

Overview

The ICDF is the Republic of China's primary body overseeing foreign assistance. Its mission is to strengthen international cooperation and enhance foreign relations by promoting economic development, social progress and the welfare of partner nations worldwide. All of the ICDF's operations embody the organization's ideals—human development cultivated in a compassionate, constructive manner—and practical methods—diligent hard work carried out by highly skilled teams.

Resources for the ICDF's financial, advisory, research, technical cooperation, volunteer, and educational projects and programs come from two sources: the organization's own capital assets and funds allocated by the Republic of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), upon whose behalf the ICDF manages the overseas technical missions. In addition, the ICDF administers the ROC–Central American Economic Development Fund.

In fiscal 2000, the board of directors and supervisors approved eight investment and lending programs totaling US\$30.18 million. Ten loan programs, entailing a commitment of US\$32.32 million, were signed.

The ICDF ended the fiscal year with cumulative loan commitments of more than US\$413 million. It appropriated US\$40.97 million in 2000, and retrieved capital totaling US\$25.12 million.



In planning and executing its projects and programs in 2000, the ICDF focused on four broad categories:

- *Small and medium enterprise (SME) development*
SME development is essential to sound, steady economic growth, and the ROC is sharing its knowledge of this field with developing countries around the world.
- *Agricultural development*
The majority of ICDF missions oversee agricultural projects and programs. Their objectives include the development of superior varieties of seed, fruits, vegetables and other products; the provision of agricultural training; the reclamation of land for cultivation; and the development of irrigation systems.

- *Human resource development*

The ICDF sponsors human resource seminars and workshops, vocational education projects and numerous scholarship programs for students at all levels.

- *Humanitarian aid*

The ICDF has provided low-interest loans and emergency relief to many countries and is helping to reconstruct areas damaged by natural disasters in different regions around the world. It is also providing medical services, vitamin programs and nutritional assistance.

Following are summaries of the aims and achievements by type of activity. The projects and programs are described in more detail in later sections of this report.

Technical Cooperation

In fiscal 2000 the ICDF spent a total of US\$5.4 million on 22 technical cooperation projects. These included SME advisory group and consulting projects; economic, social and political capacity building projects; and special research projects.

Investment and Lending

The board of directors and supervisors approved two loans, totaling US\$6 million, for microcredit lending in 2000 and endorsed the establishment of five small farmer loan programs, for a total of US\$545,000. It also approved funding of US\$6 million for a water supply project loan program; US\$12 million for the funding of an industrial zone development loan program; and US\$4 million for a building construction loan program. In addition, the board approved US\$2 million for an SME investment project and US\$8 million for a human resources and vocational training development loan program.

The ICDF cooperated with the Inter-American Development Bank in organizing three loan projects totaling US\$15.3 million, and one home reconstruction project totaling US\$4.8 million.

Education and Human Resources Development

During the year, the ICDF sponsored 22 education and human resource development seminars and workshops, attended by 443 officials. It also provided US\$500,000 in scholarships to students in Europe, Africa and the Eastern Caribbean region.

Currently, 15 professionals from partner countries and five ICDF mission personnel are attending the ICDF-sponsored master's degree program at the National Pingtung University of Science and Technology's Graduate Institute of Tropical Agriculture.

Technical Missions

ICDF technical missions—encompassing 41 missions with 322 personnel in 34 countries—are a key conduit for the ROC’s foreign aid. Highlights during the year included economic development projects overseen by the missions in Macedonia and Central America, and vital work performed by four medical missions in Africa.

Overseas Volunteer Corps

Twenty-six members of the ICDF Volunteer Corps provided service in Costa Rica, Grenada, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Saint Christopher, and São Tomé and Príncipe.

Cooperation with NGOs

In terms of cooperation between the ICDF and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), it was a groundbreaking year. The ICDF worked productively with NGOs on projects in the Caribbean, The Gambia, Haiti, Latin America, Macedonia, and the Solomon Islands.

The ROC–CAEDF

The Republic of China–Central American Economic Development Fund has evolved into one of the ICDF’s most important bodies. The Fund supplies financial and other resources to promote and strengthen economic, trade and investment cooperation between the ROC and Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Distribution of Aid Projects

