

development, diffusion, and adoption of cleaner production technologies. CIDA oversees many of Canada's international technology programs.

Information Products and Networks

Canada has developed processes to transfer technology as well as for access to technology information. Computer-based networks have been established to aid information exchange.

Examples of information products and networks include the following:

- ENV-I-NET, an on-line bulletin board service that includes information on environmental technologies and priorities in developing countries to be financed by multilateral international financial organizations; and
- Canadian Environmental Solutions, a vendor-oriented multimedia tool that gives Canadian companies an opportunity to use their technologies, products, and services to the benefit of developing countries and countries in transition.

Challenges and Next Steps

Canada has made significant progress toward promoting, facilitating, and financing access to and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies while seeking to preserve intellectual property rights and maintaining fair trading practices. Looking ahead, the creativity, commitment, and partnership that led to the development of this infrastructure must be maintained and enhanced. One urgent requirement is to accelerate the transfer of cost-effective and innovative environmental technologies to developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Private enterprises and institutions, both in Canada and in recipient countries, will play a central role in successfully meeting this requirement.

Canada is one of the leaders in the advancement of atmospheric science to help the world understand the thinning of the ozone layer. The signing of the Montreal Protocol to ban ozone-depleting substances is a landmark in Canada's effort to gain international agreement to rectify this global problem. Because of the Montreal Protocol, the Canadian environment industry has successfully developed and marketed several leading-edge innovative technologies either to capture and recycle CFCs already in use or to produce CFC-free materials as substitutes. Green technologies and know-how bridge the gap between the understanding of a global problem and the action required to achieve results.