

Mr. Frank Koller,
Canadian Committee for the Protection of Journalists

Mr. Koller began by making the point that there are many ways to tell a story. By Asian standards, Westerners often prefer the most direct method, whereas, Asians sometimes prefer less direct methods. He went on to detail the abuses committed against journalists in 1996, saying that the favourite ways to suppress journalists was through violence, taxation or criminal libel laws. Currently, he said, there are 16 journalists in jail. He identified three levels on which to focus efforts to support free media abroad:

- 1) Working journalists
- 2) National organizations
- 3) International organizations

As examples of international organizations, Mr. Koller listed: the Committee for the Protection of Journalists; the Canadian Committee for the Protection of Journalists; and the International Federation of Journalists. He described "IFEX" (the International Freedom of Expression Exchange), a project of the CCPJ which acts as a "clearing house" of information, and consists of 26 organizations, more than half of them in the South. IFEX uses e-mail alerts, and raises issues of openness and the importance of the media in civic discourse.

Mr. Koller went on to say that individual journalists must not only resist political restrictions, but also bribes. Also, good journalists often run the risk of bringing repression down on themselves, he said. One way to support journalists is to help them understand the demands and responsibilities of their jobs. He offered the following three policy formulations:

- 1) Continue funding training programs for journalists
- 2) Support new technologies in these countries.
- 3) Support organizations at the national level to work with other groups at the national level.

Research indicated that there is not much written on open media and trade. He suggested this dialogue is a good first step but we may want to look at what we can produce.

Recap of Morning Presentations: Mr. Tim Draimin

Mr. Draimin posed the question: "What are the levers at our disposal that expand the civil/collective rights in the context of globalization?" He suggested that we need to look at what can be done, keeping in mind the economic regime and the rights regime.

Discussion

A concern was raised that APEC is not a substantive organization, and therefore difficult to come to terms with from a civil society perspective. In response it was pointed out that APEC was a "process," rather than an organization, and that even though it was not possible to discuss overtly political issues, there were ways to get them "through the back door." For example, it was