

## **The Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation (ACCT)**

Today, the Agency comprises 30 member states, (including Canada) and the two participating governments of Quebec and New Brunswick, and seven associate states. Its purpose is to develop relationships of mutual co-operation in the areas of education, culture, and science and technology, with a view to encouraging closer relationships between the peoples of the member states through the use of the French language. Thus, without replacing the various types of cooperation that already exist, the Agency aims to serve as the expression of a new solidarity among industrialized and developing countries. It supports its members by assisting in the development and expansion of their respective cultures, fostering mutual understanding among the peoples involved and promoting among them an enlightened outlook toward the cultures represented in the organization.

### **Canada and the Agency**

Canada participates in all the Agency's programs and assists in the scientific and technical fields by developing methods for circulating information rapidly among the members. In addition, Canada desires to maintain the balance between the cultural and technical aspects of the Agency and, inspired by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, proposed the creation of the Special Development Program (PSD) in 1975.

### **Special Development Program (PSD)**

Supported by voluntary contributions, the Program studies and carries out modest technical assistance programs suited to the requirements of members of the Agency, mainly on three main sectors: technical assistance, training and upgrading, and technical and feasibility studies. In the technical assistance sector, cooperation between members is encouraged. Projects have included cooperation in agriculture, national languages, solar energy, the hotel industry, education, radio and television, fisheries, transportation, and arts and crafts.