

APEC's trade discussions to NGO actors.

The Bangladesh-Canada Policy Education Program, funded by CIDA's Asia Branch, is an interesting model of inter-agency co-operation in policy research and dialogue. The project groups two Canadian NGOs, Inter Pares and CUSO, and four Bangladeshi organizations in a program of policy research in a number of areas, including agrarian reform, health and population, and indigenous people's rights. The participating groups work together and assist one another to develop their analysis of the critical issues in these areas. The research provides a basis for policy dialogue with both national governments. In October, 1996, for example, the members of the group met with CIDA officials in a dialogue on their research findings and the implications for CIDA policies in these areas. The project is noteworthy for taking advantage of the strengths of both Northern and Southern NGOs -- their programs that ground them at the local level -- while compensating for their inadequate capacity for policy research.

The CCIC has lost capacity in recent years, but it is working to develop new ways to add value to the policy work of the community by providing leadership and coordination on the broad range of policy issues reviewed here.

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