

### 3.5 Opportunities for International Cooperation

The energy problems of developing countries are serious and complex, and demand urgent international attention. Individual country responses to the need for international action will vary significantly but there are opportunities for cooperation open to both developed and developing nations which must be pursued if renewable energy systems are to be put in place in the developing countries to relieve the present and future energy difficulties.

Programs will be required in renewable energy research, demonstration, promotion, financing, delivery and operational training to achieve the announced objective. Significant channels will be international assistance, trade, industrial cooperation, research and development cooperation and training at all levels.

The renewable energy programs in many developed countries are still in embryonic form. Indeed in some instances the renewable energy programs in the developing countries are already ahead of equivalent programs in the industrialized countries.

There is a need for collaborative research, development and training program leading to pilot projects and finally to larger scale projects in which aid and trade will be important factors.

The Canadian Government is anxious, in consultation with international agencies and developing countries, to make the best use of Canadian technology planning strengths, research capability, policy advice and management and training techniques to promote a more secure and lasting energy future for developed and developing countries.

The contribution of each country to an international cooperative effort will be based on its experience and expertise. In the area of new and renewable technologies, its resource base and previous technical experience will lead Canada to focus on the following five energy sources: (a) fossil fuels, (b) hydro-electric power, (c) biomass energy including firewood, (d) wind power and, (e) direct solar radiation. While the first of these will continue to play a key role for the foreseeable future, developing countries without these resources must import them. The other four have the advantage of being renewable.

#### Firewood

Firewood supplies most of the energy used in the rural areas of developing countries: typically 80 to 90 per