

In June 2005, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade issued a report entitled *Mining in Developing Countries and Corporate Social Responsibility*. In response to this report, the Government of Canada held four national round tables between June and November 2006 on the topic of corporate social responsibility and the Canadian extractive sector in developing countries. Held in Vancouver, Toronto, Calgary and Montreal, the round tables examined ways to ensure that Canadian extractive sector companies operating in developing countries meet or exceed leading international CSR standards and best practices. More information on these round tables can be found at [http://geo.international.gc.ca/cip-pic/current\\_discussions/csr-roundtables-en.asp](http://geo.international.gc.ca/cip-pic/current_discussions/csr-roundtables-en.asp).

Canada has established a national contact point to work with business and other stakeholders in raising awareness of the OECD Guidelines and resolving issues. Further information is available from Canada's National Contact Point website ([www.ncp-pcn.gc.ca](http://www.ncp-pcn.gc.ca)) or the corporate social responsibility section of the Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada website ([www.international.gc.ca/tna-nac/DS/csr-en.asp](http://www.international.gc.ca/tna-nac/DS/csr-en.asp)).

An important development in Canada's promotion of CSR was the official announcement in February 2007 of the government's support for the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) a coalition of governments, industries, investors, and international and non-governmental agencies. EITI supports improved governance in resource-rich countries through the full publication and verification of company payments and government revenues for oil, gas and mining industries. A detailed description of the program can be found on the EITI website at [www.eitransparency.org](http://www.eitransparency.org).

## Science and Technology and Innovation

Innovation is not a focus on S&T, but a focus on Innovation is not a focus on science and technology (S&T), but a focus on taking S&T to markets. It helps enhance access to the best global technology and keep Canada competitive in world markets. Strong international S&T linkages also help connect innovative Canadian firms with the global supply of ideas, talents and technologies (crucial to ensuring that domestic firms have access to leading-edge research), boost Canada's competitiveness and productivity, and ultimately lead to a higher standard of living for all Canadians.

Canada's global innovation capacity rests upon two key drivers: adopting technology and commercializing R&D. In order to increase our performance in both, we need to build effective, results-focused, international S&T networks in areas of strategic importance to Canada. These networks can improve Canada's international S&T performance by:

- building innovation teams (through realigning the Trade Commissioner network); coordinating global actions to connect Canadian S&T capacity with international players and market opportunities (e.g., through the Canada-California Strategic Innovation Partnership); and positioning Canada as a valued international S&T partner;
- fostering greater access to global S&T (through supporting international collaboration in R&D, as well as by using effective innovation teams to ensure that Canadian knowledge producers are aware of and can benefit from emerging and cutting-edge technology opportunities around the world); and
- maximizing performance in innovation and commercialization (through helping innovative Canadian companies grow internationally, so their new products, processes and services succeed in global markets).