

The MAIN Link



Société de coopération pour le développement international

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEEK

— FEATURE ARTICLE



◀ LEFT TO RIGHT, SOCODEVI Director General Réjean Lantagne, Josée Verner, Minister of International Co-operation and Minister for La Francophonie and Official Languages, and SOCODEVI President Alain Leclerc.

AGENDA

Training session on international cooperation
April 26 and 27, 2007

SOCODEVI Annual General Meeting
June 8, 2007 at the Manoir Montmorency in Quebec City: spotlight on Paraguay!

1st SOCODEVI Foundation golf tournament
August 23 at the Godefroy Golf Club (Bécancour, Qc.). You can sign up now at www.socodevi.org/fondation. An invitation from Agropur and the SOCODEVI Foundation.

SOCODEVI TO RECEIVE 14.5 MILLION DOLLARS OVER FIVE YEARS FROM CIDA AN AGREEMENT FOR AN EFFECTIVE COOPERATIVE AND MUTUALIST PARTNERSHIP



Bakary Traoré, SOCODEVI coordinator in Mali, with the Honourable Josée Verner

The excitement was palpable during the traditional breakfast marking the beginning of International Development Week 2007. Speaking to 180 members of the SOCODEVI network and representatives from the medias, the Honourable Josée Verner, Minister of International Co-operation and Minister for La Francophonie and Official Languages, made a much awaited announcement of the 5-year renewal of an agreement between the Canadian Partnership Branch of CIDA and SOCODEVI, resulting in a \$14.5 million dollar contribution to our organization.

“The work accomplished by SOCODEVI has helped empower citizens in developing countries and ensure their self-sufficiency and long-term economic sustainability. These projects have greatly improved their quality of life and opened the way to a better future for them,” stated the Minister.

Mali was the featured country at this year’s breakfast. We welcomed Bakary Traoré, SOCODEVI coordinator at our office in Bamako, the capital of Mali. In addition, *Un fleuve de volonté*, a documentary made in Mali in 2006, was premiered (read the article in this issue).

(SEE PAGE 2)

SOCODEVI’s member institutions



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(FROM PAGE 1)



The President of the SOCODEVI Foundation, André Lamothe, meets the Honourable Josée Verner.

Towards reducing poverty

The funds provided under the agreement between the Canadian Partnership Branch of CIDA and SOCODEVI will enable us to set up a Partnership Program to link the

Canadian cooperative and mutualist movement with the cooperative and mutualist movements in over a dozen developing countries.

To be launched in April 2007, the SOCODEVI Cooperative Partnership Program targets two main goals:

1. that cooperative and mutualist movements in the countries concerned generate greater economic activity, with more effective organizations attaining greater profitability and providing better services to their members and the community at large.
2. that cooperative and mutualist movements exert greater influence within civil society and on governments to generate more impact in their milieu.

One of the main delivery strategies for the Cooperative Partnership Program will be to set up local guidance committees in the main countries concerned: Bolivia, Cameroon, Guatemala, Honduras, Mali, Senegal and Vietnam. These committees will be in charge of planning and follow up for activities.

The new program was created to address one of the main development challenges, the reduction of poverty. The ultimate goal remains the same one that has driven us for 22 years now: improving living conditions for the poorest in developing countries.

AWARENESS TOUR THROUGHOUT OUR NETWORK OF MEMBER INSTITUTIONS TRAVELLING OVER 1000 KILOMETRES TO INFORM HUNDREDS OF INDIVIDUALS



International Development Week 2007 is synonymous with SOCODEVI's awareness tour. From February 5 to 20, Socodevi met with more than 400 individuals from eight member institutions at various events. During these encounters, organized in collaboration with our partners, participants learned more about Mali and SOCODEVI's program in that country. In order to better demonstrate our activities in Mali, the video *Un fleuve de volonté* was shown and our Malian coordinator, Bakary Traoré, was present at each meeting to answer questions.



DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Canadians are among the largest consumers of water in the world. Our consumption per inhabitant is almost double that of other industrialized countries, with the exception of the United States. Each Canadian consumes an average of 622 litres of water a day, while in countries such as Mozambique the average daily consumption is less than 10 litres.

Sources: Environment Canada, 2005. UNDP Human Development Report, 2006.

MEMBER INSTITUTION SUPPORT



DOCUMENTARY ON SOCODEVI ACTIVITIES IN MALI

UN FLEUVE DE VOLONTÉ

Filmed in Mali in November 2006 during an awareness mission organized by SOCODEVI, *Un fleuve de volonté* provides an overview of the activities undertaken by our organization in this country. The documentary also reveals the determination of the people of Mali and their desire to take control of their own destiny. From Zantiébougou to Bamako, from Ségou to Sikasso, the video offers images of the impressive efforts undertaken by our partners and the SOCODEVI team. Produced with financial support from CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) and in collaboration with Reflet Vidéo, *Un fleuve de volonté* is available on DVD at our head office in Quebec City. For more information, contact Pedro Rodríguez at (418) 683-7225 or by email at p.rodriguez@socodevi.org



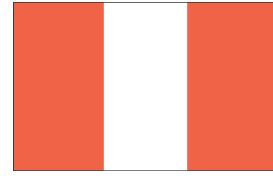
Support for planning the new Cooperative Partnership Program in Cameroon – **Fédération québécoise des coopératives forestières**

In April 2007, SOCODEVI will launch its new Cooperative Partnership Program in Cameroon and in all the other countries where it is active. In November 2006, Dany Savoie, from the Association Coopérative Forestière Saint-Elzéar, traveled to Cameroon with Richard Trudel, forestry program manager at SOCODEVI, to carry out a support mission. The mission goal was to initiate startup of the Cooperative Partnership Program and hold a first meeting with the local committee helping SOCODEVI fine-tune its forestry program in this country.



Support for setting up a health insurance mutual in Mali – **SSQ, mutuelle de gestion**

Preparations for the official launch of the health insurance mutual continued with a support mission carried out by Christian Lamarre, January 19 to 27. The mission included a workshop to provide information and promote the future mutual. Christian Lamarre, actuary at SSQ-Mutuelle de gestion, participated as advisor for questions on financial and actuarial aspects.



Support for the installation of a wood processing centre in Peru – **Fédération québécoise des coopératives forestières**

From February 11 to 23, 2007, René Babin, of the coopérative forestière Baie-des-Chaleurs and President of the Fédération québécoise des coopératives forestières, took part in a support mission in the Cajamarca region of Peru for our partner ADEFOR (Asociación civil para la Investigación y el Desarrollo Forestal). This initiative is focused on advisory support for drawing up a business plan dealing with installation of a wood processing centre. René Babin was accompanied by Guy Gilbert, a SOCODEVI consultant, throughout his stay in Peru.

CHANGES ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

A new active member, the **Fédération des coopératives d'alimentation du Québec**

SOCODEVI now has a new active member, the FCAQ (Fédération des coopératives d'alimentation du Québec). Marcel Pichette will represent the FCAQ and will sit on the SOCODEVI Board of Directors. SOCODEVI has two categories of members: active members and associate members. Members of both categories contribute to our projects. The main difference is that active members are involved in the decision-making process since they have a seat on the Board of Directors.

In addition to the arrival of a new member, Gaétan Jodoin replaces Denis Vallée as Agropur representative on the SOCODEVI Board of Directors. Gaétan Jodoin has been a member of the Agropur Board of Directors since 1996.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Pierre Arsenault, of the Fédération des coopératives d'alimentation du Québec, shares a few moments with youngsters in the village of San.

AWARENESS MISSION TO THE LAND OF THE KARITE TREE

From November 24 to December 3, 2006, Josée Milot (**Fédération des coopératives de développement régional du Québec**), Becky Jean-Claude Masabarakiza (**IRECUS**) and Pierre Arsenault (**Fédération des coopératives d'alimentation du Québec**) enjoyed an unforgettable experience. As the winners of the *Make Development Last* contest, the 4th awareness contest organized by SOCODEVI, they had the opportunity to discover the enchantment of Mali and the activities carried out by SOCODEVI in this sub-Saharan African country.

They were accompanied by Pedro Rodríguez, communications officer at SOCODEVI and the team from Reflet Vidéo who filmed the documentary *Un fleuve de volonté*.

The contest winners expressed the excitement they experienced during their travels in Mali:

"The people fascinated me. Among other things, it was incredible to see how hard women in Mali work, they are very determined."

JOSÉE MILOT

"The people of Mali want to take charge of their lives and SOCODEVI provides them with the necessary tools. The things I saw there made me want to come back here and see what I can do to help them." BECKY

JEAN-CLAUDE MASABARAKIZA

"I saw a people who were united. They are an inspiration for us. I came back to Québec enriched by the experience and, above all, convinced of the important role Canada and SOCODEVI play in Mali."

PIERRE ARSENAULT

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The SOCODEVI Foundation

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My contribution: 20\$ 30\$ 50\$ 100\$ 500\$ 1000\$ Other: _____

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To obtain more information about SOCODEVI Foundation, please e-mail us at: info@socodevi.org

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