

Much more training and capacity-building work needs to be done. There is a need for teachers, medical personnel, engineers, agriculturalists, administrators, managers, etc. These needs are especially acute given the collapse of post-secondary education in Burma over the past decade. There is also a need to support public policy research, think tanks, colloquia and conferences on the economic and political future of Burma. Canada has a plethora of resources - universities, community colleges, research institutions, distance education specialists - that could be mobilized in support of a human resource development program for Burma's democracy movement.

Canada should be investigating other forms of support for the democracy movement. Funding is urgently required by Burmese democracy organizations such as members of the National Coalition of the Union of Burma which is playing a leading role in preparing for transition. Ethnic minority organizations require a variety of capacity-building supports. Assistance is also needed by groups involved in human rights documentation and information dissemination. CIDA and Canadian NGOs should be working together to develop a long-term capacity-building strategy with these organizations.

CIDA's position has been that it cannot allocate bilateral funds in support of the types of activities outlined above since Burma is not eligible for ODA. Canadian NGOs are not promoting a resumption of ODA to the SPDC or for activities inside the country. Rather, Canada should allocate funds specifically for capacity-building with democracy organizations, as has been done by most other Western governments.

***Recommendations to the Government of Canada:***

***The Ministers of DFAIT and CIDA should create the necessary framework to enable CIDA to support capacity-building activities with Burma's democratic movement.***

***Representatives of CIDA, DFAIT and Canadian NGOs should meet as soon as possible to discuss a capacity-building framework and strategy.***

***In 1999-00, CIDA should designate planning funds to an NGO coalition to investigate capacity-building needs and modalities of support for the democracy movement.***