

should be put to work. Others could be shifted from welfare programs to training programs.

- o There is a need to ensure proper management of spending in the programs. The government should cut spending wherever it can, not just in the social programs but in government spending generally. Some discussants were adamant that social and employee programs go hand-in-hand with a well-qualified workforce. As one respondent put it: "We are ready to work harder, but not ready for cuts to the programs we worked so hard for". In this regard, they would not like to see cuts to the unemployment insurance program or to the minimum wage.
- o On the subject of medicare, respondents were overwhelmingly in support of keeping universality of medicare. Some pointed to the absence of medicare in the United States and felt that in the long run it would cost more if the program were cut.
- o There was not a great sense that extensive social programs and international competitiveness are mutually exclusive. Discussants cited Europe as an example where many countries have both good social programs and strong international competitiveness.