

5.3 Provincial Co-operation

Provincial initiatives in the Philippines have been relatively modest and have mainly focused on trade missions exploring the Philippine market and opportunities associated with Asian Development Bank projects.

Quebec has been among the most active provinces, sponsoring on average, two or three general trade missions to the region annually since 1980 and providing financial assistance to a number of companies interested in marketing products and expertise in the Philippines.

The province of Ontario also has taken an active interest in the Philippines. Between 1985 and 1987, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of Trade sponsored several missions to the area. Ontario's Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology plans to visit the Philippines in 1990.

Philippine officials attend, in increasing numbers, events or programs in Canada sponsored by provincial authorities or institutions. Most significant among these have been the conferences and seminars on the petroleum sector held in Alberta with the support of the provincial government, at times in association with the Government of Canada. The biennial Intercan Conference, the National Petroleum Show, and the Alberta Summer Institute for Petroleum Industrial Development (ASIPID) programs administered by the University of Alberta have all attracted a large number of Philippine participants in recent years. Alberta institutions are also involved in a number of CIDA-funded training projects in the Philippines, including a co-operative community development program, a health sector support project and a development project aimed at rural and isolated areas in the Philippines. Alberta has participated in a number of exploratory visits to the Philippines to pursue Asian Development Bank and CIDA projects and to specifically promote the expertise of its companies in the oil and gas, engineering consulting, agro-food and telecommunications sectors.

British Columbia welcomes large numbers of Philippine visitors each year who participate in trade and investment missions or in international conferences such as Globe 90 and GIS 90 which were held in Vancouver. The Government of British Columbia and the Vancouver Board of Trade have also organized a trade missions in the Philippines during the past few years. The province, through the British Columbia Trade Development Corporation, and in conjunction with the Association of Consulting Engineers of British Columbia, has formed the Asia Marketing Group to assist local engineering companies in their marketing efforts with the Asian Development Bank. Educational institutions in British Columbia have participated in a number of international education projects covering a broad range of education and training in the Philippines. Through CIDA and IDRC funding, Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia have participated in research exchanges, while the Vancouver Community College has been involved in providing technical advice on projects in the field of education.