

usage and anti-smoking campaigns is seen by many countries as a world-leader and has been used by other countries as a basis for its own domestic legislation.

In the course of the pilot exercise, reports were also completed for Natural Resources Canada and Transport Canada. Both Departments indicated that they already received considerable reporting from FA Canada and IT Canada across a range of issues. In the case of Transport, some of their important international activity took place in the context of APEC and other multilateral organisations, with international transportation security and safety being two priority issues. The status of major regional airlines is of particular interest in the Asian context.

Human Resources Development Canada - Labour Program - expressed a strong interest in the issue of child labour. International negotiations on this issue are focussed at the ILO. However, one of the key concerns is the gap between national policies on child labour and actual enforcement. This is especially important in the poorer countries of Asia, where industries such as textiles and clothing are expanding to take advantage of low labour costs. Another issue of interest to the HRDC's Labour Program is the impact of a highly-competitive China on local labour conditions.

Timely information on official policies of host governments appears to be a key value added element of reporting from our Departments to OGDs. These sources can provide up to date information on policy developments that may not yet be in the public domain or media. Simply put, with their official status, in many instances Canadian missions have access where others do not. As well, reporting on policy developments from the missions which have direct access to government authorities provides OGD'S with intelligence that is extremely useful in presentations at, and negotiations with, multilateral agencies and fora. By gathering this information, Canadian delegations can demonstrate a greater awareness of conditions in other countries, adding depth to their interventions and enhancing their credibility

OTHER OBSERVATIONS:

FAC and ITCan, as per New Approach and other reporting guidelines, must be careful to "push back" on reports seeking information that may be readily available from open sources (trade and policy publications, the internet, etc.). In general, data of various sorts is readily available on the internet, specialised journals, or in the press, however, as mentioned, present or future policies of the host government may not.