

managerial training, language and cultural studies and exchanges. To date, most commentators have avoided associating security interests with the proposed community.

In looking at the various options, observers in the region both within and outside governments have expressed varying degrees of interest in the community concept, with some curiosity as to what it can achieve.

Problems in Developing a "Pacific Community"

The underlying problem with the workability of the concept is the sheer size of the area and the diversity among the countries of the region (economic, political, cultural and racial, geographical and climatical). Can a meaningful community be formed which spans these enormous divergencies? Subsidiary to this basic dilemma are the problems of (1) membership, (2) type of organization and (3) subject matter to be covered by any Pacific Community.

a) Membership

Membership poses the thorniest political issue, though much depends on the type of community that is established (i.e. points (b) and (c) below). For example, if the community is limited to free market economy states, membership would be ruled out for the Soviet Union, China, North Korea and the countries of Indochina. Because of its