

audience. INAC also suggested an expanded Indigenous Rights section of the human rights reports would be helpful.

In many cases, special reports for OGDs at Canadian missions can be divided among the different embassy sections and can draw upon non-DFAIT resources. In many developing-country missions, CIDA has a significant number of Canada-based staff that can be drawn upon. As well, the reporting can also draw upon the capabilities and contacts of locally-engaged staff. This can make better use of LES, many of whom have high levels of university education, expert understanding of issues, and would see opportunities to do reporting as a form of job enrichment.

Developing a dialogue with other government departments is a worthwhile effort for geographic divisions regardless of the topics chosen for reporting. Simply put, it is in the departmental corporate interest to demonstrate our ability to align a key dimension of on-going work (reporting) to the needs and interest of the broader government community. Some of the OGD officials commented that the pilot project represented the first time that FAC officials had contacted them to learn their interests.

In developing their requests for reporting from our department, it is essential that OGDs be as specific as possible in the information they are seeking. In many cases this involves the OGD developing up a detailed list of questions, with technical background to help the embassy staff in developing their reports.

Some of the OGDs contacted indicated that they did not seek a regular stream of reporting on their subject interests. Rather, they see the role of the mission as providing an initial report and identifying a contact. Once an initial contact is made by the mission, the OGD could do their own liaison electronically and through other means. This would greatly reduce the long-term burden on the missions and allow it to focus on “new” topics as they emerge.

DETAILED COMMENTS FROM THE OGD'S:

INAC had requested information on major indigenous communities in Asia, and their feedback is revealing: “*good exercise, good information and well laid out....relations with Asia are in their infancy, these reports provide us with the background we need to strengthen our knowledge of the area believe multilateral consultations on indigenous issues such as the draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples have created trust which translates into greater credibility in the bilateral context.*”