Nonprofits That Cultivate Development Are Merging

Three organizations associated with Rockefeller family philanthropic activities will merge to form the largest private nonprofit organization devoted to research and education on agriculture for Third World countries. The new entity, the Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development, will have its headquarters in Morrilton, Arkansas, some 70 miles west of Little Rock, on the farm owned by the late Winthrop Rockefeller, who was governor of Arkansas from 1967 to 1970.

The new institute will have an initial endowment of about $28.5 million and the Winthrop Rockefeller Charitable Trust has announced a $15-million challenge grant to the institute which will become available to match, dollar for dollar, funds that the institute succeeds in raising. In addition to the institute's headquarters at the Winrock farm, it will maintain offices in the Washington, D.C., area.

The three organizations being merged are the Winrock International Livestock Research and Training Center (WILRTC), the Agricultural Development Council (ADC) of New York City, and the International Agricultural Development Service (IADS) of Arlington, Virginia. The organizations together currently employ some 100 scientists and operate a variety of development and educational programs in more than 20 countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. In addition to work supported by their own funds, the three organizations last year operated under grants and contracts totalling about $41 million.

According to William M. Dietel, chairman of the nine-member merger committee formed by the three organizations, discussion of the merger began 3 years ago. Dietel said the organizations saw a merger as offering the prospect of additional assets that would increase discretionary funds.

IADS has gained a reputation for assisting less-developed countries to design programs to build up their agricultural research systems. Originally set up by the Rockefeller Foundation, IADS has been highly successful in winning contracts and grants, but has been less so in raising private funds.

The ADC was founded in 1953 by John D. Rockefeller 3rd to support the training of agricultural economists and other social scientists from Asian countries. The program is credited with training a generation of able Asian scholars who now hold influential posts in many governments, universities, and research institutions. The council has recently extended its program to China and sub-Saharan Africa and requires additional funding to support this expansion.

The Winrock livestock center conducts programs in livestock research, production, and marketing both in the United States and Third World countries. Dietel said that the center's staff are finding increasingly that to be effective in helping Third World countries with livestock problems it is necessary to integrate livestock into a total farming system. It would be advantageous for the center's staff to be able to draw on the expertise of the other organizations.

In commenting on the merger, Dietel, who is president of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, said, "The trustees of the three merging organizations believe, that with adequate financial support and strong leadership, this new nonprofit institution will, through its size, experience and recognized competence, become a major force in agricultural development whose assistance will be sought and respected throughout the world."—JOHN WALSH

Alternative Nobels for Third World Pioneers

A small international foundation has for the past 4 years been awarding "alternative Nobel prizes"—coinciding with award of the real ones—to lesser-known individuals who are working in creative ways to improve the human lot.

This year, the Right Livelihood Foundation, based in Britain, has selected four women to share the $50,000 award: a Philippine lawyer involved in prisoner rehabilitation; a Kenyan biologist who pioneered reforestation; an Indian who organizes home-based producers; and a Beirut school teacher and peace organizer.

The creator of the foundation is Jakob von Uexkull, a Swedish-German writer and alternate member of the European Parliament who lives on the Isle of Man. Uexkull sold his $500,000 stamp collection to provide the initial funding. He went ahead with his plan after the Nobel Foundation rejected his suggestion that an award be created to honor work "which is ecologically responsible and does not ignore the traditional wisdom of mankind, especially the knowledge of the Third World."

The foundation receives nominations from a far-flung network of contacts, and looks for recipients whose projects are at a stage in development where the relatively modest contribution can make a significant difference.

The awards are presented in Stockholm the day before the Nobel ceremonies. Past winners include renewable-energy experts Amory and Hunter Lovins; Petra Kelly, founder of the German Greens; Hassan Fathy, author of *Architecture for the Poor*; and Chilean "barefoot economist" Manfred Max-Neef, who works on community development.

—CONSTANCE HOLDEN

Crisis Manager Dies at 38

Richard Beal, the senior director for crisis management systems and planning at the White House, died on 2 November as a result of medical complications following heart surgery. A former professor of international relations at Brigham Young University, Beal, 38, was responsible for correcting some deficiencies in the collection and analysis of data needed for presidential decision-making during national crises. Over the last 2 years, he supervised the installation of computers capable of synthesizing cable traffic, intelligence reports, and news copy for the National Security Council, and developed a mechanism for presenting policy options to the President by means of televised graphics.

Earlier this year, he told *Science* that "national security planning is a myth"; that "information uncertainty is the normal course of a crisis"; and that no one had devised a reliable system for tracking the implementation of presidential decisions in crises. He said that few White House officials have any meaningful previous experience with crises and that, as a result, virtually no one at the highest levels of

government is capable of swiftly analyzing crucial intelligence. He also said that no one has systematically studied White House crisis management requirements, although this was a problem that he was trying to redress (*Science*, 31 August, p. 907).

No decision has been made yet on his successor.—**R. JEFFREY SMITH**

Pentagon Hit by New Microchip Troubles

A government investigation into inadequate testing of computer chips embedded in military aircraft and weapons systems has now widened to include the Signetics Corporation, the sixth largest microcircuit manufacturer in the United States. The Defense Department began the investigation in September, after officials of Texas Instruments (TI) disclosed that millions of integrated circuits, installed in more than 270 major weapons systems by 80 different contractors, might not have been properly tested. TI is the largest U.S. microcircuit manufacturer (*Science*, 5 October, p. 24).

The resultant publicity prompted Signetics officials to begin an internal audit, and last month they concluded that as many as 2460 different types of microcircuits supplied to Pentagon contractors similarly might not have been tested according to specification. Since then, the company has cleared roughly 1600 types of circuits, but it still has more than 800 under investigation. At least 60 different types of chips, all sold to the Pentagon through the IBM Corporation, have been determined to have "confirmed problems," according to an informed source. A detailed audit of Signetics by the Defense Logistics Agency was completed on 9 November, but no results have been released to date.

Thus far, the process of "clearing" the Signetics microcircuits has not involved any retesting. In many cases, the company and its customers have simply decided that the original testing requirements were unwarranted. Similarly, little or no retesting has been done by TI, although in several cases Pentagon acceptance of weapons containing suspect TI chips has been temporarily delayed. "Nothing has been disassembled," says TI company spokesman Norman Neureiter. James Harroun, a spokesman for IBM, confirms that "we have had no requests to retest our [weapons] in the field" containing TI parts. One reason is that the cost of such testing is enormous, both for the government and the weapons suppliers, according to government investigators. Another is that defects from the inadequate testing may not turn up for years, and the passage of time conveniently clouds responsibility.

None of the microcircuits involved were produced specifically for military applications. Instead, they were standard commercial chips, supposedly tested to withstand the extraordinary stresses of a military environment. Government and industry sources now suspect that deliberate shortcuts in the testing of such parts are commonplace, and expect to hear confessions from other manufacturers in coming months.—**R. JEFFREY SMITH**

Renewable Energy R&D Favored by Small Nations

Paris. An inverse relationship appears to exist among Western nations between the size of a country's economy and the proportion of its resources that are spent by governments to develop renewable sources of energy.

This, at least, is the conclusion of a top-level committee of the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) in a report just published on the energy research and development programs of its member states (essentially the non-Communist industrial countries apart from France).*

The committee calculates that total support by IEA member governments for energy R&D dropped by 6 percent in real terms between 1982 and 1983. The cuts were concentrated largely in support for research into renewable sources of energy, with changing energy research priorities in the United States alone accounting for more than half the decline.

All these reductions partly reflect relaxed pressures due to recent decreases both in the price of oil and in predictions of future energy demands. One result of this trend, however, has been to accentuate significant differences in strategy between larger and smaller IEA member countries.

Thus the committee points out that when total government expenditure on energy R&D is calculated as a proportion of the gross domestic product, five of the six top spenders—Italy, Germany, Japan, Canada, and the United Kingdom—belong to the group of seven Economic Summit countries (with France excluded, the remaining member of the group, the United States, comes ninth on the list).

However, the IEA report describes as a "remarkable result" the fact that when research on all forms of nuclear energy (including fast breeders and fusion) is omitted, the situation is the reverse. In this case, only one summit country (Canada) is represented among the top six in terms of the proportion of domestic resources spent on nonnuclear energy research and development.

The economic summit countries, according to the report, spend in general no more than about 10 percent of their energy R&D budgets on renewable energy technologies, even though in most cases this still means large sums of money. "Conversely the smaller economies like the Netherlands, Spain, and Sweden, appear to invest increasing proportions of their budgets in this area." This tendency, it adds, is even more pronounced in the smallest member countries of the IEA, those whose research budgets were less than $10 million in 1983.

"In the majority of cases, it appears that the relatively modest financial and other resources available to these countries can be usefully employed for the development of 'mainly' indigenous energy sources or the adaptation of imported technology for local use," says the report.

As for advanced nuclear technologies, the report points out that there was an overall reduction of 18 percent between 1982 and 1983 in aggregate spending on fast breeder research, mainly due to reduced expenditure in the U.S. and West German programs. In contrast, there was no significant decrease in countries' funding of fusion R&D, with aggregate IEA spending for 1983 identical to that in 1982 at about $800 million.—**DAVID DICKSON**

**Energy Research, Development and Demonstration in the IEA Countries* (International Energy Agency, Paris, 1984), F110.