

## **INTRODUCTION:**

On November 17-24, 1997, the Peoples' Summit on the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) was held at the Plaza of Nations in Vancouver, B.C. Under the umbrella of the Peoples' Summit a number of international forums and other related workshops and seminars took place. Issues discussed included human rights, women, labour, and education. The Sustainability Issues Forum (SIF) held on November 20th was one of the largest of the issue forums with approximately 275 participants attending 5 simultaneous day-long workshops on agriculture, aquaculture/fisheries, cities, forests, and mining.

## **GOALS OF THE SIF:**

- 1. To determine certain policy options and alternatives related to sustainability.**

Four general themes in the form of questions (attachment #1-conference package) were identified by the SIF Advisory Committee for all the SIF participants to discuss at the forum. For example : What is the impact of trade liberalization in terms of human rights, the environment and the local community and what were alternatives to promote sustainability. The organizers of the 5 workshops were asked to identify policy questions for their workshop in order to focus the participant's discussion in terms of APEC. The questions for each workshop are attached (conference package)

- 2. To direct sustainability policy alternatives and options to the appropriate Canadian, APEC and or international entry points as follow- up from the SIF.**

The proceedings, including the policy options, for the 5 workshops and an executive summary with recommendations is being published and distributed (available March 1998) to all SIF participants, forwarded to the organizers of the 1998 Malaysian Peoples' Summit and official APEC Summit, the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, The BC Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, all SIF funders and other interested groups and individuals. The proceedings will be put on BCCIC's web site and linked to other web sites to reach a larger audience.

- 3. To educate and make the public more aware of these sustainability issues.**

A communications strategy was developed by the Advisory Committee. To implement such a plan a media person was contracted in Vancouver to prepare media kits , build and maintain contacts and prepare press releases in advance of the SIF (attachment #2). A media publicity report is attached with recommendations (attachment #3). A newsletter and several articles were published and a national tour of a shrimp farming photo exhibit was a