



...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?

Contact us at:

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

SOUTH AFRICA

Intergovernmental Relations and Protocol

Nineteen delegates from seven South African provinces visited Alberta in June 2004 to review Alberta's approach to international and intergovernmental relations, and protocol. Delegates discussed issues around Alberta's international offices, international strategy framework, twinnings, Premier's meetings, and the role and responsibilities of protocol officers. The delegates were special guests to the Premier's Award of Excellence ceremony at the Jubilee Auditorium where the Premier acknowledged our friends from South Africa.



Upcoming IFI and Related Events

October 2005 – IFI Boot Camp: Plans are underway to offer a five-day, intensive workshop designed to provide participants with the tools needed to compete with winning proposal writers. Learn from representatives from the various IFIs, the very people who choose the winners from the losers, as well as proposal writers from some of the more successful companies. This intensive workshop is designed for those who are already involved in bidding for contracts from IFIs and who are looking for an edge that will increase their winning percentage. The location: the beautiful Kananaskis Lodge, site of the 2002 G8 Summit. Space is limited to 25 to ensure that participants get the maximum value from the session.

Stay tuned for registration and program information.

Recent IGO Project Activities

RUSSIA

Regional Economic Development in Russia

In June 2004, two Russian central government officials traveled to Edmonton to examine government's role in regional economic development. While in Edmonton, the delegates met with Western Economic Diversification, Edmonton Economic Development Corp., Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, and the Business Link. The Russian central government is undertaking reforms in support of regional economic development. Russian officials believe that Canada has the best model with similar climate, distance, and geographic challenges. The delegation traveled to Canada under the CIDA-funded Governance Advisory Exchange Program that is managed by Universalis.

Russian Industry Officials on Canada Study Tour

In November 2004, a 7-member senior Russian delegation traveled to Canada as part of the CIDA-funded Governance Advisory and Exchange Program (GAEP). The delegation traveled across Canada (Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton) examining state industrial policy and regulation. The delegates met with representatives from Industry Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Bombardier, Ontario Northern Development and Mines, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, EPCOR, Presson and various Alberta ministries to learn more about the Canadian model. It is the delegation's aim to successfully implement their own industrial sector reforms in Russia.



CHINA

China National School of Administration

The China National School of Administration (CNSA) is the top cadre-training institute in China for senior public servants and up and coming central and provincial government leaders. The CNSA has sent groups of officials to Alberta annually since 1999 to examine Alberta's policies and practices in a number of sectors. This year, the CNSA sent two separate delegations to Alberta for training: a 12-member delegation in August and a 30-member delegation in November. The briefing sessions provided are a collaborative initiative between the Government of Alberta and the University of Alberta's School of Business, which signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with CNSA in 2000 for the training of their senior officials.



China Ministry of Land and Resources Delegation

In September 2004, a 28-member delegation comprised of central and provincial government officials traveled to Edmonton to examine Alberta's policies and regulations governing coal and mineral mining. Of particular interest to the group were the regulations attributed to the reclamation of agricultural land. The delegates traveled to the High Vale Mine operated by TransAlta, the largest open pit coal mine in Canada. The delegates were extremely impressed with TransAlta's reclamation efforts and the increased productivity of the agricultural land following reclamation.

Anhui Province, China, Delegation

From October 15-20, 2004, 30 provincial and municipal government officials from the Province of Anhui were in Edmonton to meet with Alberta government officials and learn more about the government's policies and programs in a variety of areas. Some of the sectors included agriculture, energy, urban planning, regional economic development, and public sector human resource policies. The delegation was thoroughly impressed with Alberta's practices and indicated a desire for continued cooperation to assist them with their own provincial reform efforts.

IGO Honoured At Premier's Awards

IGO Celebrates Bronze!

This year marked the 10th Anniversary of the Premier's Award of Excellence. With four years of operations under its belt, the International Governance Office made a submission for the award for the first time, and proudly took bronze.



The award ceremony took place in June 2004. The IGO was honoured to have 19 guests from South Africa at the ceremony, who were in Edmonton for a workshop under the Canada-South Africa Provincial Twinning Project, which was managed by the IGO.

Alberta Economic Development IFI Activities

Upcoming Events:

World Bank Private Sector Liaison Network (PSLO) Business Field Visit to China, March 10 – 18, 2005

The **Canadian PSLO Network to the World Bank Group** which includes Alberta Economic Development is organizing this Field Visit to China from March 10 - 18, 2005 to introduce Canadian firms to the business opportunities associated with World Bank-funded projects in urban development and infrastructure (transport, water, environment and energy) in China and to facilitate the introduction of Canadian companies to the Chinese government executing agencies implementing these projects.

The PSLO Business Field Visit to China will be a practical, working-level visit designed to assist companies in developing their business strategy for China. It will provide a foundation for pursuing World Bank-funded projects and open the door for additional opportunities in the private sector in China.

For more information on the business field trip and registration information, please contact Shane Jaffer at Alberta Economic Development. Deadline for registration is January 28, 2005.

Outreach to Alberta by Dominique Lallement of the Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme (ESMAP) of the World Bank

Alberta Economic Development is organizing a presentation on Tuesday, March 29th, 2005 in Calgary by Dominique Lallement of the Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme (ESMAP).

The Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme (ESMAP) is a global technical assistance program which 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.

In addition to the presentation, Ms. Lallement will be available for one-on-one meetings.

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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

The Extractive Industries Review: The World Bank's Response

On Tuesday, October 19th, 2004, Joe O'Keefe, International Finance Corporation was speaking at a presentation organized by Alberta Economic Development, Canadian Energy Research Institute (CERI) and Fraser Milner Casgrain on how the Extractive Industries Review will affect the lending activities of the World Bank on energy related projects in developing countries.

The World Bank China Contact Day and Western Canadian Mission to the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, D.C.

Alberta Economic Development and the Canadian PSLO Network to the World Bank Group had organized a mission by 30 companies from Canada to Washington, D.C. in November 2004 to learn more about project opportunities funded by the World Bank in China.

In addition to the China Initiative Day, a Western Canadian Mission was organized to explore consulting opportunities through direct contracts with the banks, as well as project implementation in developing countries receiving bank financing.



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

Tell Us Your Opinion...really!

We are interested in your feedback on this edition of the **Governance Gateway**.

Please send us an email to jennifer.keller@gov.ab.ca with your comments and suggestions for articles and/or improvements. Let us know if there are any feature stories on projects or countries that might be of interest.

Your opinion helps us deliver a better product that more effectively meets your needs.