

Through the Fund's General Technical Assistance Program, developing Commonwealth countries may benefit from the expertise of professionals for a period of four to 24 months. To facilitate this service, the CFTC maintains a small group of in-house experts in high-demand areas such as development economics, finance, taxation, law and statistics.

The CFTC supports education and on-the-job training in other Commonwealth countries for those students selected by their own governments through its Management Training Services Program.

Through its Export Market Development Program, the Fund is able to support initiatives in promotion, marketing, credit assurance, the organization of trade fairs and missions, market surveys, training for trade negotiations and export regulations, and the adaptation of goods for export. In so doing, the CFTC is encouraging developing Commonwealth countries to expand their export volumes and increase foreign exchange earnings.

#### **Commonwealth of Learning**

The Commonwealth of Learning is a Canadian-sponsored initiative announced at the 1987 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. The Vancouver-based Commonwealth agency, the first to be based outside Britain, was designed to promote co-operation in distance education.

Its aim is to strengthen the capacity of member states to develop their human resources for improved economic and social development, through increased access to education, improved sharing of resources and quality of education, and increased mobility of ideas, research, and people. The introduction of modern methodologies and technologies by the Commonwealth of Learning has enabled governments and institutions to increase access to education, particularly in the post-secondary and technical/vocational sectors.

Since the Commonwealth of Learning was established, the Canadian government has provided \$9.65 million and the government of British Columbia another \$7 million.

#### **Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan**

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan provides gifted students with the opportunity to pursue studies and research in another Commonwealth country. In any given year, 1,500 Commonwealth scholars study abroad under the plan. In 1995-96, the Canadian government is providing \$7.9 million to the program.