Reaching out

The work accomplished under the Global Partnership Program is making a significant contribution to improved security, both domestically and internationally, to a cleaner environment and to a safer world where weapons and materials of mass destruction and related expertise are not easily available to terrorists or states of proliferation concern. Sharing these achievements with Canadians, with other partners and with the international non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament community, and obtaining feedback on Canadian activities and priorities, represents an important priority for the Program.

Domestic outreach efforts have been aimed at two distinct audiences. First, the Program has implemented initiatives to ensure that opportunities for R&D through the Redirection Program are brought to the attention of potential Canadian public and private sector partners and collaborators. In the past year, Canadian experts from 59 government, industrial and academic organizations were active in supporting the Program's objectives by acting as a collaborator for projects funded through the ISTC. One Canadian company has become an ISTC Partner, with several more poised to do so. Consultations and meetings with members of the Canadian non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament non-governmental community were also organized to demonstrate how Canada's Global Partnership Program is contributing concretely to the achievement of policy goals in this important area. Ties were expanded with academics, civil society audiences and institutions for this purpose.

At the international level, Canada maintained its role as an advocate for transforming pledges into projects and for increasing the overall effectiveness and impact of the Global Partnership.

These activities reinforce Canada's image as a country that lives up to its commitments, and can make a difference in efforts to address the most serious threat facing international security. At the level of the Global Partnership Working Group, Canada has worked to develop support for a clear commitment from leading donors to continue to adhere to the full range of Kananaskis priorities and to undertake a comprehensive partnership-wide strategic review of all program activities. This will significantly enhance the basis for establishing future priorities and facilitate more effective decision making for the second stage of the Global Partnership. Canadian leadership also contributed to a more coordinated approach by leading donors to implementing initiatives related to threats posed by biological agents. At the project level, an initiative was undertaken jointly with the U.K. to invite other Global Partnership members to contribute to components of the CWDF at Shchuch'ye. This joint initiative resulted in four countries contributing additional funds to a project that is Canada's top CW destruction priority. These efforts have been well received by Global Partnership members. They have had a positive effect on Canada's bilateral relationship with Russia, where Canada is openly cited as the model for other countries to follow, with the U.S. and with other donors who either work with Canada or recognize Canadian successes and value our views on their own activities. The U.S. also recognizes the value of Canada's contribution to what they see as an initiative important to North American security.

