

Energy-related research in and for the developing countries therefore presents a considerable challenge. At present the great bulk of energy-related research is located within the industrialized countries and is directed towards their needs. There is, for instance, little work being done which has any immediate application to the small-scale, rural-oriented needs of the developing countries. And because renewable energy technology is a recent and still-emerging field of activity, many questions remain unanswered about its potential uses in developing countries. An immense amount of work is required, therefore, on technologies appropriate for use in the poorest countries.

One of the new initiatives which the government of Canada is undertaking involves a \$10-million increase in our support for energy research related to developing countries. This was announced by the Prime Minister at the recent energy conference in Nairobi. These funds are being made available to Canada's International Development Research Centre so that it can undertake an intensified programme in this field. I don't have to go into the reasons why energy should become an increasing priority for Canadian aid. It is simply enough to reiterate the fact that the impact of recent oil shocks on developing countries has exceeded in dollar terms the total value of development assistance from the North, a considerable sum. The impact on these economies of these added costs, together with current high interest rates, has in some cases been shattering.

I mentioned the increasing focus on human-resources skills. It has become more generally accepted that constraints on development cannot be broken unless much greater attention is paid to the development of the human factor as the primary instrument in the development process. This has led agencies like CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) to modify considerably the ways in which they intervene in developing countries. As a result, the percentage of the CIDA budget going to non-governmental organizations, where person-to-person relationships are usually predominant, has been growing considerably. In short, development is not only building economic infrastructures, it is the way in which the totality in interactions, economic and human, influence the direction of a society.