

GENERAL APPROACH BY SECTOR

The University Sector

At the Institutional level, by far the major part of Canada's international collaboration in S&T is carried out, as in other industrialized nations, by the universities. International cooperation and association is a normal, integral and traditional part of university life. As much of the research undertaken by the universities lies in the basic or fundamental science area, collaborative activity is not generally speaking limited by proprietary or other secrecy requirements. It takes a variety of forms including the exchange of staff and students, the utilization of sabbatical years to work in foreign universities, the exchange of data between university researchers, and actual institutional collaboration at the laboratory and faculty level.

International collaboration between universities broadens the experience both of student and faculty staff as well as enriching the research activities underway in the social and natural sciences. As such, it undoubtedly contributes significantly to the health of Canada's S&T community and to the level of national research capability. This contribution should continue to be recognized and encouraged via the various government granting and scholarship programmes aimed at supporting international collaborative activities in S&T.

Universities in the industrialized nations have a special role to play in the international development assistance field. A large portion of the training of Third World scientists and engineers is still carried out in the universities of the developed nations, and staff exchanges and institutional building is a major factor in the development of needed indigenous S&T capabilities and infrastructures.

Canadian universities are similarly engaged. Apart from offering substantial training in the sciences, Canadian university staff are involved in collaborative research with counterparts in Third World universities and establishments either during secondments or as separate projects. This activity provides valuable and needed support to the developing countries and is useful to Canada in several ways, not the least being the experience gained of other environments by Canadian scientists. The potential for a greater involvement exists and should be borne in mind by Canadian international assistance organizations.