



Thobani ended by calling women to act on the strategies and actions coming out of the Women's Conference. "We can come up with the best policies in the world," said Thobani, but they will be meaningless unless women can mobilize. "That is my number one priority."

Women's Conference workshops

Upon registration, delegates to Women's Conference signed up for one of 13 workshops. The workshops, which met for the afternoon and were facilitated by a number of resource women from outside Canada, included: Rise of the Right/the Disappeared; Heterosexism/Homophobia; Export Processing Zones/Maquilladoras; Pay Equity/Poverty; Indigenous Peoples' Rights; Globalization; Environments for Women; Mega

Mid-day press conference standing room only

The Women's Conference press conference, held at noon on Monday, drew a large group of journalists from TV, radio, newspapers and magazines, from the mainstream media and the alternative press.

Speaking at the press conference were: Jeanette Armstrong, the conference's keynote speaker; Tania Suarez of the Zapatista Front for National Liberation in Mexico; Sarojini Rengam of the Pesticide Action Network in Malaysia, Yayori Matsui, journalist and director of the Asia-Japan Women's Resource Centre, and Cheung Lai Har, of the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade unions. Conference organizer Nandita Sharma also answered questions from the press about the Women's Conference and the People's Summit.

Reporters questions included engaging or not engaging with the APEC process, and the Women's Conference stand in clear opposition to APEC.

While there will not be another press conference as part of the Women's Conference, a media advisory will be released after the final plenary to outline the action plan. The 1997 People's Summit on APEC will hold daily press conferences beginning November 19.

Development Projects/Aquaculture; Sex Trafficking; Women's Health; Child Labour/Informal Sector; Migrant Workers; and Violence Against Women.

Conference workshop highlights

EXPORT PROCESSING ZONES/MAQUILLADORAS by Sarah de Leeuw

Fittingly, it took place in the hall.

The Export Processing Zones and Maquilladora workshop led to a roomful of ideas. Resource women Cecilia V. Tuico from the Philippine Worker's Assistance Centre and Lyna Yanz, also from the Philippines, spoke on labour atrocities in global free trade zones.

Tuico discussed how tax incentives, inexpensive labour and assurances of non-unionized workers attract multi-nationals to the Philippines and other countries around the world.

"We try to organize workers. Often they are not aware of their rights. We help them by giving legal assistance and also holding seminars," Tuico explained of her organization. She stressed that in many instances multi-nationals are not following country law – such as the right of workers to unionize – but the workers are not aware of the law, so are not mobilizing.

"Part of the incentive," said Tuico, "is cheap, docile labourers." She went on to say that industrialization is the desire of her country's government, and it sees the export processing zones as central to this end.

Yanz began her discussion by pointing out the work being done in countries around the world, by local people, against the Maquilladora zones. Don't, she reminded participants, get the idea all workers in these zones "are just docile workers." Yanz also pointed out figures indicating one million

they asked women to inform consumers: for instance, that the \$100 Barbie Mini-Van retailing in Canada is made by women paid less than \$45 a week

