

resources, the granting of financial start-up support for multilateral projects and assistance for the implementation of national policies, and the consolidation of distance training equipment.

International Data Bank on Francophone States

Supported by Canada at the first Summit (Paris, 1986), the International Data Bank on Francophone States (BIEF) has been a decentralized program of the ACCT since December 1991. Its administration and management have been entrusted to Heritage Canada. Primarily developed as a bibliographical database to inventory records on all member states of the Francophone Summits, the BIEF rapidly expanded to become a network of human, documentary and technological resources focussing on communication, liaison, and information and documentation transfer within a resource-pooling and resource-sharing network. The BIEF is involved in structuring, modernizing and consolidating national information and documentation policies and systems in southern countries. It also contributes to the development of professional and technical staff in advanced technology, and helps to organize and preserve documentary heritage and national corporate memories.

Fellowship Program for Francophone Countries

The Fellowship Program for Francophone Countries, established at the Paris Summit, continued after the Dakar and Chaillot Summits. It aims to increase advanced training opportunities for nationals of southern countries. Management of this program is the responsibility of the Professional Services Branch of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).



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