

the river water: eg, upstream dams on the Mekong would interfere with the flow not only of the Mekong, but also of the Tonle Sap River and Tonle Sap Lake, which are at the heart of the country's agricultural sector (still accounting for 43% of the economy and 75% of the workforce).

The World Bank and **ADB** are supporting assessment studies for each of the areas of interest of the MRC, outlined above.

#### **d) Bilateral Donors and International Ngos**

The most active bilateral donors assisting with various aspects of Mekong River cooperation have been Japan, Australia, the Nordics, the US, France and the UK. A Japanese will be the Secretary-General of the Commission when it arrives in Phnom Penh (a position related to Japan's status as the largest donor).

CICP, which fosters policy development on regional issues (see Cambodian Ngos above) is supported by **TAF** and the **Freidrich Ebert Siftung Foundation**.

#### **e) Canadian Role**

Since the end of IDRC's involvement with the Cambodian Ministry of Environment, Canada no longer plays a role on issues related to Mekong cooperation. Khy Tainglim suggested that an area that might be of interest - especially in the context of peacebuilding - would be assistance for Cambodia in developing community participation in the planning for and development of Mekong basin resources. In this connection, he noted that there was a good deal of relevant experience in PEI.

CICP has worked with Paul Evans of York University on the CIDA-supported ASEAN/ISIS security cooperation project. It took part in the May 1997 ASEAN-ISIS Conference on promoting Regional Cooperation, held in Montreal and director Kao Kim Hourn gave lectures on Cambodia and Cambodia's relations with ASEAN at both Laval and Carleton Universities. It also sponsored in April 1997 a lecture by McGill University's Pierre Lizee ("Between 1993 and 1998: Which Future for Cambodia?").