

Company markets solar-powered water pumps

An Ottawa firm specializing in alternative energy systems is moving into the Third World with Canada's first sun-powered water pumps, reports Keri Sweetman in the *Ottawa Citizen*.

Officials of Canadian Energy Development Systems International (CEDSI) say the six-month-old consulting company has begun a drive to sell sun pumps to some of the world's poorest farmers, who cannot afford the fast-rising costs of traditional irrigation systems.

The system, being marketed by CEDSI, was developed by a Canadian engineer now working on solar energy projects in Washington.

It is deceptively simple: a few dozen photovoltaic (solar) cells are mounted on a sturdy aluminum frame and connected by cable to a submersible pump.

When the sun is shining, a unit with seven panels of cells produces up to 250 watts of power, easily pumping water from depths of up to 15 feet.

By using the pump to draw water from nearby streams or from shallow wells, a farmer can double his crop, explains



James McGill demonstrates sun-powered water pump.

James McGill, CEDSI's chief economist.

CEDSI's staff of six economists and engineers is also looking for markets for a similar pump which will be capable of drawing drinking water from depths of more than 100 feet. It should be ready by

next spring.

Solar power is not the company's only interest. It also sells consulting services on wind power and small-scale hydroelectric operations which can provide enough energy for small villages.

Canada-Nepal health workers training program

The Canadian government has announced that it will help Nepal train auxiliary health workers so that basic care can be made available to people living in the isolated eastern region of the mountainous Asian country.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will grant \$2.99 million to help create a 160-student training centre at Dhankuta and a network of six rural health posts throughout the Eastern Development Region of Nepal. The project is modelled on a CIDA-assisted school which began operating in 1979 and is now successfully training auxiliary health workers, or paramedics, in the town of Surkhet, in Nepal's Far Western Development Region. As at Surkhet, the Dhankuta project will include post-secondary training in India for health-care teachers, a health survey of the district, and further development of the curriculum for training community medical auxiliaries.

To make its limited funds more effective, the Nepal government, assisted by

the Institute of Medicine of Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, is trying to create a system to deliver primary and preventive care to people in the rugged countryside. The goal is to provide a training centre and a few rural health posts in each of Nepal's four development regions. As a result of the successful initiative at Surkhet, CIDA will now use the experience gained there to carry out this similar project in an equally remote region.

Canadian bilateral aid to Nepal has increased since 1977, and disbursements totalled \$6.74 million last year. Besides providing potash and *Twin Otter* aircraft, Canada is sponsoring projects to improve road maintenance and to help Nepal make better use of its land and water resources. In addition, a dozen Canadian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) carried out 25 projects last year with a total value of \$2.7 million, mainly in the fields of health and education, assisted by matching grants of about \$766,000 from CIDA.

Inuit television network opens

Canada has a fledgling new television network on which viewers can talk back — in Inuktitut.

Indian and Northern Affairs Minister John Munro recently telephoned congratulations from Ottawa to the Inukshuk Project's official opening broadcast from Frobisher Bay, Baffin Island.

Inukshuk is the name of a pilot project beaming programs in the Inuit language (Inuktitut) to eastern Arctic communities via the *Anik B* satellite. The Inuit-run network has been broadcasting 16-and-a-half hours a week since September from Frobisher Bay to Baker Lake, Eskimo Point, Pond Inlet, Cambridge Bay and Igloolik. Until now most of the programs have been live inter-community meetings and group discussions. The two-way audio system enables people to "talk back" to their TV sets and so talk to people in other communities on the network.

Satellite time and equipment for the program is being provided by the Department of Communications.