

Unfortunately, I could go on at length enumerating the serious conditions that stem from the accelerated urbanization evident in every one of our countries, without exception.

But I know that you, more than anyone, understand the urgency of these problems and the necessity of sharing our knowledge of urban management. If, for example, one of our capital cities was able to take advantage of an innovative idea proposed on another continent, we could then put our limited resources to better use. This will be important in future, for municipal budgets will not keep pace with population growth, and we will, therefore, be obliged to do more with less.

In the developing nations, in fact, much more will have to be done with much less. Even in Canada, where the gross national product is \$12,000 per capita, municipal funding is often a problem area. Where then will countries with a GNP of \$200 find the resources they require?

For urban projects to succeed, they must be in keeping with national economic priorities. But there must be international co-operation as well, and pooling of existing resources and expertise.

In such a context, what is the role of an agency such as CIDA? CIDA is devoted to meeting the needs and priorities of developing nations, but it also supports the initiatives of its various Canadian partners.

We therefore encourage international co-operation initiatives that involve both municipalities and institutions.

Last November, at a symposium held in Vancouver, 150 representatives of Canadian cities, with the assistance of resource persons from urban areas in developing countries, met to design new urban initiatives in the areas of international trade and development assistance. This symposium was sponsored by CIDA and organized under the auspices of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the City of Vancouver.

CIDA has also lent its support to a municipal project related to international co-operation that was proposed by the Federation and the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators and, last June, brought together senior administrators from Third World municipalities and their counterparts from Canadian cities, including Quebec City. This avant-garde pilot project is still in the preliminary stages, but is opening up new vistas in the area of international co-operation.

Next September, the first Capitals of the World Conference, to be attended by representatives of some one hundred capital cities, will be held in Ottawa.