

Burkina Faso

Date of Independence:
August 5, 1960

Capital: Ouagadougou

Population: 9.4 million

Head of State: His Excellency
Captain Blaise Compaoré

Head of Government:
His Excellency
Youssouf Ouédraogo

Foreign Minister:
Thomas Sanou

Economy: Economy based on
subsistence agriculture and stock-
rearing. Major outflow of workers
to other countries.



Canada-Burkina Faso Relations: Bilateral relations are based primarily on co-operation and joint membership in la Francophonie. As part of the decentralization of CIDA, Canada reopened an Embassy office in 1989 that had been closed in 1985. Since 1974, Burkina Faso has been a beneficiary of our emergency aid program and the special Canadian co-operation program for the Sahel. The planning figure for this program is \$120 million for the period 1990-95.

Canadian Aid: Canada's co-operation program with Burkina Faso dates back to 1965. Since 1974, Burkina Faso has benefited from Canadian emergency assistance and the special co-operation program for the Sahel, which focussed mainly on education, rural development, infrastructures and macro-economic balance. Bilateral assistance for 1991-92 totalled \$16.11 million, and is estimated at \$13.8 million for 1992-93.

Political Authorities: His Excellency Captain Blaise Compaoré: Born in 1951. Military training and career. Attained the highest office in his country on October 15, 1987.

Thomas Sanou, Minister of External Relations: Born in 1947. Training in management. Appointed Director General of the Caisse nationale de Sécurité sociale du Burkina in 1988. Mr. Sanou has held the positions of Minister of Transport and Communications, Economic Development, Industry, Trade and Mines and, since 1989, has been Minister of External Relations.