Home and Foreign News

Forestry training project in the Republic of Colombia:—The Canadian International Development Agency has selected a Vancouver-based company to conduct a Forestry Training Project in the Republic of Colombia.

The Consulting Firm of C.D. Schultz & Company Limited, in nation-wide competition, submitted the winning proposal concerning the preparation and implementation of programme of training for Colombian instructors, who will be charged with the training of forestry technicians involved in logging and the sawmilling industry. The submission of C.D. Schultz & Company Limited was selected on the basis of Company experience, and the methods proposed for carrying out the work.

The Project will consist of providing a team of specialists in logging, sawmilling, sawfiling, and lumber grading. This team, in conjunction with Colombian counterparts, will prepare and implement a program of training for Colombian forestry technicians. The team will also set up a training facility in the Republic of Colombia where the Colombian counterparts will carry on instruction at the conclusion of the project. The project is expected to last for two and a half years.

The Colombian project adds to the already significant offshore activities of C.D. Schultz & Company Limited. This Company, which was founded in Vancouver 29 years ago, specializes in providing engineering services for the development, management, and industrialization of forest and other natural resources. Other offshore projects in which the Company is involved include a forest inventory and training project in Tanzania, a logging equipment maintenance program in Burma, a land use study in Nigeria, and a sawmill study in Indonesia. In addition to the offshore projects, the Company is engaged in a variety of engineering and environmental projects in Canada and U.S.A.
Team of resource specialists to Nigeria: The Canadian firm of Schultz International Limited is sending a team of resource specialists to Nigeria to investigate the use of land and the water resources of the Hadejia River Basin. This Basin lies in the northeast corner of Nigeria near the southern edge of the Sahara Desert. The Hadejia River flows into Lake Chad. The purpose of the study is the preparation of detailed plans for the integrated development of the resources of the area for maximum total benefit to the people of Nigeria.

The integrated team is drawn from the staffs of Burnett Resource Surveys Limited, C.B.A. Engineering Limited, Dolmage Campbell and Associates Limited and C.D. Schultz Limited, Vancouver firms which have associated themselves with Schultz International Limited for the supply of consulting services in the field of Integrated Resource Development. The award to the Schultz Organization was the result of its submission of a proposal in National competition for the execution of the study.

The project is orientated particularly toward the management of the water resources which are critical because of seasonal flooding hazards and the potential for irrigation. It is planned that the work will be carried out in phases and will include studies of all aspects of the supply, quality, storage, movement and distribution of water; Agricultural studies; social studies; ecological studies; socio-economic studies; and investigations into the requirements of basic educational and technical training. Opportunities to increase yields of present crops, to raise alternative crops, to change present land-use patterns, to develop forestry activities, tourism and other economic potentials will all be examined in a total area of 18,000 square miles.

The Canadian International Development Agency will finance the project by means of a grant of $1,650,000 to the Government of Nigeria. The studies are expected to last for thirty-six months.

Freiburg University Rector To UN Food and Agriculture Organization.—Dr. Hansjurg Steinlin, of Switzerland, former Rector of the University of Freiburg, in the Federal Republic of Germany, has been named Director of the Forest Resources Division of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The announcement was made today by Dr. Addeke H. Boerma, Director-General of the FAO.

In his new position Dr. Steinlin heads one of the important units which constitute the FAO Forestry Department. The Forest Resources Division deals with projects in sil-
viciculture, afforestation, logging, wildlife, national parks, watershed management, conservation and forest resources surveys. FAO operates such projects in developing countries throughout Africa, Asia, the Near East and Latin America. The other substantive Division of the Forestry Department, the Forest Industries and Trade Division, is headed by Mr. P. J. Vakomies, of Canada. Dr. B. K., Steenberg, of Sweden heads the Department as Assistant Director-General for Forestry.

Dr. Steinlin succeeds R. G. Fontaine, of France, who retired last month after 27 years in FAO forestry and service with the French Forest Service before that.

Dr. Steinlin, 52, was born and brought up in St. Gallen, Switzerland. He holds degrees in forestry from the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH), Zurich, Switzerland’s Federal Institute of Technology.

He began his career as a forester in the Swiss Forest Service in 1947 working in various cantons but soon moved into research on work techniques and wood harvesting at the Federal Research Institute for Forestry and at ETH, where he became a professor in 1952. He joined the University of Freiburg as Professor of Forestry in 1958. Four years later he was named Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. In 1969 he became Pro Rector and in 1970 was named Rector (President) of the University. He resigned this post in August in order to join the FAO. The University of Freiburg, which has a student body of 15,000 is one of the major institutions of higher learning in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Dr. Steinlin has advised governments and industry on forestry problems in Europe, Latin America and Asia. He was a consultant on FAO work in Pakistan in 1963. He has also been active in international forestry working groups and committees, including those of the FAO the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE,) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). He has served on the executive committee of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO).

Mr. Rene Georges Fontaine was a Forest Inspector General in France before joining FAO in 1946, only one year after its founding. He was at first responsible for the liquidation of the International Forestry Centre, which was absorbed into FAO. From 1948 to 1951 he was assigned to the Geneva Forestry Working Group, with the special responsibility for the secretariat of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations. In 1951 he was transferred to Rome as Chief Special Forest Policies Section and in 1962 as Chief of the Forest Policy Branch, and finally as Director of the Forest Resources Division, when the Forestry Division became a Department.