

iii) Recognition that anti-corruption codes are good business practices which should be included in trade policy and agreements.

The group also touched on the importance of linkages with other like-minded countries to promote and support the establishment of a Code of Conduct. The objective would be to influence the market to reflect human rights issues. In this ongoing process, incentives rather than penalties could be utilized to encourage voluntary adoption of Code of Conduct principles. Canadian involvement in this process should be defined by a willingness to adapt to local situations and to maintain flexibility of response in a universal framework within the parameters of which all affected groups could actively participate, and basic human rights could be protected.

PLENARY

Conclusion

At the end of the day, a plenary was held and a representative from each of the working groups provided a synopsis of each of the discussions. From this, several policy options were drawn that seemed to have value and resonance for many of the participants in various groups. They represent themes that ran through the discussions of the day.

Policy Options

1. To develop lateral linkages with like-minded business in Asia-Pacific to encourage the development and adoption of Code of Conduct standards.
2. To actively support the role of NGOs as fundamentally important vehicles for education and human rights monitoring and reporting.
3. To openly support Track 2 processes. eg. through the elaboration of the role and function of APEC study centres.
4. To enhance the role of Indigenous Peoples and Asian Canadians through inclusive staffing procedures at the domestic governmental level. This would help to ensure that a diversity of opinion and experience would be available.
5. To establish incentive programs that would encourage equitable business and environmental practices in Asia-Pacific and to develop an annual reporting procedure to monitor progress.