

Years Of Commitment To People



"Development from the people's perspective is a hallmark of IDRC projects. Maternal and child health are two of the basic development concerns."

researchers from Latin America and Africa, the workshop was an astounding success. The results of studying 25 handicraft industries in seven countries, involving over 4000 respondents, were presented to senior government officials at the workshop. Policymakers are generally unaware of the sector's importance or problems. Yet, as the network and workshop established, the handicraft sector is the largest source of rural employment after agriculture, and contributes billions of dollars in foreign exchange earnings to the Asian economy.

Maritime nations

The shipping industry is certainly a visible component of the seafaring Southeast Asian nations' economies.

After the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, it was quickly apparent that the new UN Convention on the Law of the Sea required sophisticated legal and institutional research. In response, IDRC joined with other organizations to develop SEAPOL – the Southeast Asian Project on Ocean Law, Policy and Management.

SEAPOL's scope was impressive: it would not only examine problems anticipated in implementing the new Law of the Sea regulations; it would also look at shipping policy, fishery development planning and marine pollution problems. IDRC supported research on the first and

last priorities: implementation problems, and marine pollution in the semi-enclosed seas of Southeast Asia.

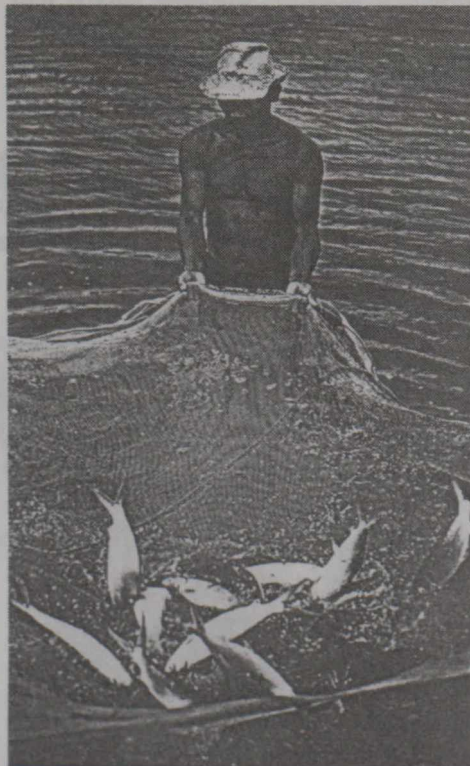
Established in 1983, SEAPOL is now preparing its final reports. It is anticipated that SEAPOL legal advice will provide useful guidance to regional shipping nations. The pollution report is expected to be of immediate practical value to shipping and pollution-control officials and experts throughout Southeast Asia.

The next fifteen years

Research alone is not sufficient to achieve development. Research support must assist developing countries with building a structure upon which they can build further. IDRC research shows that the structure will not stand without such ground-level support as:

- the assurance that people are fed, sheltered and secure;
- the commitment to include the people in the determination of development goals and priorities; and
- the successful transfer of basic technology to those who need it most.

In the next 15 years, IDRC will continue to strive for excellence in its support of Southeast Asia's quest for development and self-sufficiency, IDRC president Ivan L. Head put it this way: "Quality of life and individual human dignity are the goals."



"Demand for fish could soon outstrip supply from lakes and oceans. If technical difficulties are solved, fish farming could replace some of the supply."

What Is IDRC?

Since its inception in 1970, IDRC has been active in the Southeast Asian region. Its projects support individual researchers, government research projects, university research centres, and international research centres.

Project proposals are judged on their merits by a prestigious international Board of Governors, all of whom are experts in their own right. Projects include subjects in the social sciences; agriculture, food and nutrition; information sciences; health sciences; and communications. A percentage of the projects link developing-country researchers with Canadian researchers and research institutions. Other projects form networks linking researchers with their peers regionally or globally.

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"To Profit From Development"

The business world doesn't immediately spring to mind when people hear the word "development". But business may be a recipient or provider of development research. Projects like TECHNUNET – the Asian Network for Industrial Technology Information and Extension – offer extension services to small business on a consulting basis. Established in 1972, the project involves 11 industrial extension organizations in nine countries.

In the case of the Unimade water hand-pump, a commercially viable product was the result of a project to provide clean water to rural villagers. Early research was carried out in Canada at the University of Waterloo, and completed in April 1978. Prototypes were sent to six countries in Africa and Asia, including Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand. There, the design was submitted to rigorous testing and adapted to local materials and conditions.

Local mass production is now making handpumps more affordable. Handbooks illustrating the installation, maintenance and repair of the pumps are being produced in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand for distribution with the pumps. Fullscale commercial production is being negotiated, and soon the Unimade will be available on the open market.