

FORESTS WORKSHOP

Reporters:

Paige Fischer, Pacific Environment and Resources Center in California,
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Malaysia.

Introduction to the Forests Session – Paige Fischer

“I want to let you know, one outcome important to us was the great turnout. We began with over 50 forest activists, and at no time did the number go below 35.

Forest activists represented over 20 organizations in PNW, US and BC, all over Canada, joined by at least 15 Forest activists from Japan, The Philippines, Solomon Islands, Indonesia, Malaysian and Chile.

After diverse panels and lively conversations, we came to a consensus:

- we are fundamentally concerned about APEC being an anti-community movement, linked to MAI and NAFTA;
- we are fundamentally concerned about APEC's plans to deregulate forest products.”

Panel Presentations

In the process there were two panels. The first panel was to give perspectives from the North.

- Examples were given from the North, from BC and a few from the States.
- Issues were raised as to fast-tracking.
- Common and specific strategies were brought forward, and discussions were on APEC as an antidemocratic institution, and related issues - trade, investments, regulations, treaties.
- Also touched on was the whole complex role of trans-national corporations and government .
- Examples were given on Canada - particularly on deforestation and logging, e.g. in the boreal forest – and actions taken by support groups.
- The economic aspects of APEC were given as background information, as well, i.e. World Trade Organization.

The second panel provided perspectives from other Asia and Pacific countries:

- In the second panel, Panel 2, we had participants from Japan, considering implications for Asia, as well as Indonesia and Malaysia, speaking on the fires in Asia, and the Philippines, considering implications of APEC for Asia.