

CANADEXPORT

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Canada to Help Rebuild Kuwait

Now that trade sanctions against Kuwait have been lifted—they remain in effect against Iraq—the enormous task of reconstructing Kuwait's badly damaged infrastructure is underway.

External Affairs and International Trade Canada (EAITC) and the Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC) have established special units to help Canadian businesses participate in the reconstruction effort.

EAITC's Task Force on Kuwait Reconstruction, working with the recently re-opened Canadian Embassy in Kuwait City, and the CCC's Kuwait Reconstruction Desk are on line to position Canadian suppliers where products and services are required.

The Private Sector Liaison Group on Kuwait Reconstruction will help coordinate Canada's participation in the reconstruction effort by maintaining a dialogue between Canadian suppliers and EAITC.

Kuwaiti Ministers have assured Minister for International Trade John C. Crosbie that as an active member of the Coalition which liberated Kuwait, Canada will be in a preferred position to participate in the reconstruction, estimated to cost between \$100 billion

and \$300 billion.

A broad range of essential services tops the list as early priorities: water, sanitation, electricity, communications, and the oil and gas industry. Further opportunities will also exist in the educational and medical sectors and in rebuilding the commercial and housing infrastructure.

Crosbie emphasized that previous experience in the Middle East will be a definite asset in pursuing potential contracts.

In a recent meeting with Kuwaiti officials, Crosbie was briefed on the Kuwaiti government's reconstruction plan and said Canadian firms possess much of the

Asian Development Bank

See Supplement pages 7-10

expertise that will be useful in helping the Kuwaitis rebuild. "Canadian companies can make a vital contribution to repair the damage inflicted on Kuwait," the Minister said. "Overall, the potential is enormous."

External Affairs Minister Joe Clark travelled to the Middle East from March 6-12 to discuss the situation in the region with a number of the countries concerned: Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria and Iran. He was accompanied by a delegation of Canadian firms that are established in the area and can play a role in Kuwait's reconstruction.

Clark used his meetings in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to encourage his counterparts to look favourably on Canadian participation in reconstruction. He also met with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, responsible for the first phase of emergency recovery of basic services in Kuwait.

U.S Trade Fairs and Missions See pages 14-15

Also accompanying Clark were representatives of the Canadian Exporters' Association and the Canada-Arab Business Council, both of which will be working with EAITC to mount a series of cross-Canada seminars. The seminars (dates and locations to be announced) are intended to flag opportunities and position Canadian exporters to compete.

A series of incoming Kuwaiti business missions, as well as meetings with active prime contractors, are being planned.

Companies interested in participating in the reconstruction effort are invited to contact: Rick Railer, Task Force on Kuwait Reconstruction (TDT), EAITC, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa K1A 0G2. Fax: (613) 996-9265. Tel.: (613) 996-2298.

The CCC, which has assigned personnel to the Canadian Embassy in Kuwait City to assist in pursuing commercial opportunities, can also help. Contact: Kuwait Reconstruction Desk, Canadian Commercial Corporation, 50 O'Connor Street, Ottawa K1A 0S6. Tel.: (613) 996-0034. Fax: (613) 995-2121.

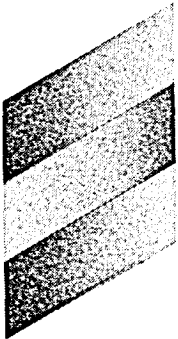
Canadians and Canadian companies whose property was lost, damaged or destroyed as a result of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait should submit details to the Canadian government on their potential claims against the Government of Iraq. Information should be sent quickly to: Economic and Trade Law Division (JLE), External Affairs and International Trade Canada, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa K1A 0G2. Fax: (613) 996-2467

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INSIDE	
<i>A New Look at Exporting . . .</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Business Opportunities</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Telecommunications in France</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Public Utilities in Singapore .</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Europe 1992 Bulletin</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Trade Shows, from Algeria to Regina</i>	<i>13</i>