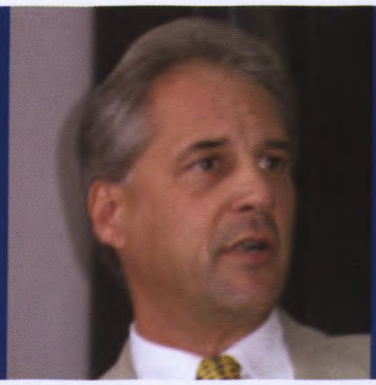
REDIRECTION OF FORMER WEAPONS SCIENTISTS



"This Center currently engages about 25,000 former weapons scientists. These are scientists who were once involved in developing weapons of mass destruction: nuclear, chemical, biological and radiological weapons. In providing peaceful employment opportunities to former weapons scientists, Canada's contribution is enhancing global security toward making the world a safer place."

— Leo Owsiacki, Deputy Executive Director, International Science and Technology Center, August 2006.

Background

Following the upheaval that accompanied the collapse of the FSU in the early 1990s, economic conditions have improved in Russia and the former Soviet states. Salaries have risen, and a number of scientists have made the transition from institutes to private business. However, the reality is that thousands of former weapons scientists remain unemployed or underemployed. Overcapacity in the nuclear sector means that thousands of these scientists will be downsized, and many live in towns where the sole industry is the nuclear facility (see below for additional information on closed nuclear cities).

Redirecting such individuals toward sustainable, non-military activities remains a priority of the Global Partnership. These efforts are needed to reduce the risk of key FSU scientists selling their expertise or access to weapons-related materials to groups or states of proliferation concern. An additional advantage of engaging these experts is that they have the potential to generate significant scientific and industrial benefits for Canadians.

Progress made in 2006-2007

Support to the Science Centers Program: Focusing on the human dimension of non-proliferation, Canada is a full member of both the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC), based in Moscow, and the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine (STCU), based in Kyiv. Both Centers have the same overall mandate: to provide employment to former weapons scientists, as well as training and commercialization support.

Canada, through the GPP, has funded research projects, various capacity-building programs and the day-to-day operations of the ISTC and STCU. The research projects receive the greatest proportion of Canadian funds and allow for these funds to be transferred directly to the project participants. In accordance with the Centers' not-for-profit status, these payments and any equipment and materials procured as part of a funded project are tax-exempt.

All Canadian-funded research projects undergo a multistage project review process to evaluate a project's scientific and technical merit to assess its commercial viability. This is required in order to verify a project's compliance with Canada's Environmental Assessment Act, to ensure that it does not contradict Canadian science and technology (S&T) policies and objectives, and to ensure that it addresses Canada's non-proliferation objectives. Before the projects are funded, the GPP also ensures that a Canadian Collaborator is identified to assist in developing the project proposal and ensuring that the desired results of the project are achieved.

ISTC: The ISTC is an intergovernmental organization funded primarily by Canada, the U.S., the EU and Japan. It coordinates the efforts of governments, international organizations and private-sector companies to provide former weapons scientists from Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Russia and Tajikistan with opportunities to apply their expertise for civilian purposes, all the while forging valuable international partnerships.

When Canada formally acceded to the ISTC in March 2004, it

On the right, Dr. Landis Henry, Deputy Executive Director (Canada) of the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine at the Global Partnership Working Group