schools with a strong focus on skills essential in the competitive marketplace, such as computer literacy and accounting. In addition, the ACCC is modernizing the curriculum at Hungary's College of Hospitality and Tourism, in response to the needs of the country's growing tourism industry, and is designing a three-year journalism program to support the emergence of a strong independent press.

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Recently, the ACCC's pioneering work paid dividends when, in conjunction with Irish partners, it won a \$1.5-million World Bank contract for a human resources development project in Hungary.

In the financial sector, the Task Force is working closely with the Government of Quebec and the Montreal Stock Exchange on trading and securities training programs. Based on a successful pilot initiative in 1991, two seminars were organized for some 50 Hungarian traders at the International Training Centre for Bankers in Budapest, followed by four-month apprenticeships for selected participants at the Montreal Stock Exchange. In a complementary initiative, officials from the Hungarian Securities Commission studied various aspects of securities trading regulation at the Quebec Securities Commission.

On another financial front, Quebec's Société de développement international Desjardins has launched an ambitious three-year project to assist in the restructuring of the National Federation of Hungarian Savings Co-operatives. Desjardins will

## EVENTS AND VISITS

Kyrgyzstan's President, Askar Akayev, travelled to Ottawa in February to formally establish diplomatic relations with Canada. During his visit, Akayev met with Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, and the Honourable Michael Wilson, Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, to discuss future political and economic links between the two countries.

The Canada-Czechoslovakia Chamber of Commerce, Conseil d'affaires tchèque et slovaque du Québec and the Task Force on Central and Eastern Europe sponsored investment seminars in Toronto and Montreal for Canadian business people interested in opportunities in the C.S.F.R. Participating in the seminars were several Czech and Slovak business leaders, as well as the federal ministers for Foreign Trade and Economy.

In April, Andrey Nechayev, Russian Minister of Economy, met with Canadian business leaders and federal and provincial ministers, including Michael

Wilson, to discuss means of enhanced trade and investment in Russia. During his four-day trip to Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa, Mr. Nechayev signed protocols on an Export Development Corporation \$100-million capital goods and services line of credit and a reactivated \$62-million credit for the purchase of food other than wheat. He also took time to speak at the annual general meeting of the Canada-Russia Business Council.

From May 4 to 10, the Speakers Offices of the House of Commons and Senate hosted 39 parliamentarians from nine Central and East European countries for a one-week seminar on the Canadian system of government. The program featured the participation of Canadian ministers and parliamentarians, senior government officials and the heads of key Canadian institutions such as the Canadian Human Rights Commission. Following their stay in Ottawa, the European parliamentarians undertook a three-day program of activities at either the Ontario or Quebec provincial legislature.

The University of Toronto Centre for International Studies and the International Business and Trade