

with Youth for Social Justice, then led the discussion around how APEC and the MAI would have the power to manipulate governments as well as ensure that corporations will possess the power to sue governments if potential profits are prevented.

The youth at the workshop heard that economic agreements like APEC, the MAI and NAFTA are economic agreements that serve corporate profits, no matter what the cost to people.

Public education and APEC

from reporting by Jana Hanova, 17, Martin Kim, 15, and Alfred Pechisker, 15

Education was the focus of the third day of the Youth Forum. Larry Kuehn, director of research for the BC Teachers' Federation, delivered two group workshops on public education and APEC, and was the afternoon guest speaker.

In his presentation to the forum's 77 youth delegates, Kuehn outlined what can be viewed as the three purposes of education: personal development, preparing a person to contribute to society, and learning skills for the workforce. Kuehn then asked the youth audience to determine for themselves which they felt was the most important. In groups of two or three, youth determined how personal development and contributing to society are a part of being in the workforce, but if education serves only to help young people get a job, the other goals will be left out.

In his address to the group and in the workshops, Kuehn also touched on a number of other important issues, including the commercialization of public school classrooms, privatization of public education, education funding, corporate involvement in school curriculum, and the APEC agenda for public education.

For example, Kuehn provided a synopsis of the government of Korea's paper for the APEC human resources ministerial meeting. The principles set out in this paper included: education means preparing workers for business; business should determine the content of education; the content of education should be work

ethic, attitudes and skills; and globalization means a common culture, and therefore a common curriculum and educational practices for APEC nations.

In setting out the alternatives for education in the age of trade liberalization and globalization, Kuehn said education should be promoted as preparing thinking citizens, and that we should value human wants and needs that are more than just economic. Youth can also call on governments to support universal access to education. Finally, Kuehn touched on the idea of valuing national cultures in education, but at the same time developing socially responsible global citizenship.

The BC Teachers' Federation offered its building to the Youth Forum, and Kuehn has been a strong support person for the organizers. He also said the experience has been a fulfilling one for him: an English and social studies teacher before becoming the BCTF's president from 1981 to 1984, Kuehn said the forum provided "the ideal learning conditions: small classes of interested and articulate people."

Self-Help Research Association workshop: Are you listening?

by Tiffany Kalanj, 17, Port Coquitlam, BC

The goals of the Self Help Research Association workshop were to examine the notion of youth's voice and to broaden the discussion about APEC. First delegates broke off into groups of two where they took turns explaining what they thought about the conference while the other partner had to show they were listening.

Eye contact, asking questions and paraphrasing were all agreed ways of showing listening. Next, participants (still in groups of two) took turns explaining how they felt about APEC. When they finished, the other partner paraphrased what they had said in two or three sentences. These exercises were used to show how important good listening skills are to communication.



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