



Fall 2002

Governance Gateway

...information about Alberta's International Governance Office

The International Governance Office (IGO) coordinates Alberta's public sector involvement in international development projects.

Summary of Mandate:

With a growing demand for the Alberta government to share its expertise with other countries undergoing government reforms, an International Governance Office was created to coordinate these requests.

The office encourages partnerships between government and Alberta's private sector to jointly participate in international development projects. It also acts as an information resource for international financial institutions with project opportunities, as well as for the Alberta government.

Advisory Committee:

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LeRoy Johnson, MLA

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China Public Sector Reform Project – Subproject: Central-Local Relations Reform

In May 2000, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) funded the China Public Sector Reform Project (PSRP) to help China increase the capacity of its public service to formulate, implement and regulate new policies within the country's overall reform process. The PSRP was a 4-year project consisting of several capacity building sub-projects designed to offer senior members of the Chinese public sector the opportunity to learn Canadian ideas, views and experiences in policy making that are consistent with private sector development.

In June 2001, under the PSRP sub-project Central-Local Relations Reform, 17 officials from China's central and regional governments traveled to Manitoba and Alberta to examine federal-provincial consultative mechanisms, fiscal relations, and government's role in regional economic development. Chinese officials from the Ministries of Finance, Western Economic Development and the State Committee for Public Sector Reform identified specific issues from the above themes for further study under the Intern Placement Activity program.

From Oct. 27, 2001 to Jan. 27, 2002, three Chinese officials were selected from the central State Committee on Public Sector Reform for the three-month Intern Program. The officials were placed in Western Economic Development (WED) Canada, Alberta International & Intergovernmental Relations, and the Manitoba Ministry of Finance in Winnipeg. Case studies were completed by the interns for possible reforms in China based upon their understanding of the Canadian model. The officials identified the following as useful in China's reform agenda:

- changing China's equalization formula to address the needs in the less developed western regions;
- adopting WED's gov't-industry partnership model and lending practices to encourage economic development and sustainability in western China; and,
- central-regional government consultative/dispute resolution mechanisms to facilitate national policy development based upon the specific needs of the regions.

These case studies formed the basis for the Policy Framework Document submitted to the China State Council for consideration as the model for a new intergovernmental relationship between the central and regional governments in China.

The sub-project ended on June 30, 2002 and was considered very successful by Chinese partners, including the Chinese Minister of the State Commission on Public Sector Reform.

Upcoming Events

- September 23-27, 2002 - Canadian Petroleum Institute (CPI) and the World Bank will present an International Training Program in Calgary on Oil and Gas Policy and Regulation, focusing on Good Governance in a Global Economy.
- October 2-4, 2002 - CIDA International Development Days, Vancouver. Alberta Economic Development and International Intergovernmental Relations are co-sponsors. The topic of the IGO's session is Public-Private Partnerships in International Development.
- October 7, 2002 - Patricia Pounienkow, Program Manager, CIDA Inc., Mark Mostovac, Contracting Management Division and Paul Hunt, Vice President, Africa Branch CIDA, will speak in Calgary at a forum co-hosted by Africa Direct West, CIDA Regional Office, and Alberta Economic Development. The speakers will address CIDA activities focusing on Africa.
- November 7-8, 2002 - Asian Development Bank (ADB) Business Opportunities Seminar, Edmonton. Sponsored by the International Trade Center, registration through the IGO will commence shortly.

Alberta-Mpumalanga Provincial Twinning Project

In April 2002, The Honourable Ndaweni J. Mahlangu, Premier of Mpumalanga, South Africa and Premier Ralph Klein signed a Memorandum of Understanding reaffirming Alberta's twinning relationship with Mpumalanga by extending it for another 5 years. Activities for the next year will likely focus on: communications; finance/expenditure controls; and local economic development.

Heilongjiang Executive Training Management Program

In July 2002, twenty-nine Heilongjiang government officials arrived in Alberta to begin executive management training at the University of Alberta. Last January the Heilongjiang Government, University of Alberta and International and Intergovernmental Relations signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide training for senior Heilongjiang government officials in the area of public administration at the University of Alberta.

The 29 member delegation will spend approximately 5 months at the U of A with a one month placement in various provincial and municipal government departments, receiving practical hands on experience in corporate decision making, procedures, and policy development. The one month placement in government departments has been broken down into two segments. The first two-week placement will take place from October 1-11, and the second placement is scheduled for November 12-22.

Canada-Ukraine Legislative and Intergovernmental Project (CULIP)

In June 2002 Alberta organized a study tour for a senior delegation under the fourth module of the CIDA-funded CULIP. The delegation met with Alberta government and municipal officials to study Alberta's Torrens Land Titling and Registry system. The underlying emphasis focused on the legal issues pertaining to land regulation; structures, policies and practices of the Alberta system; and the provision of agricultural credit.

From November 25-27, 2002 another Ukrainian delegation will visit Alberta under the fifth CULIP module to examine Alberta's practices regarding various health related issues. The IGO works in partnership with the Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies (executing agency), the University of Alberta, and Canadian provincial partners.

Canada – Ukraine Facility for Agriculture Reform and Modernization (FARM)

On June 18th of this year CIDA approved in principal a five year \$6 million agricultural project for Ukraine. The project is designed to enhance Ukrainian agricultural capacity in the areas of agricultural policy, extension services and civil society development. The governments of Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as the Saskatchewan Trade & Export Partnership (executing agency) will manage the project. A draft project proposal will be submitted to CIDA in November 2002.

Karti Sandilya, Asian Development Bank Outreach

In July, Karti Sandilya, Regional Representative for the Asian Development Bank North American Representative Office, conducted one-on-one meetings in both Edmonton and Calgary and met with various Alberta government departments including the International Governance Office. Mr. Sandilya participated in two presentations including the 8th Annual International Project Presentation Day hosted by the Canadian Petroleum Institute, and an Alberta Economic Development and International Trade Centre sponsored presentation entitled "Asian Development Bank in China and India".

The opportunity to meet with Mr. Sandilya was of interest to those Alberta firms and organizations that had an active interest in pursuing or knowing about projects in Asia and specifically those funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Environmental Trade Mission to Texas

From October 9-11, 2002, Alberta Economic Development and the International Trade Centre are organising an environmental mission to San Antonio to discuss US Air Force and TEX-MEX Environmental Projects. The mission will include a business opportunity seminar hosted by several multilateral development banks, which fund border clean-up projects. Environmental project leaders from the North American Development Bank, Inter American Development Bank, Asian Development Bank and World Bank will present project opportunities.

Rashad Kaldany, International Finance Corporation, World Bank

As part of the Oil and Gas Policy and Regulation: Good Governance in a Global Economy training session hosted by the Canadian Petroleum Institute and the World Bank from September 23-28, 2002 in Calgary, Rashad Kaladany, Director, Oil Gas and Chemical will be speaking at a luncheon co-sponsored by Alberta Economic Development. The theme of the presentation will be "Challenges of Governnace in the 21st Century".

Other Activities

World Summit on Sustainable Development

From August 24 to Septetember 4, 2002, Environment Minister Lorne Taylor attended the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Summit marks the 10th anniversary of the 1992 Earth Summit, which brought together 60,000 representatives from governments, United Nations agencies, global financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and businesses to address global environment issues, including climate change.