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Indigenous Peoples and Rights
within Canadian Foreign Policy

Introduction

On March 22, 1997, 35 people gathered in Victoria, BC, for a round table on *Indigenous Peoples, APEC and Canadian Foreign Policy*. A majority of the participants were Indigenous people from Canada (14), the Pacific (2), Asia (1) and Central America (2). The round table also included non-Indigenous Canadians with relevant experience involving international Indigenous rights and policy work. Women making a majority of participants and an effort was made to include strong participation from the Pacific and Asia of the participants.

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND RIGHTS
WITHIN CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY**

South Pacific Peoples Foundation

March 22, 1997

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- 1) To begin identifying longer term issues for the Canadian government vis a vis Indigenous Peoples in an international context. The participants gave particular attention to Indigenous Peoples in Asia and the Pacific and to propose follow-up strategies to further develop such policy options. To also consider how attention to Indigenous Peoples could relate to broader foreign policy preoccupations of the government vis a vis strengthening of civil society and peacebuilding.
- 2) To identify short term means by which Indigenous Peoples and issues can be addressed within the framework of Canada's hosting of APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) group of 18 countries/economies and Canada's Year of Asia-Pacific. To also identify specific means by which the Canadian government can facilitate the participation of Indigenous Peoples, particularly from Asia and the Pacific, in activities related to Canada's hosting of APEC and Canada's Year of Asia-Pacific.
- 3) To facilitate the greater participation of Canadians, and particularly of Indigenous Peoples within Canada (including youth), in the development of Canadian foreign policy.

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While the direct stimulus for this report was the round table on *Indigenous Peoples, APEC and Canadian Foreign Policy* during 1997 and Canada's Year of Asia-Pacific, the report also draws on the experience of the round table and other related activities. The report also draws on the experience of the round table and other related activities. The report also draws on the experience of the round table and other related activities.