

Highlights from the Women's Conference workshops

The **research** workshop report-back included the need to continue communication, including using and improving existing networks, and a call for an international coordinating body to build on the first two Women's Conferences.

The **popular theatre** workshop reported back with a lively demonstration of their consensus. "We will not engage in APEC in any form, including social clauses," declared the group, using music, dance and performance to make their message clear. The group called for the coordination of national and international popular theatre campaigns, and building resistance through a world strike.

Measures put forward by the workshop on **regulating and redirecting capital** included debunking the myth of corporate social responsibility, and developing alternatives structures such as co-ops, credit unions and barter systems. The group's call for community economic development made clear that "nothing short of the feminist revolution will lead to the deregulation or redistribution of capital."

The **Indigenous Peoples** workshop brought forward a number of detailed resolutions, including recognizing intellectual property rights, protecting women and children from violence, and developing culturally-appropriate programs. Broad themes included self-determination, equal representation, and land issues, including a call to keep Aboriginal land out of trade agreements.

In the report-back on the **labour movement** workshop, participants acknowledged the historic role of unions in fighting for social justice, and called for reaching out to youth, supporting migrant workers, developing gender-sensitivity in union programs, and breaking down barriers to women in union leadership positions. The workshop reported that "organizing in non-traditional sectors is a must."

The **charter yes, charter no?** workshop included lively debate on the merits of engaging or not engaging in structures such as APEC: potential damage in engaging or not engaging, what constitutes "engagement," whether there is room for both responses, how to mitigate conditions during the fightback, the difference in responses between North and South, divide-and-

conquer strategies against social movements, and "If we don't want APEC, what do we want?" The workshop recommended re-affirming and building on the position coming out of last year's conference in Manila, and noted the group's consensus in fighting for workers' and human rights, regardless of the question of engagement with APEC.

The workshop on **consumer campaigns** called for pressure on corporate accountability, mobilizing through education, acting from the perspectives of the workers involved (not calling boycotts unless asked), the right to know the conditions under which products are made, and the promotion of incentives for corporations.

The **food and agriculture** workshop reported back on access to food, land use, trade inequalities and other issues summed up as a call to "feed the family and trade the leftovers." The group called for "breast-feeding as a model for the kind of food system we want," and asked that countries "stop treating our soil like dirt." The group stated that food and agriculture should not be part of trade agreements.

The workshop that addressed the **environment, mega development, and aquaculture** examined a number of environmental issues from countries around the Asia Pacific. The group called for activists to build alliances, educate workers, and destroy the myth of APEC and jobs, a myth that destroys the environment.

The range of strategies coming out of the **children's rights** workshop included creating centres for children, putting more money into education, laws to prosecute sex tourists, and alternative means of income for families.

The delegates then heard from members of the **youth caucus**, who recognized the work of women that came before them, and called for "mothers and daughters to have faith in your daughters."

"It's okay to pass the torch," said a youth delegate, "because we've got the fire."

The **disability caucus** of the Women's Conference addressed a number of issues affecting women with disabilities, and put forward recommendations for organizers, including: recognizing who is not at the organizing sessions (and considering how energy levels and transportation problems affect the participation of disabled women); accessibility, including wheelchair-accessible events; sensitivity training for workers and