

The principal beneficiaries and instigators of these changes and the associated impacts are the large transnational companies, which have persuaded governments to subvert or abrogate their national responsibilities to control mineral development." At the end of these presentations it was agreed that the issue is 'what can we do about mining' not 'can we stop mining'. There is a need to distinguish between what is current and what is possible; it may be possible for mining to be more sustainable. The issue remains how can we confront the large corporations; this is a move from 'no to mining' to 'how do we engage the mining interests and companies to strive for community sustainability. Perhaps this workshop should be called 'Ecological Sustainability and Mining'.

## SHARING OF CURRENT ISSUES

### 1. Mexico

"In Mexico there is a lot of concern about NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement). One of the consequences of NAFTA is mining development and the growth of investment for mining. In the past 6 years there has been \$5 billion US mining investment by Canadian, American, and Japanese companies. There has been 50,000 square miles of mining concession for gold, silver and other minerals. The strategy is to: (1) apply pressure to achieve environmental standards, e.g. lobby Congress and other governments, and (2) increase cooperation and communication between trade unions, and civil society in general, for solidarity in applying rules to mining. To achieve these goals NGOs from more developed countries have a great responsibility."

### 2. Philippines

"In the cordillera, concerns for indigenous people have always been about land. In terms of mining, the government allows mining companies to operate on indigenous land but refuses to recognize indigenous land rights. Mining is a bigger burden for indigenous people now. An alarming trend is the free and open access for mining companies and related to them the human rights' violations. Indigenous people are not against mining per se because we do it ourselves however we are against large-scale mining which destroys the mountains and water. Traditional mining methods have been proven to be sustainable. Another question for us however is 'what are the companies going to do with all that gold?'; we understand where it is going when we mine it. A major concern for us is the role of the United Nations' agencies; for example, the UNDP has promoted mining and hosted mining companies in the Philippines to see what our country has to offer."

"On the island of Marinduque 50% of the island has been destroyed by Marcopper; this includes forest, coastal zones, and production systems from the uplands to the coast. 40% of the protein source used to be from the river; one year later there is absolutely no change at all in the damage to the river and the water system. The people have only received some small infrastructure (water) from the company. The biggest problem is the lack of health benefits and up to now there are 40 cases of people with lead poisoning. The company's response was that they would not provide money for medication and testing because the Philippines' government had made it allowable to dump tailings where they did. Unfortunately the local community had no control over the mining and the resources. As well the province only received a small share of the money while the national government gained lots of money. The