

The Canadian response in to the famine lies in two areas. First, in the more urgent area of food aid. For the most part, the Canadian response has been through Canadian Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) provide the largest proportion of NGO food aid to the country. This has extended to the church groups, which normally do not provide food aid.

The method of food distribution in North Korea is working very well. It is hindered somewhat by lack of fuel and a degree of North Korean reticence. However, overall, the food appears to be getting to those who need it. The reason for this success appears to be that the distribution is done in partnership with the North Koreans, allowing them to retain dignity in the process.

The second response to the famine is in the area of agricultural aid. This would involve exchanges of both Canadian and North Korean farmers and agricultural experts. This is the longer term solution. Such a programs require some funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), however, it is a small amount in relation to the amount of time and effort put forth by participants.

## **Infrastructure and Energy**

### Infrastructure

After humanitarian aid, infrastructure development is seen as the most important step in the stabilisation of the North Korean economy. This is another opportunity for Canada to become involved in North Korea in a positive manner. However, there is no credit available to finance North Korean projects, so business must be cautious.

There are plans to develop the Taedong River - a project which has a good deal of investment from South Korea. The South Korean element may present an opportunity for Canada to become involved.

### Energy

To date, Canada has not made its contribution to CADO contribution for this year. CADO is seen as one of the most important elements which would go toward reducing North Korea's power shortage. Any economic recovery program for this country involves energy and its infrastructure. Its loss would not only be detrimental to North Korea, but it would also be detrimental to Canada's credibility in South East Asia. It is the only institution we have on the Korean peninsula.

Another, more ominous, consideration in the area of energy is North Korea's nuclear and chemical warfare capability. For this reason, it is important that the entire North Korean situation be made more stable - thereby lessening the possibility of desperate action.