



economies. While it is understood that new OCEEI programs will be externally funded, the IDRC Board unanimously agreed to set up a revolving fund for the purpose of OCEEI project development activities.

OCEEI plans to expand present activities and bridge EMDU with future programs in order to spread already existing management resources over more activities. While research related to environment and sustainable development will remain the focus of interest, building on its Kyiv office OCEEI intends to explore possibilities in other countries of the region as well. Today, the planning of a *Cooperation House* and an *International Conference* are the most advanced activities.

Cooperation House

To expand present services offered by IDRC's Kyiv office, OCEEI has developed the concept of "Cooperation House". Built on the present IDRC Kyiv office, Cooperation House is to be a self-supporting organization providing logistical and office services to Canadian and Ukrainian agencies active in Ukraine. Ultimately, Cooperation House will be owned by its stakeholders.

Cooperation House embodies two important concepts. First, it will serve as a focal point for Canadian technical assistance activity, thus increasing the profile of Canadian activities. Every program involved will benefit from the opportunity to share experiences and will build on the accomplishments of other programs. The Cooperation House concept provides a coordinating structure without jeopardizing the specific work of the participants.

Secondly, the facility supplies administrative support required by incoming Canadian organizations. Located in central Kyiv, Cooperation House provides various administrative support functions, such as reception, secretarial and equipment support (e.g. faxes, e-mail, telephones, photocopying, audio-visual presentation equipment, scanners, report binding), translation services, vehicles, work and meeting areas and conference organization.

Programs can benefit by avoiding duplication of services and activities and by sharing information and experiences. The

concentrated presence of Canadian aid related activities helps to attract the interest of government officials, researchers, institutes and NGOs with similar interests, and provides a solid base of operations for expansion into other countries of the region. At the same time, costs can be significantly cut while the companies enjoy a higher quality and a wider range of services. Cooperation House provides an enabling environment for the development of synergy between partners and the broadening of its members' networks.

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International Conference

To deal successfully with the environmental problems of the Dnipro River Basin, continuing interest needs to be maintained. The EMDU Project has been a first step. To convey principal findings of EMDU to key partners and to develop further links among partners for enhanced synergy, OCEEI is planning an international conference for the Summer of 1997. The conference will provide a venue for specialists to learn from the experience of the EMDU program, to compare and improve the selection of appropriate research methodologies, and to propose methods for problem solving in the specific context of the Dnipro.

The conference will also enhance Ukraine's cooperation with its two neighbours, Russia and Belarus, in the context of the Dnipro and will help to eliminate potential overlap and duplication of respective national program activities. In addition, management authorities of other river basins in the region and international financial organizations and private sector partners that Ukraine may target for future environmental projects, such as CIDA, Global Environmental Facility, the World Bank, EBRD, UNDP, and NATO will also be invited to the conference. In keeping with the spirit of the EMDU Project co-managed by a Canadian and a Ukrainian Management Committee, the Conference Coordination Committee is to be co-chaired by a Canadian and a Ukrainian.

Through the success of the present project, OCEEI, the Ministry of Environment and Nuclear Protection of Ukraine and the Dnipro Renaissance Fund have built a powerful team worthy of the trust of donor agencies. Environment, the main theme of collaboration, continues to be a central consid-

DNIPRO RENAISSANCE FUND

The water use and conservation challenges presented by the Dnipro River Basin include declining availability of clean water due to overuse and underprotection, combined with tightening fiscal restrictions on governments' abilities to respond. Consumers, local authorities and the private sector are becoming increasingly important actors in water management.

In 1994, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine registered the Dnipro Renaissance Fund as a non-governmental, non-profit institution. The major objective of the Fund is to mobilize and accumulate financial resources for environmental protection in the Dnipro ecosystem and to develop market mechanisms for the implementation of these projects. To achieve this, DRF:

- participates in the Dnipro Basin Rehabilitation and Potable Water Quality Improvement National Environmental Program as well as in the Ukrainian-Canadian Environmental Management Development in Ukraine (EMDU) Project;
- develops and implements its own environmental investment programs and projects, ensuring their direct financing;
- works to attract, accumulate, enhance, use effectively and repay state, non-governmental, private as well as foreign investments for the protection of the Dnipro River Basin, uses anti-inflationary mechanisms to protect these investments and promotes the creation of a market environment for them; and
- collaborates with domestic and international credit and financial agencies, investment institutions, unions, and funds for the benefit of the Dnipro Basin Rehabilitation Program.

The main stakeholders of the Fund include the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety of Ukraine (MEPNS); the Joint-stock Shipping Company "Ukrichflot"; Kyiv Regional People's Deputy Soviet; Ukrainian Scientific and Research Institute of Water Economy and Environmental Problems; and the Ukrainian Environmental Association of Prydniprovie (Dnipro region), Slavutych cities and regions.

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eration for the survival of mankind. Thus, IDRC activities in Zaporizhia, Dnipropetrovsk or other major cities in Ukraine can be expanded to deal with urban issues such as solid waste disposal, transportation, urban planning and air pollution.

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