

Initial Steps Taken to Enhance Trade — from page 1

representatives of the corporate and higher education communities from the three countries to act as advocates for further partnering in the realization of mutually agreed objectives.

(*The conclusions are contained in the Vancouver Communiqué. See end of article).

In response to the establishment of the NADERN, the Canadian higher education and business communities have quickly mobilized their efforts.

Initial steps have been taken by the task force to draft by-laws for the proposed network. A number of Canadian organizations have expressed interest in implementing NADERN with American and Mexican counterparts.

With respect to the education/enterprise Canada initiative, the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC), a national association representing 180 community colleges and institutes of technology in Canada, is developing an implementation plan involving various Canadian colleges, the federal government and Canadian business and industrial sectors. This plan will promote international trade among the three countries.

With regards to the third initiative, the Corporate Higher Education Forum has already indicated its willingness, in conjunction with its United States counterpart, to take the lead in the formation of the North American Corporate-Higher Education Council. The Canadian government has put increasing effort into providing a coherent Canadian response to the initiatives of North American cooperation in higher education, research and training.

To effect a follow-up to the Vancouver initiatives, meetings of Canadian members of the task

force, representatives from government departments and agencies and members of the higher education community took place to determine specific initiatives that the federal departments and agencies should and could undertake immediately.

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada in cooperation with the International Development Research Centre organized a trilateral meeting on research collaboration that resulted in the decision to undertake a summer institute, jointly funded by the three countries, commencing in 1994, with the purpose of identifying a research agenda that will focus on the intersection of innovation, competitiveness and sustainability.

In Mexico, funds have been set aside for the trilateral initiative. Trust funds have been established, including separate ones for faculty development, telecommunications infrastructure, including support for the NADERN initiative, and North American studies.

The U.S. demonstrated its commitment to the trilateral initiative by reordering priorities at the United States Information Agency (USIA) which has already sponsored a number of trilateral educational projects under its University Affiliations Program.

A further meeting of the North American Task Force on Higher Education, Research and Training was held in Oaxaca, Mexico in early January to discuss progress to date and new directions related to the implementation of the Vancouver symposium conclusions. Efforts to implement the conclusions should complement existing efforts by those organizations already working in this area.

One such notable organization is the North American Institute

(NAMI), a trilateral, non-political, non-profit organization providing a forum for the cooperative development of ideas and proposals for managing the emerging North American community. NAMI brings together decision-makers from Canada, the United States and Mexico who support this cooperative approach.

NAMI has recently published two books: *Learning for Life, Education for an Economically Competitive and Socially Responsible North America* and *Beyond NAFTA: The Western Hemisphere Interface*.

The Institute publishes *NAMI News*, a bimonthly newsletter which monitors and disseminates information about events, publications and research with potential policy implications involving the three countries.

For further information about these publications and for a subscription to this free newsletter send your request and business card to NAMI News 128 Grant Ave., Suite 106, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA 87501. (Tel.: 505-982-3657; Fax: 505-983-5840).

NAMI is organizing a forum discussion on **North American Environmental Cooperation: The Case for Sustainable Development** to be held in Vancouver, March 19-21, 1994, in conjunction with Globe '94.

A final report of the Vancouver symposium will be available in March 1994 in English, French and Spanish. Should you be interested in receiving a copy of this report or wish to be kept informed of developments in the trilateral initiative, please contact either Elia Gorayeb (tel.: 613-996-3649) or Lorraine Bélisle (tel.: 613-992-9919), both of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Ottawa. Fax: (613) 992-5965.