

Canadian universities help developing countries

...Canadian universities' involvement with and concern for the Third World are not new. Their programs of study have always included education in the history, culture and, in some instances, languages of the countries now considered part of the developing world. Universities saw this as part of their total function arising from the traditional definition of a university as a "universal city".

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What is new is a growing understanding in the late 1970s of the need for Canadian universities to work together to meet the changing needs of universities in developing countries where work-study has become the pattern.

In the 1950s and 1960s many developing countries sent their potential leaders to Canadian campuses because they did not have the post-secondary institutions needed to educate them. However, the results were far from satisfactory in many cases. One unforeseen result was an extensive "brain drain" from the developing countries.

Developing countries have since established their own post-secondary institutions, but their orientation is on domestic socio-economic development needs. In most cases, students are admitted only if their training is related directly to the development of their own country.

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Canadian universities have great appeal to educators in such countries, particularly those in Africa, according to Fraser Taylor, co-ordinator of development studies in Carleton University's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs in Ottawa.

"We're in a unique situation in that our universities are a *mélange* of the British, French and American systems," he points out....

In West Africa, former French and British colonies exist side by side and need to bridge the gap left by their different languages and colonial traditions. And one of them, Cameroun, is made up of both a former French and a former British colony, with problems of bilingual education similar to those in Canada.

"Canada doesn't have a colonial past," Dr. Taylor points out. "It doesn't have an image of an imperial power in any real sense and therefore is more acceptable than many countries."

Canadian universities' direct involve-

ment in the Third World was stimulated in the 1950s by the Colombo Plan. It began as occasional postings of Canadian university faculty members in developing nations, on a university-to-university basis.

Later, as the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) entered the picture, it sought out and recruited Canadians and sent them to particular postings abroad.

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Participation of universities in development grew considerably during the 1970s. In a 1977 survey by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), 25 Canadian institutions reported 99 programs involving Third World institutions, 49 sponsored by CIDA, nine by International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and seven by other departments or agencies of the Canadian Government.

What the schools are doing

The University of British Columbia (UBC) has sent faculty members to the University of Malaya in Malaysia for the past five years to expand courses in accounting offered there, and annually accepts ten Malaysian students for graduate work in Vancouver.

UBC is also developing a plan for the regional development of the Island of Sulawesi in Indonesia, and has reached an agreement with the Catholic University of Ecuador to exchange faculty and students in the field of teacher training for elementary education. Both these programs received CIDA funds.

UBC is also helping develop the curriculum of an undergraduate program in pharmacy at the University of Nairobi in Kenya. This program was initiated at a conference of presidents of African universities held in Ottawa under AUCC auspices.

The University of Waterloo has helped four universities in northeastern Brazil with computer education and the development of a computer centre. Waterloo has helped develop graduate engineering programs at Brazil's Federal University of Paraíba. It has also developed teacher exchanges with universities in Colombia in dentistry, in Ghana in economic development, in Barbados and in Guyana in education and teacher training. All these programs received funds from CIDA.

Dalhousie University sends ten to 12 Canadians to teach in Ghana every year under a CIDA-funded program reached through an agreement with the Ghana ministry of economic planning and related ministries.

Queen's University at Kingston has sent teachers to the Dominican Republic to train health personnel...in health-care delivery to under-privileged families throughout the republic. Professors from Queen's are also advising on the development of a biomedical institute. This program is partly financed by private Canadian funds to Queen's....

The University of Saskatchewan in the past has sent professors to Uganda and taught graduate students in Canada in a CIDA-funded program aimed at upgrading the animal science department of Makerere University.

The University of Toronto has sent faculty members to train personnel in computer science at universities in north-east Brazil, Brazilian staff have also studied in Toronto under the program. U. of T. has also helped the University of Havana develop an engineering program at the master's level. All these programs were assisted by CIDA funds.

Laval University, which has had a centre for research and international development for several years, is undertaking joint projects with Third World universities involving training in agronomy and veterinary science in Morocco and business administration in Peru.

The University of Manitoba has programs involving exchanges of students and faculty in agriculture and food sciences with the University of Chile, assisted by Agriculture Canada, the National Research Council and the IDRC.

The departments of chemistry of McGill University and the University of Nigeria at Ksukka are co-operating in programs of mutual assistance.

Under a three-year agreement, the University of New Brunswick is sending teachers to staff the Kenya Technical Teachers Colleges, and is bringing Kenyan students to Canada for degree programs in administration and teacher training. The program is jointly funded by Canada and Kenya....

University of Quebec is helping to train engineers, statisticians and economists for Morocco's National Institute of statistics and applied economics.

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