

- It was pointed out that Japan being a larger consumer, with control over markets and timber trades, has a large impact. We discussed implications both for importing countries, and for situations on logging in Philippines and Indonesia, as well as recent forest fires in Indonesia.
- (In different panels, especially this one, we heard how Government policies have directly led to harmful effect on the forests.)
- (The perspective brought from the Solomon Islands was a combination of a voice for the forest, and for people whose lives are so subject to change from APEC but who don't know it because they're struggling for basic survival, and of the importance of working together on strategies.)

Having heard the two panels, and after a slide as well as video on forests/logging in B.C., the session split into workshop groups, discussing recommendations on public participation, accountability, trade liberalization import standards; and promoting value added trade.

Roundtable Discussions on Key Topics

In each small group there were diverse discussions. It was difficult to come to a common consensus surrounding the whole issues of APEC and such things as subsidies. **HOWEVER, each small group identified some significant points.**

- ▶ **On Public Participation: the discussion group identified the need for people to understand more on the basics of APEC, to address the whole issue of increasing public participation. Suggestions for strategies were given: citizen groups, community groups, NGOs, and indigenous people's could participate. Some mechanisms were identified.**
- ▶ **On Restructuring APEC for accountability: it was a diverse discussion and a number of viewpoints were given on such key questions as whether to reject APEC, or try to work with/within it. Conclusion was there could be room to intervene *(and we have to use the windows of opportunity we do get).**
 - Various proposals were brought forward as to how to restructure APEC, to ensure in particular that these key issues were always addressed: issues of human rights, and the impact on communities as result of policies, i.e. logging, or reforestation.
 - Critical to the discussion group was recognition of local community rights to protect forests, also tenure rights over them.
 - **HOWEVER**, the agreement came up with that APEC's initiatives should not supersede communities', the rights of the communities closest to the forest resources themselves. They are the ones who understand best how to manage, and to oversee the resource.