



CECI 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

CANADIAN CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES COOPERATION



CECI's mission is to fight poverty and exclusion. To this end, CECI “strengthens the development capacity of disadvantaged communities; it supports initiatives for peace, human rights and equity; it mobilizes resources and promotes the exchange of know-how.”



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↑ IN AFRICA, HALF OF THE POPULATION IS UNDER THE AGE OF 25. THE CHALLENGES ARE DAUNTING, BUT THE PEOPLES OF AFRICA ARE MOBILIZING FOR THE YOUTH AND THEIR FUTURE: IN NON-FORMAL EDUCATION IN NIGER, WITH AIDS ORPHANS IN BURKINA FASO AND IN THE DEFENCE OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN THE AFRICAN GREAT LAKES REGION.

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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PEOPLES IN ACTION: GUARANTORS OF DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

PARIS, 2 MARCH 2005

On this date, donor countries, multilateral agencies and developing countries signed a declaration on international aid effectiveness in Paris. With the Paris Declaration, the international community took a major step to reform aid mechanisms and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

“We recognise that while the volumes of aid and other development resources must increase to achieve these goals... aid effectiveness must increase significantly as well...” — THE PARIS DECLARATION

Canada is among the 93 signatories that have undertaken to respect five principles of aid effectiveness: ownership of development by the countries receiving aid; alignment with the strategies, procedures and institutions of these countries; harmonizing and simplifying aid mechanisms; results-based management; and joint accountability for these results.

Thus, whereas developing countries undertake to strengthen their governance, donors foresee increases, by 2010, in the untying of aid, budgetary support to governments of developing countries, and investments in national →

← **MARCH 2006** — WHILE VISITING PROJECTS IN VIETNAM AND NEPAL, CECI PRESIDENT PIERRE RACICOT AND ADMINISTRATOR PIERRE BÉLANGER SAW FOR THEMSELVES THE DYNAMISM OF THESE COMMUNITIES.

sectorial programs (such as health or education). The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is already well engaged on this path, having planned over two billion dollars in investments, according to the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC).

IS THIS A STEP FORWARD TO BE APPLAUDED?

Yes and no. CECI fully subscribes to the principles of aid effectiveness. However, we share the concerns of the NGO community regarding the omissions in the Paris Declaration in terms of its vision of development and the role of civil society. NGOs agree that aid should be aligned with the plans for fighting poverty in developing countries — as long as the economic vision and the social priorities underlying these plans express the democratic choices of the populations concerned and not conditions imposed by international financial institutions.

The Paris Declaration neglects civil society. It's a vision of government-to-government cooperation.

How can aid effectiveness be increased without taking all development actors into account? Civil society plays several indispensable roles that must be recognized and strengthened.

During the joint CCIC and CIDA work sessions on partnership in May 2006, the observation was made that civil society enables citizens to participate and have their voices heard in an organized and independent manner. The multiplication of civil society associations, from local grassroots groups to major social movements at the international level, reflects the diversity of values and interests among populations.

A strong civil society contributes to democratic life by stimulating debate on public policy, by monitoring government performance, by protecting rights, and by taking over for the State in countries in crisis. Civil society organizations are very effective at mobilizing resources and delivering local services to populations. This often entails taking risks and innovating. →

“African governments are more accountable to foreigners than to their own citizens... Economic decision-making processes have left national parliaments. Local appropriation of development will only be possible when dominant macroeconomic models become more open and economic decision-making returns to national parliaments.”

— MUTHONI WANYEKI, FEMNET, KENYA

CECI believes, along with other actors, that narrowly aligning with the terms and conditions of the Paris Declaration constitutes a threat to civil society's contribution to development. There's a risk of transforming civil society organizations into service delivery agencies at the expense of their citizenship-related functions. There is a risk that the over-standardization of aid mechanisms will prejudice innovation and participation. An exclusive government-to-government path of partnership is a step backward for direct ties of solidarity between populations. Thus, in Canada, some fear that NGOs are being marginalized, as their participation in CIDA budgets has gone from 28.5% to 18.5% over a five-year period (source: CCIC).

ANOTHER AGENDA FOR AID EFFECTIVENESS

CECI believes that aid effectiveness concerns more than mere financial flows between governments, as development is a process of social transformation that is the result of contributions from all sectors of society.

On the ground, CECI finds that the vitality and diversity of civil society engagement is often a better guarantee of results than State-led action. In under-privileged communities, where support from the State is often insufficient and private sector investment practically non-existent, CECI weaves partnerships with organizations established by the local populations themselves to ensure their own development.

Thus, organizations such as Guatemala's Fair Trade Platform, the social economy enter-

prises and networks in West Africa, the cotton collective farms in Tajikistan are mobilizing, with CECI's support, to save jobs and incomes threatened by economic globalization. In Haiti, Nepal, Burkina Faso and elsewhere, community associations, NGOs and women's groups — CECI partners all — are developing basic health services, AIDS prevention services, literacy training, emergency assistance and protecting the rights of the most vulnerable populations.

Hundreds of volunteers from Canada and the South have joined CECI and its partners in missions and exchanges with the objectives of sharing skills and expertise, as well as strengthening the capacities of civil society organizations working for a more solidarity-based development. A still greater number of citizens participate as volunteers in our activities in Canada, including our public education and fund-raising campaigns.

We intend to advocate for the preservation of direct cooperation between peoples and the participation of civil society in international aid. ■



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AFRICA

THROUGH PROJECTS IN AREAS SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, HEALTH, PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY, AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY IS GETTING ORGANIZED AND PLAYING A ROLE IN THE CHANGES ON THE CONTINENT.



BURKINA FASO
BURUNDI
REPUBLIC OF
GUINEA
MALI
NIGER
DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF
THE CONGO
RWANDA
SENEGAL

- 12 PROJECTS IN 2005-2006
- 89 AFRICAN EMPLOYEES, WITH AN AVERAGE OF 10 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WORKING FOR CECI
- 119 UNITERRA NORTH-SOUTH VOLUNTEERS
- 38 UNITERRA SOUTH-NORTH AND SOUTH-SOUTH VOLUNTEERS

In Burkina Faso, CECI and its partners are carrying out a public awareness and education project on sexually transmitted infections (STI) and HIV/AIDS. This program is aimed at persons earning their living through small-scale panning, as well as people living near those types of locations. "These are high risk environments. Gold panning sites are enclaves where different people are thrown together and where all kinds of economic and social activities take place, including prostitution. Every woman in these areas is particularly vulnerable," explains **Adama Ouadréogo**, CECI's Burkina Faso Country Director, who was awarded this year with *le Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite* in recognition of CECI's twenty years of work in this country.

This 18-month project, scheduled to end in June 2006, sought to increase attendance at training sessions on health issues and to promote voluntary screening and condom use. The project was implemented in ten gold panning locations, located in four different health districts in Burkina Faso. According to Mr. Ouadréogo, this project demonstrated the need to adapt work methods to the actual lives of target populations. "For example," explains Mr. Ouadréogo, "all of our activities were carried out between 7 PM and midnight because gold panners work at night and rest during the day."

↑ WHILE THEY ONLY CONSTITUTE 35% OF THE LABOUR FORCE, YOUTH UNDER 25 ACCOUNT FOR NEARLY 50% OF THE UNEMPLOYED IN WEST AFRICA.



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Moreover, public awareness activities must be specifically based on the needs of target populations. “When it comes to reaching gold panners, we’ve noticed that forum theatre is very effective. In other cases, radio or small group training sessions represent the best approach. We’ve had to constantly adapt. We can’t show up on a site just any old way, especially since this is a rather stark and aggressive environment where people only go to make money. It’s necessary to gain their trust,” says Mr. Ouadréogo.

In the regions targeted by the project, gold panners constitute 43% of the persons who have contracted sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS.

In addition to theatre, public awareness activities have included film projections, panel discussions and screening campaigns. “We’ve noticed that it is more difficult to reach women, especially sex workers. So, we developed special activities for them,” explains Mr. Ouadréogo.

To counter the effects of worker mobility and the great geographical isolation of gold panning sites, portable clinics were erected to provide local health care. “This was definitely an excellent idea. All too often, gold panners only seek medical care once they’ve been so weakened by illness they can no longer work,” adds Mr. Ouadréogo.

Given the program’s relatively short timelines, the challenge was to ensure that it has an enduring impact on changes in behaviour. Its promoters have focused on mobilizing and strengthening the local community structures capable of taking over, such as the gold panners’ offices present on each site.

“We’ve opted for concrete measures such as training community health workers on prevention, screening and health care services and ensuring the provision of medicines. Furthermore, since gold panners move from one site to another, we also gave great importance to peer-to-peer sensitizing among the gold panners themselves,” concludes CECI’s Burkinan Director. ■

“It is possible to take small arms out of circulation, even when conflicts are ongoing. What’s needed is disarmament in people’s heads! And that entails community-led local initiatives.”

— **CHRISTIANE AGBOTON-JOHNSON**

COORDINATOR, MOVEMENT AGAINST
SMALL ARMS IN WEST AFRICA



↑ SAMBA BARRY, TECHNICAL ADVISOR, PSR-ALPC
PROJECT TEAM (GUINEA-BISSAU).

DISARMAMENT STARTS IN HEARTS AND MINDS

The sub-regional project on the illicit trafficking of small arms (PSR-ALPC) is a two-year initiative coordinated by CECI and OXFAM-UK that works in collaboration with the national, regional and local authorities in the border areas of Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal.

One of the year’s highlights was the February 2006 regional meeting. In addition to strengthening ties between project partners, it was an opportunity for the delegates from four countries to learn and draw inspiration from the experiences of Mali’s National Commission on the Fight against Small Arms and Light Weapons. “It really kicked things off, especially regarding the importance of women’s participation at every level of the project,” explains CECI Project Officer for Africa **Suzanne Dumouchel**. “At first, women felt that the arms issue didn’t concern them. The training activities and discussions had a big impact.”

Public education has taken different forms, from the organization of a 200-rider bike tour that wended its way through a dozen villages in Senegal to the airing of two interactive radio programs in Gambia. The information sessions are already bearing fruit. “People started turning in arms even before this process officially began,” explains a delighted Ms. Dumouchel. “The coming year will be devoted to raising public awareness, organizing the voluntary surrendering of arms and the implementation of development projects.” ■

A GLOBAL ISSUE

There are 640 million small arms and light weapons in the world today. Another 8 million are manufactured annually. The struggle against illicit arms trafficking is one of the burning issues of the day. Whereas in Canada the arms registry has been made less strict, fighting the illicit arms trade is one of the priorities of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). In July 2006, the organizations participating in the PSR-ALPC (Subregional Project on Small Arms and Light Weapons) were able to discuss the strategies elaborated during the New York meet-

ing on the United Nations Action Plan on Small Arms. “The vital role of civil society in helping to combat the illicit trade in small arms is now well recognized — it brings expertise, communication networks, and impassioned advocacy to a grave problem. Moreover, non-governmental organizations play an essential role in encouraging governments to implement the commitments made in the 2001 Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons,” declared UN Secretary General Kofi Annan during the opening ceremonies of the conference in New York.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY

Since its inauguration in 2002, The Citizen Action for Peace project (ACIPA) has supported 89 projects in the African Great Lakes region (Burundi, Rwanda and the provinces of North and South Kivu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo).

"ACIPA has provided a framework enabling civil society organizations to be more effective in their contribution to peace-building and democratic development in the region," explains CECI Project Officer for Africa **Suzanne Dumouchel**. By raising awareness of democratic values and respect for human rights, these various initiatives have contributed to establishing mechanisms for dialogue, mediation and conflict resolution, which have been appropriated by local populations.

ACIPA has also established various frameworks for regional exchanges and cooperation, such as situation analysis meetings, joint training sessions, regional gatherings around specific issues identified by partners, information exchanges, etc. Civil society organizations have become acquainted and learned to work together.

These new affinities enable them to identify joint initiatives. Consequently, organizations have successfully carried out joint actions at regional and national levels, especially over the last two years of the project.

This type of inter-organizational synergy certainly represents one of ACIPA's most enduring and promising achievements. Initially planned for a term of four years, the project was extended for a year in order to

support its partner's participation in the International Conference on Peace in the Great Lakes (CIRGL), an initiative of the United Nations and the African Union.

Philippe Jean, CECI's Regional Director for Africa, witnessed the process unfolding: "In June 2006, I attended the 3rd gathering of civil society organizations from the Great Lakes region, which brought together about a 100 representatives from different NGOs. These organizations are collaborating on an action plan and proposals for the CIRGL. This collaboration, practically inconceivable a few years back, lead to the establishment of national committees on DYSCAC (the Civil Society Dynamic on Joint Action). This is definitely one of ACIPA's major results."

Thus, despite realities and contexts specific to each country, representatives reach consensus on issues related to governance, peace and security, or the region's economic development. "ACIPA's partners have improved their capacities for action and their role as spoke-persons for their populations, by conducting advocacy and lobbying work in a concerted and collective fashion," adds Suzanne Dumouchel.

Depending on the activities, ACIPA's projects have involved from 60 to 100 organizations, including a number of women's groups. They have thus contributed to building a civil society that is stronger, more representative and prepared to contribute actively to the peaceful development of the African Great Lakes region, with full respect for human rights. ■

© Photo Myriam Fehmiu



↑ EDUCATION IS A MAJOR TOOL FOR ENSURING CIVIC PARTICIPATION, EQUALITY AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. CECI'S PARTNERS IN AFRICA ARE VERY ACTIVE ON THIS LEVEL.

CONCRETE ACTIONS FOR PEACE

ACIPA supports projects dealing with a variety of issues, particularly in relation to the democratic functioning of organizations and the place of women and youth in the development of their communities. Results are very concrete.

In the South Kivu region of the DRC, for example, the Women's Committee of Kiliba organized four marches to protest against the destruction of their fields by the military. Dialogue was conducted with the politico-military authorities in support of each march. An increase in women's initiatives and their

participation in local and regional conflict resolution structures has been observed.

In Rwanda, AJPRODHO (The Association of Young People for the Promotion of Human Rights and Development) has consolidated democratic practices internally and was assigned the task of mobilizing youth in the fight against poverty in the region. Their efforts include organizing a regional Young People's Forum.

In Burundi, the tenacious efforts of the Women for Peace Network resulted in obtaining a 30% quota for women in decision-making structures.



UNITED BY A SHARED BELIEF IN **THE POWER OF PEOPLE TO ACT**, MILITANTS OF THE SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY CALL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AT THE SERVICE OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES.

DAKAR 2005

In November 2005, nearly a thousand persons met in Dakar, Senegal, to attend the 3rd International Meeting on the Globalisation of Solidarity, an event organized by the Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of the Social and Solidarity Economy (INPSSE).

Uniterra greatly contributed to the meeting's success by enabling the participation of representatives from organizations and networks

from Canada, Africa and Asia. "These gatherings are unique occasions for establishing partnerships between organizations working in the same sectors. Bringing together decision-makers speeds up the process," says Uniterra Director **Sylvain Matte**. Moreover, networking was already occurring within the Uniterra delegation, which included representatives from the main Canadian and Québécois social economy →



© Photo Lucie Gauthier, Sahara Communications

← **NIGER 2005** — NEARLY 70% OF PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD LIVING ON LESS THAN A DOLLAR A DAY ARE WOMEN. THEY ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGES FOR A FAIRER WORLD.

networks: *le Groupe d'économie solidaire du Québec* (GESQ) and the Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet) — as well as 20 young leaders from a like number of Canadian organizations.

The professional seminar, held during the three days preceding the INPSSE meeting, “was where we brought together representatives from Canada and the South in networking workshops where people could exchange ideas on their respective practices and projects. Seminar participants also visited Senegalese solidarity economy projects,” recounts Sylvain Matte. “In Dakar, new networks, such as LEAD, which works in sustainable development, linked up with social economy organizations. These new contacts enriched the discussions and debates.”

This project resulted in the formation of new partnerships, such as the one between a group of artisans from Niger and a jewellery school in Quebec City. Other new partnerships were formed between the Federation of Community Health Associations of Mali and *le Regroupement québécois des intervenantes et intervenantes en action communautaire*, and between *l'Association québécoise des Centres de la petite enfance* (AQCPE) and a community daycare in Senegal. Additional benefits occurs when Canadian participants shared their experiences upon returning home. They observed first-hand the great richness, often unrecognized, of the experiences and achievements of populations of the South. “This will even impact people who weren’t there, as participants help them to make contacts,” adds Mr. Matte.

Another of Dakar 2005’s major achievements was boosting the participation of African organizations in the worldwide social and solidarity economy movement. “INPSSE was strengthened by the gathering and is more able to assume its mission of widening dialogue on public issues and promoting a socially oriented economy. This support for action at the political level is an important component of Uniterra’s work,” adds M. Matte. In the coming year, Uniterra will continue to support social and solidarity economy networks in Africa, as well as the emergence of a similar network in Asia. ■



JOANA MÉTHOT UNITERRA VOLUNTEER IN SENEGAL

In November 2005, Joana arrived in Dakar for a one-year posting. “I was in Madagascar for a brief internship in 1997. I knew then that cooperation was for me.”

Joana is a communications officer at RISOA (*le Réseau international et solidaire des opérateurs et acteurs en alphabétisation*), an international network of literacy training operators and actors from several countries, including Senegal, Togo and Morocco. “We encourage the exchange and transfer of expertise through means such as international conferences. The first conference I attended was in Morocco, last March. It brought together 70 persons from six countries and it was a great experience that really surpassed my expectations. The next one will probably be in Togo, in September 2006,” says Joana with enthusiasm.

Joana is in charge of RISOA’s electronic newsletter and is busy setting up a blog. “These are cheaper and more appropriate communication tools. My work consists of fostering a sense of belonging to the network and demonstrating the positive impacts that networking generates.” Will she return from Senegal a changed person? “Friends and family will be the best judges of that. That said, I think so. I feel I’ve become more open, patient and tolerant.”

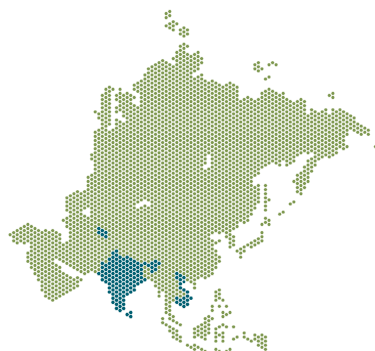
IN ASIA, THERE ARE EXCLUDED COMMUNITIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE STILL NOT ENJOYING THE BENEFITS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH. CECI AND ITS PARTNERS ARE ADAPTING TO THE SITUATION AND TAKING ACTION.



© Photo Pierre Béanger

ASIA

VIETNAM — SETTING UP
AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES
AND SUCCESSFULLY MARKETING
BAMBOO: A GREAT CHALLENGE AND
AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD FOR
ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS. ↓



CAMBODIA
INDIA
NEPAL
TAJIKISTAN
VIETNAM

- 14** MAJOR PROJECTS IN 2005-2006
- 77** LOCAL EMPLOYEES
- 19** UNITERRA NORTH-SOUTH VOLUNTEERS
- 4** UNITERRA SOUTH-NORTH AND SOUTH-SOUTH VOLUNTEERS

Impoverished and excluded population groups are vulnerable and more gravely affected by natural catastrophes and political conflicts. In Vietnam and Nepal, CECI and its partners work with local communities to attenuate the terrible consequences of such events.

The disastrous effects of the 2004 tsunami cruelly exposed the great vulnerability of the populations living in coastal areas, often in extremely difficult conditions. Every year, Vietnam is struck by major floods, which cause damages estimated in the tens of millions of dollars. In fact, over 70% of Vietnam's 80 million inhabitants live with the risk of flooding. The consequences are catastrophic: lives are lost and houses, infrastructure and harvests are destroyed. The Vietnamese government has identified this annual cycle of destruction as one of the major causes of poverty in the country.

CECI, which has been present in Vietnam since 1991, carried out a project in 60 villages in central Vietnam aimed at encouraging local communities to design and implement risk reduction plans. These plans include components such as improving drainage systems and aqueducts, paving alleys, emergency plans, soil conservation plans to counter the effects of erosion, etc. This project is based on a participatory and coordinated approach that enables communities and local authorities to develop action plans, identify priorities and acquire the collective tools needed →



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to mitigate the effects of natural catastrophes. CECI and its partners aim to extend these interventions to the mountainous regions where they are already actively involved in a project financed by the Asian Development Bank that is similar to its Sahakarya project in Nepal.

Present in Nepal since 1989, CECI and its nearly fifty local and regional partners carry out poverty reduction projects, particularly among marginalized communities in mountainous regions.

For over 10 years, the Sahakarya project has been yielding eloquent results: 50,000 drinking water systems installed or rehabilitated; 40,000 participants in economic development projects; and in the health sector, over 5,000 women benefited from a training program on nutrition for children five-years old and younger.

The complex situation in Nepal has forced project personnel to develop a conflict-sensitive development approach which is also responsive to the social exclusion issues pertaining to certain communities. Over the preceding year, this constant preoccupation has led to a significant increase in the participation of Dalits (so-called untouchables) and Janajati, i.e. two particularly marginalized communities. ■



© Photos Carine Guidicelli

← **SHANTIPUR**, A VILLAGE IN THE MOUNTAINS OF NEPAL. BEFORE DRINKING WATER WELLS WERE INSTALLED HERE, SOME WOMEN HAD TO WALK 90 MINUTES TO THE SPRING.

↑ IN NEPAL, CECI SUPPORTS THE INTEGRATION OF EXCLUDED POPULATIONS, SUCH AS THE JANAJATIS AND DALITS, INTO DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE TO REDUCE POVERTY

CECI and its partners have developed a vast expertise in issues related to agriculture, which, after all, is an essential for the development of communities and for fighting poverty.

In the province of Sugd, in northern Tajikistan, the FARMS project (Facilitating Agricultural Reform and Marketing in Sugd) works to support male and female farmers in private collective farms as their country embarks on a vast agricultural reform program. FARMS not only supports them in their efforts to make their farms more profitable, it also supports them to exercise their rights, including full and complete political participation in the reform process.

FARMS, which has a five-year budget of five million dollars, aims to foster improvements in the productivity and economic performance of farm enterprises via: enhanced management and planning skills; the adoption of new farming and irrigation techniques; and support for farm associations' efforts to actively participate in the reform process at the political level.

From October to December 2005, delegations of market development experts, mainly specializing in cotton, visited the region to assess training needs and potential niche markets for organic cotton and other products cultivated without using pesticides. →



KAREN BARKLEY UNITERRA VOLUNTEER IN NEPAL

"I arrived in Nepal on January 11, 2006, just prior to the political crisis that shook the country," recounts Karen. This was her second volunteer posting. The first, from 2003 to 2005, was in Niger. The beginning of her mandate as an advisor in organizational development at the *Federation of Community Forestry Users* (FECOFUN) was marked by the political situation. In April, along with other cooperants, Karen was evacuated to Thailand for about ten days.

FECOFUN is a national network of nine million Nepalese working to ensure that local communities retain control of forest management, along with the concomitant sale and distribution of forest products. "FECOFUN is highly involved in the political changes taking place. So, internally, it has suspended its normal activities to a certain extent. I'm presently working with an NGO that belongs to the Federation," she explains. The country is grappling with major problems of social exclusion affecting women, certain castes and ethnic minorities.

"My experience here has given me the greatest respect for the Nepalese people's courage. This is a unique opportunity to see these kinds of social changes from the inside and in real time."

The measures developed through this project will contribute to improving living conditions for farmers, their families and the entire community.

LONG-TERM STRENGTHENING OF OUR PARTNERS IN KOSOVO

Since 1999, Kosovo has been tackling enormous challenges in the reconstruction of its political and economic structures in the wake of a devastating war and the fall of communism. With over a million hectares of arable land, the agriculture and silviculture sectors are very important for the region's future. "Kosovo imports fruits and vegetables when its local producers could supply the market if they had better techniques for ensuring the quality of their products," explains **Kathleen McLaughlin**, CECI's Project Officer for Asia.

Over the last two years, CECI has accompanied its principal partner, The Kosovo Development Center (KDC), in two projects to support producers in the agriculture and silviculture sectors. Among other things, these projects supported technical training and the planting of fruit trees. "Our interventions have mainly focused on strengthening the KDC, which has become better equipped to continue its work. Moreover, the KDC has succeeded in diversifying its sources of international funding. That's a very positive outcome of our efforts and a source of hope for the future," says Ms. McLaughlin.

INDIA

Although CECI would have liked to continue its *Community-Based Economic Development Project* beyond its original five-year term, the Indian government's decision to terminate bilateral aid relations with smaller donor countries put a definitive end to this endeavour. Since January 2006, CECI has continued to support a new self-standing organization, *The Centre for Business and Entrepreneurial Development* (CBED), which came out of the original program. As a result, a local NGOs has taken charge of the project which supports producer's cooperatives in the mountainous regions of India. Their main objective is to reduce poverty in these regions by assisting in the development of farmers' markets, and by identifying women and children's health needs along with local educational needs. ■

© Photo Mamurkhan Akamov





↑ **TAJIKISTAN** — THE FARMS PROJECT IMPROVES THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF WOMEN FARMERS AND RAISES THEIR AWARENESS OF THEIR RIGHTS AS LANDOWNERS.

THE KARACHI WORLD SOCIAL FORUM

In March 2006, Unitera facilitated the participation of representatives from three Nepalese NGOs at the Karachi WSF: FECOFUN, a group active in community forest resource management, NEFSCUN (the Nepal Federation of Savings and Credit Unions), and CMPCU (the Central Milk Producers Co-operative Union).

For these Nepalese organizations, this was an opportunity to present their projects, establish contacts and exchange expertise with social movements from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. The workshops dealing with experiences in Nepal aroused great interest

and generated rich and passionate discussions – an essential element in the building of “another world.” Moreover, these three organizations are now very actively involved in establishing regional and international networks in their respective sectors.

In June 2006, NEFSCUN hosted a meeting of the South Asian network of savings and credit cooperatives in Katmandu. CMPCU is working to organize a national and international network of dairy producers. As for FECOFUN, it’s busy setting up the Nepal Social Forum.



© Photo Carine Guidicelli

AMERICAS

BOLIVIA
EL SALVADOR
GUATEMALA
HAITI
PERU



- 17 PROJECTS IN 2005-2006
- 74 LOCAL EMPLOYEES
- 43 UNITERRA NORTH-SOUTH VOLUNTEERS
- 15 UNITERRA SOUTH-NORTH AND SOUTH-SOUTH VOLUNTEERS

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NEW INITIATIVES ARE EMERGING
IN THE AMERICAS IN FAVOUR
OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, THE
SOLIDARITY ECONOMY AND THE
PROMOTION OF FAIR TRADE.

In the Americas, CECI and its partners are continuing their work on the ground on issues such as preventing juvenile violence, health and water management. However, last year was marked by a series of events related to promoting and mobilizing solidarity economy and fair trade networks.

In November 2005, an international gathering in Bolivia on these issues assembled over 200 organizations from 17 countries, including 12 from South America. A month later, a delegation from the South American solidarity economy network participated in the Summit of the Americas held in Mar del Plata, Argentina. On that occasion, representatives tabled the Cochabamba Declaration, an appeal for greater political recognition of the solidarity economy, as well as fiscal reform which is fairer and more equitable between large and small producers, and between rich and poor.

The Declaration's signatories also emphasized the need to strengthen South-South cooperation in fair trade networks, as well as the need to implement certification systems that are participatory and accessible to small producers.

Similar processes for popular and political mobilization are also underway in Ecuador and Guatemala. "CECI has been supporting social tourism networks in Guatemala for a number of years. However, it's clear that fair trade is not very well known or recognized here, even →

← **GUATEMALA, APRIL 2006** — MOST OF THE VICTIMS ON HURRICANE STAN LOST EVERYTHING THEY OWNED. FAMILIES, STILL LIVING IN SHELTERS, ARE ANXIOUS TO REBUILD THEIR HOMES AND CULTIVATE THEIR LAND.



ÉLISABETH DESGRANGES UNITERRA VOLUNTEER IN GUATEMALA

Elisabeth has been a volunteer in Guatemala for two years. It's her first experience in international cooperation. "I had already travelled in Central America and participated in brief projects. I felt a need to get more actively involved and on a more long-term basis."

Elisabeth is an Educational Advisor with APREDE, an organization that works to prevent juvenile delinquency and addresses the problem of street gangs in two youth centres (one in Guatemala City, the other in Antigua). "My responsibilities entail supporting coordination activities and developing educational activities and programs."

We offer educational alternatives to youths so that they can finish their elementary school education and/or acquire technical training. We also offer psychological support and work to facilitate their entry into the labour force."

Cooperation has given her more hands-on knowledge of North-South relations and poverty.

What's her number one challenge? "In Quebec, where I was an educator in personal and social education, schools are highly structured and organized environments. Here, you really have to start from scratch. It's tough sometimes, but it's also very stimulating."

though several NGOs are working in this area. We brought together local partners, elected officials and producers to jointly develop a Guatemalan platform on fair trade. This platform addresses, among other issues, raising public awareness and the need for technical support in terms of marketing," explains **Caroline Marcel**, Uniterra advisor on fair trade and social tourism in Guatemala.

A NEW KIND OF BOUTIQUE IN GUATEMALA

In July 2006, the opening of the Diez Mil Pueblitos boutique in Antigua represented another step forward in the promotion of the fair trade movement. "We decided to hang our shingle in Antigua because 94% of visitors to Guatemala come here. Result: the boutique has become an ideal location for promoting social tourism and fair trade."

The Diez Mil Pueblitos boutique, which opened its doors in July 2006, is the fruit of a unique partnership with mondÉquitable, a Montreal-based organization.

It's the first boutique of its kind in Central America and an unprecedented and innovative partnership experience with the organization MondÉquitable, which manages the Ten Thousand Villages boutique in Montreal," adds Ms. Marcel. "Their financial and organizational support has been essential from the very start of the project. MondÉquitable provided the capital and technical support for the project's start-up. Moreover, this Canadian organization will continue providing the team here with advice over the next few years."

According to Ms. Marcel, the challenges of the coming year will be: continual improvement in its internal functioning, promoting the boutique, and consolidating ties with producers. "As this is a first, people are watching us. We want to succeed and create a model others will emulate," exclaims Ms. Marcel with enthusiasm. ■

© Photo Patrick Allen



HAITI

IN THE WAKE OF A PIVOTAL YEAR FOR HAITI, CANADIAN AND HAITIAN ORGANIZATIONS ARE WORKING HAND IN HAND TO STRENGTHEN PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY. THE HAITIAN DIASPORA IN CANADA SUPPORTS THEIR EFFORTS.

CANADA AND HAITI STRONGER TIES

The Volunteer Cooperation Program in Support of Governance in Haiti – Canada Corp was launched this year by a new consortium of four Canadian international cooperation organizations: World University Service of Canada (WUSC), the Paul Gérin-Lajoie Foundation (FPGL), the Canadian Executive Service Organization (CESO) and CECI.

“This program is not about our respective organizations sending volunteers to Haiti. Instead, the Program’s main objective is to foster partnerships between Canadian and Haitian organizations. We hope to lasting relations between them, which is certainly one of the innovative aspects of this initiative,” says **Gérard Côté**, CECI Project Officer and Coordinator of the Consortium’s activities.

After only a few months in operation, agreements have already been signed. “We’ve put people from Lawyers without Borders in contact with Haitian human rights organizations. The same goes for the CSQ (the Quebec Teachers’ Federation) and the Canadian Federation of Teachers with Haitian school boards, and also Canadian women’s groups with their Haitian counterparts. Initial exchange visits have taken place in the last few months.

The Consortium’s flexible approach — short stays and, in certain cases, multiple visits between partners — facilitates the recruiting of highly qualified individuals who are still active in their fields,” observes Mr. Côté. He adds that “the Consortium’s nature is such that we’re able to work with organizations from every province in Canada.”

The Program, which is scheduled to run for three years, has specifically targeted certain sectors. “We’re matching the Consortium members’ strengths with the needs on the

THE STUDENTS AT SAINT MARC’S SCHOOL KNOW THAT THE HOPES OF HAITI DEPEND ON EDUCATION, THE LITERACY RATE IN THEIR COUNTRY STANDS AT 52%. ➔

ground. That’s why we’re allocating nearly 50% of our resources to education-related issues, such as teacher training, expanding the capacity of the school system (presently insufficient to meet the demand in Haiti), post-secondary education and occupational training. Support for strengthening civil society is another important objective,” adds Mr. Côté. As is support for partnerships in private sector-led economic development and the reforms now underway in public administration.

“Another interesting aspect of the Program is the participation of Haitian Volunteer Advisors (VA), who come to Canada for internships and exchange visits with their partners here. Here too, the Program provides a general framework to help establish long term partnerships. In addition to receiving their Haitian partners, Canadian organizations are responsible for the logistics of these visits,” explains Mr. Côté.

The Program is focusing particular attention on the Canado-Haitian community in its public awareness and recruiting efforts. “We also seek to actively engage organizations and individuals from the Haitian diaspora in the hope that they’ll go beyond their role as the country’s principal economic lifeline to one in which they share their expertise, especially in the areas of social and community development,” concludes Gérard Côté. ■



© Photo Steeve Duguay

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT BASED ON GROUPS WORKING TOGETHER, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATORY PLANNING.

The CECI team in Haiti has been involved in local development for a number of years. "We have a solid team there that has acquired the experience and credibility in the community needed to conduct these types of projects," emphasizes **Bernard Cloutier**, Project Officer for the Americas at CECI.

The project **"Governance for the Environment in the Northeast,"** (2000-2005) eloquently illustrates the approach followed by CECI and its partners. In Capotille, Carice, Mont-Organisé and Ouanaminthe, the districts bordering the Dominican Republic, this project included a program for training and building local capacities that resulted in literacy classes for thousands and the elaboration of development plans by local communities. As for the environment, 82 teachers and

3,600 students received training on environmental protection and 1,600 farmers now use anti-erosion techniques. The Support Fund for District Investment Programs financed 45 sub-programs, including the rehabilitation of three schools and the installation of drinking water outlets benefiting 1,800 families. Taken together, these various initiatives are changing the living conditions of populations, who, moreover, better understand the issues because they take part in the decision-making. In addition, to being very concrete, the results of this project have led groups and institutions to work together. "In our projects supporting local development, our approach is to strengthen existing structures to enable them to fully play their roles today and in the future," explains Mr. Cloutier. ■



© Photo Carine Guidicelli

SOLIDARITIES

DIFFERENT WAYS OF WORKING TOGETHER AROUND THE NORTH TO END POVERTY IN THE WORLD.

AN ONGOING CAMPAIGN

Substantial improvements in international aid, fair and equitable trade rules, debt cancellation for poor countries, adequate social safety net provision, child poverty — these were the issues that CECI championed throughout the year in the context of the “Make Poverty History” campaign’s Quebec chapter. Overall, the organizations participating in this campaign represent over 150 million persons worldwide.

In the words of **Luck Mervil**, singer, activist and CECI spokesperson: **“What makes this type of mobilization important is that it awakens people’s consciousness of their individual and collective power to change things. Far more than in the act of voting once every four years, this is where our real democratic power lies!”**

EVERY ACTION COUNTS

In 2005-2006, over 215,000 Canadians signed an on-line petition calling on the Canadian government to take action. CECI participated in two days of meetings with federal MPs of every political stripe. Whether members of the Corporation, former and current CECI volunteers or sympathizers, everyone signed the petition. And all proudly wore a white band to send the message that there can be no more excuses for so much poverty! ■

FRIENDS OF CECI

This year, CECI’s voluntary sector in Canada really took off under the aegis of Jean-François Simard, board member and Vice-president of “la vie associative.” During the September 2005 General Assembly, the members of the Corporation decided to recognise the contribution made by our former volunteers, our donors, our partners, and our sympathizers in general. Consequently, our Statutes were amended to include a new category of membership: **the Friends of CECI.**

Thus, CECI, which already enjoys the active support of its 90-strong corporate membership, is reaching out and building, via this new category, a veritable network of persons and organizations resolutely committed to international development and keen to maintain contact with CECI and support its cause.

Information meetings are held in Quebec City, Gatineau and Montreal to recruit new members. CECI already counts with the support of 60 Friends.

Friends of CECI receive regular information on our activities, invitations to reunions, calls to action and requests to support our campaigns. Membership may also be a way of becoming better acquainted with CECI... before becoming a regular member of the Corporation. ■

For those interested in becoming a member:
<lesamisetamiesduceci@ceci.ca>

WITH THE HELP OF 404 UNITERRA VOLUNTEERS IN 2005-2006, NEW SOLIDARITIES WERE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN ORGANIZATIONS FROM CANADA —INCLUDING: QUEBEC, ONTARIO, BRITISH COLUMBIA — AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE SAHEL REGION OF AFRICA, GUATEMALA, NEPAL AND VIETNAM. ↓



UNITERRA

COOPERATE

After two years in operation, the Uniterra Program, born of a partnership between World University Service of Canada (WUSC) and CECI, has taken full flight. In 2005-2006, 404 volunteers were mobilized to share their expertise and support the activities of Uniterra partners.

In the South, 110 volunteers working in agriculture, health, basic education, HIV/AIDS, youth intervention programs and women's rights went on missions to other countries in the South. About thirty volunteers from the South also came to Canada for professional development purposes.

Also, with the support of the Government of Quebec's *Québec sans Frontières* program, two young Guatemalans, Walter Manuel Méndez Ralda, from *Takalik*, and Zoila Martina Hernández Miranda, from the *Nuevo Horizonte* cooperative, participated for nearly two months in the activities of the *L'Autre Jardin* hostel, a social economy enterprise in Quebec City. For **Zoila Martina Hernández Miranda**, "the main thing is that this exchange really showed me that there are Canadians who are really involved in

international solidarity and support for social movements!"

EDUCATE

Three hours a week, over a seven-week period, 75 persons attended the "General Introduction to International Cooperation" training course. The Centre for Training, Study and Consultancy (CTSC) dispensed this highly popular course for Uniterra in Gatineau, Quebec City and Montreal, in the spring and autumn of 2005.

INFLUENCE

Uniterra also seeks to engage the Canadian population and Canadian organizations in favour of the Millennium Development Goals. Over 175,000 people were informed and mobilized via different events and campaigns led and supported by Uniterra and its partners.

Many individuals took more concrete action: 2,000 contributed as volunteers; over 20,000 white bands were distributed in support of the Make Poverty History campaign; and, reflecting the work it accomplished this year, 300+ articles and broadcasts in the media mentioned Uniterra. ■



... COMPLETELY SAFE

In Nepal, a popular uprising, kidnappings in Haiti, in Guatemala, one of the world's highest crime rates — fighting poverty and exclusion means working in fragile countries where conflict and a lack of security are a part of daily life.

With dozens of volunteers working in different parts of the world, CECI is very conscious of the importance of ensuring maximum security for its people. Wherever he or she might be, a cooperant must know what to do in any situation where his or her security might be endangered. "This year, we worked on a general outline for a security manual. Certain parts need to be adapted to each country's particular context, but the main elements are always the same," explains **Juan Gonzalez**, CECI's Human Resources Coordinator.

The manual is a compendium of practical advice: up-date one's security documents on a regular basis (e.g. emergency evacuation plan, home evacuation plan); obtain an emergency and survival kit; advise CECI of one's travel and movements; register at Canadian embassies and consulates; etc. The manual also contains advice for cooperants on health issues and on how to behave when dealing with the authorities and the general population in host countries. ■

LEAVE FOR CHANGE

While one may indeed feel solidarity and wish to contribute to the development of a fairer world, leaving for a year or two to engage in international cooperation is not always an option for all. Launched in March 2006, the Leave for Change Program offers private and public sector enterprises and their employees a unique opportunity to get involved in international cooperation via short contracts, two

or three weeks in length, designed to provide technical or administrative support to Uniterria partner organizations in the South.

"Leave for Change opens the door to international cooperation for employees. For them it's an introductory experience. For a business it's an opportunity to change its status from sponsor or donor to social actor, by agreeing to release one or more employees for the duration of the project or to partially cover the travel costs," affirms Leave for Change Program Officer **Claire Moran**. She adds that the enterprises canvassed have been very positive in their response. Several private and public sector organizations already support the program, including the City of Montreal.

Leave for Change allows participants to use their skills and expertise to meet specific needs. "I wanted to do more than just put a cheque in the mail. Leave for Change is a flexible approach that fit me to a tee. As the mandate is well defined, one does answer a very concrete need, despite the short time period," explains **Philippe Chevalier**, an engineer at Samson Bélair/Deloitte & Touche.

A participant in an initial Leave for Change pilot-mission in the autumn of 2005; he left for a two-week mission in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso. "My task was to set up a computerized management system for production, stocks and transactions at Songtaaba, a women's association, producing shea butter."

This experience changed his view on international cooperation, portrayed all too often, in his opinion, as essentially emergency assistance. "I discovered other facets of cooperation — including its scope — which don't make headlines, but do have a more lasting impact."

The first round of missions was a great success for both participants and host organizations. A second group left in July 2006. "Our objective is to organize 30 Leaves for Change over the coming year," says Claire Moran. ■

TRAINING

GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT HUMAN RIGHTS

The fulfilment of our mission demands a sustained and specific effort directed at strengthening the individual and collective power of women. To this end, CECI devotes energy and resources via its Gender and Development (GAD) policy, which is founded on the principles of gender equality and equity.

Moreover, the GAD approach is a tool for awareness raising and training. This year, for example, our GAD expertise was used in training new personnel at CIDA. Hélène Lagacé, responsible for GAD issues at CECI, also dispensed GAD training to personnel at the Ministry of Communications in Morocco.

The CTSC is active in many countries beyond the ambit of CECI's program countries. Its experts have dispensed numerous trainings, including one entitled the Human Rights-Based Approach to Development to the CIDA team in Egypt, which will put it into practice in all of its future interventions.

"Resources specifically assigned to GAD issues are present in half of Uniterre's thirteen program countries, but this policy is applied in all of them. Many volunteers also work directly with women's organizations," explains **Diane Bachand**, who is a Project Officer and Head of Gender and Development (GAD) issues at Uniterre.

CECI works on different levels, from the local level to internationally. A good example was our major support, in 2005, for the World March of Women, which organized the World Relay of the Women's Global Charter for Humanity. "In October 2005, the Relay made its final stop in Burkina Faso. This project was supported by the commitment and dynamism of eight volunteers and on Ms. Marietou Bah, responsible of GAD issues for Africa," underlines Diane Bachand. ■

NOWHERE ON EARTH DO WOMEN ENJOY THE SAME RIGHTS AS MEN — AND YET THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC LIFE OF THEIR COUNTRIES AND COMMUNITIES IS INDISPENSABLE. ➔





FUND-RAISING: \$1,510,000

ACTIVE AND INVOLVED DIASPORAS

In the summer of 2005, Niger experienced one of the worst food crises in its history: 3.5 million people, one third of the population, were affected. Two months later, hurricane Stan devastated Guatemala and El Salvador. Hundreds of families lost everything, including their fields, which were damaged and no longer suitable for agriculture. Shelters were organized.

In keeping with its experience in these countries, CECI chose to support emergency and post-emergency efforts, in collaboration with the local populations and NGOs. In both disasters, diaspora communities launched powerful solidarity campaigns, organizing numerous benefit events for disaster victims: concerts, fund-raising at soccer matches, and in businesses and schools, coffee sales, etc. CECI's contribution to Niger and Central America via these campaigns was \$300,000 and \$500,000, respectively.

ESSENTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

As CECI's annual campaign put it: "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights... and yet, 50,000 people, including a child every three seconds, die every day." This message reached over 10,000 people. With its new tools — on-line donations and E_publications — CECI mobilized more sympathizers who want to be informed on the impact of their donations.

Moreover, thanks to the commitment of our donors it was possible to ensure the continuity of "Sahakarya," a major project in Nepal. These private donations (\$175,000), a contribution required by CIDA, represented an important financing leverage for Sahakarya. With its total budget of 8.1 million dollars over five years, Sahakarya has delivered convincing results in child nutrition, women's health, rural economic development and micro-credit.

International development work is increasingly dependent on the generosity of Canadians. CECI is extremely grateful to all of its donors, without whom many communities would not be able to strengthen their skills and abilities, as well as improve their living conditions. ■



MARTINE FILION UNITERRA VOLUNTEER

Martine has been a popular literacy trainer at *l'Atelier des lettres* in Montreal's Centre-Sud neighbourhood for 17 years. "My journey to Senegal during the Dakar 2005 gathering was a real eye-opener. Normally, one only sees the differences between the South and the North. By attending a 'literacy circle' meeting in a Dakar neighbourhood I discovered what unites us, what we might share," recounts Martine.

"Reading and writing are tools of emancipation, means for the full exercise of citizenship, i.e. for getting people to reflect on society and propose changes. The women in the literacy circle discussed problems related to malaria and they sought solutions. They saw a natural link between literacy training and their plan of action. I found this tie-in with social action fascinating. It gives meaning to my work in an under-privileged neighbourhood in Montreal."

Upon her return, Martine proposed a partnership project between the literacy circles in Senegal and le *Regroupement des groupes populaires d'alphabétisation du Québec* (The Quebec Federation of Popular Literacy Groups), an organization in which she is very active. "We plan to have two annual exchange missions over the next three years. We can learn a lot from each other. It's a really great source of inspiration and motivation."

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of the Board of the Centre d'Étude et de Coopération Internationale

We have audited the balance sheet of the Centre d'Étude et de Coopération Internationale as at March 31, 2006 and the statements of revenues and expenses, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Centre's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Centre as at March 31, 2006 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Samson Bélaire / Deloitte & Touche s.e.n.c.r.l.

SAMSON BÉLAIRE/DELOITTE & TOUCHE
Chartered Accountants
June 7, 2006

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

	2006 \$	2005 \$
REVENUES		
CIDA - Partnership	5,914,596	6,822,400
CIDA - Bilateral and other	10,006,887	10,313,073
Other funding organizations	7,985,036	6,708,395
Donations	1,621,548	1,708,562
Contributed services (Note 8)	3,737,812	4,798,878
Rental revenue	366,165	231,157
Other revenue	219,981	169,945
	29,852,025	30,752,410
EXPENSES		
Offices and departments	6,016,022	5,590,504
Programs	19,779,236	20,071,853
Contributed services (Note 8)	3,737,812	4,798,878
Amortization	316,974	266,801
	29,850,044	30,728,036
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	1,981	24,374

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

	Invested in capital assets \$	Restricted for endowment purposes \$ (Note 7)	Unrestricted \$	Total 2006 \$	Total 2005 \$
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,499,898	38,385	753,638	2,291,921	2,667,247
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	(310,845)*	-	312,826	1,981	24,374
Endowment contributions	-	-	-	-	300
Release of endowment contributions	-	(30,000)	-	(30,000)	(400,000)
Investment in capital assets, net of financing	302,528	-	(302,528)	-	-
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	1,491,581	8,385	763,936	2,263,902	2,291,921

* Including amortization of capital assets of \$316,974 and amortization of deferred contributions related to the capital assets of \$6,129.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT MARCH 31, 2006

	2006	2005
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash	3,715,269	4,018,893
Accounts receivable (net of deferred contributions of \$449,070; \$5,773 in 2005)	793,850	1,271,641
Advances to partners	626,315	965,841
Prepaid expenses	217,676	78,351
	5,353,110	6,334,726
Capital assets (Note 3)	4,586,715	4,754,188
	9,939,825	11,088,914

LIABILITIES

Current liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	936,450	774,551
Deferred contributions (net of accounts receivable of \$1,291,455; \$702,969 in 2005)	3,644,339	4,768,152
Current portion of long-term debt (Note 5)	139,955	137,342
	4,720,744	5,680,045

Deferred contributions related to capital assets (Note 6)	129,489	135,618
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Long-term debt (Note 5)	2,825,690	2,981,330
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NET ASSETS

Invested in capital	1,491,581	1,499,898
Restricted for endowment purposes (Note 7)	8,385	38,385
Unrestricted	763,936	753,638
	2,263,902	2,291,921
	9,939,825	11,088,914

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

	2006	2005
	\$	\$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenues over expenses	1,981	24,374
Adjustments for:		
Gain on disposal of investments	-	(31,020)
Amortization of capital assets	316,974	266,801
Amortization of deferred contributions	(6,129)	(6,896)
	312,826	253,259
Changes in non-cash operating working capital items (Note 9)	(313,922)	51,012
	(1,096)	304,271
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Endowment contributions	-	300
Increase in long-term debt	383,580	1,620,276
Reimbursement of long-term debt	(536,607)	(74,327)
	(153,027)	1,546,249
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Acquisition of investments	-	(5,146)
Disposal of investments	-	391,268
Acquisition of capital assets	(149,501)	(1,515,727)
	(149,501)	(1,129,605)
(Decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	(303,624)	720,915
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	4,018,893	3,297,978
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	3,715,269	4,018,893
Supplementary information		
Interest paid	190,319	88,330

Non-cash transactions

Endowment contributions of \$30,000 were released and transferred to deferred contributions (Note 7).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

NOTE 1

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Centre d'Étude et de Coopération Internationale is incorporated under Part III of the *Companies Act* (Québec).

The Centre takes part in activities to promote economic, social and cultural development in Third World countries. It does so through training, by sending volunteers and technical assistants to these areas, and by undertaking projects, conducting research, and publishing specialized works.

NOTE 2

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") and reflect the following significant accounting policies:

a. Revenue recognition

The Centre follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Endowment contributions are recognized as direct increases in net assets.

b. Foreign transaction recognition

The Centre accounts for expenses using the following accounting practices:

- i. Capital expenditures incurred for overseas activities are charged as operating expenses, with the exception of the capital expenditures of regional offices, which are capitalized.
- ii. Gains or losses due to changes in exchange rates are charged to the programs to which they are related.
- iii. Other contributions for technical assistance to the Volunteers and Partnerships Program represent the share of living allowances and volunteer housing of overseas partners.

c. Capital assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost and amortized using the following methods and rates:

Buildings	Straight-line	4%
Furniture and equipment	Declining balance	20% and 30%
Library	Straight-line	5%
Audio-visual equipment	Declining balance	20%
Automotive equipment	Declining balance	30%
Software	Straight-line	25%

d. Foreign currency translation

Monetary assets and liabilities are translated into Canadian dollars at the exchange rates in effect at year-end, whereas non-monetary assets and liabilities are translated at historical rates. The market values are translated into Canadian dollars at the exchange rates in effect at year-end. Revenues and expenses are translated at average rates prevailing during the year. Resulting gains and losses are reflected in the statement of revenues and expenses.

e. Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian GAAP requires management to make certain estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

NOTE 3**CAPITAL ASSETS**

	Valuation cost	Accumulated amortization	2006 Net book value	2005 Net book value
	\$	\$	\$	\$
TANGIBLE ASSETS				
Land	869,445	–	869,445	869,445
Buildings	3,171,569	276,042	2,895,527	2,935,815
Furniture and equipment	1,486,799	1,238,340	248,459	270,552
Library	542,607	162,780	379,827	406,957
Audio-visual equipment	35,719	34,838	881	1,102
Automotive equipment	305,353	176,443	128,910	184,158
	6,411,492	1,888,443	4,523,049	4,668,029
INTANGIBLE ASSETS				
Software	134,709	71,043	63,666	86,159
	6,546,201	1,959,486	4,586,715	4,754,188

NOTE 4**BANK LOAN**

The Centre has an operating line of credit of an authorized amount of \$2,400,000, bearing interest at the prime rate, secured by a movable hypothec on the universality of accounts receivable and is repayable on demand.

NOTE 5**LONG-TERM DEBT**

	2006	2005
	\$	\$
Loan secured by a first-rank hypothec on a building for a maximum authorized amount of \$1,121,250, payable in monthly instalments of \$3,738, plus interest calculated at 7.05%, maturing on January 15, 2017	934,375	979,225
Loan secured by a second-rank hypothec on a building, payable in monthly instalments of \$4,050, plus interest calculated at 6.7%, maturing on February 15, 2017	375,377	398,004
Loan secured by a first-rank hypothec on a building, payable in monthly instalments of \$12,248, plus interest calculated at 6.5%, maturing on October 1, 2019	1,414,729	1,310,589
Loan secured by a first-rank hypothec on a building, payable in monthly instalments of \$1,821, plus interest calculated at 6.5%, maturing on October 1, 2019	216,164	—
Loan payable in annual instalments of \$6,250 plus interest, maturing in December 2009, non-interest bearing for the first three years, bearing interest at 1% the fourth year, 2% the fifth year, 3% the sixth year, 4% the seventh year, and 5% the eighth year	25,000	31,250
Accounts payable related to the construction of a building to be financed by a first-rank mortgage loan on the building	—	399,604
	2,965,645	3,118,672
Current portion	139,955	137,342
	2,825,690	2,981,330

Estimated principal payments required in each of the next five years are as follows:

2007	139,955
2008	145,631
2009	152,344
2010	159,183
2011	160,235

NOTE 6

DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS RELATED TO CAPITAL ASSETS

Deferred contributions related to capital assets represent contributions received to acquire capital assets. They are amortized using the same methods and rates as the related capital assets. Changes for the year are as follows:

	2006	2005
	\$	\$
Beginning balance	135,618	142,514
Amortization for the year	6,129	6,896
Ending balance	129,489	135,618

NOTE 7

NET ASSETS RESTRICTED FOR ENDOWMENT PURPOSES

Net assets restricted for endowment purposes are as follows:

- An amount of \$4,305 is subject to external restrictions requiring that any resources be maintained permanently in the Fonds Pelletier. The related investment income is used to finance projects aimed at education and training for women and girls.
- An amount of \$4,080 is subject to external restrictions requiring that any resources be maintained permanently in the Fonds Jean Bouchard. The related investment income is used to finance projects aimed at basic human needs.

During the year, the donors authorized that the amount of \$30,000 for the Fonds Jean Bouchard be used for international assistance projects.

NOTE 8

CONTRIBUTED SERVICES

Contributed services represents the value of contributions made by participants to volunteer co operation programs. This value was revised following a CECI study conducted in 2006. The study takes into account the changes in the volunteer co-operation programs and volunteer work conducted in Canada and is based on recent data from Statistics Canada. The findings resulted in a restatement of the value presented in the 2005 financial statements.

NOTE 9

CHANGES IN NON-CASH OPERATING WORKING CAPITAL ITEMS

	2006	2005
	\$	\$
Accounts receivable	477,791	(207,455)
Advances to partners	339,526	(728,530)
Prepaid expenses	(139,325)	10,070
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	161,899	(98,341)
Deferred contributions	(1,153,813)	1,075,268
	(313,922)	51,012

NOTE 10
COMMITMENTS

The Centre is committed under renewable, non-cancellable leases for equipment that expires until January 2010. The total amount payable of \$86,296 is detailed as follows:

	\$
2007	26,155
2008	21,405
2009	19,368
2010	19,368

NOTE 11
CONTINGENCIES

The Centre is subject to litigation in the normal course of business. Management believes that this litigation will have no significant adverse impact on the Centre’s financial position. Therefore, no provision has been made in the financial statements.

The Centre has signed partnership agreements with other organizations for the purpose of carrying out projects. Under these agreements, the Centre is jointly and severally liable with the other organizations to lenders. As at March 31, 2006, the signed agreements totalled approximately \$68,000,000 and expire through July 2009. Management is nonetheless of the opinion that there is no significant risk, as all partnerships for projects are subject to a contract between the organizations, and these contracts clearly specify the respective financial liabilities of the partners.

NOTE 12
FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Currency risk

The Centre carries out several transactions in foreign currencies and is therefore exposed to foreign exchange fluctuations. The Centre does not actively manage this risk, as the exchange gains and losses are included in program costs.

Interest rate risk

The majority of long-term debt bears fixed interest rates. Consequently, the cash flow exposure is not significant.

Fair value

The fair value of cash, accounts receivable, and accounts payable and accrued liabilities is approximately equal to their carrying values due to their short-term maturity.

The fair value of buildings, determined using the income approach, as at January 7, 2005 is approximately \$6,000,000 for the two buildings. Using the comparable transaction analysis, the fair value is essentially the same.

The fair value of long-term debt was not measured due to the related maturity dates and interest rates, which are comparable to those of the market. The fair value is therefore similar to the carrying value.

NOTE 13
COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year’s presentation.

NONE OF THE CECI’S ACTIVITIES IN CANADA AND THE WORLD WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE FUNDING OF OUR PARTNER IN CANADA, THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CIDA).

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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS!

The following list includes every donor that contributed \$1,000 or more, save those who wished to remain anonymous.

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