



Governance Gateway

...information about Alberta's International Governance Office

Winter 2002

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:

Shiraz Shariff, MLA (Chair)

Moe Amery, MLA

LeRoy Johnson, MLA

Don Tannas, Deputy Speaker, MLA

Wayne Clifford, Assistant Deputy Minister

Rory Campbell, Assistant Deputy Minister, Investment and Trade Division, Economic Development

Nithi Govindasamy, Director, IGO

Rockford Lang, Manager, IGO

Shane Jaffer, Manager, International Financial Institutions, Economic Development

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If you have any questions or comments in regard to the content and format of this newsletter, please contact us at (780) 427-6543.

CIDA International Development Days – Winnipeg. Nov.14th –16th, 2001

The Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) International Development Days is an annual forum for Canadian private sector companies, educational institutions and non-governmental organizations to be briefed on and learn more about international business opportunities provided by CIDA and other International Financial Institutions.

The conference was held in Winnipeg from November 14th to 16th, 2001. Honourable LeRoy Johnson, MLA (Camrose-Wetaskiwin) and member of the IGO Advisory Committee represented the Government of Alberta. Mr. Johnson was accompanied by Nithi Govindasamy and Shane Jaffer, Manager of the IFI unit in Alberta Economic Development. A number of Alberta companies and educational institutions active in international development were also present.

Mr. Johnson also moderated the session on 'Governance in International Development' organized by the IGO, at the invitation of the Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters and CIDA. Speakers at this session included Mr. Karti Sandilya, Regional representative for the Asian Development Bank, John Lobsinger, CIDA's governance specialist and Nithi Govindasamy, Director of the IGO.

The objective of the session was to underscore the importance of good governance in international development and the opportunities for public/private partnerships in designing and implementing international governance programs. The session was reasonably well attended and stimulated considerable discussion on the concept of good governance and its role in the success of international development projects. It became clear that donor countries, IFIs and recipient countries are becoming increasingly convinced that good governance is becoming a prerequisite for ensuring that development programs result in achieving overarching goals such as poverty alleviation.

The conference provided an excellent opportunity to showcase the Alberta model of successful private/public sector partnerships in international development. More than 250 companies, institutions and IFI representatives are now aware of Alberta's coordinated and strategic approach to international activities.

Upcoming Events

- March 5, 2002 – CIDA public consultations on the draft Russia Programming Strategy for 2002 – 2007, Calgary.
- Mid-March, 2002 – Incoming Indian Oil and Gas Delegation to examine Alberta's regulatory framework and environmental legislation.
- March 25-28, 2002 – Forestry Delegation from the Komi Republic, Russia, in Edmonton.
- March 13, 2002 – G8 Summit Africa Seminar with Ambassador Robert Fowler, Calgary.
- March 18, 2002 – Mr. Jan Janssens, Lead Water and Sanitation Expert of the World Bank, outreach program, Calgary.
- April 6-11, 2002 – Incoming government and business investment delegation to Calgary and Edmonton led by The Honourable Ndaweni J. Mahlangu, Premier of Mpumalanga, South Africa.

For more information on any of these events or any other issues, please contact the IGO at (780) 427-6543.

Recent IGO Project Activities

Alberta-Mpumalanga Provincial Twinning Project

In early December, 2001, a seven-member Legislative Petitions Committee from Mpumalanga visited Edmonton to examine Alberta's rules and regulations governing private members bills, public input in policy development, and the process for petitions.

The delegation was led by Mr. Amos Fish Mahlalela, Committee Chair, and included the leaders of the two Opposition Parties (National Party and the Freedom Front Party).

Since last fall, two Albertans have travelled to Mpumalanga under the CIDA-funded project to provide hands-on training to Mpumalanga officials on business planning, budget planning, and expenditure controls.

China Public Sector Reform Project – Subproject: Central Local Relations

In June 2001, 17 officials from China's central and regional governments, representing the Ministries of Finance, Western Economic Development, and the State Committee for Public Sector Reform, traveled to Alberta and Manitoba to examine federal-provincial consultative mechanisms, fiscal relations, and government's role in regional economic development. The delegation's objectives were to identify specific issues, under the broader themes, to examine in greater detail for the three Intern Placement Activity under the project.

From Oct. 27, 2001 to Jan. 27, 2002, three Chinese officials from the central State Committee on Public Sector Reform were placed in federal/provincial departments of Western Economic Development and Alberta International & Intergovernmental Relations in Edmonton, and the Manitoba Ministry of Finance in Winnipeg, to begin their three-month Intern program. The three officials completed their case studies for possible reforms in China based upon their understanding of the Canadian model. The three 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 will form the basis for the Policy Framework Document, which is the next activity under the sub-project, and will be submitted to the China State Council for consideration as the model for a new intergovernmental relationship between the central and regional governments in China.

Canada-Ukraine Legislative and Intergovernmental Project (CULIP)

In November 2001 Alberta organized a study tour for a senior delegation under the third module of the CIDA-funded CULIP project for Ukraine. The delegation focused on the examination of Canada's three levels of government, with a specific emphasis on fiscal federalism, dispute resolution mechanisms, and municipal government.

In June 2002 another delegation will be visiting Alberta under the fourth module focusing on land titling and registration. The IGO works in partnership with the Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies (executing agency), University of Alberta, under this CIDA project.

International Finance Corporation (IFC) Agribusiness Development and Investment Program in Ukraine

In order to encourage democratic development in Ukraine, the IGO is working with the IFC (private sector lending arm of the World Bank), to deliver capacity building programs in agriculture in Ukraine. In December 2001, the IGO designed and delivered a study tour program for approx. 35 Ukrainian legislators, judges and senior public servants to examine Alberta's legislation, programs, policies and government-industry partnerships in agricultural supply chain management.

In cooperation with the IFC, the IGO also facilitated the visit of four Albertans to Ukraine to provide hands-on training in irrigation management, soil conservation, and an assessment of crop insurance and farm credit needs. The IGO expects to continue this successful collaboration with the IFC in 2002.

Other Activities and Successes

Basic Education in Western China

In April 2002, Alberta educators will visit remote villages of western China, under the CIDA funded basic education project, for a five-week study of schools and teachers. The four-member team will begin in Beijing, where they will meet with provincial and national education ministries. From there, they will travel to Sichuan, Ningxia, and Xingiang. This is a fact-gathering mission, to find out the best way to deliver distance education to remote villages, some with no road access or electricity.

African Development Bank (AfDB) Outreach

The Private Sector Department (PSD) of the African Development Bank conducted a follow-up mission to Canada after a successful Western Canada visit in September 2001. On this most recent visit, the three officials from the Bank conducted stops in Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Calgary. The main objectives of the mission for the Private Sector Department of the Bank was to build ties with Canadian banks and institutional investors who could be interested in investing in Africa with the AfDB, and project sponsors (i.e. Canadian firms contemplating important investments in Africa, especially in oil and gas, mining and infrastructure).

Unlike the more traditional work of the AfDB, the PSD is responsive to commercially viable projects promoted by firms and investors. As well as their own financial resources, the PSD has experience in working with projects to access and syndicate other sources of finance, especially in the African commercial and development bank sector.

Jan Janssens, World Bank Outreach

Jan Janssens, Lead Water and Sanitation Expert of the World Bank will be conducting an outreach program to Alberta on March 18th, following Globe 2002 in Vancouver. The program in Alberta will consist of a round table discussion, briefing of World Bank activities in the sector and site visits to various firms with innovative solutions.

Western Canadian Mission in the Construction Sector

Alberta Economic Development, Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership (STEP) and Manitoba Trade and Investment will be partnering with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to take a group of Western Canadian construction firms to Washington, DC to meet with officials from the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The mission will be focused on increasing awareness of the participating companies at the two institutions, as well as, identifying IFI funded opportunities for the participating companies. The mission is scheduled for April 6-11, 2002.

