

gical isolationism - a serious prospect for nations like Canada which lie outside major world economic blocs.

A number of problems will soon reach global proportions. The World's oceans are becoming polluted, the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is rising and major national technological systems such as data networks will require interfacing. These concerns will need systematic attention at the international level if not outright international regulation.

Canada, as a major trading nation attempting currently to enhance its S&T capability cannot afford to be overtaken by these events. A major challenge for the future will not only be to raise the national capability in S&T but to maintain it at a level which will support future industrial development and supply the expertise necessary to protect and promote internationally the national interest. The potential of international collaboration to help achieve these goals should be aggressively - but sensibly - exploited.

MAIN CATEGORIES OF COLLABORATION

There are three main categories of international collaboration in S&T. The oldest, most tried, and by far the largest is the normal contact carried out through a variety of channels by individual scientists. Institution-to-institution and government-to-government comprise the other two. These arrangements can be entered into on either a bilateral or mulilateral basis. The groupings are not exclusive: individual interaction, for instance, lies at the heart of all collaborative activities and institutional relationships may well form part of government-to-government agreements. Nevertheless the categories are formed to meet specific needs requiring different approaches and thus each has its own particular main characteristics.

Individual

The International Agricultural Congress of Brussels 1847 was one of the first examples of the need felt by individual scientists in different countries to exchange views and experiences and to make contacts with groups of peers working in the same field. Today there are thousands of conferences and seminars annually, most organized by the international bodies representing specific disciplines to which the individual scientist belongs.