

argued, cultural input can influence the process leading towards more open media. The view was expressed that APEC is based on an "Asian model," and not meant to be institutionalized - it has been described as a "pleasant excuse to chat".

Discussion ensued around the significance of legal developments in China. Scepticism was expressed that most laws are applied with any consistency. It was noted that while senior officials seem to be immune from challenge, there was perhaps not a single active dissident who could speak freely. The opinion was expressed that China was not a good model for the argument that freedom follows trade. However, it was pointed out, the accuracy of financial information was viewed as important by both the government and the business community. It was noted that Canada, as a relatively small trading partner of China, was therefore limited in the extent to which it could affect change through government channels. The importance of facilitating a grassroots exchange was also raised.

Time frame was deemed important when trying to identify a process leading towards openness in society. Korea and Taiwan were identified as Asian societies where there appeared to have been a dramatic shift towards openness in recent decades. It was suggested that there is a relationship between trade and political change, which, in turn, could lead to openness.

The concern was raised that because of excessive concentration of ownership, the Canadian model was not appropriate for free and open media. The issue was addressed that the restrictions of Canadian press paled in comparison to press restrictions in some Asian countries.

It was noted that news corporations appear to be shifting towards the delivery of entertainment products. In the context of free trade, freedom of the press tends to "metamorphize into the commodification of entertainment products."

The question of whether Western business interests were pushing for open societies in Asia was raised. It was suggested that, in general, this was not the case, but given the choice, business leaders would prefer an open jurisdiction to a totalitarian one. Business, it was suggested, was primarily concerned with risk. Most investors in China, and elsewhere in Asia, are Asian, and have little interest in openness. Singapore, it was noted, is instructing its Asian neighbours in how to control the media.

It was stressed that we need to look at the openings for pushing a free media agenda. If business is concerned about risk, then perhaps they need to look at the situation in Indonesia: Will there be another Albania if Suharto is overthrown? Also, business wants a free flow of information. Perhaps this can be used as an entry point into influencing APEC discussions.

Recap--Mr. Tim Draimin

Mr. Draimin noted that two main strands in the discussion seemed to have emerged: 1) the Change Process, and; 2) Issues of Strategy. He elaborated the following features and questions about each of these: