

CIDA's program in Asia continues to foster long-term relationships between Canadian and Asian governments, commercial enterprises, private organizations (both for-profit and not-for-profit) and educational institutions, based on mutual interests and humanitarian grounds. In many countries, emphasis is placed on encouraging the Canadian private sector to seek new opportunities in trade, technology transfers, and joint ventures with long-term developmental value.

In southern Asia, which includes the Commonwealth countries of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, CIDA supports economic and social policy reforms, social sector development, better environmental management and democratic development. Considerable emphasis is placed on strengthening the capacity of community-based organizations to participate in sustainable development.

For example, CIDA is contributing \$10 million (1995-2000) to the Social Policy and Development Centre in Pakistan to help the Centre develop its capacity to advise Pakistani provincial governments on how to improve revenue generation and increase investments in important social sectors.

A CIDA contribution of \$7 million (1995-2001) will help the Confederation of Indian Industry strengthen its Environmental Management Division. CIDA is also contributing \$28 million to the Government of Bangladesh's Fourth Population and Health Project, designed to reduce the fertility rate and maternal/child mortality, to improve the nutritional status of women and children, and to strengthen family planning effectiveness. CIDA is also contributing \$5 million to a project for rehabilitation through education and training in Sri Lanka (1993-97) designed to rehabilitate families seriously affected by civil unrest.

In southeast Asia, Malaysia receives CIDA funds to facilitate the transition from an agricultural, commodity-based economy to an industrial economy by strengthening its development policy and technological base. In line with this, a \$15 million (1991-97) contribution from CIDA promotes economic partnership between Canada and Malaysia through the transfer of Canadian technology and expertise to Malaysia.

In the South Pacific, CIDA supports a \$14 million (1986-96) project to enhance the effectiveness of regional South Pacific institutions in ocean resource management and development. A second phase of this Canada-South Pacific Ocean Development Project is currently being planned.

CIDA also supports the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and regional institutions programs. The ASEAN program is designed to recognize the organization's growing influence in the world and to enhance its capacity to be relevant to the broad interests of the region through technological support and institutional strengthening. CIDA's Asia Regional Institutions Programs