

number of specific issues and general areas of concern that will be considered leading up to UNCED. UNCED, it is hoped, will provide a forum for the signing of a number of conventions related to these issues.

Japanese Perspectives on UNCED

Japan hopes to contribute to the development of an earth charter that has worldwide applicability. In doing so it will draw on experience gained in overcoming its own serious environmental problems.

UNCED represents a valuable opportunity to deal with institutional aspects of the global environmental problem. In so doing, however, the challenge will be to avoid creating huge new bureaucracies by restructuring and coordinating already existing institutions.

UNCED also represents an opportunity to deal with issues such as technology transfer, financial resources, climate change, deforestation, biological diversity, and marine resources.

However, it must be seen as an opportunity to improve North-South relations as well.

Canadian Perspectives on UNCED

The Canadian environmental movement, as well as NGO's, is working closely with the Canadian government in the preparatory process. However, there is some concern that progress is moving too slowly on a number of issues.

Canadian expectations are very similar to those of Japan in terms of the items on Agenda 21. It was the opinion of Canadian seminar participants, however, that negotiations are being slowed down because many people are having difficulty understanding the relationship between economic and technological development issues and environmental protection initiatives. This relationship is crucial to all issues that will be, and are currently being, raised through the UNCED process. Difficult North-South issues, such as technology transfer and financing, are becoming the real issues for discussion. It is those issues, rather than talks related to global warming, biological diversity or deforestation, which will be the key factors that determine UNCED's ultimate success or failure.