The OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank will hold a joint high level Seminar to deal with the key issue of "Improving the Effectiveness of Technical Co-operation in the 1990s". This event will take place in Paris, at the World Bank, on 20th June 1994, presided by Mr. James Michel, Chair of the Development Assistance Committee.

Technical co-operation accounts for approximately $15 billion per year i.e. about one quarter of all development assistance. Over the past three decades, technical co-operation has contributed to major achievements in training, education and institutional development, in particular in the most successful developing countries. However, sustainable human and institutional capacities have yet to emerge in many developing countries despite prolonged and substantial technical co-operation.

The main objectives of this Seminar are to:

i) assess the impact of technical co-operation efforts in a number of countries and identify the reasons for success in some cases and less than satisfactory achievements in others;

ii) identify concrete steps for implementing approaches to technical co-operation which help to generate local capacities in a wide range of institutional and technical functions, thus reducing long-term aid dependency and increasing aid effectiveness.

Key conclusions of this Seminar will be submitted to the DAC Senior Level Meeting on 21st June where concrete follow-up actions will be discussed. The DAC adopted Principles for New Orientations in Technical Co-operation in 1991.
Participants include senior representatives from bilateral and multilateral aid agencies including Mr. Gus Speth, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Mr. Edward Jaycox, Vice President of the World Bank, Africa Region, together with high-level representatives from partner countries including Mr. Botchwey, Finance Minister of Ghana, and Mr. Pawel Samecki, Director General of the Bureau of Foreign Assistance, Council of Ministers, Poland, as well as a number of other highly experienced officials and experts. Further enquiries should be addressed to Nicole Massignon, Principal Administrator, Aid Management Division, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD, 2 rue André Pascal, 75775 Paris cedex 16 (tel. 33 1 45 24 90 33 - fax. 33 1 45 24 16 23).