



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Canada can take some pride in having established, with ICOD, the first governmental institution devoted exclusively to development cooperation in the marine sector. When Prime Minister Trudeau first announced the idea at the Commonwealth Summit in Melbourne in 1983, it was somewhat of a sensation. When, two years later, the idea was realized, the expectations in Third World countries got a boost.

Ocean economics is playing a rapidly increasing role in the economies of states and in the economy of the international community. Food production from the oceans, enhanced by the advent of aquaculture which, in turn is being revolutionized by the application of bio-industrial processes and genetic engineering, can make a significant contribution towards solving the world's food problem, especially in the poorer and less developed parts of the world. Energy from the oceans; metals and minerals from the oceans will add to global wealth. New technologies of unitization and containerization, and of navigational aids are making sea-borne trade safer as well as more economical. New technologies, applied to exploration and scientific research, not only promise new riches from the seas and oceans but also transform our concepts of the earth and of the role humans have played and are going to play on it, for good or for evil, for peaceful development or for the arms race and mutual destruction.

The penetration of the industrial revolution into the oceans has been accompanied by a change in the structure of international relations triggered by post-war decolonialisation and the emergence of about a hundred new sovereign states. Technological development and the changing structure of international relations were the two sources of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea -- the greatest, longest international conference in modern history -- that resulted in the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas. This, for the



first time in history, provided a framework for the management of ocean space and its resources. It bestowed new rights, and new responsibilities on coastal States, most of which are developing countries. It constitutes the most advanced instrument available for development cooperation.

Canada's role in the Conference, and in the shape the Convention eventually was to take, was one of leadership. Canada gave much to the Conference, and, by an act of immanent justice, as it were, got as much out of it as it put in: A vast expansion of ocean space and resources under its jurisdiction; international consensus for its environmental conservation policies; a free hand in the Arctic; the protection for its interests as a land-based producer of the minerals that will be produced from the oceans in the future; and, last not least, the goodwill and trust of the developing countries, many of whose interests Canada has shared and is sharing.

The new , post-UNCLOS III, phase of ratifying, implementing, interpreting and further developing , the new Law of the Sea is as challenging and as promising as the previous phase of making this law. Canada will get as much out of it as it puts into it.

The establishment of ICOD was a token of recognition of this simple truth. Canada can play a leading role in assisting developing countries in realizing the potential benefits of the new international order in the oceans. Ocean management adds a new dimension to development strategy at the national, regional, and international level; it could be a turning point: from economies, still based as in colonial times, on the export of raw materials and the import of manufactured goods -- a system that is no longer viable -- to economies based on collective self-reliance and geared to diversification and internal development. For this turn, developing countries need national legislative and institutional infrastructure, trained manpower and technology, and an integrative approach to the new science of ocean management. Through its information programme, its



training activities, and its technical cooperation services, ICOD can contribute significantly to the awareness of these needs and a to creative response to them.

There can be no doubt that Canada can benefit as extensively from this new phase of ocean development as it did from the previous phase of making the new Law of the Sea. But if the previous benefits came primarily in terms of natural resource potential, the new ones will come in terms of the marine industries and marine technology, in the development of which Canada holds a leading position. Cooperation with developing countries in the development of marine industrial technology will create new markets and benefit all parties concerned.

During its first year of activities, ICOD has made a modest beginning, but it has laid a foundation on which to build and expand in future years. The task before us is awesome. ICOD will have to unite its efforts with those of its Canadian sister organisations in the field of development cooperation, CIDA, IDRC and Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation, whose functions complement those of ICOD. It will also join a network of international institutions, bilateral, regional and global, intergovernmental and nongovernmental, which are engaged in parallel activities in cooperation with developing countries. The next few years undoubtedly will see changes in the methodologies of development cooperation, and the marine sector has been, and is likely to remain, in the forefront of these changes. ICOD's task, therefore, is more than merely the administration of projects. ICOD's task is innovative and intellectually challenging, but rewarding, we hope, not only to the developing countries to whom our work is devoted, but to ourselves and to Canada as a nation.