



**IN THIS ISSUE:**

**Pivotal Countries, Regionalization and Globalization, BY MICHAEL SAKBANI**

Increasing globalization could marginalize developing countries. Or can they reshape and deepen their mutual cooperation, focus on building efficient economic partnerships, and thus improve the South's position in the newly emerging international framework? How can more advanced "pivotal" developing countries contribute to this process?

**New Voices, New Partners in the Search for Better Governance, BY KRISTINN HELGASON**

Governance involves many voices and many partners, from citizens to ministers. The UNDP-organized International Conference on Governance drew in widely varied participation from 160 countries. What did the many partners there say about the key challenges facing countries in the South as they try to raise the quality of public sector management?

**Multilateral Agreement on Investment, BY MARTIN KHOR**

The MAI would allow international companies to cross borders, set up projects, buy up local companies, and be virtually unregulated in business and in repatriating profits and capital. It would grant rights to investors without placing any obligations on them, while host countries would have obligations but no rights. Developing countries are not opposed to foreign investment, but think it could be more beneficial if a better balance were struck.

**Young Entrepreneurs and New Information Technologies, BY SUJIT CHOWDHURRY**

Young people under 15 represent two-fifths of the developing world population — a youth boom coming on top of an acute job shortage. Could unemployment be abated if more young people became self-employed entrepreneurs, using new information technologies? What if graduates got a "tool set" and a loan to become entrepreneurs instead of job-seekers in bleak markets?

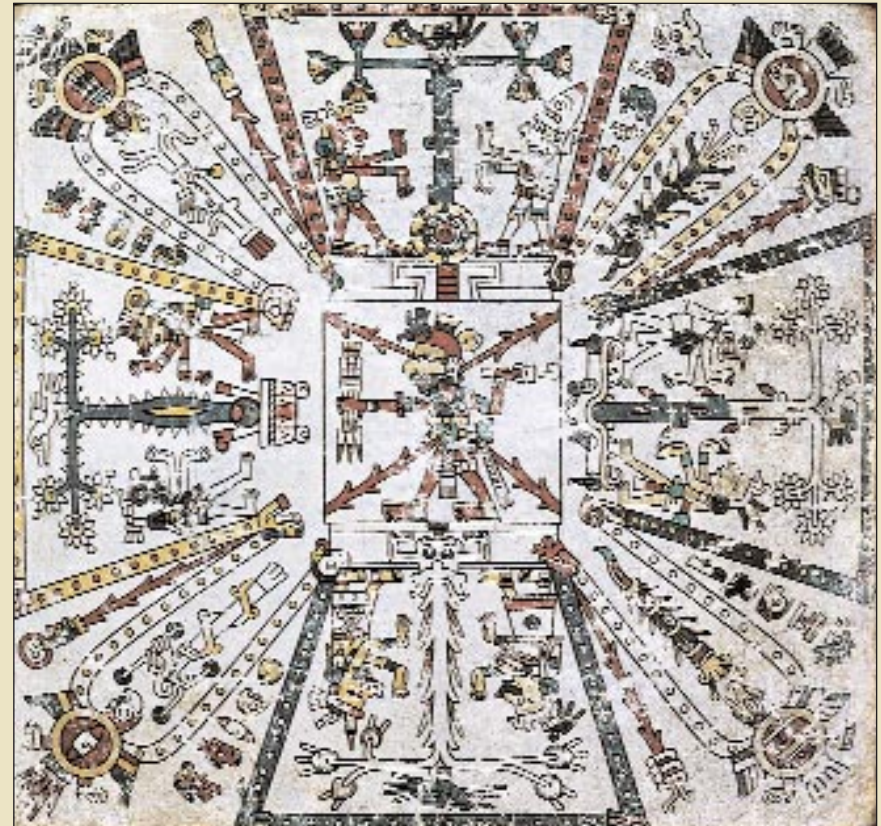
**TCDC as a Central Tool in FAO Services to Developing Countries, BY RAMADHAR**

No longer ad hoc, but operating in a structured framework; not just mainstream, but getting "first consideration" in all programmes and projects. At the FAO, this new profile for technical cooperation among developing countries required "a radical transformation of attitudes and approaches", and generated a wealth of multidirectional, multidisciplinary flows of mutual assistance.

**PLUS: INTERVIEWS WITH THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP OF 77**

# Cooperation South

COOPERATION SOUTH



NUMBER ONE—1998

- PIVOTAL COUNTRIES
- GOVERNANCE
- INVESTMENT TREATIES?
- YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS
- FAO'S TCDC

NUMBER ONE 1998



**THE  
CREATIVITY  
OF 4.7  
BILLION  
PEOPLE**

**THE COVER**

DESIGNS USED  
ON ISSUES OF  
THIS JOURNAL  
PRESENT ARTIFACTS

OR ARTWORKS THAT DEMONSTRATE  
THE CREATIVITY AND CONNECTIVITY OF  
PEOPLE ACROSS THE SOUTH.

## Four corners of the earth

Probably Mixtec in origin, this design comes from a "codex", one of the old Mexican books of picture



writing which survived destruction by Spanish conquerors in the 1500s.

It shows that, in what is today called

Mexico, early civilization was firmly based on the four cardinal directions — east, south, west and north — each with a special tree, bird, color, gods and rituals. Compass points also provided the fundamental grid for the community, with large regional centers at each point. In Mayan times, some centers, known far and wide, had enormous public works — platforms, pyramids, and causeways, grouped around open cources and plazas, encrusted with sculptures of picture writing. Life was regulated by an elaborate calendar, astronomical observations, and predictions of eclipses of the sun and moon. Trade extended to the Gulf Coast, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama. From Colombia, the Maya learned the art of casting metal and obtained emeralds. There were also contacts with Jamaica and Cuba.

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The emblem of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) displays a symbolic bridge joining the countries and people of the Southern hemisphere.

The centre of the emblem—where the Southern, Northern, Eastern and Western parts of the world join—symbolizes a further and ultimate objective of TCDC: the promotion of a truly global partnership for development.

COVER: CODEX FEJERVARY-MAYER, MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF LIVERPOOL. COLOUR FACSIMILE BY ADEVA, GRAZ/AUSTRIA/1971.

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