

LA FRANCOPHONIE AT THE BILATERAL LEVEL

Canadian Assistance to Asia

Vietnam

Canadian contributions were initially provided in the form of humanitarian assistance and food aid. They later emphasized the development of a substantial bilateral program and ongoing support for Canadian firms and institutions in Vietnam.

CIDA adopted an assistance strategy for Vietnam in October 1994. The bilateral program, developed jointly with the Vietnamese authorities, is concerned with economic, administrative, legal and social reforms, infrastructure services, information technologies, the environment and human resources development. It also includes initiatives designed to relieve poverty by improving access to credit in rural areas and promoting equitable growth and participative approaches. CIDA also encourages Canadian organizations and firms to establish and maintain links to Vietnam in their area of activity.

Cambodia

CIDA's bilateral assistance consists essentially in a single program, the Canada-Cambodia Development Program, which supports the development of provincial and national capacities to carry out programs in the areas of food security, health and human resources development. A \$400,000 Canadian fund has also been established to fund small projects originating from the community. Most Canadian assistance is sent in the form of food aid and humanitarian assistance and includes CIDA's contributions to the United Nations' program that supports the operations of the Cambodian Mine Removal Action Centre. CIDA also encourages Cambodia to participate in its regional projects.

Laos

Canada's assistance to Laos has been provided mainly in the form of humanitarian assistance and food aid. A \$200,000 Canadian fund supports small assistance projects of a technical, economic, educational, cultural or social nature which are managed by local groups. CIDA also encourages Laos to participate in its regional projects.

Canadian Assistance to the Countries of the Caribbean and Americas

Haiti

Since the return to constitutional government in October 1994, CIDA has proceeded with its economic and social revitalization program focussing on the reconstruction of the country. Reduction of poverty is the chief objective of the Canadian assistance program to Haiti. This objective is achieved by satisfying basic human needs, economic development, the strengthening of democracy and good government.

Convinced of the vital role played by women in the development of Haiti, CIDA is preparing a program designed to integrate women into the development process as full partners. In addition, problems related to the environment will remain at the centre of Canada's concerns. CIDA will focus its activities in this sector, including the areas of reforestation, control of erosion and soil protection.

To ensure that democracy takes firm root in Haitian soil, CIDA, in addition to providing assistance to facilitate the holding of free elections, participated in the training and reorganization of Haiti's police forces. The Agency is also contributing to the training of legal personnel, in co-operation with France and the United States, and to the reconstruction of 14 courts.