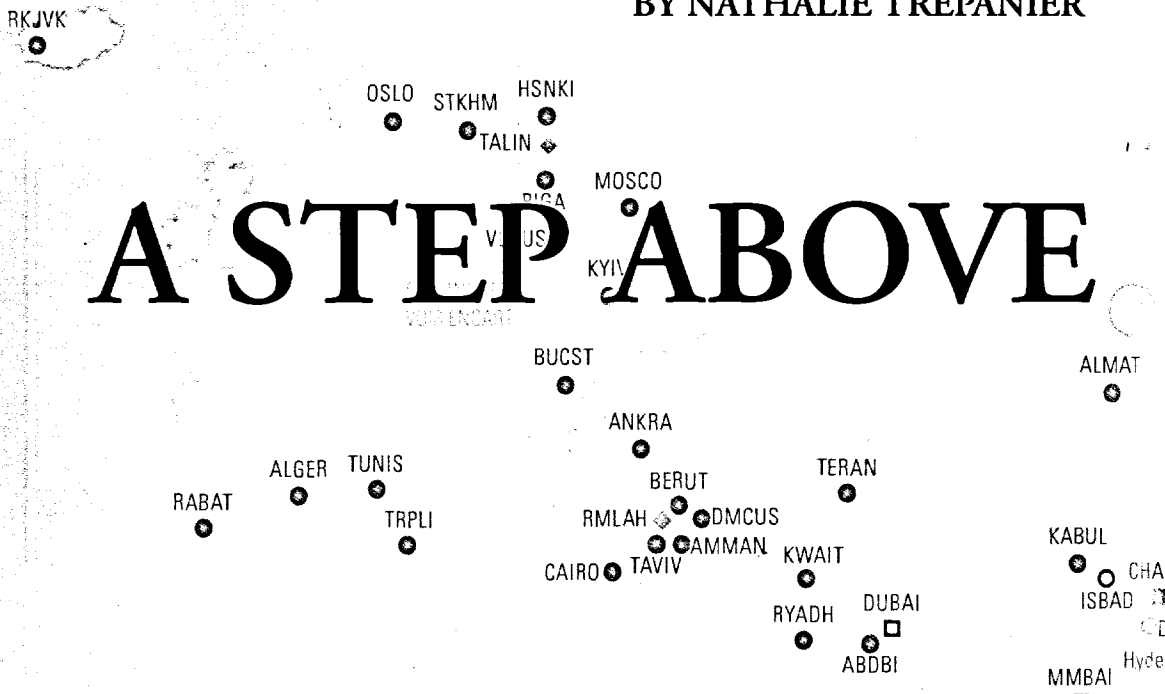


DEAIT's new International Platform Branch could become the envy of the world.

BY NATHALIE TRÉPANIÉ

A STEP ABOVE



DFAIT's new International Platform has piqued quite a bit of interest around the world.

Several foreign affairs and trade ministries are closely watching the International Platform Branch's progress with the expectation that it may serve as a model for other countries.

"They are very intrigued by what we are doing," noted Assistant Deputy Minister Pierre Sabourin, who is leading the effort. Pierre recently met with his counterparts from the U.S. and the U.K. and noted their interest in the project.

"We're trying something that is really unique," he explained. "And if we succeed, I think we will probably be leading the world in terms of efficiency. It's quite clear that we're developing a 'made in Canada' model."

The new International Platform was launched in early April as the single point of delivery for common services in missions abroad, in response to increased globalization and modernization. Although the idea is not exactly new, its scope, goals and targets are a novel approach that will ultimately mean much better value for money and increased job satisfaction.

The International Platform was established to ensure that departments and agencies that have a global mandate can further maximize on increased global opportunities and ultimately be better served in foreign countries.