



# communiqué

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## CANADA EXTENDS SMALL-SCALE WATER PROJECT IN BANGLADESH

DHAKA, BANGLADESH--The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, signed on Tuesday, February 3, a \$1.4 million agreement with Bangladesh Finance Minister Syed Uzzaman to extend a \$3.9 million project to build water control structures.

The project, a joint effort of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the World Bank, involves the construction of small-scale drainage, flood control and irrigation structures to improve water management and control in the agricultural sector. These structures will increase the effectiveness of existing earthworks built through a food-for-work program and managed by the Bangladesh Water Development Board.

Bangladesh, a major recipient of Canadian official development assistance, has a rapidly growing, mainly rural population which is experiencing increasing landlessness and unemployment. The country also suffers from frequent flooding and cyclones, which underlines the importance of improved water management if it is to increase its agricultural productivity and achieve foodgrain self-sufficiency.

The Canadian executing agency for the Small-Scale Water Control Structures Project is Northwest Hydraulic Consultants, Ltd. (NHCL), of Vancouver, British Columbia. In addition to supervising the construction of the structures by local engineers, NHCL is also conducting an expanded training program to enhance Bangladeshi water control and water management capabilities.

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