

the auspices of a university or government-to-government project.

There are two major exceptions to the normal run of things. First, the industrial research institutes and associations which tend to concentrate on solutions to general technical problems of interest to an industrial sector as a whole. Second, there are the multigovernment projects - often in the defence field. In these projects a closely identified shared requirement exists and cooperation in all phases is sought in order to share costs/risks and to establish a large captured market. A sub-set of such projects is the shared research that results either directly or as an "offset" benefit to a large government offshore purchase.

Most governments, including the Canadian, deliberately encourage and facilitate international industrial research collaboration through their industrial research support incentive programmes. In the high technology area, international research partners are routinely sought and the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, for instance, organizes many missions with this aim in Europe and elsewhere. Where a government project or funding is not involved, however, the assistance which can be offered by a government is limited though still valuable. Industry can and should be involved where at all possible in the identification of potential international collaboration as part of government-to-government S&T agreements and in its execution as appropriate. A relatively new and important possibility is the joint development of technology related to Canadian natural resources together with major purchasers: the Canada/Japan agreement respecting the onsite liquefaction of Canadian coal reserves is an example.

The Provincial Sector

A major policy study is currently underway in External Affairs respecting provincial involvement in the international sphere. The study also covers the S&T aspect. Nevertheless, a brief glance at the growth and current position of provincial activities in international S&T is considered worthwhile to complete the overall sectoral picture.

Provincial research varies from region to region with the effort generally reflecting the wealth of the individual province. Eight provinces have provincial research councils or foundations and the total expenditures on S&T by provincial governments have tripled over the last ten years.