



Special Reports



Many international development organizations recognize that, in addition to core capital and technical assistance activities, the ability to mobilize significant human resources to guide and implement assistance operations is critical to the success of an effective foreign assistance program. To support the work of its staff, the ICDF-TAIWAN has sent over 130 volunteers to host countries through the Taiwan Overseas Volunteers—a program that recruits men and women of all ages with specific technical skills to help realize ICDF overseas development objectives. Volunteers live and work closely with host country project staff and, aside from technology transfer, the program fosters mutual understanding and international friendships. To extend the advantages already realized through the Taiwan Overseas Volunteers program, the ICDF has plans to continue expanding its scope. The ICDF will also continue strengthening cooperative relationships with other volunteer organizations to raise efficiency and increase access to appropriate expertise. Further enhancing the resources available to ICDF overseas programs, the Taiwan Youth Overseas Service, launched in 2001, chooses a number of young men for duty at ICDF overseas missions. Youth Overseas Servicemen assist missions achieve development goals in areas such as agriculture and fisheries, hydraulic engineering, medical services, and professional computer and business training.

Effective development of human resources is critical to a country's ability to emerge from poverty and create the conditions for sustainable growth. Therefore, an important area of the ICDF's overseas technical assistance involves helping allied and friendly countries develop their human resources. In 2003, the ICDF established Taiwan tele-centers in certain schools involved in the World Links program to assist in the development of long-distance education networks. On the domestic front, the ICDF formally entered into the Educational Strategic Alliance in International Cooperation (ESAIC) with six local universities. In the future, these bodies will jointly establish the International Cooperation and Development Virtual Academy and hold a regular international symposium series. The ICDF currently holds various seminars and workshops in conjunction with local municipal governments throughout the year and, through its networks, is developing exchange programs with cities around the world.

A major objective for the ICDF during 2003 was the standardization and systematization of organizational management systems. An internal control system has already been established and departments are now monitoring themselves on a provisional basis. The concept of internal controls will be gradually embedded into everyday operations. Although the ICDF is a non-profit organization, it still has a responsibility to implement proper procedural and screening processes that adhere to regulations and to ensure international development assistance meets the highest operational standards. The design and implementation of the system is expected to raise the quality of audits and ensure improved controls within the organization.

This chapter includes special reports on "Volunteer Taiwan," "International Human Resource Development," and "The Establishment of an Internal Control System."