

Disbursements under the bilateral program increased from \$6.4 million in 1983-1984 to \$25 million in 1990-1991.

During its first five years, Canadian assistance to Thailand focused on alleviating rural poverty. To date, approximately \$70 million of program funds has been allocated to self-help efforts of villages in designated poverty areas. Most of these projects are now in the final stages of implementation, although certain initiatives may need continued support in subsequent stages.

Two large rural development projects which will consolidate efforts in this area, are the Community-based Integrated Rural Development Project II and the Local Development Institute. The latter project will be under royal patronage and will advise the Thai government on rural development policies and programs.

Institutional Linkages and Human Resources Development

Given the new personnel and training requirements resulting from Thailand's economic restructuring, approximately \$70 million has been specifically dedicated to programs in support of public sector management and institutions; these include the Rattanakosin Scholarship Program and two large Thai-Canadian programs to support key organizations involved in human resource policy and skills development.

As an associate member of the Southeast Asia Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) since 1988, Canada has assisted in the development of Integrated Community-Based Human Resource Development projects in the region. With continued sponsorship from CIDA in 1990 of CDN \$8.3 million, Phase II of SEAMEO-Canada Co-operation began. By promoting institutional linkages between SEAMEO Centres and Canadian universities and colleges, and by providing technical assistance and training, it is anticipated that the institutional capacities of the SEAMEO Centres will be strengthened and their strategic management capabilities enhanced during this second phase of co-operation.

Private Sector Development

In keeping with emerging Thai policies and the country's increased industrialization, Canada will provide approximately \$36 million in programs aimed at the development of Thailand's industrial base. The focus of the industrial development

program is the Enterprise Collaboration Program which helps develop Thailand's industrial sector, increase collaboration, joint ventures, and commercial transactions between the Thai and Canadian private sector. Further, it provides a basis for sustained partnerships in industrial activities. Assistance to small and medium-sized business enterprises in the north and northeast of Thailand is also an important feature of two programs in this area.

In parallel, CIDA's Industrial Co-operation Program effectively complements the trade enhancement programs being implemented through the bilateral Branch. The program currently provides approximately \$2 million a year in assistance to Canadian firms pursuing major contracts, joint ventures and other business arrangements in Thailand. Canadian firms receive funding for feasibility, viability and starter studies which support of capital projects. Funding is also provided for investment missions and business seminars. Between the two programs, Thai and Canadian firms have access to significant financial assistance in their collaborative efforts.

Environmental and Natural Resources Development

More than \$40 million is allocated to initiatives in environment and natural resources management. A \$10 million sectoral program is planned in support of environment policy development and planning and information systems for better resource management while \$5 million supports energy policy formulation and implementation activities of the National Energy Policy Office. The Royal Development Study Centre at Kung Krabaen Bay concerned with coastal zone environmental management has been established with financial and technical assistance from Canada.

4.2 Special Programs

Development assistance is also reaching Thailand through various special programs implemented by CIDA as well as through Canadian participation in international and multilateral programs.

Approximately \$2.0 million was disbursed through CIDA's Special Programs Branch in 1989/90 for projects involving non-governmental organizations, institutions and co-operatives in Thailand. Canada also made some contributions