

As we enter our fourth year of operation as the Republic of China's principal body overseeing international assistance, we are building on a strong foundation.

Project implementation during fiscal 1999 can be summarized under five headings:

- emergency aid programs for Central America;
- broad-based assistance to Macedonia;
- cooperation in foreign aid projects;
- improvements to technical missions; and
- the establishment of a cooperative relationship with the WTO.

Full reviews of these activities, and the successes achieved, appear in this report.

As appropriate, the ICDF will continue to build upon the foundations laid in fiscal 1999 and previous years, and it will continue to set precedents as it enters upon new ventures.

Following the completion of the Central American emergency recovery programs, we shall direct our attention to other aspects of the region's economic development, through the ROC–Central America Economic Cooperation and Development Fund and other means.

Some of the initiatives in the multifaceted program of microlending, investment, technical guidance and educational assistance offered to Macedonia will come to fruition, although others will take several years to achieve the anticipated results. We shall also assist in the launching of a ROC–Macedonia Economic Cooperation and Development Fund similar to that established for Central America.

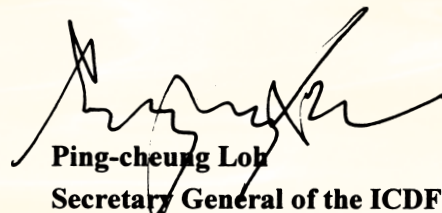
As always, we shall continue to apply the expertise of the ICDF to the advantage of programs entrusted to us by the government of the ROC and to ensure that resources dedicated to foreign assistance will be effectively utilized.

In the past year we made many improvements to the overseas technical missions, strengthening and invigorating their management while implementing new ways of doing things in several key areas. We have emphasized the relationship between input and output and put into place cost-saving measures that are enabling us to shift expenditures from personnel to better service for our “clients,” the partner nations which we are assisting.

In 1999 we began working cooperatively, in human resource training and other fields, with the World Trade Organization. We expect to intensify those efforts in the coming years, as we share our unique expertise with international organizations and learn from them.

An important feature of our work this year was a determination to improve the qualifications of the ICDF staff. We are accomplishing that by hiring highly educated staff with strong professional skills, and we are making it possible for them to continue improving those skills by providing a well-balanced on-the-job training program.

As this annual report indicates, the ICDF is fortunate in having dedicated employees, committed to doing their part to improve the well-being of the people in the ROC’s partner nations. We look forward to continuing that work with courage and enthusiasm.



**Ping-cheung Loh**  
**Secretary General of the ICDF**

