

The 1997 People's Summit on APEC
- Proceedings -
March 1998

Summary:

The document begins with a 41 page collection of daily communiques from the Summit. It also includes the opening speech by Jose Ramos Horta (Visiting Professor at the University of New South Wales and Special Representative of the National Council of Maubere Resistance) which touches on the following points: continuing need to fulfill human rights commitments, the immorality of arms sales as a cause of destruction and war; and the human rights situations in Burma, China, Taiwan, Tibet, and East Timor. The speech by Maude Barlow (Council of Canadians) is also included, which criticised APEC as a flawed and misguided process focusing on market-centred ideologies to the detriment of progress in human rights in the region. The Proceedings also includes the Preamble which essentially rejects the basic philosophy of free trade and trade liberalisation, condemns the consequences of unregulated economic growth such as exploitation of people by unaccountable transnational corporations and international financial institutions, and calls on governments to end authoritarian rule. Final reports of various issue forums of the People's Summits are also attached. These forums include the Youth Forum, Women's Conference Against APEC, Human Rights, Indigenous People's caucus, among others.

Highlights of recommendations arising from the forums:

- ensure labour laws are respected;
- limit corporate influence in schools;
- non-profit organisations to monitor APEC;
- open up APEC to the media;
- ensure women's full participation in policy formulation and decision-making processes;
- ensure transparency, accountability and accessibility in trade negotiations ;
- APEC members report on current condition of freedom of expression and association in their respective countries
- build economies that eliminate the need for trade in arms