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Intercultures Magazine has been read by thousands of people in its first year and new editions have been promoted on DFAIT's Internet home page.

1.24. Pilot of International Personnel Assessment Tool (iPASS) with the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRBC)

As part of the ongoing development of the International Personnel Assessment Tool (iPASS), the Centre for Intercultural Learning (CFSC) will soon be offering a comprehensive behavioural-based interview qualification course and kit.

The Centre has been conducting interviews for various clients as part of a piloting phase.

The Centre has recently worked with organizations such as the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRBC) in the interviewing and selection of candidates for short term international assignments.

"The evaluation of intercultural competencies was vital to the selection of candidates for our International Assignments Programme," said an HR manager at the IRBC. "The Centre's expertise helped us successfully complete our selection process."

1.25. Training for Staff Going to Dangerous Zones

In terms of course offerings, the Institute undertook new initiatives to respond to a changing international environment. For example, a number of missions to which the Canadian government is posting staff are in increasingly dangerous zones and affected by conflict situations. CFSD developed a partnership with the Department of National Defence to offer an enhanced course in personal safety at the Peace Support Training Centre in Kingston, Ontario. The course was built on a course provided to National Defence staff and adjusted to fit the needs of DFAIT personnel. By making use of the PSTC, the Institute ensured that the course was up to date and reflective of the current knowledge of those on the ground in conflict zones.

1.26. New Course on Economics for Foreign Policy Practitioners

Also, at the request of the Economic Policy Bureau, the Institute began work on developing a new course on "Economics for Foreign Policy Practitioners," designed to equip political/economic officers who are not specialists in economics with tools and knowledge to meet the department's needs for reporting in this area. The course was to be delivered early in the following fiscal year as a pilot course.

