



Sustainable Development

Participants who addressed sustainable development focussed on the questions of how Canadians could promote sustainable development in Asia-Pacific and which countries should be the focus of such activities. They discussed what Canada should contribute and whether a minimum level of economic/industrial development was a prerequisite to advancing sustainability. They also discussed how Canada could best work with like-minded countries to promote sustainability.

Participants agreed that internationally Canadians should actively promote the development and use of clean technology, provide support to the region through the dissemination of environmental planning expertise, encourage ISO 14000 certification as well as foster educational links between Canada and Asia-Pacific. They suggested that Canada should establish linkages with like-minded countries through collaborative, non-competitive research and development efforts.

When discussing the role for business in promoting sustainable development in the region, participants suggested that Canadian business play a role in fostering sustainable development through the demonstration of best practices and technology transfer, always recognizing that the learning process is two-way. They agreed that the cost effectiveness of good corporate environmental practice is recognized by most Canadian companies, a lesson to be shared with

Asia-Pacific counterparts. They suggested that this learning could be accomplished by promoting environmental success stories in an Asia-Pacific context. Recognizing that sustainable development policies and goals are long-term in nature, participants agreed that Canada continue to play a positive role through foreign aid and education.

Policy Options

1. *Canada should develop sustainable development policies based on the following principles:*
 - (a) *accountability based on assessment, indicators (e.g. food security), and qualitative and quantitative measures, and the engagement of Canadians in policy development and measurement;*
 - (b) *use of different and evolving policies which take into account diversity in world communities (i.e. social/cultural);*
 - (c) *critical evaluation of Canada's practices/policies including a commitment to ecological and socially responsible consumption (with equity in mind);*
 - (d) *inclusion of account policies, local knowledge, science and technology, and implementation capacity;*