

The 1997 People's Summit on APEC
- Proceedings -
March 1998

Summary:

The document begins with a 41 page collection of daily communiqués from the Summit. It also includes the opening speech by Jose Ramon Hernandez (Visiting Professor at the University of New South Wales and Special Representative of the National Council of Maori Resistance) which touches on the following points: continuing need to fulfil human rights commitments, the immorality of arms sales as a cause of destruction and war, and the human rights situations in Burma, China, Taiwan, Tibet, and East Timor. The speech by George Barlow (Council of Canadians) is also included, which criticized APEC as a flawed and misguided process focusing on market-oriented ideologies to the detriment of progress in human rights in the region. The Proceedings also include...

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...basic philosophy of free trade and trade integration, economic growth such as international financial institutions, various issue forums include the Youth Forum, Women's Conference Against APEC, Human Rights, Indigenous People's caucus, among others.

Highlights of recommendations arising from the forums:

- ensure labour laws are respected
- limit corporate influence in schools
- non-profit organisations to monitor APEC
- open up APEC to the media
- ensure workers full participation in policy formulation and decision-making processes
- ensure transparency, accountability and accessibility in trade negotiations
- APEC members report on currency freedom of expression and association in their respective countries
- build resources that eliminate the need for trade in arms

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