

THE PILOT PROJECT:

Five federal departments with significant international interests but little or no representation in our missions were identified and approached for interest in the project; these were: Health Canada, Human Resources Development Canada - Labour Program, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Natural Resources Canada and Transport Canada.

In an initial meeting with their international affairs divisions, discussions were held to identify topics of reporting interest. The reporting topics varied from national regulation of reproductive technology, tobacco use and regulation, airport and port security, relations with indigenous peoples, among others. The tasking for the reports were then divided among the missions of the Southeast Asia geographic region reporting to PSE. In some cases, the OGDs provided PSE with detailed reporting objectives, guidelines and detailed questions related to the requested topics. Upon receipt of the mission's reports, these were then forwarded back to the requesting Department and follow-up discussions were held to review the usefulness and quality of the new reports.

FEEDBACK FROM OGDs:

Feedback from the OGDs indicated that:

There are new reporting topics or "strands" relevant to the broader government community that are not being reflected in traditional reporting, and that many of these strands can be integrated into FAC/ITCan reporting activities and contracts. This is especially important in the area of national social and economic trends. Many of these topics do not readily fit into the traditional "trade" or "political" reporting categories. For example, health and health policy issues are one example. Labour-related issues represent another emerging topic. Issues such as "off-shoring" of jobs from North America to Asia have emerged as an important political and media subject. As such, it has a range of trade, political and social policy dimensions.

Some of the OGD reporting interests can be integrated into ongoing FAC/ITCan reporting activities through modification of existing reporting templates. For example, Labour Canada would like more background on implementation of the four core labour principles, and indicated that this topic can be easily added to the annual human rights report that must be submitted by most missions. If this route is followed, a relatively minor change to an annual reporting template means that the results from the annual report gain a wider inter-governmental