

## Partners in Progress



*Mr. Eldon Lautermilch (at right in photo), Minister, Energy and Mines, Government of Saskatchewan, addressed participants during the International Symposium on Fertilizer in Agricultural Development. Mr. Tommie Sutanu (at left in photo), Managing Director, Odyssey Trading, translated Mr. Lautermilch's comments at a banquet during the Symposium in Beijing, PRC, in October 1996.*

To happen...that is, to become a reality...progress requires partners. From outset till fruition, each step along the road of progress is sustained by the support, encouragement, involvement and even critical comment from others. Collectively, partnerships propel people with ideas towards their ultimate goal and success. And collectively, all partners benefit.

Our Institute's International Program is a benefactor of partnering in many ways. Strategic partnering of field staff with leading scientists and agronomists throughout the world is turning their ideas into reality...into increased yields, safeguarded environments and social benefits for farmers and their countries.

Underpinning and supporting this opportunity is the 14-year partnership between Saskatchewan's potash producers and the Government of Saskatchewan, Canada. Mr. Eldon Lautermilch, Minister for Energy and Mines in the province of Saskatchewan recently stated, "The people of this province and their government recognize the inherent benefit of developing world potash markets based on sound, science-based information. It supports this effective and unique 'potash alliance' – of government and industry – because all partners benefit from it. The potash producers benefit because increasing and more stable markets are developed. The people of Saskatchewan benefit through an improving economic base of secure jobs and increased tax revenue. The people of the world benefit because balanced fertilization practices...using potash appropriately, gives rise to sustainable agricultural and economic development."

The progress we make as citizens of the world is often measured by how far down the road we have travelled in terms of producing more food efficiently while being protective of agriculture's land and water resources. As we consider our past, the progress achieved is a lesson in partnering. Future progress will demand it...and opportunity will go to those who ensure strong, strategic alliances. **BCI**

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