

3. CHANGING EXISTING ATTITUDES AND PROCESSES

As noted earlier, finding a balance between environmental protection and economic development requires a serious reevaluation of the decision-making processes in society. Only in this way can increased cooperation between often competing interests be fostered.

Canadian participants clearly identified existing decision-making processes, which are characterised by an absence of cross-sectoral cooperation, as an area of concern to them. It was concluded that Canada could potentially learn from the Japanese decision-making model, which places significant emphasis on cooperation and dialogue between disparate groups.

Further, both Japanese and Canadian participants agreed that it was necessary to encourage a reevaluation of lifestyles in industrialized countries and to encourage the adoption of more environmentally sustainable practices. Once again, a conflict between environmental and economic priorities is quite evident. However, the Japanese seem to be making significant progress in this regard, as indicated, for example, by the success of their domestic recycling programs.

4. TECHNOLOGY: AVAILABILITY AND COST

Japan has developed a variety of environmental technologies in order to cope with its own environmental problems. These will be examined later. While technology can provide innovative solutions to some of our environmental problems, its development raises a number of issues. Its availability, cost, and transfer to developing countries present challenges which will require global cooperation and innovation.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

There are a number of regulatory mechanisms that governments can employ domestically to encourage environmentally responsible behaviour. The need to modify decision-making processes and attitudes has already been noted. However, more direct approaches must be discussed and considered. Legislation as a means of regulating pollution is the most obvious of these options. The introduction of market mechanisms into industry is another. For example, a floating tax based on the level of polluting emissions might provide a viable alternative or complement to legislation.

A number of potential actions with more