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## Development aid policy

# France adapts its cooperation instruments



D.R.

*In response to the political, economic and social changes taking place in the countries of the South, France is reforming its cooperation instruments.*

**L**ike most of the OECD<sup>1</sup> member countries, France has decided to reform its cooperation instruments.

This is a response to the political, economic and social changes taking place in the countries of the South. Without abandoning the historical and political links between our country and its natural partners on the African continent, French development aid is extending towards the whole of the developing world.

Globalization of trade and globalization of challenges have become the rule of the day. A situation which has made it necessary to adapt the goals and support measures of our development aid system to the new expectations of our partners.

All the services in charge of international cooperation have been regrouped within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to meet these requirements for efficiency and clarity. The reform is completed by the role of the French Development Agency as the pivotal organization for the priority solidarity area, and by the reform of protocols.

To respond more effectively to the new challenges, international cooperation requires a high standard of knowhow and expertise. It also aims to develop partnerships with public and private players in all fields. The role of a supporting organization such as Isted, whose importance is enhanced by the reform, is to strengthen this approach.

I therefore attach considerable importance to providing real time information for members of networks in continual contact not only with our local country representations but also with businesses, local authorities and the various practitioners in the field.

**François Nicoullaud,**  
Director General for International  
Cooperation and Development

<sup>1</sup> Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

## A new lease of life

*The reform of French development aid, which was announced in February 1998, is now being phased in. The new administrative organization has been in place since the beginning of the year and the interministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development (CICID) has just held its first meeting. Therefore the time has come to review the key areas of this reform.*

**T**he reform of the development aid policy? "It is complete as regards the organization chart. It is in progress for some of the practical measures. An important stage was naturally the meeting of the interministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development<sup>1</sup>", declared recently the Minister in charge of Cooperation, Charles Josselin.

This reform, which has been in progress for more than a year, is guided by four major principles:

- strengthen the unity of development and coordination of France's cooperation aid,
- improve its efficiency and modernize its procedures,
- promote partnerships and develop complementarity,
- provide a clearer understanding of France's development aid work and broaden the participation of civil society.

In concrete terms, the reform has rationalized cooperation around two focal points: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Quai d'Orsay) and the French Development Agency (AFD) a body under the dual authority of the Ministries of Economy and Finance (Bercy) and Foreign Affairs.

The most "spectacular" measure was thus the disappearance of the Secretary of State's department for Cooperation and Francophonie and its integration into Quai d'Orsay. The Minister in charge of Cooperation is now attached to the Minister of Foreign Affairs who has authority over all the departments. Uniting the administrative structures within a "single diplomatic unit" has already resulted in the creation of the Directorate General of International Cooperation and Development (see organization chart) and the transfer of the military cooperation mission to Quai d'Orsay.

Abroad, the 31 cooperation and cultural action missions of the former Secretary of State for Cooperation will gradually be transferred into the cooperation departments in the embassies. "The tasks will consist in the general monitoring of the cooperation programme in their country of residence and the direct management of administrative and institutional cooperation operations, the social development fund and cultural activities", explained the Minister of Foreign Affairs<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Interview by the weekly magazine *Marchés Tropicaux* of 5 February 1999.

<sup>2</sup> *The reform of the French Development Aid System*, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Francophonie, 1998.

All the appropriations are presented to Parliament in a single budget. However, the development aid and investment credits, which include the Aid and Cooperation Fund (FAC)<sup>3</sup>, are identified and presented by the Minister in charge.

### Focusing aid

The aid itself (47 billion francs for 1999) is rationalized. It is concentrated into the "priority solidarity area" comprising the least developed countries in terms of income which have no access to the capital markets. A list of 58 countries (see box) was thus announced on 11 February by the Minister in charge of Cooperation, Charles Josselin.

In addition to the 36 already-listed countries benefiting from FAC appropriations<sup>4</sup>, are African English-speaking countries such as South Africa and Uganda, countries in the Caribbean area, the Indochina peninsula, the Maghreb, the Near East and the Pacific. The list of priority solidarity area countries can be reassessed each year. There is already some question of adding Nigeria to the list.

Within this area, "cooperation with each country will be in the form of a partnership and development agreement. This agreement will stipulate the fields such as development, cultural action, military cooperation and control of migratory movements within a multi-year framework, together with the methods of implementing and monitoring the development aid<sup>5</sup>".

Aid will be rationalized through an interministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development<sup>6</sup>. This committee was set up by ...

ISTED/VED



The cooperation system draws on many specialized organizations such as Isted for the public works and environment sectors.

<sup>3</sup> The Aid and Cooperation Fund (FAC), introduced in 1959, is the main cooperation investment aid instrument. It finances grants for 3 categories of projects: State projects, inter-State projects and projects in the public interest.

<sup>4</sup> see note 3.

<sup>5</sup> see note 2.

<sup>6</sup> This committee (CICID) has replaced the interministerial development aid committee (CIAD).

## Ministry of Economy and Finance The protocol reform

"Bercy" has just presented a reform of public funding under French development aid policy, together with the new foreign investment aid system for SMEs.

The reform of the French development aid system differentiates between two areas. The first is the priority solidarity area (see feature article) which concerns low-income countries. It corresponds to the geographical aid environment of the French Development Agency (AFD). The second, the economic partnership area, groups together middle-income countries. This is the focus of the new action plan from the Ministry of Economy and Finance. "We have shifted from a country-based logic to a project-based logic. It is the inherent interest of a project and its real leverage effect which will primarily determine our action", explained Jacques Dondoux, Secretary of State for Foreign Trade<sup>1</sup>. The aids granted by Bercy are now concentrated on a list of fifteen emerging countries, which is updated each year<sup>2</sup>. They are provided through new or revitalized methods: financial protocols under the Emerging Countries Reserve, and the private sector studies and assistance fund (Fasep) backed by a guarantee fund.

**The Emerging Countries Reserve** originated in the financial protocol reform of 1998. It comes within the scope of public aid for development and is accordingly intended for projects that contribute to the economic progress of borrower countries. It also aims to help French companies to occupy strategic positions on the export market. In 1998, it financed 26 projects in 8 countries. The main sectors involved were transport, water, energy and the environment.

**Fasep-études** helps to finance pre-project studies, technical assistance services and economic or financial institutional cooperation activities. Since its beginnings at the end of 1996, it has funded nearly 180 projects amounting to F 460 million.

**Fasep-garantie** is the most recent of these funds. It is intended to "help to establish and develop SMEs in countries of the partnership area (emerging countries and those in transition) and in Japan, through a guarantee fund<sup>3</sup>. This fund, which is jointly managed by the SME Development Bank through its subsidiary Sofaris, the AFD and Coface, is provided with 200 million francs worth of resources. It has two facets, one dedicated to "equity transaction guarantees" and the other to "credit transaction guarantees" (at this stage, it has only been attributed to one country, Tunisia).

### Further information can be obtained from:

Ministry of Economy and Finance  
Directorate of Foreign Economic Relations (DREE)  
139, rue de Bercy  
75572 Paris Cedex 12  
France  
Tel. 33 (0)1 40 04 04 04  
Internet: <http://www.dree.org>

<sup>1</sup> Meeting for the presentation of the protocol reform to businesses and the press, Ministry of Economy and Finance, 17 March 1999.

<sup>2</sup> List of countries selected in 1998: South Africa, Brazil, China, Colombia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, (Lebanon), Morocco, Philippines, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Vietnam.

<sup>3</sup> see note 1.

## The French Development Agency Principal operator

The Caisse Française de Développement (CFD) has been promoted to "key operator" of the new French development aid system and renamed Agence Française de Développement (AFD - French Development Agency). It retains its status as a public body and specialized financial institution governed by the 1974 Banking Act. And it remains under the dual authority of the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

However, its scope for assistance has been extended to include the financing of health and education infrastructures. These formerly came under the Department of the Secretary of State for Development Aid, on whose behalf the Agency covers financing in the following sectors:

- economic development,
- economic and transport infrastructure,
- social infrastructure (health, education),
- the environment.

The AFD group also helps to finance the private sector.

Under the guidelines laid down by CICID, most of the development aid projects and programmes will thus be handled by AFD. The Administration retains direct management of operations coming mainly under the sovereignty of the State (justice, economic administration, defence, police, etc.).

The Agency's geographical aid environment corresponds to the priority solidarity area, but this does not exclude ad hoc operations in other countries.

As regards its supervisory capacity, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stresses that "the present powers of the Supervisory Board remain unchanged, as does its membership: three members for Foreign Affairs, two for Economy and Finance, one for overseas France, three eligible personalities, two deputies, one senator and two labour representatives<sup>1</sup>".

The AFD budgetary resources are listed in the budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "They are made available according to a scheduling and annual delegation procedure which ensures continuity of action and the effective control

of public resources. The Ministry of Economy and Finance fixes the borrowing and lending ceilings, margins, and subsidies for management of the agency, together with the guarantees associated with its aid".

*This guide, a real invitation to a journey to the centre of AFD, was published in 1998.*



### Further information can be obtained from:

AFD

5, rue Roland Barthes  
75598 Paris Cedex 12  
France

Tel. 33 (0)1 53 44 31 31  
Fax 33 (0)1 44 87 99 39  
Internet: <http://www.afd.fr>

<sup>1</sup> The reform of the French Development Aid System, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Francophonie, 1998

... a decree of 4 February 1998 and held its first meeting on 28 January to define the limits of the priority solidarity area based on political and economic criteria.

The CICID meets at least once a year to coordinate the action of the seven ministers chiefly concerned<sup>7</sup>. It is chaired by the Prime Minister and its secretariat is conducted jointly by Quai d'Orsay and Bercy. A representative of the President of the Republic takes part in the work which covers all international bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

The committee ensures that the geographic and sectoral priorities of the various components of French cooperation are consistent, draws up the guidelines of a comprehensive programme and assesses whether the aid is consistent with objectives. "In conjunction with the Interministerial Committee for State Resources abroad (CIMEE), it compiles information on the volume, nature, use and geographic distribution of public development aid resources. It identifies the resources allocated to African and francophone States. CICID will produce an annual report to evaluate the efficiency of international cooperation and development aid<sup>8</sup>".

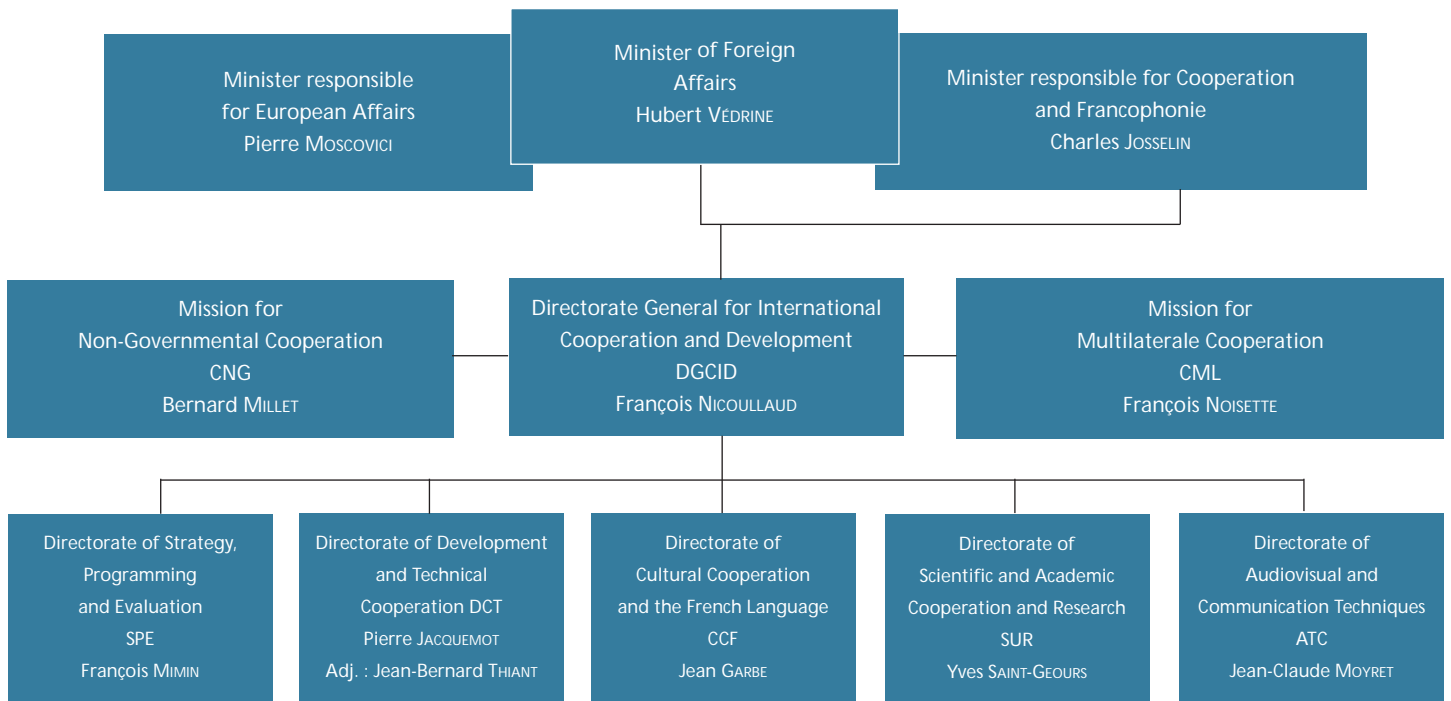
### A precise distribution of tasks

Although the political level of developing, monitoring, evaluating and controlling development aid activities is the Administration's responsibility, the implementation and direct management tasks are entrusted to qualified operators. The French Development Agency (ex-CFD) has been designated as the key operator, to which most of the development aid projects and programmes are referred (see box). The development aid system also calls on the services of many other public bodies specializing in development aid and able to respond to specific situations:

- research institutions such as Cirad (International cooperation centre on agronomical research for development, Inserm (National institute for health and medical research), Institut Pasteur and IRD (Research Institute for Development) (IRD, formerly Orstom),
- training establishments such as CHEAM (Centre for advanced studies on contemporary Africa and Asia), IEDES (Institute for economic and social studies and development) and IIAP (International public administration institute),
- AEFÉ (Agency for French education abroad) for primary and secondary education,
- Audecam (University association for development, education and communication in Africa and throughout the world) for teaching resources,

<sup>7</sup> Ministry of Employment and Solidarity, Ministry of National Education, Research and Technology, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Environment.

<sup>8</sup> see note 2.



The organization chart of the new Directorate General of International Cooperation and Development (DGCID).

- Afaa (University association for artistic action) for artistic exchanges,
- Africa in creation,
- CIES (International centre for students and trainees), CNOUS (National centre for university and school benefit schemes) which assists grant holders,

- design offices such as BDPA and BCEOM (French engineering company),
- BRGM (geological and mining research office),
- CFCE (French centre for foreign trade),
- Isted for the public works and environment sectors.

Another new entrant is the High Council for International Cooperation (HCCI), an advisory body of representatives from international solidarity associations, local authorities, foundations, professional groups, academics, researchers, experts, journalists, etc. It was set up for two reasons: to broaden the participation of civil society and to foster a clearer understanding of the development aid policy. ●

Further information can be obtained from:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
 Directorate of Communication and Information  
 37, Quai d'Orsay  
 75700 Paris 07 SP  
 France  
 Tel. 33 (0)1 43 17 53 53  
 Fax 33 (0)1 43 17 52 03  
 Internet:  
<http://www.France.diplomatie.fr>

### The 58 countries of the priority solidarity area <sup>(1)</sup>

#### Africa

South Africa, Algeria, *Angola*<sup>(2)</sup>, *Benin*, *Burkina Faso*, *Burundi*, *Cameroon*, *Cape Verde*, *Comoros*, *Congo*, *Ivory Coast*, *Djibouti*, *Eritrea*, *Ethiopia*, *Gabon*, *Gambia*, *Ghana*, *Guinea*, *Guinea-Bissau*, *Equatorial Guinea*, *Kenya*, *Liberia*, *Madagascar*, *Mali*, *Morocco*, *Mauritius*, *Mauritania*, *Mozambique*, *Namibia*, *Niger*, *Uganda*, *Central African Republic*, *Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)*, *Rwanda*, *Sao Tomé and Príncipe*, *Senegal*, *Seychelles*, *Sierra Leone*, *Tanzania*, *Chad*, *Togo*, *Tunisia*, *Zimbabwe*

#### Southeast Asia

*Cambodia*, *Laos*, *Vietnam*

#### The Caribbean

*Cuba*, *Dominica*, *Grenada*, *Haiti*, *Dominican Republic*, *Saint Christopher Nevis*, *Saint Lucia*, *Saint Vincent and the Grenadines*, *Surinam*

#### Pacific

*Vanuatu*

#### Near East

*Lebanon*, *Palestine*

<sup>1</sup> List drawn up by the first interministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development (CICID) on 28 January 1999.

<sup>2</sup> The 36 countries within the "traditional scope" of the FAC are in *italiques*.

# Information

## News

### TWO NEW ISTD MEMBERS

Two new members have just joined Isted: International Équipement Développement (IED) and the Groupe Huit.

IED, which specializes in the trade and sale of industrial products, and in setting up and developing distribution networks on behalf of French and European companies, realizes 90% of its business on the export market. It is developing three main activities: export for industries, financing, partnership and cooperation.

The Groupe Huit aids governments, local authorities and national and international funding agencies, mainly in the fields of land use planning, urban development and municipal management.

If you would like more information on the 49 Isted members, you can consult the institute's site at the following address:

<http://www.isted.3ct.com>

► **Contact:**

ISTED  
Richard Di Benedetto  
Members Relations  
La Grande Arche, Paroi Sud  
92055 La Défense Cedex  
France  
Tel. 33 (0)1 40 81 27 84  
Fax 33 01 40 81 23 31  
E-mail  
[marie-helene.brunel@i.carre.net](mailto:marie-helene.brunel@i.carre.net)  
Internet: <http://www.isted.3ct.com>

### INDIGO BASE: THE IMAGE BANK OF THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT



The Indigo base, set up in 1995, is developing into a network and is centralizing a selection of transparencies in Paris. These iconographic documents can not only be used as general illustrations but also as work aids. Here, an image is more than an illustration of observations. It is in itself a research and analysis instrument. The photographs presented cover the entire tropical zone (from Africa to Asia and from America to Oceania) and all the research fields of scientists from the Research Institute for Development (IRD, formerly Orstom): social sciences (work, urbanization, etc.), water and earth sciences, environment, natural resource development, tropical plant genetics, health... 5,000 digital photos are added to the base each year from a unique stock of more than 70,000 photos taken and captioned by the scientists.

These documents can be consulted and obtained locally or ordered through the Inserm scientific image server, SERIMEDIS (<http://www.serimedis.tm.fr>). Enquiries and orders can be sent directly by electronic mail.

► **Contact:**

IRD  
Claire Lissalde or Danièle Cavanna  
213, rue La Fayette  
75480 Paris Cedex 10  
Tel. 33 (0)1 48 03 78 99  
E-mail [lissalde@paris.ird.fr](mailto:lissalde@paris.ird.fr)  
Internet: <http://www.ird.fr>

## Events

### INTELLIGENT TRANSPORT SYSTEMS



The Congress and Exhibition on Intelligent Transport Systems, "ITS in Europe 99" will be held from 14 to 17 June 1999 in Amsterdam (Netherlands) The main themes on the agenda are: intelligent transport systems (ITS) and their use in urban areas, in the regions, in and around airports, in and around ports, and their linkage with tourism. For the exhibition, Isted will coordinate a French pavilion at the request of the Directorate of Road Safety and Traffic (DSCR) of the Ministry of Public Works.

► **Contact:**

**for the congress:**  
ITS Congress Association  
Avenue Louise, 326  
B-1050 Brussels  
Belgium  
Tel. (32 2) 400 07 00  
Fax (32 2) 400 07 01  
E-mail  
[m.fenoulhet@mail.ertico.com](mailto:m.fenoulhet@mail.ertico.com)  
Internet: <http://www.ertico.com/>

**for the exhibition:**

ISTED  
Richard Di Benedetto  
La Grande Arche,  
Paroi Sud  
92055 La Défense Cedex  
France  
Tel. 33 (0)1 40 81 27 84  
Fax 33 (0)1 40 81 23 31  
E-mail  
[marie-helene.brunel@i.carre.net](mailto:marie-helene.brunel@i.carre.net)  
Internet:  
<http://www.isted.3ct.com>

### WORLD ROAD CONGRESS



Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) will host the XXI<sup>st</sup> World Road Congress of PIARC (World Road Association) from 3 to 9 October 1999. More than 3,500 delegates are expected from all over the world. In conjunction with the congress, a vast exhibition (more than 9,000 m<sup>2</sup>) will be held on road engineering. Some important sectors of road industry activity will head the bill: building and maintenance techniques, planning and design, service industries in the road sector, suppliers and manufacturers, research and development centres, monitoring. For this occasion, a French pavilion will be coordinated by Isted.

► **Contact:**

**for the congress:**  
PIARC  
Congress Secretariat  
PWD Headquarters  
Jalan Sultan Salahuddin  
50582 Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia  
E-mail  
[piarc99@hq.jkr.gov.my](mailto:piarc99@hq.jkr.gov.my)  
Internet:  
<http://www.jkr.gov.my/jln/piarc99>  
**for the exhibition:**  
ISTED  
Marie-Hélène Brunel  
La Grande Arche,  
Paroi Sud  
92055 La Défense Cedex  
France  
Tel. 33 (0)1 40 81 24 87  
Fax 33 (0)1 40 81 23 31  
E-mail  
[marie-helene.brunel@i.carre.net](mailto:marie-helene.brunel@i.carre.net)  
Internet:  
<http://www.isted.3ct.com>



Four years after the devaluation of the CFA franc, CFME-Actim (Agency for international promotion of French technologies and businesses) is organizing a French industrial and commercial exhibition in West Africa. "France Technologies 99" is its name and it will take place in Abidjan (Ivory Coast) from 5 to 9 October 1999. All the capital goods and services sectors will be represented there. This event meets several objectives:

- optimize French technology and knowhow as an answer to local development requirements of businesses in West and Central Africa,
- enable efficient new French businesses to develop a flow of business on these markets,
- encourage the revival of investments and industrial and commercial partnerships with Ivory Coast and the countries in this region.

200 French exhibitors are expected at this exhibition, among which are many locally-established French or Franco-Ivorian businesses.

► **Contact:**

CFME Actim  
Thierry Boquien,  
commissioner general  
10, avenue d'Iéna  
75783 Paris Cedex 16 – France  
Tel. 33 (0)1 40 73 31 81  
Fax 33 (0)1 40 73 39 69  
E-mail tboquien@cfme-actim.com

## CODATU IX



The city of Mexico will be hosting the World Conference

on Urban Transport, Codatu IX, from 11 to 14 April 2000.

"Urban travel and the environment" is the principal theme chosen for this event organized by the Codatu Association (Cooperation for Development and Planning of Urban and Peri-urban Transport). The aim is to highlight the structuring that will be necessary between travel policies and environmental policies. It will focus on both the goals and the means of implementing these policies.

► **Contact:**

Codatu IX  
Scientific Committee  
9-11, avenue de Villars  
75007 Paris  
France  
Fax 3 (0)1 44 18 78 04  
E-mail  
christian.jamet@stp-paris.fr

## Training

### CEBTP 1999 TRAINING COURSES



The experimental centre for building and public works research and studies (CEBTP) has just published its catalogue Formation 1999. It covers the main areas of activity of the building sector: acoustics, work management, urban planning and building law, environment, foundations, materials, soil mechanics, pathologies, quality, regulations, rehabilitation, finishing, structures, earthworks, heat engineering.

► **Contact:**

CEBTP  
Training Department  
Domaine de Saint-Paul  
B.P. 37  
78470 Saint-Rémy-lès-Chevreuse  
France  
Tel. 33 (0)1 30 85 24 90  
fax 33 (0)1 30 85 24 87  
E-mail info@cebtp.fr  
Internet: <http://www.cebtp.fr>

### NEW COURSES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE FOR WATER

In 1999, the International Office for Water (OIEau) is offering professionals 136 training sessions including 16 new courses. They will all be given by the National Training Centre for Water Professions (CNFME) and will be organized around three specialized catalogues:

- trades in the drinking water and sanitation sector,
- water treatment in industry,
- water in surface treatment workshops.

The OIEau lays emphasis on new enabling themes: drinking water treatment and supply, sanitation, self-monitoring of networks and sewage treatment plants, quality assurance and environmental management, hydraulic monitoring of watercourses, probes on drinking water treatment and purification plants, the regulatory framework, water in industry.

► **Contact:**

CNFME  
OIEau  
Rue Édouard Chamberland  
87065 Limoges Cedex – France  
Tel. 33 (0)5 55 11 47 70  
Fax 33 (0)5 55 77 71 15  
E-mail cnfme@oieau.fr  
<http://www.oieau.fr>

### COLLEGE OF ADVANCED ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

The aim of the College of Advanced Environmental Studies (CHEE) is to provide senior managers and decision-makers with references and further knowledge on the political, legal, economic and sociological dimensions of the environment and sustainable development. CHEE proposes:

- one core session (from November to June),
- strategic seminars (1 or 2 days) on current issues,
- special "intra" sessions designed specifically for large

companies, professional organizations and administrations.

- bilateral sessions organized with foreign countries including Morocco, Tunisia, Ivory Coast and Lebanon. The first part of the Franco-Moroccan bilateral session "Environment and sustainable development", within the framework of "1999, Morocco's time in France", was organized by CHEE and the General Confederation of Moroccan Businesses (CGEM) from 23 to 25 March in France. This session opened with a seminar on "Cooperation and Sustainable Development" – Moroccan and French approaches". The second part is scheduled for 1 to 4 June 1999 in Casablanca. It will provide an opportunity for French participants to adopt a better approach to Moroccan environmental problems.

The college also organizes regular round tables and seminars and a summer school devoted to sustainable development.

► **Contact:**

CHEE  
Institut de l'Environnement  
Léonard de Vinci  
92916 La Défense Cedex – France  
Tel. 33 (0)1 41 16 73 23  
Fax 33 (0)1 41 16 73 28  
E-mail jacques.bregeon@devinci.fr

## Publications

### VILLES EN DEVELOPPEMENT: EFFICIENCY OF URBAN SERVICES



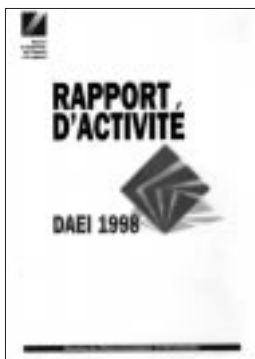
The subjects featured in the 42nd issue of Villes en

Développement on urban services are: private financing of transport infrastructure; delegated management of France's public service: a retrospective; management and charging systems for water and sanitation; the public water service for disadvantaged people.

► **Contact:**

Isted/Villes en Développement  
Christiane Rebel  
La Grande Arche  
92055 La Défense Cedex  
France  
Tel. 33 (0)1 40 81 15 74  
Fax 33 (0)1 40 81 15 99  
E-mail  
ved@isted.3ct.com  
Internet:  
<http://www.isted.3ct.com>

**DAEI 1998 ACTIVITY REPORT**



The Directorate of Economic and International Affairs (DAEI) of the Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Housing, has drawn on its own resources to publish its first activity report. This document aims to provide better insight into the missions of this directorate and to help set up the conditions for an evaluation, in-house at first, of its activities.

► **Contact:**

Ministry of Public Works  
Directorate of Economic and International Affairs  
La Grande Arche, Paroi Sud  
La Défense Cedex  
France  
Tel. 33 (0)1 40 81 27 75  
Fax 33 (0)1 40 81 27 81  
Internet:  
<http://www.equipement.gouv.fr>

**SNCF INTERNATIONAL**

A presentation brochure of "SNCF International", the new company in the SNCF group (French Railway Company) has just been

published. SNCF International was set up last year and embodies its parent company's commitment to become involved in the operation and management of networks abroad and to invest in concessioning or creating railway lines.

► **Contact:**

SNCF International  
5, rue de Florence  
75008 Paris  
France  
Tel. 33 (0)1 53 25 63 42  
Fax 33 (0)1 53 25 63 63  
E-mail  
sncf-international@compuserve.com

**ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITY AT THE "CETE DE L'OUEST"**



This brochure presents the new organizational structure called "Environmental diagonal", developed by the West Region Public Works Engineering Centre. It is a horizontal structure which brings together all the centre's environmental specialists. It must be able to respond to all concerns relating to general studies. The specialist fields are: floods and river development, sanitation, atmospheric pollution, noise, waste, geological hazards, natural environment, town planning and sustainable planning, landscapes.

► **Contact:**

Cete de l'Ouest  
M.A.N.  
Rue René Viviani  
B.P. 46223  
44262 Nantes Cedex 2  
France  
Tel. 33 (0)2 40 12 83 40  
Fax 33 (0)2 40 12 84 44  
E-mail  
cete-ouest@equipement.gouv.fr

**GUIDE TO ISTD**



To provide a clearer insight into Isted, a full-colour guide has just been published. The reader will find core information on the association's missions and objectives. Together with practical information for contacting the relevant people. The guide can be obtained free of charge from the Communication Department upon request.

► **Contact:**

ISTED  
Communication Department  
La Grande Arche,  
Paroi Sud  
92055 La Défense Cedex  
France  
Tel. 33 (0)1 40 81 27 84  
Fax 33 (0)1 40 81 23 31  
E-mail.  
marie-helene.brunel@i.carre.net  
Internet :  
<http://www.isted.3ct.com>

*ISTED, a non-profit-making body, provides a forum for ideas, information and action at the service of its partners in the public and private sectors of public works, development and the environment. It aims to promote French expertise at international level and to disseminate scientific and technical information.*

**ISTED members**

- ISTED members  
ACT CONSULTANTS  
ADP  
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BCEOM  
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CEBTP  
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