

few hands. A concern also arose about the credibility of Canadian advice given the limited involvement of Canadian media (journalists, reporters etc.) directly in Asia-Pacific affairs.

Given these shortcomings, there was agreement that Canada could still have a valuable role to play. Eight recommendations were established.

### **Recommendations**

1. To emphasize the international legal framework in which a free media could operate through the constitution of a set of norms, principles, and rules.
2. To encourage a more tactical approach that would emphasize a more specific, case by case approach. This method would downplay cultural sensitivity, and take advantage of the degree of ambiguity allowed by various governments in the Asia-Pacific region.
3. To recognize free media not as something separate from the issue of human rights, but an integral component of it.
4. To define journalists as not strictly reporters. Instead, a free media should allow for the freedom of editorial writers, technical workers etc. as well.
5. To encourage Canadian embassies to place greater importance on the issue of journalists at risk, and to act in a more timely fashion on alerts given by the International Freedom of Expression Exchange.
6. To promote alternative forms of disclosure via the Internet and support the development of new technology through which information could be disseminated more quickly and efficiently. Canada should also encourage exploring avenues to lower the cost of technology to make information more accessible in Asia-Pacific.
7. To encourage Canadian journalism schools to explicitly tap into networks within Asia-Pacific through methods like exchange and the training of Asian investigative journalists in Canada.
8. To support the opening of regional institutional frameworks, particularly APEC, more thoroughly to media access through the use of daily briefs, and the development of a media centre.