



Alberta International Governance Office Newsletter

...sharing knowledge to help
other countries prosper

Summary of Mandate:

The International Governance Office **coordinates** requests for the Alberta government to share its expertise with countries that are undertaking government reforms.

The office encourages **partnerships** between government and Alberta's private sector and institutions 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.

Questions or comments?

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[www.iir.gov.ab.ca/international_ relations/igo.asp](http://www.iir.gov.ab.ca/international_relations/igo.asp)

IGO Project Highlight

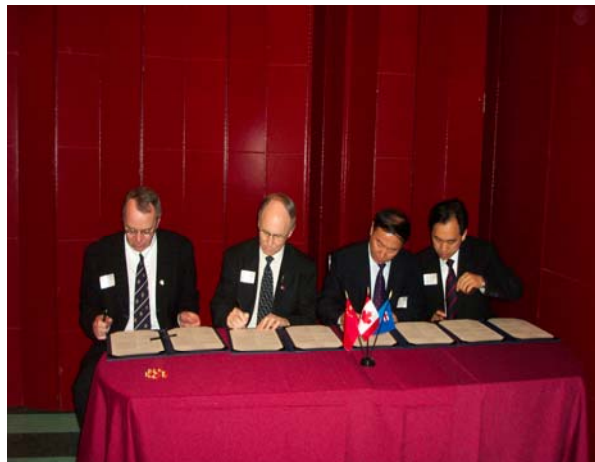
CHINA

Shandong Vice Governor and Delegation Visits Alberta



On April 18, 2005, Mr. Wang Renyuan, Vice Governor of Shandong Province, and his 33-member delegation, travelled to Edmonton for a five-day mission. The delegation participated in an official signing ceremony of the Alberta-Shandong Memorandum of

Understanding for Cooperation, and participated in discussions for further collaboration between Alberta and Shandong in a variety of sectors. The delegation met with members of Alberta Innovation & Science, the IGO, and local industry associations for roundtable discussions. At the Shandong-Alberta Economic and Trade forum, held at the University of Alberta, important partnerships were formed between Alberta and Shandong companies and educational institutions for increased investment and innovation.



Mr. LeRoy Johnson, MLA (Camrose – Wetaskiwin), witnesses the Shandong-Alberta Memorandum of Cooperation with Dr. Mike Percy, School of Business, University of Alberta (far left), and Vice Director Xingye, Shandong Eco. Dev. (centre right), and Dr. Tan, Tsinghua University, (far right), at the Telus Centre, UofA.

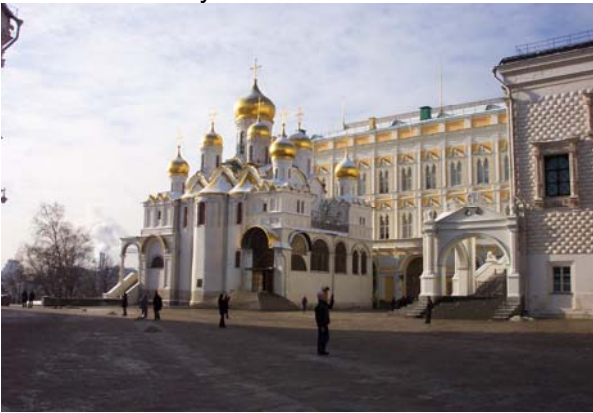
Shandong Province is currently planning to send a 16-member Hospitals delegation comprised of senior officials of the Provincial Shandong Hospitals Association and various Shandong hospital heads to examine Alberta's policies and innovative practices in our healthcare industry. They will meet with government, capital health representatives and tour two medical facilities.

Recent IGO Project Activities

RUSSIA

IGO Public Administration Mission to Moscow

In February 2005, the IGO participated in a mission to Moscow to work on administrative and budget reforms in the Russian public service. This mission took place under the CIDA-funded Governance Advisory Exchange Program (GAEP) between Russia and Canada, managed by Universalia. Aniko Parnell (IGO) and Heather Caltagirone (Alberta Personnel Administration Office) participated in meetings with Russian officials between February 14-24.



The Russian Ministry of Economic Development and Trade had requested consultants from Canada to help with reforms that are underway in the areas of Human Resource Management in the civil service and e-government based services.

The officials shared Alberta's experiences on performance-based human resources management and best practices, and recommended actions to Russian officials on policy, systems, models and approaches for performance-based management.

Upcoming Event: IFI Bootcamp

The "IFI Proposal Development Workshop", called the IFI Bootcamp, is fast approaching. The five-day hands-on workshop is scheduled for October 16-21, 2005 at the Kananaskis Lodge (site of the 2002 G8 Summit).

The workshop is aimed at companies who are interested in bidding on contracts with International Financial Institutions, and is designed to provide participants with the tools needed to compete with winning proposal writers from around the world. The IFI Bootcamp will feature top officials from the World Bank (WB), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The representatives from the IFIs who will be instructing, coaching and mentoring participants have extensive experience working in the Procurement Sections of their respective Banks and are willing to pass along their knowledge and experience to workshop participants.

In addition to presenting seminars on various aspects of bidding for contracts, the mentors will provide one-on-one coaching sessions to refine a proposal the participants themselves are working on. Proposal writers from some of the more successful companies will also be present to help with the mentoring process. Because of the intensive and in-depth nature of the workshop, space is limited to 25 registrants to ensure that participants get the maximum value from the session.

Updated registration and program information can be found on the IGO's website, at http://www.iir.gov.ab.ca/international_relations/igo.asp.



Upcoming Alberta Economic Development IFI Activities

Education mission to the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank in September, 2005

In recent years, the international community has placed an increased emphasis on the link between education and development. The World Bank responded and increased its education lending to 13 percent of its portfolio in 2003. IDB lending to the education sector accounted for 4 percent of total lending in 2003. Both institutions actively incorporate training and capacity building into lending programs in all sectors. Alberta Economic Development with partners from BC and Manitoba are planning a mission in the education/training sector to Washington, DC to meet with representatives of the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank.

International Development News

Debt Forgiveness:

Finance ministers from the world's richest countries, grouped together in the G-8, agreed in mid-June to cancel \$40 billion of debt owed by 18 of the world's poorest nations, most of them (14) in Africa. To meet the good governance standard, the G8 want recipient nations to cut corruption, tackle fraud, free up their economies and liberalize trade.

Question of the Week??

Ques: Approximately how many people worldwide were living with HIV as of December 2004, and how many people die daily from AIDS-related conditions?

Answer: As of December 2004, there were 39.4 million people worldwide living with HIV (about half of them women). It is estimated that more than 8,000 people die every day from AIDS-related conditions.



From a matching grant (\$8,500 in 2004), provided under the International Development Program to the Swan City Rotary Club in Grande Prairie, over 100 underprivileged children per day will have access to various educational activities through the use of a school bus. The project involved the delivery of a fire truck and school bus from Alberta to Mazatlan, Mexico. Both vehicles were refurbished and are in excellent working condition.

Alberta Profile:

Wild Rose Foundation International Development Program



The Wild Rose Foundation was established in 1984 by the Government of Alberta and has been committed to aligning its programs and services to the ongoing and ever changing needs of Alberta's volunteer community service organizations and the voluntary sector globally.

The International Development Program (IDP) provides financial assistance to help Alberta-based non-government organizations (NGOs) in their quests to create a better world. Last year, for every dollar of funding these organizations received from the Wild Rose Foundation, Alberta volunteers donated an average of \$14 to these same projects. There are hundreds of NGO's in Alberta actively raising funds for equitable global development projects. These organizations raise thousands of dollars from caring Albertans for small grassroots projects to larger scale projects that support basic education, primary health care, water, sanitation, food production and women in development. These supporting activities aim to reduce poverty by way of income generation and employment growth, and provide funds for emergency disaster relief assistance.

The motto of IDP is "people helping people help themselves". Funds under this program support Alberta-based NGO's to implement projects of their choosing that contribute to sustainable human development, that is, "to improve the sustainable quality of life for children, women and men in developing countries."

In addition to the International Development Program, the Foundation provides funding assistance through a number of grant programs targeted within Alberta communities in the areas of health, social services and educational projects and projects that affect youth. The Foundation also promotes its mission through a number of volunteer development and capacity building initiatives.

For more information about the Wild Rose Foundation, please visit their website:

http://www.cd.gov.ab.ca/all_about_us/commissions/wild_rose/index.asp

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Did you know...?

The IGO has been active on a variety of projects in countries such as:

China:

- Chinese National School of Administration
- Heilongjiang Executive Management Training Program
- Strengthening Capacity in Basic Education in Western China Project
- China Public Sector Reform Project

Russia:

- Governance Advisory and Exchange Program
- Yeltsin Democracy Fellowship Program
- Russia-Canada Collaborative Federalism Project

South Africa:

- Canada-South Africa Provincial Twinning Project
- South Africa Teacher Development Project

Ukraine:

- Facility for Agricultural Reform and Modernization
- Canada-Ukraine Legislative and Intergovernmental Project
- Canada-Ukraine Legislative Cooperation Project

For more information on these projects, visit our website at:

www.iir.gov.ab.ca/international_relations/igo_recent_projects.asp

Recent Activities Undertaken by AED's IFI Liaison Office

Mr. Eleodora Mayorga Alba, Lead Economist, Oil, Gas and Chemical, World Bank in Calgary, July 20th and 21st, 2005

On July 20th, Mr. Alba was a guest speaker at the Canadian Petroleum Institute's International Presentation Day in Calgary. This included a presentation on the Banks oil and gas activities. On July 21st, Mr. Alba attended a speaking engagement at a breakfast presentation hosted by the Canadian Council of the Americas (CCA) and Alberta Economic Development.

Education Forum by the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank on June 21st, 2005 in Calgary

Alberta Economic Development and the University of Calgary organized a presentation in the education sector on Tuesday, June 21st, 2005 in Calgary. The speakers were Robert Prouty, Lead Education Specialist, World Bank and Laura Dorling, Counsellor, Inter-American Development Bank.

Participants heard about what the Banks are doing in the education sector and about opportunities available for Alberta educational institutions and consultants.

CommNet Forum and 6th Private Sector Liaison Network Retreat at the World Bank in Washington, DC, May 9 – 13, 2005

Over 300 World Bank staff attended the CommNet Forum from over 83 countries. Alberta Economic Development, along with representatives from the Netherlands and Singapore, participated in a panel session entitled "Lessons of Experience from the Private Sector Liaison Officer (PSLOs) Network."

The PSLO Retreat included 29 representatives from over 20 countries. The focus of the program was to share knowledge of the Bank and its various programs and initiatives.

CIDA IDD Conference, Halifax, April 20 – 22, 2005

The CIDA International Development Days program included more than 20 sessions over a period of 3 days with numerous speakers, all focusing on business opportunities for Canadian private companies and agencies in developing countries and countries in transition.

Outreach Program by Mr. Ananda Covindassamy, Advisor, Energy Sector Management Assistance Program, March 29th, Calgary

Mr. Ananda Covindassamy spoke about the Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme (ESMAP) which is a global technical assistance program that helps build consensus and provides policy advice on sustainable energy development to governments of developing countries and economies in transition. ESMAP also contributes to the transfer of technology and knowledge in energy sector management and the delivery of modern energy services to the poor.

For more information on these activities or other IFI related activities, please do not hesitate to contact Shane Jaffer, Manager, International Financial Institutions (IFI's), Alberta Economic Development at (403) 297-6592 or by email at shane.jaffer@gov.ab.ca