

OUTLOOK

Having had the privilege of leading the ICDF since its establishment, I take great personal satisfaction in its achievements over the past two years. We have truly strived to become a professional organization, and I believe we are well on the way to achieving that objective.

The driving force behind the concept of our three-year rolling programs is the principle of “reviewing the past to plan the future.” The ICDF has already planned its core program for the next three years (fiscal years 1999 through 2001), taking into consideration such factors as expected funds, available human and other resources, and future government aid strategies and plans. The following principles will underlie all ICDF operations.

Designing appropriate cooperative strategies according to individual countries needs. We are placing strong emphasis on the need to consider more intensively the individual requirements and differences in socioeconomic development of partner nations, before designing cooperative development programs.

Paying paramount attention to feasibility and overall effectiveness when planning projects. Only projects that yield substantial economic benefits will be funded. The key words are “to create wealth for the recipients through sustainable development projects.”



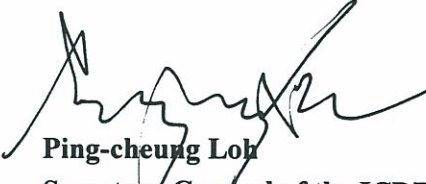
Mr. Ping-cheung Loh, Secretary General of the ICDF (second from right), visits the Republic of Haiti. To his right are President René Garcia Préval and Madame Préval; to his left is ROC Ambassador Mr. Jong-nan Chiou.

Strengthening management for greater efficiency. The ICDF has adopted a streamlined organization and a sound management system. Resources will be applied to achieve greater effectiveness and to further the goals of the ICDF. The international cooperation and project cofinancing work being carried out by the ICDF requires capable professional staff with experience in development work. The ICDF intends to strengthen bilateral and multilateral ties with other national or international development organizations, to promote interaction that will help nurture the professional standards of staff and expand their world outlook. Increased exchange and discussion with other aid organizations will also help to promote ICDF activities around the world.

Improving the quality of technical cooperation programs. Technical assistance has contributed greatly to the development of our partner nations. Some areas could be improved. The aim is to deliver quality product to our friends, with the greatest benefits for the least cost.

In streamlining our organization, we have taken a critical look at the deployment of resources. In so doing, we have asked ourselves how we can better train our mission leaders with skills that are required to make good decisions; how we can empower our people in the field to take necessary initiatives; and how we can best establish accountability for all missions in the field. We are finding the answers to those questions through our regular supervision visits, and through the lessons learned during the past year.

We are hopeful that, with the renewed dedication and commitment of the staff, the work done by the ICDF will contribute to the well-being of the people in the countries in which we have our work programs.



Ping-cheung Loh
Secretary General of the ICDF