

cohosted a workshop on risk assessment for metals and their compounds. Similar workshops are being requested as a means for others to learn about the complexity and diversity of interactions between metals and the environment, and the risk-based approach to specific compounds, products, and applications, which is based on sound science recognizing natural occurrences and processes, speciation, and bioavailability, which differentiates the risk-based approach from simple hazard assessment.

Technical Cooperation

Over the past 130 years, Canadians have developed extensive knowledge, expertise, and world-class technology in mining. Canada shares its policy, scientific, and technological experience and expertise with those developing countries that are responding to the sustainable development challenge. The Canadian International Development Agency, through the Canada Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology and the Geological Survey of Canada, has responded to requests for technical training.

Canada has encouraged training and education programs and technology transfer projects, including workshops, whenever possible. In December 1996, the Canadian government, provincial governments, and mining company representatives collaborated with the Chilean government on a workshop applying Canadian environmental assessment and rehabilitation experience. The Canadian government, within the scope of existing resources, will continue to share its experience and expertise in implementing sustainable development in the area of minerals and metals, particularly with developing countries and international development assistance agencies. Technical cooperation and the sharing of expertise among and between the world's mining nations need to be fostered to ensure a sustainable minerals industry that is environmentally sensitive. The collaboration of international organizations, particularly within the United Nations system, must continue to play an important role in this regard.