

As *Asia Connects* came to a close, students and teachers from Kelvin High School in Winnipeg were already holding an ad-hoc meeting to decide how they would stay involved with Asia Pacific beyond the conference. They were excited by the potential for holding discussions over the internet and decided to start a new panel on human rights, which they will broadcast to other schools in Manitoba. "We've been talking about this for a year," said one teacher. "Now students and teachers have seen it for themselves and everyone is thrilled with what we can do."

Youth participation in APEC ministerial meetings in Canada added an exciting new dimension to these discussions. Prior to the APEC Trade Ministerial in Montreal, students discussed trade and economic issues in the APEC region, with a particular focus on opportunities for youth, as part of a cross-Canada electronic conference. A special "APEC Youth and Trade Team" was chosen from conference participants to present their report to the Canadian Minister for International Trade at the Ministerial meetings. The report, "Youth and the APEC Community", called for greater educational exchange programs, and proposed several initiatives, including a virtual Canada-Asia Pacific Youth Council. After being circulated to all participating delegations, it was adopted as an official APEC document, and several member economies expressed an interest in involving youth in future meetings of APEC Trade Ministers.

At each of the five APEC ministerial meetings held in Canada in 1997, and at senior officials meetings, youth delegates held their own forums to discuss the issues and make recommendations. Youth from the Toronto area were introduced to the world of diplomacy when they acted as "Youth Ambassadors" and assisted APEC delegations visiting the city for the APEC Environment/Sustainable Development Ministerial. Other meetings, such as the Transport and Energy Ministerials, allowed young people to explore opportunities in Asia Pacific for employment and education in their field of study. APEC ministers and senior officials also saw in 1997 what youth can bring to APEC discussions and many indicated that they would like to see more youth activities included in future APEC meetings.

Students from across Canada and the United States who attended McGill University's annual Model United Nations gained a unique perspective on political issues in Asia Pacific when they incorporated an associated model meeting of the APEC forum in honour of Canada's Year of Asia Pacific. Students assumed the identities of various APEC delegations - from Australia, to Hong Kong, to Mexico - to debate two major issues: intellectual property rights and APEC membership. The success of this event led to plans to continue the APEC model in future meetings.

The Graduate Students Forum, held as part of the APEC Study Centre Consortium meetings in Banff, Alberta on May 23-24, provided a venue for thirty-two graduate scholars to present their work on APEC-related issues. A major focus of the discussions was how the organization can help enhance the quality of life for the region's "next generation".

The Sustainable Development Research Institute at the University of British Columbia coordinated an Asia Pacific internship program that placed thirty post-secondary graduates on the front lines of one of the Asia Pacific region's most important challenges: environmental decay. Interns were placed with host employers in Asia Pacific to further