

3. Participants recognized the need for stronger multi-sector collaborations to enrich the dialogue, strengthen the political advocacy and complement expertise.
4. Local and global issues were connected in the discussions (ie. the shrimp farming discussions combined the stronger analysis of southerners and the more local, operational experiences of BC fishers)
5. Multi-sector participation (youth, women, academics, religious, development, environment NGOs) was successful. (see participants list in proceedings)
6. Diversification of funding sources - There were 11 funders and registration fees of \$50 per person proved financial support from both north and south delegates. Youth and some low income participants had their fees waived or reduced. BCCIC has new relationships to pursue with foundations, cooperatives, NGOs, the federal and provincial governments. A complete file of funders will be given to BCCIC for future reference.
7. Leadership opportunities for the youth volunteers and participants. Fifteen youth volunteered their time to assist the SIF logistics coordinator. 18 % of the SIF participants were youth.
8. Coalition-building N/N, N/S and S/S. Strong links were made between the American forest activists and those from Canada. In the mining workshop strong linkages and follow-up between Australia, the Pacific Islands, Indonesia and the Philippines.

CONCLUSION:

It is not easy to access the impact of the SIF on the official discourse of APEC. Not all participants saw this as a purpose of the SIF, but many did. Others understood the gaps of their knowledge about APEC. This resulted in limitations in meetings with government officials to discuss APEC issues. Organizations will need the capacity and time to devote to increasing their knowledge of APEC. Identifying the windows for NGOs to participate in the APEC process was difficult but many felt it was important to keep pursuing these avenues. Separate meetings with decision-makers are important and require pre-planning where possible.

Goals for forums such as the SIF should be clear with more narrowly defined outcomes. Forums such as the SIF should be clear whether the aim is to influence policy discourse, to influence public opinion and/or influence decision-makers. Organizations need support, both financial and skills-training, to pursue policy development. Integrating sustainability issues from 5 workshops is difficult in a day-long forum at an international gathering.

As an opportunity to network, share information, identify policy issues and build coalitions internationally the SIF was a success for the participants.