

We are also interested in developing a project under the Africa 2000 program that will encourage the twinning of urban centres. This twinning project would try to involve not only Canadian municipalities, but also the private sector, schools, and non-profit organizations working within these municipalities.

In addition, under a technical support project in the Douala district of Cameroon, a Canadian resource person experienced in municipal technical services was sent to work on location and give his Cameroonian colleagues the benefit of his knowledge and skills.

CIDA has also provided funding to support a Canadian Federation of Municipalities program in fourteen Chinese cities. The program will involve training in municipal planning and development, international trade and foreign investment. Municipalities across Canada will have the opportunity to contribute their own expertise to this very special project.

These are some examples of what can be done to initiate dialogue and thus begin to meet the immense challenge before us.

It is obvious that not only governments, but the private sector, volunteer organizations, institutes and other public bodies as well, must participate in meeting this challenge, if our efforts are to be as effective as possible.

The valuable and timely symposium taking place here in Quebec City is the fruit of such co-operation.

To the international expertise of the IAMF, you have added the experience and ability of the Quebec private sector, the Union des municipalités du Québec, the Association des directeurs généraux des municipalités du Québec and the Ecole nationale d'administration publique as well as several Quebec government departments.

You have also enriched this concerted Quebec effort by going out to consult with African representatives and urban specialists in order to verify the pertinence of your plans. This attention to detail and this desire to identify the best and most useful skills we have to offer not only guarantee the success of this symposium, but also set an example of the road we must follow in any attempt to offer effective assistance.

CIDA wishes to encourage the development of this fountain of good will, resources and expertise. We are open to any new strategy that will help us meet the challenge posed by the urbanization of the Third World.

Thank you.