

International Co-operation Year (1965)

What is the purpose of ICY?

ICY is an opportunity for people and private organizations throughout the world to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the United Nations by focusing attention on the many existing programs involving international co-operation and by stimulating new plans and projects in which groups with many varied interests can become involved. The UN Preparatory Committee for ICY is hopeful that by devoting a year to International Co-operation (especially emphasizing the wide spread and extensive international activities of non-governmental organizations) there can be increased world understanding, thereby facilitating the settlement of some of the major international problems.

How did ICY start?

A group of Canadian women first conceived the idea of an International Co-operation Year in 1961. Prime Minister Nehru of India proposed the idea to the UN in the fall of 1962.

The UN General Assembly unanimously adopted the ICY resolutions in November, 1963, and urges governmental and voluntary organizations in all member states to publicize ICY and formulate plans and programs for promotion.

What U. N. machinery is there for carrying out ICY?

An ICY Committee of 12 Member States has its secretariat in the Secretary-General's office. Canada is a member of the committee; Ambassador Enkell of Finland is its Chairman; Mr. Peter Dobell of Canada is its Rapporteur. The UN Committee does not undertake or endorse particular projects, but rather urges the formation of national committees in all member states and assists with dissemination of information.

What is Canada's Response to ICY?

Canada has been a prime mover in ICY since its beginning. Hon. Paul Tremblay, Canadian Permanent Representative to the U.N., has said: "We believe that this year should enable individuals and groups in Canada and elsewhere who are engaged in international co-operation to gain increasing recognition and public support for their work. It should permit them to consolidate or expand their existing activities and perhaps to develop new activities."

The Minister of External Affairs, Hon. Paul Martin has said: "Canada has been closely associated with the preparation for International Co-operation Year since its inception and the government is firmly behind the idea. We intend to give it full and vigorous support."

What Canadian machinery has been created?

On January 22, 1964, International Co-operation Year (Canada) a committee composed of 12 representatives of voluntary organizations and 17 individuals (with power to add to its members) was established with Dr. J. Roby Kidd as its Chairman. Its functions are to (a) arrange for public information about all aspects of international co-operation, (b) to review program suggestions and, where possible, support and encourage those who can implement them, and (c) to administer one or more selected national projects.

What can organizations do for ICY?

Some examples (by no means exhaustive) of voluntary organization projects are:

- a) Overseas Book Centre — books for the developing countries.

Primary Sponsor: Overseas Institute of Canada, 151 Bloor St. W., Toronto.

- b) International Centre for the University of Toronto.

Primary Sponsor: Toronto Rotary Clubs.

- c) Africa library project.

Primary Sponsors: Marianopolis College and Collège Ste. Marie, Montreal.

- d) Canadian participation in Universal Women's Project "Sharing Our Care for Children".

Primary Sponsor: Women's International Liaison Committee for ICY.

- e) Canadian Conference on International Development (early 1965) as national ICY event.

Primary Sponsors: National Committee on Canada's Participation in Social Development Abroad — Overseas Institute of Canada.

How can organizations and individuals obtain more information about ICY?

By contacting their local ICY committee (if applicable), the national office of their organization, or by writing directly to International Co-operation Year (Canada), 56 Sparks Street, Ottawa 4.